

The Kelly Autism Program  
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**Take me out to the  
ballgame,  
Don't forget to order  
your  
tickets today!**



Leo Govoni  
coming to  
Western  
Kentucky  
University in  
support of  
Autism  
Awareness Day  
with the  
Bowling Green  
Hot Rods

### **Autism Awareness Day: Bowling Green Hot Rods Supports KAP**

Saturday, April 18th the Bowling Green Hot Rods will be hosting an Autism Awareness Day at their new ballpark with some of the proceeds going to KAP. Local vendors and organizations will provide information. KAP Kreations will be selling baseball themed products to help support employment and social activities. After the game the participants will be able to run the bases. If you are interested in buying tickets, use the form provided on the fliers, by calling 270-901-2121 or email: [lsanderfur@bghotrods.com](mailto:lsanderfur@bghotrods.com). Tickets are going fast! KAP hopes to see you on game day!

**Volume 5    Number 9  
March 2009**



**Middle School/High School participants learn how to make chocolate roses with Jo Randolph. As a part of the Kap Kreations business, these along with other items will be sold at the baseball game.**

### **Middle/High School** **By: Kristina Rasmussen**

Our KAP's Kreation crew has been hard at work the past few weeks getting ready for the Hot Rod's game on April 18<sup>th</sup>; they will be selling many of their creations at the game. The middle and high school group has been collaborating and has voted on what they think will be the best merchandise for the baseball fans. The participants have been sanding, painting, and assembling "Baseball Bat and Cap Holders"! The creation of Hershey kiss roses has been a favorite for many. They also designed the KAP T-shirts that will be sold at the game and will be using their artistic ability to finish the scented bean bags. Every participant's creative side has been displayed the past few weeks. The middle and high school room has been busy and full of fun!

## **Elementary Happenings**

**By: Kassandra Carter**

The KAP staff has been working with the elementary participants on integrating sensory activities. Within their classrooms the participants really enjoy the tactile toys such as play-duh, putty, textured blocks, and beans, which were an overall favorite. Staff is using this time not only as a sensory experience, but as a tool to help the participants reach communication and social goals. The participants enjoy running their hands through the beans and picking up a handful and listening to it drop back into the bucket. Another favorite is music time; all of the participants like singing, dancing, or listening to the tunes. The new swing in the white room is another preferred sensory activity among the participants. Integrating these sensory activities has enabled us to have an overall more productive KAP session.

## **Fraternity hosts Fundraiser**

**By: Danon Camic**

The fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, hosted a Dodgeball tournament March 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> with an ending celebration concert featuring Afroman. All proceeds went to the Kelly Autism Program. The sororities and fraternities on campus participated in the dodgeball tournament with the winning sorority being the ladies of Alpha Omicron Pi and the winning fraternity being the gentleman of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The participating teams paid \$100 to play and the ending celebration concert tickets were \$12 a piece. Afroman put on a fantastic show to a sold out crowd at the Gold Dome at Jaycee's Pavilion. The gentleman of Sigma Alpha Epsilon raised \$1,100 dollars for the Kelly Autism Program during these events. We would like to thank the gentleman of Sigma Alpha Epsilon for all their hard work, they are now promoting and selling tickets for the upcoming Hot Rods Baseball Game to continue their support for the Kelly Autism Program! KAP extends a huge "thank you" for their support.



## **My Trip to CPAC**

**By: Russell Haggard**

From February 25 to March 1, I went with a group of students from Western Kentucky University to Washington D.C. to the Conservative Political Action Conference to hear about the workings of the Republican Party and the Conservative Movement. I heard from many prominent speakers such as Mike Huckabee, Mitt Romney, Ron Paul, Newt Gingrich, Ann Coulter and Rush Limbaugh. I had the opportunity to meet with Mike Huckabee and Samuel Joseph Wurzelbacher, also known as Joe the Plumber, both of which autographed things for me such as a Huck Pac sign and a book. I had the opportunity to see many national monuments on the National Mall such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the World War II Memorial. Overall, I had a great time in Washington D.C. and look forward to going back next year.



**Pictured above: College participant Russell Haggard with “Joe the Plumber” while on his trip to Washington D.C.**



### **Swimming Fun**

On March 27<sup>th</sup> KAP held its spring semester swim social at Preston Pool. Everyone had a wonderful time—some of the participants were even brave enough to try the high dive! Thanks to all our staff who put on their swimsuits to help make this social a success.

**Left: Caleb Watson rests on a noodle during the swim social. Below: Kane Beckham learns to float on his back with the help of staff member-Mirinda Thomas.**



## **Autism Speaks Kick Off**

**By: Drew Lane  
WKU Freshman**

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 I spoke at the Autism Speaks Kick Off Luncheon in my hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. In front of about 400 people, mostly mothers and their children with Autism, I shared many of my life experiences. I gave advice and some ideas for parents with children as they go through middle school, high school, and hopefully college with Autism. I gave hope to parents with concerns about their children going through life with Autism. I believe that patience is the most important characteristic for parents, and feel that my mother's patience and dedication to me has taken me this far.



**WKU Freshman Drew Lane**

## **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.

## **Director's Corner Written By: Dr. Boman KAP Director**

National Autism Awareness Month is here once again! This is a special time to educate everyone about Autism Spectrum Disorders as well as offer support for these individuals and their families. The numbers of diagnosed individuals continues, but at the same time, we are witnessing changes regarding their productivity and independence. This has been possible due in part to John and Linda Kelly's vision, and the work they started with Western Kentucky University and the Bowling Green community.

KAP is successful due to its many partners including: the BG Hot Rods, the BG Kiwanis and LifeSkills. We are honored to have Mr. Leo Govoni, the Director of the Center for Special Needs Trust Administration, Inc. join us at the Autism Awareness Day as he receives the "Altiora Award" for his continued support of the program. These and many other generous individuals have provided support so that the KAP staff can implement the "best practices" which have been identified by the leading ASD professionals. The possibilities are many as can be witnessed in this newsletter regarding the participants trips to Washington DC and the education that they are providing to others. To our supporters, we want to extend a heart-felt thank you because your actions are truly impacting the lives of our participants. Please join us this month in the various activities that are being held to celebrate these individuals and awareness regarding ASD!

### **Upcoming Events**

- **April 17th 6-7:30 Elementary Social Bowling at DUC**
- **April 17th 6-7:30 Parent Support Group Meeting at CEC**
- **April 18th 1:00 Hot Rods Baseball Game to support Autism Awareness**
- **April 25th Middle School High School Social to Kentucky Down Under**
  - **May 1st Last Day of KAP for Spring Semester**