



THE FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM



PRESENTS

"Stepping Into The Future" Conference

**NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE RESEARCH,
EDUCATION AND
TREATMENT OF AUTISM**

Friday, November 9, 2007

**CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Carol Gray
Director of The Gray Center for Social
Learning and Understanding

Dan Olmsted
UPI writer
Author of "Age of Autism" Report Series

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Carol Gray is the Director of The Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She has completed over 22 years of employment with Jenison Public Schools in Jenison, Michigan, initially as a teacher with students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and in recent years as a consultant to students with ASD in inclusive educational programs. In 1991, Carol developed Social Stories™ and Comic Strip Conversations strategies that are used worldwide with children, adolescents, and adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). She has published several resources on topics related to children and adults with ASD, including articles on bullying, death and dying, and how to teach social understanding. She is the recipient of the Barbara Lipinski Award for her international contribution to the education and welfare of people with ASD.

Dan Olmsted is an investigative reporter and senior editor for United Press International (UPI), and wrote "The Age of Autism" Report Series. His columns on health and medicine appeared regularly in the *Washington Times* and were syndicated nationally from UPI's Washington D.C. bureau.

GUEST & WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

Cindy Alterson, Ph.D., BCBA
Clinical Director
Devereux Millwood Learning Center

Evdokia Anagnostou M.D.
Assistant Professor
Seaver and New York Autism
Center of Excellence

Neil Boyle
Vocational Director
Devereux Millwood Learning Center

Ann DiChiara
Co-Founder
Devereux Millwood Learning Center
Foundation for Educating Children
with Autism

Carol Gray
Director
The Gray Center for Social Learning and
Understanding

Eugenia Haneman
Interim Director
OPTS Administration Unit, NYS Office of
Mental Retardation & Developmental
Disabilities

Joanne Howard
Director
Bureau of Rate Setting, NYS Office of Mental
Retardation & Developmental Disabilities

Barbara Kimmel, M.A.
Parent Educator/Classroom Supervisor
Co-Founder
Devereux Millwood Learning Center
Foundation for Educating Children
with Autism

Dan Olmsted
UPI Writer and Author
of "Age of Autism" Report Series

Allen Schwartz, Ph.D.
Director
Bureau of Planning and Service Design
Chair, OPTS State-wide Evaluation
Committee, NYS Office of Mental
Retardation & Developmental Disabilities

Susan Varsames, M.A., Ed.
Director
Holistic Learning Center

Vince Winterling, Ph.D.
Devereux National Coordinator of Programs
for Neuro-Developmental Disorders



SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2007

- 8:00AM** **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45 AM** **Opening Remarks**
• Ann DiChiara, Conference Co-Chair
- 9:00AM-12:00PM** **How to Write and Develop Social Stories™ for Individuals with Autism**
• Carol Gray
A Social Story™ is a process and product that shows accurate social information via a special writing style and format that is consistent with the learning characteristics of individuals with autism. This is an introduction to writing and developing a Social Story™.
- 12:00PM** **Lunch**
- 1:00-2:30 PM** **WORKSHOPS**
- Workshop 1**
New York State's Options for People Through Services, (OPTS) - Going Forward
• A panel discussion detailing the possibilities and the OPTS application processes. The goal of the OPTS program is to promote and encourage choice through a person-centered approach to service delivery along the life-span.
• Eugenia Haneman • Joanne Howard • Allen Schwartz, Ph.D.
- Workshop 2**
Positive Behavioral Supports
• Vince Winterling, Ph.D.
Positive behavior supports (PBS) are planned interventions to reinforce skills that can replace challenging behavior because they fulfill the same function. Dr. Winterling will discuss the need for PBS and will provide examples that work in the classroom.
- Workshop 3**
Neuropsychopharmacology of Autism
• Evdokia Anagnostou, M.D., will discuss current research in the field and will take questions.
- 2:30PM** **Afternoon Break**
- 2:45-4:15PM** **"The Age of Autism"**
• UPI writer Dan Olmsted will discuss his fascinating investigative report series on autism.
- 4:45PM** **Light Supper**
- 5:30-7:30PM** **From Kid-tastrophe to Cooperation:
Helping Children with ASD Learn from Life's Day-to-Day**
• Carol Gray
- 7:45-9:00 PM** **EVENING WORKSHOPS**
- Workshop 4**
"I've Just Been Told... My Child has a Spectrum Disorder... Now What?"
• Panel discussion will address what parents should do after the initial diagnosis.
• Susan Varsames, M.A., Ed. • Barbara Kimmel, M.A. • Ann DiChiara
- Workshop 5**
**Preparing Students with Autism for Post-Secondary Employment:
Making a Seamless Transition from School to Work**
• Cindy Alterson Ph.D, BCBA • Neil Boyle
This presentation will discuss assessment, planning, and intervention issues for school personnel in preparing students with autism to graduate to adult services. Strategies that may be specific for students with autism from an applied behavior analysis perspective will be highlighted and issues such as pre-teaching, job sampling, and staff training will be discussed.



Jamie Seven Sky Voltaggio

Three Students Graduate From DMLC

To applause and tears, **Jamie Seven Sky Voltaggio**, age 21, became the first student to graduate out of the DMLC program. Jamie has been a student at the school since July of 2000.

Jared Sawyer also graduated, having achieved the necessary skills to succeed in classes in his school district. **Alex Roma** will also enter the ranks of those who have graduated come this August.



Jared Sawyer

Thirteen Educators Receive Levin Scholarships

Each year FECA gives educational scholarships to eligible applicants. The Jonathan Levin Award program acknowledges an individual's commitment to the profession of education with an emphasis on working with students with autism, while utilizing the techniques of Applied Behavior Analysis. Announcements are sent to universities, autism research centers and special education schools around the country. Applicants are asked to submit resumes and their professional development plan. A committee chaired by FECA board member, Gina DeCaprio, reviews applications and selects winners.

Congratulations to our 13 recipients for 2007!

Deborah Astman
Lauren Elizabeth Besante
Neil Boyle
Jill Casey

Stacey Coburn
Maria Falco
Candice Felske
Courtney Guadagno
Susan Heitker

Megan Robinson Joy
Mayleen Otero
Lindsay Peterson
Nicole Scrivanich

FECA Honors Siblings, Teachers at Autism Awareness Day 2007

The unique and heartfelt experiences of brothers and sisters and the presence of a newly elected U.S. Congressman put autism and its impact and importance in high relief as family, friends, staff and supporters gathered on April 9th to observe Autism Awareness Day at the Devereux Millwood Learning Center.

Organizers of the event felt that the voices of siblings of individuals with autism were well overdue to be heard and



L to R - DMLC Parents Monica Haugh, Susan Murray, Congressman Hall, Melanie Schaffran, Drew Schaffran, Joseph Pirraglia and Theresa Pirraglia (front).

was an important way to raise awareness about what it is like for families living day-to-day with autism. To that end, FECA

announced in February its sponsorship of an essay contest for siblings on the subject "Growing Up With Autism."

We were especially delighted that newly elected Rep. John Hall (D-19) was able to join us for the event where he heard about the impact that autism has in his district and the nation. Rep. Hall listened to the impressive essays, toured the school and met with students and staff.

DIRECTIONS

TO CROWNE PLAZA, WHITE PLAINS

66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601 Tel: (914) 682-0050

I-287 EAST: Exit 8W, Bloomingdale Road. Turn left onto Bloomingdale Road. Turn right on Maple Avenue. Hotel is on the right on the corner of Maple and Hale Avenues.

I-287 West: Exit 8. Follow signs for Route 119-Westchester Avenue. Turn left on Bloomingdale Road, right on Maple Avenue.

REGISTRATION

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NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE, ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TUITION

Full Conference Package \$200

Day Conference Package \$150

Evening Conference Package \$65

Registration (A late registration fee of \$25 will be added after October 26, 2007)

Walk-in registration \$25 additional

Enclosed is my check made payable to FECA

Or charge my credit card Visa MC

CARD #: _____

AMOUNT: _____ EXP DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

We are unable to accept telephone registrations.
Please mail/fax registrations.

Stepping into the Future Conference
c/o Hospitality Resource Group, Inc.
237 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10605

Phone 914-761-7111 or fax 914-761-7854
or visit our web site at www.FECAinc.org

Refund Policy: A \$50 handling fee will be charged for any registrations cancelled less than (2) weeks prior to the conference. There will be no refund of tuition for cancellations received after that date.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

For each workshop series, please select the desired program you wish to attend.

Afternoon Workshops 1:00 -2:30 PM

- WORKSHOP 1**
NYS OPTS Going Forward
- WORKSHOP 2**
Positive Behavioral Supports
- WORKSHOP 3**
Neuropsychopharmacology of Autism

Evening Workshops 7:45-9:00 PM

- WORKSHOP 4**
I've Just Been Told... My Child has a Spectrum Disorder... Now What?
- WORKSHOP 5**
Preparing Students with Autism for Post-Secondary Employment: Making a Seamless Transition from School to Work



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Visit our website at FECAinc.org