UPDATE

Vol. 34
Issue 4

Winter
2006

South Carolina Autism Society

Together We Can Solve The Puzzle

February Asperger Syndrome and Autism Workshop

The SC Autism Society is presenting a workshop on Wednesday, February 7, 2007 featuring Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D., who is speaking on the topic **Understanding Hidden Curriculum**. Dr. Myles is chief of programs and development for the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence Disabilities.

Dr. Myles' accomplishment include 2006 Princeton Fellowship Award, 2005 University of Kansas School of Education Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching, and 2004 Autism Society's Outstanding Professional award, among others. Dr. Myles was acknowledged by the University of Texas at Austin as the second most productive applied researcher in ASD in the world from 1997 to 2004. She has written numerous articles and books on Asperger Syndrome and autism, including *Asperger Syndrome and Difficult Moments: Practical Solutions for Tantrums, Rage, and Meltdowns* (with Southwick) and *Asperger Syndrome and Adolescence: Practical Solutions for School Success* (with Adreon), the winner of the Autism Society of America's Outstanding Literary Work (both books published by Autism Asperger Publishing Company).

Don't miss this opportunity! This workshop will be held at the Columbia Conference Center located at 169 Laurelhurst Avenue in Columbia. The cost for this conference will be $85 per person, or $70 per person with group registration of five or more participants.

For more information contact SCAS at 803-750-6988, toll-free at 800-438-4790, or via email at scas@scautism.org

SCAS Announces an Asperger Syndrome and Autism Workshop

Wednesday, February 7, 2007
featuring

Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D.

Topic: Understanding Hidden Curriculum

This workshop will be held at the

Columbia Conference Center
169 Laurelhurst Avenue, Columbia, SC

$85 per person or
$70 per person for 5+ group
includes lunch.

Registration: 8:00 a.m.
Conference: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Please call SCAS
803-750-6988 or
800-438-4790
email: scas@scautism.org

From the Desk of the President…

For more information about autism and the many activities of our organization, visit our website at www.scautism.org or call us in Columbia at 800-438-4790 or 803-750-6988 .

January 1, 2007, will start a new pilot program here in South Carolina, the *PDD Pilot Project*. I am very excited about this new program, and SCAS is committed to seeing it succeed and continue.

Though I understand this is not exactly what some families wanted, I believe that we have the opportunity to build a great program that will serve many children whose families may not have any other way to provide more intensive therapy programs.

Under the pilot project, all children who meet the age and diagnosis criteria will have a chance to participate. I am hoping this becomes a ongoing program, so as it expands over the years, all children with ASD will be able to participate.

This pilot project is so exciting to me because it is not dependant on your family having insurance or where that policy is written. This simple factor will allow access to therapy for more children who would otherwise not have these options.

I am not saying that this is the only solution to providing children with intensive therapy, but it is a great start. If we all work together, we can see this expanded to ensure all who need this program have it available to them.

Craig C. Stoxen
President and CEO

Upcoming Events for 2007

January 20—SCAS Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at SCAS

February 7—SCAS Asperger Syndrome and Autism Workshop, Columbia

March 1—Disability Advocacy Day

2007 Goals:

- People need services NOW, not sometime in the future.
- Family support funds are good for the family and good for the economy.
- Self advocates have REAL jobs with REAL pay.

May 4—SCAS Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at Myrtle Beach

May 5—Fun in the Sun Golf, Myrtle Beach

August 18—SCAS Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at SCAS

October 12—SCAS Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m. at SCAS Annual Conference

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 to keep readers informed.

The SCAS main office is in the Palmetto Office Building at 652 Bush River Road, Suite 203, Columbia, SC 29210. Contact information: 803-750-6988 or 800-438-4790; fax 803-750-8121; e-mail *scas@scautism.org* or visit our website at *www.scautism.org*.

Our Horry County branch office is located at 3254 Holmestown Road, #1, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588 or call 843-650-0129.

South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Pervasive Developmental Disorder Pilot Project

During the 2006 session of the South Carolina General Assembly, parent advocates organized a grassroots initiative seeking new legislation that would require insurance companies to provide coverage for the treatment of a Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD). The insurance companies opposed this mandate. As a compromise to both help families and hold insurance companies harmless, $3 million in new non-recurring funds were appropriated to DDSN by the General Assembly. This one-time funding came with specific instructions to the agency, via a budget proviso, regarding the new pilot program to provide therapies to young children diagnosed with a PDD.

The $3 million service funds will not be available to DDSN until December 2006. Over the summer and in early fall DDSN and DHHS completed a Medicaid waiver application, held a public meeting attended by over 50 interested parents, advocates and providers, and met with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) officials. The final version was submitted September 28, 2006 for federal review, which can take up to 90 days.

DDSN is developing information and referral strategies and application procedures, including establishment of a toll-free number. The goal is for the application process to begin in early December with services beginning in January, 2007.

Parents or families interested in applying for services are encouraged to gather the following information and documentation. Having this information and documentation ready will prevent delay of the child's application process. Please:

1. Have copies of records from a qualified health care professional that indicate the child's diagnosis of autistic disorder, Asperger's syndrome or any of the other three conditions classified under Pervasive Developmental Disorder. This may include medical, psychological and adaptive skills evaluations.
2. Have a copy of the child's current IEP (Individual Education Plan).
3. Know the child's Medicaid eligibility status.
   - Is the child currently Medicaid eligible? If yes, please have the Medicaid ID number handy.
   - If you have not applied for Medicaid eligibility for this child, please do so now. You may call toll-free 888-549-0820 Monday–Thursday 8:00 AM–6:00 PM or Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM or go online to: http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/Q&As.asp.
   - If you have recently applied for Medicaid eligibility for this child but not heard back yet, that is okay. DDSN can help you find out the status of your Medicaid application.

Every effort will be made to obtain Medicaid eligibility for each child. This will help more children receive the services they need. However, a child does not have to qualify for Medicaid to get this service.

During the legislative process it was acknowledged that some children were receiving some services through the BabyNet program or through their school. It was clear that the new DDSN program and new funds were not to replace or enhance these pre-existing entitlement programs: those are to continue. The new DDSN initiative is not an entitlement program and is to be separate from BabyNet and education services.

DDSN is posting information about the PDD pilot project on its website at www.state.sc.us/ddsn. The special budget proviso and the Medicaid waiver application are available at this site also. Contact the Autism Division for more information at 803-898-9609

Prepared by SC Department of Disability and Special Needs

New Research

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

Fall is now drawing to a close and children have been back at school long enough for parents to be happy with their child's placement or to have questions about that placement and whether it is the best placement for their child with an autism spectrum disorder. I would like to share an article with you that addresses these issues that are important to both parents and health professionals.

White, Scahill, Klin, Koenig, and Volkmar (2006) have just completed a study "**Educational Placements and Service Use Patterns of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders,**" (J Autism and Developmental Disorders). There is differing research on what is the best educational setting for children with ASD who are higher functioning and this article provides an excellent review of this research. This study did not determine the "best educational setting," but was interested in what determined school placement. This study looked at 101 well characterized, higher functioning students with an ASD (Autism, Asperger's Disorder, or PDD-NOS) from 25 states. Students were between the ages of 5 and 21 (average age was 12 ±3 years) and attended public school in grades kindergarten through grade 8. Both educational placement and service use were examined and the study focused on three questions: (1) What characteristics of children with ASDs are associated with educational placement? (2) Do children with ASDs who receive special services in school differ from those who do not? (3) Do children who move to more restrictive classes differ from those who remain in mainstream settings?

All the children in the study had the following evaluations: ADI-R, ADOS, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, and IQ (full scale, verbal and performance). In this study, there were more children in lower grades and few beyond the 8th grade.

Parents were asked to complete a one page form that asked about school placement, if their child had been identified as having special needs and if so, at what age. They were asked to report on what educational placements (regular or special education) their child had and if their child received any "special services" for each grade the child was in school. The researchers defined **special education** as including those in full-time special education classes and those in combined classes (partial inclusion–some mainstream, some special education). There were relatively few students in combined classes in their study and so they included those with special education. **Special services** meant that the child received speech therapy and/or physical-occupational therapy. The researchers then looked at (1) whether children who received special services differed on cognitive ability, adaptive behavior or degree of symptom severity (ADOS) from those who did not; (2) whether children who were placed in special classrooms versus regular classrooms differed on cognitive ability, adaptive behavior or degree of severity; and (3) whether children who moved from special education to regular classes or from regular classes to special education from grade 1 to grade 8 differed.

The results of the study were interesting. **Based on parent reports across all grades looking at Autism, Asperger's and PDD together, from 50-67% of children were in regular classes with the rest in special education and about 80% of children received special services, with the smallest number in grade 8.** Across the grade levels, the most frequently received special service was speech/language therapy (65%) and physical/occupational therapy (50%). The students who received special services had greater past (ADI-R communication) and current (ADOS communication score) symptom severity. Also, children who received special services in the first grade had lower Vineland communication scores than those who did not. Academic tutoring and social skills intervention services were less frequently reported. There was no indication whether **social skills intervention services** were available in the schools or whether parents were aware of these services. **This appears to be an area of unmet need in schools**.

From grade 1 through 5, there were proportionally more children with Asperger's and PDD in regular education at each progressive grade level, while the proportion of students with Autism in regular education declined. With initial placement, children in special education classes had significantly lower IQ (still within the normal range) and more severe autistic features as measured by the ADOS social and communication scores. Students who remained in regular classes had higher IQ scores. There was a significant difference in IQ scores between children with Autism (IQ=93.8) and children with Asperger's (IQ=108.8) and PDD (IQ=102.3) and in Vineland communication scores for children placed in regular classes in first grade**. IQ and Vineland communication correctly identified the placement of 73% of children in first grade**. One interesting outcome was that children placed in regular classrooms in first grade had a larger discrepancy between IQ and Vineland Daily Living scores (i.e. having a higher IQ did not mean that you had better daily living skills), while children in special education had less of a discrepancy.

Finally, who stayed in their first grade placement and who moved into another placement was examined. There were four groups: (1) children who stayed in regular education, (2) children who stayed in special education, (3) children who moved at some point to special classes, and (4) children who moved at some point from special classes to regular classes. By 8th grade, 18% of children who were in regular first grade education had moved to at least partial special education. These students had slightly higher social deficits on the ADI-R and were more likely to have a diagnosis of Autism.

Students who started in special education and remained there were compared to those who started in regular education and remained there. **Children who started in regular education and stayed had higher IQs, better Vineland Communication scores, and fewer ADI-R communication deficits.** In other words, they had better developed communication skills and less severe autistic communication impairment than students who were in special education.

By 8th grade, 19% of the children in special education had moved into a regular classroom. The only significant difference between those who moved to a regular class and those who stayed in special education was in the Vineland Socialization score. Children who moved to regular education, surprisingly had **lower average socialization scores** than students who remained in special education.

I believe that this study is important because it indicates the importance of early intervention to target improvement of communication skills in children with ASDs. It also points to an unmet need in the schools: social skills interventions. This research also did not evaluate the influence of problem behaviors, such as aggression and tantrums on placement. The authors speculate that this may affect placement even more than communication.

I want to thank all of the families who participate in our research efforts. I also would like to let families know that the Autism research group at Duke University, headed by Dr. Margaret Pericak-Vance, and including our own Dr. Michael Cuccaro will be moving to the University of Miami, Miami, Florida. The move will start in January, 2007, and hopefully everyone will be in place by June, 2007. **Together we can make a difference!**

Editor's note: Dr. Abramson 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 researching the genetics of autism spectrum disorders.*

Research Announcement

Autism Medication Research Study

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine is 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.

2006 South Carolina Autism Society Awards

Advocates of the Year: **Lorri Unumb, Lisa Rollins, Marcella Ridley**

Lorri Unumb wrote "Ryan's Law", legislation passed this year that requires insurance companies in South Carolina to cover physician-prescribed autism treatments. Lisa Rollins and Marcella Ridley spent countless hours personally contacting legislators, securing media coverage, arranging witnesses and supporters for three public hearings. Lisa and Marcella helped rally the local troops and paid for national experts such as Gina Green and Glen Sallows to travel to South Carolina and testify at hearings. The success of the "Ryan's Law" effort, and specifically the new Medicaid pilot program, simply would not have happened without their tireless advocacy.

Lighthouse Award: **Jestine Coaxum**

Jestine Coaxum was nominated by Sam and Spring Slagle for the Lighthouse Award. "In a world that has too often been dark and scary, she has been a source of light and hope not only for our son but for all of the children whose lives she has touched." After 30 years dedicated service as a primary school educator, she returned from retirement to serve as long-term substitute, then assistant for Burton Pack's special needs preschool program.

Residential Staffer of the Year: **Rebecca Harley**

Cecilia & Ernie Velte, Jr. nominated Ms. Roberta Harley for the positive impact she has made on their son, Timothy, as well as the other young men in their residential home, Ponderosa "Shadows," for the last 4 years. She treats each one as special, plans activities, meticulously dispenses medications, prepares delicious and nutritious meals and snacks and has even driven one of the boys for his weekend visit out of town. "She is always friendly and welcoming."

Sibling Advocate: **Casey Williams**

Casey Williams was nominated by her father, Roy Williams, for volunteering to be counselor-in-training at Zoo Camp, in order to look after her little brother, Sean. Thus, she gave him the chance to be exposed to his dream of being a zoo-keeper while sacrificing time during her summer break.

ABA Therapist: **Rebecca Watkins**

Susie Phillips nominated Rebecca Watkins, for her work with Matthew, Susie's son. Susie nominated Rebecca for being "one of the best, most caring ABA therapists in the School District. She truly puts all her heart and energy into her work."

Teacher of the Year: **Carolyn Wright**

Carolyn Wright, a special needs teacher at North Myrtle Beach Primary was nominated by Sue and George O'Neill for her outstanding devotion to and loving work with their grandson, Liem. "Her love and devotion to these children know no bounds."

Professional of the Year: **Elisabeth Davis**

Denise Long nominated Elisabeth Davis, speech pathologist and piano teacher for Denise's son, Tres. Elisabeth's encouragement in music, speech and schoolwork, as well as inspiring Denise to let Tres try different things, which allows him to grow.

North Star of Excellence: **Melanie Marquis**

This award is not only for strength of character in a personal situation, but also for serving as a beacon for other parents. Melanie Marquis was nominated for this award by Sam & Spring Slagle for her love and devotion to her son Ryan, as well as her work with parents of children with ASDs. "More than anything else, she has kept her sanity through her own journey, which encourages us on our most difficult days that maybe we can, too."

'Books to Libraries' Artwork

A special ***thank you*** to all participants in our quest for artwork for the SCAS *Featured Autism Book* project. Participants provided wonderful art projects that we displayed at the October 2006 conference. A selection from the submissions will be used to promote this project, which will provide a children's book about autism to elementary school libraries or media centers for SC schools.

Be sure to look for the poster displaying the selected artwork; facts about autism; and a list of other recommended elementary, middle and high school books about autism spectrum disorders in your school libraries or media centers in April 2007.

2006 "Fun in the Fall" Golf Tournament

Thank you to all event sponsors and players!

Congratulations to the 2006 Golf Tournament winners!

1st place team:
Rick Lang
Bret Marquis
Rich Antinozzi
Mike Moore

2nd place team:
Todd Blake
Bobby Ziegler
John Newton
Sam Cheatham

3rd place team:
Judy Johnson
Bill Reese
Jerry Goad
Brian Teusink

Closest to the pin (#15):
Ron Gregg

Longest drive (#2):
Kay Lafoon

Sponsors

Diamond Sponsor

Zvejniek Family Foundation
Blythewood, SC

Silver Sponsors

Thermal Technologies, Inc.
Blythewood, SC

Bronze Sponsors

Owen Steel
Columbia, SC

Prudential Burroughs & Chapin Realty
Myrtle Beach, SC

Corporate Sponsor

Zeigler Electric Co.
Lexington, SC

Lunch Sponsors

Beezer's Gourmet Sandwiches
Columbia, SC

Groucho's of Blythewood
Blythewood, SC

Reception Sponsor

Piggly Wiggly Charleston Hwy
West Columbia, SC

Special note of thanks for their hospitality to

Woodcreek Farms Country Club
Elgin, SC

Sponsored Holes

Corporate

Carolina Fabricators, Inc.
W. Columbia, SC

Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance
W. Columbia, SC

Craig Stoxen
in honor of SC Autism Society

Family and Friends

Susie & Kevin Phillips
in honor of Matthew

State Farm Insurance Denise Thomas Agency
Lexington, SC

Bret & Melanie Marquis
in honor of Ryan

Self-Directed Support Corporations (SDSCs) in SC

An alternative approach to planning and obtaining supports

The SCAS received a grant from the Developmental Disabilities program to collect information and study the implementation of self-directed support corporations (SDSCs), sometimes referred to as microboards, in South Carolina. This study will include a review of laws, regulations and procedures that would be necessary to implement a microboard, as well as how this approach might be introduced into the provider mix.

A SDSC is a nonprofit organization that is composed of people who *know* and *care* about a person with a disability and is established to assist that person with planning and obtaining needed supports.

The SDSC is a legally established South Carolina nonprofit corporation that carries with it all of the associated requirements. It is established and defined under *SC Code of Laws*, *Title 33, Chapter 31 SC Nonprofit Corporation Act*. The secretary of state has oversight responsibility.

Anyone who knows the person or is willing to know the person and who is committed to having a give-and-take relationship with the person may serve on a SDSC. A relationship is the most important requirement. No specific disability or professional expertise is needed, although it can be very helpful.

We have established an advisory committee to study the use of SDSCs in South Carolina, and we are contacting focus groups to help us understand the processes and information that should be considered before presenting any approach. We have contacted other states for information on their processes as well. More information will be forthcoming as we progress in our research.

Bravo Awards for Fall 2006

Bravo awards are given biannually to deserving school personnel who serve students with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). These individuals are chosen by the SC Autism Society's Parent-School Partnership Program parent-mentors for their dedication and love of students with ASDs. The SC Autism Society is proud to say "Bravo!" to the following individuals:

Ms. Lisa Smith, Special Education Teacher
Mauldin High School
Greenville County School District
Chosen by Anjeanette Dearybury

Lisa Smith is an extraordinary example of a dedicated teacher. She is constantly researching, studying and implementing strategies she feels will benefit her students. Ms. Smith strives to ensure her students leave school as prepared for life and employment as possible.

Michele Dunsford, Consulting Teacher
Horry County School District
Chosen by Denise Garvey

Ms. Dunsford goes out of her way to make sure students get everything they need to be successful. Spending an enormous amount of time pulling everything together, she is truly a gifted person who cares.

Mrs. Beverly Stroman-Spires, Principal
Mellichamp Elementary School
Orangeburg 5 School District
Chosen by Kemberly Greene

Mrs. Stroman-Spires is very dedicated to the rights and education of all special needs children. She has a very inclusive school where all children are treated equally. The expectation level is the same for the special educational students as it is for all the other children in her school.

Mrs. Tracy Weeks, Special Education Teacher
Manning High School
Clarendon 2 School District
Chosen by Melanie Marquis

Mrs. Weeks is the epitome of a dedicated teacher who is focused on the individual needs of her students. She makes sure her students are well-rounded both functionally and academically to prepare them for life after high school.

Special Appreciation
to the SCAS Fall Conference Silent Auction Donors

The SCAS raised $2200 at the 2006 fall conference silent auction, thanks to the following donors:

Cindy Ayers	Fox Sports & Artie Kempner	SC Autism Society
Babcock Home Furnishings & More	Ramey Fulmer	SC Philharmonic
Tyler Caldwell	Nancy Longbrake	Super Duper Publications
Steve Chastain-Frame by Wild Goose Gallery	DiDi Hendley	Beverly Steele
Columbia City Ballet	Becky Hughes	Lynn Stillwell
Harvin Eadon	Imagemakers Salon	Dawn Thomas
Earthfare & Margaret Moore	Monetta Drive-In Theater	Suzi Tolson
John Edwards	Joyce Nielson	Workshop Theater

New Additions to SCDDSN's Qualified Provider List

The SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) announced new additions to its Qualified Provider List. There are two new providers and two current providers approved for expansion. Up-to-date Qualified Provider List (QPL) information is found on DDSN's website at http://www.state.sc.us/ddsn/ Click on *List of Qualified Providers* and browse the database by county or by service for more information regarding each provider. DDSN's national solicitation for service providers continues, and we will continue to inform you when new providers have been approved or where currently approved providers expanded.

Brilliant Beginnings, LLC: Provides Early Intervention services (birth to 6 years) for DDSN Mental Retardation (MR) and related disabilities and autism consumers in Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson and Laurens counties.

Choices for Community Living, Inc.: Provides services statewide to consumers age 22 years and older for the following services. residential habilitation-CTH II, high and low needs/RH-supervised living home I & II/ residential rehabilitation-CTH I respite-hourly, daily, and LPN individual rehabilitation supports/ personal care I/ adult companion and day habilitation, prevocational or facility based rehabilitation services.

Charles Lea Center: Expanded in 3 areas 1) service delivery statewide to consumers of all age groups, all populations for the following services: residential habilitation CTH I, and CTH II (low & high needs) / supervised living home I & II /day habilitation, prevocational or facility based rehabilitation services / supported employment/respite–hourly, daily and LPN and individual rehabilitation supports; 2) service delivery statewide of adult companion services for consumers with MR and related disabilities & autism, age 22 years and older; and 3) service delivery statewide of personal care I services to consumers with MR and related disabilities & autism for all age groups.

SC Mentor: Includes CTH I services statewide for all populations and all age groups.

New Members, July-October

Benefactor
Susan Butler
Brandee Kaye Keip
Wendy Frierson
Sommer Deal Hoffman

Supporting
Carolyn Culbertson
Kelley Crews
Sheri Lamprecht
Traci Sorgenfrei
Hollis Adair
Lisa Eoff

Basic
Marian D'Angelo
Katie Mays
Stephanie Burnette
Deedra Senter
M/M Bob White
Stephanie Bridges
Rosie McInnes
Angela Lembo
April Morales
Livy Fogle, Ph.D.
Susan Beck
Rosetta Penny
Allison Marshall
Michelle Donaldson
Deborah Hood
Ann Lively
Janet Ellis
Ellen Duchaine

Basic (continued)
Rita Jaklitsch
Pam Doughty
Patricia Wilson
Alice Tchou
Karen Fries
Jeaneen Wainman
Patricia McClure
Patricia Voelker
Caren LeGrand
Monica Hadwin
Linda Fuller
Adele Thompson
Angela Jenkins
M/M. Aaron Harmon
Elaine Rohr
Bertha Simmons-Moultrie
Anne-Louise O'Brien
Maria Tolbert

Renewing Members

Benefactor
M/M Phillip L. Hazlett
M/M Duncan Horne

Supporting
Ms. Emily Ridlehoover
Dr. Harry H. Wright
Ms. Briana Jacobs

Basic
D/M Stuart A. Smith
Ms. Carolyn Logue
Ms. Denise Long
Ms. Paula Watson
Ms. Alisia Carey
Ms. Shellia D. Anderson
Mrs. Barbara Drake
Ms. Denise Oxford
Mr. Michael Coxe
Mr. Phil Blevins

United Way

Please support your local United Way.

Allocations and designations are an important part of the SCAS budget.
Thank you for giving.

In Memory of ...

Adrienne Gregg, by Ms. Susan Bennett
Charles Mac Flynn, by Ms. Anne Moser
Evelyn Keith, by Mr. Robert Deans
John Lilley, by D/M William F. Bishop, M/M Duncan Horne, Mrs. Jackie Robey, Mr. Craig C. Stoxen

In Honor of ...

Rebecca, Bob, Jim and Jordan Esslinger, by M/M Gregory Restel

Zoe Bazemore, by Ms. Donna Long

Donors

Meadwestvaco

North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company

Ms. Livy Fogle, Ph.D.

Ms. Susan Snurr

Ms. Jeaneen Wainman

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 SDSCs (aka Microboards)
- Parent-School Partnership -parent mentors assist families
- Providing books and DVDs about autism to libraries

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

2007 Board of Directors

Chair
Joyce Nielsen *

Vice Chair
Roy Williams *

Secretary
Becky Hughes *

Treasurer
Mitchell Yell

Immediate Past Chair
Margaret Moore *

Honorary
Alex Holbert +, Conway

Directors
Renee Collins *, Irmo
Chris Heeringa *, Sumter
Erik Drasgow, Columbia
Susie Tolson *, Bennettsville
Denise Chastain *, Goose Creek
Susan Kastner *, Mauldin
Amy Weeks *, Aiken
Sarah Pope *, Myrtle Beach
Cheryl Bauerle *, Myrtle Beach
Tim Conroy, Columbia
Erik Norton, Columbia
Susan DuRant *, Columbia

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.

SCAS Staff

		Ext.
Craig C. Stoxen	President & CEO	106
Vickie Stowe	Admin. Assistant	100
Sheila Raulerson	Admin. Assistant	109
Mary Bennett *	Bookkeeper/FAB	105
DiDi Hendley	PA-SDSC/*UPDATE* Ed/Web Ed	113
Jan Mandeville *	Parent Liaison	
Kimberly McAlister	Dir. of Development	104
Susie Phillips *	Special Events Coord.	104
Pam Scott *	Program Coord.	102
Lynn Stillwell	I&R Specialist	108
Paula Devan	Office Clerk	108
Edwina Jackson	Dir. Service Coord.	111
Shalonda Armstead	Service Coordinator	112
Courtney Fulton	Svc. Coord. (Horry)	
Jennifer Dupree	Service Coordinator	112
Harvin Eadon	Svc. Coord. Assistant	112
Amy Gary	Svc. Coord. (Horry)	
Angie Magin	Service Coordinator	114
Lauren Rosinski	Svc. Coord. Assistant	110
Melanie Marquis *	PSP Coordinator	101
Deborah Chaddock +	Prog. Assistant, PSP	103
Mentors, Parent-School Partnership	*All ext.*	103

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

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
www.scautism.org

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

* *denotes parent of child with an autism spectrum disorder.*
\+ *denotes relative of person with an autism spectrum disorder.*

SCAS Welcomes the 2007 Chair and Vice Chair

Joyce Nielsen is serving as chair for the SCAS Board of Directors. Joyce served as SCAS chair during 1999-2000 and is currently serving as the board chair of the Family Resources Center for Disabilities and Special Needs in Charleston.

Joyce's motivation for involvement to such a high degree is her 21-year-old son, Andrew. Andrew is high-functioning and is currently pursuing his GED and is learning to drive.

Because Joyce and Andrew received so much local support when Andrew was young, she feels that it's time for payback. The more involved she is, the more it helps Andrew, and hopefully others benefit as well.

Joyce's goals for SCAS include a successful capital campaign and purchasing a building to house the organization. Expansion would be a great asset as well.

Roy Williams is serving as vice chair for SCAS Board of Directors. Roy, an engineer, has been involved with SCAS since his 11-year-old son, Sean, was diagnosed approximately eight years ago. In 2001, Roy graduated from Partners in Policymaking and became a SCAS board member.

Roy would like to see SCAS in a new office building and have a successful capital campaign. He would also like to see the SC education system recognize autism for the prevalence that it has in today's education system. The education system seems to recognize other disabilities more readily, such as hearing or sight impairment. However, with the high incidence of ASDs today, each school district in SC should have a core competency on this matter now and be as effective in handling the issues faced by their ASD-related students at least as effectively as they assist students with other disabilities.

Volume 34, Issue Four
December 2006

652 Bush River Road, Suite 203
Columbia, SC 29210

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

South Carolina Autism Society
Together We Can Solve The Puzzle