

Message from the Director

Dear friends and colleagues,

The Sonoran UCEDD welcomes you to our first Sonoran News Issue of 2012! With an estimated 1 out of every 110 children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), we know families are looking for information and resources. In this issue, along with other news, we have highlighted the work of a new faculty member in ASD research as well as providing links to upcoming events and resources on Autism. Please let us know what other issues you would like us to address in upcoming issues.

All the best,



Leslie J. Cohen
Director
Sonoran UCEDD
Family and Community Medicine
University of Arizona



Thanks to your generous support, we continue to ensure that equal opportunities and a quality of life are accessible to all persons with developmental disabilities.

If you would like to learn more about making a tax-deductible gift to one of these vital programs, please contact Thom Melendez, Director of Development, at 520-626-4961 or by email at tmelende@email.arizona.edu.

You may also make a gift on-line through the [University of Arizona Foundation Sonoran UCEDD designation](#).

Sonoran UCEDD Updates

Meet Ann Mastergeorge – Associate Professor and Early Childhood Extension Specialist, Dept. of Family Studies and Human Development



I joined the University of Arizona exactly one year ago, January 10, 2011, as faculty for the Dept. of Family Studies and Human Development. Previously, I have worked with other UCEDDs in California and I was excited to have the opportunity to work with the UCEDD at the U of A. My role at the Sonoran UCEDD is in the area of early intervention and prevention for children at risk and those with developmental disorders. My research areas of expertise and interest in young children stem from my days as a Master's student at the University of Washington where I worked with very young children and their families –both typically developing as well as those with disabilities and atypical development. This area was expanded when I became a doctoral student at UCLA and worked on a longitudinal research project that focused on following families who had young children with ambiguous diagnoses of developmental delay.

During that time, I spent three years traveling to families' homes observing their everyday activities such as playtime, dinner, bedtime routines, and other family routines and learning opportunities. Spending time with families in the context of their homes, and hearing their stories about the ways in which their beliefs about development were constructed and altered based on their child's developmental abilities, provided the groundwork for my interests in parent-mediated interventions. In addition, observing and studying parent-child interactions for both typical and atypically developing children (including developmental delay, autism, and fragile X syndrome) provided a context to understand the developmental trajectories necessary in prevention, early intervention, and understanding contexts that mitigate at-risk development.

My research focuses on the following specific areas in both typical and atypical development of young children: (1) typical development in social attention and joint attention; (2) prevention and early intervention for young children with autism (including early indicators of autism and autism risk); (3) parent-mediated interventions and parent-child interaction; and (4) understanding 'at-risk' development and resilience indicators and mediators of development. In addition, many of my research projects focus on partnering in communities, with Family Resource Centers (and First Things First funded programs), and collaborations across disciplines to examine both biological and behavioral underpinnings of developmental trajectories. I am currently working with families at risk and those in poverty in Nogales, Pinal, and Maricopa counties on early intervention projects for toddlers and their parents to facilitate their interactions as well as positive child developmental outcomes for their young children. I will be recruiting families who have young children with autism and autism risk behaviors for a parent-mediated intervention program in the next few months.



I am also the Chair of the [Early Childhood Initiative](#) in Typical and Atypical Development in the [Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families](#). This research initiative focuses on prevention, early intervention, risk and resilience in young children (ages birth to five) with particular attention to social-emotional well-being, positive parent-child relationships, as well as evidence-based early interventions for at-risk children and those with disabilities (including autism spectrum disorders and developmental delays). Overall, this initiative utilizes theoretical frameworks and guiding principles in order that this early childhood focus can be enacted, implemented, and sustained under the auspices of scholarship and knowledge generation.

See the following article from UA News featured on October 5, 2011 regarding an early intervention program and links to the Early Developmental Studies Laboratory: <http://www.uanews.org/node/42280>

Interdisciplinary Trainee Spotlight: Stephan Przybylowicz

UCEDD Trainee, Fall 2011

Masters Student in Information Resources & Library Science

Co-Director, UA Pride Alliance



This past semester, I participated in the Trainee program for the University of Arizona's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (Sonoran UCEDD). The fundamental objective of the Sonoran UCEDD Interdisciplinary Training Program is to prepare students from a variety of disciplines to become leaders and advocates in the disability field with an understanding of principles of self-determination and meaningful community inclusion for all people with disabilities. As part of my final project in this seminar course, I have been doing research on documenting the intersectionality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) issues with disability issues.

When looking at ways that the LGBTQ community and disability community interact, I noticed that many times the LGBTQ community is not sensitive to disability issues and the disability community doesn't acknowledge the needs of LGBTQ people. I think this can be resolved by initiating conversation between these communities and exploring archival methods to document the lives of LGBTQ people with disabilities in order to improve the visibility of this group. This research will allow me to share digital preservation methods learned in my Information Resources and Library Science courses and to explore how these communities can partner on issues that affect them both (such as deconstructing benefits traditionally given to only heterosexual married couples).

I have been accepted to share this research as a 90-minute workshop, "Documenting the Experiences of LGBTQ People with Disabilities: Intersectional Issues, Community Solutions," at the [24th National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change](#), the largest LGBTQ conference in the US, on January 27, 2012 in Baltimore, MD. This will be a remarkable opportunity to present my research at a national level. The skills and knowledge I will gain by attending the conference will allow me to return to the University of Arizona and improve the campus climate for LGBTQ students, faculty, and staff as Co-Director of the [University of Arizona's Pride Alliance](#) organization. We are currently working with Alison Kafer, a scholar in queer/disability studies, to offer a workshop for the UA campus the week of March 26th and we will have Dr. Alberto Guzman featured as our "Out on the Job" speaker on February 16th at 2pm in the Career Services Center. More information to follow soon!



Arizona Community Living NOW – Requesting Photos and Personal Stories for New Housing Manual

As an extension of the AZ Community Living NOW housing trainings (www.azcommunitylivingnow.org), we are creating a housing manual that supplements the content offered in 2011.

We would like the community's assistance in identifying individuals who are willing to share their stories about finding and creating a home of their choice. In order to create a manual that is useful and appealing, we need pictures that reflect daily activities and friendships. If you are interested in being part of our housing manual, please contact us at ucedd@email.arizona.edu. We will send you a consent form and discuss how we can add your contributions.

Thank You!

Arizona News

13th Annual Autism/Asperger's Conference - Registration Now Open!

Autism Society of Greater Phoenix

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Temple Grandin, 2010 Times Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world and national speaker Dianne Craft MA, CNHP are Keynotes for the Autism Society of Greater Phoenix 13th Annual Autism/Asperger's conference!



This year the conference sessions will be on March 30 – 31, 2012 at the MADCAP Theater in Tempe, AZ, conveniently located in the heart of Mill Avenue. MADCAP Theater is the former Harkins Theater which is now part of Downtown Tempe Foundation. Enjoy theater seating, continental breakfast during morning registration, and concessions for snacks available throughout the conference.

We have an exciting schedule planned with over 30 local and national speakers. You do not want to miss this conference. The conference is expected to be full, so please register early to guarantee your spot!

For more information about the conference, registration and exhibitor space/advertising, please go to <http://www.phxautism.org/13th-annual-autismaspergers-conference/>

To find information about other community events and trainings throughout the state of Arizona, please go to our **Community Events Calendar** on the Sonoran UCEDD website: http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/community_events

National News

A National Review of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder

AUCD Announcement



The focus in this issue of Policy Research Brief is on the extent to which states have included people with ASD in their Home and Community Based Services Medicaid waiver programs, the programs that have, in recent decades, been the primary source of funding support for individuals with intellectual disabilities and related conditions (such as ASD, cerebral palsy, and others) who are living in the community. This Policy Research Brief reports findings of a study that gathered data in 2009-2010 on how people with ASD are being served across states in HCBS, and discusses implications for providing services and supports for this growing population in the future.

Full Issue Available at <http://ici.umn.edu/products/prb/213/default.html>

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Published by the Research and Training Center on Community Living, Institute on Community Integration, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota

Autism Speaks Announces Visual Supports Tool Kit developed by Vanderbilt UCEDD

AUCD Announcement

Autism Speaks Launches "Visual Supports" Tool Kit which provides Valuable Instruction to Parents and Providers to Improve Daily Communication When Your Child with Autism Has Limited Verbal Skills. It was prepared by the Vanderbilt Autism Treatment Network site at Vanderbilt University and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD) with support from Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and the Autism Society of Middle Tennessee.



For more information go to:

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/about-us/press-releases/autism-speaks-launches-visual-supports-tool-kit>

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/science/science-news/autism-speaks-releases-atn-visual-supports-guide>

Download the Visual Supports and Autism Spectrum Disorder Tool Kit

Anyone can download the Visual Supports and Autism Spectrum Disorder Tool Kit for free [here](#).



Join our Mailing List!

The Sonoran UCEDD produces a variety of publications, including *Sonoran UCEDD News*, that communicate the ways we are connected to individuals and activities in Arizona and across the country. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an e-mail to ucedd@email.arizona.edu and type your name in the subject line or call 520-626-2207.

Current and archived issues of the newsletter can be accessed at

<http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/newsletter>.

If you would like to receive this document in **an alternate format**, please call the Sonoran UCEDD at 520-626-0442.

To submit comments or news items, please email the Editor, Jacy Farkas, at ucedd@email.arizona.edu

