

Sparks Plugs

WINTER 2010 EDITION

A quarterly publication of UAB Civitan-Sparks Clinics
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From the Director...

As we move into the New Year and begin to implement a new strategic plan, I am reminded that the strength of the Sparks Clinics is our committed and hard-working staff. Our ability to work as a team is what has made and will continue to make us successful.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

--Margaret Mead

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows people to attain uncommon results.

--Andrew Carnegie

Conferences/Workshops

During Homewood City Schools' Professional Development Day on November 24, 2009, **Belinda Blackstone** presented an overview of auditory processing disorders (ADP).

WINTER CALENDAR



General Staff Meetings

Friday, February 5

Friday, March 5

1:00 PM

Clinical Operations Committee Meetings

Friday, February 19

Friday, March 19

1:00 PM

Spring Break

March 15-19

On Saturday, December 5, 2009, **Drs. Bart Hodgens and Cryshelle Patterson** presented, “Beyond Symptom Reduction: Established Behavioral Interventions for Children with ADHD” at the Mountain Brook Board of Education for the last of the 2009 Fall Workshops sponsored by the Alabama Psychological Association.

Dr. Sarah O’Kelley presented, “Evidence-Based Treatment in ASD: 101” at Core Lecture on Thursday, January 7, 2010.

Suzanne Geerts, MS, RD and the UAB Rett Syndrome Team under the direction of **Dr. Alan Percy** traveled to Tampa, FL, January 9-10, to conduct Rett Syndrome Natural History Study for the Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network. The UAB Team was accompanied by medical teams from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX and Greenwood Genetics Center, Greenwood, SC. The study is funded by Rare Diseases Clinical network, International Rett Syndrome Foundation, and the local Rett Syndrome family support group. Clients attended from the southeastern United States as well as from South America.

Suzanne Geerts, MS, RD and **Lauren Dodd, MA, RD** will be faculty and presenters for the upcoming *Intensive Course on Nutrition for Infants, Children, and Adolescents* sponsored by UAB Departments of Pediatrics and Nutrition Sciences and Maternal & Child Health Bureau. This national conference will be held February 21-24, at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. Enrollment is open and CEU’s are available for dietitians, diet technicians, and nursing. For more information, call 939-9254.

SPARKS AWARD



Congratulations to Dr. Sarah O’Kelley, recipient of the Sparks Award for the Winter Quarter 2010! Thank you, Sarah, for all of your hard work and commitment to Sparks Clinics.

In February, trainees from the disciplines of speech/language pathology, audiology, occupational therapy, social work, and psychology will be speaking about their experiences of working on Sparks' teams to a group of speech/language graduate students taking the new Transdisciplinary Teaming class through the University of Alabama's Speech and Hearing Department. **Cathy Burke** will facilitate this training experience for the trainees and will present with them. This will serve to meet important leadership and information dissemination goals on the trainees' Individualized Training Plans.

Cathy Burke will co-present "Under the Shady Tree" on Friday, March 12, at the convention by invitation of the Augmentative and Alternative Communication Track Committee.

Julie Ash, Belinda Blackstone, Cathy Burke, and Dr. Julie Woodruff will attend the Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama 2010 Convention at the Wynfrey Hotel inn Birmingham on March 11-13.

The first Day-in-the-Life presentations by our trainees will be the topic of Core Lecture on Thursday, March 18 at 12:00-1:00 pm in CH20 111. Anyone interested in attending should let **Cindy Sweeney** know in order for her to reserve a larger room, if needed.

Announcements

Leah Murrill and **Leslie Simms** were named the Fieldwork Educators of the Year by the UAB Department of Occupational Therapy in November 2009.

Jan 2	Valisia Davis	BIRTHDAYS	Feb 24	Roger Plamondon
Jan 21	Jake Taft		Feb 24	Amy Seay
Jan 23	Leslie Simms		Feb 25	Reggi Lutenbacher
Jan 25	Eddy Lose		Mar 7	Katie Byington
Jan 25	Christie Salamone		Mar 9	Anola Ennis
Jan 27	Latamia Green		Mar 11	Katera Abrams
Jan 27	Brittny Lewis		Mar 20	Kirstin Bailey
Feb 3	Bart Hodgens		Mar 27	Ashley Peak
Feb 5	Sarah O'Kelley		Mar 30	Lauren Dodd
Feb 14	Kristy Domnanovich			

Welcome to the following employees who joined the CI Therapy team on January 11: **Ashley Dees** and **Ashley Peak**.

Leah Murrill delivered a baby girl on January 11, June Elizabeth who weighed 8 pounds 15 ounces and measured 21 inches long. **Brittney Lewis** had a baby boy on January 23, Justin Lewis, Jr., weighing 8 pounds and 7½ ounces.

Rakesha Garner has accepted the position of Intake Coordinator and will join our staff in mid-February.

Make a donation of \$5 to the American Cancer Society, and a luminaria will be lit on Friday, April 30th, in honor or in memory of a family member or friend who has battled cancer. Please contact **Cindy Sweeney** for more information by Friday, April 23rd.

Upcoming Events

Intensive Course on Nutrition for Infants, Children, and Adolescents

Sunday-Wednesday, February 21-24
Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham

9th Annual Alabama Autism Conference

Friday, February 26
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Speech & Hearing Association of Alabama (SHAA) 2010 Convention

Thursday-Saturday, March 11-13
Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham

2010 Neurodevelopment Symposium

Glenwood Lecture	Simpson-Ramsey Lecture
Wednesday, April 21	Thursday, April 22
UAB Hill University Center	

Semi-Annual Civitan-Sparks Retreat

Friday, June 4
Time/Location TBA



**E-mail your news,
recent publications,
presentations, or
significant
announcement to
Cynthia Helms at
helms@uab.edu.**