



Vision & Voice

A QUARTERLY NEWS AND EVENT PUBLICATION OF THE INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bookstore Spotlight

The Inclusion Facilitator's Guide
by Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Mary C. Schuh, & Jan Nisbet
Developed by three inclusion experts from the IOD and UNH's Inclusion Facilitator Training Option, this guide fully prepares staff to facilitate

full inclusion and transform the hearts and minds of those skeptical of reform. Whether used to prepare preservice educators or to augment the skills of in-service professionals, this comprehensive, strategy-filled guide will help inclusion facilitators create classrooms, schools, and communities where all students belong. *The Inclusion Facilitator's Guide* is available for \$29 and can be found online at www.iod.unh.edu/catalog.

Join Our Mailing List

The IOD produces a variety of publications, including *Vision & Voice*, which communicate the ways we are connected to individuals and activities in New Hampshire and across the country. **If you would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail contact.iod@unh.edu or call 603.862.4320.**

What's Inside

- IOD Says Farewell to Jay Klein2
- IOD Offers AAC Concentration.....2
- Did You Know?2
- Calendar of Events3
- NEGC Grantee: Patient-As-Teacher Project ... 4
- Jorgensen Receives National Award 4

Profile in Inclusive Education

Maple Wood Elementary, Somersworth, NH

For many years, Maple Wood Elementary School in Somersworth, NH thought it was practicing inclusion—after all, students with disabilities were present in general education classrooms at every grade level. Some students, however, spent the entire day in a classroom separated from their peers learning separate curriculums, and like many schools, numerous students were increasingly being pulled out of classroom settings for therapy sessions.

With a restructuring of the school's special education program in the wake of the No Child Left Behind Act, Maple Wood saw the need for change in how they were doing inclusive education. The staff implemented the IOD's Beyond Access Model, an educational framework that promotes improved learning of general education curriculum content by students with the most significant disabilities. The school also hired an Inclusion Facilitator from within its own staff to promote collaboration and instructional teaming for the students with the most significant accommodations needs.

Today, all students, including those with the most significant disabilities, are included in Maple Wood's classrooms. All services are completely incorporated into the natural flow of classroom activities; students are no longer



A student with autism participates in a classroom activity at Maple Wood Elementary

pulled out to work on reading, speech, or other skills. Classroom staff work together to help every student learn the core academic content, thereby enhancing the educational experience for everyone. Students with disabilities are learning more by interacting and engaging with their non-disabled peers, and students without disabilities are providing some of the most valuable academic and social support for students with disabilities.

"Inclusion is just a natural practice here at Maple Wood," says Principal Caroline Butler. "We have high expectations for all of our teachers, and our students see each other for who they really are. The smiles on our students' faces are enough to know that this is benefitting everyone." @

For more information on the Beyond Access Model, visit www.iod.unh.edu/beyondaccess.html.

Concord's First Barrier-Free Playground

Beaver Meadow Elementary School (BMS) is the largest elementary school in Concord, NH and one of the district's four accessible elementary schools. But its aging playground was one of the least accessible in the city.

Two years ago, a committee of parents and school staff decided to completely overhaul the playground. Their vision: "To create a playground that is a national model for accessibility, love of nature, physical fitness, and social interactions. Children of all abilities will be able to go to every area and participate and be successful."

After extensive planning and input from the committee and BMS students, the elementary school broke ground in July 2008 on a \$135,000 playground.

In addition to being designed as a barrier-free playground for children of all physical abilities, the natural playground model has proven to be more welcoming to children with neurological

disabilities as well.

The playground, which is open to the public during non-school hours, is now taking shape.

A gradual path winds up a hill, leading to a slide built into the hillside. A 1000-square-foot sand play area is ramped and adjacent to accessible sand tables. Boulders for seating and climbing are spread around the landscape. An inviting, accessible path winds around the perimeter of the school's ample back yard, connecting fitness equipment, shaded benches, and tree groves. A natural amphitheatre invites teachers to hold outdoor classes and performances.

The committee has raised approximately \$80,000 to date, primarily through school fundraisers, a donor-advised fund at the NH Charitable Foundation and a grant from the Oleanda Jameson Trust. @

For more information about the playground and making a donation, contact playground co-chair Dan Habib at dan.habib@unh.edu.



The new playground will feature a 1000-square-foot accessible sand play area (Photo: Dan Habib)

80E008

INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY / UCED
10 WEST EDGE DRIVE
SUITE 101
DURHAM NH 03824



IOD Offers AAC Concentration

In order to strengthen the IOD's connection to the University of New Hampshire, the IOD has developed several programs of study which promote evidence-based practices in numerous areas related to disability.

One such program—the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Concentration—prepares personnel to work in schools, promoting evidence-based, high quality AAC and assistive technology (AT) services for children and youth with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to learn core academics in the general education classroom. The program is grounded in the philosophy that embraces the diversity of the human experience, and posits that effective communication skills are essential to the expression of control and choice in all aspects of life.

This program of study is designed for graduate students enrolled in a two year master's degree program in speech language pathology, special education, occupational therapy, or other related fields. Courses are co-taught by individuals with disabilities or their family members and University faculty.

For more information on the AAC Concentration or other IOD programs of study, visit www.iod.unh.edu.



Did You Know?

Franklin High School, once the school with the largest percentage of students dropping out in NH, has turned itself around thanks to the work of the Achievement in Dropout Prevention and Excellence (APEX) II project. The high school was able to:

- Identify its most at-risk students sooner with data from its school-wide information system
- Reduce its discipline rate by 64% in one year by organizing its discipline system
- Graduate a much higher rate of students by putting into place the RENEW model as well as options for credit recovery

and, ultimately,

- Reduce its dropout rate from 16.8% to under 3% in less than four years.

For more information, visit www.iod.unh.edu/apex.html.

Feedback

Have a comment, suggestion, or story idea? We value your input. E-mail contact.iod@unh.edu or call **603.862.4320** to let us know how we're doing and how we can better serve you.

Share the IOD with a friend:

Please let friends or colleagues know about us. *Pass us along!*

IOD Says Farewell to Jay Klein

In July, the IOD said farewell to one of its most dedicated staff members.

After 18 years, Jay Klein is moving on to an exciting new position at Arizona State University (ASU). There, as Director of the Initiative on Inclusive Communities at ASU's Mary Lou Fulton College of Education, he will have the opportunity to use his talents and abilities to advance an agenda for which he is so passionate. The mission of the Initiative on Inclusive Communities is to assist communities to become more inclusive by combining cross-disciplinary ASU assets, education, research, and best practices for people with disabilities so that they experience full economic, political, social, cultural, community, and educational inclusion. Aside from his position as Initiative Director, Jay will also serve as an Associate Research Professor.

“Jay's intellect, personal and social skills, ambition, understanding, and drive put him in a category I reserve for only a few,” said IOD Director Jan Nisbet at Jay's farewell luncheon. “He is the complete package and as sad as I am to have him move to ASU, I am happy that another university recognizes who and what I have always known and deeply respected.”

While with the IOD, Jay was most noted for his work as director of the Center for Housing and New Community Economics (CHANCE). Established in March 2001 to improve and increase access to integrated, affordable, and accessible housing coordinated with, but separate from, personal assistance and supportive services, CHANCE incorporated the work of several other housing initiatives, including the Project Access, the Community Living Exchange Collaborative, the Strategies,

Highlighting IOD Donors

Support for the *Including Samuel* Project

The IOD is working to bring screenings of *Including Samuel*—the award-winning documentary by Dan Habib—to schools and community groups throughout the state. Two grants in recent months will help to make this possible.

A \$25,000 Community Impact grant from the **New Hampshire Charitable Foundation**, awarded in June 2008, will help to support screenings and distribution of *Including Samuel* DVDs and Viewers Guides for schools and parent support groups statewide in the coming year. Funding from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, awarded through Granite State Independent Living, helped to support the development of the film in 2007. This continuing support will help to make *Including Samuel*—which is a valuable resource for promoting greater understanding of the benefits and challenges of inclusion—available to teachers, administrators parents and policy makers throughout the state.

Likewise, a \$2,500 grant from **The Rotary Club of Concord** is supporting screenings of *Including Samuel* for staff and students from the Concord School District. More than 70 staff from three Concord schools attended a May 15, 2008 screening at Red River Theatres in Concord, and additional screenings and panel discussions are being scheduled for the fall. “The Rotary Club of Concord is proud to support the Institute on Disability's *Including Samuel* program for the Concord School District,” says Kim Burgess, chair of the Community Support Committee of the Rotary. “*Including Samuel* boldly yet poignantly



(L-R) IOD Director Jan Nisbet, Jay Klein, and Mary Schuh enjoy Jay's farewell slideshow

Barriers, and Outcomes of Home Ownership for People with Severe Disabilities research project, and the National Home of Your Own Alliance Clearinghouse.

“The IOD has always been a safe place for me to challenge preconceived notions and stereotypes,” says Klein. “I will never forget the unique opportunity and crucial growth experience I have had to be a member of team of dedicated and committed individuals who never questioned every person's right to be included in community. As a result of the IOD team effort, thousands of people and their families have been able to take back their lives and become part of their communities. I will be forever grateful to Jan and all my colleagues at the IOD for providing this haven for me to learn what is possible and to contribute to this movement. Now I feel equipped to truly be part of changing the world.” ☺

For more information on CHANCE and its initiatives, visit <http://chance.unh.edu>.

examines a very difficult topic and subsequently benefits all of us.”

Continuing Support for IOD's Resource Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders

In July, the **TJX Foundation, Inc.** awarded a second year of funding with a \$5,000 grant to support the IOD's New Hampshire Resource Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders (RCASD).

This funding will help to further the work of the RCASD, which includes: diagnosis and referrals for children with developmental disorders at the Seacoast Child Development Clinic, where some of the nation's leading experts in the fields of developmental pediatrics, clinical psychology, and audiology are advancing what we know about autism spectrum disorders; research to understand indicators in at-risk infants that can improve early detection; and one of only two doctoral-level programs in the country preparing professionals who can consult, treat, and advocate for individuals with ASD. For more information about the RCASD, visit www.iod.unh.edu/autism.html. ☺

If you would like to learn more about making a tax-deductible gift to the IOD, please contact:

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603.228.2084
mary.schuh@unh.edu

or visit www.iod.unh.edu for easy and safe online donation.

CALENDAR

E V E N T S / W O R K S H O P S

Getting a Handle on Hoarding

Will describe clinical disorders and cognitive traits associated with hoarding as well as recent research findings. In addition, the presenter will provide methods and tools for intervening in hoarding issues.

Date & Location:

Friday, September 19, 2008:
Common Man Inn, Plymouth, NH

Time: 9am–12pm

Cost: \$35

Presenter: Elizabeth Burden, LICSW, MPH
*Approved by the NH Chapter NASW for 2.5 Category 1 Continuing Education Credits for social workers.

Introductory Training for Facilitated Communication

Will provide participants with a general overview of facilitated communication (FC), FC's history, basic FC technique, determining FC candidacy, and a review of research and best practices.

Dates & Location:

Tuesday, October 7, 2008 or
Tuesday, March 10, 2009:
UNH Institute on Disability, Concord, NH

Time: 9am–3:30pm

Cost: \$95

Presenter: Pascal Cheng, M.Ed., C.A.S.

Whose Decision is it Anyway?

As people age, concerns can arise about some individuals' ability to make their own decisions. This workshop will help those who work with seniors to understand the rules and laws around decision-making.

Date & Location:

Thursday, October 9, 2008:
Common Man, Concord, NH

Time: 9am–3pm

Cost: \$75

Presenter: Mary McGuire, Esq.
*Approved by the NASW for 5 Category 1 Continuing Education Credits in Ethics

Real Choice Systems Transformation Conference

Cultivating Real Choice for All: Partnerships for Inclusive Communities. A one day conference to share new ideas on how to build connections to make YOUR community more livable.

Date & Location:

Tuesday, October 21, 2008:
SERESC Conference Center, Bedford, NH

Time: 8am–4pm

Cost: \$60 (professionals); \$25 (consumers and families)

Presenters: Lew Feldstein, President, New Hampshire Charitable Fund; Nancy Rollins, Associate Commissioner, DHHS; Kathleen Otte, Administrator, Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services; and others

APEX Training

Participants will learn to create and nurture a problem-solving team of professionals responsible for developing evidence-based strategies to improve the behavior and academic achievement of middle and high school students for whom school-wide approaches have been insufficient.

Dates & Locations:

Friday, October 24, 2008:
UNH-Manchester, Manchester, NH

Tuesday, February 10, 2009:

Granite State College, Conway, NH

Time: 9am–3pm

Cost: \$50 (Free for APEX schools)

Presenter: Cathy Apfel, M.Ed.

The Paraeducator's Toolbox Middle School & High School Practical Strategies to Support Academic Achievement for Students with Learning and Behavioral Challenges

Designed to provide paraeducators working with students in middle school and high school settings with effective approaches to meet the very specific and complex needs of adolescents with social, emotional, learning, and behavioral challenges.

Dates & Locations:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008:
Highlander Inn, Manchester, NH

Monday, March 9, 2009:

Common Man, Concord, NH

Time: 9am–3pm

Cost: \$95

Presenter: Cathy Apfel, M.Ed.

The Paraeducator's Toolbox Preschool & Elementary School Practical Strategies to Support Academic Achievement for Students with Learning and Behavioral Challenges

Will explore a variety of proactive approaches that paraeducators can use to promote successful outcomes for preschool through elementary aged children related to academic achievement, social competency, independence, and resiliency.

Dates & Locations:

Thursday, November 20, 2008:
Highlander Inn, Manchester, NH

Wednesday, March 4, 2009:

Common Man, Concord, NH

Time: 9am–3pm

Cost: \$95

Presenter: Cathy Apfel, M.Ed.

Save the Dates

2008-2009 Research to Practice Series
Literacy Assessment and Instruction
for Students with Autism Spectrum
Disorders

Dates & Guest Presenters:

October-November 2008 (3 Dates):

Stephanie Spadorcia

January 28-29, 2009: Paula Kluth

March 27, 2009: Karen Erickson & David
Koppenhagen

IntelliTools Training with Dan Herlihy

Dates:

Part One: March 23, 2009

Part Two: March 24, 2009

Visit the IOD at any of these
2008 Fall Conferences:



A Statewide Resource Fair
Monday, October 6, 2008

10am–2pm

Courtyard Marriott Grappone Center
Concord, New Hampshire



Annual Conference 2008

"Embracing the Hope and Joy of Autism"

October 17-18, 2008

Ann Arbor, Michigan



33rd Annual TASH Conference
Social Justice in the 21st Century

December 3-6, 2008

Nashville, Tennessee

IOD Leadership

Jan Nisbet, Ph.D. – *Director*
Linda Bimbo, MS – *Deputy Director*
Mary Schuh, Ph.D. – *Associate Director of Development and Consumer Affairs*
Cheryl Jorgensen, Ph.D. – *Research Assistant Professor*
Matthew Gianino – *Manager of Marketing and Communications*
Susan Fox, M.Ed., MA – *Clinical Assistant Professor*

Executive Committee

Gordon Allen – *Executive Director*
New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council
www.nhddc.org

Matthew Ertas – *Bureau Chief*
Bureau of Developmental Services
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/BDS

Barbara Arrington – *Dean*
College of Health and Human Services
University of New Hampshire
www.shhs.unh.edu

Santina Thibedeau – *State Director of Special Education*
New Hampshire Department of Education
www.ed.state.nh.us

Richard Cohen, JD – *Executive Director*
Disabilities Rights Center
www.drcnh.org

UCED Partners

Tom Bunnell, JD – *Director*
Michelle Winchester, JD – *Health Policy Analyst*
Institute for Health, Law and Ethics
Franklin Pierce Law Center
www.fplc.edu

John Moeschler, MD – *Program Director*
Dartmouth Center for Genetics and Child Development
Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
www.dhmc.org

Michael Swack, Ph.D. – *Dean*
Tobey Davies, MS – *CCEDD Director*
School of Community Economic Development
Southern New Hampshire University
www.snhu.edu

Consumer Advisory Council

Kathy Bates – *Somersworth, NH*
Regina Bringolf – *Hancock, NH*
Stacey Brooks – *Madbury, NH*
Robin Carlson – *Rochester, NH*
Joyce Chisholm – *Concord, NH*
Chris Collier – *Plymouth, NH*
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Ellen Edgerly – *Rochester, NH*
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Michelle Jarvis – *Hampton Falls, NH*
Pascal Kalinganire – *Manchester, NH*
Dan Louney – *Bedford, NH*
Debra Nelson – *Nottingham, NH*
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Julie Smith – *Durham, NH*
Jim Tobin – *Effingham, NH*
Pat Vincent-Piet – *Manchester, NH*
Marian West – *Concord, NH*

Support the IOD!

As a community oriented non-profit focused on ensuring that equal opportunities and a satisfying quality of life are accessible to all persons, we rely on the generosity of supporters like you to help further the mission of the IOD. If you would like to contribute to the IOD, tax-deductible donations can be made:

Online
www.iod.unh.edu

Mail
10 West Edge Drive, Suite 101
Durham NH 03824

Phone
800.378.0386
An IOD staff member will assist you with the process and answer any questions you may have about your contribution.

NEGC Grantee Utilizing Individuals with Metabolic Conditions as Educators

For many years, North America has experienced a shortage of metabolic physicians and young doctors who choose to train in the metabolic subspecialty. As advances are made in understanding various genetic conditions, non-genetic clinicians encountering and managing metabolic diagnoses often lack the latest information. This sometimes leads to communicating potentially alarming medical and informational inaccuracies to patients and parents about future metabolic issues that they or their child may experience.

A new educational project by the Medical Outreach Service of Tufts-New England Medical Center addresses the issue in New England. The Patient-As-Teacher Project, funded through a grant from the New England Genetics Collaborative's (NEGC) Innovative Small Projects Program, utilizes the experiences of patients with metabolic disorders and/or family members to serve as an educational resource for non-genetic medical providers and medical students. Patients and family members provide valuable first hand insight by presenting their perspectives on living with the disorder, their diagnostic journey, and their encounters with the health care system.

The Patient-As-Teacher Project is building a library of resources across a diverse set of metabolic conditions by creating a speaker

registry and putting the people who experience these conditions at center stage. To date, the project has recruited over 25 future speakers.

“For physicians who must learn about hundreds of conditions in order to keep pace with the rapidly changing field, the opportunity to put a face and a story with a genetic condition is invaluable,” says Susan Waisbren, Ph.D., Psychologist for the Metabolism Program at Children's Hospital Boston and the Patient-As-Teacher Project's endorsing member of the NEGC's Collaborative Council.

The project also hopes to encourage medical students' interest in the metabolic field as a career choice, eventually alleviating the current shortage of metabolic physicians.

The Patient-As-Teacher Project reapplied for and has received additional Innovative Small Projects funding for the 2009 fiscal year to continue its important work. @

For more information on the NEGC and the Innovative Small Projects Program, visit www.negenetics.org.

Cheryl Jorgensen Receives National Education Award

Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D., has been recognized by the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) with their annual National Education Awards. She received the award for her leadership and pioneering research in support of the successful inclusion of students with Down syndrome. Dr. Jorgensen was one of two individuals to receive an Education Award given at the Congress' Annual Awards Banquet on July 12, 2008 at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston, Massachusetts.

“I am very honored to have received this award, especially because it comes from an organization founded by parents,” said Dr. Jorgensen. “Meeting and hearing from parents during the conference reminded me of what Margaret Mead said: ‘Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.’ When you see parents with their infants and then young adults with Down Syndrome who are advocating for themselves, going to college, falling in love and getting married, you realize that having a disability does not diminish anyone's potential for a full life. I hope to work closely with the NDSC in the future to keep that dream alive.”

The NDSC has recognized leaders in the field of Down syndrome advocacy, awareness, research, and inclusion for over thirty years. Past education award recipients include Mary Falvey, Dean of the Charter College of Education at



Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D., receiving her NDSC Education Award

California State University at Los Angeles, and Paula Kluth, an independent consultant who works with teachers and families to provide inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities.

The National Down Syndrome Congress is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1973 whose purpose is to promote the interests of people with Down syndrome and their families through advocacy, public awareness, and information dissemination on all aspects of Down syndrome. @

For more information on the NDSC, visit www.ndsc.org.

Consumer Satisfaction Survey

To guide us in our work, the IOD depends upon direct input from individuals connected to our mission. We invite you to share your thoughts and ideas by participating in our Consumer Satisfaction Survey. **The survey is available online at www.iod.unh.edu or you may request a mailed copy by calling 603.862.4320.**

