

KAP Information:

The Kelly Autism Program

Clinical Education Complex
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Upcoming Events

Advisory Board Meeting- May 11th, 6:00-7:30pm

Governing Board Meeting- May 12th, 2:00pm

PCP Night- May 4th/ Boy's Night May 6th

The 2nd Annual Alliance Awards

The following local Bowling Green businesses were recognized at the 2nd Annual KAP Alliance Awards on April 13, 2006:

-Bowling Green-Warren County Humane Society Animal Shelter

-Britthaven of Bowling Green

-Greenview Regional Hospital

-Houchen's Industries

-Leichhardt Landscape Company

-Mariah's Restaurant

-Stems and Thee Floral Designers

-Western Kentucky Active Day Care Center

(Christopher Periello, a member of the Kelly Autism Program, accepted the award on behalf of Mariah's Restaurant where he is currently employed.)

The following names and businesses were also recognized by KAP on this night:

-Altiora Award:

Margie Shultz

Lifeskills- Alice Simpson & Brad Schneider

-Friends of Western:

Dr. Leo Simpson

-Friends of KAP:

Ohio County Equestrians

VSA- Mrs. Ginny Miller

Thanks to all the participating business organizations who helped make the KAP program an opportunity for the members of KAP to experience work related opportunities and become productive members of our community.

For more information about the Kelly Autism Program, go to the Clinical Education Complex Web site at www.wkucec.com. If you wish to become a contributing partner with the KAP students and staff, contact Dr. Marty Boman at WKU. 270-745-0111 or marty.boman@wku.edu

The presentation of the Phillip Proctor and Mary Vitale Proctor Endowment



Special Thanks!

Written by: Courtney Burge

The 2nd Annual Alliance Awards was held on April 13th in Jones Jaggars Centertorium. The evening was a beautiful event meant to recognize and honor the businesses and community groups that collaborate with KAP to provide opportunities for our students.

The evening included presentations by Dr. Ransdell, the announcement of an endowment, and a donation of KAP artwork to the CEC. The highlight of the evening was a performance by KAP's own Maddie Sutphen. Maddie, who describes herself as the KAP resident musician, provided the musical entertainment for the ceremony. Maddie writes her own music and cords for guitar, and she is a member of KAP's post secondary program. Her song "Everything" brought a tear to many eyes as everyone enjoyed her beautiful voice.

We thank everyone who made an effort to attend and who contributed in making this evening so special. A special thanks goes out to Ms. Jill Blythe, The College of Health & Human Services, The College of Education, the Development Office, Suzanne Vitale, and Leichhardt's Nursery.

Director's Desk

Written by: Dr. Frank Kersting

The Kelly Autism Program hosted the 2nd Annual Alliance Awards on April 13, 2006.

Attendance increased by 20%, and there was standing room only with KAP looking forward to an even greater future in 2007 as the program continues to grow.

The Alliance Awards provide an opportunity for the KAP directors and staff to recognize individuals in the community who have been instrumental in the growth of the Kelly Autism Program. Dr. Gary Ransdell, Western Kentucky University's President, hosted the Alliance Awards, and we are grateful for his continuing support.

Dr. Ransdell accepted an award for his vision of WKU's role of stewardship in our community through forging the university/community partnership known as the Clinical Education Complex—a five part program that includes the Kelly Autism Program, Early Childhood Center, Acquired Brain Injury Resource Program, Speech & Communication Disorders Clinic, and Family Counseling.

As we look to the centennial celebration of Western Kentucky University's existence, Dr. Ransdell's leadership has become a vision of excellence and community involvement that will serve our Commonwealth of Kentucky in the 21st Century. This vision has given the Kelly Autism Program an opportunity to become an integral part of the "Western Family."

Phillip Proctor, a gregarious, 7 year old boy, presented the Phillip Proctor and Mary Vitale Proctor Endowment in honor of Dr. Frank Kersting and Dr. Marty Boman. Phillip announced that this endowment is a "Thank You" to Western faculty and to his team of therapists who have helped him become "the best that he can be," and he hopes that other boys and girls with autism will also become the best they can be. As this endowment grows, WKU will continue providing comprehensive services to adolescents and young adults with autism. Phillip is looking forward to joining the Kelly Autism Program in a few years.

This endowment was initiated through the generous donations of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Renshaw, Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly, and Ms. Suzanne Vitale. Other individuals interested in supporting this endowment may do so by contacting Mr. Ron Wilson, ron.wilson@wku.edu, or Mr. Karl Miller, karl.miller@wku.edu, in the WKU Development Office. Telephone: (270) 745-0111

Postsecondary Program

Written by: Katy Behm

The postsecondary program is going strong! Everyone is busy preparing for the end of the semester which is approaching quickly! Recently participants registered for the fall 2006 semester, which means they are all returning! Three students enrolled in the college program enjoyed a cookout at Dr. Kersting's home to celebrate their success during the Spring semester. KAP is proud of our postsecondary students and all of their hard work!

High School and Middle School

Written by: Amanda Jochim

The middle and high school participants are staying busy! A few of us went to St. Vincent De Paul on April 1st, and worked so hard that we ran out of tasks to do. We also had middle school Boy's Night and Girl's Night. The high school boys are in the process of organizing a trip to Lost River Cave. Plans are underway for a cook-out, which you will hear about soon. The participants are having fun anticipating all of our events. They are much more creative on the computer than we are at making flyers. Look out for more information about upcoming events! KAP staff cannot believe the school year is almost over already!



Victoria working hard/ Enjoying a cookout

Pre-Employment/Employment Program

Written by: Rebecca Smith

A social was held on April 3 at Chris Periello's home for the employment participants. We were lucky to enjoy the evening with Keith, Joseph, Chris, Dr. Boman and Rebecca. For dinner, Chris prepared a delicious chicken soup. After our meal, we played Tripoly – Joseph was the "big winner". Everyone had a great time and we are in the process of planning another social. More details will be available soon. Thanks Chris!

Chris, Keith, and Joseph at Chris' for dinner!



**Connie Miller
receiving the
CEC's 2006
Teacher of the
Year Award!**



Middle School and High School Socials!

Written by: Krystal Martin

During the past month, the middle school and high school students have had lots of fun! We had some socials in smaller groups so as to focus on what each group would really enjoy the most. On March 29, we had a middle school "Guys' Night." The middle school students came and played video games and Yu-gi-oh cards. We also ordered pizzas and made root beer floats. The guys really got a chance to do activities that they enjoy doing and bonding with one another. Then, on April 10, it was the ladies' turn to party. The high school girls came in for food, fun, and girl talk. We had dinner and slushes, and then it was time to be pampered. We put on makeup, curled their hair, and did manicures and pedicures. Everyone had a blast! The only group left is the high school guys, which is coming up on May 6, we will be having an outing for them at Lost River Cave.



**Sarah, Michael, and Krystal working hard at St. Vincent De Paul!/
Jamie, Jennifer, and Sarah at Girl's Night after they had their makeovers!
They had so much fun!**

KAP Receives National Recognition Twice at CEC Conference

Written by: Dr. Marty Boman

The National Council of Exceptional Children Conference was held on April 5-8 at Salt Lake City. During this event, our Advisory Board member Connie Miller received the CEC's 2006 Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year award for her innovative teaching, providing access to the general education curriculum, and her usage of technology. This award is the highest honor presented by the Council! KAP is honored that Connie shares her expertise in the field of autism with all our participants and parents. We are all proud of Connie's accomplishments!

Also, our staff including, Sarah McMaine, Ashley Reel, Amanda Jochim, Krystal Martin, and Dr. Boman presented a poster session about the activities at KAP. Many states including Utah were fascinated with our model and would like to implement a similar program in their area. A number of researchers in the field of Autism voiced an interest in working with us on various projects.

KAP is becoming nationally recognized!

Life Building-Opening Windows to Change

Written by: Dr. Marty Boman

The first of three person-centered-planning sessions was held during the last week of March. Nine KAP participants, with their parent(s) and exceptional education teachers, began the process of outlining their hopes for an independent and productive life. Facilitators were LeAnn Marksberry (Caveland), Marilyn Marshall (BEST), and Marty Boman.

During the next sessions which will be held on April 20th and May 4th, various extended service providers will present information regarding the available assistance. This will include representatives from the Department of Rehabilitation Services, BEST, and other employment opportunities. Also, the teams will learn how to implement the collected information/dreams into the participants' Individual Education Plan so that the school and KAP can work together to achieve the goals. We would like to thank both LeAnn and Marilyn for all their time and hard work as they were instrumental in creating this opportunity. Also, the various school districts paid stipends to the teachers for their extra work. Mary Ellen Simpson (Warren County Schools) paid for the meals for the three sessions! Working in Collaboration makes the transition to adulthood much easier for everyone involved. THANK YOU to everyone involved!

Cancellations: If participants are unable to attend their scheduled session please call the KAP office as soon as possible so staff can be notified.

Thank you

The Kelly Autism Program would like to thank the generous contributors for sponsoring these newsletters monthly. We would also like to thank in advance future sponsors. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by the KAP staff.

**Maddie and Mason jamming on their guitars.
They are amazing!**



**Theresa is enjoying her wonderful
pedicure by Krystal at Girl's Night!**



Scholarships and Charitable Giving

As always, we ask that everyone remember KAP and the benefits that are being brought to the community. KAP has an endowment fund or consider us in estate planning and other forms of giving. KAP can also grow through your effort of time, talent, and treasure.

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