

KAP Information:

The Kelly Autism Program

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Feature Students of the Month

Jennifer Jones



The first time I had gone shopping was on a Tuesday afternoon. Amanda, Krystal, and I all went over to Dillard's to find my dress. I didn't really take very long to look for it. About a week later, we then went back to the mall and got some accessories (bracelets, earrings, shoes, and purse). I enjoyed hanging out with them to get my stuff for the prom. The day of the prom, myself, Jenn, Courtney, Jenn's mom, and Sarah all went over to Jenn's apartment and got ready for my night. They all worked together to fix my hair, do my nails, put my makeup on, and put my dress on. Then, we went over to O'Charley's to eat dinner. This waiter that was there loved my dress so much. Dr. Boman came and she almost cried when she saw me for the first time in my prom dress. After we all ate, we finally made it to the Garrett Conference Ballroom. I didn't do much as soon as I got there, but talk to my teachers (which loved my dress A LOT). Then I danced with a boy from my school. His name was Chris C.. At the end, he escorted me to my vehicle. I went home and my mother took a picture of me in my dress. I had such a wonderful time and I was exhausted. I would like to THANK all of the people who helped to support me both financially and emotionally.

Daniel Hood



- 1.) What school to you attend?
Warren Central High School-freshman
- 2.) What is your favorite food?
Peppercorn Steak
- 3.) If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why? I would go to Germany because the German culture and history to me is very unique and plus I would like to spend time in the Alps.
- 4.) What is your favorite thing to do in your free time?
Read, play the computer, Dungeons and Dragons, yard work with my mother
- 5.) What is your favorite think about KAP? Well, it actually makes me understand a little more about my autism. Plus, it gives me the opportunity to develop decent social and mental health tactics to use in the world.
- 6.) Who is your role model and why? My role model is a historical role model. It's Abraham Lincoln, Why he is my role is because he started in poverty and conducted hard work to place himself in politics, in other words; he is understanding of issues and he gives the lesson of hardwork = prosperous future. He was also depressed in his years and most of his issues and I can somewhat relate to in my own sadness.

Director's Desk

Written by: Dr. Frank Kersting

This is my last column as the KAP Director. As of May 31, I am stepping aside and stepping back as Director of the Kelly Autism Program. There are many reasons but three seem to 'capture' my sentiments: I promised Mr. Kelly 2 years as director, KAP is becoming part of CEC, and Dr. Boman was brought to Western because of her experience in Autism. Dr Boman and I were a very strong teaming, creating, in two short years, a vibrant and vital program. KAP has three distinct divisions: middle school, high school and post-secondary with plans to add a 7-12 year old program this summer. It is time for me to step aside and step back.

This is the speech I would give to each of you and would like to leave you with this image: KAP was started by a few adventuresome pioneers. We were accepted in a 'most hospitable place,' WKU. We began building a solid, exquisite edifice. We became a team; we continued to expand our team. Now it is time for one of those pioneers to step aside. Because the KAP team is so strong, the building will continue.

As Carol and I leave that "Hilltop" someday, and as we turn on the crest of the knoll before continuing our journey, we will stop. Before looking to the future, we will turn for a long, lingering look. We will say, "God, what a beautiful vision, a shining beacon for families." It will be continued by some of the most wonderful people we have ever known. Mr. Kelly, from the bottom of my heart, thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Third PCP held, but this won't be our last

Written by: Dr. Marty Boman

The third and final meeting of our first group of our Person Centered Planning was held on May 4th. Although we had two families not in attendance due to illness and a family emergency, we are excited with the results. LeAnn Marksberry and Marilyn Marshall did a great job of leading these much needed transition planning meetings. Remarks from the parents were very positive. "This is the first time that we have a plan in place. The school is focused to work with us; this will make all the difference in the future." In fact two ARC meetings at the schools have already occurred since the final session in order to implement the desires that were identified by the participants and their families.

We could have not done this without the support from Caveland, LeAnn Marksberry, BEST, Marilyn Marshall, the Directors of Special Educations, and Mary Ellen Simmons, Warren County Schools. Thank you from the parents, participants, directors, and staff.

Farewell, Graduates!

Jennifer Glanzer



Working at the Kelly Autism Program has been a wonderful experience personally and professionally. This summer, I will be in my externship at Frazier Rehab in Louisville, Ky. In August I will be a speech-language pathologist assistant at Taylor County Board of Education. In December, I will graduate with my master's degree in speech-language pathology. I wish all the best of luck to KAP and would like to thank the families and staff for their support during my employment.

Courtney Burge



On May 13th I graduated from Western with a double major in Communication Disorders and Public Relations. I have been offered a job in Louisville marketing events for a non-profit organization. I am moving there at the end of May, and will start working sometime in June. Although I am so excited about starting this new adventure, I am sad to leave the Kelly Autism Program and all the wonderful people I have met. I have enjoyed every minute that I have spent with the students and families here, and have learned so much from the students I've been lucky enough to work with. Every KAP participant holds a special place in my heart, and I can't wait to hear about all the wonderful things they will continue to accomplish.

Ashley Reel



I am sad to be leaving Western KY University and the Kelly Autism Program this May. Working at KAP has been a wonderful learning experience and excellent place for me to grow as an educator. Being a team member at KAP has provided me with opportunities to grow professionally that would otherwise have passed me by. I am now beginning a new chapter in my life that is leading me to start my educational profession. I am packing up and moving to Key West, FL at the end of May. In Florida I intend to apply for an elementary school exceptional education teaching position. I hope to be able to utilize my training at KAP to assist me in contributing to my new community and school. For the students who I worked with at the Kelly Autism Program, you are truly my heroes.

(Continued on back page)



(top) The beginning of the water balloon toss before people started to get wet.

(bottom) Victoria Kelly taking a big swing during the kickball game.

The KAP cookout!!

Written by: Amanda Jochim

Everyone at KAP came together on Friday night April 28 for a big cookout. Our very own Michael Davis and his helper Andrew Hughes were the chefs of the evening cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for all to enjoy. The evening began with dinner, followed by a water balloon toss. Then came a huge kickball game. We split into two teams and had some fun. The night was a good time for all, and it was also nice for everyone involved with KAP to come together for a great night of fellowship. Thanks to all who came and supported KAP.

Postsecondary Program

Written by: Katy Behm

This semester has come to an end! Everyone has worked very hard studying for finals and completing the semester. The two residential students will be returning in the fall only to be joined by many new students that will be coming to WKU.

KAP Involvement with SARRC

Written by: Dr. Marty Boman, Director of Transition

Suzanne Vitale invited the KAP directors to join her at the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center's (SARRC) 8th Annual Community Breakfast on April 19th and 20th in Phoenix, Arizona. Although she had to cancel her arrangements at the last moment, the trip was one to remember in regards to the connections that were made for KAP.

Many dialogues occurred with autism leaders and practitioners from throughout the nation. The festivities started with a dinner at the home of SARRC donor, Bentley Dillard. Guests in attendance were the SARRC's officers, executive committee, advisors, the Autism Genetics Resource Exchange, Autism Speaks, Boston Autism Consortium, CAN, TGen, University of Missouri/Thompson Family Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Western Kentucky University/Kelly Autism Program, Arizona Government, Scientific, Business Industry and Philanthropic Leaders, Arizona State University, and University of Arizona.

The following morning the largest fundraiser in the Phoenix area was held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort. There were over 1800 business people and donors in attendance at the breakfast. The program focused on the SARRC's parents, and the research that is occurring at the facility. They talked about the progress and advancements being made at the center.

Afterwards, a small group toured the SARRC Campus followed by Idea Exchanges. Everyone was thrilled to learn about KAP and the focus on the middle and high school years, and the post-secondary programs. We talked at length about how WKU has embraced the program, and the collaboration efforts that are occurring. They were also excited about our connection with VSA, and wanted information from Ginny Miller. Afterwards the SARRC researchers presented about the new advances that they have been making in the genetics world.

Thanks to Suzanne for extending this invitation as KAP now has many connections with the "Best" in the nation regarding Autism programming and research.

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.

Farewell, Graduates (cont.)

Katy Behm



I have worked at KAP for a year now and have learned so much from each and every student and fellow staff member. I graduated with a degree in communication disorders. In July, I will begin to work towards obtaining my masters in Speech and Language Pathologist. I would like to thank KAP for everything they have done for me and I am going to miss working here.

Upcoming Events

May 26 6-8pm Graduation Party

For Michael and Gene at the Kelly's House
1142 Grider Pond Rd. Cake and Beverages
BRING SWIMSUITS AND TOWELS!!

June 5 SUMMER PROGRAM BEGINS!!

July 22 Sunset Run

More details in next month's newsletter

July 10-14, 24, 25, 27, 28 1-2:30

VSA art dates in Jones Jagers

The KAP staff, participants, and parents would first and foremost like to thank these four wonderful ladies for all of their hard work and dedication to the Kelly Autism Program. We would also like to congratulate Katy, Ashley, and Courtney on their graduation. We wish these women the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

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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