



PROJECT BRIDGE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTER FOR DISABILITIES STUDIES

FEBRUARY 2012

The February 2012 issue of Project Bridge includes project updates from recent months and events that will take place in the next few months. The next issue will be sent in March. Please send news and events for the March issue to mercooke@udel.edu by **February 13**.

PROJECT UPDATES

- The next session in the **CDS Lunchtime Learning** series will be Wednesday, February 15. **Marvin Williams**, assistive technology specialist at the Center's Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative, will examine the expanding world of mobile devices in this session, called "Androids, iPads and Apps! Oh My! Mobile Computing Devices as Assistive Technology." Marvin will demonstrate how these devices can be used as assistive technology and discuss their accessibility. This free workshop will be held from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at the Center for Disabilities Studies. Attendees are welcome to bring a bag lunch. Water and snacks will be provided. Please register with Meredith Cooke at mercooke@udel.edu and indicate if you need an accommodation. Marvin recently spoke at a meeting of the Delaware Speech- Hearing-Language Association about a similar topic in a talk called "iPADs and Beyond!"
- **Karen Zalewski** has been appointed as an Act Early Ambassador for the Act Early Ambassadors project, which is designed to develop a network of state-level experts to improve early identification practices. It is a collaborative effort on behalf of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). As an Act Early Ambassador, Karen will serve as a state liaison to the Act Early Initiative, which seeks to increase awareness activities and improvement of early identification practices.
- Health and Wellness unit staff members **Karen Zalewski** and **Annalisa Ekbladh** are presenting at the 2012 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Annual Conference, "Improving Maternal and Child Health Across the Life Span: Acting Today for Healthy Tomorrows" in

Washington, D.C. in February. They will be leading a poster session titled “Developing a Statewide ‘Learn the Signs. Act Early.’ and text4baby Campaign Using the Four C’s of Marketing.” The full conference schedule and registration information is available [online](#).

- Transition, Education and Employment Model (TEEM) unit updates:
 - In December, **Brian Freedman**, director of TEEM, received a secondary faculty appointment as assistant professor in the School of Education, College of Education and Human Development. On December 12, 2011, Brian presented a colloquium to School of Education faculty, staff and students titled, “Prevalence and Psychiatric Correlates of Anxiety for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.” Brian also gave a presentation about the Career & Life Studies Certificate (CLSC) program at the Delaware School for the Deaf on January 25.
 - **CLSC** held an open house on January 12 for interested students, family members and other members of the community. The open house was planned and hosted by the current CLSC students and staff and included presentations by students about their successes and challenges with the program. Twenty-six individuals attended this event, which was held in CLSC’s classroom at 318 South College Avenue.
 - **Brian Freedman** and **Wendy Claiser** are leading a Special Interest Group (SIG) on the challenges faced by families of students with intellectual disabilities who are transitioning to young adulthood. The SIG is a monthly web conference for the 27 recipients of the Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) grants. They come together to discuss their interactions with family members, develop effective strategies for building communication between the program and families, foster communication between students and families, and identify a research agenda in order to understand the challenges faced by these families and find effective strategies for supporting them.
 - **Laura Eisenman**, associate professor in the School of Education and principal investigator for the TPSID demonstration grant, contributed a chapter to the [Handbook of Adolescent Transition Education for Youth with Disabilities](#), published in December 2011. The chapter is called, “Social Skills, Supports and Networks in Adolescent Transition Education.” Laura, who is also the coordinator of the Disabilities Studies minor at UD, wrote the chapter with former CDS staff member **Sarah Celestin**.
- The Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI) has published the Winter 2012 edition of **The AT Messenger**. The newsletter provides information about new devices and services, upcoming conferences and workshops, news, and assistive technology devices available for purchase. The current issue includes articles about technical innovations to increase independence and safety at home, assistive technology in schools and the roles of school professionals, and Marvin Williams’ popular column, the *AT Bargain Basement*. For more information or to request a copy of *The AT Messenger*, contact Joann McCafferty at mccaffer@udel.edu.

- The **CDS 2010-2011 Annual Report** has been published as a calendar for 2012, with artwork created by participants at the 2011 Artfest. If you did not receive an annual report or would like to request additional copies, please contact Michele Sands at msands@udel.edu. The report is also available for viewing in the publications section of the CDS website, www.udel.edu/cds, and photos of the artwork and artists have been posted at www.udel.edu/cds/art.

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Delaware celebrates winning first place in 2011 text4baby State Enrollment Contest

- Text4baby partner organizations in the state of Delaware were honored for winning first place in the 2011 text4baby State Enrollment Contest at a press event and brunch on January 30 at John H. Ammon Medical Education Center of Christiana Care Health System. The competition encouraged partners in each state to enroll women in text4baby, a free text-messaging service of the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition that provides critical health and safety information during pregnancy and baby's first year of life.

The Center for Disabilities Studies is the lead organization of Delaware's text4baby program, with **Karen Zalewski** serving as project coordinator. Over the course of the contest, partners in Delaware utilized diverse outreach methods, combining media, a state-wide contest and targeted distribution of text4baby materials to every obstetrician in the state. With their collective efforts, 4.5 percent of eligible moms were enrolled in the service during the contest period, and the number of participants in Delaware nearly doubled—increasing to 979 registered text4baby users, as of October 2011.



Featured speakers at the celebration were U.S. Senator Tom Carper, a long-time supporter of the text4baby campaign, and Delaware's Department of Health and Social Services (DHHS) Secretary Rita Landgraf. Both recognized the Delaware organizations for their hard work and commitment to keeping mothers and babies healthy in their communities. They also emphasized how programs such as text4baby help reduce infant mortality rates and the cost of health care.



Photos by Ambre Alexander

Major text4baby partners in Delaware are DHSS' Birth to Three program, Westside Family Healthcare and Christiana Care. Funding has been provided by the Division of Public Health, the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware.

Though the contest has ended, text4baby partners nationwide are continuing to work together to reach more women with this valuable resource. To sign up for text4baby, simply text "BABY" (or "BEBE" for information in Spanish) to 511411 or go to www.text4baby.com. Women who are registered will receive weekly text messages, timed to their individual due dates or their baby's birth date throughout their pregnancy and baby's first year. For further information about Delaware's text4baby efforts, contact Karen Zalewski at karenz@udel.edu or 302-831-6839.

RESOURCES

- The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has partnered with the Organization of Adult Alumni and Students in Services (OAASIS) to sponsor **Project Hug**—a project focused on providing warm and comfortable items to children and young adults in Delaware who are homeless or in foster care. Requested items include blankets, sleeping bags, pillow pets and winter hats, scarves and gloves. You are welcome to bring items to CDS through February 15. Visit the GACEC [website](#) for more information and a [full list of drop-off locations](#).
- Art Therapy Express is offering **Open Art Studio classes** at the Kaleidoscope Art Studio in the Absalom Jones Community Center every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. These weekly lessons began January 18. Each session will give students the opportunity to explore a wide variety of two and three dimensional art media while studying famous paintings and sculpture in a relaxed, supportive atmosphere. Each project is success-oriented to help students realize their abilities and talents. Students may complete projects in one session or choose a more complex project that takes several weeks. Assistive technology is available for students requiring special adaptations. Participants must [register in advance](#) for each session. Each class is \$31.50 for Delaware residents and \$36.50 for non-residents. This cost covers two projects per session. Additional supplies may also be purchased at the studio. The program cost covers Art Therapy Express rental fees and art supplies. Please call Lisa Bartoli at 302-584-4068 with any questions.
- If you are 55 or older or an adult with a physical disability, or know someone who is, Sussex County offers a forum in which you can voice your concerns to people who care—and might be able to offer some guidance along the way. The [Sussex County Advisory Committee for the Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities](#) is an 11-member panel established by the Sussex County Council to be an advocate for programs and policies that benefit residents of the county who are older or have disabilities. The committee meets in January, March, May, July, September and November. All meetings are open to the public.

- There is a new resource available for Delawareans who are age 60 and older: the **Senior Legal Hotline**. The hotline hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The phone numbers are: 302-478-8850 (New Castle County) and 800-773-0606 (Kent and Sussex Counties). Callers can receive free legal advice on a variety of issues, either from a staff attorney from Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS) or other volunteer attorneys. If the issue requires more than advice, the caller will be screened for free legal services and, if eligible, will be referred to DVLS, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. or the Legal Services Corporation of Delaware.
- The **National Alliance on Mental Illness in Delaware (NAMI Delaware)** is looking for volunteers to assist with operating the HELP-LINE. NAMI Delaware’s HELP-LINE provides support and referral services to about 100 Delawareans each month, connecting individuals with mental illness and their loved ones with local services that meet their needs, including support groups, mental health and social services, food pantries, and housing and transportation programs. For more information, please call Catherine McKelvey, director of Outreach and Support, at 302-744-9356.
- There is still time to participate in CDS’s **statewide needs assessment survey** for families of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The needs assessment, which includes a survey and listening sessions, will be used to inform a statewide planning process to improve the system of services to individuals with ASD. CDS received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration to act as state lead for the statewide planning process. Parents, guardians and individuals with ASD are encouraged to complete a survey to share their opinions about the quality of the health and education services they receive, as well as the factors that influence their life or the life of their child. The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete. Information submitted will be completely anonymous.

The anonymous link for families of school age children with autism (ages 3 to 21) is:

English: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/autism_youth

Spanish: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/autismo_joven

The anonymous link for families of adult children with autism is:

English: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/autism_adult

Spanish: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/autismo_adulto

The anonymous link for adults with autism (who wish to fill out the survey themselves) is:

English only: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/autism_adult-individual

EVENTS

Visit the CDS website calendar at http://www.udel.edu/cds/index_calendar.html for more events.

- **February 10. Cognitive Science Colloquium**, University of Delaware, 104 Gore Hall, Newark, 2:30–4 p.m. Donna Jo Napoli, professor of linguistics at Swarthmore College, is presenting **“Deaf Humor: How the Components of the Grammar are Exploited, and What This Tells Us About the Evolution**

of Language.” Hosted by UD’s Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science, this colloquium is free and open to the public. Donna Jo, a nationally recognized speaker on sign language and the deaf, will examine points of humor in American Sign Language with brief remarks on British Sign Language, and demonstrate how all the components of grammar can be played with toward humorous ends.

- **February 10. Help Me Grow Delaware Summit**, Chase Center on the Riverfront, Wilmington, 8 a.m.–1 p.m. Help Me Grow (HMG) is a program that connects at-risk children with the resources they need to improve early detection of developmental difficulties. This free event is a way for individuals to learn about HMG and how the organization can benefit the state of Delaware. Lt. Governor Matt Denn will speak at the event. Please [visit the website](#) for more information or to register for the event.
- **February 15. CDS Lunchtime Learning**, Center for Disabilities Studies, 12 noon–1 p.m., “Androids, iPads and Apps! Oh My! Mobile Computing Devices as Assistive Technology.” See description under “Project Updates” for more information.
- **February 20. Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI) Town Hall Meeting**, Department of Transportation, Dover, 1–3:30 p.m. DVI is sponsoring a town hall meeting to give consumers and the general public an opportunity to provide feedback about the ongoing operation of DVI programs and services. Representatives will be available for comments and questions from the following DVI programs: Independent Living, Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Delaware Industries for the Blind, Business Enterprise Program, Orientation and Mobility, and Technology. Registration is not required.
- **February 29. “A Talk about *The Story of Beautiful Girl* and Family Diversity,”** Theatre N, Wilmington, 7 p.m. Author Rachel Simon will discuss her newest book, *The Story of Beautiful Girl*, a story about a couple with disabilities and a lost child. A book signing will follow the presentation. The event is sponsored by the Delaware Humanities Forum. It is free and open to the public; however, reservations are required by February 27. Call 302-657-0650 or email info@dfh.org to make a reservation.



- **March 7. Spread the Word to End the Word Day.** This annual event is part of an ongoing effort by Special Olympics and Best Buddies to raise awareness about the demeaning and hurtful effects of the “r-word” and to encourage people to pledge to stop using it.

- **March 13. CDS Lunchtime Learning**, Center for Disabilities Studies, 12 noon–1 p.m. This session will be led by Roberta Gealt, associate scientist with the University’s Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies. She will share the data she has collected from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, conducted

in middle schools and high schools, which shows that students with disabilities are engaged in high-risk behaviors at rates that consistently exceed those of students without disabilities.

- **March 15. 18th Annual Inclusion Conference**, Sheraton Dover Hotel, Dover, 8 a.m.–3:15 p.m. With the theme, “Inclusion: It Should Just Be How We Roll,” the conference features **Jonathan Mooney** as the keynote speaker. Jonathan is an author, advocate for people with disabilities and founder of Project Eye-to-Eye, a national mentoring program that pairs children with a learning disability or Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder with college students who share the same disability. He will focus his talk on his personal and professional experiences with the systemic and cultural barriers to embracing neurodiversity and validating unique learning styles. Conference attendees will have a choice of five workshops to attend following the keynote presentation. Registration materials are available [online](#). **The deadline for registration is March 1.** For more information, contact Roseann Ferri at rferri@udel.edu or 302-739-6885 or Sonja Rathel at rathel@udel.edu or 302-856-1081.
- **April 3. Transition Conference**, Sheraton Dover Hotel. The annual Delaware Community of Practice 2012 Transition Conference is for students (ages 14–21) receiving special education services, their parents, educators and professionals. Additional information will be provided in the March issue of Project Bridge.
- **April 4. 5th Annual Disability Day at Legislative Hall**, Dover, 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m. CDS is a sponsor of this event, along with the Developmental Disabilities Council, State Council for Persons with Disabilities, Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens and other partners. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss important disability issues.
- **April 21-22. 2012 Walk for Autism**. This annual event will take place at Bellevue State Park in Wilmington on April 21 and Cape Henlopen State Park in Lewes on April 22. Please visit the [Autism Delaware website](#) for more information.

ADVOCACY CORNER

This section is dedicated to informing you about advocacy efforts and new or pending legislation or policies that relate to individuals with disabilities. If you would like to suggest information to share in upcoming editions of Project Bridge, contact mercooke@udel.edu.

- The State Council for Persons with Disabilities presented **Representative Debra Heffernan** with its Legislator of the Year award on January 19 for her work passing legislation on behalf of the disability community. The award is given to a state or federal legislator who has worked on disability issues that have positively impacted the lives of people with disabilities and their families. In 2011, Rep. Heffernan sponsored and shepherded two bills through the General Assembly that removed insensitive and offensive language describing people with disabilities in the Delaware

Code. When presenting the award at the 14th annual LIFE Conference in Dover, Developmental Disabilities Council Director Pat Maichle praised Rep. Heffernan for “building a strong relationship with the disability community” and leading the state in a “tremendous step forward.”

- On January 17, Representative Debra Heffernan introduced **HB 245**—a companion bill to HB 241, which mandated that people first language (PFL) be used throughout the current Delaware code. The purpose of HB 245 is to extend the changes relating to PFL to the Delaware criminal code without affecting the definitions of conditions or circumstances described in the state’s criminal law. For example, current statutes contain offensive language that labels the victim as “severely handicapped or severely disabled.” This language would be changed to describe the victim instead as “particularly vulnerable due to a severe intellectual, mental or physical disability,” without changing the legal definition or legal burdens relating to Delaware law.
- The **Joint Finance Committee** began consideration of the Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget on January 31. Hearings will continue through most of February in the Joint Finance Hearing Room, ground floor, Legislative Hall, Dover. The Capital Improvement Program Public Hearing schedule will begin at the end of February. Check the [schedules](#) if you are interested in attending any of the hearings.

CONTACT US

The University of Delaware’s Center for Disabilities Studies is located at 461 Wyoming Road, Newark, Delaware, 19716. Please call us at 302-831-6974 or 302-831-4689 (TDD), send an email to ud-cds@udel.edu or visit our website at www.udel.edu/cds.

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The University of Delaware does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, veteran status, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation in its programs and activities as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and related statutes and regulations: Tom Webb, Director, Office of Disabilities Support Services, 240 Academy Street, Alison Hall Suite 119, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, 302-831-4643. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and to serve as the overall campus coordinator for purposes of Title IX compliance: Bindu Kolli, Chief Policy Advisor, Office of Equity and Inclusion, 305 Hullahen Hall,

University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, 302-831-8063. The following individuals have been designated as deputy Title IX coordinators: for Athletics, Jennifer W. Davis, Vice President for Finance and Administration, 220 Hullihen Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, 302-831-2769; and for Student Life, Dawn Thompson, Dean of Students/AVP for Student Life, 101 Hullihen Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, 302-831-8939. Inquiries concerning the application of anti-discrimination laws may be referred to the Title IX coordinator or to the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education. For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the U.S. Department of Education office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.



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