

# NISONGERNEWS

OSU Nisonger Center

Volume 1, Issue 2



**In this second issue of NISONGERNEWS, Director Dr. Steven Reiss shares his official report of the accomplishments of Nisonger Center faculty and staff from 1991 through the 2006-07 academic year. Dr. Reiss will step down as director in September 2007 and remain on the Nisonger faculty.**

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## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments, Steven Reiss Years, 1991–2007

**Financials (comparisons 1991–2007)**

- Number of core faculty positions\* decreased by more than 50% (from 25 to 12).
- Total annual amount of competitive grants and contracts increased by 470%, from \$710,727 to \$4,050,000.
- Annual competitive grant awards per core faculty member increased from \$28,429 to \$337,500.
- Total annual amount of competitive federal grants increased by 482%, from \$179,555 to \$1,045,905.
- Annual federal awards per core faculty member increased from \$6,906 to \$87,159.
- Total annual amount of NIH support increased by 712%, from \$88,126 to \$715,965.
- Nisonger teaching of courses generated uncounted millions in tuition credits to academic units.

\* Core faculty members are expected to apply for competitive funding opportunities. Non-core faculty members provide services and staff projects.

**Nationally Significant Innovations (since 1991)**

Nisonger Center’s **“Next Chapter Book Clubs”** create opportunities for social and intellectual experiences for adolescents and adults with MR/DD. *These clubs are the intellectual equivalent of Special Olympics.* Thusfar more than 50 clubs have been established in 10 states — Ariz., Idaho, Ill., Ind., La., Mass., Mo., Ohio, Va., Wisc. (Fish, Rabidoux, Graff, & Ober).

Nisonger Center led an international medical consensus conference attended by 115 physicians from 10 nations and funded by NIH and 11 co-sponsors including the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association. The conference established **best practices regarding the use of psychiatric medications** with people with MR/DD (Reiss & Aman). Nisonger Center operates a medication research unit, or RUPP, jointly funded by NIH and private industry. The Center also developed and distributes consumer medications guides (Aman, Arnold, Ramadan, & Benson).

Nisonger Center’s U.S. Dept. of Education-funded **“Transition Model”** has demonstrated a curriculum that **improves earnings of stu-**

**dents’ moving from high school to workplace (Izzo).**

Nisonger Center’s **“Lives Worth Saving”** project has addressed national public policy issues pertaining to **developmental disabilities and access to lifesaving organ transplantation operations** (Martens, Jones, Reiss).

**Recognitions**

- Reiss: 1987 Services Award, American Association on Mental Retardation
- Reiss: 1990 Distinguished Research Award, The Arc of the United States
- Izzo: 1997 Mary C. Switzer Fellowship, National Institute of Disability Research
- Havercamp: 1998 Student Award, American Association on Mental Retardation
- Lunskey: 1999 OSU President Fellowship Research Award
- Lunskey: 1999 Dissertation Award, American Academy of Mental Retardation
- Fish: 1999 Mary C. Switzer Fellowship, National Institute of Disability Research
- Lecavalier: 2001 Dissertation Award, Academy Mental Retardation
- Reiss: 2003 Menolascino Award, National Association on Dual Diagnosis



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## Ohio State's Nisonger Center

A University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

**"The mission of The Nisonger Center is to provide a comprehensive, integrated approach of training, service, technical assistance, applied research and dissemination of information in the field of mental retardation and developmental disabilities."**

The Nisonger Center was founded in 1966 as an interdisciplinary program of the Ohio State University. The United States Administration on Developmental Disabilities has designated Nisonger Center a "University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)." Steven Reiss, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry, has served as Director since 1991. For more information about The Nisonger Center, contact Kim Oyer at [oyer.14@osu.edu](mailto:oyer.14@osu.edu).

[nisonger.osu.edu](http://nisonger.osu.edu)



**Nisonger Center's Dental Program offers clinics for adults and children.**

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments *(continued from page 1)*

- Aman: 2003 Career Research Scientists Award, Academy of Mental Retardation
- Reiss: 2003 Distinguished Research Award, American Association on Mental Retardation
- Benson: 2005 Ohio Center for Excellence
- Lindsey: 2005 American Academy of Pediatrics recognition for rural services
- Nisonger Center: 2004 Franklin County "Community Star" award.
- Sterling: 2005 named to Columbus magazine's list of "top dentists"
- Esbensen: 2004 Dissertation Award, American Academy Mental Retardation
- A 2000 review published by University of Nevada researchers ranked OSU No. 1 for total number of research publications in MR/DD scientific journals for the period of 1979-1999
- Reiss: 2006 Award of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities in recognition of years of service to the field, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

### Community Services (annual effort, 2006 vs. 1991)

	<u>1991</u>	<u>2006</u>
Dental patients (Sterling, Diego)	643	5,000
Psychiatric patients (Arnold, Ramadan, Johnson)	0	200
Psychological clients (Benson, Lecavalier)	0	585
Rural diagnostic services (Coury, Rabidou)	0	150
Adapted Toy Library (Case-Smith, Wendling)	0	75
Education services (Izzo, Fish, Schenerlein)	250	699
Autism Spectrum services (Hammer)	0	40
Comprehensive Early Diagnostic (Feinstein)	30	15
Next Chapter Book Club members (Fish, Rabidou, Graff, Ober)	0	300

*(continued on page 3)*

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments *(continued from page 2)*

### Publicity

Nisonger faculty have received significant international, national, and local publicity for their research results, innovations, or comments. Highlights include *Newsweek*, *N.Y. Times*, *Washington Post*, *London Times*, *Times of India*, *Health* magazine, Talk to America radio program (simultaneous live call-in show in 66 nations), and locally the *Columbus Dispatch*, *Columbus* magazine, and WOSU radio.

### Administrative

- Hired Zhong Jiang, Nisonger Center's successful Administrator
- Hired Dan Coury, M.D., medical director
- Strengthened ties and coordinated services with Children's Hospital
- Fostered a creative environment where core faculty are free to explore new ideas
- Decentralized activities and budgets empowering core faculty to make decisions
- Built programs addressing long-term needs not being

addressed by others; did not chase grant dollars

- Significantly upgraded the academic standards of MR/DD program in OSU Dept. of Psych., creating a combined option with APA-approved clinical training
- Returned 13,432 sq. feet (31% of building) of unused offices to the School of Medicine

### Activities (1991–2007)

Autism Spectrum Clinic – behavior services for children with autism

Behavior Support Services – for children and adults

Dental Program – adult and pediatric clinics

Distance Based Learning – OSU experts provide job orientation course via Internet

Dual Diagnosis Clinic – adult and pediatric psychiatric services

Dual Diagnosis state center for excellence – network statewide consultants

Early Childhood Education – integrated preschool

Earn and Learn – undergraduates work in local services

Healthy Hearts – fitness program for people with MR/DD

Hesel Toy and Technology Library – up to 1,500 adapted toys free of charge

LEND – trains pediatricians, psychiatrists, nurses, and allied health professionals

Lives Worth Saving – national program addressing access and outcome issues for life-saving organ transplants

Next Chapter Book Club – national program creating opportunities to socialize and read books at coffee houses or bookstores

Outreach Training – about 100 annual events on each faculty member's expertise

Rural diagnostic clinic – sends professional teams to Ohio Appalachian counties

Scientific Research – medications, outcomes of organ transplantation, dual diagnosis, assessment methods

Sibling Conference – annual regional conference for adult siblings



**The Hesel Toy and Technology Library is located on the 1st floor of Nisonger Center.**

Technical Assistance – About 4,000 hours per year of consultation to government, policy, or community agencies

Transition – a series of federally funded projects aimed at assisting high school students with disabilities make the transition from school to work

Women's Health – training program teaching healthy habits **NN**

## Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

**N**isonger new hires since May 2005 need to sign up for two mandated generic safety training programs:

- EOEP (Emergency Operations & Evacuation Plan)
- HAZCOM

Current Nisonger employees only need to take HAZCOM.

OSU benefits program open enrollment changes must be submitted online by **Nov. 17**.

**Way-to-Work** E-Mentoring program needs volunteers for one hour per week to help high school students with disabilities make a successful transition to postsecondary education or employment. Training provided. Contact Jennifer Earley at [earley.37@osu.edu](mailto:earley.37@osu.edu), 614-292-8505.

### Note these other events:

- Ohio Transition Weekend, March 16-17, 2007, Marriott Airport Hotel, Columbus
- 6th Annual Graduate & Postgraduate Research Day, March 29, 2007

See other news and events lists online at OneSource; you need your OSU Medical Center ID to log on. **NN**



Send notices of upcoming events to NISONGERNEWS editor Vicki Graff by email at [graff.42@osu.edu](mailto:graff.42@osu.edu). Each quarterly issue will appear approximately 4-6 weeks from the end of the calendar quarter (May, August, November, and February).

# NISONGERNEWS

## Welcome new hires! (July, August, September)



**Dr. Sheila Brijade** started on July 1 as a part-time Dentist. She earned a BS in Human Nutrition and a Doctor of Dental Surgery from the OSU College of Dentistry. Sheila has also been a Dentist at Columbus Children's Hospital, Appalachian Dental Clinic in Middletown, Ohio, and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at OSU. Before coming to Columbus, Sheila served as Lead Beneficiary Service Coordinator for Humana Military Healthcare Services at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Fairborn, Ohio.



**Shelly Brokaw** started July 1 as a full-time Behavior Support Specialist with the Adult BSS program. She holds a BA in psychology with a minor in sociology from OSU. Shelly is originally from Cincinnati and has 10 years of experience in the MR/DD field. She has also worked as a legal guardian at Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI), as a Residential Facility Waiver service coordinator with the Franklin County Board of MR/DD, and as a psychiatric case manager with Ohio Diagnostic. Shelly owns a home on the NW side of Columbus.

**Leigh Bookwalter** became a part-time Office Assistant on the EnvisionIT and E-mentoring projects in the Special Education and Transition Program on July 10. She is a second-year PhD student in Rehabilitation Counseling at OSU. Leigh received her BA and MA from Ohio University in recreation and spent a year working in behavioral medicine at the Cleveland Clinic before going back to school. When she's not studying or working, Leigh enjoys running and spending time with friends and family.



**Sara Thiessen** started August 28 as an Early Intervention Specialist in ECE. She earned a BA from OSU in Human Development and Family Science and an MA in Education from the University of Findlay, both with a specialization in early childhood education. Before coming to Nisonger, Sara was a substitute teacher for schools in Findlay, Hancock County, Dublin, and Grandview Heights. She enjoys reading, writing, running, and spending time with her beagle mix named Daizy.

**Vanessa Martin** joined the Adult BSS program on Sept. 11 as a full-time Behavior Support Specialist. Vanessa graduated from Youngstown State University with a Master's of Public Health in 2005. She previously worked as a Protective Service Representative for Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. in Trumbull, Ashtabula, and Lake Counties. Vanessa, her husband, and her daughter live in Dublin. They are very happy there and anticipating the arrival of a new family member in February.

**Bianca McArrell**, part-time Office Associate in the Special Education and Transition Program, started on Sept. 29. She holds a BA in Psychology from OSU and attends Columbus State University's nursing program. Bianca has been doing applied behavioral analysis (ABA) therapy with children who have autism. She hopes eventually to earn a degree in psychiatric nursing. Bianca is Panamanian but grew up primarily in Toledo, Ohio. She now happily calls Columbus home.



## Farewell departing staff...

**Dawn and Nan Bozzolo** left ADHD-Psychopharmacology to move to Washington, D.C., where Nan has a new position.

**Lilly Chen**, former ECE teacher, resigned to stay at home.

**Amy Cook** left ADHD-Psychopharmacology to go to graduate school.

**Kristy Hall** left ADHD-Psychopharmacology to go to graduate school.

**Zhong Jiang**, former Nisonger Administrator, accepted a promotion to the Math Department.

**Cindy Klutznick** left the Special Education and Transition Program because her husband was transferred to Sacramento, Calif.

**Erin Orberholze-Weinrich** left Child Behavior Support Services to take a teacher position at Easter Seals.

**Esther McMillion**, former Office Associate in the Nisonger Center Clinic, retired after nearly 20 years. She's moving to California to be with family, including her youngest grandchild.

**Jessica Snider**, former ECE teacher, took another teaching position.