2014 Promising Pathways 7th Annual Conference
Florida Gulf Coast University
Estero, FL
April 12th, 2014

a conference for families, educators, and health care professionals addressing autism spectrum disorders

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Roy Richard Grinker
The George Washington University
Dear Conference Attendees:

The Promising Pathways planning committee is pleased to present our 7th Annual Conference on Best Practice in Autism, with keynote speaker Roy Richard Grinker.

The conference is a community event, provided free to the public, and coordinated by a regional volunteer planning committee including parents of children with autism and interested community members, as well as representatives from the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, Florida Gulf Coast University, Lee County School District, Collier County Public Schools, and Family Care Council. We are thankful for the time and talents our committee has provided.

Each year we welcome 400 parents, educators, healthcare workers and community members interested in serving individuals with autism to this conference. We have never charged for attendance. It is only due to the generosity of community and business members who sponsor this event that we are able to continue offering the conference at no cost to attendees. We encourage you to take the time to visit our vendors and learn more about the programs and services available in our area. If you are interested in supporting next year’s conference or joining our planning committee, please contact us.

We hope that the investment of your time today provides you with new knowledge, insight and contacts. We welcome your feedback and will be providing a post-event survey via email.

Sincerely,
Leigh Anna and Carolynne
Co-Chairs, Promising Pathways Planning Committee

Ms. Leigh Anna Nowak
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Armando Galella
Catholic Charities of Collier County
Dr. Marci Greene
Dean FGCU-College of Education
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Parent & Elly Hagen Marketing & PR
Duska Hepner
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Dr. Britt Stroud
Golisano Children's Hospital of SW Florida
Margaret Sullivan
Florida's State Personnel Development Grant
Cayle Thompson
WINK News

In Memoriam:
Mike Jones
Charlotte County Schools
Professor Grinker received his B.A. in Anthropology from Grinnell College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from Harvard University. He has served on the faculties of Harvard University, Carleton College, and The George Washington University, and was a senior Asian Fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States in Washington, D.C. from 1996-1998.

Dr. Grinker explores autism from an anthropological perspective; asking questions such as, where did autism come from; who came up with the term and under what historical and cultural influences and how do different countries recognize and treat autism, and why do their approaches differ? He investigates evidence of autism before it was known as autism, and shows how even today its existence in various countries continues to be often unacknowledged and misunderstood, and the consequences of how different societies approach the diagnosis and existence of autism.
## Session Information

**Concurrent Session 1 – 11:00AM - 12:00PM**

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<td>The Agency for Persons with Disabilities: Services, Funding, &amp; Eligibility</td>
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<td>Teacher Educators and Business Entrepreneurs Collaborate to Develop Sustaining Career Opportunities</td>
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## Session Information

**Concurrent Session 2 – 1:00PM - 2:00PM**

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Concurrent Session Information

**The Agency for Persons with Disabilities: Services, Funding, & Eligibility**

**Services**
The APD works in partnership with local communities and private providers to assist people who have developmental disabilities and their families. APD also provides assistance in identifying the needs of people with developmental disabilities for supports and services. The agency serves more than 50,000 Floridians with the following disabilities: Autism; Cerebral palsy; Spina bifida; Intellectual disabilities; Down syndrome; Prader-Willi syndrome.

_Geraldine Williams, The Agency for Persons with Disabilities_

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**Autism: Legal and Financial Implications**

**Legal**
The presentation will cover the legal and financial opportunities that are available from birth to death for a special needs individual including topics such as SSI, SSD, Pre-Need Guardianship, Guardian Advocate, Guardianship, the procedure to qualify for both Medicare & Medicaid, Special Needs Trust, Group Homes, and the ability of the special needs child to collect against the parent's social security for the rest of the child’s life.

_Dr. Jess W. Levins, Attorney, Levins & Associates LLC_

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**Befriending the Gameboy: The Effectiveness of Buddy Programs for Students with Autism & At-Risk Students**

**Education**
The purpose of this presentation is to explore the importance and effectiveness of buddy programs for students with autism spectrum disorder and their typical peers. This presentation will address effective buddy programs that are already in place, the steps to creating a buddy program in an elementary setting, and how buddy programs can also benefit typical peers that may be considered "at risk."

_Dr. Beth Wilt, New Teacher Mentor, University of South Florida_

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**Challenges and Benefits of Being an Adult on the Autism Spectrum**

**Adult Living**
The speaker, an adult on the spectrum, will review some of the challenges, as well as some of the benefits, of living with autism. The presentation will focus on the obstacles that needed to be overcome and the resources that were used on the speaker's path to becoming a successful adult. The speaker will also bring to light some of the talents that individuals with ASD have that employers may find useful.

_Brad Karpel; Featured Speaker*

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*Featured Speakers have been invited to present first hand experiences as individuals living with autism.*
**Comparing Two Strategies to Teach Vocal Intraverbal Behavior**

**Communication**

Comparing the efficacy of echoic prompts and ASL prompts to teach intraverbal responding in 4 boys with autism. The results indicate that the use of verbal prompts paired with an ASL prompt lead to faster acquisition rates. Interobserver agreement was conducted for 100% of the sessions. Mean agreement was 97.5%.

**Dr. Renee Terrasi, BCBA-D, Peace by Piece**  
**Kurtis Shrewsberry, BCaBA, Peace by Piece**  
**Dan Zink, BCaBA, Peace by Piece**

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**Guardianship and its Alternatives. When do you need to remove rights?**

**Legal**

This program will review powers of attorney, health care decision making and guardianship to compare the pros and cons of each and when each should be used. It will also discuss the choices in guardianship proceedings between Guardian Advocacy and traditional guardianship.

**Lance McKinney, Attorney, Osterhout & McKinney, PA**

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**I’m Ready for College But I Can’t Find My Backpack: Executive Functioning Strategies**

**Education Transition**

Most college age adults with learning differences have challenges in areas of social, organizational, and executive functioning skills. Many go off to a traditional college but are not successful because their school or college does not provide the day-to-day supports they require. Even though these bright young adults have great potential, many will return home from college, isolate themselves, and lose motivation. This session will review & teach executive functioning strategies and key areas of support that can help this growing population transition successfully. Join this interactive session where you will have a chance to take a look at and strengthen your own “EF” skills while learning effective intervention strategies to help your students succeed.

**Stephanie Brown, Admissions Coordinator, College Internship Program**

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**Music Therapy: An Introduction for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

**Education**

This presentation introduces music therapy for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Topics include a historical overview, followed by applications: assessment, music therapy methods, and adaptations with other approaches (i.e., ABA & SCERTS). Emphasis will be given on how music addresses specific domains of intervention in particular ways. Future directions are proposed based on state-of-the-art practice and evidence-based research. Audio-visual examples and experiential activities highlight main points.

**Michael Rohrbacher, Ph.D., MT-BC, Florida Gulf Coast University**

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*Featured Speakers have been invited to present first hand experiences of individuals living with autism.*
**Navigating Air Travel**

**Transportation**
The session will cover advances in screening technologies and processes, and information about screening resources and requirements.

  *Robert S. Cohen, Federal Security Director*

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**Pragmatics and the Art of Socialization**

**Social/Behavioral**
Will explore the different social and pragmatic challenges that students with autism face. Attendees will see how it affects these students, academically, socially and behaviorally. There will be different scenarios that will be examined in an in-depth manner. Methods, strategies and interventions that will make the student's educational experience more positive and to create a better classroom environment.

  *John Miller, Featured Speaker*

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**Splashing our way to Playfulness: An Aquatic Playgroup for Young Children with Autism**

**Social/Behavioral**
Play is essential to childhood and becomes increasingly social with age. This presentation explores the results of an aquatic playgroup on a group of children ages 2 to 3 diagnosed with autism. Children demonstrated statistically significant increases in playfulness as a result of participation in the 6-week summer playgroup.

  *Sarah Fabrizi, MHS OTR/L, Florida Gulf Coast University*

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**Tantrums or Meltdowns**

**Social/Behavioral**
The term “meltdown” is often heard in the world of autism. This refers to a group of behaviors that appear to be a temper-tantrum, however, the two terms are not synonymous. It is important to differentiate a meltdown from a temper tantrum, as they serve two very different purposes. Responses and interventions must be carefully crafted based on the purposes and functions of the behavior.

  *Angela Saunders, Coordinator, Passion4ASD*

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**Teacher Educators and Business Entrepreneurs Collaborate to Develop Sustaining Career Opportunities**

**Employment Transition**
The purpose of this presentation will be to present the key aspects of the development of a unique teacher/entrepreneurship preparation program that meets the needs of post-secondary individuals within the Autism Spectrum and provides pre-service teachers with a wider breath of options for future employment.

  *Dr. Kim Stoddard, Associate Professor, University of South Florida St. Petersburg*  
  *Dr. Bonnie Braun, OTR/L Coordinator of Clinical Experiences, USFSP*  
  *Vicky Westra, Owner/Founder - Artistas Cafe/Art for Autism*

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Concurrent Session Information

Ten Ways to Elicit Social Referencing in Children with Autism

Communication

Research has concluded that social referencing and joint attention are critical to development of social communication. Many clinicians are not taught how to remediate deficits in social referencing and begin intervention at the level of requesting or verbal communication. Children with ASD can learn to increase social referencing to develop social thinking and communication that is dynamic and flexible. Ten simple techniques to elicit social referencing are explained through video vignettes of social referencing in normal social development and autism. Participants will learn to identify social referencing and understand the connections between social referencing, joint attention, anxiety, and social communication. Delivered in two sessions as Part 1 and Part 2.

Ellen Hemrick, MS CCC-SLP &
Charlene Westman, MA CCC-SLP

Utilizing the iPad to Foster Academic Progress and Executive Functioning for Students with High-Functioning Autism

Education

The accessibility and simplicity of the IPADs design lends itself to be an academic tool for students with autism. I will show how the makeup of the IPAD plays on the student with autism's visual learning style. Attendees will be taken on a journey through different apps that are native to the IPAD and those that can be purchased. Areas such as organization, academics, research and homework will be covered. People will see real world applications through examples.

John Miller, Featured Speaker*

What in the World is Autism? Global and Cultural Perspectives

Awareness

Dr. Grinker explores autism from an anthropological perspective; asking questions such as, where did autism come from; who came up with the term and under what historical and cultural influences and how do different countries recognize and treat autism, and why do their approaches differ? He investigates evidence of autism before it was known as autism, and shows how even today its existence in various countries continues to be often unacknowledged and misunderstood, and the consequences of how different societies approach the diagnosis and existence of autism.

Roy Richard Grinker, Ph.D.

Thank you for attending. A survey will be sent to your email address. Please take the time to complete the survey and provide feedback on the conference. Your feedback will inform us as we plan future conferences. We look forward to seeing you at the 2015 8th Annual Conference on Best Practice in Autism.

Promising Pathways Planning Committee
Special Thanks to Our Presenting Sponsor:

Thank You to All Conference Sponsors: