



Autism National Convention 2013
Autism – Lighting the Way

Our Partners



October 11-12, 2013
Holiday Inn Denver East–Stapleton
Denver, Colorado

Friday, October 11, 2013

8:30 - 9:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30 Ballroom	<p>Opening Ceremonies</p> <p><i>Seeing My Gifts of Great Ability! The Power of Presuming Competence</i> Christi Kasa, Ph.D., University of Colorado at Colorado Springs All students have spectacular gifts to offer; yet for many students their gifts are often overlooked. Students with autism are asking educators to see their strengths, to focus on their gifts, and to support them to achieve their dreams. During this presentation we will examine strategies for supporting the gifts that all students bring to the classroom and their communities.</p>
10:30 - 10:45	BREAK
10:45 - 12:00	Concurrent Sessions

<p>10:45 - 12:00</p> <p>Concurrent Session 1</p> <p>Arapahoe A</p>	<p>A Prime Example of Presuming Competence: My Education and the Life I am Living Sue Rubin I am a typical so-called “low functioning” person with autism, yet I graduated with honors from high school and just received a Bachelor’s degree from Whittier College in Latin American History. This was only possible because the educators in Whittier, California and my parents presumed competence, letting me make the most of my talents and abilities. I will describe the support I needed to achieve my success at school and in my life outside of school.</p>
<p>10:45 - 12:00</p> <p>Concurrent Session 2</p> <p>Arapahoe B</p>	<p><i>Blogging, Community, Activism</i> Amy Sequenzia I talk about how I started blogging, how that connected me with other Autistics and the Autistic community and how I realize that I am an autistic activist. I also talk about some forms of activism and how anyone can fight for Autistic and disabilities rights, in their own way.</p>
<p>10:45 - 12:00</p> <p>Concurrent Session 3</p> <p>Arapahoe C</p>	<p><i>Aspects of Autism Translated</i> Judy Endow, MSW Ever wonder about stims, lack of eye contact and if a child with autism really is in his own world? This presentation, based on <i>Painted Words: Aspects of Autism Translated</i>, takes the audience on an intensely personal journey through Judy’s life where these and many additional aspects of autism are delved into through juxtaposing her personal, parenting and professional experiences of autism. This presentation will appeal to parents, professionals and people on the spectrum.</p>
<p>12:15 - 1:15 Aztec I</p>	<p>LUNCH - served in Aztec I</p>
<p>1:15 - 2:15 Ballroom</p>	<p><i>Digital Autistry, and Other Ways to Move</i> Melanie Yergeau, Ph.D. Hacking is a many-storied concept, with meanings ranging from criminal activity to charity-focused activism. This presentation explores not only what it means to “hack autism,” but also asks: Whose bodies does hacking-as-concept center? From community hackathons to etiquette manuals on how to “hack” sociality, hacking has come to represent “fixing” people at the expense of broader social change. Yergeau suggests that autistic people have begun to counteract the systems that would otherwise render them broken and invisible, and in this talk she explores the ways in which autistic individuals have used online spaces as a vehicle toward systems change.</p>
<p>2:15 - 2:30</p>	<p>BREAK</p>
<p>2:30 - 3:30</p>	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p>

<p>2:30 - 3:30</p> <p>Concurrent Session 1</p> <p>Arapahoe A</p>	<p>Self-Advocates Panel</p> <p><i>Amy's Hope</i> Amy Yesh Amy tells about herself and shares her hope for her future.</p> <p>The Restful Poet Chris Patton Chris will share his poetic musings with us, giving the audience a delightful look inside his life.</p> <p>Autism Civil Rights as the Peace Movement of the 21st Century Xenia Grant Autistic rights, communication devices, and neurodiversity will be compared to the goals of historical figures such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. and others who have struggled for the greater good and how people on the autism spectrum can learn from them and emulate their humility and fortitude in the quest for acceptance.</p>
<p>2:30 - 3:30</p> <p>Concurrent Session 2</p> <p>Arapahoe B</p>	<p><i>Supporting Autistic Communication and Sensory Difference: The Role of Clinicians and Care-givers in Autistic Rights</i> Estee Klar Are non-verbal autistic people self-advocates? How can the clinical community support autistic rights? What constitutes these rights? This presentation will show how for many years non-verbal autistic people have formed the autistic rights movement and that lack of access to communication tools is now considered a violation of autistic rights. It will facilitate a greater understanding of autistic experience and why this "culture" is important. It will help clinicians and caregivers to reconsider how we frame autism and how this affects everyday practice. It will provide tools for self-reflection when engaging with autistic people, suggesting how clinicians and care-givers might support autistic communication and personhood.</p>
<p>2:30 - 3:30</p> <p>Concurrent Session 3</p> <p>Arapahoe C</p>	<p><i>Abusive Relationships</i> Emily Titon This presentation is based on a paper by Katie Miller. It will focus on the dynamics that differentiate healthy vs unhealthy relationships, how people in various types of relationship oppress and hurt each other, and how to identify and call out abusive behavior and break free from the harmful patterns - and the relationship, if necessary. Also discussed will be ways of improving our interactions - so that we can learn to recognize, respond to, and say NO to abusive and coercive treatment. We will identify to whom to report abusive behavior, and resources for finding help, and ways to be safe when seeking help.</p>
<p>3:30 - 3:45</p>	<p>BREAK and SNACK</p>
<p>3:45 - 5:00</p>	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p>

<p>3:45 - 5:00</p> <p>Concurrent Session 1</p> <p>Arapahoe A</p>	<p><i>Teaming for Success</i> Rob Cutler Rob will share his journey of almost 30 years from the abuse and terror of the institution to today when he lives in his own house with his dog surrounded by family, staff and friends. He now participates in many activities that contribute to quality of life. How was this possible? The miracle of FC has helped him to access the people who support him, family and staff committed to his well being, friends who share his life, and MDs and therapists who have worked together to help Rob deal with his PTSD, movement and other challenges. They have recognized Rob as the Team leader and support him in achieving a quality of life we could not have dreamed of 30 years ago.</p> <p>The Real Wonder of Autism: On Another Planet I'm a Normal Girl Darcy Reed and Caroline Reed Darcy Reed shares her experiences as a poet and a seer living on the "severe" end of the autism spectrum. Her mother and facilitator, Carolyn Reed, discusses her revelations as Darcy's mother.</p>
<p>3:45 - 5:00</p> <p>Concurrent Session 2</p> <p>Arapahoe B</p>	<p><i>Alternatives to Guardianship</i> Lou Ella Price and Mike Hoover Lou Ella Price will present information on the functions of the Council and one of their projects, the development of a brochure on alternatives to guardianship.</p> <p>Mike Hoover will share information about how he chose and implemented alternatives to guardianship.</p>
<p>3:45 - 5:00</p> <p>Concurrent Session 3</p> <p>Arapahoe C</p>	<p><i>Know Your Rights: Restraint and Seclusion Law in Colorado</i> Jennifer Purrington, Esq., Attorney This session will begin with a brief discussion of a recent project about the incidence of restraint and seclusion in Colorado's schools. It will describe the current rules regarding restraint and seclusion in Colorado, specifically The Rules for the Administration of the Protection of Persons from Restraint Act adopted by the Colorado Department of Education. We will review the rules and the obligations of school districts in regard to those rules. This is an information session but questions are encouraged.</p>
<p>5:00 - 6:00</p>	<p>BREAK</p>
<p>6:00 - 7:00</p> <p>Aztec I</p>	<p>DINNER - served in Aztec I Note: Those not registered for dinner may come at 7:00 for the performances.</p>
<p>7:00 - 9:00</p> <p>Ballroom</p>	<p><i>Musical Performance</i> by Jordan Ackerson and Lisa Lieberman</p> <p><i>DVDs created by our members</i></p>



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Saturday, October 12, 2013

8:30 - 9:15	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:15 - 10:15 Ballroom	<p><i>Rhythm Lights the Way</i> Keynote Address by Suzanne Oliver, Neurologic Music Therapist Independence comes in many forms -independence of thought, of movement, of choices and social opportunities, and the list can go on and on. Society often determines for others what that looks like, especially for those who are dependent on others for access to the freedom of independence. Often we are just on the edge of that freedom, waiting for that tiny flame to light the way for the next step. Research has shown that rhythm optimizes neuropathways, providing that boost toward independence. Rhythm can mean the difference between taking that next step, stopping that cycle of a stuck movement/action, getting one's words out, or maintaining a steady pace to type out a complete thought. It may be just enough to mean the difference between saying yes to a social opportunity, or no to a choice someone else is making for you. This session will provide recent findings in brain research regarding connectivity issues in autism and translate the findings into meaningful, real life terms and impact. The presenter will discuss the power of rhythm to optimize and drive changes in the brain related to connectivity. She will provide practical everyday uses for rhythm to support taking those next steps toward independence.</p>
10:15 - 10:30	BREAK
10:30 - 11:45	Concurrent Sessions

<p>10:30 - 11:45</p> <p>Concurrent Session 1</p> <p>Arapahoe A</p>	<p><i>Practical Applications of Rhythm for Participants</i> Suzanne Oliver</p> <p>During this follow up to the keynote session, the presenter will engage participants in hands on rhythmic exercises to facilitate independence. Participants will be able to engage in group and individual exercises. Additionally, much time will be given to answer participant questions as stimulated by the Keynote address. Come ready to take new steps toward independence.</p>
<p>10:30 - 11:45</p> <p>Concurrent Session 2</p> <p>Arapahoe B</p>	<p><i>ASD and Higher Education: A Heuristic Analysis of the Experiences of Students with ASDs in College</i> Fleur Wiorkowski</p> <p>Fleur is an autistic Ph.D. dissertation research student seeking to bring the voices of those on the autism spectrum into the research conversation regarding higher education. She will share from her research her discovery of themes that underlie the experiences of the eleven people in her study. This presentation will be directly applicable to other people with ASDs who are either in college or thinking about college.</p>
<p>10:30 - 11:45</p> <p>Concurrent Session 3</p> <p>Arapahoe C</p>	<p><i>Efforts towards Inclusion for a Student with ASD from a Self-advocate's and Parent's Perspective</i> Jordan Ackerson and Lisa Lieberman</p> <p>Schools must reflect as a microcosm of the larger society in which they exist in order to prepare students for meaningful life beyond high school. A self-advocate graduate and his mother outline concrete steps taken, having moved from a self-contained placement towards greater inclusion. Suggestions offered apply to a variety of students, incorporating ideas about self-advocacy and collaborative team efforts.</p>
<p>12:00 - 1:00 Aztec I</p>	<p>LUNCH - served in Aztec I</p>
<p>1:00 - 2:30</p>	<p><i>Autistic Activism, Grassroots Epistemology and Occupying Academia</i> Keynote Address by Elizabeth Grace, Ph.D., National Louis University, Chicago</p> <p>lby will give a down and dirty rendition of three kinds of "epistemic warrant" or ways of knowing, outline why some are considered better than others by the powers that be, and find out which ones the audience trusts more, in an interactive keynote that aims to explore how the world is changing, Autistics and our friends and relations are front and center lighting the way, and academia might want to think about keeping up with what's going on in real life as we live it. Participants will never again have to be bullied by people who use words like "epistemology."</p>
<p>2:30 - 3:00</p>	<p>BREAK and SNACK</p>

3:15 - 4:15	Concurrent Sessions
<p>3:15 - 4:15</p> <p>Concurrent Session 1</p> <p>Arapahoe A</p>	<p><i>Oh the Humanity: Autism and the College Admissions Essay</i> Amy Vidali, Ph.D., University of Colorado at Denver I consider the disclosure of autism in college admissions essays, both by autistic people and by others (typically siblings), within the context of a study that considers whether colleges and universities are “rhetorically accessible” to disabled applicants.</p> <p><i>Question and Answer on College and Difficulty Finding Employment</i> Sharisa Kochmeister Sharisa has very recently recovered from an extended illness so will respond to questions about her college experience and her frustrating search for employment post-degree.</p>
<p>3:15 - 4:15</p> <p>Concurrent Session 2</p> <p>Arapahoe B</p>	<p><i>My Life</i> Benjamin Tarasewicz Benjamin’s informative and inspiring multi-media presentation is titled <i>Living With Autism: Breaking Through Barriers</i>. Benjamin’s mother gives a brief introductory talk, providing background information and a sense of perspective. Benjamin’s 30-minute talk is accompanied by power-point slides consisting primarily of engaging photos and other visuals. The presentation is followed by a short performance element (Polynesian poi-swings choreographed to Celtic music). A Q&A period concludes the session.</p>
<p>3:15 - 4:15</p> <p>Concurrent Session 3</p> <p>Arapahoe C</p>	<p><i>How co-teaching between a university professor and undergraduate student reshaped pre-service teachers’ “ways of knowing” individuals with autism</i> Emily Nusbaum, Ph.D., University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and Isaac Haney-Owens This session will describe how a university professor and undergraduate student co-taught a pre-service teacher education course (Introduction to Special Education). This is a course typically taught through a “disability of the week” approach, which establishes ways of knowing students with disabilities based on associated, deficit-based characteristics. Emily and Isaac will share how their co-teaching actively worked to undo stereotypical ideas about individuals with autism (and other disabilities), and instead help pre-service teachers begin to use a capacity-building lens.</p>
<p>4:15 - 4:30</p>	<p>BREAK</p>
<p>4:30 - 5:00 Ballroom</p>	<p>THE LAST WORD by members of the AutCom Board of Directors who are on the spectrum <i>and</i> RAFFLE results!</p>