

A PUBLICATION
OF THE AAIDD
AD HOC
COMMITTEE ON
STUDENT /
JUNIOR MEMBER
RECRUITMENT

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Highlights from the AAIDD 2007 Annual Meeting (pg. 1)
- Student Research Highlight featuring Jennifer Jones (pg. 2)

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Student Research Highlight	2
Teleconference Series Update	2
AAIDD Guide Program	3
Research and Training Opportunities	3
AAIDD Early Career Award	4
Question Corner	4
How to Get Involved in SJMRR	5
Joining AAIDD	5
Contact Us	5

AAIDD Student and Young Professionals Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2007

Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of the AAIDD Student and Young Professional Newsletter!

This newsletter was created to connect and share information with students and young professionals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As you will see, the newsletter highlights student research, provides a forum for students and young professionals to ask questions and learn more about AAIDD, and shares information about ongoing activities within AAIDD that provide opportunities for students

and young professionals to get involved, network, and learn from their colleagues. We hope you find this to be a useful resource and invite you to share your thoughts on how the newsletter can be improved, what content you would like to see in future issues, and any ideas you have for how AAIDD can continue to support you — the next generation of leaders!

We look forward to hearing from you!



Knowledge | Support | Empowerment

Cameron Neece

Co-Chair AAIDD Student / Junior Member Recruitment and Retention Committee
cneece@ucla.edu

Highlights from the 2007 AAIDD Annual Meeting

The 2007 AAIDD Annual Meeting was held May 21st – 24th in Atlanta, Georgia. It included many exciting activities for students and young professionals. AAIDD recently established a Student Scholarship program to recognize outstanding student presentations and support attendance at the Annual Meeting. The two inaugural Student Scholarship recipients, Jennifer Jones and Alexa Martin-Storey, were recognized at the Opening Session. Keep your eyes open for in-

formation about student scholarships for the 2008 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

AAIDD and the Academy hosted a lunch at the Annual Meeting for students and young professionals. AAIDD Fellows, Board Members, and Leaders were in attendance and students and young profes-

sionals had the chance to network and enjoy lunch. So many students and young professionals attended that we had to order extra lunches! AAIDD also continued its tradition of recognizing outstanding students, presenting Nina Zuna with the 2007 Student Award.



**Nina Zuna receiving the
AAIDD Student Award**

We are already making plans for next year's Annual Meeting – please share your ideas for the conference with us!

Student Research Highlight

Teaching Fire Safety to Young Children with Developmental Delays

Jennifer Jones, M.S. (AAIDD Student Member), Patricia A. Self, Ph.D., and Deborah Norris, Ph.D.

Okalahoma State University

According to the National Fire Incident Reporting System persons with impaired physical and cognitive abilities are more susceptible to death and injury from fire than other groups. While a number of resources are available and utilized for fire safety education, only one empirical study was found exploring the effectiveness of the interventions used to teach fire safety concepts to young children. Believing that early instruction is critical in achieving long-term understanding and application of safety skills, this study sought to validate the use of a sociocultural approach to teach fire safety concepts to 14 preschoolers with developmental delays. The study was implemented in two special education classrooms over a 2 week period with participants being videotaped each school day. The hypotheses were (1) the use of the embedded learning opportunities, reflective dialogue, and teacher scaffolding would lead to increased knowledge of the fire safety concepts presented; and (2) extended exposure to the curriculum would increase participants' reflective dialogue regarding the fire safety concepts presented.

Students' scores on a pre/post-test of fire safety knowledge and occurrences of reflective dialogue showed significant increases across time. The findings from this research validate the need for further safety education and make a significant contribution to the sparse body of literature which focuses on teaching young children with developmental disabilities critical safety concepts. These results also suggest that this method of intervention merits addi-



Children participating in the study

tional research as a means of training young children with intellectual and developmental disabilities about safety concepts. For more information about this research project, contact Jennifer Jones at jennifer.jones@okstate.edu.

Jennifer, an AAIDD Student Member, presented these findings at the 2007 AAIDD Annual Meeting in Atlanta. She was selected, based on the quality of her submission, to receive one of the inaugural AAIDD Student Scholarships.

Are you working on a research project? Interested in sharing your work with fellow students and young professionals? Email a brief description to cneece@ucla.edu for consideration for publication in a future issue of the AAIDD Student and Young Professional Newsletter.

AAIDD Early Career Development Teleconference Series

Next Session: Submitting a Successful NIH Grant Application

The AAIDD Ad Hoc Committee on Student / Junior Member Recruitment and Retention (SJMRR) is offering an Early Career Development Teleconference Series on topics relevant to students and young professionals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Teleconference speakers are nationally recognized experts in the intellectual and developmental disability field. Recent topics have included: authorship issues, the job search process, and writing for publication.

The next teleconference in the series will be held on **October 29th, 2007**, at 2:00 pm EST. Brett Miller, Ph.D. will present on "Submitting a Successful NIH Grant Application." Dr. Miller is the Director of the Reading, Writing, and Related Learning Disabilities Program at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Dr. Miller will provide a general overview of the NIH organizational structure, followed by a discussion of three specific opportunities: (a) dissertation research grants, (b) post-doctoral grants, and (c) early

career research grants. Across the three grant opportunities, Dr. Miller will speak about the core elements required in a NIH grant application and strategies for writing a solid application.

All teleconferences are free and open to AAIDD members and non-members. If you would like to attend, please email Main Wang at mwang@education.ucsb.edu. More information, including the PowerPoint presentation that Dr. Miller will use during the teleconference, will be emailed to you in October.



“Making contacts outside of my immediate faculty has been really nice”
Student involved in Guide Program

The AAIDD Guide Program:

Matching AAIDD Fellows with Students and Young Professionals

The Guide Program matches experienced AAIDD Fellows with students and new members based on interests or locality. AAIDD Guides commit to providing students and new members with information about opportunities to become involved in AAIDD for two years. This allows

students and new professionals to network and develop relationships with established individuals in the field of IDD. Guides encourage new members to continue their academic and/or professional work in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

AAIDD student and young professional members are invited to sign up for the Guide program at any time. To request a Guide, visit www.aaid.org/YP and complete the interest form.

Research and Training Opportunities in IDD

Each month we will highlight a research or training opportunity in the intellectual and developmental (IDD) field. This month we are highlighting postdoctoral funding opportunities available through the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The NIH has several mechanisms for supporting postdoctoral training and research. The F32 is an individual fellowship program for postdoctoral research. Applicants identify a mentor at a university of research institution and develop and submit a proposal directly to the NIH for the fellowship funding. The application deadline for the F-series fellowship grants occurs three times a year, currently: April 8th, August 8th, and December 8th.

Postdoctoral fellowships are also available through the NIH T32 mechanism. The T32 is a fellowship program offered to institutions to support pre- and post-doctoral research. Interested students do not apply directly to the NIH, as with the F32 program, but instead apply to the

institution that has a T32 program. Current institutions with T32 funding for postdoctoral training in intellectual and developmental disabilities include, but are not limited to:

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Mt Sinai School of Medicine, New York University
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Kansas
- University of Miami
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Pennsylvania, Children’s Hospital
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Vanderbilt University

Visit this link to get more information about the many types of post-doctoral research opportunities available through NIH:

<http://grants.nih.gov/training/index.htm>

Also to prepare for how your proposal will be reviewed, check out this video presentation of an NIH study session:

<http://www.drg.nih.gov/Video/Video.asp>

Keep in mind that postdoctoral opportunities in the field of IDD can be very limited and applicants will have to think creatively about marketing their proposal to funding agencies. Get the inside scoop on applying for NIH grants during our upcoming teleconference featuring Dr. Brett Miller (see page 2). We are also working on a database that will provide information on postdoctoral opportunities in the IDD field—look for more information in future issues.

The AAIDD Early Career Award

AAIDD has established a new award to recognize contributions to the field by young professionals!

At the 2008 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC AAIDD will award the inaugural **Early Career Award**. The Early Career Award was established to recognize the contributions of young professionals to the IDD field. The recipient will be selected based on the following criteria.

The AAIDD Early Career Award will be awarded for recognized contribution to or achievement in the field of IDD by an individual in the early stages of their career defined as:

- (1) being active in the field for less than 10 years, or
- (2) Less than 10 years post-graduate

Areas in which early career awards may be given are:

SERVICE: Awarded for contributions to improved services to individuals with IDD.

LEADERSHIP: Awarded for performance that (1) has guided or directed others in improving the quality of programs for citizens with IDD, and (2) is found to be extraordinarily significant by the Awards Committee.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT: Awarded for contributions in public and social policy directed towards improving the quality of programs and services for citizens with IDD.

SCHOLARSHIP: Awarded for performances that (1) reflects a systematic application of scientific inquiry

techniques to a problem of significance in the field of IDD and (2) is found to be extraordinarily significant by the Awards Committee.

AAIDD will also continue to present the annual **Student Award**, which recognizes outstanding student contributions to the field of IDD.

We encourage you to nominate individuals for the AAIDD Early Career and Student Award! Nominations for the Early Career and Student Awards are being accepted by AAIDD through 10/31/07.

For more information on the nomination process visit http://www.aaid.org/Groups/committees/a&f_guidelines.shtml and keep your eyes open for additional information from AAIDD in the coming months.

Question Corner:

How Can I Get More Involved in AAIDD?

Many students and early career professionals are interested in getting more involved and in building their professional network — the great news is that there are always opportunities to get more involved in AAIDD! In each newsletter, we will highlight different ways for student and young professionals to get involved. In this edition, we wanted to share some information about Action Groups. Action Groups bring together AAIDD members around a common issue and provide a framework for developing and imple-

menting an action plan to address the issue. Visit the AAIDD website to learn more about the Action Group process (<http://www.aaid.org/ActionPlan/info.shtml>), and to view existing Action Groups (http://www.aaid.org/ActionPlan/action_list.shtml). If you see something that is of interest to you, email the contact person and volunteer to get involved. If you do not see an

action group addressing an issue that you think is important, form your own action group!

In each newsletter we will address questions posed by student / junior members of AAIDD. If you have a question you would like answered in a future newsletter email cneece@ucla.edu.





Knowledge | Support | Empowerment

A Publication of the AAIDD Ad Hoc Committee on Student / Junior Member Recruitment and Retention

Newsletter Editor: Cameron Neece

Newsletter Editorial Committee: Loui Lord Nelson and Karrie Shogren

Ad Hoc Committee Members and Newsletter Contributors

Cameron Neece, Co-Chair; cneece@ucla.edu
 Louise Lord Nelson, Co-Chair; lordnelson@raiseinc.com
 Anna Esbensen; esbensen@waisman.wisc.edu
 Susan Havercamp; susanmhavercamp@ddcaps.org
 Jennifer Jones; jennifer.jones@okstate.edu
 Nancy Miodrag; nancy.miodrag@mail.mcgill.ca
 Shea Obremski; obremski@ku.edu
 Karrie Shogren; shogren@mail.utexas.edu
 Mian Wang; mwang@education.ucsb.edu
 Shelley Watson; shelley.watson@ualberta.ca
 Nina Zuna; nzuna@ku.edu

The goal of the AAIDD Ad Hoc Committee on Student / Junior Member (SJMRR) Recruitment and Retention is to develop and implement strategies that foster the involvement and representation of students, recent graduates, and junior faculty / executives within AAIDD. The committee is working on a number of initiatives and meets via teleconferences once per month to provide one another with updates and to share ideas. We are always interested in including more students and new members in our activities. Please contact Cameron Neece (cneece@ucla.edu) if you would like to learn more about becoming involved in this active committee.

Visit www.aidd.org/YP for more information on issues relevant to students and young professionals

Not yet an AAIDD member.... Join Today!

AAIDD offers a number of membership options for students and young professionals.

AAIDD offers a Student Membership program for full time students and a Young Professional Membership program for recent college graduate who are new to the disability field. Student and young professional members receive online access to AAIDD's highly ranked journals: *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* and the *American Journal on Mental Retardation*. In addition to having access to disability leaders and

mentors, student and young professional members receive FYI-the Association's monthly electronic newsletter; discounts at conferences and on books and other publications, and access to AAIDD's Career Connections. Student and Young Professional Members are eligible to vote, hold office, join Action Workgroups, and to have access to the Members Only section of the AAIDD web site.

Student and Young Professional Members will be noti-

fied electronically about important events, training institutes, annual meetings, public policy seminars, teleconferences, and new publications.

Young professionals who are beginning to establish their careers can transition to Active Membership status, and continue to receive all the benefits they enjoyed as Student or Young Professional Members.

For more information on the various membership categories and to join AAIDD visit :

<http://www.aidd.org/Membership/form.shtml>