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*The Insider*

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*Parsons Research Center (PRC)  
and the*

*Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD)*

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*May 2002*

*Pat White, Editor*

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## **Honors and Awards**

The KUCDD at Parsons has received recognition for work with our local Community Action Program. SEK-CAP, Inc. has recognized the KUCDD/Parsons and its staff for collaborative work over the past few years. The award was given this past week -- Friday, May 17, 2002. A companion award (through nomination by SEK-CAP) was given to the KUCDD/Parsons at Kansas Association for Community Action Programs Annual Banquet, May 3, 2002.

If you would like to see the two awards--they are at Debbie Moody's desk until we can identify a permanent place. The recognition for the ACE Award (Award for Collaborative Excellence) read:

Our journey of partnership with the Kansas University Affiliated Program began in 1991 as a representative agreed to serve on our Health Advisory Board. Dr. David P. Lindeman is the Director of this program that recently changed their name to the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities. He has over 25 years of experience in public school, special education administration, and university-based project implementation. He has worked tirelessly through involvement on many of our advisory boards and development committees.

In 1998, a number of representatives from the KUAP took an active role in working with SEK-CAP to secure state funding for our Early Head Start Program. Dr. Lindeman and his staff have continued their vital role as consultants, advisors, and providers of technical assistance to our Early Childhood Services programs and our entire Partnership. In the fall of 2001, Dr. Lindeman volunteered to serve on a Partnership committee designed specifically to develop outcomes for our early childhood programs. An additional responsibility of the committee is to improve our ongoing monitoring and evaluation system to promote quality within our early childhood intervention services.

Recently, our relationship has grown to include an agreement to develop and implement a program evaluation model for our entire Partnership. This project will lead to the development of the tools and systems necessary for comprehensive program integration and results oriented management and accountability for services provided. The efforts of Dr. Lindeman and his colleagues support not only our Partnership, but also our communities, by strengthening services for children and families in southeast Kansas. These services include Birth to Three, Respite, Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS), and Child Care Focus.

As the recipient of our 2002 Award for Collaborative Excellence, we wish to express how important KUCDD has been to the development of our programs and to the success of our

Community Action Partnership. We are grateful to Dr. Lindeman and our friends and associates at KUCDD and look forward to a long and productive partnership.

Dick Shores traveled to Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN for a reception in his honor on May 8<sup>th</sup> and on May 9<sup>th</sup> he presented the first “Richard E. Shores Award” to doctoral student Erik Carter from the Department of Special Education who was the best prospect in the area of teacher preparation.

Those making the OREAD for years of service this year are:

Pat White (35)

Mary Maxwell (20)

Richard Saunders (20)

Colleen Eisenbart (15)

Barbara Fabrycky (10)

Laura Hanigan (10)

Julie McEntee (5)

Sara Sack (5) Sara actually has almost 24 years between the State and the University.

Tammy Schoenhofer (5)

### **Staff Additions and/or Changes**

Our hourly computer research assistant Joe Thomas has left us.

### **Grants and Project Activities**

Susan Jack has a new project with SEK-CAP. It is the Head Start Positive Behavior Support Project to provide training and technical assistance to Head Start teachers in SEK.

### **Presentations**

Cress, P. J. (2002, May). *Experience it!* Paper presented at the ADA Symposium & Expo, Kansas City, MO.

Miller, R., Duncan, F., Fadale, A., & Cress, P. (2002, May). *Web accessibility implementation at the state level*. Panel discussion presented at the ADA Symposium & Expo, Kansas City, MO.

DeFulio, A., & Saunders, K. (2002, March). *Relationships among word attack and phonological-processing skills in individuals with mild mental retardation*. Poster presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Gatlinburg Conference on Research and Theory in Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, San Diego, CA.

Lindeman, D. P., & Nelson, C. (2002, May). *KITS: Training and support for early childhood and primary programs*. Paper presented at Kansas State Department of Education/Kansas Staff Development Council Annual Conference, Wichita, KS.

Mills, S. (2002, March). *Creating accessible web pages using Microsoft FrontPage*. Workshop presented at the Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, KS.

Mills, S. (2002, March). *Kansas web content accessibility guidelines*. Workshop presented at the Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.

Mills, S. (2002, March). *Designing web sites for accessibility*. Workshop presented at the annual international conference of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education, Nashville, TN.

Mills, S., & Tincher, R. (2002, March). *Be the technology: Redefining technology integration in classrooms*. Paper presented at the annual international conference of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education, Nashville, TN.

## **Project Highlight**

*Laboratory Model of Escape—Motivated Aberrant Behavior*  
(Dean Williams with Michael Perone of West Virginia University)

This research concerns environmental factors that contribute to chronic aberrant behavior in persons with mental retardation. Chronic aberrant behavior such as self-injury, aggression, and property destruction is a major barrier to habilitation and independent living for these persons, and it represents a long-standing treatment challenge. Laboratory procedures developed to study basic behavioral processes in animals have shown that prolonged, counterproductive interruptions in behavior (pausing) are generated when relatively rich conditions of positive reinforcement are juxtaposed with lean conditions. Indeed, animals act to escape from these same conditions, even though this action delays or reduces the opportunity for reinforcement, suggesting a functional analogue to aberrant behavior in humans. The proposed research will adapt the procedures from the animal laboratory to study processes potentially operative in escape-maintained aberrant behavior in persons with mental retardation, because functional analysis has established that escape is a primary motive for naturally occurring aberrant behavior in this population. A series of intensive single-subject, steady-state experiments will identify boundary conditions for evoking extended pausing and escape in the performance of standard operant tasks by persons with retardation. The experiments will involve manipulation of reinforcer magnitude, behavioral magnitude, behavioral effort, and discriminative stimuli signaling shifts in reinforcement conditions. The general goal is to develop a laboratory model that can be used for the identification and controlled study of variables that may operate in the natural environment to make otherwise neutral or positive situations aversive.

## **Staff News**

Laura Hanigan is the proud mother of a beautiful little girl, Katlin Renea, born April 5<sup>th</sup>. Laura is planning on returning to work in July.

Congratulations to Laura (Grandma) Cruz. Laura's grandson was born May 17 and has been named Hunter James.