



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

July, 2004

Pat White, Editor

Parsons Staff Member Elected to National Committee

Sara Sack has received word that she has been elected as Vice-President, President-Elect for the National Association for Technology Act Programs. Congratulations!

Parsons Staff Receives Certificate

The International Webmasters Association certified that Cynthia Huebner passed the required eClasses to receive the Web Technologies Certificate of the IWA-HWG Web Study Program.

Grants Submitted

Pamela Cress, Kate Saunders, and Chuck Spellman submitted a Research and Innovation grant to the Department of Education July 7.

Kate Saunders submitted a new Interdisciplinary Training Grant May 10th.

Dean Williams and Kathryn Saunders, in collaboration with Michael Perone at West Virginia University and Iser DeLeon and Michael Cataldo at Johns Hopkins resubmitted a 5-year proposal "Laboratory Models of Maladaptive Escape Behaviors" to NICHD on July 1, 2004.

Presentations

Cress, P. (2004, May). *Online resources for accessible information technology and the Americans with Disabilities Act*. Presentation at the National American with Disabilities Act Symposium and Expo, Kansas City, MO.

Mills, S. C. (2004, June). *Authentic assessment of technological fluency: Computer assessment and tutorial online*. A paper session presented at the Association for Educational Communications and Technology Summer Conference, University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

Mills, S. C. (2004, June). *Diagnosing technological fluency: The online computer assessment and tutorial*. A poster session presented at the National Educational Computing Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Mills, S. C. (2004, June). *Technology rich classrooms: If you build them, will they learn?*. A roundtable discussion session presented at the National Educational Computing Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Mills, S. C. (2004, June). *The schools technology built: Student satisfaction and achievement in a virtual high school*. A paper session presented at the Association for Educational Communications and Technology Summer Conference, University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

Sack, S. (2004, June). *Durable medical equipment exchange programs: Models, considerations and pitfalls*. Workshop presented to Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania Medicaid, Dover, DE.

- Sack, S. (2004, July). *National and state trends in reutilization of durable medical equipment*. Presentation to the Centers on Independent Living, Northwest Education Center, Lawrence, KS.
- Saunders, R. R., & Saunders, M. D. (2004, May). *Improving quality of life for people with profound multiple impairments*. Workshop presented at the 30th Annual Association for Behavior Analysis Conference, Boston, MA.
- Simmons, S. (2004, July). *Writing programmatic goals and customer log reports that result in improved customer service*. Presentation to the Centers on Independent Living, Northwest Education Service Center, Lawrence, KS.
- Simmons, S., & Sack, S. (2004, June). *Self direction training material extravaganza*. Presentation to Medicaid Community Developmental Disability Organizations, Topeka, KS.

Posters Presented at the 30th Annual Association for Behavior Analysis Conference, Boston, MA in May:

- Doughty, A. H., Williams, D. C., & Saunders, K. J. *Human transitive inference using verbal and nonverbal procedures*.
- Doughty, A. H., Williams, D. C., & Saunders, K. J. *Establishing within-subject procedures for studying sustained attention in persons with mental retardation*.
- Saunders, M., & Saunders, R. *Comparison of three methods of preference testing in people with profound multiple impairments*.

Symposiums at the 30th Annual Association for Behavior Analysis Conference, Boston, MA in May:

- Haag, S. S., Anderson, C. M., Williams, D. C., & Saunders, K. J. *Establishing control of self-stimulatory responding by an antecedent stimulus using punishment*. In Cynthia M. Anderson (Chair), *The use of stimulus control to enhance intervention efficacy*.
- Peyton, R. T., Born, D. G., & Williams, D. C. *Match-to-sample as a screening tool and research measure for dementia*. In Linda A. LeBlanc (Chair), *Basic and applied research on assessment and treatment with elders*.
- Stewart, K. L., Suchowierska, M. M., Chaney, L., & Saunders, K. *Adults with mental retardation demonstrate recombinative generalization in a constructed spelling task*. In K. Saunders (Chair), *Recombinative generalization in spelling and reading*.
- Suchowierska, M. M., Stewart, K. L., & Saunders, K. *Recombinative generalization in constructed spelling by preschool children*. In K. Saunders (Chair), *Recombinative generalization in spelling and reading*.
- Williams, D. C., & Perone, M. *Aversive properties of positive reinforcement in pigeons and people*. In Timothy R. Vollmer (Chair), *Behavior analytic bridge studies: Addressing issues of application via basic research*.

Publications

- Doughty, S. S., Chase, P. N., & O'Shields, E. M. (2004). The effects of rate building on fluent performance: A review and commentary. *The Behavior Analyst*, 27, 7-23.
- Doughty, A. H., Williams, D. C., & Saunders, K. J. (2004). Human transitive inference using verbal and nonverbal procedures [On-line]. *Association for Behavior Analysis*. Abstract from: <http://www.abainternational.org/convention/program/events/192.htm> #95

- Doughty, A. H., Williams, D. C., & Saunders, K. J. (2004). Establishing within-subject procedures for studying sustained attention in persons with mental retardation [On-line]. *Association for Behavior Analysis*. Abstract from: <http://www.abainternational.org/convention/program/events//343.htm> #82
- Haag, S. S., Anderson, C. M., Williams, D. C., & Saunders, K. J. (2004, May 31) *Establishing control of self-stimulatory responding by an antecedent stimulus using punishment*. Symposium at the Association for Behavior Analysis Conference. Abstract retrieved June 3, 2004 from <http://www.abainternational.org/convention/program/events//335.htm>
- Murphy, K. M., Saunders, M. D., Saunders, R. R., & Olswang, L. B. (2004). Effects of ambient stimuli on measures of behavioral state and microswitch use in adults with profound multiple impairments. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 25, 355-370.
- Peyton, R. T., Born, D. G., & Williams, D. C. (2004, June 1). *Match-to-sample as a screening tool and research measure for dementia*. Symposium at the Association for Behavior Analysis Conference. Abstract retrieved June 3, 2004 from <http://www.abainternational.org/convention/program/events//425.htm>
- Saunders, M., & Saunders, R. *Comparison of three methods of preference testing in people with profound multiple impairments*. Abstract retrieved June 3, 2004 from <http://www.abainternational.org/convention/program/events//258.htm>
- Stewart, K. L., Suchowierska, M. M., Chaney, L., & Saunders, K. (2004, May 31). *Recombinative generalization in constructed spelling by preschool children*. Symposium at the Association for Behavior Analysis Conference. Abstract retrieved June 3, 2004 from <http://www.abainternational.org/convention/program/events//301.htm>
- Suchowierska, M. M., Stewart, K. L., & Saunders, K. (2004, May 31). *Recombinative generalization in constructed spelling by preschool children*. Symposium at the Association for Behavior Analysis Conference. Abstract retrieved June 3, 2004 from <http://www.abainternational.org/convention/program/events//301.htm>
- Williams, D. C., & Perone, M. (2004, May 30). *Aversive properties of positive reinforcement in pigeons and people*. Symposium at the Association for Behavior Analysis Conference. Abstract retrieved June 3, 2004 from <http://www.abainternational.org/convention/program/events//143.htm>

Project Highlight

Reusing AT/DME Acquired Through Public Funds:
Developing a Cost-Neutral, Consumer Driven Model
Staff: Sara Sack, Pamela Cress, Sheila Simmons, Jackie Dwyer

Staff from the Assistive Technology for Kansans project received a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to develop a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) reuse program. The original proposal had two primary components: (1) planning and implementing a model equipment reuse program, and (2) collecting and analyzing data regarding the outcomes of acquiring DME and its impact on persons' lives.

To address the first component, the project staff worked closely with Kansas Medical Policy (Medicaid), DME providers, and consumers to plan and implement a model equipment reuse program. During the second year of the NIDRR grant, Kansas Medical Policy awarded a contract to the University of Kansas to operate the program, called the Kansas Equipment Exchange, throughout the state. (For more information about the Kansas Equipment Exchange, see the May, 2003 issue of *The Insider*.) Thus, the primary focus for the remainder of the federal grant period is the collection and analyses of consumer data.

Data collection consists primarily of in-depth telephone interviews with persons who receive Medicaid-funded equipment such as manual or powered wheelchairs, augmentative communication devices, and hospital-type beds. Preliminary results based on almost 200 interviews have generated a number of interesting findings, which are being shared through presentations at a number of state and national conference presentations. Some of these findings are as follows:

Among children who received wheelchairs, 87% reported an impact on others in their lives (less need for assistance, family members worry less), 86.4% reported that their chair allowed them to feel more comfortable, 65% improved their ability to participate in recreation, leisure, community, or social activities, and 65% improved their ability to participate in learning and/or educational activities. Among children who received communication devices, 92.9% improved their ability to participate in learning and/or educational activities, 78.6% improved their ability to communicate with family and friends, and 57.1% reported an impact on others in their lives (less frustration, better interactions).

Among adults who received wheelchairs, 87.8% reported that their chair allowed them to feel more comfortable, 83.3% reported an impact on others in their lives (less need for assistance, family members worry less), 75% reported that their chair made them feel safer, and 67.4% improved their ability to participate in recreation, leisure, community, or social activities. Among adults who received communication devices, 83.3% improved their ability to communicate with family and friends, 75% reported an impact on others in their lives (less frustration, better interactions), 70% improved their ability to participate in learning and/or educational activities, and 60% improved their ability to participate in recreation, leisure, community, or social activities.

Another interesting finding is that significant differences ($p < .05$) have been found between people with mobility limitations (that is, people who use wheelchairs or other mobility aids) who acquired a communication device and people without mobility limitations who acquired a communication device. These differences occurred in the following areas:

- Persons with mobility limitations reported at a significantly higher rate that their communication device was extremely important to them.
- Persons with mobility limitations reported at a significantly higher rate that their ability to do home/community living management activities (such as shopping, cooking, and cleaning) improved after they received their communication device.
- Persons with mobility limitations reported at a significantly higher rate that their ability to participate in recreation, leisure, community or social activities improved after they received their communication device.
- Persons with mobility limitations reported at a significantly higher rate that their ability to participate in important life roles (such as parent, spouse, or friend) improved after they received their communication device.

The information gathered through the surveys is also being used to develop recommendations for policy makers and practitioners. At the close of the project a CD-ROM replication guide, including the database software and materials created, as well as an analysis of data collected, will be available to other entities that wish to replicate the program.