

14TH ANNUAL

autism summer institute

Express Yourself: Supporting Communication through the Arts, Advocacy, and Education

August 6-8, 2012 | Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH

Join the ASI on Facebook

KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

- Judy Endow, International Consultant and Author
- Christy Ashby, Research Director, Institute on Communication and Inclusion at Syracuse University
- Michael McSheehan, Clinical Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of New Hampshire
- Julia Bascom, Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- Larry Bissonnette and Tracy Thresher from the film *Wretches and Jabberers*

Available in alternative formats upon request.

ASAN
AUTISTIC SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK

INSTITUTE ON COMMUNICATION AND INCLUSION
at Syracuse University

NCIE National Center on Inclusive Education
At the Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire

CONFERENCE DETAILS

DESCRIPTION

Since 1999 the Institute on Disability (IOD) at the University of New Hampshire has presented the Autism Summer Institute (ASI), a conference for families, educators, community service providers, and self-advocates. The 2012 ASI theme is ***Express Yourself: Supporting Communication through the Arts, Advocacy, and Education***. Self-expression is the key to people with autism communicating, learning, achieving their dreams, and having a rich and rewarding life. The theme will be carried out in seven breakout strands over the course of the three-day conference, including:

- Hands-on skill building for supported communication users
- Supporting expressive communication through Facilitated Communication (FC) and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Assistive technology, including the iPad
- Leadership and self-advocacy, organized by the Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- Academic supports and constructing competence
- A first-ever strand on autism and the arts
- Contemporary topics representing current and emerging issues

This year's Autism Summer Institute is presented by the National Center on Inclusive Education at the UNH Institute on Disability and the Institute on Communication and Inclusion at Syracuse University in collaboration with the Autistic Self Advocacy Network.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The Autism Summer Institute is designed for and will benefit individuals with ASD, educators, parents, paraprofessionals, school administrators, guidance counselors, related services providers, psychologists, university students, educational teams including families, and others interested in creating more inclusive opportunities for students with ASD.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation. The ASI qualifies for 24 Staff Development Hours.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Dates: August 6-8, 2012

Time: 8:00am – 4:00pm, plus evening activities:

- Monday – Reception: 4:30pm-6:30pm; Film: 7:00pm
- Tuesday – Film: 7:00pm

Location: Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH

Registration Fees:

- Professional: $399
- Students/Parents/Self-Advocates: $349
- Single Day Registration: $150

All registration fees include continental breakfast, materials on a USB flash drive, parking, Wi-Fi, and evening activities. ***Boxed lunches are available daily for $10 each. If desired, please select day(s) on the registration form.***

HOTEL & AIRPORT INFORMATION

Courtyard Marriott (adjacent to Conference Center)
70 Constitution Avenue, Concord, NH 03301
603.225.0303 | 1.800.321.2211
www.grapponeconferencecenter.com/accommodations

A limited number of rooms have been blocked for ASI participants for $109 per night. Please mention the ASI when making your reservation.* ***Blocked rooms are available until July 15, 2012.*

The most convenient airport to Concord is the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport (MHT), which is approximately 30 minutes from the Grappone Conference Center. Boston Logan International Airport (BOS) is approximately 90 minutes from the Grappone Conference Center.

Ground transportation options:

- Courtyard Marriot Shuttle Service (operates Monday-Friday): $25 each way. Call 603.225.0303 Ext 0 to book.
- Tom the Chauffeur: $40 each way. Call 603.231.4306 to book.
- Taxies and Flightline Shuttle services are available from the airport.

AGENDA

Monday, August 6

8:00 Registration & Breakfast

8:30 Welcome

8:45 Keynote Presentation:
Art of Autism
Judy Endow, *author, artist, & self-advocate*

10:15 Break

10:30 Strands: **Session #1**

11:45 Lunch

1:15 Keynote Presentation
Tell Them I Am Smart!: Voice, Inclusion, and the Construction of Competence
Christy Ashby, Ph.D., *Syracuse University*

2:30 Break

2:45 Strands: **Session #2**

4:00 Adjourn for the Day

4:30 Reception

7:00 Film Screening:
Wretches & Jabberers

Tuesday, August 7

8:00 Registration & Breakfast

8:30 Welcome

8:45 Keynote Presentation:
Not So Fringe After All: Supported Typing as a Part of AAC
Michael McSheehan, *University of New Hampshire*

10:15 Break

10:30 Strands: **Session #3**

11:45 Lunch

1:15 Strands: **Session #4**

2:30 Break

2:45 Strands: **Session #5**

4:00 Adjourn for the Day

7:00 Film Screening:
Who Cares About Kelsey?
Mini-Films

Wednesday, August 8

8:00 Registration & Breakfast

8:30 Welcome

8:45 Keynote Presentation:
The Loud Hands Project: Autistic Culture, Community, and Resilience
Julia Bascom, *Autistic Self Advocacy Network*

10:15 Break

10:30 Strands: **Session #6**

11:45 Lunch

1:15 Strands: **Session #7**

2:30 Break

2:30 Keynote Presentation:
Planting the Seeds for Artistic and Political Expression through Communication
Larry Bissonnette, *artist and self-advocate*; Tracy Thresher, *self-advocate*

3:45 ASI Wrap-Up and Raffle

4:00 Conference Adjourns

A NOTE ON LANGUAGE

The ASI respects both people-first and identity-first language.

People-first language seeks to eliminate dehumanization of people with disabilities. It helps those who don't live with a disability recognize people with disabilities as individuals with personalities and identities that are not defined by their disability. Saying "children with autism," for example, acknowledges that autism is an important, but not the only, part of a child's identity.

The international autistic self-advocacy community strongly prefers the use of identity-first language (e.g., autistic people) over people-first language to describe autistic individuals. This preference reflects acknowledgement of autism as an integral facet of neurologically diverse personhood for people who experience it and the importance and pride of one's ability to identify with a shared autistic culture.

OVERVIEW OF STRANDS

Workshop sessions at the ASI are organized into six strands with an additional strand reserved for facilitated communication (FC) skill building. Conference participants may attend sessions in one strand or may "mix and match" sessions from the six strands according to their interests. ***Please indicate your strand preference on the registration form.***

Strand A – Supporting Expression Through Typing

Too many individuals without effective verbal speech are assumed incapable of contributing meaningfully to the world around them or are only afforded limited access to communication systems. Supported typing or facilitated communication training has been an effective way for some individuals with autism to express their *own* ideas. Sessions in this strand explore supported typing as a method of communication access, but also push participants to think *beyond access* to meaningful participation and greater independence.

Strand B – Self-Advocacy: A Movement Whose Time Has Come

Over the last several decades, the disability rights movement has achieved much. Yet, despite this, assumptions and stereotypes still govern much of society's understanding of disability—including within the realms of service provision and policy. The self-advocacy movement aims to change this through the efforts of disabled people speaking for themselves, rather than parents and professionals speaking on their behalf. This strand, aimed at high school, college-age youth, and adults on the autism spectrum and allies, explores the many educational, societal, and legal barriers autistic individuals encounter, and offers conceptual, practical, and material suggestions for effective self-advocacy and local activism. Each session will be facilitated by autistic self-advocates.

Strand C – Self-Expression through Literacy: Academic Supports that Construct Competence

All students with ASD can express themselves through literacy when educators presume students' competence, students are members of inclusive classrooms, and students receive high quality literacy instruction and supports. This strand will lay the foundation for a common vision of high expectations and help participants to develop individualized literacy profiles for students. Sessions three through six will describe and model strategies for building students' vocabularies, how to capitalize on their interests and fascinations, how to help them plan what they want to write, and how to accommodate fine motor difficulties through the use of "alternate pencils." Session seven will show how all of these beliefs and strategies come together in a school improvement model, using a powerful student example.

Strand D – Art as Self-Expression

From music to museums, from dance to films, the creation of and access to art allows individuals to express themselves in a way that influences and affects the senses, emotions, and intellect. This strand will provide participants with access to art and the artists who created it in order to gain a deeper understanding of the role of art in the promotion of self-expression and advocacy.

Strand E – Opening Doors to Expression with Assistive Technology

Thousands of assistive technology (AT) devices and accommodations can enable individuals to fully express themselves. This strand will explore the use of the iPad and other technologies for home, school, work, and play.

Strand F – Skill Building Sessions for Facilitated Communication (FC) Users

This unique training opportunity will allow interested FC users and facilitators to attend hands-on workshop sessions with a skilled trainer based on current skill level. FC users may bring one facilitator free of charge. Participants are requested to attend three assigned sessions and attend others as desired. Attendees will be contacted about session placement. A limited number of slots are available. Please register early to ensure enrollment.

Strand G – Contemporary Topics

This strand features free-standing workshops on a variety of topics representing current and emerging issues related to supporting children and adults with ASD to express themselves and to fully participate in their schools and communities.

SESSION TOPICS

Session #1: Monday, August 6 | 10:30am

A. Introduction to Facilitated Communication Training: Learning the Basics
B. Disclosure 101: Rules, Laws, and Ideas about Disclosing
C. Yes, We Do Mean ALL Kids: A Construction of Competence Framework for Inclusive Literacy
D. Communicating through Arts
E. iPad Adaptations and Accessories
F. FC Skill Building (sessions as assigned)
G. Learning the Hidden Curriculum

Session #2: Monday, August 6 | 2:45pm

A. Research in Facilitated Communication: Shifting from "If" to "How"
B. What Do We Want? Systems Change! When Do We Want It? Now!
C. Facilitating Membership, Relationships, Participation, and Learning for Students with Autism in the General Education Classroom: Beyond "Inclusion 101"
D. Social Theater, Cognitive Authorship, and Inclusive Music: Finding a Life before a Diagnosis
E. iPad Apps for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) 101
F. FC Skill Building (sessions as assigned)
G. Practical Sensory Solutions to Stabilize Students with Classic Autism

Session #3: Tuesday, August 7 | 10:30am

A. "This is Not a Test": Practicing Message-Passing Skills
B. Bullying and Cyberbullying: What They Are and How to Respond to Them
C. Developing Literacy Profiles
D. From Access to Inclusion: Welcoming the Autism Community
E. Assistive Technology for Art and Music: Express Yourself!
F. FC Skill Building (sessions as assigned)
G. Alternate Assessment & School Accountability: A National Crisis for Students with Complex Communication Needs

Session #4: Tuesday, August 7 | 1:15pm

A. Speak Out!
B. Amplifying Your Voice: Strategies for Online Grassroots Advocacy
C. Capitalizing on Students' Interests and Fascinations
D. Finding Your Writer's Voice
E. Strategies to Support Students in Writing and Self-Expression: Teacher Panel
F. FC Skill Building (sessions as assigned)
G. Learning Happens: Everywhere for Every Learner!

Session #5: Tuesday, August 7 | 2:45pm

A. "I Just Had to Go for It": How People with Autism Achieve Independent Communication
B. Right Here in New Hampshire! Organizing ASAN Chapters in the Granite State and throughout the United States
C. Building Vocabulary to Enhance Self-Expression
D. Discovering the Dancer in You!
E. Assistive Technology and Neurobehavioral Differences: Executive Dysfunction, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, ADHD, Tourettes, and Anxiety
F. FC Skill Building (sessions as assigned)
G. Making Sense of the Senses

Session #6: Wednesday, August 8 | 10:30am

A. Behavior is Communicative…but There is More to Say than "I Am Mad"
B. The Path to Higher Education: Opportunities and Challenges on the College Campus
C. Helping Students Plan What They Want to Write
D. Adapting Music for Everyone
E. 101 Creative Ways to Use Make-and-Take Photos, Videos, and Audio Files on an iPad
F. FC Skill Building (sessions as assigned)
G. Meeting the Nutritional Needs of the Child with Autism

Session #7: Wednesday, August 8 | 1:15pm

A. Communication and Inclusion: Principles for Going Forward
B. Building Autistic Community: What Autistic Culture Can Mean To You
C. Including Students with ASD in Whole School Literacy Reform (RTI) Efforts
D. Opening Paths to Self-Expression through Art Making
E. iPad Apps for AAC 101
F. FC Skill Building (sessions as assigned)
G. Nothing About Us Without Us: People with Autism as University Co-Instructors

KEYNOTE PRESENTERS



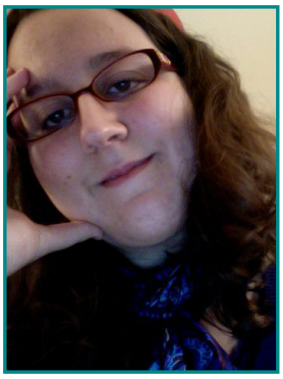
Judy Endow is an author and international speaker on a variety of autism-related topics, is part of the Wisconsin DPI Statewide Autism Training Team, and is a board member of both the Autism Society of America: Wisconsin Chapter and the Autism National Committee. Judy maintains a private practice in Madison, WI, providing consultation for families, school districts, and other agencies. Besides having autism herself, she is the parent of three grown sons, one of whom is on the autism spectrum. In her spare time, Judy enjoys expressing her thoughts and ideas by creating one-of-a-kind hand-built pottery sculptures.



Christy Ashby is an Assistant Professor in the Teaching and Leadership Department of the School of Education at Syracuse University and the Research Director of the Institute on Communication and Inclusion. Her teaching and research focuses on inclusive education broadly, with specific emphasis on supports for students with labels of autism and other developmental disabilities, facilitated communication, disability studies, and inclusive school reform. Dr. Ashby's research has been published in journals including the *International Journal of Inclusive Education, Disability and Society, Teacher Education and Special Education, Disability Studies Quarterly,* and *Intellectual and Developmental Disability*.



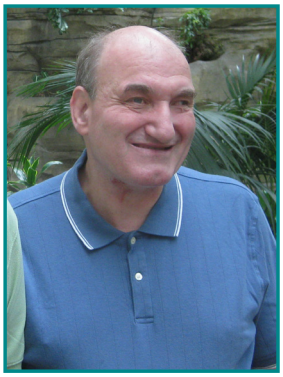
Michael McSheehan, a project director with the Institute on Disability/UCED and Clinical Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, has been affiliated with the Institute on Disability since 1993. Michael works on a variety of state and federally-funded initiatives to advance research, policy, and practice in inclusive education, alternate assessment, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), autism spectrum disorders, collaborative teaming, and Response to Intervention (RtI). He brings exceptional skills in working with teams to solve challenging problems within school-wide improvement and reform efforts.



Julia Bascom is an autistic woman, writer, and self-advocate. She writes about autistic identity and community, neuropoetics, disability rights and disability theory, special education, and autistic rights and autism acceptance. Julia is developing a number of projects which explore a variety of topics, including the silencing and erasing of autistic voices, bullying and abuse, independent living supports, and accessible sex education. She has presented as an ASAN member on autistic culture, participates on her state Developmental Disabilities Council, and is the founder and project organizer for The Loud Hands Project. Her website is juststimming.wordpress.com.

PRESENTERS, VENDORS, & POLICIES

KEYNOTE PRESENTERS (CONT'D)



Larry Bissonnette is an artist who lives in Milton, VT. He has been drawing and painting since he was a young child. In 1991, Bissonnette learned to communicate through typing and began combining words with his art to express his thoughts and ideas. Over the past 15 years, he has been a featured presenter at many educational conferences and has written and spoken on the topics of autism, communication and art. He is both the subject and writer of an award-winning film about his life called *My Classic Life as an Artist: A Portrait of Larry Bissonnette* (2005) and has most recently been featured in the documentary *Wretches and Jabberers* (2010). His artwork is in the permanent collection of the Muse de L'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland, and in many private collections. His work was most recently featured in the Hobart and William Smith Disability and the Arts Festival in April 2010.



Tracy Thresher is an advocate for people with disabilities. He lives and works in Vermont. He began typing to communicate in 1990 and was one of the first individuals with autism at Washington County Mental Health Services (a community-based service provider) to be introduced to it. Tracy has presented at local, statewide, and national workshops and conferences. He has consulted with local schools, is a member of the Vermont Statewide Standing Committee and has worked for the Green Mountain Self-Advocates in Montpelier, Vermont. In Vermont, he mentors teenagers and adults. Most recently, Tracy has consulted at Syracuse University as a lead trainer.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

Join us for a reception to celebrate the ASI on Monday evening beginning at 4:30pm. Sponsored by Jay Nolan Community Services and the Autism National Committee.

In the evenings beginning at 7:00pm on Monday and Tuesday, the ASI will present films about autism. Please join us for popcorn and a lively discussion afterward.

VENDORS

We would like to invite you to join us as an exhibitor at the 14th Annual Autism Summer Institute. In addition to nationally-renowned experts, the ASI continues to attract teachers, administrators, parents, self-advocates, and other professionals. Limited space is available. Please contact Sarah O'Rourke at sarah.orourke@unh.edu or 603.228.2084 for more information.

EVENT POLICIES

Advance registration is required and accepted in the order received. Registration is not complete until full payment or purchase order is received. Payment or purchase order must be provided at least seven (7) days prior to the event. Registrations received within six (6) days of the event may be accepted (depending upon availability) if accompanied by full payment or purchase order. If the event is cancelled or postponed, registrants will be given the option of cancelling their registration, receiving a full refund, applying their registration payment to another event, or attending the event if the event is rescheduled.

To receive a full refund, cancellations must be made in writing seven (7) days prior to the event. Cancellations received within six (6) days of the event are not eligible for a refund.

REGISTRATION FORM

Dates: August 6-8, 2012

Time: 8:00am – 4:00pm, plus evening activities

Location: Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH

I would like to attend:

Full Conference

☐ Professional: $399

☐ Students/Parents/Self-Advocates: $349

Single Day(s) $150 each

☐ 8/6 ☐ 8/7 ☐ 8/8

All registration fees include continental breakfast, materials on a USB flash drive, parking, Wi-Fi and evening activities.

Please add a boxed lunch for the following days *(add $10 each to registration total)*:

☐ 8/6 ☐ 8/7 ☐ 8/8

My general area of interest for this conference is:

☐ Strand A ☐ Strand B ☐ Strand C ☐ Strand D ☐ Strand E ☐ Strand F* ☐ Strand G

**A plannning team member will contact you for session placement and your facilitator's information.*

Register Online at
www.iod.unh.edu

fax: 603.228.3270

mail: 56 Old Suncook Road, Suite 2
Concord, NH 03301

Join the ASI on Facebook
www.facebook.com/autismsummerinstitute

Name: _____

Title: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

This address is my: ☐ Home ☐ Work

Daytime Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

**An e-mail confirmation will be sent prior to the event.*

Please Select Method of Payment:

☐ Check #: _____ ☐ Purchase Order #: _____

Checks can be made payable to the **University of NH and mailed to the address in the box above*

☐ Visa/MC #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: $_____

I understand and agree to the event policies outlined in this brochure (Signature Required)

Signature: _____

Please note any dietary/accessibility accommodations here: _____

_____

**Payment must be received prior to participation.*