

# The Post CARD

*A Publication of the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities  
at the University of Florida/ Gainesville*

Conference Edition

Winter 2004

## **CARD UF/Gainesville Staff**

Ralph Maurer, *Executive Director*  
Greg Valcante, *Director*  
Art Wallen, *Associate Director*  
Donna Gilles, *Associate Director*  
Robbin Byrd, *Support Specialist*  
Jennifer Flanagan, *Support Specialist*  
Cathy Zenko, *Support Specialist*  
Ann-Marie Orlando, *Support Specialist*  
Caroline Raye, *Community Svcs Coord.*  
Margie Garlin, *Program Assistant*  
Leannis Maxwell, *Program Assistant*  
Carole Polefko, *Consultant*  
Kurt Clopton, *Computer Consultant*  
Bear Trickey, *Student Assistant*  
Lisa Petransky, *Student Assistant*

## **Parent Partners**

Wendy Baugh, *Marion County*  
Pam Beville, *Citrus County*  
Cheryl Brenner, *Putnam County*  
Sylvia Miller, *Marion County*  
Amparo Perales, *Marion County*  
Vickie Snook, *Alachua County*  
Lisa Wysocki, *Alachua County*

## **Constituency Baord**

Julia Arthur, *Vice-Chair*  
Sherry Dupree  
Pat Hawk  
Suz Letzig  
Ruth Lowery  
Diana Mathews  
Bobbi Okesson  
Martin Rifkin, *Chair*  
Shelly Voelker

## **Contact Information**

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Dear Families and Friends of CARD,

All of us at the CARD UF/Gainesville are excited about our 11th Annual Conference, "Moving Ahead: From Promise to Practice" in Miami, FL from January 23 – 25. We hope to see you there. Our own Art Wallen, Associate Director, and Wendy Baugh, Parent Partner, will be presenting along with many other great speakers.

This fall, has brought many changes to our Center as you will see from the article by Cathy Zenko inside. Most notable among the changes here are the departures of two individuals who mean so much to the CARD Center, Karin Marsh and Dr. William Luttge. Karin resigned from CARD in November with the birth of her first child. She was a great support to many children with autism and related disabilities, families, teachers, and other professionals as well as an inspiration to all of her colleagues. We miss her already and hope we will see her often this spring. Dr. William Luttge, is the Executive Director, of the McKnight Brain Institute of the University of Florida, and a Professor in the Department of Neuroscience, College of Medicine. He has been actively involved in the oversight of CARD UF/Gainesville since its inception and is retiring in January 2004. Dr. Luttge provided us with leadership through our rough beginnings and has been a constant source of encouragement and support for over 10 years. Dr. Luttge has helped us with the formation and development of our Constituency Board, and has been an advocate for the UF CARD within the University of Florida as well as being our liaison to the president of the University of Florida. We will miss him and are most grateful for all he has done for the CARD Center.

Sincerely,



## **Conference 2004 Edition**

**Page 2-4**

Who's Who @ CARD UF/Gainesville

**Page 5**

CARD UF/Gainesville News

**Page 6**

Sibshop Update

Training Information

# Who's Who @ CARD UF/Gainesville



**Ralph Maurer, M.D.**  
**Executive Director**  
maurer@mbi.ufl.edu

**Date Started at CARD:** February, 1994  
**Degrees:** B.A., *Harvard College*  
M.D., *Yale University*  
**Areas of Interest:** Behavioral Neurology & Autism as a  
Movement Disorder  
**Professional Associations:** *ANC (Autism National Committee)-*  
Scientific consultant and founding member



**Greg Valcante, Ph.D.**  
**Director**  
valcante@mbi.ufl.edu

**Date Started at CARD:** February, 1994  
**Degrees:** B.A., Biology & M.Ed., Special Education,  
*College of William and Mary*  
Ph.D., Special Education,  
*University of Florida*  
**Areas of Interest:** Family Support, Collaboration & Team Buildi  
ng, Inclusion, Toilet Training, Social & Play  
Skills, Communication Skills  
**Professional Associations:** *ASA (Autism Society of America), CEC*  
*(Council for Exceptional Children), TASH*



**Art Wallen, M.S.**  
**Associate Director**  
wallen@mbi.ufl.edu

**Date Started at CARD:** February, 1994  
**Degrees:** B.S. & M.S., Psychology, *University of Florida*  
Board Certified Behavior Analyst  
**Areas of Interest:** Behavioral Assessment & Intervention, Self-  
Injurious Behavior, Systemic Instruction, Self-  
control Technologies, Behavioral Pharma  
cology, Positive Behavioral Support  
Technologies, Transition & Adult Supports  
**Professional Associations:** *Association for Behavior Analysis,*  
*ASA (Autism Society of America)*



**Donna Gilles, Ed.D.**  
**Associate Director**  
 gilles@mbi.ufl.edu

**Date Started at CARD:** December, 1994  
**Degrees:** B.S., Elementary and Special Education, *University of Maryland*  
 M.S. & Ed.D., Severe Disabilities, *Johns Hopkins University*  
**Areas of Interest:** Visual Supports & Prompting, Communication, School, Community, & Work Inclusion  
**Professional Associations:** AAMR (*American Assoc. on Mental Retardation*), CEC (*Council for Exceptional Children*), TASH - President



**Robbin Byrd**  
**Coordinator for Education/Training Programs**  
 byrd@mbi.ufl.edu

**Date Started at CARD:** August, 1999  
**Degrees:** *University of Central Florida*  
**Areas of Interest:** Behavioral Neurology & Autism as a Movement Disorder  
**Professional Associations:** Asperger Syndrome, Employment, Transition, Movement Disorders, & Inclusion



**Caroline Raye**  
**Community Services Coordinator**  
 raye@mbi.ufl.edu

**Date Started at CARD:** September, 1999  
**Degrees:** B.A., Political Science, *University of California, Santa Cruz*  
 M.A., Latin American Studies, *University of California, Los Angeles*  
**Areas of Interest:** Social Stories & Visual Supports, Family Health/Parent Support



**Jennifer Nye, M.S.**  
**Coordinator for Education/Training Programs**  
 jnye@mbi.ufl.edu

**Date Started at CARD:** June 2000  
**Degrees:** B.S. & M.S., Psychology, *University of Florida*  
**Areas of Interest:** Early Recognition of Autism, Communication, Sensory and Movement Issues, Play, Parent-Doctor Relationships  
**Professional Associations:** ASA (*Autism Society of America*)



**Cathy Zenko, M.S., CCC-SLP**  
**Coordinator for Education/Training Programs**  
 czenko@mbi.ufl.edu

**Date Started at CARD:** July, 2000  
**Degrees:** B.S., Speech Pathology & Audiology, *Florida State University*  
 M.S., Speech Pathology & Audiology, *University of South Florida*  
**Areas of Interest:** Communication, Theory of Mind, Social Skills, Asperger's & High-Functioning Autism  
**Professional Associations:** ASHA (American Speech Language Hearing Association)



**Ann Marie Orlando**  
**Coordinator for Education/Training Programs**  
 aorlando@mbi.ufl.edu

**Date Started at CARD:** August, 2003  
**Degrees:** M.S. and B.S., Speech and Hearing Sciences *University of South Alabama*  
**Areas of Interest:** Augmentative/Alternative Communication, Assistive Technology and Literacy  
**Professional Associations:** American Speech and Hearing Association, Council for Exceptional Children, Speech Language Association of Alachua County



**Margie Garlin**  
**Program Assistant**  
 garlin@mbi.ufl.edu

**Date Started at CARD:** November, 1999  
**Duties at CARD:** \*manages office at Health Science Center  
 \*writes quarterly reports  
 Margie is also a parent of a child with autism and is active in District 3 Family Care Council and Families for Inclusion in Alachua County.



**Leannis Maxwell**  
**Office Manager**  
 maxwell@mbi.ufl.edu

**Date Started at CARD:** March, 2002  
**Duties at CARD:** \*front desk responsibilities  
 \*registration contact for trainings  
 \*assists in making visual supports  
 \*collects minutes at meetings

# CARD UF/Gainesville News

by Cathy Zenko

If I had to pick one word to sum up 2003 at the Gainesville CARD office it would be BABIES! We are having our very own baby boom that started with Robbin Byrd. Robbin gave birth to her second son, Nathaniel Lee Justin Byrd on June 26, 2003. She was out on maternity leave for a couple months and joined us back again in September. It was hard to live without her, but we managed. By the time Nathaniel was born, Karin Marsh and Jennifer Flanagan both announced that they were expecting. This usually very exciting news was starting to give Greg Valcante, our Director, slight heart palpitations. Just as things were settling down, when Robbin came back to work, it was my turn to join the club and announce that I was expecting too. In an office with about 12 employees, 3 are pregnant and 2 more are nursing moms. Greg was once quoted as describing our situation as a "pregnancy epidemic".



*Hannah Marsh  
(2 weeks)*



*Nathaniel Byrd  
(4 months)*



*Leannis Maxwell with Julia Polefko  
(19 months) at Jennifer's shower.*

On December 2, 2003, Karin Marsh gave birth to our newest CARD member, Hannah Elizabeth. Hannah made her mommy wait 6 days past her due date, weighed 8 pounds 13 ounces and was 22 inches long. Hannah has already been to her first CARD "meeting", a baby shower luncheon for Jennifer Flanagan. Jennifer is due January 28, 2004. We are all looking forward to meeting baby Isaac Flanagan.

That leaves me, due May 15, 2004, but I had to complicate matters by being put on bedrest the beginning of December. So, our professional staff keeps dwindling. Karin is not coming back to work because she and her husband will be relocating in June 2004 when he finishes law school. Jennifer will be out on maternity leave in January for a couple months, and I'll be out of the office for several months. We wanted to share all of our wonderful baby news as we welcome new members to our CARD family at an exponential rate. Please be patient with us because we are operating with a lot of our regular players "on the bench". We have all been working diligently on our plan to continue helping our constituents with 1/3 less staff available. The situation is temporary and has beautiful outcomes with each new baby. News Flash: this just in, our computer consultant, Kurt Clopton, has just announced that he and his wife, Sarah, are expecting their first child in June.



*Greg Valcante with Karin and  
Hannah Marsh.*



*Jennifer Flanagan at her  
CARD baby shower.*

# Sibshop Update

by Karin Marsh & Jennifer Flanagan



On September 13th, 6 siblings (ages 5-8) attended a Sibshop at Grace Presbyterian Church in Gainesville. We got very messy! Fairy Godmothers party planning painted faces, ran silly games and made awesome balloon animals for all! We had a great time talking about our brothers and sisters, making and enjoying ice-cream sundaes and drawing with sidewalk chalk. A big thank you to Grace Presbyterian and Hungry Howie's Pizza (NW 23rd Ave.) for donating the space and our lunch. In addition, thanks to Fairy Godmothers for the generous discount.



On November 22, 6 siblings (ages 12-16) attended a Sibshop at the Rock Gym in Gainesville. True to the Alps Mountain Climbing theme, we chose German names and ate hot dogs on Pumpernickel bread and German chocolate cupcakes. A good time was had by all, and relationships were formed based on the PURE TRUST required to climb a vertical wall with your fellow sibshopper holding the rope! Thanks to Gainesville Rock Gym for accommodating us, and to Leannis Maxwell and Lisa Petransky for all their help. Call 846-3455 after the winter holidays for more information about the next sibshop for ages 8-12 (we're still in the planning stages!)

Thanks everyone for participating!

- "Brunhilde, Queen of Iceland" (day job : Jennifer Flanagan, CARD)



CARD UF/Gainesville presents

## Survival Skills Series

For Parents and Professionals

Come learn the basics needed to guide you through the journey of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

### ALACHUA COUNTY SERIES

#### Location:

CARD UF/Gainesville Office  
806A NW 16th Avenue  
Gainesville, 32601

7:00PM - 9:00PM

January 13, 2004

February 10, 2004

March 9, 2004

April 13, 2004

May 11, 2004

#### TOPICS:

#### \*What are you trying to say?

*Understanding and improving your child's communication skills.*

#### \*Why don't I fit in?

*Helping your child learn unspoken social rules*

#### \*There is a reason that I am acting this way.

*Understanding and preventing challenging behaviors.*

#### \*Squeeze me, spin me, swing me!

*Meeting your child's sensory needs.*

#### \*Everything you wanted to know about ASD,

*but were afraid to ask.*

### CITRUS COUNTY SERIES

#### Location:

Citrus County School Board Bldg  
1007 W. Main Street  
Inverness, FL

5:30PM - 7:30PM

January 14, 2004

February 11, 2004

March 10, 2004

April 14, 2004

May 12, 2004

These trainings are FREE of charge, but we do ask that you REGISTER by calling or e-mailing Leannis Maxwell so that we can plan appropriately and so that you can be sure no changes have been made. Leannis Maxwell can be reached by phone at 1-800-754-5891 or 352-846-3455 or by e-mail at maxwell@mbi.ufl.edu.

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Go to

[www.card.ufl.edu](http://www.card.ufl.edu)

for information about:

- \*current news about autism and related disabilities
- \*support groups
- \*trainings
- and more!