

AUTISM Seminar

& Special Needs November 20, 2010

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



Elayne and Rod Pearson **Hidden Treasures of Health**

Elayne and Rod: Disability Advocates
Elayne: Health Recovery Educator, Author, and Online Talk Show Host for www.thewinonline.com
www.hidden treasuresofhealth.com

"Re-charge Your Relationship" - Main Theatre from 11:10am – 12:00pm

Statistics reveal marriages with a disabled child are unraveling and ending in divorce. Our guests, Elayne and Rod Pearson, have 4 amazing daughters, including Heidi, who has complex disabilities. Their home-life was burdened with challenges, yet, they maintained their marriage and family, and today, they've ALL managed to survive "Hurricane Heidi." They will offer tips on how to "Re-Charge Your Relationship" and reveal their techniques for living "Happier Ever After" while surviving and thriving.

GUEST SPEAKERS: (In alphabetical order)

Leah Adamik M.A. BCBA

Skill Sprout – Family Time Café from 3:10pm – 4:00pm
www.skillsprout.com

Originally, from Bourbonnais, IL, Leah Adamik, M.A., BCBA, has been working since 2006 with children and adolescents who have Autism and other Developmental Disabilities. Many children with Autism and related Developmental Disabilities engage in problem behaviors. This presentation will focus on defining those behaviors, determining their function, and strategies for decreasing those behaviors. Emphasis will be on replacement behaviors to decrease problem behaviors, including, increasing Verbal Behavior as a replacement behavior.



Tracy Bongiorno PA-C and Sonja Hintz RN

True Health Medical Center – Engbretson Hall from 1:00pm – 1:50pm

"How Biomedical Treatment Can Support Your Child With Special Needs"

Ms. Bongiorno PA-C, received her Masters in Physician assistant studies at Finch University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School. There, she studied many areas of medicine, with a special interest in pediatrics. She also received her B.A. in psychology from the University of Iowa. Tracy has worked in the area of biomedical interventions, specializing in treating autism and ADD, with Dr. Anju Usman since 2003. Ms. Hintz, RN graduated from Marquette University nursing school in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She has worked as a public health nurse, psychiatric nurse, and neonatal intensive care nurse. After the birth of her second child, Sonja was compelled to reevaluate the traditional medical paradigms she had espoused in order to meet the needs of her son who was identified as being on the autism spectrum at 3 years old. Through the use of integrative therapies such as therapeutic diet, homeopathy, herbs, vitamins, essential oils, and chelation in addition to traditional therapies (e.g. speech and language, occupational therapy etc.), Sonja's son has recovered from autism. For the past 30 years she has been helping other children improve the quality of their lives.



Dr. Shawn Daugherty, MD

Streamwood Behavioral Center – Main Theatre 3:00pm – 3:50pm

"Strategies and Resources for Middle and High School age children on Autism Spectrum"

Dr. Daugherty is currently the Director of Psychological Services at Streamwood Behavioral Health Center where he runs the doctoral training program. He created and is the director of SBHC's inpatient PDD unit. Dr. Daugherty was previously the Clinical Coordinator at Little City Foundation's Children's Residential Program and directed the Autism program. He has served as a consultant to many school districts in the Chicagoland area for the development of educational programming for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.



Dreama Denver

The Denver Foundation, and author "Gilligan's Dreams"

Engbretson Hall 2:00pm - 2:50pm

Live Interview and Book Signing - "My Life with Bob Denver, raising an autistic son, and the work of the Denver Foundation"

For nearly 30 years, Dreama Denver was married to legendary television personality Bob Denver, best known to millions of fans around the globe for his two television iconic roles...first as Maynard G. Krebs, the hip beatnik in THE MANY LIVES OF DOBIE GILLIS...and as the lovable Gilligan in the classic sitcom GILLIGAN'S ISLAND. The story of the Castaways on Gilligan's Island lives on in syndication, and continues to air worldwide over 40 years after production of the original show ended. A working actress who was hired as one of the very first cast members at Walt Disney World, Dreama appeared in dozens of theatrical productions throughout the U.S., appearing opposite stars of the day including Sal Mineo, Doug McClure and Gale Gordon. She met Bob when the two were cast as love interests in a theatre production of Woody Allen's "Play It Again Sam", and went on to tour and perform together for many years. Dreama also appeared in the final Gilligan's Island TV movie and co-starred with Bob and a young Joey Lawrence in a TV pilot called "Scamps" before retiring from acting shortly after the birth of their severely autistic son Colin. The two raised Colin together in Dreama's native West Virginia before Bob's untimely passing in 2005. Dreama carries on the Denver name as the head of the non-profit Little Buddy Radio and The Denver Foundation, helping disadvantaged children and continuing to spread smiles as Bob did throughout their life together. Dreama's memoir, Gilligan's Dreams, will be released in 2011 to coincide with an upcoming Gilligan's Island major motion picture.



Mary Anne Ehler, CFP

Protected Tomorrows – Hall of Honors 1:15pm – 2:05pm

"Eight Step Future Care Plan"

Mary Anne Ehler, CFP®, is president and founder of Protected Tomorrows—a business driven to help families plan a safe and fulfilling life for their loved ones with special needs or who are aging. She is highly regarded as a specialist in working with the growing number of families of individuals with disabilities and the elderly. Her expertise is driven by her relationship with her sister Marcia, an individual with disabilities. Ehler serves as a member of the Board of Directors of many organizations providing services to children and adults with special needs including: National Disability Institute in Washington DC; Advisory Board for Pediatric and Acquired Brain Injury Association; Illinois Special Olympics; Gateway to Learning School for Special Needs; and, Illinois St. Coletta's. She has recently completed her book "The Gift I Was Given."



Jack Glambrone

Mid America Service Dog Foundation.org – Family Time Café 4:10pm – 5:00pm

"Dog Assistance For Those With Special Needs" – Live Demo

Mid America Service Dog Foundation.org places service dogs & companion dogs with physically and developmentally disabled children & adults, at no charge to the recipient. We rely completely on donations. The program also follows the new team throughout the life of the dog, with continuous training and any changes that may arise. When a child enters school we attend school staffing, or assist with training updates that may be needed when the child changes from grade school, high school, college, or drivers ed, if necessary. Dogs are specifically trained to meet the needs of their new partner depending on their needs. Picking things up, opening doors, hearing alert for hearing impaired people, pulling a wheelchair, or bracing. A trained service dog may take up to 2 years for complete training. We also place companion dogs with developmentally disabled children who usually do not receive public access and do not usually receive a vest. Those disabilities may include autism downs syndrome, angelmans syndrome, etc. This presentation will include a live demonstration.



Dr. Travis Russell

Chiro One – Main Theatre 4:00pm – 4:50pm

Originally from Tuscola, IL, Dr. Travis Russell is a New Lenox Chiropractor that proudly serves as Clinic Director of Chiro One Wellness Center of New Lenox. Dr. Travis pursued undergraduate studies at the University of Illinois where he earned his Bachelor's of Science in Kinesiology as well as a University coaching endorsement. He later received a Bachelor's of Science from Logan College of Chiropractic in Life Science where he also received his Doctorate of Chiropractic. Dr. Travis is a member of the American Chiropractic Association, the ACA Council on Sports and Physical Fitness and is a past faculty member of Logan College of Chiropractic. Dr. Travis became a chiropractor to make a difference in the lives of his community. As a New Lenox Chiropractor, it is his personal mission "to enroll as many people as possible into a better life for themselves" and his personal vision that all people live a full and long life. Dr. Travis believes that all people deserve to lead healthier lives and that all people lead healthier lives through Chiropractic.





Alexa Hartrich MS, MSW
National Alliance of Mental Illness of Greater Chicago
Family Time Café – 1:10pm – 2:00pm

Alexa Hartrich is a recent graduate of Erikson Institute – a graduate school dedicated solely to early child development where she received her masters in child development. Alexa also holds a Masters in Social Work from Loyola University of Chicago with a concentration in mental health and substance abuse. Finding appropriate treatment and resources for children and family who are living with mental illness is a top of Alexa's priority and is a large chunk of her work at National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Greater Chicago. Alexa will be presenting on the symptoms, treatments, and support available for children who are living with Major Depressive Disorder or Bipolar Disorder.



Jr. Cuisine Cooking Show (PBS)
Allergen Friendly Live Cooking Demo! – Family Time Café 10:00am – 10:50am

Jr. Cuisine is cooking in the kitchen! Come see our live cooking demonstration on allergy-free recipes! Jr. Cuisine is a new kids cooking show for-kids-by kids featuring guest chefs and foods from all around the world. We visit local restaurants and companies to educate kids on food and nutrition related topics! The show airs December 18th on PBS Station WYCC every Saturday at 11am.



Dr. Kimberly Middleton MD-DAN Physician
"Introduction to Biomedical Therapy for autism" – Hall of Honors 10:15am – 10:45am

Dr. Kimberly Middleton received her medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago in 1997. She completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of Illinois and went on to study Maternal Child Health at West Suburban Hospital. She is board certified in Family Medicine and focuses on women and children's health, preventative, anti-aging, regenerative and functional medicine. She began working with children with autism in 2009 and went on to become certified by the Defeat Autism Now Organization. She now applies a traditional as well as a biomedical approach to therapy as she practices in Tinley Park, IL. She is a member of the American Medical Association and an active fellow of the American Academy of Anti-aging and Regenerative Medicine. She is also an Associate Clinical Professor at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine where she teaches medical students.



Dr. Ashly Ochsner and Robyn Stoetzel RN, BSN
Maximized Living Autism Whisperers/Prevention and Recovery
Main Theatre 9:10am – 11:00am

Dr. Ashly Ochsner is a licensed Chiropractic Physician and holds a Bachelor of Science degree and Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic. Dr. Ochsner has more than 10 years of total experience in natural health care. He is the Founder and President of Health From Within Wellness Centers, Inc. Dr. Ochsner leads and coaches an exceptional team providing all aspects of patient care including education, corrective chiropractic, customized nutrition and detoxification. No stranger to the treatment of ASD, Dr. Ochsner, has focused the majority of his professional career working with children on the spectrum seeing amazing results. A big believer in Autism awareness, Dr. Ochsner supports Generation Rescue, Autism One, Autism Society of Illinois, and the Autism Research Institute. He is also proficient in the Defeat Autism Now! protocols and is a Generation Rescue Registered Doctor. He has now developed the Maximized Living Autism Whisperers Recovery Program and is bringing it to other doctors and professionals. To learn more or to contact Dr. Ochsner, go to www.healthfromwithin.net.

Robyn Stoetzel RN, BSN

Graduated from Coe College in 1995 and received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She has worked in several University Hospitals across the country as an Oncology Nurse and Risk Manager. Robyn is currently working in 2 Chiropractic offices in the Chicagoland Suburbs as a Bio-Nutritional and Detoxification Consultant. She has advanced training in the recovery of the current Epidemic of Neurotoxic Illnesses including ASD. She is certified and proficient in "Defeat Autism Now" protocols and approaches as well as Bioenergetic Evaluations. She serves as a Generation Rescue Angel supporting parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. She is currently assisting with the development of the "Autism Whisperers Recovery Program" for Maximized Living.



Scott Nixon
Life's Plan Inc. – Engbretson Hall 3:15 – 4:05pm
"Special Needs Financial Planning"

What is a Special Needs Trust? How does a pooled trust program operate? Also, discussion will include how public benefits can affect estate planning for someone with a disability and their family members. When should Guardianship be considered? How does an agent under Durable Power of Attorney and a pooled trust program work well together to effectively serve families in need with limited resources? The discussion will answer many of these questions and more. Long term planning options for someone with a disability and their family can create many more complexities to an attorney's estate plan. Having all the available resources out there and information are imperative to best serving these individuals and their families.



Dr. L. Partha PhD, LAC
Holistic Health – Hall of Honors 9:15am – 10:05am

Elayne Pearson
Hidden Treasures of Health – Main Theatre 1:10pm – 2:00pm
"Our Trials and Triumphs: Heidi's Holistic House of Recovery"

An overview of Elayne and Rod Pearson's journey with their daughter, who has Down Syndrome and late-onset Autism. They found affordable alternatives to the expensive doctors, hours of therapists, and tricky diets. Heidi made significant improvements that helped their quality of life. Learn about holistic tools and common-sense concepts that other families facing similar challenges may consider.



Sasha Koroleva-Regalado, M.Ed.
Achieve Beyond – Main Theatre 12:10pm – 1:00pm
"Navigating the Jungle of Treatment For Autism"

For a family with a child diagnosed with autism, the treatment options are numerous and can be very overwhelming. It is important to find the interventions that are supported by research and evidence based. This ensures that the time and resources are being used wisely on treatments that have been shown to be the most effective. This workshop will provide parents and professionals the tools and information to evaluate treatments based on their effectiveness, available research, and their relevance to each child.



Andrew Salata
Social Security Administration – Engbretson Hall 4:15pm – 5:00pm

Andrew Salata has worked for Social Security since September 1994. He is currently a Public Affairs Specialist for Social Security Administration. Andrew has held various positions within Social Security. Andrew will conduct a workshop on Social Security Benefits, online services, and provide information on working while receiving disability



Terrie Silverman
AIT Berard Auditory Integration – Engbretson Hall 9:10am – 10:00am
"The Affect On The Overall Sensory System In Children With Autism"

This presentation will focus on the questions that often arise after a child completes the 10-day Berard AIT session: Why is my child sleeping better? Why will my child now taste new foods? How is it that an auditory training program affects changes in handwriting, gross motor and fine motor skills? My child became toilet trained during AIT, why is that? I can't believe it, he is riding his bike for the first time, no assistance! Our O.T. says that our daughter is more regulated and focused. Before AIT, I had pixilated vision, and now I do not. Why? The list goes on and on. We will discuss the published research, the anecdotal evidence/body of knowledge, and theories, which abound, as to why we consistently observe such a wide variety of changes after Berard AIT.

Ginny Trainor, LCSW, CADC
The Jason Foundation – Hall of Honors 4:15pm – 5:00pm
"The Parent Resource Program for Youth Suicide"

The Jason Foundation is a not for profit organization dedicated to providing education and raising awareness about the silent epidemic of youth suicide. This presentation offers statistics, reviews general warning signs and elevated risk factors and reviews how to respond to a youth in crisis.

Vernola Thomas
Good Shephard Center - Engbretson Hall 10:10am – 11:00am

I am the Mother of 18 year old twins, the youngest was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 3. I did not want my son to become a statistic, I became his advocate to assure he received services to reach his maximum potential. In this presentation I will relate my personal stories of struggles, triumphs, and happiness.