3rd Annual Parsons Employee Recognition Reception, May 22

The 3rd Annual KU Life Span Institute at Parsons Employee Recognition Reception was held on Tuesday, May 22. Service pins were presented for five through 15 years of service and gifts were given to honorees with 20 or more years of service to the University of Kansas.

This year’s honorees are: Kellie Hulsebus, Peggy Miksch and Kim Page, 5 years; Tammy Schoenhofer, 15 years; Laura Hanigan and Sara Sack, 20 years; and Richard Saunders, 30 years.

Continuing her three-year reign as emcee, Laura Hanigan introduced each honoree, shared her memories of their employment and handed out the pins and gifts. Dave Lindeman, LSI/Parsons Director, offered his congratulations and appreciation, as did the 24 colleagues in attendance. The conference room was transformed with a Jayhawk theme and refreshments were served.

For more information about the all university annual employee recognition ceremony held on Thursday, May 3 on the Lawrence campus in the Kansas Union Ballroom go to http://www.news.ku.edu/2012/may/7/erc.shtml.

In this May 7, 2012 KU News Release, Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little is quoted saying, “This year, I’m especially grateful to our faculty and staff for their role in driving Bold Aspirations and their commitment to transforming our university.”

(In the picture, from left) Laura Hanigan, Tammy Schoenhofer and Kim Page.
JUST THE STATS

Financial support provided by the University of Kansas for the LSI/Parsons is currently 15% of the total budget of the center. The majority of funding comes from national- and state-funded grants and contracts.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Family Care Treatment Project

Project Directors:
  Jerry Rea, Ph.D.
  Kathleen Hine, Ph.D.

The project is funded by Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

Project Staff: Peggy Gentry, B.A. and Suzanne King, M.A.

The Family Care Treatment project received extended funding through September 2012.

Project Summary:

Children and adolescents in rural settings have behavioral needs similar to those living in urban areas, but often less access to services. The nature of a dispersed population makes factors such as transportation and the availability of trained personnel barriers to the needed services. Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) is an especially effective example of an evidence-based, community-integrated service delivery option that advances positive child outcomes. For many rural settings the principles of MTFC such as, consistently applied contingencies and parent-as-interventionist are applicable. We propose the ongoing delivery of caregiver training and support for families with children and youth with challenging behavior. These outcomes include enhancing the stability of residential placement for children and youth, increasing pro-social child behavior and use of the least restrictive strategies and settings.

STAFF TRAINING NEWS

Anna “Katey” Schmidt presented an informal overview of EndNote to Parsons Research Center staff on Wednesday, June 6. She demonstrated using EndNote to organize references. EndNote is a commercial reference management software package.
NEW PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS


Rinkel, P. (2102, May). *Kansas Early Childhood Outcomes: Review of team process and district APR data drill down*. Inservice training presentation to USD 383, Manhattan, KS.


Rose, T. (2012, June). *From the Baby’s Point of View: Ensuring the Development of Mentally Healthy Children Through Assessment and Early Intervention*. Presentation at KITS 2012 Summer Institute, Wichita, KS.


Sack, S. (2011, November). *Do you know your State Technology Act Program? Strategies for increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology*. Invited presentation to the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), Crystal City, VA.
Sack, S. (2011, November). *Increasing employment for persons with disabilities: Invited summit.* Invited presentation to stakeholders from statewide assistive technology act programs, RESNA and Department of Labor to discuss employment of persons with disabilities and projects to increase employment, Louisville, KY.

Sack, S. (2012, March). *Designing a regional rural health care model.* Invited presentation to Labette County Medical Center and Labette County Mental Health, Parsons, KS.


Sack, S. (2012, May). *Replacing or acquiring AT after a disaster.* Invited presentation to FEMA Region VII, Kansas City, MO.

**STAFF NEWS**

**YUSUKE HAYASHI, Ph.D.** accepted the position as Treasurer of the Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Special Interest Group of the Association for Behavior Analysis International. The special interest group was founded in 1984 and its mission is to promote the experimental analysis of behavior with human subjects as a means of addressing important fundamental questions about human problems and human nature.

([http://www.eahb.org/NewSitePages/WhoWeAre.htm](http://www.eahb.org/NewSitePages/WhoWeAre.htm))

**KATE SAUNDERS, Ph.D.,** along with colleagues Nancy Brady, KU; Holly Storkel, KU; Deborah Daniels, KU Medical Center; Paige Bushnell, KU; and R. Michael Barker, KU, will present a poster entitled, *Teaching New Words to Children with Autism,* at the 2012 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention, November 15 in Atlanta, GA.

A second poster presentation by Kate Saunders with R. Michael Barker, KU and Mindy Bridges, KU, has been accepted for the 2012 ASHA Convention, entitled, *Validity of A Nonspeech Phonological Awareness Assessment,* to be presented on November 16.

**DEAN WILLIAMS, PH.D.** accepted an invitation to serve on the University of Kansas Faculty Senate Research Committee. This committee is charged to: 1) Monitor the administration of the General Research Fund (GRF), 2) Monitor the execution of the University’s Restricted Research Policy, 3) Serve as the body to hear faculty appeals of research rejected by the restricted research committee or by the Vice Provost for Research, 4) Monitor the implementation of policies and procedures for determining which proposals will go forward in cases where the number of grant applications that may be submitted from the University is limited, and 5) Work with the Academic Computing and Electronic Communications Committee.
NEW STAFF

SUZANNE KING
M.A., Wayland Baptist University
Family Care Treatment Project Therapist

Suzanne King joined the Life Span Institute in June as a Project Therapist for the Family Care Treatment Project. Suzanne comes to Parsons from Muleshoe, a rural town in the Texas Panhandle where trees and water are sparse. Suzanne received her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University (B.S., Multidisciplinary Studies) and her graduate degree from Wayland Baptist University (M.A., Counseling).

Before coming to the Life Span Institute, Suzanne taught Middle School English and History and was an Elementary School Counselor. Working in a school system taught Suzanne flexibility, patience, and a love for kids with challenging behavior. As a Project Therapist for the Family Care Treatment Project, Suzanne will train parents of children and youth experiencing challenging behavior by promoting stability and pro-social behavior. Suzanne is ecstatic about this new opportunity and feels that her Counseling and Educational background will be an asset to the Family Care Treatment Project.

Suzanne’s life goals can be summed up in the traditional greeting of the Masai warriors “Kasserian Ingera” which translates to “And how are the children?” Suzanne’s priority in both her professional and personal life is to help the children of our society in one capacity or another. As for the future, that goal is enough.

Suzanne and her husband, Jeff, live in Parsons with their two furbabies, Maisie and Gus. Suzanne, Jeff, Maisie and Gus will welcome a baby girl, Isla Bliss, into their family in September.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Life Span Institute at Parsons and Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) are supporting the ten-week 2012 Summer Fun & Food in Parsons program this summer at the accessible, inclusive Parsons Community Garden.

Monday through Friday mornings you can find either Sheila Simmons (pictured far left), ATK program coordinator or Patty Black Moore, communications coordinator, in the garden surrounded by enthusiastic young gardeners. The Parsons Community Garden was selected as one of four meal sites serving free breakfast to any child 18 years or younger.

Each weekday during June, children planted beans, cucumbers, lettuce, radishes, watermelons, tomatoes, and flowers. They learned to identify a variety of vegetables and tasted many of them. They painted strawberry rocks, made garden signs and even though it is very warm, one young gardener, when asked what he wanted to do that morning, said confidently, “I want to plow.”

The program continues in July and August and is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and the Kansas Health Foundation (KHF).
KITS 2012 SUMMER INSTITUTE

Fifty-seven early child care professionals gathered in Wichita June 5-8, 2012, to participate in the 19th annual Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) Summer Institute: Linking Assessment Instruction and Individualized Interventions.

This year’s Summer Institute focused on the topic of assessment in early childhood, specifically as it is applied to making decisions related to instruction or intervention. When applied to the field of early childhood, the word “assessment” often highlights differing beliefs, expectations, and at times misconceptions regarding the assessment of young children. Appropriate collection, analysis, and utilization of meaningful data to make important instructional and/or intervention decisions is critical to quality services. Professionals who do not appropriately collect and use assessment information to make instructional changes may be providing inadequate or inappropriate services to the children they serve.

Information provided at this four-day event reflected recommended practices, professional standards, and position statements established by major national organizations, including the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); the Division for Early Childhood (DEC); the Head Start Program Performance Standards; the American Educational Research Association (AERA); and the National Association for School Psychologists (NASP).

“Kansas professionals were fortunate again at this year’s Summer Institute to have access to nationally recognized experts in the assessment of young children”, noted Dave Lindeman, KITS Director. (Pictured above participating in an assessment data collection activity.)

These recognized experts led the four daylong sessions: Stephen Bagnato, Ed.D., NCSP, University of Pittsburgh – Schools of Education and Medicine; Jennifer Grisham-Brown, Ed.D., University of Kentucky – College of Education; Terrie Rose, Ph.D., LP; Greg Cheatham, Ph.D. and Audra Classen, M.S.E., University of Kansas – Department of Special Education.

Dana Pfanenstiel (pictured left), an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher with High Plains Educational Cooperative has attended several of the KITS Summer Institutes; and commented: “This year’s Summer Institute was once again very beneficial to me as a professional. The wealth of knowledge the speakers shared with us was outstanding. As a result, I am going to share the information that I learned with my team members so we can refine our assessment procedures.”

The KITS Summer Institute is open to all people working with children in Kansas; but priority is given to those professionals working with children, birth to eight, who have disabilities. More information is available at http://kskits.org/training/KITSSummerInst.shtml.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

On Saturday, April 28, nineteen volunteers gathered at Marvel Park in Parsons to collect nearly 26,000 pounds of e-waste from 110 donors residing in 11 area communities. Volunteers filled two semi-trailers with computers, monitors, television sets, microwave ovens and other unneeded, unwanted electronics. $463.26 was donated by participants to defray the cost of transporting the e-waste to an approved recycling center.

LSI at Parsons’ System Specialist Tony Grady introduced Boy Scout Troop #33 (Wesley) to e-waste recycling. The young scouts unloaded and sorted electronic devices including some that were defunct before they were born.

In the picture, volunteers represented (from left) Southeast Kansas Recycling, K-State Extension, City of Parsons, the Life Span Institute at Parsons and Boy Scout Troup #33.

ROCK CHALK JAYWALKERS – Snapshot

Dave Lindeman, LSI at Parsons’ Director and Laura Hanigan, Human Resources, serve up hamburgers at the May 1st Spring Fundraiser for the Rock Chalk Jaywalkers Relay for Life team.
Rock Chalk Jaywalkers/PSHTC Contribute to 2012 Labette County Relay For Life

Seventeen individuals from the KU LSI at Parsons and the Parsons State Hospital & Training Center teamed up to raise $4,445.10 for the 2012 Labette County Relay For Life, held June 15 at Forest Park in Parsons.

Team members include: Patti Blake, Niki Collins, Laura Hanigan, Cynthia Huebner, Joe Kinder, Karen Lawson (team captain), Dave Lindeman, Nora Manier, Chris Miller, Debbie Moody (co-captain/treasurer), Jessica Moss, Kristi Nelson, Kathy Olson, Renee Pierce, Julia Rosenberg, Marlys Shomber-Jones and Lou Ann White.

The team’s wide variety of fund raising activities included lunches, a holiday cookie bazaar, garage sale and boot block. Individual cash contributions, t-shirt and luminaria sales also contributed to this year’s team donation.

The Rock Chalk Jaywalkers/PSHTC team will continue to raise funds for the 2013 Relay For Life, and hopes everyone will support them by participating when possible. Anyone interested in joining the team or making a contribution should contact Karen Lawson at klawson@ku.edu or at extension 1618, Debbie Moody at dmoody@ku.edu or at extension 1959, or any other team member.

Pictured from left, seated: Jessica Moss, Nora Manier, Joe Kinder, Kristi Nelson, Chris Miller, Marlys Shomber-Jones, Laura Hanigan. (standing from left): Karen Lawson, Jack Rowland, Kathy Olson, Cynthia Huebner, Patti Blake and Debbie Moody.