



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

May 2010

Patty Black Moore, Editor

ATK Team takes up gardening

It's really pretty easy to plan a garden in the fall. Harvest is in progress, produce is abundant, full color garden catalogs are arriving and the news is all about community gardening. So the Assistive Technology for Kansans team thought: we'll write a grant that could help people with health conditions or disabilities who want to garden figure out how to garden more comfortably. We can identify tools and strategies to ensure their success. We'll get several established community gardens to agree to consider how their gardens can be more welcoming and accessible and we'll start a new community garden in Parsons. And, seemingly all of a sudden, we're in Year One.

The Parsons Community Garden is located on two city lots at the corner of 15th and Clark in southeast Kansas. Busy with organizational duties and working with the City of Parsons personnel, K-State Extension agents, Master Gardeners, as well as interested area residents, Inclusive Community



Volunteers, led by Brian Morton, obtained, delivered and spread soil enrichment from the local stockyard.



Sheila Simmons, ATK coordinator and Matt Jalali mark the garden boundaries for rototilling.

Garden project staff have obtained land, marked out plots to be rototilled, enriched the soil, arranged for container gardens to be installed, held meetings to inform the public and encourage membership and hope to be planting by the middle of May. Maybe.

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“Just the stats and a fact”

In Altamont on April 17, four KU Life Span Institute at Parsons staff pitched in and helped collect more than 35 pallets of e-waste that completely filled a semi trailer, a U-haul truck and two other trailers. And the fact is this: volunteers are needed for the June 12 e-waste collection event in Parsons. Preferred skills: ability to sort and stack. No experience necessary!

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



CoolClips.com

Treatment Generalization and Contingency Coherence, a component of a Program Project (P01) titled Translational Analyses of Chronic Aberrant Behavior Across the Life Span

Kathryn Saunders, Ph.D., received a new five-year subcontract from the Kennedy Krieger Institute of Johns Hopkins University, the prime program contractor to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Katie Hine, Ph.D., has recently



joined the team of investigators, and will oversee the research at Parsons.

This new award is part of an overarching program involving three Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers, the Kennedy Krieger Institute of Johns Hopkins University, the University of Massachusetts Medical Center and the Kansas Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (KIDDRC).

Dr. Saunders is the principle investigator for the subcontract. William Dube, University of Massachusetts Medical Center, is the principle investigator for the component and Michael Cataldo, Kennedy Krieger Institute of Johns Hopkins University, is the overall program project principle investigator. The program involves collaboration across disciplines, among universities and with common purpose that information learned from basic laboratory studies is developed to assist individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) to use adaptive behaviors in their daily lives.

Project Summary

Chronic aberrant behavior such as self injury, aggression, and stereotypy interfere with the acquisition of adaptive behaviors in many individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID). Function-based behavioral treatments for chronic aberrant behaviors have proven extremely successful when conducted in clinical settings. Relatively little research has been directed at the critical issue of treatment generalization, however.

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The goal of this project is to develop methods for transferring treatment gains to the individual's typical environment—the environment within which the problem behaviors initially occurred.

The guiding conceptualization involves gradually introducing stimulus conditions associated with the problem behavior, while maintaining the contingencies in place during treatment over a series of successive approximations to the natural environment.

Business Office News

The University of Kansas recognized five Parsons staff for their years of service at the annual Employee Recognition Ceremony on May 4th, 2010. Receiving service award pins this year are Laura Doyle-Colvin, 5 years; Sandy Hill, 10 years; Debbie Moody, 10 years; Patty Black Moore, 15 years; Sheila Simmons, 20 years.



Laura Doyle-Colvin, Research Aide, works with Southeast Kansas Respite Services, Inc. (SEKRS). Laura's main responsibility is running the organizational payee program that SEKRS established in 2005. An organizational payee

receives Social Security payments for someone who cannot manage his or her money, normally for individuals with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, or other health impairments. The main responsibility of the organizational payee is to use the social security payments to pay for the current and foreseeable needs of the individual. SEKRS began the organizational payee program with 6 clients. Today, the program serves 85 clients.

Laura says, "I like my job because it is rewarding knowing that I am part of providing a service that helps so many people. Some days are challenging, but I think that keeps the job interesting and that is why I enjoy doing it."

Sandy Hill, Research Assistant, worked half days when she first started at the Life Span Institute in December of 1999 and was glad when a full time opportunity came available when the other business she worked for relocated to Wichita, KS. Sandy has

worked at the lobby desk doing various job duties for LSI staff such as placing orders, making copies, assembling packets, preparing shipments, submitting work orders, scheduling and keeping track of the maintenance of the Research state vehicles, preparing traveling reimbursement to the Research & UCDD staff and other daily duties as they arise.

Sandy says, "I have learned about a lot of assistive technology equipment and programs. I especially liked when a person was here waiting for her grandson who was being tested. I found out that she had some issues with her eyesight and had problems with daily living because of it. I told her about a program that Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) had for low-vision and that there were low vision devices that could be given to her to help with her daily living activities. She was thrilled and it made me feel good that she had some help with issues that otherwise might have made her daily living difficult. Experiences like this make coming to work rewarding."

Debbie Moody, Research Aide, with a background in clerical skills and bookkeeping decided to open her own Home Day Care and stay home with her two sons. After 18 years in child care, both boys had finished high school and gone on to college and Debbie says she came to a point that she needed a change. A position was open at the LSI/Parsons, she applied for it, and here she is!

Debbie has a multitude of different tasks at KUCDD some of which are: travel reimbursements; ordering resources; supplies and office supplies for KUCDD and Media; make sure maintenance is done on office machines, two state vehicles, and for KUCDD & Media buildings; assist multiple projects whenever they need help; answer phones and greet guests; and any other duties as assigned. She still takes care of people :) but now it's big people.

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Debbie says, “I was very ready for a change in my life and coming to LSI was definitely that. But it has been a good change and I have grown personally every day since.”

Patty Black Moore, project coordinator and program assistant, was teaching a curriculum developed at the LSI/Parsons to staff at an area community developmental disabilities organization and was offered a position on that curriculum’s development team. Subsequent projects included a supported employment train-the-trainer curriculum, a video series highlighting interviews with people with developmental disabilities and mental illness and a toolkit on self-determination of personal attendant services.

Currently, Patty works with the Assistive Technology for Kansans program on the Expanding Reuse and Inclusive Community Garden projects. She serves as editor for The Insider newsletter, co-produces the LSI Grant/Contract Booklets and supports the co-sponsorship of area e-waste collection drives as one way to increase awareness of the LSI at Parsons. She assists projects to produce digital materials, large format posters and other presentation elements and products. Patty says, “I like the element of change that goes with any grant funded position including learning new skills, and especially, that this year, we’re gardening.”

Sheila Simmons is the program coordinator for Assistive Technology for Kansans, the statewide assistive technology program. Sheila, originally from Iowa, tells the story that she came to Kansas for a water skiing weekend and stayed.



For the past 20 years she has been actively engaged in delivering assistive technology (AT) services for children and adults. She has worked in education, employment and community-based settings helping individuals with disabilities and chronic health conditions find and learn to use the technology they need to go to school, work, and be involved in the community. She is particularly interested in technology that enhances classroom instruction and supports collaborative knowledge building. Along with her ATK responsibilities, she is a leader in the Kansas AgrAbility project and is currently working on the Inclusive Community Gardens project to identify how people with health conditions and disabilities across Kansas and specifically at the Parsons Community Garden can garden more comfortably.

An avid baseball fan, look for Sheila this summer at the ballpark or with her two grandsons at the community garden.

Community Service



In the picture, volunteers from the KU Life Span Institute at Parsons, City of Parsons, Southeast Kansas Recycling, Labette County K-State Extension and others loaded e-waste in Altamont on April 17.

The next volunteer opportunity to participate is the Parsons e-waste collection event on June 12.

NEW GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCED

Reneé Patrick, Ph.D., received a new one-year award, *Kansas School Readiness Research Project*, funded by the Kansas Department of Education that began October, 2009.

The School Readiness Project is a program supported by the Kansas Department of Education to investigate student skill and ability as they enter formal education. The purpose is to collect information on the academic and social skills of children entering Kindergarten or who are participating in a state funded educational/preschool program. Information regarding teacher and parent practices is also collected in order to investigate those contextual variables that contribute to and promote children's academic and school social

functioning. The School Readiness Project was initially undertaken to provide the Kansas community with a measure of school readiness at Kindergarten entry as well as a measure of school, family, and community factors promoting readiness.

In addition to the evolution of early academic and social skills, the School Readiness Project has expanded its scope of investigation to include the first three years of formal elementary education (grades 1 through 3). The purpose of this expansion is to investigate variables that contribute to school success and student progress during the elementary years and to illuminate the variables that impact this progress. Measures of child progress during these first three years of formal education are needed in order to more fully evaluate student learning prior to state and federally mandated student achievement testing to elucidate what factors contribute to higher academic performance.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Life Span Institute Lifeline Online reports in the Spring 2010 issue that during one quarter, 12 new awards were received by LSI investigators, three times the number of new awards reported for the previous quarter. Congratulations! Five of the twelve new awards were received by six LSI at Parsons investigators.

1. **David Lindeman** received a new one-year award "Consortium of Low Incidence Teacher Preparation Programs in Kansas Project (CLIPP) from KsDE that began August 1, 2009.
2. **Dean Williams** received a new five-year subcontract award "Translational Analyses of Chronic Aberrant Behavior Across the Life Span – Project 2" from KKI, prime contractor to NICHD that began September 1, 2009.
3. **Kathryn Saunders** received a new five-year subcontract award "Translational Analyses of Chronic Aberrant Behavior Across the Life Span – Project 3 subcomponent" from KKI, prime contractor to NICHD that began September 1, 2009.
4. **M. Reneé Patrick** received a new one-year award "Kansas School Readiness Research Project" from KsDE that began October 30, 2009.
5. **Richard and Muriel Saunders** received a new one-year award "Closing the Loop: Exploring Best Practices in Healthy Athletes Referral Follow-Up" from Special Olympics, Inc. that began January 15, 2010.

Follow this link for the full KU Life Span Institute Lifeline Online story
<http://lsi.ku.edu/~lsi/news/lifeline/spring2010/projectdevelopmentnews.shtml>

PUBLICATIONS

- Stewart, K., Hayashi, Y., & Saunders, K.** (in press). Enhancing vowel discrimination using constructed spelling. *Analysis of Verbal Behavior*.
- Saunders, K. J. & Hayashi, Y.** (in press) Although visually cued imitation training may increase peer imitation, the preexisting skills necessary for success should be identified. *Evidence-based communication assessment and intervention*.
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PRESENTATIONS

- Hayashi, Y., & Williams, D. C.** (2010, March). *Laboratory model of chronic aberrant behavior: Effects of transition in reinforcement condition on mirror pecking in pigeons*. Poster presented at the 2010 Interdisciplinary Training Conference in Developmental Disabilities, Annapolis, MD.
- Hornback, M.** (2010, March). *Inclusion training*. Inservice at Liberal, KS.
- Hornback, M., Miksch, P., & Rinkel, P.** (2010, April). *Early childhood outcomes training*. Regional training at Newton, KS.
- Lindeman, D.P., Rinkel, P., Goosen, M., Hornback, M., & Miksch, P.** (2010, May). *A system of professional development designed for all, some and few*. Poster presented at the National Head Start Association 37th Annual Head Start Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Lindeman, D.P., & Rinkel, P.** (2010, May). *Intensive technical assistance that promotes intentional intervention by staff*. Poster presented at the National Head Start Association 37th Annual Head Start Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Miksch, P.** (2010, March). *IFSP development*. Inservice at Parsons, KS.
- Rea, J.** (2010, April). *From the Clinic to the Natural Environment: The Development of a Generalization Assessment Methodology for the Treatment of Sex Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities*. Presentation to the 2010 Conference of The Kansas Association for Behavior Analysis, Overland Park, KS.
- Rinkel, P.** (2010, March). *Early childhood outcomes/child outcomes summary form training*. Inservice at Kansas City, KS.
- Sack, S.** (2010, April) *American Speech Language Hearing Association manuscript review*, ASHA Editorial Board, Rockville, MD.
- Sack, S.** (2010, April) *What Research Tells Us About Participation in Community Gardening Efforts*, Parsons City Commission Meeting, Parsons, KS.
- Sack, S.** (2010, April) *Policies and Practices Regarding Provision of Complex Medical Equipment*, Georgia Medicaid, Atlanta, GA.
- Sack, S.** (2010, May) National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) Small Business Innovation Research Grant Review Team, Washington, DC.
- Sack, S.** (2010, May) *National Trends for Collaborative Partnerships in Operating Durable Medical Equipment Reutilization Programs*, National Durable Medical Equipment Advisory Board, Atlanta, GA.
- Sara, S.** (2010, May) *A Scan of Educational Programs Engaging in Assistive Technology Reutilization on Both a Local and Statewide Level*, National Durable Medical Equipment Advisory Board, Atlanta, GA.
- Saunders, K.** (2010, March). *Keys to a successful career in interdisciplinary research on developmental disabilities*. Panel discussion at the 2010 Interdisciplinary Training Conference in Developmental Disabilities, Annapolis, MD.
- Saunders, K.** (2010, April). *Research-based discrete-trial teaching procedures*. Presentation to the 2010 Conference of The Kansas Association for Behavior Analysis, Overland Park, KS.
- Stein, M. N., & Saunders, K. J.** (2010, March). *Recombinative generalization of onsets and rimes: Long and short vowel sounds*. Presentation to the 43rd Annual Gatlinburg Conference, Annapolis, MD.
- Williams, D.** (2010, April). *Science and Practice: Why the crevasse and who should build the bridges for whom?* Presentation to the 2010 Conference of The Kansas Association for Behavior Analysis, Overland Park, KS.

PROJECT UPDATE

ATK prevents institutionalization for 11 Kansans



Sara Sack, Ph.D., Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) director, reports that in a recent 12-month statewide pilot program, 1,016 Kansans without insurance were provided assistive technology services and access to technology that

fit their personal needs. Individuals represented all 105 counties in the state. 965 individuals responded to a follow-up survey emphasizing three areas, education, employment and community living. Education: individuals reported that their assistive technology (AT) supported them in staying in school, retraining and allowing them to go to school full time. Employment: People said that AT services and access to the technology supported them in maintaining or improving employment as well as

obtaining full- or part-time employment. For two people, access to AT devices and services resulted in a reduced reliance on public benefits.

For individuals addressing community living barriers, eleven reported that ATK services prevented their institutionalization or helped them return to the community. The common variable for these 11 people was that they all used multiple services provided by ATK staff through assistive technology access sites located in Oakley, Salina, Lawrence, Wichita and Parsons. AT services include demonstration of equipment, a loan system that allows customers to borrow equipment to try out, assistance from ATK staff in helping customers to locate and apply for public and private funding of the needed technology, and training on the use of the device/s.

The range of equipment included computers and vision software, manual and power wheelchairs, vision devices, gait trainer, lift chair, porch lift, telecommunications equipment, stair lift, van lift, switch access, environmental control units, and eating and personal health adapted equipment.

PROJECT NEWS



Kathy Olson, Ph.D., state administrator for the Kansas College of Direct Support, reports that Kansans Mobilizing for Workforce Change: A Comprehensive Workforce Development Initiative and Kansas College of Direct Support will make a \$250 cash

award to five exemplary direct support professionals (DSPs) who make a difference in the lives of the people with intellectual or developmental disabilities they support. DSPs are the line staff providing face-to-face support to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Nominations can be made by filling out the *Kansas Award of Excellence in Direct Support* Nomination Form and sending it via e-mail to kolson@ku.edu by June 4, 2010. Nominations are limited to one nomination per employer/service provider. The employer must be located in Kansas and services provided in Kansas to individual(s) with an intellectual/developmental disability. All nominations will be reviewed by the selection committee. The selection will be made before July 1, 2010 and the cash award made in July.

For additional information or to request a Nomination Form, contact Kathy Olson at kolson@ku.edu or 620-421-6550 x 1771.

STAFF NEWS



Mia Caccavale (pictured left) will begin a master's program in Behavior Analysis at the University of Houston, Clear Lake, TX in the fall. She also has a graduate assistantship and will be working at the on-campus Autism clinic on weekday mornings.



Mambu Sherman will begin a master's program at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington in the fall.

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In between wind and rain storms, the water faucets will be installed, the soil rototilled one more time, and garden plots marked to avoid “range wars”, because as one gardener was heard to say “we’ve got to get these plants in the ground.”

Sara Sack, director of the Inclusive Community Garden project says, “This project has really captured people’s attention. Wherever I go people are asking for reports on the community gardens. Our newest partner will include over 250 military service personnel who are recovering from injuries and want to touch the soil and see something grow.”

As one of the five community gardens participating in the statewide research component of the Inclusive Community Garden Project, the Parsons Community Garden is reaching out to all area residents including those who want to begin gardening or continue gardening who also have a health condition or disability. Those gardeners who agree to participate in the research study will fill out a short beginning-of-the-summer survey and a follow-up survey at the end of the growing season.



Participants will have access to adapted tools and equipment, for example, we expect the Deluxe Tractor Scoot to be a crowd favorite. In addition to adapted tools and equipment, strategies that can make gardening more comfortable and more accessible to individuals regardless of age or ability, such as straw bale and vertical gardening, will be shared. For more information about the Parsons Community Garden, contact Sara, Sheila or Patty, 620-421-8367.

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