The Kelly Autism Program is planning several upcoming events for the participants, friends, and family. On Thursday, August 11th Dr. John Burke from the Kentucky Autism Training Center will join the KAP staff and friends. He will also attend the advisory board meeting Thursday evening beginning at 5:00pm at Holy Spirit Church. Then on Friday, August 12th, there will be a governing board meeting beginning at 2:00pm in the KAP office. Also, Friday evening beginning at 6:30pm "Dinner and Conversation with" will be held for the parents, while the young adults enjoy pizza and learn about bullying during a "bullying workshop." In addition, there will be a reception for the VSA art projects on August 28th beginning at 2:00 pm at Barnes and Noble. We hope to see everyone there at these important events.

Birthdays

Jennifer Jones: August 8th
Chris Perriello: August 13th

Sunset Run for KAP

On Saturday, July 16th hundreds of people gathered at the Warren County Airport to participate in the first annual Lifeskills Sunset 5K Run. The event was held to raise money and awareness for the Kelly Autism Program. The event began at 6:00pm with a 2-mile walk and then the 5K race started at 7:00pm. There were 200 participants in the walk including a group of 50 employees of Harman Becker in Franklin, KY, and 214 individuals participated in the run. Before and after the events the Ernie Small Blues Band provided live entertainment, Jazzercise gave warm-up demonstrations, and door prizes were given away. There was also plenty of food and drinks to keep all the participants and fans energized. We would like to thank Lifeskills, Brad Schneider and the race committee and all of the sponsors for their help in making this event such a success. It was a beautiful day for a race, we are looking forward to next year!
It is indeed a pleasure to serve as the Director of the Kelly Autism Program. Last summer, I served as the Transition Director and, as such, the Kelly Autism Program staff was able to expand services. The main goal of the Kelly Autism Program is to become a nationally recognized program by 2006. There are 5 benchmarks identified to reach that goal:

1. increase state and national affiliations
2. promote the KAP unique program features
3. expand our exposure in the print media
4. write grants
5. increase the number of assistantships

This academic year, the Kelly Autism Program is looking forward to developing strong programmatic ties with the Clinical Educational Complex. The complex incorporates 5 academic and clinical programs:

- Communication Disorders Clinic
- Family Counseling
- Group Preschool Program
- Acquired Brain Injury
- Kelly Autism Program

There are 3 Graduate Student staff members. Mrs. Skaggs holds the Assistant to the Director position. She oversees the administrative tasks and is also the organizer of the post-secondary portion of the Kelly Autism Program. Mrs. Page will design a web page in order to make others aware of the program. She and Mrs. Ransom together serve as job coaches and work jointly to publish a newsletter each month.

During the Governing Board Meeting held Friday, August 20, 2004 four new members were welcomed: Dr. Martha Boman, who is a professor of Special Education, Steve Spencer, who is a WKU professor of Physical Education & Recreation, Dr. Vicki Cole, a principal of 11th Street Alternative School, and Mrs. Janice Richardson, who is the Director of Rivendell Behavioral Health Services.

Dr. Ransdell, Dr. Burch, as well as the College Deans, Dr Bonaguro and Dr. Evans are very supportive of the Clinical Education Complex and the Kelly Autism Program. For more information on how you can help support The Kelly Autism Program, call Melissa Skaggs at 270-745-8903.

Coming Next Month
* Social activity update
* Progress of fall jobs