

PostCARD



Director's Note

Dear Families and Friends of CARD,

Dr. Ralph Gerald Maurer, Executive Director of the CARD at the University of Florida / Gainesville, and a 26-year faculty member at the University of Florida College of Medicine, died on May 12, 2006. Dr. Maurer was born in Lynchburg, Va., and grew up in Littlefield, Texas. He served as an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at UF. Previously, he was a member of the faculty at the University of Iowa College of Medicine. Dr. Maurer graduated from The Phillips Exeter Academy, Harvard College and Yale Medical School. He served as a major in the U.S. Air Force Reserves Medical Corps at the School of Aerospace Medicine in San Antonio, Texas, during the Vietnam War. He also served for many years on boards of the Autism Society of America, the Florida Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, the UF Health Center Institutional Review Board, and the Autism National Committee.

Dr. Maurer participated in the Task Force that recommended the creation of the CARD centers to the Florida Legislature and guided the University of Florida CARD program since its inception in 1993. Those of us who were privileged to work with and for him will always miss his friendship, leadership, wisdom, guidance, support, curiosity,

and sense of humor. The many families of individuals with autism and related disabilities who were helped by Dr. Maurer have expressed their sadness over the loss of their physician and friend. We at CARD hope to create a memorial to him on our website and to develop a library at our Center in his name.

Sincerely,

Greg Valcante



Dr. Ralph Gerald Maurer
September 5, 1943 - May 12, 2006

CARD Office Hours

The CARD office located at 806A NW 16th Avenue in Gainesville in the Pecan Park office park is "closed" until 12 PM on Mondays for staff meetings. Computers for making visual supports are available during normal business hours on Tuesday to Friday and after noon on Mondays. If you need help with making visual supports please call Kathy Robinson at 352 392-4171 or 800 754-5891 ext. 9 for an appointment.

CARD Website

Go to www.card.ufl.edu for information about:

current news about autism & related disabilities

support groups

professional development

fact sheets

past issues of the PostCARD

CARD conference information

and more!

The Faces of CARD UF/Gainesville



Standing (from left to right): Lisa Roll, Robbin Byrd, Margie Garlin, Donna Gilles, Cathy Zenko, Art Wallen, Susan Hill, Kirsty MacIver, Ann Marie Orlando, and Kathy Robinson, Seated: Greg Valcante

Sibshops Wrap Up a Great Year

The CARD UF/Gainesville sponsored Sibshops in Gainesville and Ocala finished up their year in May and will be on break until September except for a family picnic this summer that will bring both groups together for the first time.

The Sibshops served 17 families with specially designed workshops for siblings of children with disabilities. The workshops, created by noted sibling authority, Don Meyer, allow these siblings to be supported and have the information they need to be lifelong advocates for their brother or sister, but also to have healthy, productive lives for themselves.

There is room for new families in each program and we are looking for families who will commit to one Saturday per month for the months of the school year, and value the concepts we have described above. Please see the Sibling Support Project website for more information. www.thearc.org/siblingsupport and call Melinda Morrison at 352 846-2761 for information about the local groups.
Melinda Morrison

Parent Support Group

A local parent-formed support group SPEC (Special Parents of Exceptional Children) meets at the CARD office at 806A NW 16th Avenue in Gainesville on the 2nd Friday of each month. The informal meetings are from 7PM-9PM, but newcomers are welcome to show up at 6PM to meet and discuss their concerns. Parents of children with any disability are welcome. Please call Pam Kissoon-dyal for more information 352 284-1483 or 352 379-7885.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

No Meetings in July or August
September 8, 2006
October 13, 2006
November 10, 2006

Staff Update

This year the CARD UF/Gainesville has said goodbye to **Jennifer Nye Flanagan** who moved to South Dakota with her family. We miss her and know that all the families and professionals she helped here in Florida will miss her as well.

Fortunately we have found two new very experienced and qualified professionals to help us at CARD.

Kirsty MacIver, M.S., B.C.B.A. is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst who started working at CARD in October 2005. Originally from Birmingham, UK, Kirsty studied at the University of North Texas and worked at the Emory University Autism Center before coming to Florida. She has special interests in school inclusion, early intervention, and data collection and analysis. She is currently working at CARD part-time on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Susan Hill, M.S.N., A.R.N.P. is a nurse practitioner who started working at CARD in February 2006. She has degrees from Florida State University and the University of Florida and has worked with children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders for many years at the University of Florida Health Science Center. She has special interests and expertise in autism, medical ethics, alternative medicine, parent training, and young children. Susan is currently working part-time at CARD on Mondays and Wednesdays.

We are delighted to have both Kirsty and Susan working with us and hope you will get a chance to meet and welcome them sometime if you have not already. **Greg Valcante**

Tech Tip What's black and white and read all over?

The newspaper. But, have you ever thought it might be easier to read if it were white and blue or how about yellow and green? Well, for some folks with reading difficulties it is just the solution. Research has shown that for some the background color of the printed page may have dramatic effects on their ability to perceive letters. According to the Irlen Institute 12 – 14 % of the population has a perceptual processing disorder as do 50% of the population of individuals with a label of autism.

On the computer it is an easy change. Using MSWord, just click on format in the menu bar and go to background. You will see a color palette appear on the screen just try a couple of colors to see what works best. You can also change the color of the text by going to format in the menu bar, selecting font, selecting the arrows under font color and clicking on the desired color. You can also switch permanently to white font and blue background by going to Word preferences, selecting general and selecting the blue background, white font option. **Ann Marie Orlando**

For information on which color might be best for a particular problem go to <http://donjohnston.com/djlearning/usingcolortxt.htm> or <http://irlen.com>. For questions or assistance call me at 352 392-7799.

Recent Library Additions

The following list of new library additions includes new releases as well as replacements and copies of favorites.

- *Exploring Feelings...to Manage Anxiety*
by **Tony Attwood**
- *Asperger's Syndrome*
by **Tony Attwood**
- *Right Adress... Wrong Planet*
by **Gena Barnhill**
- *Guns A' Blazing*
by **Jeffrey Cohen**
- *S.O.S. Social Skills in Our Schools*
by **Michelle A. Dunn**
- *When My Autism Gets Too Big!*
by **Kari Dunn Buron**
- *The Epilepsy Diet Treatment*
by **Kelly Freeman et al**
- *Power Cards*
by **Elisa Gagnon**
- *Thinking in Pictures*
by **Temple Grandin**
- *Careers for Individuals with Asperger Syndrome and High-Functioning Autism*
by **Temple Grandin & Kate Duffy**
- *Pivotal Response Treatments for Autism*
by **Robert L.Koegel & Lynn Kern Koegel**
- *Young Exceptional Children: Teaching Strategies: What to do to Support Young Children's Development*
by **Michaelene Ostrosky**
- *Young Exceptional Children: Assesment: Gathering Meaningful Information*
by **Michaelene Ostrosky**
- *Young Exceptional Children: Natural Environments and Inclusion*
by **Susan Sandall**
- *Making Peace with Autism...A Family's Story*
by **Susan Senator**
- *Autism Is Not a Life Sentence*
by **Lynley Summers**
- *A Rock and a Hard Place*
by **Anne Sutcliffe**
- *Play and Imagination in Children with Autism*
by **Pamela Wolfberg**

Website in the Spotlight

Here are a few websites that you may find helpful this summer:

www.dltkcards.com/chart/index.html

This site lets you make a customized chore chart. You can choose cartoon characters, animals, vehicles, or other pictures to make the chart fun. Then you choose the font and color you want, name the chores and print. This is a great way to help keep everyone on track and feeling useful over the summer break.

For cooking fun try:

www.bry-backmanor.org/picturerecipes.html

Select a recipe, click, at the bottom of the written directions is a link that says Picture Recipe. Click on that on it takes you to a visual recipe that makes this an easy way to include anyone in making some fun foods.

Next there is:

www.do2learn.com/games/feelingsgame/index.htm

This is an online game that features the faces of real people expressing different emotions. The game is to click on the face that is showing the emotion that is listed. You can choose from adult faces, boys or girls. Check out the do2learn homepage - <http://www.do2learn.com> for free picture cards, games, organizers, charts and other items that you can download and print.

The last website I would like to share with you this month is:

<http://www.medids.com/free-id.php>

This website allows you to make (for free) a medical alert type ID card for your child or anyone who needs it that looks very professional. The website gives you a template for typing in any information that you think is important. Then you simply print it. The website does not retain any of the information that you enter, which I feel is a good safety feature.

Have a fun and safe summer and if you have questions about any of these websites or if you need help with visual supports please feel free to contact me at 352 392-4171 or 800 754-5891 x9.

My email address is krobinson@mbi.ufl.edu. **Kathy Robinson**

CARD UF/Gainesville Staff

Robbin Byrd, B.S. **CARD Consultant**
 Kurt Clopton **Computer Consultant**
 Margie Garlin **Program Assistant**
 Donna Gilles, Ed.D. **Associate Director**
 Julie Gonzales **Student Assistant**
 Brittany Gudaitis **Student Assistant**
 Kirsty MacIver, M.S. **CARD Consultant**
 Leannis Maxwell **Program Assistant**
 Melinda Morrison, RN, BSN
Sibshop Coordinator
 Ann-Marie Orlando, M.S. CCC-SP/A ATT
CARD Consultant
 Carole Polefko **Public Education Coordinator**

Parent Partners

Cheryl Brenner **Putnam County**
 Heidi Jennison **Hernando County**
 Pam Kissoondyal **Alachua County**
 Sylvia Miller **Marion County**
 Amparo Perales **Marion County**
 Dennise Warren **Levy County**

Training News

We were very excited to bring back Drs. Karen Erickson and David Koppenhaver for a fourth year of their Literacy in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) seminar. The seminar was the last week of June. We had to limit registration to the first 30 people, and this year the course filled up in less than 2 weeks! We hope to see them again next year for a 5 year anniversary.

This intensive summer seminar featured more than 40 hours of direct contact with Drs. Erickson and Koppenhaver as they used lectures, videos, demonstrations, and case studies to develop participants'

knowledge and skills in the areas of reading and writing assessment and instruction. The seminar focused on conventional reading and writing with an emphasis on meeting the literacy learning needs of school-aged students with complex communication needs. This seminar has been offered for over 10 years across the U.S. by Dr. Erickson, Director for the Center for Literacy and Disabilities Studies, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC and Dr. Koppenhaver, LRE Department, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. Additional information about their work can be found at their respective websites: www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clds and [\[rcoe.appstate.edu/koppenhaverd\]\(http://rcoe.appstate.edu/koppenhaverd\).](http://faculty.</p>
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In other news, we are in the process of creating an online training request form that can be downloaded and sent directly to us. If you have a training request, check our website, www.card.ufl.edu, for the new form coming soon and we will do our best to accommodate your needs. We do request that at least five people attend any workshop that we do.

See our new calendar section, www.card.ufl.edu/calendar.htm, on our website for upcoming training events! **Cathy Zenko**



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 related disabilities
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