

## KAP Information:

### The Kelly Autism Program

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# Alliance Awards 2006



Thanks to the SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise), the KAP Christmas Cards were an even bigger success this year. Pictured above from the left is Jamie Knois, Frank Easley, Krist Schell, and Dr. Leo Simpson.



KAP student and employee, Maddie Sutphen, provided entertainment for the evening.



SIFE student, Frank Easley, along with Dr. Barbara Burch



Susan Vitale (left) recieved the highest honor of the evening, the Altiora Award, presented by Dr. Marty Boman.



# Director's Desk

Written by: Dr. Marty Boman

The end of the semester is coming quickly, and so many activities have occurred at KAP!

We have grown tremendously in the number of participants who are involved with the various programs. In fact, the college program is looking for more room at the Student Success Center as well as the Middle and High School Programs at Jones Jagers.

Here is a briefly highlight of some of our big events for the semester.

- Floor plans were completed and approved for the KAP space at the CEC thanks to the generous commitment of \$250,000 from the Center for Special Needs Trust Administrators, Inc. and Leo Govoni. Everyone is looking forward to the move to the Clinical Education Complex so all programs can be together by May.
- KAP received a \$6,000 grant from the WHAS Crusade for Children. This money will assist with the cost of two of the graduate assistants.
- The advisory board was totally reorganized, thanks to the efforts of Vince Perriello. Currently the various committees are actively involved with the activities that are shaping the future of KAP.
- The Alliance Awards were well attended by over 50 people from the community, with six businesses/churches receiving awards for providing paid employment opportunities for the KAP participants. Another seven businesses were acknowledged for their support of the participants under the age of 16.
- The Signature Christmas Card project was restructured with help from Dr. Leo Simpson and the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE). Their business plan was implemented, resulting in a huge benefit for KAP. Before the card sells began, over \$12,000 was collected from a number of donors including: businesses, the college deans, and individuals from the community and college staff. Suzanne Vitale led this major accomplishment.

Many more accomplishments occurred which are even greater in the eyes of parents and staff, including the various skills that the participants accomplished this semester. These were many as the staff witnessed a student complete a task by her/himself, or learn a new skill, or approach a friend for the first time. Each of these accomplishments is what KAP is all about.

Thanks for your support of KAP!



# Middle School/High School Socials

Written by: Amanda Jochim

Throughout November, KAP was a very busy place yet again for the middle and high school population. We kicked off the month with a service project at St. Vincent de Paul. We also celebrated everyone's great efforts on a Friday night with a dinner at the Downing University Center Food Court on Western's campus followed by a swimming party at Preston's pool. Parents were invited for a dinner and conversation session with one of our grad students, Dinesh, regarding the use of pharmaceutical therapy. We had a great turnout and a great time was had by all. Throughout the month, there were also many opportunities for the middle school boys to get together and hang out. The high school boys had a couple of nights to get together with friends from KAP. This month was definitely one of getting to know each other and developing friendships outside of the traditional Jones Jagers environment.



Dr. Marty Boman (right) presented Linda Kelly (left) with a bouquet of flowers at the Alliance Awards for her continuous, generous support of KAP.

# Fall Dinner

Written by: Robyn Fine

The Fall Dinner was a huge hit this year! It was organized by the exceptional education students at WKU. Everyone enjoyed seeing the participants dress up in all types of costumes: from hillbillies to famous athletes. It seemed like superheroes were the most popular costume of choice this year. There were numerous activities to participate in this year, including: fishing for a prize, decorating and eating cookies, painting pumpkins, and face painting. We were served a delicious dinner of soup and sandwiches, as well as a variety of tasty desserts. It was a fun way to celebrate the Halloween holiday. Hopefully next year will be just as exciting for the participants!



## Featured Staff

### Jonathan Beaty



Jonathan Beaty is 22 years old and a junior at Western Kentucky University. He began working for KAP last semester and claims that he has enjoyed every minute of it. Jonathan feels that it has been a great experience working with fellow colleagues and the participants. In his free time he likes watching movies, spending time with his friends, and eating at diverse ethnic restaurants.

## New Staff

### Travis Dukes



Travis is from Bremen, KY in Muhlenberg County. He is a senior at WKU, and is studying Exceptional Education. After graduation, he plans to teach Special Education, and continue his education to earn a PhD. Outside of school, Travis is a singer, songwriter, and a musician. He plays and sings at a variety of places in South Central Kentucky.

## Elementary Program

Written by: Amber Gross

For the month of November, the Kelly Autism Program's Elementary participants worked very hard to put together a play for their parents. The beginning of the month began with the current seven participants brainstorming ideas for a theme for the play. With a little help from the KAP staff, the participants decided that friendship would be the underlining theme. With Thanksgiving around the corner, we incorporated that into the play as well. The title of the play was Pilgrims and Indians Become Friends. Once everyone agreed on the topic, the participants were responsible for developing the dialogue for the play. Each day, different participants met, to determine the three acts for the play. Once the dialogue was completed, the participants practiced their lines and started working on their masks. The masks were used as a way to represent each character and make the participants more comfortable for the performance. On Monday, November 20th five of the seven Elementary Program participants performed the play for their parents. Afterward, staff, participants, and their families enjoyed snacks provided by the parents. All of the parents were pleased with the outcome of the play; it was a huge success! The Kelly Autism Program's Elementary Program hopes to perform another play either next semester or next year.



Staff Sarah McMaine & Amber Gross helped organize the Thanksgiving play. Students from the left: Brianna Rone, Kyle Cope, Morgan Douglas, Steven Fowler, and Will Suktauski show off their masks for the play.



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

## **Alliance Awards 2006**

Written by: Holly Conley

The Kelly Autism Program sure had a lot to be thankful for this year. In celebration of the summer program, the third annual Alliance Awards were held at the Kentucky Museum. This year's award winners included: Bowling Green Parks and Recreation, Greenview Regional Hospital, Hillvue Heights Church, Hughes & Coleman Law firm, Mariah's Restaurant, and Rivendell Behavioral Health Services. Thanks to these six organizations, our participants ages 16 and older were able to work and earn paychecks.

Others honored at the banquet were Ginny Miller, who assisted students with art projects this year and Western's chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), who helped with organizing a business plan for the Kelly Autism Program Signature Christmas cards. Also recognized were the following organizations: Britthaven of Bowling Green, Western's Center for Gifted Studies, Houchen's Market No. 32, Bowling Green-Warren County Animal Adoption Center, LifeSkills, Schott Gardens, and St. Vincent DePaul. These people and organizations are "incredibly important, and in fact, absolutely vital to the autism program vision," Western Provost Barbara Burch announced.

Receiving the highest honor of the evening, the Altiora Award, was Suzanne Vitale. Vitale is the chairwoman of the Clinical Education Complex charter committee, and has provided the complex with continuous hard work and support. "Her enthusiasm about the program, about the CEC, about all aspects, is unbelievable," Dr. Marty Boman said, "We love her." A big "Thank You" to all who made this a successful evening, and we are looking forward to another prosperous year.



The Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) were honored for their help with the Signature Christmas Cards this year, led by the work of Dr. Leo Simpson.

## **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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