

## Blazing a Trail with the Development Office

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." As we conclude our first year of operation in the new Clinical Education Complex, we look back on a "trail" that has been blazed by our faculty, staff, community partners, volunteers and program participants who saw the need for this facility and stepped forward to make it a reality. How fortunate we are to live in a community that cares so much for one another and demonstrates that love by giving so freely of time, energy and financial gifts. Their "trailblazing" approach will serve as a national model for other organizations that aspire to help those in their communities, just like ours, and will inspire many families who have no where else to turn for assistance.

Each day, we have the opportunity to talk with individuals and families who have benefited from the services offered at the Clinical Education Complex. The single mother who needed counseling services, but didn't know who to turn to...the teenager with autism and his family who wondered what lay ahead after high school ended...or the parents of the preschool child with Down Syndrome who wondered where their child would receive the attention she needed—these are all individuals

and families who have benefited from the CEC.

While we are prepared to say "goodbye" to a very successful inaugural year, there is much work left to be done. Do you have time or talent that you can share by volunteering? Are you in a position to make a financial gift to support the programs of the CEC? Do you know of someone who would benefit from one of the services offered by the CEC? Please consider this a call to action—we need you to share your special talents with the Clinical Education Complex to ensure that we continue on our path to success. Please do not hesitate to give us a call if you would like a tour of the facility or if you would like additional information on how you might make a gift. Rest assured that your gift—of time, talent or money—will have an immediate and lasting impact on those in your community who need it the most. Thank you!

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## Guest Appearance by Dr. Roy Grinker



Dr. Roy Grinker, noted author of Unstrange Minds: Remapping the World of Autism and an expert in the field of autism, will be here on Western Kentucky University's campus on October 11th and 12th to discuss his new book and share his thoughts on living with autism. Please mark your calendars! Dr. Grinker will be making a presentation on Thursday, October 11th at 4:00 p.m. here at the CEC. After his presentation, there will be a book-signing in the lobby. We hope you will be able to attend.

## Upcoming Events:

- Counseling Workshop with Dr. Don Nims—  
October 29, 2007
- Dr. Roy Grinker's Discussion on Autism—  
October 11, 2007
- Autism Festival—  
April 2008



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**“...building  
bridges  
between  
individuals  
and needed  
services  
within the  
community.”**



## Communication Disorders Clinic Information

The Western Kentucky University Communication Disorders Clinic was established in 1975 by Dr. Stan Cooke. It is the only university clinic in the state which is licensed by the State of Kentucky as an Outpatient Rehabilitation Service Agency. It operates within the guidelines set by the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA). Clinical services are provided Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. by student clinicians under the supervision of licensed and ASHA certified Speech-Language Pathologists and/or Audiologists. Approximately 60 undergraduate and graduate student clinicians provide services for approximately 75 clients per semester. Fees are charged per semester to maintain clinical supplies. Since we have become a part of the Clinical Education Complex, we are able to expand the services and experiences offered to our clients, students and faculty.

### Summer /Fall 2007

The summer 2007 Communication Disorders Clinic was in operation from Tuesday, July 2nd through

Thursday, July 26th, 2007. We had sixty-nine clients scheduled who received speech-language therapy throughout July. Additionally, our clinicians provided DIAL-3 speech and language screenings for approximately 200 children in the following five counties: Barren, Butler, Hart, Metcalfe and Warren. The Fall 2007 Communication Disorders Clinic has 85 clients scheduled with 53 graduate and undergraduate clinicians. The Clinic will be in operation from Monday, September 10 through Thursday, November 29. We have a large variety of clients ranging in age from one and one-half years to seventy-one years of age. Their classifications include Autism, Articulation and Phonological delays, Fluency difficulties, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Down Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Delay, Cognitive-Linguistic Problems, Language Delay, Auditory Processing problems, Stroke, Reading difficulties and Auditory Processing Delayed students. We look forward to a very busy and productive Fall 2007 Clinic.

## Acquired Brain Injury Program Director has Ties to Bob Woodruff

On February 27th, ABC Television presented an hour-long special about reporter Bob Woodruff's year-long recovery from a traumatic brain injury (TBI) that was sustained as a result of an explosion that occurred while he was reporting from Iraq. In one of the video segments, Mr. Woodruff was seen using therapy cards developed by Dr. Richard Dressler of Western Kentucky University's Department of Communication Disorders. Dr. Dressler is also the director of the Clinical Education Complex's Acquired Brain Injury Resource Program which serves WKU students and individuals from south central Kentucky who have suffered brain injuries including TBI. In recognition of Bob Woodruff's story about his recovery and the benefits of rehabilitation

services for TBI, the staff at the Clinical Education Complex sent Mr. Woodruff a framed and autographed set of the cards developed by Dr. Dressler.



## Family Resource Program

The Family Resource Program is a service/resource program staffed with social work faculty, students and family volunteers. Staff is available to meet with family members and significant others to provide information, resource material, screening services and referrals.

The Family Resource Program strives to be proactively engaged with individuals and caregivers by empowering them while providing information and referral services as well as building bridges between individuals and needed services within the community.

The program serves as a unifying point of the entire CEC. Several of the services that are being developed through this program include: information, screening

and referrals; family needs assessment' resource assistance; educational support; community volunteers; and a resource directory.



## Kelly Autism Program Moves into CEC

The Kelly Autism Program has moved into its new home in the CEC! This is exciting for the participants, families, staff and directors as the program was operating out of four different locations on campus due to the huge increase in the number of participants. Now there are adequate classrooms, a kitchen for cooking, a great art room and two sensory rooms.

During the summer program, KAP grew to over 55 participants, which was up from 32 in 2006, and 13 in 2005! All participants over the age of 16 were employed in paid positions; the under 16 group actively volunteered in their community. Our elementary group was busy cooking, learning about different countries, making a quilt, and having a good time learning many new things.

Current enrollment for the fall semester is 63 participants. Staff and volunteers for KAP consist of students from Communication Disorders, Psychology, Excep-

tional Education, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education and Public Health.

Plans are underway for the grand opening activities, which will be coming soon in September or October. Please join us to thank our community and Western Kentucky University for their support because they have provided many opportunities for KAP to become the program that it has developed into through the last four years! Thank you from everyone involved with KAP!



## Family Counseling Clinic Information

The Family Counseling Clinic is still accepting referrals and new clients. We are here to assist individuals and families who want to explore challenges and gain personal growth.

Counseling is a process where people can explore issues of concern in a supportive, non-judgmental environment. Through counseling, individuals and families can learn how to enhance their relationships, develop unused resources more fully and become better at helping themselves in their everyday lives.

At the WKU Family Counseling Clinic (FCC), individuals, couples and families are encouraged to talk freely, examine relationships, ask questions and explore options. The FCC strives to help individuals, couples and families cope with relationship issues and emotional concerns and deal more effectively with relationship and personal problems hindering their personal and interpersonal growth. The FCC also provides programs for community outreach, family wellness, family education and preventive programs.

Graduate interns work under the supervision of University faculty who are licensed mental health professionals. All services are offered on an individual, group and/or relational basis and are subject to applicable laws and professional standards.

The WKU Family Counseling Clinic provides a full range of counseling services to assist individuals and families in addressing issues related to school, social, marital and family adjustment, to include family counseling, group counseling and individual counseling.

Within this focus, counseling may specifically address:

- Premarital Counseling
- Child Behavioral Problems
- Adolescent Issues
- Couple and Family Distress and Conflict
- Family Adjustment to Divorce
- Blended Families
- Parenting Skills
- Couples Communication
- Marital/Family Conflict
- Depression and Hopelessness
- Stress and Anxiety
- Anger and Guilt
- Grief and Loss
- Intimacy Concerns
- Self-Esteem
- Substance Abuse
- Eating Disorders
- Domestic Violence
- Addictions

Please call 745-4232 to schedule an appointment.

Stay tuned for more information regarding workshops this fall, including:

- Using Solution Focused Brief Counseling in Play Therapy with Dr. D on Nims;
- What Counselors Need to Know to Work with Children with Autism by Dr. Marty Boman;
- Schizophrenia: A Counselor's Survival Kit by Dr. Tammy Shaffer; and
- Parent Support Groups.

***“..families can learn how to enhance their relationships, develop unused resources more fully and become better at helping themselves...”***

## Parent Spotlight

My name is Tammy Miller and my son, Seth Miller, 5 years of age, has been attending the Western Kentucky University Communication Disorders Clinic since the fall semester, 2006. I appreciate the opportunity to give my perception on how this therapy has helped Seth to date.

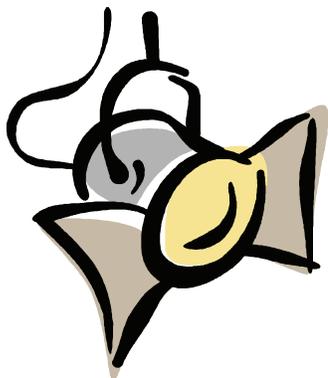
Seth had been receiving speech therapy in his preschool program and a fellow mother in our school highly recommended Western's speech program to me since her son had so greatly benefited from it himself. I started inquiring more about the program then in the spring of 2006.

Now that Seth has been attending steadily since the fall semester of 2006 and we are wrapping up our current summer therapy, the impact on Seth has been tremendous. Over the duration of two full semesters, Seth has made great improvements in his speech and has successfully met the goals set by his student clinician. The clinician that worked with Seth the last two semes-

ters and the clinician assigned to him for this summer were both well suited matches for Seth and endlessly demonstrated such a welcomed candor spirit throughout this one on one therapy experience.

The exercises given to work on at home have also helped Seth achieve his goals considerably. My husband and I have been content with the steady progress in Seth's articulation and production skills. We would be confident in recommending Western Kentucky University's Communication Disorders Clinic to any of our family, friends or neighbors.

I value this experience for Seth who has been better prepared for kindergarten and I genuinely thank both clinicians and each smiling face we saw as we entered the clinic.



***“Individualized goals and strategies are embedded in group activities for children with special needs.”***



The Early Childhood Center (ECC) provides developmental play groups (which are called Big Red School) for toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarten children of all abilities. Children with developmental delays and/or disabilities participate in activities with typically developing children. Individualized goals and strategies are embedded in group activities for children with special needs. Typically developing children learn acceptance of others who are different and begin to appreciate the talents of children with disabilities while providing peer modeling of age appropriate behaviors and skills. All children have fun and learn together in this integrated group setting.

Sixty-six children attended Big Red School this past summer 2007. Twelve groups were provided for five weeks during June and July. The fall 2007 semester will begin Tuesday, September 11, and end Friday,

December 7. Fifty children are scheduled to attend in the fall and an extra toddler group has been added due to the number of referrals received.

The ECC is very excited to announce a new staff person, Vicki Beach MS, CCC/SLP. Vicki joined our team in May, 2007 as a part-time employee and will become full-time in September. Funding for this position was received through a WHAS Crusade for Children grant. Vicki provides music and movement classes, speech consultation, supervision of students and assistance with programmatic issues. The ECC has also received a graduate assistant position which will be filled by Ericka Powell, who has worked for the past two years as a student worker for Big Red School. Sarah Hussung and Brittany Meitzmeier will also be a part of the ECC team this year.



## Clinical Education Complex News

The Clinical Education Complex has been in operation for exactly one year....and it has been a very productive first year of operation! We have acclimated well to the new facilities, and each other. Our clients and their families are very pleased and appreciative of our services. Our students and faculty are all very positive and feeling as though much has been accomplished.

### COLLABORATION

The Clinical Education Complex has been able to collaborate amongst the Early Childhood Center, the Kelly Autism Program and the Communication Disorders Clinic. There have been referrals made to the Family Resource Program and Family Counseling Clinic from the Kelly Autism Program, the Early Childhood Center, the Communication Disorders Clinic and the Acquired Brain Injury Resource Program. These collaborative experiences have been powerful for our clients, students and faculty involved. The opportunity for collaboration is just one of the real strengths of the Clinical Education Complex. The CEC is unique in that there is no other identified program in the nation which houses the six programs that comprise the CEC. Because of its uniqueness, the CEC has the opportunity to become a national model in service delivery, education, collaboration and research opportunities.

### INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

An Interdisciplinary Autism Research Committee has recently been developed. Its members are: Frank Kersting, Marty Boman, Janet Fugate, Julie Lee, Mary Lloyd Moore and Lisa Murphy. The group has met and discussed several possibilities for research in the area of autism. This project will be continuing throughout the next academic year and there will be upcoming reports from them about their research opportunities.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

There have been several community meetings and presentations hosted here at the CEC. If you are interested in hosting your group at the CEC, please let us know. We would be happy to show you our programs and facility, and discuss the services available at the Clinical Education Complex.

### HELMET GIVEAWAY

The Acquired Brain Injury Resource Program, in conjunction with the Crocker Law Firm, participated in a helmet giveaway at Bowling Green's new skate park on June 20th. ABIRP also supplied the Blue Wallace Skate Shop with helmets to loan to skaters in an effort to promote head injury prevention.

### OPPORTUNITIES

While we celebrate the progress and significant accomplishments which have been made to date, we look forward to the unique opportunities for growth that are in store for the Clinical Education Complex. The CEC is in a unique position of providing integrated clinical services to an ever-increasing number of families and individuals with disabilities within the Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) region and beyond. Because there is no other program of its nature, the CEC has the rare opportunity to become a nationally recognized program of distinction in service, training and research. The CEC has as its goal to become a national model for partnerships between the community, university, schools and government which provide fiscally sound, effective services to families and individuals with disabilities. We are certainly on our way.

### COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities. The program, which is organized by SKY Soccer Club volunteers, is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl, age 5-high school, who has a mental or physical disability. For more information contact the SKY soccer office at 846-2010 or email [office@sokysoccer.org](mailto:office@sokysoccer.org) or call Gail Hiles at 846-1683 or email [gail.hiles@wku.edu](mailto:gail.hiles@wku.edu).

### NEW EQUIPMENT

The Clinical Education Complex has secured funding to install equipment in the classroom to hold teleconferences. This will provide instructors the ability to teach interactive video classes from the CEC classroom and will also open the possibility of expanding support group meetings to individuals who live near WKU's extended campuses in Glasgow, Owensboro and Elizabethtown.

### THANK YOU

The dream of the Clinical Education Complex has now, definitely, become a reality. We are happy to report that the first year of operation at the Clinical Education Complex has been a resounding success. This success, however, would not be possible without people like you, who are willing to support the CEC at each and every turn. Heartfelt thanks to all of you who have given, and continue to give so tirelessly of your time, talent, energy and resources.

*“Heartfelt thanks to all of you who have given...of your time, talent, energy and resources.”*





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**Visit the CEC  
website at  
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