



# The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

July 2013

<http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu>

Patty Black Moore, Editor



**Kate  
Saunders  
granted  
Fellow  
status by  
the ABAI**

**Kathryn “Kate” Saunders, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, has been granted Fellow status by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Fellows Committee and Executive Council.**

“Her research on stimulus control has contributed substantially to the knowledge base of a wide range of topics from reading instruction to equivalence class formation to conditional discrimination, particularly as applied to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Dr. Saunders’s work is a model of translational research that not only bridges experimental and applied behavior analysis but also builds connections between behavior analysis and traditional audiences in reading and the communication sciences. In addition to writing for a large number of behavior analytic journals, Dr. Saunders has made her work visible in the broader community of scholars by publishing in journals such as the *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, *Augmentative and Alternative*

*Communication, and Developmental Disabilities Research Reviews.*

Her extensive record of funding by NICHD and most recently by the U.S. Department of Education is powerful testament to her skills in helping non-behavior analysts appreciate the relevance and importance of a natural science approach.“ ~ *The Selection Committee*

Additional details at <http://www.abainternational.org/constituents/fellows/fellows-of-abai/kathryn-saunders.aspx>

## 2013 KU Years of Service Awards and Reception

**Colleagues gathered in the LSI/Parsons Research Conference Room May 21 to celebrate Years of Service accumulated by staff to the University of Kansas.**

This year Sharon Morton and Phoebe Rinkel, M.S., were (or will be) rewarded with their 10-  
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## 2013 KU Years of Service Awards and Reception continued from page 1

*In the picture from left, Tony Grady, Sharon Morton, Kate Saunders and Dean Williams*

year pins and souvenir programs presented by emcee, Peggy Gentry.

Sharon Morton was asked what brought her to LSI/Parsons. She said that the company she worked for 26 years changed owners and replaced essential staff. She bought herself a gold watch, took a few days off and worked for a year at the Parsons Chamber of Commerce. She heard about a position with a new durable medical equipment reuse program that Assistive Technology for Kansans was ready to launch and, as they say, the rest is history. She has nurtured the ATK-KEE Reuse Program into a well-respected, nationally recognized program for ATK.

Phoebe Rinkel, KITS Technical Assistance Coordinator, is based in Lawrence and provides consultation statewide as well as intensive technical assistance and training to school districts and special education cooperatives building their capacity to provide effective services to preschoolers with disabilities and their families. Phoebe will receive her pin during the KITS retreat in August.

Receiving their 25-year pins and commemorative pen and Jayhawk engraved case were Tony Grady, A.S., Dave Lindeman, Ph.D., Kate Saunders, Ph.D., and Dean Williams, Ph.D.

Twenty-five years ago, Tony Grady said he had a decision to make: pursue a job at the local grocery or to follow a family tradition and begin a career at the LSI at Parsons. Successfully employed, he has immersed himself in all things “computer” as a Systems Specialist. We say he chose well.

Dave Lindeman is now the Director of the LSI at Parsons, a Senior Scientist and the Director or Co-director of nationally recognized projects. However, twenty-five years ago, he seriously considered following his passion to be a rodeo cowboy and once a year, revisits his rodeo dream by volunteering his expertise to the participants in the annual, regional PSH&TC Sunbelt Rodeo. Dave will receive his gifts during the August KITS retreat.

Kate Saunders arrived in Parsons 25 years ago to work with Joe Spradlin. She said his reputation and work were the reason she came... and stayed on to run his program and then bought his house. Now she is a Senior Scientist, Institute for Life Span Studies, a Courtesy Professor, Applied Behavioral Science, the Director or Co-director of nationally recognized projects and a Fellow, but that’s another story.

Dean Williams said “I came to Parsons after Kate.” And twenty-five years later he is a Senior Scientist, has lectured in Italy, Australia, Ireland, Norway as well as the U.S. and his research and analytical findings have been published in more than 40 publications, books, and scientific and applied journals.

Thanks to the Reception Committee and Congratulations to the Honorees!

## JUST THE "FACTS"



On Saturday, April 27, KU LSI/Parsons staff along with City of Parsons, Kansas State University Wildcat Extension Agents, Southeast Kansas Recycling, Boy Scout Troop #33 from Wesley and other volunteers collected, sorted and loaded more than 2 semi-trailers with e-waste from Parsons' and area residents, schools, organizations and businesses. Knowing that this e-waste collection event is no longer grant funded, donors filled the "jar" with more than \$815, assuring that computers, televisions and other electronic waste will continue to be responsibly recycled in Labette County.

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## NEW STAFF: Welcome!



**Sam  
Jordan,  
B.A.**

**Southern  
Illinois  
University**

**Research  
Assistant**

Sam Jordan recently moved from Carbondale, Illinois to work at the Life Span Institute at Parsons as a research assistant. He is originally from Rockford, Illinois, and obtained his Bachelor's degree in Psychology at Southern Illinois University. He heard about the job opportunity at Parsons from his academic advisor Dr. Eric Jacobs, a good friend with Dr. Kate Saunders and Dr. Dean Williams.

Sam says, "So far I have had an exceptional experience in Parsons and am very thankful for the opportunity to learn here. I plan to return to SIU in the fall to begin my Master's degree in the Behavior Analysis and Therapy program."

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



### Early Childhood Personnel Center

**This 5-year project is funded by U.S. Department of Education to the University of Connecticut with contracts to the collaborating universities of Florida State University, University of Oregon, and University of Kansas. Other principle collaborating programs include the Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Columbia University, and the Division of Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children.**

At the University of Kansas the directors are Eva Horn, Ph.D. (above left), Director, and David P. Lindeman, Ph.D., Co-Director (above right), with Stephanie Parks, Ph.D., as the Project Coordinator. Each of the four central collaborating universities will be responsible for identified states and will be working with agencies and programs in those states responsible for establishment of criteria for professional credentials and training for those professionals who provide early intervention and early childhood special education services.

The project began January 1<sup>st</sup>, based in four identified regions across the country with the common goal of establishing a national Early

Childhood Personnel Center. At a time when budgets are tightening and programs narrowing, this common goal becomes an extraordinary mission to improve professional development with the ultimate outcome resulting in greater opportunities for children with disabilities and their families.

Work through this center will create a national resource that outlines personnel standards, describes appropriate, high-quality competencies and recommended best practices for professional development for personnel providing services to infants, toddlers, and preschool children and their families. The project will “raise the bar” as it assists State programs in aligning their personnel standards to nationally recognized professional organization standards. Support and from the Center to states is key, as partnerships are developed to support alignment between preservice and inservice training for all personnel.

The project will utilize tailored technical assistance to states using implementation science and scaling up practices to develop, implement and evaluate its activities. The four universities, an executive leadership team and other expert staff and faculty will provide technical and evaluation expertise. Additionally, and of note, 10 national early childhood and education organizations will support and partner with the new Early Childhood Personnel Center.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Hayashi, Y., Hall, S. E., & Williams, D. C. (2013). Effects of signaled reinforcer magnitude on delayed matching-to-sample performance in individuals with intellectual disabilities. *Behavioural Processes*, 96, 88-92.
- Hayashi, Y., Schmidt, A. C., & Saunders, K. J. (in press). Effects of receptive letter-identification on emergence of expressive letter naming in pre-reading children. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Infant Toddler Services and Kansas Inservice Training System. (2013). *Kansas infant-toddler services new coordinator training*. [Training manual]. Parsons, KS: Author.
- Nelson, C. (2013). *Oral language and early literacy*. [Virtual kit: Web-based resource materials]. Retrieved from Kansas Inservice Training System website <http://kskits.org/ta/virtualKits/index.shtml>
- Nelson, C. (2013). *Vocabulary and early literacy*. [Virtual kit: Web-based resource materials]. Retrieved from Kansas Inservice Training System website <http://kskits.org/ta/virtualKits/index.shtml>
- Rinkel, P. (2013). *Kansas ESI regulations apply to preschoolers*. [Virtual kit: Web-based resource materials]. Retrieved from Kansas Inservice Training System website <http://kskits.org/ta/virtualKits/index.shtml>
- Sack, S. (2013, July). Assistive technology aids disabled Kansans. *Kansas Country Living*, 8.
- Wiley, S., Meizen-Derr, J., Stremel-Thomas, K, Schalock, M., Bashinski, S., & Ruder, C. (2013). Outcomes for children with deaf-blindness with cochlear implants: A multisite observational study. *Otology & Neurotology*, 34, 507-515.
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## PRESENTATIONS

- Dodson, J. (2013, June). *The talking classroom: Intentionally designing talking and listening activities to promote oral language skills in young children*. Paper presented at the Kansas Inservice Training System 2013 Summer Institute, Lawrence, KS.
- Fees, B. (2013, June). *Understanding how young children learn: Implications for teaching practices in the early years*. Paper presented at the Kansas Inservice Training System 2013 Summer Institute, Lawrence, KS.
- Fox, A. T., Hayashi, Y., Brewer, A. T., Fowler, S. C., & Williams, D. C. (2013, May). *Negative incentive shift effects on fixed-ratio pausing and locomotor behavior in water-deprived rats*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Minneapolis, MN.
- Heintz, C. (2013, April). *Intentional mathematics: Targeting preschool numeracy and math*. Webinar presentations for the Kansas Inservice Training System.
- Miksch, P., & Walters, S. (2013, March-August). *What's working in Kansas*. Book study of *The early intervention teaming handbook: The primary service provider approach*. Book study webinar for the Kansas Inservice Training System.
- Mulligan, S. (2013, June). *Making every minute count: Using DEC's recommended practices to embed learning goals in routines*. Paper presented at the Kansas Inservice Training System 2013 Summer Institute, Lawrence, KS.
- Rinner, L., Cain, C., & Rinkel, P. (2013, May). *Autism spectrum disorders*. Webinar presented by Kansas Project LAUNCH and the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems.
- Spencer, T. (2013, June). *A narrative intervention approach to enhancing preschoolers' language*. Paper presented at the Kansas Inservice Training System 2013 Summer Institute, Lawrence, KS.
- Walters, S., Jorgensen, K., & Miksch, P. (2013, June). *Family service coordination training*. Meeting conducted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Infant Toddler Services and the Kansas Inservice Training System, Manhattan, KS.

## PROJECT NEWS

### KITS 2013 Summer Institute

Fifty-six early childhood professionals gathered at KU's Adams Alumni Center in Lawrence the first week of June to participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) Summer Institute: *Teaching Young Children Through Intentionally Designed and Balanced Learning Experiences*.

This year's Summer Institute focused on current information regarding child development and developmentally appropriate practice as a context for providing intentional instruction and learning opportunities in early childhood settings.

The four-day Summer Institute was devoted to specific teaching strategies and methods that can be used to create a balance between activities that are explicitly led by adults in large and small groups, and those that are intentionally designed, but carried out in an embedded manner within centers and daily routines. Participants learned techniques for increasing child language production and understanding as well as specific strategies for encouraging and reinforcing listening skills. This year's schedule included the following presentations:

- Tuesday, June 4: *Understanding how young children learn: Implications for teaching practices in the early years* - Bronwyn S. Fees, Ph.D., Kansas State University
- Wednesday, June 5: *Making every minute count: Using DEC's recommended practices to embed learning goals in routines* - Sarah A. Mulligan, M.Ed., CAE, Missoula, Montana
- Thursday, June 6: *A narrative intervention approach to enhancing preschoolers' language* - Trina D. Spencer, Ph.D., BCBA, Northern Arizona University



- Friday, June 7: *The talking classroom: Intentionally designing talking and listening activities to promote oral language skills in young children* - Judith Dodson, M.A., LETRS, Evergreen, Colorado

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. To attend the Summer Institute, participants must submit an online registration and enroll for college credit with one of the six partnering universities: Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, Wichita State University, and University of Kansas.

*Pictured above: While this was the first Summer Institute for Brittany Goosen (left foreground), her mother, Misty Goosen (right foreground), as the KITS project coordinator, has attended the past nineteen. Brittany is a graduate student at Emporia State University. Misty's office is on the KU Lawrence campus.*

More information is available at <http://kskits.org/training/KITSSummerInst.shtml>.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE



### Parsons Community Garden receives donated plants and seeds

The Parsons Community Garden, an accessible garden,

established in 2010, open to any one interested in growing vegetables, was originally the product of a federally funded grant, directed by Sara Sack, Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK). For the past two years, the garden has

been sustained through member dues, grants, donations and a lot of volunteer hours led by Sheila Simmons and Patty Moore. Two returning supporters are Arnold's Greenhouse and Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company. Parsons' gardeners highly recommend these two companies:

- Arnold's Greenhouse, LeRoy, Kansas ([www.arnoldsgreenhouse.com](http://www.arnoldsgreenhouse.com)), donated a plethora of end-of-season tomato and pepper plants just at the perfect time for gardeners to finish out the late spring planting season.
- And with perfect timing, Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company, Mansfield, Missouri ([www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com)), donated vegetable, flower and herb seed packets, enough for gardeners to plant their fall gardens and plan for next spring.

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## Relay for Life Team Exceeds Goal

**The Rock Chalk Jaywalkers/PSH&TC team exceeded its goal to raise \$4,000 for the 2013 Labette County Relay For Life by raising a final total of \$5,123.58.**

The annual Relay for Life event was held Friday, June 7 – Saturday, June 8, at Parsons' Forest Park.

The team held a wide variety of fundraising activities this past year, including baking and selling homemade cinnamon rolls, hosting an ice cream social, barbeque cookout, holiday cookie bazaar, rummage sale, boot block and other events. Individual cash donations and luminaria sales also contributed toward the team's overall donation. **In the past three**

**years, this team has donated a grand total of \$11,249.51 to the American Cancer Society through the Labette County Relay For Life events.**



This year's team members included: Patti Blake, Laura Hanigan, Cynthia Huebner, Michelle Hughes, Joe Kinder, Karen Lawson (team co-captain), Dave Lindeman, Nora Manier (team co-captain), Chris Miller, Debbie Moody, Jessica Moss, Kristi Nelson, Kathy Olson, Renee Pierce-Hickles, Marlys Shomber-Jones, and Leatha Thompson.

If you are interested in joining the Relay For Life team, contact Nora Manier at Extension 1798.

## Reflections on a Long Career

### Muriel and Richard Saunders

Have you ever read the book by Dr. Seuss, *Oh the Places You'll Go?* It describes the ups and downs in going out in the world. An excerpt follows.

Out there things can happen  
and frequently do  
to people as brainy  
and footsy as you.

And then things start to happen,  
don't worry. Don't stew.  
Just go right along.  
You'll start happening too.

We followed a meandering career path that often took us in directions we never expected. Sometimes there were obstacles that led us to change direction. The new direction led to new opportunities. By not focusing on the obstacles, and looking forward to new challenges, our careers have been lots of fun and fulfilling. In this article, we would like to point out some of the highs in our careers.

Dick began his career in the early 1970s after graduating from KU in Human Development and Family Life. Shortly after graduating he was consulting in a special education classroom and wanted the teacher to record some data on child behavior. He made a self-graphing system called the data graph that is widely used today. That experience led him to solve problems that he observed in complex environments of persons with intellectual disabilities. In the 1980s shortly after arriving at Parson's State Hospital, he tinkered with an old Heathkit computer. (This was the dawn of the computer age). He figured out how to write computer code and developed the programs to run stimulus equivalence experiments with Joe Spradlin. Also in the 1980s, Dick spent time in Muriel's classroom watching interactions between the students and staff. Muriel was



trying to develop a method for continuous teaching so that there were no gaps when children were not learning. Dick developed the scenario system. A scenario is a script that describes what is expected of the staff and students at intervals in the day. This system was the foundation of his consulting to state hospitals across the country. The one unfinished part of Dick's career still left undone is that through his long career in stimulus equivalence research, he discovered that stimulus-stimulus relations produced by reinforcement are fundamentally different than those that are derived. He has yet to learn the reasons for this difference.

Muriel began her career in 1967 as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She had a challenging classroom that year, and when Harriet Barrish and Mont Wolf asked to do a behavioral research project in her classroom she jumped at the chance. The Good Behavior Game was created, and her classroom was transformed overnight to a quiet place to learn. It taught her the power of behavioral techniques to change behavior. Her experience working with Guess, Sailor, and Baer strengthened her knowledge of behavioral techniques by teaching children how to communicate using prompting and

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reinforcement. Her students in the 1980s at Parsons State Hospital and later at Mill Valley High School in De Soto further shaped her into becoming a better teacher. In 1992 she was given the Council for Exceptional Children's National Teacher Year award. She continues to work as a consultant to teachers as well as work directly with adults with special needs. Some of her greatest moments have been in seeing a child or adult learn a life-changing skill.

Our careers have been strengthened by working together. Dick looks at system change, Muriel looks at the individual. Dick designs the theme for grants, Muriel fills in the blanks. Together we have made a good team.

Our path leads forward as we head into the next stage of our lives. As Dr. Seuss wrote:

Congratulations!  
Today is your day.  
You're off to Great Places!  
You're off and away!

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## Assistive Technology EXPO 2013

**September, 12-13, 2013**

Assistive Technology EXPO 2013 & Annual Conference, sponsored by Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) and Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSHA)

Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel and Kansas Expocentre, Topeka, KS

80 exhibitors in the **AT Expo Hall – Open and FREE to the public** - with 100s of technology devices and services. Call 800-KAN DO IT (800-526-3648) for information on topics and exhibitors or visit online at [www.atk.ku.edu](http://www.atk.ku.edu). Door prizes will be given away.

**Expo Hall hours, Thursday, Sept. 12 at 1-7 PM and Friday, Sept. 13 at 8 AM – 3:30 PM.**

The 2013 Annual Conference features 20 sessions on assistive technology and many sessions on speech-language-hearing topics. For conference rates and more information, visit our website at [www.atk.ku.edu](http://www.atk.ku.edu).

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Visit the KU Life Span Institute (LSI) at Parsons website at  
<http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu>

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