

NISONGER NEWS

OSU Nisonger Center

Volume 2, Issue 3

Nisonger co-sponsors 5K race for Down Syndrome Awareness

Lace up your royal blue shoelaces to support Down Syndrome Awareness at the Buddy Up for Fitness 5K "Take the Challenge" race on April 24, 2008, at the Franklin Park Conservatory. That's the color for Down Syndrome Awareness.

The race will include walkers and runners, and organizers are encouraging participants to team up with a buddy. The buddy system has proven successful for reaching fitness goals. Join your colleagues and take the challenge to be fit while supporting a great cause!

All entrants who register in advance will receive royal blue laces in their race packet. The laces will also be available for purchase at the event for \$2.

Craig McMillen is organizing a Nisonger team to participate in the race at a \$5 discount each.

For more information and to register online, go to the Premier Sports website at www.premierraces.com. Contact raceroyal@aol.com. **NN**

Quick facts:

Date: Thursday, April 24, 2008

Location: Franklin Park, Columbus

Start Time:

- Kids Fun Run 6:45 PM
- 5K Run/Walk 7:00 PM

Registration Time: 6:00 PM

Entry Fee:

- Individual: \$25.00 through April 17; \$30.00 April 18 through race day
- Team: \$20.00 per team member through April 17; \$25.00 April 18 through race day



The Nisonger Center Executive Committee has approved co-sponsoring this event. All net proceeds will go to the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO).

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PIs must use E-Cert process to certify effort on research grants

If you are the principal investigator (PI) on a research project funded by a federal grant, you need to certify your effort on a quarterly basis.

In his Jan. 28 memo to College of Medicine Department Chairs and Administrators, Dean Chip Souba, MD, ScD, said, "With the increased recognition of Ohio State as one of the top research universities in the country comes heightened public scrutiny over how we use the funds we are awarded. This is especially true for federal awards, which support the bulk of our research costs."

Effort certification is a process mandated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Universities must verify that time charged to a federal grant is consistent with the investigators' effort expended on that grant. Souba said, "To see how seriously the federal government takes this matter, one need only consider the \$6.5M paid by Mayo Clinic and the \$5.5M paid by Northwestern to settle infractions of effort certification regulations."

Specifically, the federal government requires that time and effort be certified by the em-

ployee or a person having direct knowledge of the work. The investigator self-certifies and certifies for graduate students, post-docs and bi-weekly employees working on sponsored projects.

As Dr. Souba stressed, diligent and timely completion of effort certifications by PIs is important. Incomplete effort certifications mean we are not in full compliance with this federal requirement.

Complete instructions are found at the following website: <http://rf.osu.edu/e-cert>. **NN**



The Ohio State University **Nisonger Center**

A University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

OSU Nisonger Center

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The mission of The Ohio State University Nisonger Center is to work with communities to value and support the meaningful participation of people with disabilities of all ages through education, service and research. The Center provides assistance to people with disabilities, families, service providers and organizations to promote inclusion in education, health, employment and community settings.

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)." L. Eugene Arnold, MEd, MD, Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry, is serving as Interim Director while a search is under way for a permanent Director. For more information about The Nisonger Center, contact Maureen Meck at meck.1@osu.edu or 614-292-8365.

<http://nisonger.osu.edu>

E-Mentoring Program celebrates National Mentoring Month



January was National Mentoring Month, and Jan. 24, 2008, was National Thank Your Mentor Day! Jennifer Earley, Program Coordinator for the Electronic Mentoring Program, nominated Jeff Siegel for the Mentoring Center of Central Ohio's Outstanding Mentor Award.

Jeff was honored as a Commended Mentor and awarded a certificate at the Ohio Statehouse Celebration on Jan. 24. Jeff's mentee Ben also attended the ceremony.

Jeff's nomination included the following passage:

"Because of the focus of the E-Mentoring Program, Jeff

and Ben have had many opportunities to discuss Ben's transition from high school to college and career. As Ben's transition plan has changed over the past year, Jeff has been there to support him and guide him in his thoughts and decisions. Jeff has allowed Ben to consider options for the future that hadn't been previously considered. Jeff has seen Ben's increased self-esteem, self-confidence, and more than ever: Ben taking responsibility for his choices and actions."

Macy, a mentee in the E-Mentoring Program, provided vocal and instrumental music for the Statehouse reception.

The statewide E-Mentoring Program is part of Nisonger's Special Education and Transition Services, under the direction of Dr. Margo Izzo. It uses e-mail and Web-based communications technology to connect about 50 high school students with disabilities with 50 mentors. Volunteer mentors not only share valuable life and career experiences; they also become role models and friends. The program is funded by a three-year grant from the Ohio Rehabilitative Services Commission.

Contact Jennifer Earley at 292-8505 or earley.37@osu.edu. **NN**

LEND trainees volunteer for Kidnetic Energy program

Julie Mills is a Worthington lawyer whose niece, Gabby, has special needs. Inspired by Gabby's special gymnastics and dance class in Texas, Julie founded **Kidnetic Energy**, a non-profit organization offering low-cost gymnastics and dance classes to children up to age 18 who might be turned away by

traditional exercise programs. She consulted with Helen Alexander, a physical therapist at Nationwide Children's Hospital and Nisonger, to develop the program. It was featured in the *Columbus Dispatch* Feb. 4 and *Columbus Parent* in March. Helen now trains volunteers and leads gymnastics classes.

Several LEND trainees volunteer their time to assist the children during class. They are Erin Enright, Stacie Pancoast, Kristen Marschner, Suellen Sharp, Elizabeth Terelle and Courtney Thorman. More sites and classes are coming soon.

www.kidneticenergy.org. **NN**



Williams Syndrome Support Group meets at OSU-Newark

About 35 people braved below-zero wind chills on Jan. 20 to attend the Williams Syndrome Support Group meeting on the OSU-Newark campus. Families came from throughout Ohio and from Michigan.

The group found Eric Paton, a talented musician from Capitol University, thoroughly entertain-

ing. He conducted an interactive drumming circle for both young and old.

Sherry Feinstein, Nisonger Clinic Coordinator, led parents in a discussion about ways to navigate the Medicaid and Social Security systems to receive the services their children need. For several parents, this was

their first opportunity to meet with others who have children with Williams syndrome. The next Williams Syndrome Support Group meeting will be held in April.

Contact Dr. Marilee Martens at 688-3112 or martens.22@osu.edu. **NN**



YATC forms Next Chapter Book Club for blind students at OSSB

Nov. 14 was the start of a new Next Chapter Book Club at the Ohio State School for the Blind. The six members, who are students at OSSB, chose to read *Around the World in 80 Days*.

That posed a challenge for the three members of Young Adult Transition Corps (YATC) who co-facilitate the group: Hillary Jones, Kelly Ferrell and Scott

Brown. Some students are sharing an original edition of the book in Braille, borrowed from the state library; some are reading an adapted classics edition in large print; and some are reading an electronic edition that can be accessed on their Braille notes machines. All three versions of the text are different!

Hillary says, "Next time, we'll definitely try to make sure at least two versions of the book are the same!"

The club meets every other Wednesday at the Target café at Graceland and at the OSSB campus on alternate weeks. For more information, contact Hillary Jones at 292-9894 or hjones@yatcohoio.org. **NN**



OSSB book club members and co-facilitators meet at the Target café at Graceland mall.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

Nisonger new hires since May 2005 take 2 mandated safety training programs:

- EOEP (Emergency Operations & Evacuation Plan)
- HAZCOM

Current Nisonger employees only need to take HAZCOM.

- Ohio Transition Weekend, April 11-12, 2008, Univer-

sity Plaza Hotel, 3110 Olentangy River Rd; deadline to apply was Feb. 8, 2008. See Dr. Tom Fish, fish.1@osu.edu or 292-7550.

- Youth with Disabilities Juvenile Justice Conference, April 17-18, Columbus Airport Marriott. Call 805-5998.
- ADA-Ohio Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 23-24, 2008, Blackwell Hotel Conference Center.

- Buddy Up for Fitness 5K "Take the Challenge" race for Down Syndrome, 6 PM on April 24, 2008, at the Franklin Park Conservatory.

- Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Gateways V Conference, May 5-6, 2008.

See other news and events lists at OneSource; use your OSU Medical Center ID to log in. **NN**



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

NISONGERNEWS

Welcome new hires! (October, November, December)



Bethany Bates started Dec. 5 in the Research Unit for Pediatric Psychopharmacology (RUPP) as a Clinical Research Assistant. She earned a BA in Psychology from The Ohio State University in Marion, Ohio, where she was also a Research Assistant. She recently moved here with her husband, Jonathan.

Karen Harpster, MOTR/L, is an Occupational Therapist who started working at the OSU Child Care Center in the Early Intervention Program on Oct. 26. She received a Masters degree in Occupational Therapy from OSU and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from La Salle University in Philadelphia. Karen has been working with children on the autism spectrum for eight years. She is now pursuing a PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences in the School of Allied Medical Professions. Karen enjoys playing tennis, digital scrap booking and making jewelry. She also enjoys spending time with her husband Steve and their "kids," Doodle the sheepdog and Louie the lab.



Lauren Pinto started Dec. 26 as a Clinical Research Coordinator with the RUPP Group coordinating two studies. One is with the medication Fluoxetine to treat repetitive behaviors in autistic children. The other is with the supplement Melatonin to help with sleep in children with autistic disorder. She holds a BA in Psychology from OSU and plans to go back to school eventually to get a Master's in Nursing. She is originally from Akron, where her family still lives, and is a HUGE Cleveland sports fan, as well as a Buckeye fan.

Becky Selegue, MS, PT, returned Nov. 19 as the physical therapist to the ECE program. She has worked with the infants and toddlers in the Franklin County program at the OSU Child Care Center for the past 10 years. She served the Depts. of Maternal Fetal Medicine and Women and Infants, including the NICU at the OSU Medical Center, for 16 years. Becky earned an MS degree with the School of Physical Therapy. Her previous experience at the Center included the

early versions of Child Check, Getting Started, Rural Clinic, the F.A.C.T. Clinic (Families and Children in Transition) and the ECE program. She remembers bringing her Canine Companion for Independence black lab trainee "Lizzard" to the preschool often to socialize and train with the children. Becky has two dogs and is involved with volunteer activities for the Big Walnut Dog Park.

Jan Stuber started Oct. 29 as a Speech-Language Pathologist in ECE. She has 11 years of experience in pediatrics and the MRDD population in both Ohio and Connecticut. She received her graduate and undergraduate degrees at OSU. Jan lived in Dallas, Texas, for nine years where her three children were born and in Connecticut for 11 years. She has 20 years of experience working collaboratively with her son's therapists and implementing their prescribed treatments. She is currently working on her reading-literacy endorsement at OSU. Communication in the area of psycholinguistics is her next plan of pursuit.

Farewell departing staff ... and other staff news ...



Lindsay Crowl, former RUPP research associate, left to work for a law firm.

Kristina (Siefker) Humphries left the RUPP project to join the research team at the James Cancer Hospital.

* * *

Congratulations go to **Luc Lecavalier**, who won the Early Career Award given by the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). It will be given out in Washington in May.



Congratulations also to **Stacey Grubb**, Dental Assistant at Johnstown Road. Stacey was awarded the Staff Career Development Grant and plans to study coronal polishing.

Congratulations to **Bryan Drosch** in Adult BSS. Bryan obtained the Board Certified Behavior Analyst title after passing the national examination.

Congrats also to **Jennifer Kerns** in Adult BSS, who has completed a master's degree in public health.

Kelly Dillon and her husband Eric Kelly celebrated the arrival of their first baby at 7:57 PM on Dec. 7, 2007. Jackson Edward Dillon-Kelly weighed 8 lb. 7 oz. and was 20-1/2 inches long.

Bryan Drosch and his wife Kynthia welcomed their first baby on Dec. 7, 2007. Leona Argiro weighed 4 lb. 15 oz. and was 18-3/4 inches long.