AWARD PRESENTED TO KATHLEEN OLSON FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR FRONTLINE STAFF

Kathleen Olson, Ph.D. associate scientist, Life Span Institute at Parsons, was recognized with an award for her contributions in developing the NADD Competency-Based Direct Support Professional Certification Program. This recognition was presented at the 28th Annual NADD Conference, *Building Partnerships for Successful Service Systems*, in Nashville, TN in November.

The NADD Accreditation and Certification Programs are three interrelated certification programs developed in an effort to raise the level of care, as well as to provide recognition to programs and professionals offering quality care to individuals with a dual diagnosis of intellectual or developmental disability and mental illness.

- **The Accreditation Program** addresses the programs providing services.
- **The NADD Competency-Based Clinical Certification Program** requires licensed professionals to demonstrate expertise in dual diagnosis.
- **The NADD Competency–Based Direct Support Professional Certification Program** is a certification to recognize quality provision of services in the frontline staff working with people who are dually diagnosed.

Dr. Olson serves as chairperson of the direct support certification committee. The NADD is an association for persons with developmental disabilities and mental health needs. More information on the NADD programs can be found on their website ([http://www.thenadd.org](http://www.thenadd.org)).
PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Improving Outcomes For Young Children With Hearing Impairment And Other Disabilities: Technology For Audiometric Assessment

Kathryn Saunders, Ph.D. and Dean Williams, Ph.D. received a two-year grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Project Coordinator, Yusuke Hayashi, Ph.D.

Abstract

The Life Span Institute at the University of Kansas proposes to develop, implement, refine and evaluate a Phase-1 project, Improving outcomes for young children with hearing impairment and other disabilities: Technology for audiometric assessment for the Steppingstones of Technology Innovation for Children with Disabilities absolute priority (CFDA 84.327A). The project aims to meet Competitive Preference Priority CFR 75.105, to improve school readiness and success using technology-based approaches for children with disabilities by focusing on the priority areas of language and literacy development (c) and cognition and general knowledge (d). Improved progress in these areas will also positively affect social-emotional development.

In 1993, NIH recommended that all babies be screened for hearing loss prior to hospital discharge. With the advances in technology and legislative actions, 43 states currently have legislative mandates for such screening. The American Academy of Pediatrics (1999) proposed timelines for early detection and intervention: infants are to be identified by one month, diagnosed by 3 months, and receiving intervention by 6 months. Improved language outcomes are realized for children receiving intervention before two years of age (Yoshinaga-Itano et al., 1998). Recent technological advances in digital hearing aids and cochlear implants have further impacted the outcomes for children with significant hearing loss.

There is no doubt that technology has improved outcomes for children with profound hearing loss in both detection and intervention. For young children with hearing loss and additional disabilities, however, the potential of technology is not fully realized due to difficulties obtaining behavioral audiometric assessments. Young children with the most significant multiple disabilities often require lengthy and individualized procedures to teach the stimulus-response relations used in the evaluation. Hearing clinics often do not have the time or expertise to prepare these children for a behavioral assessment, yet these assessments are necessary for appropriate auditory management and intervention.

...continued on page 3
The purpose of this project is to develop computer-based procedures and individualized protocols in order to prepare children with multiple disabilities to complete behavioral audiometric evaluations. Our target population is children, two to six years of age, with a severe-to-profound hearing loss, concomitant with one or more additional disabilities. Twenty children, recruited from rural and urban communities, will serve as participants. Our objectives are:

1. Recruitment of children and trainers,
2. Development of a behavioral audiometric procedure,
3. Implement and refinement of the behavioral audiometric procedure,
4. Development of strategies to train parents and service providers,
5. Implementation of generalization strategies to clinical settings,
6. Dissemination of information about the project’s outcomes and findings, and
7. Evaluation of project management, objectives, activities, and products.

Collaborative partners for recruiting children and disseminating findings include critical state and local early childhood agencies and technical assistance providers. An Advisory Committee, including parents and a consumer, will be used to plan and evaluate project activities. The primary products will be a computerized teaching procedure and individualization protocols that can be presented with fidelity by parents and service providers. These computerized procedures will teach the discrimination responses that are required for a valid measure of hearing. The long-term outcome is for young children to have more appropriate adjustments and implant mappings in order to optimally benefit from technology.

---

**PRESENTATIONS**


PRESENTATIONS continued...


Olson, K. M. (2011, October). *Think College Kansas*. Presented at Beyond the Diagnosis: Autism Across the Life Span, Overland Park, KS.


NEW GRANT AWARD

Dean Williams, Ph.D., received a new 2011 Pilot Discovery Grant, *Bio-behavioral Measure of Aversive Transitions in Children* funded by the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training (K-CART). From an article posted on the KU website, *Discovery Grants to benefit autism research*, “Dean Williams will also use eye-tracking technology to examine pupil responses and behavioral reactions of children ages 7-11 with autism spectrum disorder and matching typically developing cohorts as they transition from tasks they prefer and those they don’t.”

COMMUNITY SERVICE

ROCK CHALK JAYWALKERS – RAISING FUNDS TO FIGHT CANCER

The Rock Chalk Jaywalker team continues toward their goal of raising $3,500 for the 2012 Labette County Relay For Life. To date, the team has raised a total of $1,237.57.

Team members include: Patti Blake, Laura Hanigan, Cynthia Huebner, Karen Lawson (team captain), Dave Lindeman, Nora Manier, Chris Miller, Debbie Moody (team co-captain), Kristi Nelson, Kathy Olson, Diane Salyers, LaShall Snider, Marlys Shomber-Jones and Lou Ann White.

Karen Lawson, team captain says, “We are excited about our team’s progress and passionate in our desire to see cures for cancer. But our team needs to grow! Anyone is invited and welcome to join. You don’t have to be a Jayhawk fan! Just contact any member of the team for more information. …continued on page 5
MARK YOUR CALENDARS
for the first lunch date of 2012:
Thursday, January 19 (Spaghetti). If you would like to receive notification of upcoming lunches or other events by email or through the campus mail please contact Karen Lawson at klawson@ku.edu or Extension 1618.

Holiday Cookie Bazaar
As a fund raising event for the 2012 Labette County Relay For Life, the Rock Chalk Jaywalkers will host a Holiday Cookie Bazaar on Tuesday, December 13, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in the UCDD Media Studio. A variety of homemade cookies will be available to purchase – just in time for your holiday parties and family dinners. Cookie donations are needed and welcomed for this event. If you are able to donate homemade cookies, please contact Karen Lawson at klawson@ku.edu or at Extension 1618.

STAFF UPDATE

STEPHEN ROBERTSON
New Position With U.S. Army Medical Research And Materiel Command

Stephen Robertson was selected for a position in the Postgraduate Research Participation Program at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command sponsored by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. Specifically, He will be a research assistant at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Chemical Defense in the Analytical Toxicology Division under the supervision of Dr. Lucille Lange. The research center is located on the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Edgewood, MD (about 40 minutes north of Baltimore, MD). The primary goal of the research is to understand the effects of chemical warfare nerve agents (CWNAs) on various neurological, biological and behavioral processes.

Stephen was hired to work on a new project aimed at characterizing the effect of CWNA exposure across a variety of points of neurological development. The goal of the research is to develop treatments for civilians (in particular, children) who are exposed to CWNAs. For this project, his primary function is to assist with operant research. He will maintain an operant lab, write programs for operant testing, help develop operant procedures and protocols and run rats. In addition, he will help with other day-to-day lab operations.

At the USMRICD, Stephen will be able to get experience that will (a) broaden his knowledge of lab practices in experimental psychology, (b) introduce him to lab practices in neuroscience, (c) and ultimately help him in a career as a researcher in behavioral pharmacology or behavioral toxicology. These are all good things. In addition, this job should help him attain his ultimate goal: Being smarter than Carlos Sanchez.

Stephen thanks Dean, Kate, Katie and Yusuke for teaching him about behavior analysis!
LAURA HANIGAN

B.A., Pittsburg State University

Human Resources

Laura Hanigan grew up in Southeast Kansas and has been a member of the Life Span Institute/University of Kansas team for almost 20 years. Laura’s first position was at the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD, then known as UAF, University Affiliated Facility) as a receptionist primarily answering the phones. In those days no one had their own extension or voice mail and with a larger staff at that time, Laura’s motto was “to never let the phone ring more than once!”

Five years later, Laura transferred to the Business Office at Research. Her new job description included accounts payable/receivable by processing, auditing and maintaining expenses from travel to purchases of services and merchandise. Two years later, she transferred into her current role of Human Resources, where she took on many hats that the HR person performs as well as keeping some of the old ones from years past.

Laura and Dan’s current interests include raising their two great and lovely daughters, Katlin, 9 and Chloe, 10 months. Laura enjoys being an active cheerleader in Katlin’s sporting events and Chloe’s new adventures; trying to exercise and stay fit from walking to zumba. She is an active volunteer and has participated as a board member with the American Red Cross, United Way of Labette County, Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) and served as a Brownie Leader of the Girl Scouts.

SARAH HALL

B.A., Truman State University

Research Assistant

Before moving to Kansas, Sarah Hall lived in the northeast corner of Missouri. She studied at Truman State University in Kirksville and received a Bachelor of Arts cum laude in psychology this past spring. Additionally she received the President’s Recognition Award upon graduating. At Truman, she also took courses in Ancient Greek and Latin and received a minor in Classical Studies.

During Sarah’s time as an undergraduate, she worked for a health science professor as an office assistant. This position gave her the opportunity to conduct research for a faculty member in an area outside of psychology or the classics. She also volunteered as a research assistant and worked on a student research team for her psychology faculty mentor. This study involved implicit learning and was linked with the Global Workspace Theory. After graduating, she spent the summer working as a lifeguard at Thousand Hills State Park in Kirksville.

This fall, Sarah moved to Overland Park for greater job opportunities and in order to find some sort of position dealing with psychological research. Her mother works for KU at the University Hospital and referred her to their job-posting site. Sarah says, “Now I am employed here at LSI as a research assistant. My areas of responsibility are Recombinative Generalization of within-Syllable Units in Mental Retardation and Laboratory Models of Maladaptive Escape Behaviors. I also work on studies involving letter discrimination and measures of phonological awareness. …continued on page 7
…from page 6

I am currently applying to graduate schools. I intend to earn my doctorate in cognitive neuroscience and go into the field of research as my profession. I am very grateful to have this position because I feel like it is helping me prepare for my career immensely. And as a native of Southwest Missouri, it’s nice to be closer to home again here in Southeast Kansas.”

---

**THOMAS HURLEY**  
Lab Assistant

Thomas Hurley was afforded the opportunity to travel a bit in his younger years because his parents were in the Navy. To Thomas, this means that his greatest adventures occurred during a time in his life that he is unable to recall. He had lived in California, Italy, Hawaii, and Chicago, before his parents retired to Parsons just before Thomas entered middle school.

Throughout his adolescence, Thomas had a number of eclectic interests and hobbies including pyrotechnics and contact juggling. He particularly enjoyed the works of such adventure novelists as Alexandre Dumas and Rafael Sabatini. He prefers Ian Fleming’s James Bond novels to their movie counterparts, and will take up arms to defend Daniel Craig from any Sean Connery proponents, *Quantum of Solace* notwithstanding. Thomas is also an avid Dungeons & Dragons player.

In his professional life, Thomas held a number of jobs before coming to work at the LSI, such as the Parsons Movie Theater and Wal-Mart. He is very excited to have this new job and is glad to be working at the LSI. Currently, he also attends Labette Community College studying mathematics, chemistry, and physics. His goal is to study neural engineering in graduate school, with a tentative plan to take a year off and teach English in Europe between undergraduate and graduate school.

---

**CARLOS SANCHEZ**  
B.A., Southern Illinois University  
Research Assistant

Carlos Sanchez was born and raised in Chicago, IL, and has two brothers and one sister. After graduating from a Chicago suburban high school in 2003, he went on to further his education at Loyola University in Chicago. After a year of attending Loyola, he realized that he wasn’t getting what he wanted out of the college experience, so he decided to go to a local community college to receive his Associates degree (for a much smaller monetary fee) while he weighed the options for his future.

After graduating with an Associates degree in Psychology, a good friend of his recommended that he attend Southern Illinois University (SIUC) with him. He knew Carlos wanted to get to know places outside of Chicago, so Carlos moved to Carbondale, IL, the home of SIUC.

At SIUC, Carlos says, “I serendipitously stumbled upon a field of study called Behavior Analysis, a subdivision of Psychology. I soon met Dr. Eric Jacobs, as well as some Masters level students, who helped guide and shape me into a scientist, and who have remained good friends. I then realized that I had finally found what I wanted to do.

Upon graduating from Southern Illinois, it was recommended that I come to Parsons, KS, for its well-known, and well-respected, post-bachelor program, directed by Dr. Dean Williams and Dr. Kathryn Saunders. I have since had an amazing experience working with Dr. Williams and Dr. Saunders, as well as with Dr. Katie Hine, Dr. Yusuke Hayashi, and Sharla Hopper on various research projects.

I plan to continue learning as much as possible, enjoy my time here in Parsons, and one day graduate with a Masters in Psychology.”
Community Service: Volunteers donate time and money

Community Service is alive and well at the Life Span Institute at Parsons. While we all work everyday to make Kansas a better place for children and adults with disabilities and their families, the commitment does not stop when the workday ends. Many of us volunteer our time and money to improve the quality of life for our neighbors and our environment. Three examples follow:

One. Beginning three years ago on April 18, 2009, the Life Span Institute at Parsons participated with K-State Research & Extension and the City of Parsons in a partnership with SEK Recycling, Pittsburg, KS to conduct electronic waste recycling events in Labette County. To date, forty-seven LSI at Parsons faculty and staff have volunteered on Saturdays at nine e-waste events in three towns collecting 171,527 pounds of electronic waste.

The countywide effort was supported through 2010 with grant funds and became sustainable in 2011 through sponsorships and individual donations. Two events are planned for 2012. The last e-waste event for 2011 was held in Oswego.

In the top picture: KU volunteers from left, Sara Sack, Chloe Rhodenbaugh (Laura’s daughter and the youngest volunteer!), Laura Hanigan, Dave Lindeman and Katie Hine.

Two. The Rock Chalk Jaywalkers are raising money to support the 2012 Labette County Relay for Life. The 14-member team representing LSI at Parsons, Parsons State Hospital & Training Center and Southeast Kansas Education Service Center (Greenbush) donate the ingredients, prepare the food and serve lunch each month onsite. Their customers are glad to make a donation to the effort for these delicious lunches. For more information on their upcoming activities, see pages 4-5.

And three. On October 19, 2011 the Extreme Makeover Home Edition Team and volunteers started building 7 houses in 7 days in Joplin, MO for 7 families that lost their homes from the May 22nd tornado. Many from our area donated resources and time to the recovery effort. For example, on October 24th Sandy Hill, research assistant using vacation time, started her 3-day stint as a volunteer. She was assigned to house #7 (shown above) to paint the front porch with another volunteer from Kansas City. There were builders and volunteers working on various ...continued on page 9
projects and equipment everywhere, but it all came together and 7 families received their new homes on October 26th.

Sandy said, “I was very excited to be a volunteer for this challenging project and was so happy to see these families get a place they could call home again.”

This was the biggest project for the Extreme Makeover Home Edition Team and will be the 200th episode to be aired sometime in January. **In this picture: Move that bus! - the trademark bus used on the television show to unveil the new homes shown parked in front of house #2 in Joplin.**