



Vision & Voice

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

summer 2009

Bookstore Spotlight

The Beyond Access Model by Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Michael McSheehan, and Rae M. Sonnenmeier

How can educators create inclusive classrooms where students with intellectual and developmental disabilities not

only participate and communicate but also learn academic content? This groundbreaking model is the answer. Practical, forward-thinking, and person-centered, *The Beyond Access Model* shows educators what meaningful inclusive education looks like and gives them the critical guidance to make it happen. *The Beyond Access Model* is available for preorder for \$36 and can be found online at www.iodbookstore.com.

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.**

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The National Center on Inclusive Education

Although national data show that students with ASD receive a majority of their education outside general education classrooms, trends in NH suggest that measurable success in reducing this rate has been achieved. As a result, NH is uniquely positioned to be a model for educators and administrators to demonstrate that it is not only possible but essential that students with ASD and related disabilities are authentic members and full participants in general education classrooms.

Since 2008, the University of New Hampshire has made it a priority to work more closely with NH's congressional representatives in order to identify and pursue federal resources that can benefit the state. With the support of UNH's Office of Sponsored Research, a meeting took place in 2008 between IOD leadership and Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, who serves on the House Committee on Education and Labor, to discuss how the IOD's expertise could be mobilized to achieve this goal. One of the meeting's outcomes was to pursue federal earmark dollars to create a center that would focus on best practices in inclusive education for students with ASD and related disabilities. After an eight-month process of development and refinement, the Institute on Disability submitted a proposal to establish the National Center on Inclusive Education for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Related Disabilities. In July, 2009, Congresswoman

Shea-Porter secured in the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, funding for the creation of the center.

"UNH is a leader in this field, and this funding will provide the University with the necessary resources to reach educators and families all across the country and to improve services for students with autism," said Congresswoman Shea-Porter.

Center initiatives include providing professional development and technical assistance to state and national model-demonstration sites, recruiting students into appropriate university graduate and certificate programs, and developing online e-learning courses and webinars for educators to support students with ASD and related disabilities in general education classrooms. ☺

For more information on the National Center on Inclusive Education, visit www.iod.unh.edu.



Representing Carol Shea-Porter, Caitlin Daniuk announces NCIE funding at '09 Autism Summer Institute

The IOD Goes International

In order to advance its mission to strengthen communities and ensure full access, equal opportunities, and participation for all persons, the IOD often works with organizations outside of New Hampshire to share knowledge and expertise. In the past year, many IOD staff members have had the opportunity to impact systems outside of the United States.

A majority of the support that IOD staff members provide to other countries falls under the categories of professional development and technical assistance. For example, since the early 1990s, IOD Associate Director **Mary Schuh** has provided consultation and professional development on inclusive education and systemic reform to parents, educators, and policy makers in Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Similarly, **Susan Fox** and **Frank Sgambati**

both provided professional development this past spring in Belarus. Sue's trip involved discussions on advocacy, self-advocacy, and action planning for change. Some action plan outcomes included advocating for a ramp at a local health clinic and developing independent living centers. Frank's trip featured training on best practices in inclusive education, and he is currently working on a contract to return to Belarus to provide additional training in this area.

Occasionally, staff members are invited to participate in events of national and international significance. This past June, **Maria Agorastou** participated in the 3rd Emotion Pictures International Festival "Documentary & Disability" in Athens, Greece. Maria offered opening remarks before the screening of the film "Including Samuel." While in Greece, she met with individuals who determine the national educational curriculum. "Including Samuel" is under consideration by the Greek Department of Education to be added as required instructional material. ☺

For more information on international impact projects, visit www.iod.unh.edu.

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



IOD Seeks Art for 2010 Calendar

Are you an artist looking for an opportunity to get your work noticed? Do you know an artist who might be interested in such an opportunity? Since 2000, the Institute on Disability (IOD) at the University of New Hampshire produces a calendar each year featuring 13 original works of art. The highly anticipated calendar is distributed to thousands of people around the world each year connected to the IOD's mission to strengthen communities and ensure full access, equal opportunities, and participation for all persons.

The IOD currently invites artists to submit artwork to be considered for its 2010 Calendar. The theme for the 2010 calendar is reflective of the quote:

"Disability is not a 'brave struggle' or 'courage in the face of adversity'... disability is an art. It's an ingenious way to live." – Neil Marcus

All artwork must be two-dimensional (i.e. drawings, paintings). Unfortunately, the IOD is unable to accept photography and sculpture. Artists are encouraged to submit artwork with vibrant colors, and artists are welcome to submit up to three works of art for consideration.

For additional artwork guidelines and submission details, visit www.iod.unh.edu.



Did You Know?

Approximately 1400 students, grades 2 through 11, take the New Hampshire alternate assessment (NH Alt) each year. In each content area, the number of students participating has remained fairly steady over the last three years.

Based on educator descriptions of students participating in the NH Alt (Sensory Access Form: Student Communication and Learning Profile), more than 60% understand some level of information via visual, auditory and tactile systems; less than 4% cannot understand information via visual, auditory, and tactile systems.

A small but steady increase has been observed in the use of assistive technology for NH Alt students.

For more information, visit www.iod.unh.edu/gainingaccess and www.ed.state.nh.us.

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!*

Civil Rights, Transportation, and the ADA

by Sönke Dornblut

New Hampshire's approach to transportation infrastructure puts non-drivers at a great disadvantage. The figures describing expenditures on surface transportation illustrate the point:

- NH per capita public transit spending (state funds): \$0.17 (2005)
- NH per capita spending on highways (state funds): \$270 (2006)

Clearly, there is a great discrepancy. While public expenditures primarily focus on an inaccessible infrastructure with a high economic entrance barrier (the cost of a car, annual maintenance, and operating costs) those who cannot drive because of a disability face virtually insurmountable physical barriers.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (passed in 1990 and updated in 2008), addresses the inaccessibility of public transportation. It requires public transit providers to offer a complementary door-to-door service for people who otherwise couldn't use the system. So, the question remains, why do people with disabilities still have so little access to transportation services?

Accessible public transportation is great—if you have it in your town. But the case for most New Hampshire communities is that there is no

public transit provider with a fixed route. People who do not drive must rely on human service transportation, primarily funded through various Medicaid programs, which drives up the cost of Medicaid. In essence, the inaccessibility of our surface transportation system is being fixed by a medical program.

However, isn't access to jobs, access to voting, access to movies—access to life—a right? Why does the ADA only provide for the accessibility of public transit but does not meaningfully address how over 90 percent of public expenditures affect accessibility?

This constitutes a major imbalance, and, if not addressed one way or another, we will continue to struggle to find the funds to fix the inequities created by a system that is inequitable by design. ☹

For more information on public transportation in New Hampshire, contact Sönke Dornblut at sonke.dornblut@unh.edu or 603.862.4064, or visit the State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation at www.nh.gov/dot/scc.

Highlighting IOD Donors

Support for Families in New Hampshire's Upper Valley Region

The **Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation** awarded a \$2,000 grant to support the participation of individuals with disabilities and family members from the Upper Valley area in the 2008-2009 *New Hampshire Leadership Series* at the IOD. Thanks to this support, a mother and daughter from Sunapee took part in the *Series*, gaining new skills and inspiration to make college and an independent life attainable.

This is the second Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation grant for the *Leadership Series*. A \$2,000 gift was awarded in December 2006.

Community Partners in Leadership

The *New Hampshire Leadership Series* receives generous support from community service providers across the state, many of which have been launched, are led, and/or have been energized by graduates of the *Series*.

These supporters include the following:

- Autism Society of New Hampshire
- Council for Children and Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions
- Community Bridges
- Community Partners
- Future Planning Networks of NH
- Gateways Community Services
- Independent Services Network
- Lakes Region Community Services
- Monadnock Developmental Services
- Moore Center Services, Inc.
- New Hampshire Family Voices
- Northern Human Services

- One Sky Community Services
- PathWays of the River Valley
- Region Ten Community Services

A Gala to Support the *New Hampshire Leadership Series*

Participants past and present joined in the annual *New Hampshire Leadership Series* reunion held April 17, 2009, at Ashworth by the Sea in Hampton, New Hampshire. More than 100 program alumni and friends gathered for an evening of fun that included dinner, a silent auction, celebration of the newest program graduates, and guest speaker Norman Kunc, national disability rights advocate.

Proceeds from the gala and silent auction, which totaled \$8,000, will support the continuation of this important program. To learn more about contributing to the *New Hampshire Leadership Series* and about our current supporters, visit *Friends of Leadership* at the *Series* web site at www.nhleadership.org. ☹

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

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

CALENDAR

EVENTS / WORKSHOPS

Methods, Models & Tools Person-Centered Planning Facilitation Training

An intensive five-day summer institute designed to help develop the competencies needed to facilitate consumer and family-directed life planning. The summer institute incorporates lecture, role-playing, action learning, and peer support to provide an interactive forum for participants to develop and practice effective group facilitation skills.

Dates & Location:

July 15-17, 20 & 21, 2009 – The Browne Center, Durham, NH

Time: 9am – 4pm

Cost: \$700

Presenters: Patty Cotton, M.Ed. & Pam McPhee, MSW

*\$50 per person discounts available for groups of three (3) or more.

*Includes all breakfasts and lunches, plus dinner on 7/15 and 7/20.

*Affordable overnight accommodations are available at UNH and in Durham. Call 603.228.2084 for more information.

*Approved by the NH Chapter NASW for thirty (30) Category 1 Continuing Education Units for social workers.

Third Annual Assistive Technology Summer Institute

Achieving Educational Success Through Assistive Technology (AT) and Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Will explore innovative and creative ways technology can increase the accessibility of curriculum and enrich the learning experience for all students. Each of the three interactive and hands-on workshops will provide participants practical, cost effective, and proven strategies and tools that can be applied to any learning environment.

Dates & Topics:

Wednesday, July 22: IntelliTools Level I – Introduction to Classroom Suite 4

Thursday, July 23: IntelliTools Level II – Next Steps with Classroom Suite 4*

*Workshop pre-requisite: Level I or other introductory Classroom Suite 4 course.

Friday, July 24: Technology Tools for Student Access and Success

Location:

Institute on Disability, Concord, NH

Time: 9:00am–3:00pm

Cost: \$75 each

Presenter: Dan Herlihy

*Includes continental breakfast, lunch, and free trial version software or freeware programs.

*A laptop with an administrative password for downloading and installation is required for each session.

11th Annual Autism Summer Institute Show Me The Evidence: Evidence- Based Practices for Supporting Students with ASD in Schools and Communities

The goal of the Autism Summer Institute is to provide strength-based perspectives about students with ASD to improve the quality of education in inclusive settings. Participants will gain knowledge and skills to evaluate and select supports and strategies based on research evidence that will enhance the full participation of students with ASD in their schools and communities. The full Institute registration fee includes participation in all four days' activities, continental breakfast, lunch (Monday - Wednesday only), materials, and parking.

Dates and Location:

August 10–13, 2009 – Holloway Commons / Memorial Union Building, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

Time: Monday: 8:00am–3:30pm; TW: 9:00am–3:30pm; Thursday: 9:00am–12pm (optional lunch)

Cost: Professionals: \$399

Parents/Full-Time Students/Self-Advocates: \$325

Groups of three or more (subject to verification): \$375

Keynote(s) only: \$30 each

Keynote Presenters: Ari Ne'eman, Dan Habib, Lana L. Collet-Klingenberg, Ph.D., Cathy Pratt, Ph.D., Michael McSheehan

*UNH course credit available. E-mail cheryl.jorgensen@unh.edu for more information.

*Family and self-advocate scholarships may be available from several of our collaborators. For full details, call 603.228.2084.

*Reduced rate available for rooms at the New England Center and Holiday Inn Express until July 9, 2009.

Peter Lampron and Friends Capitol Center for the Arts Benefit Concert for Including Samuel Project

Pete Lampron, along with special guests Tim Vendt, Joe Cadrette, Mike Pollini, and Randy Ellis, will bring his original blues, rock, and acoustic music to the Capitol Center for the Arts' Spotlight Café. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Including Samuel Project.

Date and Location:

Friday, August 14, 2009 – Spotlight Café, The Governor's Hall, Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord, NH

Time: 8:00pm

Cost: \$20

Fourth Annual Achievement in Dropout Prevention and Excellence (APEX) Summer Leadership Institute

This year's institute will be open to teams from high schools interested in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), improving school culture and climate, student leadership and participation, intensive school-to-career interventions, data-based decision-making, creating multiple and individualized pathways to graduation, and function-based assessment and intervention.

Dates and Location:

August 18-19, 2009 – Attitash Inn and Conference Center, Bartlett, NH

Time: Tuesday: 8:00am–4:15pm, evening activities start at 6:00pm;

Wednesday: 8:00am–1:15pm

Cost:

APEX School Participants: Free

*Overnight reservations will be made for you. Please do not call the hotel.

Non-APEX School Participants: \$125

*Contact the Attitash Grand Summit at 603.374.1900 to make reservations.

*All registrations include breakfast and lunch on 8/18 and 8/19, dinner on 8/18, and conference materials.

Presenters: Joe DiMartino, M.Ed., Dan Habib, LeDerick Horne, Hank Bohanon, Ph.D.

Save the Date

AUTCOM

Autism National Committee

Annual Conference 2009

"Opening Doors: Voices and Choices"

September 25-26, 2009

Crowne Plaza, Nashua, NH

Mental Health in the Schools: Supporting Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities in General Education Classrooms and Local Communities

Date: Monday, October 5, 2009

Time: 9:00am–3:00pm

Location: Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH

Real Choice Systems Transformation 2009 Conference

*Workforce Innovation: Ensuring
the Future of NH's Direct Support
Workforce*

Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Time: 8:00am–4:00pm

Location: Center of NH Radisson, Manchester, NH

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*

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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

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www.fplc.edu

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

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*
Joyce Chisholm – *Concord, NH*
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Jim Tobin – *Effingham, NH*
Maureen Tracey – *Merrimack, NH*
Pat Vincent-Piet – *Concord, NH*
Kathryn Wallenstein – *Concord, 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
56 Old Suncook Road, Suite 2
Concord, NH 03301

Phone
603.228.2084
An IOD staff member will assist you with the process and answer any questions you may have about your contribution.

Honoring 15 Years of Service

The IOD congratulates “Captain” Peter Macalaster

If you have ever called or visited the IOD’s Durham office, chances are you have been greeted by the lively hello and friendly smile of Office Assistant Pete Macalaster. Pete was recently recognized by the University for his 15 years of service with the IOD.

Before coming to the IOD, Pete’s disability was often viewed as a barrier to his ability to work. Even after 20 years of working as a courier for a local bank, Pete was still viewed by some people as a “gimp” or “only good for driving a cab,” as he puts it. “Once I started at the IOD, it was a complete turnaround,” he says. “People never questioned my ability. They said ‘Here’s a job. Do it how you feel comfortable.’ People were more accommodating of my needs.”

As a constant figure at the Durham office front desk, Pete has seen a lot of changes at the IOD throughout the years. As the organization has grown—both strategically and in number of staff—Pete has seen a shift in how the IOD works together and with other organizations to accomplish its mission. Whether the IOD is submitting a grant or pulling together packets of materials for a professional development workshop, “there is more collaboration and better communication among staff to get things done,” he says.

Pete has also experienced some significant

personal changes since coming to the IOD. “I used to be a very negative person,” he says. “Once I got involved at the IOD, slowly my attitude got better. Now, I love my job and I want to stay as long as I can get up in the morning, come to work, and fulfill the IOD’s needs and expectations.”

Pete also contributes to the University learning environment by guest lecturing in education and kinesiology classes. “It’s important for students to know that everyone should be able to be independent if they want to be. Don’t say ‘You can’t.’ Everyone should be given a chance.”

From all of us here at the IOD, we thank you, Pete, for your tireless service and commitment to the IOD’s vision of seeing all people, including those living with disabilities, as fully engaged members of communities, leading independent, productive, and satisfying lives. ☺



University President Mark Huddleston (L) shakes Pete’s hand during the UNH service recognition ceremony

Parent Group Supports Summer Institute Attendance

Before the IOD’s annual Autism Summer Institute last August, the Autism Education Fund, a group of parents in Farmington, NH, raised enough money to help five professionals from the Farmington school district attend the Summer Institute for free.

This year, the Autism Education Fund began fundraising early, soliciting donations for a community yard sale and selling prize calendars for \$5 each. Group members visited local baseball games and senior citizen bingo events to raise awareness and funds. One mother even sold calendars to her customers in a Portsmouth, NH bar. The community responded above and beyond any of the group’s initial expectations, contributing enough money to allow 10 new professionals to attend the Autism Summer Institute on August 10-13, 2009.

Bobbie Stormann—a first-year teacher, a parent of two children on the autism spectrum, and one of the parents instrumental in this year’s fundraising efforts—heard of the benefits of attending the Autism Summer Institute. “When I was substitute teaching in Farmington this past year, I talked to a teacher who participated in the 2008 Summer Institute,” said Stormann. “Because of strategies that she learned, she was able to advocate for her student. That was great to hear as a parent.

Raising the money was definitely worth it.” Stormann attended her first Autism Summer Institute this year.

Above all, Stormann thinks that promoting understanding will help teachers to work more effectively with students with autism. “School is very stressful for all kids, especially those with autism. Making school a welcoming and accepting place is important, and every strategy that a teacher has will help all students.” ☺

Interested parents and community members are invited to attend Autism Education Fund meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 6pm at the Farmington Rec. For more information on the Autism Summer Institute, visit www.iod.unh.edu.



Presenters Ari Ne’eman and Cheryl Jorgensen at the '09 Autism Summer Institute

IOD 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 IOD Satisfaction Survey. **The survey is available online at www.iod.unh.edu or you may request a mailed copy by calling 603.862.4320.**

