Farewell Message From Theron Pitre, Chairman of the Board of Directors for ASAC

My time as Chairman has come to a close. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for allowing me to serve as your ASAC Chairman for the past two years. I have been honored to serve, and the experience has allowed me to grow as an individual. Over the past couple of years, I have been able to meet so many of you, our members. I have been able to go out in our community and advocate for ASAC. Our organization has been blessed with so many wonderful volunteers, friends, and family members that want to help our loved ones with autism. ASAC has given me so much and for that reason I am grateful.

When my family joined ASAC seven plus years ago, I did not know where this organization would take us. Needless to say, our experience has been wonderful. There were so many helpful people that took us in and allowed us to deal with our son’s autism head on. Thanks to Vickie Nettles, Carolyn Tate, and Stephanie and Dwayne Bourgeois, who were the first ones there for us. Since then there are so many more we could thank for the support given to our family, too many to mention. I have made so many friends from our group. Thank you for sharing your time, experiences and stories with us. I would also like to take time to thank a very important group of individuals; those members of the first two Boards for ASAC that served with me. Their support and efforts were immeasurable. Each one of the members gave insight to help me to make more informative decisions and also was there to lend an ear when I had issues to discuss. Your work on the board really has set a standard for ASAC to follow in the future, and we are all grateful to you for your service.

Just a few years ago, I was able to really get involved, not only with ASAC, but also our friends of the Lafayette Sertoma Club. I want to take this time to thank Sertoma for all that they have done for our organization, and for what they did for me personally.

I still plan to remain active as an ASAC member just not as part of the Board. As we all know, there comes a time in which we need to be with our family. My son, Ethan, is now 10 years old, growing up more each day and I need to spend more time with him as he goes through the next stage in his life. My wife, Terri, has been patient with me while I tended to the day-to-day work of ASAC, and many times had to put her plans for our family on hold. The ultimate THANK YOU goes to them, Terri and Ethan, the ones who made the true sacrifice. Without them there is no possible way for me to have done all of the things I did. Thank You, and, “I Love you, Terri and Ethan”.

I am aware that serving is by choice and I am in no way complaining, nor is this about me. I just feel so honored to have served and I want all to know that we have a great organization, one to be proud of. Each day that I was able to talk to anyone about ASAC, my job was easy because of you, the members, and what our mission statement is. I encourage each one of you, if you can, to take part in ASAC in some way.

I hope that each of you enjoy your summer vacation time, be safe, and share some special time with your children while they are out of school. Thanks to all, and have a great summer!

Autism Society of Acadiana, ASAC, Announces New Members on its Board of Directors

ASAC is proud to announce its new board of directors who will begin their terms on July 21, 2009. The ASAC Board will also choose members for its Advisory Board at the next meeting.

There are 7 returning members and 11 new members. We thank all of our board members who choose to serve the organization in this manner and encourage all of you to consider ways you may contribute your own talents and energies to ASAC.

Board members are:
David Chachere - parent
Dan Kiburz - parent
Scott Bussey - parent
Ron Chauffe - professional
Tara Harvey-Gros -professional
Stephanie Bourgeois - parent
Denise LeBlanc - parent
Donna Andrus - parent
Michele Bienvenu - parent
Kathy Boudreaux - parent
Hester Bourdier - parent
Michelle Mayer - parent

Sarah McNamara - professional
Angie Motte - professional
Terri Pitre - parent
Bambi Polotzola - parent
Annie Spell - professional
Darrell Thibodeaux - parent
Congratulations to Lydia Huckabee on her two awards:
**Most Improved in French II and Highest GPA in her Ag I class. Way to go, Lydia!!**

Congratulations to Catherine Nettles, who received the Shining Star Award, and a Pieces to the Puzzle certificate at the 8th Grade Movin’ on Up ceremony. Catherine also made an "A" in her Family and Consumer Science class and a "B" in Social Studies!! Mom and dad are so proud of you, Catherine!! Good luck at Lafayette High next school year!

**Micah Broussard** received two trophies at the end of school awards program; one for having Honor Roll the entire year and one for having A’s in Conduct all year! Micah performed in her 6th year dance recital for June’s Dancers on June 2nd and did awesome! Micah and her Daddy had a terrific time at the Girl Scouts Father-Daughter Dance!

Toby Lastrapes graduated from 6th grade at Grolee Elementary. He was awarded the Citizenship Award and the prestigious Principal Award.

Chance Bourgeois received a certificate for maintaining a 4.0 average for his entire Freshman year! Chance also scored a core total of 97 on his iLeap test!! Yeah Chance!! Your mom and dad are so proud of your achievements.

Brandon Fontenette made the 5th grade Honor Roll at Broussard Middle.

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**ASA Community Mourns Passing of Dr. Ted Carr**

Pioneer Psychologist Transformed Understanding and Treatment of Autism Behaviors

Bethesda, MD (June 22, 2009) -- The autism community lost a great leader this weekend, Dr. Edward Carr, who was killed by a drunk driver the afternoon of June 20. Dr. Carr, the Leading Professor in the Department of Psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, was a top advisor to the Autism Society. We are deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and colleague and his wife, Ilene Wasserman, who was also killed in the crash, and we send our thoughts and prayers to their family.

Dr. Carr was recognized internationally for his research on new treatments for autism and related disabilities. He co-developed Functional Behavioral Assessment and Positive Behavior Support, a strategy for dealing with learning and behavior issues endorsed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Dr. Carr wrote numerous articles on autism treatment and authored the bestselling book, Communication-Based Intervention for Problem Behavior (Paul H. Brookes, 1994). He has received numerous awards, including the Applied Research Award in Behavior Analysis (American Psychological Association, 2001) and the Distinguished Research Award for Career Achievement (ARC, 1999).

Dr. Carr was a strong supporter, valued contributor, and beloved colleague at the Autism Society. As a member of the Autism Society’s Panel of Professional Advisors, he was a frequent contributor to the Autism Advocate, most recently co-editing an issue on ABA therapy which was one of his many areas of expertise. With Drs. Martha Herbert and Brenda Smith-Myles, Dr. Carr developed the Autism Society’s Treatment Guided Research Initiative and was the main inspiration for the “Quality of Life” objectives the Society uses to develop and evaluate its programs. A frequent presenter at the Autism Society National Conference, Dr. Carr was scheduled to moderate this year’s keynote panel on “The Future of Autism” on July 23. The panel will continue to be held in his honor.

“Ted was passionately committed to improving the quality of life for people with autism and their families,” said Lee Grossman, President and CEO of the Autism Society. “Those of us who were privileged to work closely with him will miss his insights, his humor, his deep compassion and advocacy for people affected by autism. We will miss him greatly but we will ensure his legacy lives on.”

“Dr. Ted Carr was a pioneer in the field of positive behavior supports and autism spectrum disorders. His focus on enhancing quality of life and understanding of the systemic issues surrounding behaviors forced practitioners to think more broadly when designing interventions,” said Dr. Cathy Pratt, Chair of the Autism Society Board of Directors. “He was a gentle man and quiet innovator with a quick wit and amusing perspective. His work will truly live on and serve as an inspiration for generations to come.”

Dr. Carr was Past President of the Association for Positive Behavior Support and a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

In Dr. Carr’s honor, the Autism Society has set up a Tribute page for colleagues, friends and admirers to post their thoughts and messages on Dr. Carr at www.autism-society.org/ted_carr_memorial. The page will be shared with his family and colleagues.

Carin Yavorcik
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Meet Your ASAC Leaders and Fellow Members: An Interview with Carolyn Tate, "A Trailblazer": Part II - Christopher

By: Michelle Mayer, Co-Editor of ASAC Newsletter

In our last issue, I introduced you to Carolyn Tate, one of the founding members of ASAC. She is the mother of Christopher, who is a nonverbal adult on the spectrum, as well as Jamie (24, neurotypical), and Lauren (21, neurotypical). In this, the second part of the interview, you will learn about Christopher himself.

M: How old was Christopher [when you helped found the group]?
C: He was 6 or 7.
M: What were his rights to an education back then?
C: Much like today. He was in a self-contained class (since he was 3).
M: How many were in that class?
C: At that time there were probably 7 or 8. We were in the old J Wallace James in a building in the back, behind everybody. We had a teacher and two aides.
M: How many were autistic?
C: All of them.
M: Was the class the only type of its kind?
C: Yes.
M: These children were from all over Lafayette?
C: Yes.
M: What was your family's reaction to Christopher's diagnosis?
C: My mother knew there was something. I didn't, because he was my first one. I had nothing to compare him to, but I had friends who had kids who were progressing at different levels and Christopher was not. My mother worked for a [local] doctor and she's the one who pushed me to the Parent/Child Center and tried to get him evaluated and diagnosed. But they were OK with it. In fact, they rode with us that day to New Orleans, and we drove back that night and it was like "OK, what do we do?"
M: Were you afraid when you became pregnant again, that you'd have another child with autism?
C: No, back then they were saying there was something about the genes. And people would ask me about it. This was about the mid 80's. But no, I wasn't afraid. I've heard a lot. I mean a lot about causes, but in Christopher's case, they don't apply.
M: What in your opinion has been the greatest thing about the public awareness?
C: The reaction of the public to our kids. The development of all the different therapies. Granted it doesn't apply to [Christopher] right now. Back then he didn't have all of that.
M: I know...compared to what I have available to my son...
C: ...it's night and day.
M: Yes.
C: Just to be able to tell people your child is autistic and not have them look at you like "what the heck is that?" They might not completely understand, but they have a clue. Some things...I don't have a clue about. People ask me, "What is autism?" I answer, "You tell me!"
M: When you used to take Christopher out in public....
C: I always have.... I have always treated Christopher like I did my girls. If he does something he shouldn't, he gets punished. If he does something he should...he gets praised for it. I don't stop going somewhere because of Chris.
M: What was the ugliest thing someone has ever said?
C: No one's ever really told me anything...I've had looks. And many times my youngest will give [people] the look back.
M: What is the relationship between Christopher and his sisters?
C: Fantastic!
M: Is it protective?
C: Oh yes, very. When Jamie was little, they're 6 years apart, she was like his little momma. Then with the teenage years everything shifted. Now he prefers Lauren. He asks for Lauren. If Lauren asks him to do something, he'll do it faster than if Jamie asks him. They do well with him. They've always known there's something different about their brother. We've tried not to change things in their lives. When they were involved in sports, we brought Christopher with us. You try to keep it as normal as possible for the normal ones. You do realize that some things do have to change a little bit, but as far as their brother...they take care of their brother.
M: What can Christopher do for himself?
C: He can eat!!!!!
M: How is his diet?
C: Whatever I fix him, he'll eat. You have to serve him, but he doesn't care for vegetables. I don't care for vegetables! Rice and gravy, stuff like that. He's never been a picky eater like some of our kids [with autism].
M: Can he bathe himself?
C: No
M: But he is potty trained?
C: Oh yes....

(Continued on page 6)

The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent toward them; that's the essence of inhumanity. -George Bernard Shaw
Certified Safety Training, LLC Announces Swimming Programs for Individuals with Disabilities:

**Parents and Children with Disabilities Aquatics**
This course is designed to help parents/caregivers orient children with disabilities to the water. Instructors will show how to help children become comfortable in and around the water so they can be ready to enter the Learn to Swim program. Developed for children 6 months to 5 years old.
Tues./Thurs. 12:00 pm

**Learn to Swim for People with Disabilities**
This course is designed to teach people with disabilities to swim and be safe in, on, and around water. Course level will be varied to meet individual learning needs in order to make swimming fun and safe.
Tues./Thurs. 12:45 pm
Tues./Thurs. 4:00 pm

**Water Aerobics for People with Disabilities**
This course will focus on health and fitness activities in the water for people with disabilities. Exercises will focus on cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and flexibility, and weight management. This form of aerobic exercise is designed for adults regardless of fitness level or swimming ability.
Tues./Thurs. 1:30 pm

**Water Aerobics for Children with Disabilities**
This course will focus on health and fitness activities in the water for children with disabilities. Exercises will focus on cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and flexibility, and weight management. This form of aerobic exercise is designed for children regardless of fitness level or swimming ability.
Wed. 5:30 pm & Sat. 1:00 pm

For more information contact Kay LeBlanc at (337) 739-6875

**Conferences, Workshops, and Events**

**SibShop**
SibShop is a program for the siblings of children with disabilities.
Families Helping Families of Acadiana
510 W. University Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70506
July 25th
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Contact Bernadette Myers at FHF for more information,
1-800-378-9854

**LA State Autism Chapter Conference**
November 6-7, 2009  Holiday Inn Lafayette
Keynote Speakers: Linda Hodgdon, M.Ed., CCC-SLP, and Dr. James Ball, Ed.D., BCBA
Registration forms available online! You won't want to miss THIS one!
www.lastateautism.org or 1-800-955-3760 for more info

**3rd Annual Back to School Summer Bash**
ASAC-St. Landry
(Open to All ASAC members)
When: Saturday, August 15, 2009
Time: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Where: 175 Highway 743, Opelousas (Home of Bambi Polotzola and Family)
Swimming and Toddler Pools, Waterslides, Games and Activities, Food, Drinks and FUN!!
Contact Bambi at 369-2885 =Bring swimsuits, towels, and lounge chairs=

**ASAC - Iberia/St. Martin**
3rd Annual Back to School Blowout on August 2nd, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the new City Park in New Iberia. City Pool will be closed to public for this event. Food will be provided! Contact Darrell at 577-0986 if you have any questions.

**3rd Annual Back to School Summer Bash**
ASAC - Lafayette is having its Annual Back-to-School Swim Party at Riverside Swim Club, August 2nd, 6:30-9:30 pm. Food provided; you just need to bring soft drinks for your family. Must be an ASAC member to participate. The membership form is available online at www.acadianaautism.org. If you have any questions, contact Vickie at vpar3auadv@yahoo.com or 236-6658. Come on out to have fun with us!

**ASAC - Lafayette**
LA State Autism Chapter Conference
November 6-7, 2009  Holiday Inn Lafayette
Keynote Speakers: Linda Hodgdon, M.Ed., CCC-SLP, and Dr. James Ball, Ed.D., BCBA
Registration forms available online! You won't want to miss THIS one!
www.lastateautism.org or 1-800-955-3760 for more info

For more information contact Kay LeBlanc at (337) 739-6875

For kids 15 and under
Kids can bowl 2 free games a day all summer! Register at the following website to get your passes by email:

[Website Link]
Special Olympic Young Athletes Program
This is a program for athletes who do not yet qualify for competition in Special Olympics. Skills stressed will be those needed to begin competition in Special Olympics when participants reach age 8.
When: July 18th, August 1st, Sept. 19th, and Oct. 10th.
Where: St. Edmond Church - Family Center
4131 West Congress St., Lafayette
Who Qualifies: Ages 2 to 7 - The purpose of this session is to work on motor skills, build social relationships, and provide a fun experience for the special population.
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Hosted By: St. Edmond Knights of Columbus, Council #10293 & St. Edmond Catholic Church
Who to Contact: Charmaine at 981-5456 or charmnoel@cox.net
Registration: Please call or e-mail Charmaine Noel to register or for more information.
* Parents are required to be present with their child during the sessions.

Rainbow Aquatics is now accepting new applicants for their swimming program for individuals with disabilities. Rainbow Aquatics is under the supervision of Teri Perkins. Participants are accepted on a first come, first served basis. The fee for one-on-one instruction is $75.00 for 3 weeks. For more information, please call Teri at 654-0080.

IEP Boot Camp
Obtain knowledge on the “basics” you need to become a full participant in your child’s educational planning. We will also discuss key points that relate to strategies to ensure a successful new school year.
Date: Saturday - August 15th
Time: 10:30–11:30 am

Date: Wednesday - August 19th
Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Location: FHF of Acadiana Office
Presenter: Valerie Balser
Call to register: 337-984-3458, or 800-378-9854.

ASAC sponsors Boy Scout Troop 16 for boys with and without a disability. Contact Darrell Thibodeaux for more information on this exciting program! (337) 577-0986.

Louisiana State Autism Chapter Board Meeting
833 Julia Street
Amelia, LA 70340
August 22, 2009
Contact Vickie Nettles, vpar3auadv@yahoo.com, or Carolyn Tate, tate05758@bellsouth.net

ASAC welcomes and congratulates Dr. Kathy Allen on her promotion to Executive Director of FHF of Acadiana. Dr. Allen is a native of New Orleans who has a young son with Down Syndrome, Joshua. ASAC looks forward to a continued strong partnership with FHF and encourages all families to contact Families Helping Families when needing: assistance with school issues; to access the Lending Library (which has a good selection of books on autism); to learn about legislative issues in LA which involve disability issues; become involved with LaCAN; to participate in SibShop, a program for the siblings of kids with disabilities; and much more! Contact FHF for more info, (337) 984-3458 or 1-800-378-9854.

IEP Boot Camp
Obtain knowledge on the “basics” you need to become a full participant in your child’s educational planning. We will also discuss key points that relate to strategies to ensure a successful new school year.
Date: Saturday - August 15th
Time: 10:30–11:30 am

Date: Wednesday - August 19th
Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Location: FHF of Acadiana Office
Presenter: Valerie Balser
Call to register: 337-984-3458, or 800-378-9854.

Another Successful Family Bowling Night!
Once again ASAC’s support satellite group, Just Dads, hosted a very successful and well-attended 2nd Annual Family Bowling Night on June 16th at Lafayette Lanes. The event was free to ASAC members and their immediate families. Refreshments were provided and a good time was had by all!

A Gluten Free Bakery in Baton Rouge! Truly Free Bakery, 4321 Perkins, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808. Physical location is just west of the Perkins Road and College Drive intersection, located in the Southdowns Shopping Center. Truly Free Bakery Office hours: 8:00 am to 7:00 pm CST 7 days a week. Ordering and Questions: (225) 448-3146; Fax: (714) 464-4145. Check out their website: www.trulyfreebakery.com

ASAC has chapter t-shirts with our logo!
Contact Terri Pitre at 330-2030, or email tlptree@cox.net, for more information!
Help Promote Autism Society of Acadiana and Autism Awareness all year long!
Meet Your ASAC Leaders and Fellow Members: An Interview with Carolyn Tate, "A Trailblazer": Part II - Christopher

By: Michelle Mayer, Co-Editor of ASAC Newsletter

(Cont’d from page 3)

M: At what age?
C: OK…don’t get mad, because when I tell everybody this they get mad! He was 2.
M: Are you serious?
C: Yes!!!
M: You would not say Christopher fits the stereotype of autistics being non-affectionate....
C: Oh no! Even with his verbal problems, he is higher functioning than most kids. He’ll acknowledge you (Christopher extended his hand to shake mine three times during the interview), he’ll go up to you and hug and kiss you. His worker….he stays kissing on her, hugging on her.
M: How does he fit the stereotype?
C: We do have language problems. We do have some social problems because he’s nonverbal.
M: Does he stim at all?
C: He does a little…he twirls [a bead necklace]. At Mardi Gras time, he’s in heaven! We’ll have Mardi Gras beads all over the place. If he’s upset, I’ve noticed that if you give him a necklace and let him twirl you can see that it calms him. So I always have a necklace in my purse or something he can twirl.
M: Is there anything he’s phenomenal at?
C: No.
M: Does he cover his ears?
C: No…sensory is really not a problem for him.
M: That’s amazing! Is he a flight risk?
C: Not anymore. When he was 12 or 13 years old, he went through a phase where he would leave and go find a swimming pool. I found him in a neighbor’s pool and I didn’t even know they had a pool.
M: Is he on medication?
C: Yes, two. One is for behavior and one is for seizures.
M: He has seizures?
C: Yes, his first one was when he was 21 years old and it was in his sleep. The last one was 2 years ago and it was a grand mal.
M: So, he’s considered to be epileptic?
C: Once you have one seizure…that’s it.

M: Has he ever had a job?
C: No. I’ve tried [various things]. Christopher likes to be active. He won’t sit and assemble things, his behaviors will kick in. I have given [potential employers] options like letting his worker go with him…she knows when it’s time to direct him. But “no”.
M: What else do you see our state lacking [for adults with autism]?
C: Jobs and housing. Granted, as long as you’re in the public school system and you get your [services] you’re fine. Once you’re 22 and you’re out of the system – that’s a whole different ball game.
M: So the resources just aren’t there?
C: There’s nothing there. It’s like you get out of school and you drop off the face of the earth. And we’ve told the people this. Our kids don’t die at 22. They can live to be 50 to 70 years old!

(End of Interview)

(Please contact Michelle via email at michelle@professionalarts.com if you would like to be interviewed and profiled for the newsletter.)

An Announcement from Autism Society of America

Bethesda, MD (June 23, 2009) -- The Supreme Court of the United States ruled yesterday that the parents of a child with a disability are entitled to reimbursement of their child’s private education. The Autism Society applauds this decision which ensures families are fairly compensated when their school districts cannot or will not provide a free and appropriate education. The Autism Society appreciates the ruling which crossed ideological lines, looked specifically at a case where the child, T.A., had not received special education services from the school district. In question was whether the 1997 amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) authorized reimbursement for a private school placement only if the student had previously been receiving special education services.

The six-to-three ruling, which crossed ideological lines, looked specifically at a case where the child, T.A., had not received special education services from the school district. In question was whether the 1997 amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) authorized reimbursement for a private school placement only if the student had previously been receiving special education services.

According to the Slip Opinion handed down by the Court, in the case of T.A., the school district found the child ineligible for special education services and denied him an individualized education plan (IEP), despite his diagnosis as having a disability by a private specialist. The Slip Opinion further cites that a hearing officer had found that the school district had refused T.A. a “free and appropriate public education” (FAPE) and that the unilateral move to a private institution was appropriate under IDEA.

The Opinion of the Court, authored by Justice Stevens, expressed that the narrow reading of the 1997 amendments to IDEA would create a rule “bordering on the irrational” and that it was “particularly strange” for IDEA to provide for cases where inadequate special-education services were provided, but not for the “more egregious situation” of a school district refusing to provide any services at all.

“Far too many parents have felt the painful consequences of watching precious time slip by after their child has been denied FAPE for an irrational reason,” said Jeff Sell, Autism Society Vice President of Advocacy and Public Policy. “Hopefully the Court’s decision will bring this type of wrongful conduct to an end once and for all and students will get the appropriate education that they are entitled to under IDEA.”

A dissenting opinion, authored by Justice Souter, was joined by Justice Scalia and Justice Thomas.

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Autism Society of Acadiana, ASAC, is a regional autism chapter of Autism Society of America, ASA. ASAC is the premier autism support organization in Acadiana.
Two huge efforts are underway at this time. The Autism Treatment and Acceleration Act, or ATAA, and the Autism Lifespan Respite Act. Both are supported by Autism Speaks and ASA. Please visit the sites to see what YOU can do to support this legislation.

The ATAA covers quite a few objectives such as: a pilot program to create Autism Care Centers to provide a one-stop-shop for healthcare and educational training and family support; create an array of services for adults; public and educational awareness campaigns; establish a national network for research initiatives for purposes of sharing data, findings, and treatment models; establish a National Training Initiative; and also provide for insurance coverage for autism treatment and therapies which are evidence and research-based.

The Autism Lifespan Respite Care Act, strongly backed by ASA, urges everyone to contact their legislators to fully fund the Life-Span Act which was passed into law in 2006. To this date, Congress has only authorized 2.5 million. This is simply NOT ENOUGH to meet the needs of families who need help with daily caregiving responsibilities.

Click on the Vote4Autism logo on the ASA website's home page, www.autism-society.org; get more info and take action!!

Dr. John Oller, former ASAC board member and nominee for ASA Board of Directors, has two new books soon to be available.

(Oller, J. W., Jr., & Oller, S. D. (2010). Autism: The Diagnosis, Treatment, & Etiology of the Undeniable Epidemic. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. The upsurge in autism spectrum disorders is not uncaused. The current epidemic is no longer plausibly deniable nor is it unrealiable. The first step toward successful treatment, however, is an accurate diagnosis followed by discovery of the underlying causes — etiology. This book, with a Foreword written by Dr. Andrew Wakefield, addresses these issues with its primary focus on etiology. The research shows “autism spectrum” disorders are being caused mainly by toxins, disease agents, and their interactions. Genetic factors are important but cannot be the sole causal agents. This book addresses causation at an introductory level but without skipping on the research. It presents many new findings from current ongoing research and from the historical study of vaccines.


Dr. Oller, we are so proud of you, your work for autism, and all of your successes in the fields of research and publishing!!

ASAC will receive proceeds from the Corvette Club Raffle in October. Tickets are only $1.00 each! Cash prizes will be awarded! Please see your facilitator at each support group meeting or contact Theron Pitre at 369-2885, or via email, tfpitre@yahoo.com, for ticket info. ASAC members will also be asked to volunteer at the Corvette Rally.

Dads, here is an event that is just perfect for you! Please contact Theron if you would like to volunteer for the Rally.

At its last meeting, the Autism Society of Acadia’s board of directors decided that membership will no longer run only from May to May of each year; people may join our organization at any time.

Our most basic ASAC membership level includes a $10 membership fee. This level of membership entitles one to receive a quarterly newsletter and eligibility for stipends. Membership Renewals are currently due now for those who became members around this time last year. Your membership will be good for 12 months after payment is received. Next year, you will be sent a renewal statement at or about this time.

We urge you to join our national parent organization, Autism Society, as we are a regional chapter. The benefits of being an ASA member are: knowing a national organization is there lobbying for you and the interests of your family; receiving The Advocate, the quarterly magazine publication of Autism Society; being able to receive email Action Alerts which will give you instruction on how to voice opinions and comment on national legislation or proposed bills; being able to receive the AS-Net, which is an e-newsletter on current Autism Society activities, regional and local chapter activities, and anything related to autism; and being a part of the oldest autism grassroots organization in existence today. Autism Society also puts on a phenomenal conference each year. In 2010, the Autism Society national conference will be in Dallas, TX - fairly close by!! This year the conference is in St. Charles, Illinois. See the Autism Society site for more info: www.autism-society.org.

Please join our organization, Autism Society of Acadia, ASAC, the premier volunteer-led autism support organization in Acadia! See our website for all current information, www.acadianautism.org and/or to download and print a membership form. For any additional questions, please contact Michelle Mayer via email at michelle@professionalarts.com.
ASAC Support Groups and Facilitators: All may be reached via the chapter’s website and by calling 337-369-2885.

ASAC - Lafayette: Vickie Nettles & Sabrina Hagan, facilitators
ASAC - St. Landry: Bambi Polotzola, facilitator
ASAC - Iberia: Darrell Thibodeaux & Anne Porche, facilitators
ASAC - Vermilion: Carmelite Leach, facilitator
Just Dads - Dwayne Bourgeois & Theron Pitre, facilitators

** Autism Society of Acadiana follows the Options Policy of the Autism Society of America. We do not endorse any one particular therapy over another and provide information on various treatments and therapies for informational and educational purposes only.

Helpful iPod and iTouch Apps!

"Behavior Tracker Pro is an iPhone/iPod Touch application that allows BCBAs (Board Certified Behavior Analysts), behavioral therapists, aides, teachers or parents to track targeted behaviors and graph them. The application was specifically designed to improve the behavioral treatment plans for children with Autism; however, it can be used to track behavior in any field." To read more about it: http://www.behaviortracker-pro.com/btp/Welcome.html. To purchase, go to the iTunes app store, search for Behavior Tracker Pro. Cost is $9.99.

Other amazing apps are available for iPhone and iPod touch which are easy to use for nonverbal kids or those who require visual schedules. They range in cost from free-$150. iPhones and iPod touches range in price from $200-400; so, for 200-550 dollars you can have an amazing augmentative communication device for your child which all kids will envy!

Some other apps which were recommended by parent, Hester Bourdier, are: iConverse; proloque2go; lwords; iprompts; and, "toddler teasers". She suggests browsing the app store at iTunes using the word "autism" in your search.

Thanks, Hester, for passing along the info!!

Reminder - Vickie and Michelle, editor and co-editor of the ASAC newsletter, ask that you please read the following note and respond so that we may publish your answers in the next newsletter. "Part of the mission statement of our organization is to offer support to those "families of individuals with autism". One aspect of this support is hope. We offer hope to each other, as well as to parents who have recently received the diagnosis of autism and their family members. With this in mind, how would you say autism has changed your life? Do you feel that you are now a better person/parent?

Please submit your responses to Michelle at michelle@professionalarts.com. A short paragraph of 3-4 sentences is sufficient; Vickie and Michelle reserve the right to edit content for clarity and space constraints.