

TACCLD

Transition And Communication Consortium On Learning & Disabilities

Autumn 2007 Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 1

**Greetings from the President,
Leah Monaghan**
Otterbein, College
Disability Services Coordinator

Greetings from your new TACCLD President! Allow me to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Leah Monaghan; I am the Disability Services Coordinator at Otterbein College and have been a TACCLD planning committee member for over 6 years. I am excited to take over for Lois Burke who served as President for TACCLD for 7 years. The entire planning committee is grateful to Lois for all of her hard work and dedication to this organization over the last several years.

The 2007 TACCLD conference was an overwhelming success as we celebrated “20 Years of Transition”. For the third year in a row, the TACCLD Conference was held at the Blackwell Executive Hotel and Conference Center at The Ohio State University. Our morning kicked off with a keynote address from Elizabeth Cobey-Piper, a professional dating coach who happens to have a learning disability. Elizabeth poignantly shared her own story of transition from high school to college and then on to the world of work. Like many students with disabilities, this path was not always smooth and she took one or more detours in the process. Her motivational story was a perfect beginning to our 20th conference. In addition to all that we learned during our day of concurrent sessions, Caity McCandless and Marge Hazelett organized a very successful silent auction and raffle. With your generosity, TACCLD was able

to raise over \$1000 from both the silent auction and the raffle. Together with the generous contribution from Elaine Steinfurth, TACCLD again was able to present scholarships to five deserving high school seniors with learning disabilities.

As we embark on our 21st year, TACCLD is making some changes. First, there has been a change in our name. We are now TACCLD! Don’t see the difference? TACCLD now stands for Transition and Communication Consortium on Learning & Disabilities. By adding the “&”, TACCLD is hoping to broaden the focus of our conference to include not just students with learning disabilities but also students whose learning is significantly impacted by hidden disabilities such as autism spectrum disorders, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, and psychiatric disabilities. While we have had sessions on these topics in the past, we felt it was time that our title reflected this focus. In addition to our name change, TACCLD is also increasing our presence on the web with hopes to implement web registration and an electronic newsletter for 2009.

As always, the TACCLD planning committee is hard at work planning the 2008 conference. This year, the planning committee has seen a surge in new members, each with new ideas, enthusiasm, and energy to make 2008 our best year ever. Our new members include Elizabeth Cobey-Piper, Connie Zang, Lorraine Hartke, Lisa Besnoy, Enjie Hall, and Terry Brownell. Our theme for the 2008 conference is “Extending the Bridge” to reflect our inclusion of other types of hidden disabilities. Our keynote

speaker for the 2008 conference is Ann Palmer, the author of *Realizing the College Dream with Autism or Asperger Syndrome: A Parent's Guide to Student Success* and *Parenting Across the Autism Spectrum: Unexpected Lessons We Have Learned*. She will speak to us about her experiences with her son as she prepared him for life after high school and about her successes in forming positive relationships with service providers along the way. We also have an exciting array of concurrent sessions in the planning stages including topics such as summer sessions for students with disabilities, what disability services offices can do for students and their limitations, Ask the ADA Coordinator, and a session on an e-mentoring program. We hope to see all of you at the 2008 conference at the Blackwell on Wednesday, February 27, 2008. As always, we would appreciate any contributions of items to the silent auction. All proceeds from the silent auction and raffle go to the TACCLD scholarship fund. If you don't find anything to bid on, contributions to the scholarship fund are always welcome. See you in February!

The Transition and Communication Consortium on Learning & Disabilities

Presents:

The 21st Annual TACCLD Conference

**EXTENDING
THE BRIDGE**

Wednesday - February 27th, 2008

At The Ohio State University
Blackwell Executive Hotel & Conference Center

A Parent's Struggle and Realization

Ann Palmer

Sixteen years ago...

Sixteen years ago, my husband and I were driving home from an appointment with a developmental pediatrician where we had just been told that our son had autism. It was a cold, gray day with rain pouring down. I cried all the way home as my husband drove. A couple months ago, I found myself once again, riding in the car while my husband drove, on a gray, rainy day and I was crying all the way home. Everything was different, but it felt so familiar.

Sixteen years ago, the pain I felt was because of my fears for my son's future, my sadness for the life he would have ahead of him, and for the loss of our dreams for our child. I was scared and not sure I could handle all the responsibilities I would have as a mother of a child with a disability. I was scared for my son, for the pain he would feel because he was "different". I was hurting for my husband and the pain he was obviously feeling but trying not to show so he could be strong for me. I was scared because I knew our life would never be the same again.

Two months ago, when I was crying and looking out the car window on another rainy day, the memories of that day sixteen years ago came back to me so vividly. This time I again felt pain because of my fears for my son's future. I again felt sadness for the possible life he has ahead of him and the pain he may feel because he is "different". Again I am not sure I can handle the responsibilities I am going to have as his mother. I am hurting for my husband, who again is feeling pain but staying strong for me.

But this time there is so much more. Sixteen years ago we were grieving for the loss of the dreams we had for our son. My tears now are in celebration for the new dreams we have for him. I am celebrating how far he has come and how hard he has worked. I am celebrating how far I have come as his mother and how much it has meant to me and to our family to have him in our lives. I know there will be

hurdles and difficult times to come, but I am confident that we can survive them. This rainy day, for what seems like the first time, we experienced something that is “normal” for parents. We left our first child, our son with autism, in his dorm room at college and headed home. Again, I know our life will never be the same.

Ann Palmer
October, 2001

It has been several years since I wrote the above article for a local newsletter. My son is now starting his fourth year at a large university about thirty miles from our home. He lives in a single room in a dormitory on campus and comes home every other weekend. He has survived living independently. College has not been easy for him, but he loves it and is doing fine academically. He continues to prefer being alone reading books or watching videos and he looks a little odd when he paces and talks to himself sometimes. His autism will always be a big part of who he is but despite his disability, or maybe because of his disability, he is a wonderful and unique young man who likes who he is. The road to this point in his life has not been easy but the road ahead looks promising and full of opportunities we never expected. On that sad, rainy day of his diagnosis, my husband and I could never have imagined that he would be able to achieve so much.

I’ve learned a great deal since that day many years ago. If I could tell families of young children with disabilities anything, I think I would tell them to try not to worry as much about the future. Focus more on the present, on loving your child, on learning to accept them for who they are. Your dreams for your child may have changed from those you had before the diagnosis, but you will make new goals and dreams and will experience many unexpected celebrations along the way. We just need to remind ourselves when things seem especially discouraging or difficult that our real hope for our children’s future, all of our children, typical or disabled, is that they be happy and loved and have a full life. That is one dream we can all hold on to and work towards and reach!

Sycamore High School - Disability Services Initiative

Lorraine Hartke

Sycamore High School, a public high school in Cincinnati, Ohio, has worked diligently to allow their students to have access to assistive technology. The students in the special education program, along with students that are not identified are encouraged to use programs to support their ability inside and outside of the classroom.

Students consistently use a program called Kurzweil, a program that reads scanned textbooks, books, homework assignments, anything that the student might type, and compatible websites. The program is very useful for students who have the accommodation of having tests read, which is on their IEP. Kurzweil is a tool that helps students who struggle with reading, writing, and/or comprehension. The program has allowed many special education teachers more time to work on deficit areas with other students, rather than having to read a test during that same time. The program also encourages independence and helps build student’s confidence, along with reducing test anxiety for some.

Sycamore also encourages students to use Alpha Smarts during their school day. They are portable keyboards with a 3 line screen that enables students to type in class during a lecture. It saves up to 9 files and is transferable to a computer program such as Microsoft Word in 3 very simple steps.

For students who do use Kurzweil consistently at school and are fluent in the program, the school allows those students to use a Kurzweil ‘To Go’ program on their home computer. The school also has Zoomtext for students who are visually impaired, which is particularly helpful to those students who are in technology infused English courses.

NEW Scholarship for Students with ADHD

This year TACCLD will be able to offer a \$1000 scholarship solely for students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). This contribution is possible due to the generous contribution from Terry Brownell, a new TACCLD Planning Committee Member and the parent of a very successful student with ADHD. This is one of a few scholarships for students with disabilities, let alone ADHD. This \$1000 will greatly assist a deserving student make the successful transition from high school to college. I thank Terry on behalf of the TACCLD Planning Committee and all TACCLD members.

Check out
TACCLD.org!



TACCLD is now online at
www.tacclld.org

You can access information about TACCLD, the TACCLD conference, registration forms, past newsletters, helpful links and other TACCLD information.

TACCLD now stands for Transition and Communication Consortium on Learning & Disabilities.

College Spotlight - Disability Services at Wright State University

Holly Wright-Brown

Wright State University is a nationally accredited state university with 109 undergraduate degree programs and 46 Ph.D., graduate or professional degree programs. The main campus founded in 1964, is located 12 miles northeast of Dayton, Ohio with a second campus in Celina, Ohio. The enrollment is approximately 12,700 undergraduate students, and 3,300 graduate students, 94% of who are Ohio residents and 13% of who are underrepresented students.

Wright State offers an impressive range of study with more than academic programs, research projects and internships at great companies, state-of-the-art facilities, and extracurricular opportunities. Wright State has a commitment to teaching, rare in a university of its size. With 700 faculty members, average class size is 25 with a student-faculty ratio of 20:1.

The Office of Disability Services at Wright State University has been in existence for over 30 years and was in place before there was a mandate for such offices. This office provides services to students with disabilities in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Approximately 500 students with disabilities are registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS).

The Office of Disability Services provides academic support in the form of classroom and laboratory accommodations including sign language interpreters test proctoring, and reading or writing assistance. ODS also has a technology center where materials are put into alternative formats including audio CDs, e-text, and Braille for eligible students whose disabilities prevent them from using standard print. Approximately 450 books, or

100,000 pages of text are produced in the ODS Technology Center each year along with 30 Braille books!

The Office of Disability Services also has a Certified Adaptive Technology Specialist to provide technological accommodations for computers, as well as consultation to departments and faculty on accessible lab development and distance learning opportunities. ODS also has a psychologist on staff who conducts psychoeducational and psychological evaluations as well as provides consultation services and works collaboratively with ODS staff to ensure implementation of appropriate academic accommodations.

There are two very unique programs offered by the Office of Disability Services at Wright State University. First, personal assistance is available to students with

physical disabilities for daily activities such as personal hygiene, eating, and laundry. Wright State has a state-of-the-art personal assistance station located in the Student Union. Approximately 50 students use the personal assistance program each year. Second, ODS has a career and vocational support program where students are offered assistance with networking, searching for paid and unpaid work experiences, internships, resume writing and other vocationally related issues such as disclosure of a disability. A career fair specifically for individuals with disabilities, including students, is held annually at Wright State.

For more information about disability support services/accommodations at Wright State University, go to their web site at www.wright.edu/students/dis_services

TACCLD PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2007-2008

Lisa Besnoy, Disability Services, Northern Kentucky University
Kay Bishop, Marysville High School
Lydia Block, Ohio Wesleyan University / Block Educational Consulting
Terry Brownell, Parent Advocate
Lois Burke, Office for Disability Services, The Ohio State University
Michelle Butler, Center for Advancement of Learning, Muskingum College
Patty Carlton, Office for Disability Services, The Ohio State University (Retired)
Elizabeth Cobey-Piper, Advocate
Wayne Cocchi, Department of Disability Services, Columbus State Community College
Tammy Cooper, Marysville High School
Enjie Hall, Office for Disability Services, The Ohio State University
Lorraine Hartke, Kings High School
Marge Hazelett, Disability Services, The Ohio State University - Marion Campus
Chris Keck, Office for Disability Services, The Ohio State University
Mike Kinney, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission
Scott Lissner, ADA Coordinator's Office, The Ohio State University
Michelle McLane, Disability Services, The Ohio State University – Mansfield Campus
Charla McAbier, EHOVE Career Center
Caitlyn McCandless, Office for Disability Services, The Ohio State University
Leah Monaghan, Office for Disability Services, Otterbein College
Karen Meyer, Disability Services, The Ohio State University - Lima Campus
Kristen Rinehart, Plus Program – Muskingum College
Elaine Steinfurth, Parent Advocate
Connie Zang, Disability Services – The Ohio State University – Newark Campus

2007 TACCLD Scholarship Recipients

- David Allison** Thomas Worthington High School, Worthington, Ohio
Activities: Swimming/Diving Team, Water Polo, Scholastic Art Competition, Field Studies Program, Scholar Athlete, Eagle Scout
Post-Secondary Choice: University of Dayton
Major: *Visual Communication Design and Marketing/Advertising*
- Jacob Decot** Marysville High School, Marysville, Ohio
Activities: National Honor Society, Mock Trial
Buckeye Boys' State, Cross Country
Post-Secondary Choice: Columbus State Community College
Major: *Paralegal*
- Bradley Duncan** St. John's Jesuit High School, Toledo, Ohio
Activities: National Honor Society, Integrity Committee,
Recipient of Loyola Scholarship, Three-Sport Athlete
Post-Secondary Choice: Ohio State University
Major: *Engineering*
- Julianne Howell** Greenon High School, Springfield, Ohio
Activities: PSEO at Clark State Community College, Women's
Golf, Drama, FFA, 4H, Part-Time Job
Post-Secondary Choice: Urbana University
Major: *Intervention Specialist*
- David Nicol** Marysville High School, Marysville, Ohio
Activities: Marching Band (Superior Ratings, Section Leader),
Leo Club (Vice President), MHS Website, Part-Time Job
Post-Secondary Choice: Marion Technical College
Major: *Business Management*
- Jessica Waite** Fort Frye High School, Beverly, Ohio
Activities: National Honor Society, FFA (officer), 4-H,
FCCLA (President), Student Learning Disabilities Tutor
Post-Secondary Choice: Washington State Community College
Major: *Psychology*

2008 TACCLD Scholarship Application

(This form is available online in MS WORD on the TACCLD web site at <http://tacclld.org/forms.html>)

The Transition and Communication Consortium on & Learning Disabilities (TACCLD) will be awarding seven scholarships, \$1,000 each, at the 21st annual conference on Wednesday, February 27th, 2008. The conference will be located at the Blackwell Inn on the Ohio State University campus. High school students who have applied to post-secondary programs are eligible to be nominated for this scholarship. The student may have applied to a trade school, two or four year college or any other setting that provides formal training and education. The scholarship may be used for payment of tuition, books, or supplies.

Eligibility

The nominee must be a student with a learning disability in high school who is applying to post-secondary institutions. The seventh scholarship will be awarded to a student with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) who is applying to a post-secondary institution.

Criteria for Award

A committee will review all nominations and will choose the recipient based on the student's academic record, career goals and compensation for his/her disability. Students who have planned realistically and are most likely to benefit from the award will be given the most serious consideration.

Documentation (all materials must be typed)

Please submit 5 copies (as a packet for each reader of the scholarship committee) of the following materials:

1. TACCLD Scholarship Nomination Form (below – please print/does not have to be typed)
2. High school transcript (only one official and 4 copies)
3. A letter from the nominator explaining in detail the reason the student is deserving of the award
4. Two letters of support from teachers, guidance counselors, employers, etc.
5. Any newspaper clippings, examples of work, or anything else that shows the student's achievement
6. A typed or taped essay developed by the student that addresses each of the following:
 - Career goals
 - Why a particular post-secondary setting was chosen
 - Plans for compensating for disability in post-secondary setting

TACCLD Scholarship Nomination Form
Deadline: January 18, 2008

Name of Student _____

School _____ Year in School _____

Student Address _____

Student Home Phone _____ e-mail address _____

Name of Nominator _____ Position _____

School _____ School Phone Number _____

School Address _____

Home Phone Number _____ e-mail address _____

Please mail completed application materials to:
Charla McAbier
758 West Martin Avenue
Amherst, Ohio 44001

All application materials must be postmarked no later than January 18, 2008. Incomplete materials will not be considered. NO EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE. Please call Charla McAbier at 419-499-4663 ext. 357 with any questions.