

KAP Information:

The Kelly Autism Program

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LUAU

Written By: Amanda Jochim

On April 2nd, several of the participants attended a Luau hosted by the Health Sciences classes from the Warren County Area Technology Center. This event was the final of three that were planned by Wanda Sowders' students.

The participants met at the Country Mill Restaurant and were greeted by the Vocational students and were given leis. Dinner was served and the Vocational students socialized with the KAP participants. Shortly after dinner, dancing began. The students danced the evening away with the LIMBO being the most popular dance. After an hour of dancing the participants were on their way. Thank you to Ms. Sowder and all of the students who provided these many fun activities for the participants throughout the academic year. Everyone had a wonderful time.



Vince Periello



Dillon Grimes

Two Staff Receive CEBS & CHHS Awards for Service

Written By: Dr. Marty Boman



Sarah McMaine



Avish Nagpal

Sarah McMaine, Early Childhood Special Education in the College of Education, and Avish Nagpal, Public Health in the College of Health and Human Services, were recognized for their leadership role at KAP, while continuing with their scholarly work on their Master's program at WKU. Each of the awardees were presented with a plaque and participated in the awards ceremony held in April.

Sarah McMaine from Owensboro, Kentucky, has completed the first year of her Master's program, and has worked for KAP for the past three years. She has directed each of the age groups, continuing this year with the elementary programming.

Avish Nagpal, from Delle, India, will graduate this semester with his Master's degree this May. He has directed the college programming, and assisted with many health issues and research. He has been accepted for his residency program at Fargo, North Dakota beginning in July. We truly will miss Avish!

Upcoming Events:

May 12	Conference
June 4-July 27	Summer Session begins
July 9-12	VSA
July 16-19	VSA

Director's Desk

Written By: Dr. Marty Boman

The Kelly Autism Program has completed its fourth years of existence! During this time, there have been a lot of positive changes for individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. The number of participants has grown from four to over 60. This number will continue to increase as the summer sessions begin and with the addition of participants with other special needs joining us. This continued growth demonstrates the need for KAP throughout this region of Kentucky.

KAP has also made huge programming changes with the addition of more age groups who are participating in the program. KAP has moved beyond the middle and high school model to a continuum of services from age 7 through adulthood. Both the elementary and KAP Circle of Support (college bound program) have greatly increased in numbers while providing support to these individuals. This truly is an exciting time as we will soon see our first graduate from WKU!

The move to the Clinical Education Complex will be another huge milestone. Although KAP started as a one-room program, it quickly grew to three different sites across the campus. As the final touches are completed, the hope is that by June KAP will have all programming at one location again, which will benefit the participants, families, and staff.

Finally the national model is well on its way as discussions have been held with many critical people. Meetings will continue throughout the summer and into fall. This will truly have an impact on many participants and their families.

This progress since KAP's inception could have not happened without the visionary dream of John and Linda Kelly, who saw a need for their daughter. As the community and WKU got involved, it was evident that the program needed to be developed to provide the continuum of services. The people involved are too many to list, but each of the involved members know that YOU have had an impact on KAP, the participants, and their families! Thanks to everyone who have made the program what it is today and will be in the future.

KAP Circle of Support participants with Ms. Stroder.

Literacy Component Added to KAP's Circle of Support

Written By: Avish Nagpal

During spring semester, the KAP Circle of Support Program participants were provided support from the Literacy Department to improve their grades at WKU. The funding came from a literacy grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, which provided the services of Miriam Stroder, a soon-to-be graduate of the Masters of Arts in Education, Literacy at WKU. Ms. Stroder gained her experience in working with struggling college students during her work in the Adult Literacy Clinic at WKU in the College Reading Success program.

Every Tuesday at study tables, Ms. Stroder presented a variety of reading and organization strategies which will assist the college students throughout their careers.

The participants showed their appreciation by presenting her with a cake during her final session! B.C. McCardless, a student who attended Ms. Stroder's classes each week asked, "Will you please come back next semester to help us again?" Ms. Stroder replied that she would love to come back to KAP as she learned so much from the experience!

This collaborative effort between KAP and the Literacy program at WKU benefits undergraduate students and the graduate students who learn to diagnose reading difficulties and provide instruction to address those difficulties. Please visit this website to read more about the College Reading Success at WKU and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation's support of the Adult Literacy Clinic at WKU: <http://edtech.tph.wku.edu/~ppetty/collegereading.htm>



PROM

Written By: Krystal Martin

On April 21, 2007, KAP Staff, Felicia Walker-Wells, Sarah McMaine, Amanda Jochim, and Krystal Martin had the distinct pleasure of accompanying some of the KAP Senior participants to the Warren Central High School Prom. Participants, Victoria Kelly, Jennifer Jones, Clay Hall, and friend, Alex Embry arrived at prom in style. The girls spent the day being pampered and preparing for their night of glamour. Clay and Alex joined the others for pictures and dinner before prom. Then, they stepped out in style arriving at prom in a limousine and dancing the night away. Everyone, including KAP staff, had a great time, and were so pleased to see participants socializing with peers and celebrating their Senior year. Thanks to all for an amazing night and good luck to everyone!!!



Above, Clay, Victoria, Jennifer, and Alex look fabulous before heading to Prom.



KAP participants standing beside their luxury ride to the Prom.



A group shot of Prom-goers with KAP Staff.

Elementary Program

Written By: Holly Conley

This was an awesome year with all of our elementary program participants! Unfortunately, the end of the semester has come. There was a great amount of growth in all of the participants, and it has been so exciting to see all of the friendships that have developed. Looking back, it seems that some of the favorite activities included: science experiments, swimming at Preston, and going to the Imagination Play Station. With all of the new participants who have joined this semester, the elementary program has a total of 18 students. Thank you to all of the parents for their help and support. The participants look forward to reaching new goals, developing friendships, and having a wonderful time! The summer program will begin on June 4th through July 27th.



Holly (staff) with elementary participants.

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

BGWC Kicks Off National Autism Awareness Month

Written By: Dr. Marty Boman

The Bowling Green Women's Club held their monthly meeting at the Clinical Education Complex, where they hosted a "shower" for the Kelly Autism Program on April 1st. This was the first of many activities planned as April is National Autism Month. The BGWC has adopted KAP as their two-year service project.

The Kelly Autism Program received many new kitchen supplies as well as a new washer and dryer. Victoria Kelly, daughter of Linda and John Kelly, and Maddie Sutphen, a college student who participates in the "Circle of Support" Program opened the gifts. KAP will be moving into their new home at the Clinical Education Complex during the month of May.

KAP provides academic, social, communication, sensory, and transition services for the participants from the ages of 7 through adulthood. Currently, 65 families are involved with the program.

On behalf of the participants, parents, and staff, a heartfelt "thank you" is extended to the BGWC and the work that they do in their community!



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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