



*The Insider*

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***Life Span Institute at Parsons***

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May, 2007

Pat White, Editor

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### **Awards/Honors**

Kate Saunders has been asked to serve a 3-year term as Associate Editor of *The Behavior Analyst*.

Chuck Spellman has been awarded emeritus status effective upon his retirement; it has been approved by Provost Lariviere and Chancellor Hemenway.

Colleen Eisenbart, Laura Hanigan, and Pat White attended the Service Award Ceremony in Lawrence May 10—Colleen received a paperweight and pin for 20 years of service, Laura received a pin for 15 years of service, and Pat received a watch and pin for 40 years of service. Richard Saunders was there to receive his award for 25 years of service (a wood clad ballpoint pen in an engraved wooden case). The LSI also provided lunch that day. Sara Sack (10 years—yes, we know she’s been here longer than that) and Tammy Schoenhofer (10 years) did not attend, but will receive their pins in the mail.

### **Assistive Technology EXPO**

This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year that Assistive Technology for Kansans has held a major conference and the second year that ATK has hosted an AT EXPO. This event, held April 17-18 at the Topeka ExpoCentre featured over 60 vendors of assistive technology products and attracted over 300 participants. For the first time the AT EXPO Hall was open to the general public and exhibitors were thrilled that over 500 persons came to find out more about assistive technology devices and services.

### **Presentations**

Page, K. (2007, April). *Kansas inservice training system: Initiatives and services*. Two posters presented at the 2007 Four County Seminar & Information Fair, Independence, KS.

Page, K. (2007, April). *Kansas inservice training system: Initiatives and services*. Two posters presented at the 2007 Assistive Technology Expo, Topeka, KS.

Page, K. (2007, April). *Kansas inservice training system: Initiatives and services*. Two posters presented at the 2007 Link to Learn Literacy Conference, Kansas City, KS.

Sack, S., & Eddings, S. (2007, April). *Accessing AT services in Kansas*. Presentation at the AT Expo, Topeka, KS.

Sack, S., Morton, S., & Black Moore, P. (2007, April). *Equipment reuse networks*. Presentation at the AT Expo, Topeka, KS.

Saunders, R. R., & Saunders, M. D. (2007, May). *Data as communication: Translating messages from persons with profound multiple impairments without a Rosetta stone*. Presentation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Come to Your Senses Conference, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA.

Simmons, S., & Calhoun, G. (2007). *Writing medical justifications for public and private funding streams*. Presentation at the AT Expo, Topeka, KS.

## Publications

Doughty, S. S., Anderson, C. M., Doughty, A. H., Williams, D. C., & Saunders, K. J. (2007). Discriminative control of punished stereotyped behavior in humans. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 87, 325-336. **This paper has been selected as one of the featured articles for the May issue.**

Saunders, K. J. (2007). Word-attack skills in individuals with mental retardation. *Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Reviews*, 13, 78-84.

Saunders, K. J., & DeFulio, A. (2007). Phonological awareness and rapid naming predict word identification in adults with mild mental retardation. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*, 112, 155-166.

## Grants Awarded

Muriel Saunders has been awarded a grant from the Special Olympics for 1 year beginning June 1; this grant is highlighted below.

## Project Highlight

Pilot Evaluation of the Impacts of Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® Screening Events on Referral, Follow-up, and Health Behavior of Special Olympics Athletes

Muriel D. Saunders

For this project we will contact 450 athletes and/or those who speak for them to assess the effects of their attendance at Healthy Athlete® screenings in a window 3-6 months following the screenings (300 athletes following US events and 150 Latin American athletes following Latin American events). We intend to follow at least 150 who attended each of three types of screenings: Healthy Hearing screenings, Opening Eye screenings, and Special Smiles screenings.

By coordinating event and participant selection with Special Olympics staff, we will attempt to maximize the number of athletes in the US and Latin American samples who attended at least two and, desirably, all three screenings.

Through telephone interview, we will:

1. Assess each athlete for any behavior changes made by the athlete after attending each Healthy Athlete® screening.
2. Assess the athlete's (and those who speak for the athlete) understanding of the referrals (if any) they received during each screening.
3. Determine whether the athlete followed the referral (located and utilized the resource/specialist/practitioner recommended during the screening).
4. Determine how pursuing the referral, and following the specialist's or practitioner's advice, affected their health, behavior, or use of prosthetics.
5. Obtain additional demographic information on each athlete and their supporters regarding their involvement in Special Olympics and their overall access to health-related care and services.

We will report results with descriptive tables and figures, supplemented by statistical analyses where sample sizes permit.

### **Staff News**

Chuck Spellman will be retiring in June—His retirement party will be June 2 at 3:30 p.m. at Kate Saunders' and Dean Williams' home (if you want to eat dinner around 5:00 p.m., please send \$10 per person to Pat White).

Denise Steedman and Angela Fogleman are new trainers for the Southeast Kansas Pilot Project to Replicate the Oregon Model of Intervention with antisocial Youth Families.