



# Vision & Voice

March - May 2008

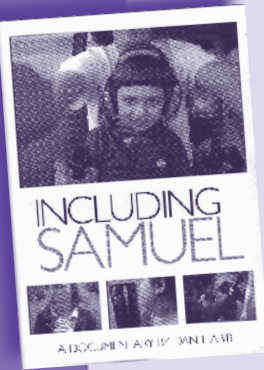
A QUARTERLY NEWS AND EVENT PUBLICATION OF THE INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Bookstore Spotlight

### Including Samuel

Dan Habib's new documentary film *Including Samuel* examines the educational and social inclusion of youth with disabilities. The film is built on the Habib family's efforts to include Samuel, 7, in all facets of their lives.

*Including Samuel* also features four other families with varied inclusion experiences, plus interviews with teachers, parents, and disability rights experts. The educational version of the DVD is accompanied by an IOD-developed viewer's guide with discussion questions, character synopses, primers on educational law and person-first language, and more. *Including Samuel* is available for educational use for \$180. A \$35 DVD is also available for personal use only. Both can be found at [www.iod.unh.edu/catalog](http://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](mailto:contact.iod@unh.edu) or call 603.862.4320.**

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## NH Center for Youth Empowerment Services

*Expanding the horizons for youth with disabilities*

The IOD, in partnership with People First of NH, the Alliance for Community Supports, Under One Roof, and several other disability organizations, is pleased to announce the formation of the *New Hampshire Center for Youth Empowerment Services* (YES) thanks to funding recently received from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. Though YES is only in its first stages of development, exciting opportunities are already in the works for a new generation of leaders in the disability world.

The YES project will focus on recruiting and serving young people with developmental disabilities in NH between the ages of 13 and 17, as well as emerging leaders between the ages of 18 and 30. As part of the YES's plans for advancing leadership, self-advocacy, and positive adult outcomes, YES will engage 15-20 emerging leaders and their families in an annual intensive *Youth NH Leadership Series*, a program modeled after the annual *NH Leadership Series*. The *Youth NH Leadership Series* will focus on developing self-efficacy and self-advocacy skills to improve employment, transportation, health, and housing policies and outcomes.

Tracy Moltisanti, a recent graduate of Bow High School and the new YES Program Assistant, can barely contain her excitement when she talks about this project. "We finally have something that's just for younger people," said Tracy, "and



YES Program Assistant Tracy Moltisanti working at the IOD's Concord office

this is going to be an eye-opener for many." Right now, Tracy is researching other programs around the country that work with youth with disabilities, and she can't wait to help motivate and encourage other youth through the *Youth NH Leadership Series*.

"A lot of young people with disabilities don't know what is possible for them," said Tracy. "A lot of times, parents interfere, or there are lots of staff people telling you what to do, and everyone just goes with the flow. If you're not happy, say you're not happy. Be well spoken, know what you want in life, and go for it. Stick up for yourself." @

**For more information on YES or the Youth NH Leadership Series, contact the IOD at 603.228.2084.**

## Introducing ABLE NH

Over the past several months, disability advocates and family members from across New Hampshire have come together to create an independent advocacy organization. *Advocates Building Lasting Equality in New Hampshire* (ABLE NH) is the result of a planning committee made up of advocates, parents, service providers, and support from the Institute on Disability, Developmental Disabilities Council, the Disabilities Rights Center, and other groups and organization which strive to serve individuals with disabilities. ABLE NH has recently achieved 501(c)3 non-profit status and will be an affiliate of the ARC of the United States.

ABLE NH advocates for the human and civil rights, as well as the full participation, of all children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of community, life, and society. Together with a growing network of members

and affiliated chapters, ABLE NH desires to improve systems of supports and services, connect families, inspire communities, and influence public policy.

With the recent approval of the by-laws by the board of directors, ABLE NH looks to begin the serious work of building a strategic plan and implementing committees to fulfill its missions. Board officers include Stacey Brooks, chair; Sarah Aiken, vice chair; Mary Schuh, secretary; and Carol Stamatakis, treasurer. Other members include Jan Larsen, Martha-Jean Madison, Adrienne Mallinson, Laura Miller, Linda Steir, Heather Thalheimer, Pat Vincent-Piet, and Janet Williamson.

ABLE NH looks forward to meeting you at the Family Support Conference on May 2-4, 2008, at the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, NH. @

**At this time, the ABLE NH website is still under construction. If you would like further information about ABLE NH and its mission, or if you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Stacey Brooks via e-mail at [brooks.stacey@comcast.net](mailto:brooks.stacey@comcast.net).**

800315  
DURHAM NH 03824  
SUITE 101  
10 WEST EDGE DRIVE  
INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY / UCED



## IOD Seeks Research Director

The IOD is experiencing growth within its research capacity and is currently seeking a Director of Research & Evaluation to lead and supervise a multi-disciplinary team of researchers in order to apply its collective expertise to a broad range of disability topics. For the past 20 years, research at the IOD has had a tremendous impact on both state and federal policy as it relates to the rights of individuals with disabilities and their ability to access the necessary resources to achieve a fulfilling life. As a member of the Strategic Team, the Director of Research & Evaluation will partner with organizational leadership to guide the IOD's future and the manner in which it carries out its mission.

Along with the development of the IOD's research capacity, the Director of Research & Evaluation will assist in the development of research and evaluation opportunities for university students. The IOD is also looking for an individual who can synthesize numerous research assets within an increasingly competitive and complex public funding environment and incorporate them into grant proposals, annual research operations plans, and the IOD's long-term research agenda.

This is a tremendous opportunity for a seasoned researcher and leader to shape the IOD's future in research and evaluation and have a direct impact on state and federal policies. Interested applicants may view more details regarding this full-time benefited position and apply online at [www.unhjobs.com](http://www.unhjobs.com).

## New IOD Website

The IOD is pleased to announce the launch of a brand new website! Although the web address has not changed, site visitors will notice some significant upgrades in both site design and function.

Along with more intuitive and user-friendly menus, the site now features ways to change the text size and color, as well as a text-only version which is ideal for individuals who utilize screen readers. In alignment with the IOD's mission, increasing the accessibility of the site was central to its upgrade. The IOD Bookstore has also been completely revamped to accept easy and secure online payments for orders—a first for the University of New Hampshire.

Check out our new look at [www.iod.unh.edu](http://www.iod.unh.edu).

## Feedback

Have a comment, suggestion, or story idea? We value your input. E-mail [contact.iod@unh.edu](mailto: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!*

## Project Improves NH Students' Access to General Education Curriculum

Federal special education law requires that all students with disabilities have access to, participate in, and make progress in the general education curriculum, pursuing it in the general education classroom whenever possible. Progress is measured in several ways, one of which is participation in statewide academic assessment in reading, writing, math, and science. Many students with disabilities participate in the same assessment as students without disabilities, but for a small number of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, there is an alternate assessment based on academic standards that are reduced in breadth, depth, and complexity. To support students' participation and progress in all aspects of the general education curriculum, the IOD, in collaboration with the NH Department of Education, was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. *Beyond Access for Assessment Accommodations* (BAAA), which began in November 2006 and runs through October 2008, is increasing the opportunity for students participating in the alternate assessment to participate in the general assessment with accommodations.

Students with disabilities generally fall into three assessment categories: those whose assessment experience mirrors that of students without disabilities, those who participate in the general assessment with accommodations (like having directions read aloud or allowing extra time for test taking), and those who participate in the alternate assessment. In some cases, expectations for students with disabilities to learn the general curriculum and to show their learning by participating in the general assessment may be too

*"We want to encourage teachers to think differently and to grow in their expertise."*

low. Some students participating in the alternate assessment could actually take the general assessment if appropriate accommodations were provided. The BAAA project is collaborating with educational teams to better determine which assessment category students should be in, as well as enhance the supports for students to make the shift from the alternate assessment category into participation in the general assessment with accommodations.

Through fieldwork at NH schools, BAAA studied how educational teams make the initial decision for students' assessment participation. From there, educational teams began learning how to select and implement instructional and assessment accommodations. The BAAA project also plans to propose additional accommodations for the list of

state-approved accommodations by finding and reporting on systematic applications of research-based education practices. Findings in NH have the potential to affect accommodations practices in Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, and beyond.

"We really want to encourage teachers to think differently and to grow in their expertise when it comes to instruction and assessment of students with disabilities," said Michael McSheehan, BAAA Project Coordinator. "We're planning to develop web-based self-study modules with videos of accommodations in use so teachers have a visual to inform the decisions they make and how they teach. Lessons learned through this project will also inform training by the NH Department of Education for more than 1,000 NH educators annually." ☺

For more information on BAAA, visit [www.iod.unh.edu](http://www.iod.unh.edu).

## Highlighting IOD Donors

Community support is essential to the continuation of the IOD's *NH Leadership Series* – a program that has been providing leadership and advocacy training for individuals with disabilities and their family members for more than 20 years. In recent months, the IOD received the following generous grants to support the program.

### Investing in Community

The **TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation** has provided grants for the *Leadership Series* for two years – contributing \$1,000 in 2007 and increasing their support to \$5,000 in 2008. Their support helps to offset declines in state funding for the program and demonstrates the importance of investing in the community. Today, *NH Leadership Series* graduates are working to improve our schools and strengthen our state health care system: they serve in the state legislature, launch parent support groups, and lead local school boards, putting their leadership skills to work to make New Hampshire communities better.

### Support from the Concord Area

A \$10,000 grant from the **Oleonda Jameson Trust** is helping to support the participation of Concord area residents in the *Leadership Series* this year. All participants attend the program – which meets one weekend per month from September to April at sites around the state – free of charge. This includes training from national

leaders in advocacy, hotel accommodations and meals during each weekend, and instructional materials. In addition, funding helps to provide reimbursements for child care, transportation, and respite, alleviating any barriers to participation that families might encounter. This grant helps to support two Concord area participants at a cost of \$5,000 each.

### The Merrimack County Savings Bank

**Foundation** provided additional support from the Concord/Merrimack County area. A grant of \$1,500 received in December 2007 helped to fund the acquisition of adaptive equipment for the *Leadership Series* that will make it easier for participants with hearing impairments to fully participate in the program. Having this equipment also means that all program participants have an opportunity to practice with this technology and teach others how to use it – expanding the utilization of state-of-the-art assistive technologies for people around the state. ☺

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

Mary Schuh, Ph.D. – Associate Director of Development and Consumer Affairs  
Institute on Disability / UCED  
56 Old Suncook Road, Suite 2  
Concord, NH 03301  
603.228.2084  
[mary.schuh@unh.edu](mailto:mary.schuh@unh.edu)

**or visit [www.iod.unh.edu](http://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

### Life as a Paraprofessional

Comprehensive full-day workshops designed specifically for first-year or seasoned classroom Paraprofessionals to present strategies for supporting students with challenging behavior.

**Time:** 9am – 3pm

**Cost:** \$90

**Presenter:** Cathy Apfel, M.Ed.

**Level I: Preschool & Elementary School**

**Dates & Locations:**

Thursday, March 6, 2008:

Holiday Inn, Concord, NH

Thursday, April 3, 2008:

The Common Man, Plymouth, NH

Thursday, May 1, 2008:

Granite State College, Conway, NH

**Level II: Middle & High School**

**Date & Location:**

Tuesday, March 18, 2008:

The Highlander Inn, Manchester, NH

Tuesday, April 8, 2008:

The Common Man, Plymouth, NH

### 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.

**Date & Location:**

Tuesday, March 11, 2008:

UNH Institute on Disability, Concord, NH

**Time:** 9am – 3:30pm

**Cost:** \$95

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

### Strategies for Academic Success

Teachers and Paraprofessionals Working Together: Effective Methods of Supervision and Support

**Date & Location:**

Thursday, March 13, 2008:

UNH Institute on Disability, Concord, NH

**Time:** 3:30pm – 5:30pm

**Cost:** \$35

**Presenter:** Frank Sgambati, MS

### Employment for All: Supporting the Career Goals of Individuals with Disabilities

This four-part skill-building workshop series provides employment service personnel with practical, "how-to" information on assisting individuals with disabilities in reaching their career goals.

**Time:** 9am – 12pm

**Location:** Rivier College, Nashua, NH

**Cost:** \$35 each; \$100 for entire series

**Presenter:** David Hagner, Ph.D.

**Dates & Topics:**

Thursday, March 13, 2008:

Building Employer Relationships

Thursday, April 17, 2008:

Network-Based Job Development

Thursday, May 8, 2008:

Carving, Creating, and Customizing Jobs

Thursday, June 5, 2008:

Natural Supports in the Workplace

### The Autism Mini-Series: 2008 Dates

Join experts on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) for topical discussions related to children with ASD, their families, and the support systems in their lives. Each session is designed to be informative, interactive, and filled with practical ideas to embed within your own parenting or teaching strategies.

**Time:** 4pm – 6pm

**Location:** University of NH, Durham, NH

**Cost:** \$30 each

**Dates & Topics:**

Monday, March 17, 2008:

Positive Behavior Support:

Re-Thinking the Role of Context

**Presenter:** Cathy Apfel, M.Ed.

Tuesday, April 1, 2008:

Communication Supports

for Students with ASD

**Presenter:** Rae Sonnenmeier,

Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Wednesday, April 9, 2008:

Promoting Membership, Participation, and Learning for Students with ASD in the General Education Classroom

**Presenters:** Michael McSheehan &

Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D.

### Voices of Friendship: How Schools Can Help or Hinder the Development of Social Relationships

Will help participants learn to identify the barriers to friendship that exist in many schools and classes, as well the wide variety of strategies that schools and families can use to facilitate the development of friendships.

**Date & Location:**

Wednesday, March 26, 2008:

The Common Man, Plymouth, NH

**Time:** 9am – 3pm

**Cost:** \$90

**Presenter:** Carol Tashie

### 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:**

Wednesday, April 2, 2008:

The Common Man, Concord, NH

**Time:** 9am – 3pm

**Cost:** \$75

**Presenter:** Mary McGuire, Esq.

### 2007-2008 Autism

#### Research to Practice Series

Enriching the Educational Experience for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**2008 Series Topics & Dates:**

#### Walden Incidental Teaching Model

Wednesday, April 2, 2008:

Holiday Inn, Concord, NH

**Time:** 9am – 3pm

**Cost:** \$125

**Presenter:** Gail G. McGee, Ph.D.

#### Building Social Relationships and Use of Video Modeling

Friday, April 11, 2008:

Derryfield Country Club, Manchester, NH

**Time:** 9am – 3pm

**Cost:** \$125

**Presenter:** Scott Bellini, Ph.D.

#### Building Bridges to the Social World: Strategies for Developing Social Competence and Connections for Children with Autism

For children with labels of ASD, understanding and participating in social interactions can be difficult and frustrating. CarolAnn Edscorn, an adult with Asperger's Syndrome, and Cathy Apfel, M.Ed., team up to offer personal insights and strategies for developing social awareness and competence.

**Date & Location:**

Thursday, April 10, 2008:

Highlander Inn, Manchester, NH

**Time:** 9am – 3pm

**Cost:** \$99

**Presenters:** CarolAnn Edscorn &

Cathy Apfel, M.Ed.

#### 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:**

Tuesday, April 15, 2008:

Horseshoe Pond Place, Concord, NH

**Time:** 9am – 12pm

**Cost:** \$35

**Presenter:** Elizabeth Burden, LICSW, MPH

#### Picture This! The Art of Graphic Facilitation

Will offer participants an accelerated learning experience in graphic recording and facilitation.

**Date & Location:**

Friday, May 2, 2008:

UNH Institute on Disability, Concord, NH

**Time:** 9am – 3pm

**Cost:** \$99

**Presenters:** Patty Cotton, M.Ed.

## 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.drnh.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 – *CCEEDD 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*  
Chris Collier – *Plymouth, NH*  
Bonnie Dunham – *Merrimack, NH*  
Ellen Edgerly – *Rochester, NH*  
Jocelyn Gallant – *Salem, NH*  
Nathan Gams – *Hampton, NH*  
Michelle Jarvis – *Hampton Falls, NH*  
Joyce Johnson – *Concord, NH*  
Pascal Kalinganire – *Manchester, NH*  
Dan Louney – *Bedford, NH*  
Debra Nelson – *Nottingham, NH*  
Stacy Shannon – *Concord, NH*  
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.

## Making a Change for the Better

What do you think of when you hear the words “mental retardation?” A low IQ score? Slow speech or motor skills? Maybe specific conditions like Down syndrome or Autism? A playground taunt?

Historically, the term “mental retardation,” or “MR,” was widely accepted as an appropriate label for individuals who exhibited a pattern of persistently slow learning of basic motor and language skills during childhood, and a significantly below-normal global intellectual capacity as adults. Over the past 30 years, however, gradual evolutions have warranted a significant shift in how and whether individuals with certain disabilities are labeled at all.

Traditionally, being “retarded” meant that individuals experienced a deficit, that they were lesser in some way—a mindset that went against the very idea of equality. Over time, people with the MR label began speaking for themselves, citing the demeaning and pejorative nature of the term. Research about people with the MR label clearly demonstrated the lack of an upper ceiling when it came to individuals’ abilities, capabilities, and talents. And when effective instruction techniques were used in inclusive education, the line between what could and couldn’t be taught to students with disabilities was permanently blurred. In response to this research and a general shift in attitudes toward people with disabilities, national disability organizations saw the need for a language overhaul. In place of MR, these groups took up the phrase “intellectual and developmental disabilities,” or IDD, as the preferred term.

*“Removing MR from our NH special education teacher certification system is a good step in the right direction.”*

In 2005, the NH Department of Education (DOE) established a task force to address the IDD language change for NH special education teacher competencies and certifications—a group which included the IOD’s own Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D. After several months of reworking and redrafting, the new language for special education teacher competencies and certifications was approved by the NH DOE’s Professional Standards Board. The exact language must now go through the NH “rule-making” process before being passed by the legislature and signed into law.

Dr. Jorgensen notes that getting to this point was a long process, and there is still a considerable amount of work to be done to bring about the end of the MR label. “Overall, there is still a disconnect on the state and national levels with respect to this language change,” said Dr. Jorgensen, “and there probably won’t be any change to the national law for another five years or more. At this point, individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities must still be formally diagnosed with MR in order to receive the appropriate services and supports. Although real change in attitudes toward people with disabilities requires more than just changing our language, removing MR from our NH special education teacher certification system is a good step in the right direction.” ☺

**For more information on the UNH Special Education Teacher Certification in Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, contact Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D. at 603.862.4678 or e-mail [cheryl.jorgensen@unh.edu](mailto:cheryl.jorgensen@unh.edu).**

## Honoring 15 Years of Service

### *The IOD congratulates Beth Dixon & Janet Williamson*

Had Beth Dixon and Janet Williamson not been parents of individuals with disabilities, they probably wouldn’t have had any knowledge of the IOD, let alone even thought of working in the disability field. Beth and Janet both came to know the IOD through the *NH Leadership Series*, a seven-month series which supports self-advocacy and leadership skills for individuals with disabilities and their family members who wish to affect change at a personal, community, and statewide level to support the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in their schools and communities. “*Leadership* changed everything for me,” said Beth. “Instead of being depressed and not having positive outcomes, I was given hope and possibilities.”

Fifteen years later, Beth and Janet continue to provide that same hope to a new generation of disability advocates through their own work with the *NH Leadership Series*, listing their years with the *Leadership Series* among their most rewarding experiences. “People come into *Leadership* angry and unhappy with how things are going for them or their family members,” said Janet, “and they leave hopeful, knowing that the answers are out there for them.”



*Beth Dixon & Janet Williamson in between activities at the '07-'08 NH Leadership Series*

“I’ve watched hundreds of people’s visions change,” said Beth. “Watching families finally ‘get it’ is a great experience. Parents start asking for more typical things for their kids, and pretty soon the kids are graduating high school, have new jobs, or are in college.”

From all of us at the IOD, we thank you, Beth and Janet, for your tireless work to see all people, including those living with disabilities, as fully engaged members of communities, leading independent, productive, and satisfying lives. You are truly an inspiration to us all. ☺

## 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](http://www.iod.unh.edu) or you may request a mailed copy by calling 603.862.4320.**