The Civitan Sparks Clinics experienced a heartbreaking loss in September in the unexpected passing of Dr. Fred J. Biasini. During his nearly 40 years of involvement with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Civitan-Sparks Clinics and the Department of Psychology, Dr. Biasini was a mentor to innumerable trainees and professionals and was a strong advocate for families. His presence and passion was felt throughout UAB, the state, and the nation. It is difficult to find a person or project within the disability community that did not have a connection to Fred Biasini. Dr. Biasini is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jan, three children, six grandchildren, a sister, and a niece and nephews.

Dr. Biasini received his PhD in Psychology from The University of Alabama in 1984. He joined the UAB Department of Psychology the same year and remained on faculty for the next 36 years. He devoted his career to improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities, serving as a Director of the UAB Early Head Start for over 20 years, and working with the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs since 2008.

In honor of his incredible and impactful career, he received the coveted McNulty Civitan Scientist Award in 2016. He was a licensed clinical psychologist who trained in, and later directed, the Civitan-Sparks Clinics. Dr. Biasini was a dedicated teacher and mentor, educating trainees from a variety of disciplines about human development and developmental disabilities. He served as Director of the UAB Lifespan Developmental Psychology Doctoral Program for 10 years.