

Child & Family Studies QUARTERLY

FALL 2015

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES • LOUIS DE LA PARTE FLORIDA MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

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Mark Your Calendar!

January 29-31, 2016

23rd Annual CARD Conference and Pre-Conference Day

Florida Hotel & Conference Center
Orlando, FL

<http://www.cardconference.net>

March 13-16, 2016

29th Annual Research & Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health

Hilton Tampa Downtown

<http://www.cmhconference.com>

April 3-6, 2016

Florida HIPPY State Conference

Rosen Plaza Hotel

Orlando, FL

http://www.hippyusa.org/national_conference.php

April 19-22, 2016

13th Annual National Training Institute on Effective Practices: Supporting Young Children's Social Emotional Development

Vinoy Renaissance Hotel

St. Petersburg, FL

www.addressingchallengingbehavior.org

Summer 2016

PEPSA Autism Summer Institute

Professor Ray Miltenberger Featured on DATELINE NBC Regarding Gun Safety

Dr. Raymond Miltenberger, CFS Professor and the Director of the Applied Behavior Analysis programs at USF, was featured on the DATELINE NBC segment, which aired on June 21, 2015 featuring kids and gun safety. The show is part of the series, *My Kid Would Never do That*.

"My Kid Would Never do That!"

The segment used a hidden camera approach to test two teaching methods — behavioral skills training and just talking — to find out which is more effective in keeping children safe.

Dr. Miltenberger has created a gun injury prevention program that uses behavioral skills training (BST) and in situ training. The intervention helps children to demonstrate the desired safety skills when confronted with a safety threat (a loaded gun) in a real life situation. The use of in situ training is a unique component of this intervention and has been shown to be very effective when combined with BST for teaching safety skills to children, 4 to 7 years of age.

"Working with the producers of the DATELINE episode was a great opportunity to get media exposure for my research on teaching safety skills to children. The episode allowed my results to get communicated to the public, and I hope it has a positive influence on parents who own guns."

— Dr. Miltenberger

During the taping of the segment, Dr. Miltenberger used two of his doctoral students, Sindy Sanchez and Diego Valbuena, to conduct scenarios with children that profiled the children's reaction to guns after going through gun safety training with "Dr. Ray," as he was called. Sindy is currently conducting her own research study to assess parents' opinions of what they want their child to do if they ever find an unattended firearm.

The DATELINE series can be viewed at <http://www.nbcnews.com/dateline/video/gun-safety-for-young-kids-468172355695%20>

Related Article Citation: Miltenberger, R. G. (2008). Teaching Safety Skills to Children: Prevention of Firearm Injury as an Exemplar of Best Practice in Assessment, Training, and Generalization of Safety Skills. *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, 1(1), 30–36.

In these DATELINE images, Dr. Miltenberger, being interviewed far right, provides training for local children (top), and discusses show after filming with Natalie Morales and families, bottom left.





HIPPY team in Nigeria with participating families

HIPPY's Early Childhood Education Pilot Program a Success in Nigeria, West Africa!

During Summer 2015, Florida's Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) participated in a three-week pilot project in Lagos, Nigeria with students from the University of Tampa (UT) who adapted HIPPY's age three curriculum into an innovative model using current technology and cell phone text messaging.

The UT student effort, known as Tembo, was part of the Hult Prize competitions, one of the world's largest student competitions encouraging the world's brightest business minds to compete in teams to solve the planet's biggest challenges with innovative ideas for sustainable start-up enterprises. Tembo was among the final six teams selected for the competition, which began with 21,000 students in teams from around the world.

CFS's HIPPY team, headed by Florida HIPPY State Director Dr. Mary Lindsey, served as mentors and consultants for Team Tembo both in Tampa and in Nigeria. From the time their feet hit the ground in Nigeria, the Florida HIPPY members Dr. Mary Lindsey, Ruby Joseph, and Eric Biel worked continuously with Team Tembo to pilot the program in nineteen communities. Many of these communities were among the poorest communities in Lagos, with two of the neighborhoods literally being under water.

"We were able to touch so many communities within the country," said Dr. Lindsey. "Some individuals that applied for the home visitor positions took four hours just to come for the interview. Their commitment was so huge that they would take two buses, a taxi, and then walk the rest of the way to have a chance to be part of this new educational initiative."

"Based on the pilot study, one can conclude that delivering the HIPPY curriculum using the text messaging format does work," said Ruby Joseph, HIPPY researcher. "This model is feasible and can be implemented with fidelity with the proper training and coaching of home visitors who should be carefully selected."

"The pilot could serve as the impetus for HIPPY USA to consider digitalizing the paper curriculum using text messaging as a vehicle to serve more families in the United States," said Dr. Lindsey. "We have witnessed its effectiveness in Africa, and I am totally convinced that it has the potential to work in communities all around the world."

Read more at <http://bit.ly/HIPYPilot>

Formal Partnership with the Netherlands and USF World

For almost 20 years, Dr. Heather Peshak George has provided training and technical assistance in several approaches that address the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of students across individual, classroom, targeted group, and school-wide levels. The processes, Positive Behavior Support (PBS), Response to Intervention (RTI) and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) result in the creation of effective intervention plans that impede problem behaviors, teach new skills, and create support systems for the student. USF is one of the leading universities nationally and internationally for the application of School Wide PBS (SWPBS) in schools.

In November 2014, Dr. George was invited to the Netherlands to visit schools; provide observational data, presentations, and workshops; and serve as an invited keynote speaker for the 6th Annual Dutch School Wide Positive Behavior Support Conference.

Her presentation led to a second invitation and return trip in August 2015 to form an international partnership with the Netherlands' Windesheim University of Applied Sciences and USF World. This partnership will provide an opportunity to strengthen collaborations, identify other potential collaborators in both the USA and the Netherlands, gain experience in the application of SWPBS across different environments within and across different cultures, and allow for the expansion of research and evaluation.

"This partnership will provide an excellent opportunity for faculty exchange regarding teaching, research and organizational purposes on multi-tiered support systems for learning and behavior in education and sports," said Dr. George. "We will also be collaborating on web based education for Master students and relevant webinars. This ability to provide and receive coaching and technical assistance will help improve systems and expand knowledge about support systems developed in the USA and flexibility of implementation of those interventions in other countries."



CFS Associate Professor Dr. Heather George (center), works with Jan Doelman (left), Chair, Research Centre and Master programs Human movement and Education, and Harry Frantzen, Dean, Division of Human Movement and Education from Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, on contract for the international partnership.



Dr. Rick Weinberg with students in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

USF Dr. Rick Weinberg Leads Study Abroad in Florence, Italy

What better location than Florence, Italy to take an intimate relationships course? The course, which is taught by Dr. Rick Weinberg, Associate Professor in the CBCS Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program, is part of the *USF in Florence Summer Study Abroad Program*. One of the most popular among USF's approximately three-dozen summer study abroad programs, Florence surrounds students with art, architecture, ambiance and unique cuisine that have made it famous for centuries.

"Intimate relationships are universal across all lands and cultures. Italy, the 'land of romance' is the perfect setting for the six-week course," said Dr. Weinberg.

"Going to Florence was an experience of a lifetime," said 2015 summer student Anna Margiotta. "Dr. Weinberg's class was really cool. It was set up in a way that allowed all the students in the class to become familiar and comfortable with each other. We all have very different opinions about things, but we were able to freely discuss them with each other without the fear of judgments."

Read more about the USF Florence Italy Study Abroad Program at <http://bitly.com/USFinFlorence>



USF in Florence study-abroad students at the ancient Coliseum in Rome

Evaluation Efforts in Guam Help Lead to Improved Services for Children and Adolescents

Over the last 10 years, CFS's Kathy Lazear has been a national evaluation consultant for two of Guam's behavioral health initiatives through ICF International. Lazear has made five visits to Guam, conducting assessments of the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) funded projects through a Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program grant. During the 3-day assessment, Lazear along with a partner evaluator complete the assessment based on information obtained from interviews, case record reviews, and additional documentation provided by Guam's grant community staff.



Kathy Lazear

The first initiative, I Famagu'on-ta, a child-centered, family-focused system of care, delivers comprehensive, community-based mental health and related services through a wraparound process to children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbance and their families. The second initiative, Project Kariñu, was established because of a concern by parents, child care staff and mental health providers about the increasing number of young children who were displaying signs of emotional disorders. The goal of Project Kariñu is to develop and implement a comprehensive early childhood system of care through a public health approach in order to prevent emotional disorders. Through the assessments, Lazear states that "Project Kariñu has clearly elevated the importance of identifying and addressing social-emotional needs among young children."





Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling (RMHC) Scores High on USF Graduate Certificate Rankings

Among USF's 134 active Graduate Certificate programs at USF, RMHC programs are ranked very high in the number of applications submitted to USF. The Marriage & Family Therapy graduate certificate program is ranked #4. The certificate enables professionals in mental health, rehabilitation counseling, counselor education, social work, psychology, and other human service fields to enhance their knowledge and skills in marriage and family therapy. The graduate certificate in Addictions and Substance Abuse Counseling is ranked #15.

RMHC Faculty Receive \$1 Million Training Grant

Tammy Jorgensen-Smith, PhD and Christina Dillahunt-Aspillaga, PhD have received a \$1 million five-year training grant from the Rehabilitation Service Administration, U.S. Department of Education. The purpose of the project entitled Rehabilitation Counseling Master's Degree Program – A Solution to Personnel Shortages in the Florida Public Vocational Rehabilitation System is to promote the recruitment, training and development of highly-qualified rehabilitation counselors to meet the high demand for public sector providers of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services.

Through this funding, new courses will be developed to teach scholars customized employment strategies that align with provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) and adhere to recommendations from researchers on essential knowledge domains. The accredited program emphasizes applied learning that focuses on effective practices to serve VR consumers with a wide range of disabilities.

Welcome Dr. Chih-Chin Chou, RMHC Director

CBCS welcomes Dr. Chih-Chin Chou who serves as the Director of the RMHC program. In March 2015, the program was ranked #24 in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, out of the 166 Rehabilitation Counseling Graduate Programs. Dr. Chou is formally from the University of Arizona where she was a tenured Associate Professor and Rehabilitation Counseling Program Coordinator in the Department of Disability and Psycho-educational Studies. Dr. Chou's research interests include psychiatric rehabilitation, research methodology, social support, vocational outcomes for people with disabilities, rehabilitation education, international rehabilitation, and positive psychology. She has published over 25 articles in peer-reviewed journals and eight book chapters. Dr. Chou has received numerous grants including three current training grants totaling almost \$2.5 million.



Dr. Chih-Chin Chou

"Since joining USF, I have enjoyed working with the RMHC faculty and staff and look forward to our many successes together as we work to transform lives and communities through academic excellence. As a daughter of a high school teacher who became deaf at the age of 39, my work in the rehabilitation counseling field is motivated by a strong desire to advocate for the basic rights of equity, access, and participation for those living with a disability or chronic illness."

— Dr. Chou

Welcome Sarah Balmer, RMHC Academic Services Administrator

Welcome to Sarah Balmer, who joined the Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling Program (RMHC) as an Academic Services Administrator in the Spring of 2015. Sarah oversees the general administration of the master's and graduate certificate programs in RMHC. She is also involved in many aspects of the RMHC program, including faculty support and development, student admissions and academic support, course management, and communications development. Sarah also coordinates all of CFS's academic administrative functions.



Sarah Balmer

Updates to ABA Master's Practicum Activities

The Fall semester has been exciting for practicum students and practicum sites. Since arriving on board, new practicum coordinator Dr. Catia Cividini-Motta, in collaboration with the entire ABA faculty, has re-shaped the practicum process. Graduate students can choose from practicum sites serving individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or a related disabilities, individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI), youth and adults with a forensic background, typically developing children displaying problem behavior, to name a few. Students also have a chance to work at a variety of settings, including clinics, home, private and public schools, residential facilities, and juvenile detention centers. As part of the re-invention of the practicum, graduate students and practicum supervisors received the first practicum feedback survey, developed to foster frequent communication between students, practicum supervisors, and the ABA program.

ABA Alumni Reflects on FCIC Training Program

ABA Alumni Samantha Spillman is currently the Regional Director at Precision Teaching Learning Center (TLC) in Wesley Chapel and the South Tampa area. She works with children who are struggling or wanting to advance grade levels by building academic skills to functional fluent levels. Samantha first joined the TLC family in January



Samatha Spillman



of 2013 while completing a Master's Degree in CFS's Applied Behavior Analysis program. Simultaneously, she gained experience working in the Hillsborough County Public School district as a behavior assistant through a grant funded by the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC), which offers an Interdisciplinary Trainee program for undergraduate and graduate students obtaining degrees that support individuals with developmental disabilities.

"My experience as an FCIC trainee was wonderful. All the professors and staff helped me in more ways than one to become the behavior analyst that I am today. Frequent communication of the most up to date research, webinars, laws and policies has been wonderful, especially upon completion of the program."

— Samantha Spillman

Read more at <http://bitly.com/USFABAalumni>.

ABA Welcomes Third Cohort of ABA PhD Students



2015 ABA Doctoral students Cynthia Livingston, Marissa Novotny, Jessica Moore & Claudia Campos

The ABA doctoral program welcomes its third cohort of students during the Fall 2015 semester. Each year brings increasing numbers of highly qualified applicants. This year's cohort includes a prestigious McKnight Doctoral Fellow and a USF University Graduate Fellow.



Welcome 2015 ABA Master's Class

First Cohort of Master's Students in Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health

The fully online Master of Science Degree in Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health (MSCABH) prepares professionals to serve in public and non-profit agencies and schools that work with diverse children and adolescents experiencing behavioral health challenges and their families. Visit <http://cabh.cbcs.usf.edu> for more information.

What our MSCABH students are saying...

"As soon as I read about [the program], it automatically caught my attention and I felt that this was the program for me. Today, I am glad to say that I wasn't mistaken because it is truly the best program that I could of have chosen. It is giving me the necessary tools and knowledge that I need to be successful."



Anileidy Perry

"My very first semester in the MSCABH program, I sought out any professors in the program who would willingly let me get involved with their research. From there, I was introduced to USF's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. I am currently a mentor to a 23 year-old student with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This experience has opened my eyes to developmental disabilities that can cause substantial social, communication and behavioral challenges in children and adolescents. The more experience I gain working with individuals with developmental disabilities, the more my thirst for knowledge and research continues to grow."



Christine Gitch

"I would say that if you are looking for a degree that can train you to create change in mental health, then apply for this program. If you are an avid learner and want to take that love for improving the lives of those affected with mental health by becoming a director or supervisor, then this is the program for you."



Kari Klein



Dr. Kevin Murdoch (left) presents award to Dr. Miltenberger

Dr. Ray Miltenberger Receives Prestigious Award from FABA

Congratulations to Professor and ABA Program Director Dr. Ray Miltenberger who received the prestigious Outstanding Scientific Contributions to the Field of Behavior Analysis Award during the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis Conference and Awards Ceremony on October 1st. During the awards presentation for Dr. Miltenberger, more than 700 FABA members in the audience stood and clapped for a long duration. "This included a very vocal, appreciative, sign-waving group of USF students and faculty," said Dr. Kevin Murdoch, FABA Executive Director, who presented the award.

The Center for Child Welfare Expands its Quality Parenting Training to 4th State

The Center for Child Welfare became a partner with the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) in Florida in 2010, and its *Just In Time* foster parent training program was funded through the Center's contract with the Florida Department of Children & Families. Since that time, the QPI has expanded outside the state of Florida to California and Nevada, and has recently contracted with Ohio as a fourth state seeking additional support for foster parents.



QPI is a system change initiative that recognizes that children who must be in

foster homes require excellent foster parents who can meet their special needs while in their home and work as an equal partner in the system to achieve permanency for children. Read more at <http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/news-events/detail.cfm?id=978>

Dr. Rose Iovannone Receives \$1.5 Million Federal Grant

Through the work of Dr. Rose Iovannone, CFS's Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC) is working with two other university centers (University of Rochester and Appalachian State University) to develop and pilot their intervention model, Students with Autism Accessing General Education (SAAGE).

The three-year, \$1.5 million research project is funded by the Institute of Education Sciences/National Center for Special Education Research Program and aims to increase the quality of educational services and access to inclusive settings for students with co-occurring autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and intellectual disability (ID) in elementary school (kindergarten through 5th grade). The SAAGE approach for each student includes identifying individual goals, selecting appropriate teaching strategies, and systematically monitoring progress and trouble-shooting. To read more, visit <http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/news-events/detail.cfm?id=981>

CFS Supports Pilot Studies

CFS and FCIC research faculty are conducting two pilot studies to address challenging behavior for young children at home and improved mental health services for middle school students in schools.

Dr. Chris Vatland is working with Dr. Lise Fox and Shelley Clarke to examine the use of the Prevent-Teach-Reinforce model with parents to reduce child challenging behavior in their homes. This model has been used very effectively to address child challenging



Dr. Chris Vatland

behavior in school and preschool settings and a new version has been developed to be used by parents to address issues in home and community settings.

Dr. Natalie Romer and colleagues Dr. Sara Whitcomb (University of Massachusetts) and Dr. Kelli Cummings (University of Maryland) will be testing their newly developed strength-based universal self-report screening instrument on 600 middle school students. The screening instrument is intended to monitor student progress associated with social and emotional instruction and environmental supports.



Dr. Natalie Romer

Cultural & Linguistic Competence Hub Funded

CFS is part of a new \$33+ million contract awarded to the University of Maryland School of Social Work by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services, Child, Adolescent and Family Branch to serve as the National Training and Technical Assistance Center for Child, Youth and Family Mental Health, operated by the National Technical Assistance Network for Children's Behavioral Health (TA Network). CFS, in partnership with the Center for Community Learning, Inc. in Miami and Texas, is the Cultural & Linguistic Competence (CLC) Hub of the TA Network. Working with the diverse selection of systems of care communities throughout the United States and U.S. Territories, including urban, rural, Tribal and non-English speaking communities, CFS faculty include PI Dr. Mario Hernandez, Co-PI Kathy Lazear and Project Director Dr. Linda Callejas.

"The field of cultural competence has evolved over the last 10 years and has, I believe, become much more operationally focused. This includes issues like workforce development, financing, as well as effective services and support," said Kathy Lazear.



In Memory of Don Policella

Don Policella, Director of the Center for Child Welfare in CFS, passed away unexpectedly. All of us who worked with Don are mourning his passing. Don was a leader in Florida's child welfare community for many years; his vision and wisdom will be much missed.



Dr. William Kearns, Helping Veterans



Dr. William Kearns

At the 2015 John K. Friesen International Conference "Harnessing Technology for Aging-in Place," Dr. William Kearns, Professor in the Department of Child & Family

Studies in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences at the University of South Florida, presented opening remarks and a paper on his current work, "Extending Smart Home Technology for Persons with Cognitive Impairment."

Research Assistant Professor Dr. Norin Dollard Interviewed on WUSF



Dr. Norin Dollard

As Director of Florida KIDS COUNT, Dr. Dollard commented on the July national KIDS COUNT Data Book annual release, which revealed that while Florida ranked

37th in overall child well-being, the state showed improvement in measures of health over a five-year period from 2008 to 2013.

Read about more CFS faculty and staff in the news at <http://bitly.com/CFSinthenews>



Lorna Henley



Dana Stanley

Certified Research Administrators

Congratulations to Lorna Henley and Dana Stanley, who have earned the designation of Certified Research Administrators at USF. Obtaining this credential demonstrates an exceptional level of commitment to excellence in research administration at USF.



Dr. Liz Perkins

Dr. Perkins and NTG

As part of the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices (NTG), Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Perkins has had a unique opportunity to help develop the NTG Guidelines for Dementia-Related Health Advocacy for Adults with Intellectual Disability and Dementia.



Dr. Mary Armstrong

Dr. Mary Armstrong Provides Testimony

In March, 2015, Dr. Mary Armstrong, CFS Associate Professor and Executive Director of the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, presented requested testimony before the Florida House of Representatives Sub-Committee on Children, Families and Seniors on the strengths, challenges, and recommendations for Florida's mental health system of care for children.



Dr. Donna Cohen

Donna Cohen Appointed to Graduate Council

Donna Cohen, PhD has been appointed to the USF Graduate Council for a three year term (2015-2018), effective Fall 2015 semester. The USF Graduate Council advises the Provost and the Senior Vice President for

USF Health or their designees on principles, policies, and procedures affecting graduate education at USF.

FCIC Staff Featured Prominently in Tampa Mayor's Alliance Awards Ceremony



Brenda Clark, Mayor Bob Buckhorn, and Dr. Liz Perkins

Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn presented four awards during the 27th Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities Awards Luncheon on Friday, October 16, 2015. The event was emceed by local television/radio celebrity, Jack Harris, and the keynote speaker was FCIC's Associate Director Dr. Liz Perkins. FCIC's Employment Services Coordinator, Brenda Clark, currently serves as the Alliance's Treasurer, and was the nominator of one of the award recipients, Chatequa Pinkston! To watch the ceremony and Dr. Perkins' speech "Disability: neither a confiner nor definer be," visit <https://youtu.be/bXAvJUvFemQ>

Welcome new CFS Faculty!



Catia Cividini-Motta, PhD
Visiting Assistant Professor and Practicum Coordinator, ABA Program



Amanda Depippo, Doctoral Candidate, LMHC, CAP
Instructor and Field Placement Director, RMHC Program



Amy Green, PhD
Research Associate, CFS



Stephen Trapp, PhD
Research Associate, RMHC Program



Giving to CFS

Please consider partnering with us to generate hope and solutions for the complex issues confronting individuals, children, and families. Donations to CFS support our commitment to enhance the development, mental health and well-being of children and families through leadership in research and evaluation, theory, policy, and practice innovation.

Donations can be made online, or by mail. For more information, visit <http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/donations/>, or contact Lisa Isenbeck at (813) 974-2327, or email at lisenbeck@usf.edu.

- 530025 ABA Student Assistance Fund** supports the student work and initiatives of the Applied Behavior Analysis Master's Program.
- 536001 Autism Endowment Fund** supports the ongoing operating expenses of CARD-USF.
- 530002 Autism Services Fund** allows CARD to continue providing individuals with autism spectrum disorder, and their families, the support they need.
- 530024 Florida KIDS COUNT funds** will help to maintain the ability of Florida KIDS COUNT to provide reports, data, technical consultations and expertise on the challenges facing our children and effective strategies for addressing them.
- 530013 Child & Family Studies Fund** support CFS programs that are being implemented in the schools, at home with the family, in public agencies and other organizations.
- 530004 HIPPY Services Fund** supports and promotes HIPPY programs in Florida, assists HIPPY families in Florida, and supports and promotes activities of the Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance Center.

To find out more about specific programs, visit our website at <http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/donations>.

The CFS Quarterly is produced by the Department of Child & Family Studies within the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences at the University of South Florida.

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Previous copies of the CFS Quarterly can be found at <http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/>



Tampa Interbay Rotary Presents \$25,000 to CARD-USF and the ABA Program at USF

In June, Tampa Interbay Rotary President Allen Keetch presented checks totaling \$25,000 to the Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD-USF) and the Applied Behavior Analysis Program (ABA), recipients of the 6th Annual Cycling Out Autism fundraising event held March 28, 2015.



Dr. Karen Berkman, Tampa Interbay Rotary President Allen Keetch, and Dr. Ray Miltenberger

This year's funds will help CARD-USF expand outreach through their branch office serving Highlands, Desoto and Hardee counties to provide agencies, service providers and families with the knowledge and skills to support children and adults with autism and related disabilities. Visit <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu>.

The ABA program utilized its Rotary funds to support one of its doctoral students, Anna Garcia, to complete her research on autism that enhances Latino parent participation and improves behavioral services for Latino children. Visit <http://aba.cbcs.usf.edu>.

March 19, 2016: Save the Date for next year's event!

The Interbay Rotary Club is hosting Cycling for Autism on Saturday March 19, 2016 at the Pasco Rotary Pavillon at Concourse Nature Park in Spring Hill. A variety of sponsorship options are available. For additional information, contact Raquel Anderson at (912) 661-0220 or Ken Hopkins at (336) 471-5709.



CARD's ASD & Mental Health Conference

On November 6, CARD-USF and PEPSA teamed up to offer a one day conference on autism and mental health. The well attended event provided information and practical strategies. In the past, many assumed that issues such as anxiety, depression, or obsessive compulsive symptoms were part and parcel of the diagnosis of autism. However, we now know that these mental health issues can co-exist as a separate diagnosis along with autism. Keynote speakers Dr. Ghazziudin from University of Michigan and Rebecca Klaw, an expert in the field of autism, helped to frame the day with an understanding of how autism and mental health issues relate and how clinicians can be effective in working through these concerns. Breakouts in the afternoon focused on research and interventions in the areas of anxiety, depression, and challenging behavior from Drs. Nadeau, Ghazziudin, Storch, Liso as well as Rebecca Klaw and Joel Shaul. Visit <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu>.