UPDATE

Fall 2006

South Carolina Autism Society

Together We Can Solve The Puzzle

Major Speakers Coming to October Conference

The S.C. Autism Society will host an unusually strong lineup of speakers at its 2006 annual conference and meeting, Oct. 5-7, at the Columbia Conference Center.

"We're excited about this year's program," said SCAS President and CEO Craig Stoxen. "It's unusual for us to have three nationally known presenters and authors in the autism field."

Each speaker has written books popular with parents and professionals alike.

Dr. Jeannette McAfee, physician, parent and author of *Navigating the Social World: A Curriculum for Individuals with Asperger's Syndrome, High Functioning Autism, and Related Disorders*," will present the pre-conference workshop on social skills on Thursday, Oct. 5.

Dr. Paula Kluth, PhD. will give the keynote presentation on Friday, Oct. 6, the first day of the conference. She wrote *You're Going to Love This Kid! Educating Students with Autism in the Inclusive Classroom*.

Saturday's keynote speaker will be Chantal Sicile-Kira, author of a general guide to autism spectrum disorders and this year's (2006) *Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum: A Parent's Guide to the Cognitive, Social, Physical, and Transition Needs of Teenagers with Autism Spectrum Disord*ers.

cont. on p. 9 — see Conference

Please Help with Our Survey on Puberty and Sexuality

Assistance with the puberty years and sexuality issues are among the top requests that SCAS receives. If you are a parent or educator, please help us to determine what kind of information would be helpful to you. Please complete the survey that begins on p. 7 and return it to us by Sept. 30. It's formatted so you can tear it out, fold and stamp it, and mail it to us. (Or fax it to 803-750-8121.) Responses will be confidential and will assist in developing programs.

And, don't miss author Chantal Sicile-Kira's Saturday, Oct. 7 breakout session on sexuality and puberty at our 2006 conference. She has a teenager with autism, and her most recent book is *Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum*.

SCAS Announces its 4th Annual

Fun in the Fall Golf Tournament

Tuesday, October 31
10 a.m. Shotgun Start

Woodcreek Farms Country Club (near Elgin)

$125 / player *or* $500 / foursome
includes green fee, cart, practice balls, lunch, refreshments

Played at the spectacularly beautiful Woodcreek Farms course,
this tournament is one of our most important fundraising events of the year.
Please support SCAS by playing — or by becoming a sponsor.

Register on our website at www.scautism.org
or by calling Kimberly McAlister at 803-750-6988 or 800-438-4790 (ext. 104) .

To learn about sponsorships, please call Kimberly at one of the numbers above.

From the Desk of the President . . .

(*The following message was printed August 9 in* The State *newspaper, Columbia's daily, as a guest commentary by Craig Stoxen. The piece was submitted after the death of a child was publicized, and SCAS friends and staff received many inquiries about how such a tragedy could possibly occur. It is reprinted here because elopement is such a serious problem for families of many children, and some adults, on the autism spectrum.*)

For families who have a child with autism, it was like a nightmare come true to learn that a four-year-old in Northeast Columbia got out of his house in the middle of the night and was struck and killed by a car. The newspaper articles about this tragedy, which occurred at the end of July, first said the child was autistic and later that he had symptoms indicative of autism. But for many of us who know autism, this detail basically suspended our disbelief that such a tragedy could occur. Because, sooner or later, our families learn that their young children are less aware of danger than more typically developing children. And, they are less likely to stay close to Mom, Dad or home in the way that comes naturally to others at the same age.

To be clear, it's not that typical children never take a risk or that they don't need supervision during waking hours. They obviously do. My point is that individuals with autism, and especially young children, are much more likely to walk or run off. Moreover, their actions can be unpredictable and truly outside the realm of usual parenting experience.

There is always that first time a child breaks from the firm grasp of a parent's hand, opens a door thought impossible to budge, negotiates several locks, or gets outside in the middle of the night. Pools and other bodies of water are hazards for all children, but more so for individuals with autism. Tragically, numerous children with autism have drowned across the United States.

Why do these children, and even some adults, do such dangerous things? The answers are occasionally known, but more often they are not. We may learn that a child eloped (that's the term) to take a close look at something; however, often it was not expected or usual behavior for a child that age.

Most of the time we can only guess what motivated a child to do something hazardous, because that child is not likely to speak. If he or she has developed some speech, it may not be speech that gives us answers. Functioning levels and symptoms vary tremendously in autism, which is one reason the term, "autism spectrum disorders," is increasingly being used. Research eventually may help to more closely define the various autism spectrum disorders, along with their causes and optimal treatments.

In the meantime, families are often at a loss when they try to change risky behaviors. Teaching children with autism is challenging for a number of reasons. One is that skills we take for granted in typical children, like imitation, do not seem to come naturally to those with autism. Another is that the usual motivators may not work. New ways to motivate and teach have to be found, often by trial and error. It can be overwhelming for even the most informed, patient and creative of parents.

A statewide nonprofit organization founded by parents 35 years ago, the South Carolina Autism Society strives to increase awareness that children and adults with autism often fail to comprehend danger, may do odd things, and can be unpredictable in their actions.

We encourage families to take extra measures, such as door and window alarms, wearing identification, and alerting neighbors and emergency responders to possible scenarios. Many 911 centers accept information about individuals at risk, and some communities have radio tracking for elopers of all ages.

Awareness could make the difference between a successful rescue and a tragedy. For more information, visit our website at www.scautism.org for the brochure, "Protecting the Child or Adult with Autism," as well as other information about autism and the many activities of our organization. Or call us at 1-800-438-4790 or 750-6988 in Columbia.

Craig C. Stoxen
President and CEO

Thanks to Parents, Horry to Lead State in Tracking Elopers

When parents of children with autism take action, they usually get things done.

That's been the case in Horry County, where the parents who formed the Autism Advocate Foundation (AAF) wanted to make their children safer and improve their own peace of mind.

Cheryl Bauerle, president and a founder of AAF, SCAS board member and former SCAS chair, learned that a radio tracking system known as "Project Lifesaver" had successfully located over 1,200 eloped children and adults across the U.S.

Wearing a transmitter "bracelet," individuals with Alzheimer's disease, autism or any other disabling condition can be tracked on ground or by air. The central system, with receivers, is operated by a local public safety agency.

Cheryl quickly brought on board Bob Derr, a battalion chief with the Myrtle Beach Fire Department, an AAF board member, and a parent.

Paul Whitten, director of the Horry County Public Safety Division, threw his support behind Project Lifesaver, as has the Myrtle Beach Police Department. With grants, Whitten's office has purchased the equipment, which costs $5,500 for the startup package, plus the cost of additional receivers needed to cover a county as large as Horry.

Myrtle Beach has purchased equipment. Contacts are underway with the few remaining municipalities in the county to secure their support of the program.

Horry Public Safety also paid for three days of training this summer, which was done by Project Lifesaver International trainers from Virginia.

"It's more of a challenge than I had realized, but I think it's worth the effort of government to be active, and we're committed to doing it right in Horry County," Whitten said. This will be the first Project Lifesaver program in South Carolina.

AAF will pilot the program with autistic individuals wearing the bracelets. Drills are likely, even in enclosed areas like malls. Unlike global positioning system (GPS), radio signals from the transmitters can be picked up from inside buildings.

Cheryl said families will be asked to pay for the bracelet, which costs $275. But she said that if a family has difficulty paying for it, AAF will help. "The point isn't to put a bracelet on someone just because they have autism," Cheryl said. "For example, my daughter is not a runner. But we're not going to turn someone away who can't afford one."

Families of individuals at risk know how much protection their loved one needs, whether he or she wanders, runs off, or has difficulty communicating.

The devices need to be checked daily, and batteries changed monthly, at the cost of $10 each. Some communities have volunteers who check on transmitter wearers monthly, replacing the batteries.

See how North Augusta also has a Project Lifesaver program underway on page 6.

Bob, who will involve his son, Ryan, in the pilot, says that when "the kinks are out" the program can be offered to those with other disabilities and conditions such as Alzheimer's disease. But first a data base has to be developed, with link-up to the Horry County 911 call center. Operating procedures need to be established and written, too.

The task is huge, but Whitten says there is benefit to the entire community since searches take much less time, often less than an hour, with far fewer responders, saving time and money. Horry Public Safety is building the data base, and Whitten says AAF "will fill in the blanks and update it monthly."

cont. on p. 6 — see Lifesaver

The Update

The *Update* is published four times a year by the South Carolina Autism Society, one of more than 200 nonprofit chapters of the Autism Society of America (ASA) and the only ASA chapter in South Carolina. Guest articles are welcome for possible publication. Information or points of view contained in the *Update* are not necessarily endorsed or held by SCAS, its directors or staff, but may be presented simply to keep readers informed about options. SCAS maintains its main office in the Palmetto Office Building at 652 Bush River Road, Suite 203, Columbia, SC 29210. Call us in Columbia at 803-750-6988 or 800-438-4790; fax us at 803-750-8121; or e-mail us at either scas@scautism.org or www.scautism.org. Our Horry County branch office is located at 3254 Holmestown Road, #1, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588. Myrtle Beach office: 843-650-0129.

Volume 34, Issue Three
September 2006

Studies Show Basic Skills Benefit Language Growth into School Years & Motor Skills More Affected than Once Thought

by Ruth K. Abramson, Ph.D.
Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, USC School of Medicine

Editor's note: Ruth is a Fellow of the American College of Medical Genetics and a regular contributor to the Update. *She is part of the USC-Duke University team that is researching the genetics of autism spectrum disorders.*

Summer is over and school has started again. Many children are in preschool, some starting at age 3. Two studies have just been published that give information to parents of young children diagnosed with autism that might help to better target early interventions.

K. Toth, J. Munson, A.N. Meltzoff and G. Dawson have just published an article, "Early Predictors of Communication Development in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Joint Attention, Imitation, and Toy Play" (Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, July 2006). Research has shown that in children with autism and in typically developing children, the development of language and communication skills is associated with joint attention, imitation and toy play.

A unique study

This study is unique because it simultaneously evaluated the role of each of the three early abilities (joint attention, imitation, and toy play) to see which might predict current language ability in a sample of 60 preschool age children with autism spectrum disorders (diagnoses of Autistic Disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorder). The researchers followed these children from preschool into their early school years in order to examine the relationship between these three early skills and the rate of development of communication skills.

At the start, children ranged in age from 34 to 52 months, and they were followed until 65 to 78 months of age. Testing occurred over three or more sessions with parents present. At the first visit, the ADOS Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule), ADI-R (Autism Diagnosis Interview-Revised) and Mullen Scales of Early Learning were administered. On the second visit, the Early Social Communication Scales (ESCS) was given. Experimental assessments of imitation and functional and symbolic toy play were administered on subsequent visits. Parents completed the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales when their child was 3-4 years old and every 6 months thereafter by telephone up to the age of 6 years, 6 months.

First, two skills, initiating protodeclarative joint attention and immediate imitation were most strongly associated with language ability at age 3-4 years. Initiating protodeclarative joint attention is the number of times the child used eye gaze, alternating eye gaze, showing, and/or pointing behaviors to direct and/or share attention with the examiner with respect to an active toy. In the immediate attention task, the examiner completed a series of actions with 5 novel objects. When the examiner was finished, they then handed the object(s) to the child one at a time and said, "It's your turn," and observed what the child did.

Second, toy play and deferred imitation were the best predictors of rate of communication development from age 4 to 6 years 6 months. Toy play is a structured assessment of functional and symbolic toy play skills with a familiar examiner. Deferred imitation involved the examiner completing a series of actions with 5 novel objects. When the examiner finished, the child was taken out of the room for 10 minutes. When the child returned, the examiner gave the child the object(s) one at a time and said, "Here's a toy for you to play with." The examiner then observed what the child did.

Connection with language development

The findings suggest that while all three abilities — joint attention, imitation, and toy play — may be important in laying the early foundation for language development, toy play and deferred imitation might contribute to the continued development of language and communication skills from preschool and into the early school period. This study sheds light on the nature and course of language development in autism spectrum disorders and for designing targeted early interventions.

The second article, "A Comparison of Motor Delays in Young Children: Autism Spectrum disorder, Developmental Delay, and Developmental Concerns" by B. Provost, BR Lopez, and S Heimerl in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, evaluated motor delay using a standard assessment in young children 21-41 months with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), children with developmental delay (DD) and children with developmental delay without motor delay. All of the children with ASD had delays in gross motor skills, fine motor skills, or both. They did not differ from children with DD.

In this study, at least 60 percent of the children with ASD qualified for early intervention services based on their motor delays alone.

Motor delays in autism

The findings of this study provide preliminary evidence that although a child with ASD may learn to walk within the normal age range, the child will not necessarily acquire preschool motor skills at the same rate as children with developmental delay without motor delay. Assessment of motor skill profiles in younger children with ASD would provide important information to address targeted interventions early. The authors conclude that it is possible that peer interaction by children with ASD may have a relationship to how well they are able to perform fundamental and motor play skills.

We want to thank everyone for their continued participation in the Duke/USC molecular genetics study. We are still looking for families with one or more children with autism, Asperger's Disorder and PDD.

Also, we look forward to seeing familiar faces as well as new ones at the Autism Society's 2006 conference and annual meeting, Oct. 6-7. Please visit our exhibit to get acquainted and to catch up on research and other programs.

Together we can make a difference!

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT

Autism

Medication Research Study

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine
is pleased to announce a new research study.

We are currently accepting families with one or more individuals with a diagnosis of Autism into a new medication study to treat problematic symptoms of autism. Individuals must be between the ages of 6 and 17 and meet DSM-IV criteria for Autism.

There are no costs to participate.

For more information, or to enroll a family in the research study, please call Joan at 803-434-1100.

DMH to Close Child & Adolescent Clinic; Your Help is Needed

SCAS has learned the S.C. Department of Mental Health plans to close the Child & Adolescent Outpatient Clinic at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute.

"Apparently no date has been set, but this is a great concern," SCAS President Craig Stoxen said.

SCAS knows many families whose children have benefited from services at the clinic, including diagnosis, medication management, behavior intervention programs, and social work services — all provided by experienced specialists.

Craig says that for children and teenagers with diagnoses of PDD-NOS or Asperger's syndrome, these services are often the only help available. "I am told this is happening because the clinic is not a money-maker, but I have a hard time believing these services are more expensive than in-patient care."

Please contact: (1) The Honorable Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., Chair, Department of Mental Health Commission, S.C. Department of Mental Health and, (2) John H. Magill, State Director, S.C. Department of Mental Health, 2414 Bull St., Columbia, SC 29201 (same address for both officials). Thank you.

Lifesaver

cont. from p. 3

"The pilot group will help to get the data base right," Cheryl says. "It takes a lot of cooperation on the part of a lot of agencies to do this, and it has to be done right."

Meanwhile, in North Augusta …

Around the same time the Horry parents and agencies were learning about Project Lifesaver, Capt. Randy Mosely of the North Augusta Department of Public Safety became interested in it because he has a relative with Alzheimer's.

With a grant of $15,000 from the North Augusta SERTOMA Club, Project Lifesaver equipment is on order for North Augusta. To make the system available to groups besides Alzheimer's patients, Mosely put a committee together with representatives from disability populations. He knew to include an autism representative, and contacted Amy Weeks of Aiken, a parent, SCAS board member, and another past SCAS board chair.

Of Horry County's progress toward an operating Project Lifesaver system, Mosely said, "They beat me." Coincidentally, this summer Mosely gave a well attended presentation on Project Lifesaver at the S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association annual conference in Myrtle Beach.

Great News!

Congratulations to Andrew Nielsen, son of Joyce and Andy Nielsen, on graduating from Summerville High School. Andrew did not get a diploma, but he is working hard at Adult Education and online studying for his GED. "After that he hopes to attend Trident Technical College so, as he says, "to get a good paying job," reports Joyce. "We are so proud of his hard work and everything else he has done, and we couldn't have done it without the support of family and friends. The big smile on his face says it all. Hats off to Andrew!"

Welcome to Preston David Jackson, born August 4 to Edwina and David Jackson and big brother Benjamin. Edwina directs DDSN service coordination for SCAS and returns to the office soon.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 5 — SCAS pre-conference workshop on developing social skills with Dr. Jeanette McAfee, "Navigating the Social World," at Columbia Conference Center. McAfee's curriculum is considered one of the best. See page 1 for more information, call us for a brochure, or go to: www.scautism.org.

Oct. 6-7 — SCAS two-day conference opens with Friday's program geared to professionals and Saturday's events designed for parents in particular (but both groups will enjoy either day), at Columbia Conference Center. Keynotes by top presenters/ authors and a variety of breakouts. See p. 1 for more details, or log on to: www.scautism.org

Oct. 6 — SCAS Board of Directors meeting, Columbia Conference Center. Board meetings are open to visitors. For planning purposes, please give Craig Stoxen a call in advance if you plan to attend a Board of Directors meeting.

Oct. 7 — 4th Annual Carolinas Walk for Autism Research, Lowe's Motor Speedway. Register your team or become a corporate sponsor. Go to www.autismwalk.org/carolinas for details.

Oct. 31 — Fun in the Fall Golf Tournament at Woodcreek Farms, Elgin. See p. 1 for details or visit SCAS Web site: www.scautism.org.

Nov. 4 — Family Connection is hosting a free day-long Saturday workshop in Columbia for single or divorced parents raising one or more children with disabilities or special needs primarily on their own. Range of topics and presenters. (Same program also offered Oct. 9.) To register, call Susan Haney at 803-252-0914.

S U R V E Y

Puberty / Sexuality Issues for Children and Adults with ASD

The South Carolina Autism Society wants to assist families and educators in addressing puberty and sexuality issues in individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). This project is funded by the S.C. Developmental Disabilities Council.

Please fill out this survey to help us identify issues of particular concern. Your input is important whether your child is young, undergoing puberty, or an older teen or adult. If your child is an adult now and you have no pressing concerns, please tell us what kind of information *would have been helpful* in years past. This may help others.

If you have more than one child on the spectrum, please photocopy and complete one survey for each child.

Attention, educators! We encourage your participation, too. Please keep a particular child in mind as you answer the questions — or fill out additional copies if you have more than one child in mind.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us. We will use this information to develop programs to help parents and educators address puberty and sexuality issues in children and adults with ASD. We will NOT use your name or identify you personally in any programs or materials we develop.

Are you filling out this survey as a PARENT or EDUCATOR? (circle one)

Age of Child _____ __ Male __ Female Verbal? __ Yes __ No __ Partly

Functioning level can affect the information one presents to a child or adult with ASD. Where would you place this child in level of functioning? (circle one)

1	2	3	4	5
low				high

Please check off all the topics on which you would like information. In addition, please indicate which of these are most important to you. For example, if information on teaching personal hygiene is most important to you, please check off the box and put a "1" on the line next to the box. Then indicate the next most important topic with a 2, and so forth until you have indicated your top 5 topics.

__ ☐ Hormonal changes and their impact on ASD children

__ ☐ Physical changes in puberty

- __ ☐ Effects on individuals with ASD
- __ ☐ Explaining changes

__ ☐ Emotional changes in puberty

__ ☐ Hygiene, teaching self care from puberty onward

__ ☐ Menstruation, explaining it and teaching hygiene

__ ☐ Privacy, teaching it at home and preventing inappropriate behavior in public

__ ☐ Masturbation

- __ ☐ How to respond
- __ ☐ Teaching limits

__ ☐ Reproduction, how much to teach

__ ☐ Anxiety or depression, what is known, what might help

__ ☐ Exploitation and abuse, prevention of

__ ☐ Saying "no," teaching when to say it

__ ☐ Touch, i.e., teaching who can be touched, hugged, etc.

__ ☐ Sexual attraction to others, how to deal with

__ ☐ Advances by others, what to teach in response to

__ ☐ Sexual intercourse, deciding how much to teach

__ ☐ Sexual relationships, how common in people with ASDs?

__ ☐ Contraception

__ ☐ Sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, prevention of

Please add any additional concerns or comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(Optional) Your Name _____ Phone _____

Address or e-mail _____

fold

postage stamp

South Carolina Autism Society
652 Bush River Road, Suite 203
Columbia, SC 29210

fold

Conference

cont. from p. 1

Sicile-Kira's first book was designated the Outstanding Book of the Year by the Autism Society of America in 2005. After Saturday's keynote talk, "Life's Transitions: Preparing Our Students, Preparing Ourselves," she will conduct a breakout session on puberty, hygiene and sexuality.

For a list of all breakout sessions, which will also be held on Friday, see the conference brochure (call us if you didn't get one in the mail), or go to: www.scautism.org.

Speakers' books will be available for purchase in the SCAS bookstore. Don't miss our silent auction, open until 1 p.m. Saturday, in the bookstore.

A highlight of Saturday's program is the awarding of SCAS annual awards. There's still time to nominate someone! (See form below.)

Call for Artwork!

If you're a parent or teacher and you know someone on the autism spectrum who draws or paints, SCAS is looking for artwork on the theme of books or reading. An illustration is needed for a poster to publicize the "books to libraries" project in the schools.

Artists can submit up to three pictures. The artist whose picture is selected will receive a bookstore gift card. Artwork turned in to SCAS before the conference, Oct. 6-7, will be exhibited there.

Size of the artwork should be no more than 8-1/2 by 11 inches. Nov. 1 is the deadline for submissions turned in after the conference.

SCAS is planning to give a children's book about autism to elementary school libraries or media centers.

Nominations Needed for SCAS Annual Awards!

Editor's note: The Saturday awards presentation at each SCAS annual conference is a highlight of the event. This is a great way to recognize a teacher, other professional or family member (to name a few) who has made a difference in the life of your loved one. Fill out the form below, and send it to us at SCAS by Sept. 25. We'll call you if your nomination has been accepted. Fax to 803-750-8121, e-mail to scautism.org, or call us.

S.C. Autism Society - 2006 Award Nomination

Your name (person making the nomination) _____

Your address _____

Phone number(s) _____

Name of Nominee _____

Nominee's phone number and address (if known) _____

_____

CATEGORIES

__ Sibling Advocate	__ Teacher of Year	__ Volunteer of Year
__ Regional Consult. of Year	__ Regional Dir. of Year	__ Professional of Year
__ Residential Staffer of Year	__ Svc. Coordinator of Year	__ Employer of Year
__ Employee of Year	__ Presidential Citation	__ Other (see below)

Create Your Own Award _____

Required! Print or type in 150 words or less why you believe this person should receive the award. Please be specific! Fax or e-mail to SCAS along with this form.

New Members, April - June

Benefactor
M/M J. Scott Looman
Susan Bennett
Tricia McLaren

Supporting
Frances Brannon
Vicki Knelly
Amy Maziarz
Nicole Young
Brenda Hanes

Basic
M/M Larry McDaniel
M/M Willie Kelley
M/M Allen Hendrix
M/M Billy Hagen
M/M Timothy Johnson
Zahra Hajiaghamohseni

Basic (cont.)
Scott Forster
Virginia Powers
Cynthia Caldwell
Robert Daugherty
Maria Shiloh-Bergman
Mike Humphrey
Melissa Lewonuk
April Latham
Patricia Armstrong
Kimberly Brooks
Robert Compton
Phyllis Sample
John Donat
Gregory Pierce
Se'Lisa Scott
Kristen Gilbert

Renewing Members

Benefactor
D/M William Bishop
M/M James Eargle
Maria Atkinson

Supporting
M/M Michael Hartley
Walter Jenner
Carrie Aull
David Rotholz

Basic
M/M Karl Smith
M/M John Stack
M/M Ernest Kastner
Margot Kuebler
Cassandra Paschal
K. Alisa Lowrey
Susan Buol
Richard Simensen
Arnetha Drayton
Doug Doster
Melissa Metts

In Memoriam

The S.C. Autism Society extends its sympathies to the family of John R. Lilley, who died August 11 after a battle with Alzheimer's disease.

John was a past president of SCAS, a founding member of the S.C. Protection and Advocacy System, and a founding member of the S.C. Developmental Disabilities Council. A professional photographer, he volunteered as SCAS photographer for 20 years.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred B. Lilley; a son, Norman C. Lilley; an aunt, Nell Eleazer; and uncle, the Rev. Jerome Powers.

SCAS has received several memorials so far for John. All will be listed in the next edition of the *Update*.

In Memory of ...

Jessie Timmons, by Myra Horton

Ms. Ackerman, by Gayle Spears

Florence McMahon, by Dr./Mrs. William Bishop

Pauline Chavis by Barbara Ott

Ronald Shippy, by M/MFred Kiemle, M/M James Blocksidge, M/M Edwin Clark, M/M Charles Gay, M/M Edwin Yungk, Charles Banks, M/M George Birckbichler, M/M William Hamlett, M/M D.J. Depriester, M/M Ken Hembury, Ila Masters, M/M Dennis Goodin, M/M J.L. Moffit, M/M Richard Tarbet, M/M Garry Gosky, Marlen Miskella, Dr./Mrs. William Bishop

In Honor of ...

Joshua Perry, by Myra Horton

Cole Hughes, by Watson Eargle

Dillon Menches, by Tammy Menches

Joe & Barbara Park, by M/M Stephen Park

Lexington School District 2 Students with Autism, by Alice Davis

Ryan Holbert, by Gene Grace Holbert

Sophia Jacobs, by Sophia Jacobs

Special Education Professors at USC, by Douglas Thomas

Zachary Reno, by David Carlson

Donors

M/M Robert Stansell
M/M Clifton Chang
M/M C. A. Stuck
M/M James Eargle
M/M David Batton
M/M John Gola
M/M Vincent Cipriano
M/M Kenneth Reynolds
M/M Roy Dossat
M/M Darryl Frick
Walter Jenner
Navy Wives Club
Joyce Nielsen
Traci Sorgenfrei
John Donat
Catherine Schourek
Vickie Lee Berry
Anne Dudek
Mary Pate
Aileen Sampson
Karl Smith
Bernice Stukes Mose
John Tatara

Please support your local United Way.

Allocations and designations are an important part of the SCAS budget.

Thank you for giving.

SCAS Programs

For more information, visit our website, www.scautism.org.

- **Family Support / Information and Referral**
- **Annual conference, workshops for parents and professionals**
- **Preparing for Puberty and Beyond: Help for Parents**
- **Service Coordination for DDSN consumers with autism**
- **Self Directed Support Corporations (Microboards)**
- **Parent-School Partnership - parent mentors assist families**
- **Providing books and DVDs about autism to libraries**

SCAS also advocates for quality services for children and adults with ASDs — as individuals and statewide.

2006 Board of Directors

Chair
Margaret Moore, Columbia

Vice Chair
Joyce Nielsen, Summerville

Secretary
Becky Hughes, Batesburg

Treasurer
Mitchell Yell, W. Columbia

Immediate Past Chair
Cheryl Bauerle, Myrtle Beach

Honorary
Alex Holbert, Conway

Directors
Roy Williams, Lexington
Chris Heeringa, Sumter
Erik Drasgow, Columbia
Susie Tolson, Bennettsville
Denise Long, Williston
Denise Oxford, Anderson
Beverly McCarty, Charleston
Susan DuRant, Columbia
Denise Chastain, Goose Creek
Susan Kastner, Mauldin
Amy Weeks, Aiken
Sarah Pope, Myrtle Beach

SCAS Staff

Craig C. Stoxen, **President & CEO** (ext. 106)
Vickie Stowe, **Administrative Assistant** (100)
Sheila Raulerson, **Administrative Assistant** (109)
DiDi Hendley, **Program Assistant** (113)
Deborah Chaddock, **Program Assistant** (103)
Mary Bennett*, **Bookkeeper** (105)
Edwina Jackson, **Director, Service Coordination** (111)
Carol Niederhauser*, **Special Projects, *Update* Ed.** (102)
Paula Devan, **Office Clerk** (108)
Lynn Stillwell, **I&R Specialist** (108)
Jan Mandeville*, **Parent Liaison**
Melanie Marquis*, **PSP Coordinator** (101)
Kimberly McAlister, **Director of Development** (104)

Mentors, Parent-School Partnership (all ext.103)

Dandrea Woolridge*
A.J. Dearybury*
Lissa Waring*
Denise Garvey*
Delilah Bonnert* (vol.)
Kim McHugh*
Brenda Dease*
Dawn Thomas*
Tammy Ruiz*
Kemberly Green*
Jamie Sampson*

Service Coordinators
Shalonda Armstead (112)
Angie Magin (114)
Jennifer DuPree (112)
Harvin Eadon - Svc. Coord. Assistant (112)
Lauren Rosinski - Svc. Coord. Assistant (110)
Amy Gary (Horry)
Christie Castello (Horry)

** parent of child with an autism spectrum disorder*

How to Reach Us ...

Main Office
652 Bush River Road, Suite 203
Columbia, SC 29210

803-750-6988, 800-438-4790 (extensions above)
Fax: 803-750-8121
e-mail: scas@scautism.org
On the Web: www.scautism.org

Horry County Branch Office
3254 Holmestown Road, #1
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
843-650-0129

Mission Statement
South Carolina Autism Society

Our purpose is to enable all South Carolinians with autism spectrum disorders to reach their maximum potential.

SCAS is a chapter of the Autism Society of America.

MUSC Gets Four More Years of Funding for Monitoring ASDs

The Medical University of S.C. Children's Hospital, Genetics and Pediatric Practice, has received four more years of funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue monitoring the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities in South Carolina. The state was one of just 10 states to receive the funding.

In 2000, the year the Carolina Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program was first funded, the state was one of 16 to receive the federal grant.

The program was initiated with support from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, S.C. Department of Education, and S.C. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.

"We have created an effective and successful monitoring network in South Carolina public schools, disabilities boards and hospital settings," said Dr. Jane Charles of MUSC, lead investigator for the program.

"The results of our monitoring will help to increase awareness and training of personnel, and point to the importance of early intervention. Ideally we will add to a growing body of research leading to identifying causes, prevention and cures."

Graduate Student Seeking Adult Siblings for Study

A study of adult siblings of individuals with autism is being conducted by Karen Echerd, a graduate student in the Genetic Counseling Program at the University of South Carolina.

"We are interested in studying how having a sibling with autism has affected the sibling relationship and contributed to decisions regarding caregiving, as well as starting one's own family," says Karen. "We are hoping to study 50 families."

If you are an adult age 18 to 25 years, are a sibling of someone with autism, and would be interested in participating in a telephone or in-person interview, please contact Karen at echerdk@mailbox.sc.edu or write her at 2 Medical Park, Suite 103, Columbia, SC 29203.

South Carolina Autism Society
Together We Can Solve The Puzzle

652 Bush River Road, Suite 203
Columbia, SC 29210

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 884
COLUMBIA, S.C.

UPDATE

Fall 2006