

DISCOVERY

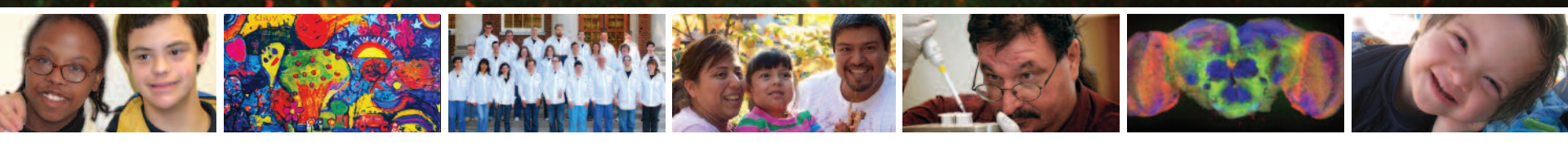
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A Week In the Life of VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER

2010 Annual Report

 VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER



Developmental Disabilities | Discoveries | Best Practices

A WEEK in the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Discoveries and Best Practices

PHOTOS FROM PAGE 1

TOP LEFT TO RIGHT:

(1) Robotic and Autonomous Systems Laboratory for autism studies, Nilanjan Sarkar (Mechanical Engineering). *Anne Rayner.* (2) KidTalk early communication intervention, Ann Kaiser (Special Education). *Courtesy of KidTalk.* (3) VKC Psychophysiology Lab, aging in Down syndrome and other brain imaging studies. *Anne Rayner.*

MIDDLE:

Cellular image from studies of neurotransmitters, Randy Blakely (Pharmacology). *Courtesy of Blakely Lab.*

BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT:

(1) Team William Scholarship recipients, VKC Reading Clinic. Team William Endowment is led by Andrea McDermott and the Spickard Family. *Kylie Beck.* (2) "United Through Colors," collage by Jorge Yances, celebrating families in VKC support group for Spanish-speaking families. (3) 2011 ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp. *Tony Maupin.* (4) Family attending Families First autism workshop. *Lisa Wallace.* (5) Karoly Mirnics (Psychiatry) in his lab, where he studies gene expression in autism, schizophrenia, and other disorders. *Courtesy of Mirnics Lab.* (6) *Drosophila* (fruit fly) brain labeled with synaptic markers, for studies of synaptic development and plasticity in fragile X syndrome and autism, Kendal Broadie (Biological Sciences). *Courtesy of Broadie Lab.* (7) Down syndrome research is a VKC priority. *Courtesy of Rhyneer Family.*

Our researchers, clinicians, and educators take steps every day of every week toward making positive differences in the lives of persons with disabilities and their families. We do this in partnership with you—our community of children and adults with disabilities, families, service providers, advocates, and donors.

We are motivated by the stories of families affected by disabilities. One in 5 children has a developmental disability. Roughly 20% of U.S. families have a member with a disability. When you hear the personal stories of many of our researchers and staff, you learn how their families, too, have been affected by disability. For 45 years, week by week, the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center family has focused on disability—and ability.

Researchers in basic science labs work daily striving to unravel the complex processes of typical and atypical development in genes and chromosomes, cells and mitochondria, neurons and synapses. Developmental disorders as wide ranging as autism, fragile X syndrome, depression, and schizophrenia are studied through animal models.

Brain imaging is providing insights into behavior and learning. It is helping us understand reading and math disabilities, ADHD, language development and interventions, features of autism spectrum disorders in diagnosed children and their siblings, creativity and schizophrenia, early aging in Down syndrome, and more. Brain imaging studies are leading toward ways to predict which individuals will most likely respond to a specific intervention and to measure whether that intervention is working even before it is apparent in behavior.

Translating research findings into practice is what we're about. Today, evidence-based practices are at work in such programs as the Reading Clinic, Learning Assessment Clinic, Britt Henderson Training Series for Educators, and TRIAD's screening, diagnostic, and outreach training for families and educators. Best practices are under development in such model programs as the Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities Clinic at Vanderbilt, Next Steps at Vanderbilt postsecondary education for students with intellectual disabilities, Parent Stress Intervention Project, Vanderbilt Autism Treatment Network, and Volunteer Advocacy Project. Researchers and families take part in clinical pharmaceutical trials for such disorders as autism and fragile X.

You can tour some VKC labs but you can't truly tour this Center because its work goes on all over the campus; in communities across the state; at Head Start programs, school systems, training sites; and in multiple sites across the country as our researchers collaborate with other major research universities and consortia on genomics and other areas.

Over 200 creative faculty in the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Peabody College, College of Arts and Science, and Engineering, and 100 dedicated staff are a part of our Center's family. Training next generations of disability researchers, educators, and service providers is an essential part of our mission. At annual VKC Science Days, over 100 undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows have presented research posters.

The VKC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) was renewed for a second 5-year cycle. The UCEDD encompasses over 40 programs that, in some way, have reached individuals or families in every Tennessee county.

Our work today also is about the future—of individuals with disabilities, of young researchers who will make tomorrow's discoveries, of clinicians who will provide evidence-based care, of educators who will include students with disabilities and promote learning for all, of service providers who will support the self-determination, inclusion, and independence of persons with disabilities and support their families. Training across disciplines of future leaders is integrated into virtually all of our Center's research and services. In 2010, the UCEDD and the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Training Program had 32 long-term trainees and 157 intermediate trainees. Our UCEDD and LEND community continuing education events reached about 2,000 persons in 2010.

Economically, these are challenging times. Thanks to visionary donors, we are able each year to award Discovery Grants for innovative pilot studies. This has helped our researchers successfully garner NIH and other federal and foundation funding. Today, VKC research includes 106 grants, with an annual total cost of \$34.3 million. This record of success when only 22.55% of NIH grants are funded is a marker of the extraordinary quality of VKC researchers. Much of our model services and training would not be possible without support from State of Tennessee departments, the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, corporate donors, and foundations like ACM Lifting Lives and the John Merck Fund. Every gift of each individual donor is valued and used wisely.

This issue of *Discovery* tells our story through photos of a typical week at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, on campus and in the community. You'll see discovery in process, far-ranging services, education from the university to the community and state, and the central role played by you—our families and friends, community providers and educators, disability advocates and donors. Thank you.



MARY DONALDSON

Elisabeth Dykens, Ph.D.
Annette Schaffer Eskind Chair, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Director, Professor of Psychology, Pediatrics, and Psychiatry

Elisabeth Dykens



TONY MALPIN

MONDAY

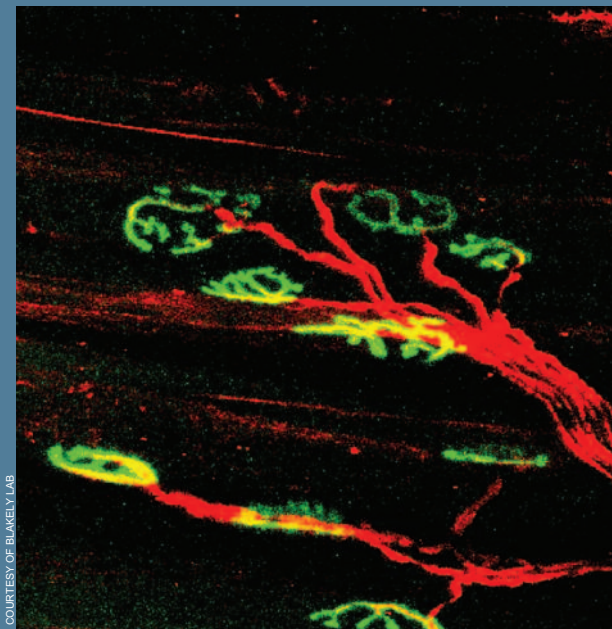
a week in the life of



SUSAN URWY



COURTESY OF LYNNETTE HENDERSON



COURTESY OF BLAKELY LAB

TOP: Elizabeth Story and Andrew Van Cleave, Next Steps at Vanderbilt students, presented a collage to artist and friend, Mary Jane Swaney. Her generous support made it possible for Next Steps at Vanderbilt students to create collages with artist-in-residence Elizabeth Garlington at Vanderbilt's Sarratt Art Studios. The collages expressed their unique selves and aspirations and make up the exhibit *Reflections in Collage/Reflections in College*.

MIDDLE LEFT TO RIGHT: Through playground video cameras, Blythe Corbett (Psychiatry) and Tori Strop (seated) are viewing play, or social interaction, of children with autism and trained peers. This is just one of many behavioral, biological, and neuroscience strategies Corbett is using to evaluate the socioemotional responsivity of children with autism in the SENSE lab (Social Emotional NeuroScience Endocrinology).

Lynette Henderson (Pediatrics) works with organizers of ASK (Agencies Serving Kids) in Tullahoma who meet monthly to share information. As she does at more than 90 community events throughout the year, Henderson shared information about research projects benefitting children and StudyFinder and Research Family Partners, web-based gateways for VKC research. She also shared information on VKC services, training, and print and online resources.

Cellular images like this are central to the work of Randy Blakely (Pharmacology), who is exploring how neurotransmitters regulate chemical signaling among neurons. His lab uses techniques in molecular biology, biochemistry, imaging, genetics, and animal models to understand processes involved in such disorders as depression, ADHD, and autism.

TUESDAY a week in the life of

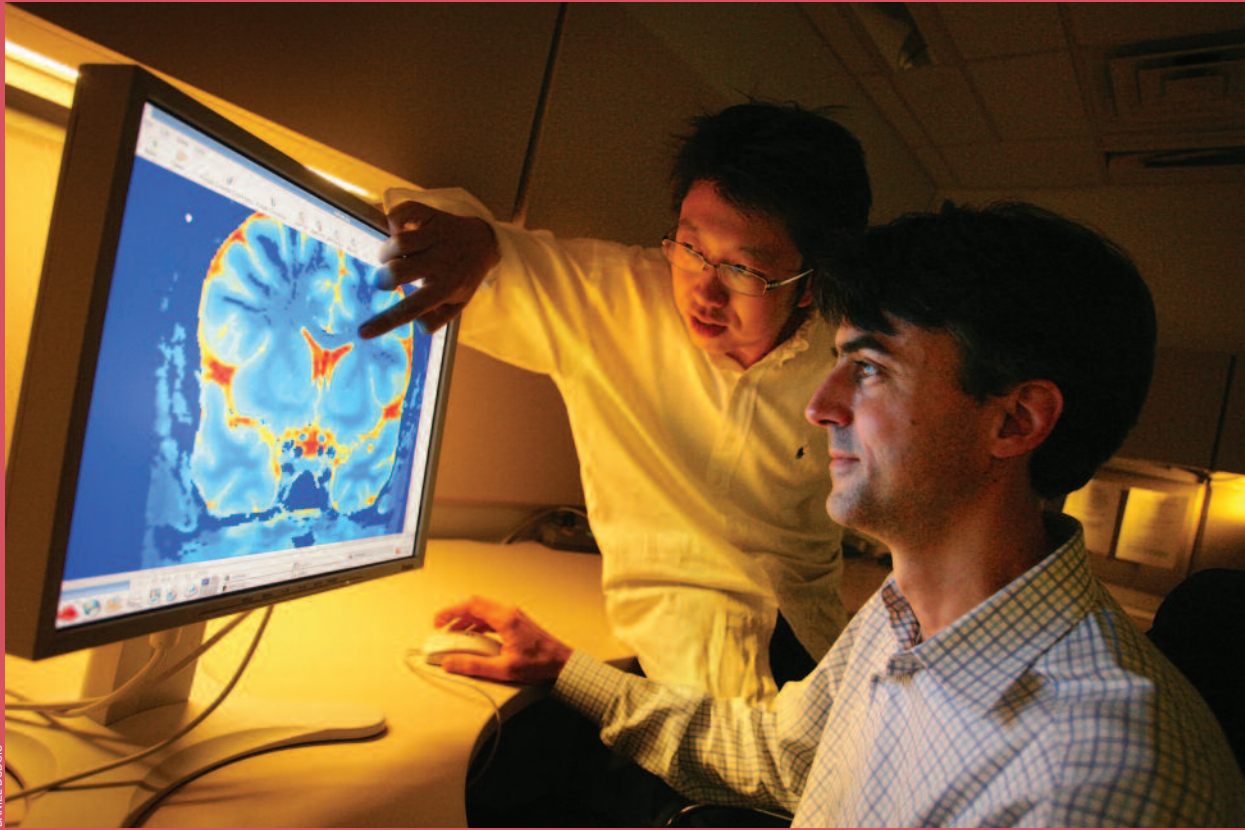


TOP: Research on ways to improve reading and math instruction take place in classrooms of Metro Nashville and other public school systems. Lynn Fuchs, Doug Fuchs, and Donald Compton (Special Education) are conducting studies on RTI—Response to Intervention. In one large-scale study, second graders receive whole-class (Tier 1) mathematics instruction. Students with risk for poor outcomes also receive a second tier of intervention: small-group tutoring on content that is aligned with the classroom program. Individual students receive instruction at the level of intensity needed to help them learn effectively.

MIDDLE LEFT TO RIGHT: Parents of children with disabilities are practicing qigong (gentle movement, breath, and stillness) as a way of reducing stress. This Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and a Positive Parenting Curriculum are methods of stress reduction being compared in a study led by Elisabeth Dykens (Psychology & Human Development). Parents are leading the interventions.

Pablo Juárez leads a session for educators as part of TRIAD's Outreach Training. As more young children are diagnosed with autism, public school systems are serving more children—making training a critical need for school systems. Partnering with the Tennessee Department of Education, TRIAD Outreach Training, directed by Nicolette Brigham (Pediatrics), provides services ranging from child-specific consultations to system-wide training. In January 2011, statewide training began for early childhood educators.

Sticky mittens is one of the clever ways that Amy Needham (Psychology & Human Development) is using to study factors that contribute to infants beginning to reach independently for objects and become motivated to explore their world. One goal is to create interventions involving sensory substitution that would allow infants with visual impairments to perceive the consequences of their actions on objects through nonvisual ways.



DANIEL DUBOIS

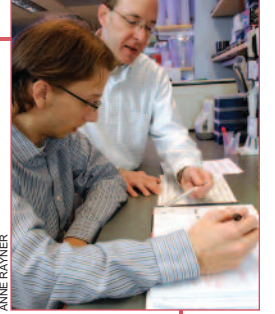


ANNE RAYNER

TOP LEFT: Adam Anderson (right, with research fellow Ha-Kyu Jeong) studies brain connectivity and development using MRI at the Vanderbilt University Institute of Imaging Science.

BOTTOM LEFT: Kathleen Lane (Special Education) talks with teachers attending the Britt Henderson Training Series for Educators. Teams from area school systems travel to the VKC monthly during the academic year to attend the Britt Henderson Training Series for Educators. The teams support one another, share ideas, and problem-solve ways to implement research-based strategies in their own classrooms. These 2-hour evening workshops address both academic and behavioral concerns. The Series is free of cost to schools through an endowment from the Robert and Carol Henderson family in memory of their son Britt.

RIGHT: James Sutcliffe (Molecular Physiology & Biophysics) works on dissecting the genetics of autism using a combination of molecular and statistical genetic approaches, informed by altered physiology and neurodevelopment observed in individuals with autism. He and other VKC researchers are members of national genetics research consortia on autism.



ANNE RAYNER

WEDNESDAY a week in the life of

THURSDAY a week in the life of



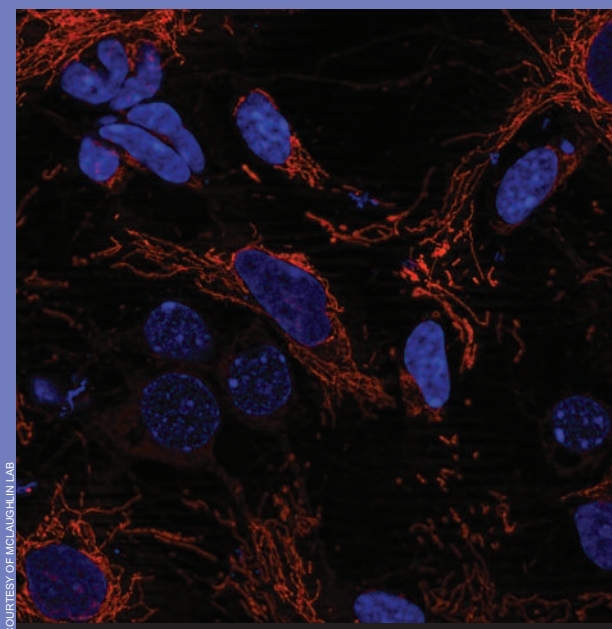
TONY MAIRINI



TAMMY DAY



STEVE GREEN



COURTESY OF McLAUGHLIN LAB

PHOTOS FROM PAGE 6

TOP: Tracy Pendergrass is helping a mom who called Tennessee Disability Pathfinder's toll-free helpline to identify services for her child. Multiple statewide needs assessments in Tennessee have indicated that disability information is a critical need. That need is met by Pathfinder, a partnership of the VKC and the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities. Pathfinder's website has a database searchable by service type and county, and a 2011 services directory that can be downloaded. Multicultural outreach is a priority.

MIDDLE LEFT TO RIGHT: (1) Voting rights event honors Eunice Kennedy Shriver, champion of the value of persons with disabilities. (2) Sheryl Rimrodt (Pediatrics) and Laurie Cutting (Special Education) are viewing composite images of brain activity in research on dyslexia. (3) Research in labs of VKC investigators explores basic mechanisms of nervous system development and response to injury. BethAnn McLaughlin (Neurology) produced this image in a study she spearheaded that identified a critical new molecular trigger that allows cells to "ramp up" their defenses before a major stroke.

PHOTOS FROM PAGE 7

TOP LEFT: Next Steps at Vanderbilt students with friend and patron Linda Brooks.

BOTTOM LEFT: SibSaturdays, fun and support for siblings whose brother or sister has a disability.

LEFT TOP TO BOTTOM: (1) A technologist prepares to monitor a child's sleep in studies of sleep disorders in children with autism led by Beth Malow (Neurology). (2) Mark Wallace (Hearing & Speech Sciences) testing a child in project with Stephen Camarata (Hearing & Speech Sciences) investigating sensory integration treatment for

autism. (3) Linda Dupré (VKC Grants Development Director) consults with VKC investigator Sarika Peters (Pediatrics) (4) The Vanderbilt LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) is a partnership between the VKC and Pediatrics. Here Tyler Reimschisel (Developmental Medicine) is presenting to pediatric residents so that they will be better prepared to provide interdisciplinary, family-centered, coordinated care to children with developmental disabilities and their families. (5) At Lunch & Learn for Music Community, Lorie Lytle (VKC Leadership Council), Seth Link (ACM Lifting Lives Music Camper), and Erin Spahn (ACM Lifting Lives).



TONY MAUPIN



COURTESY OF MALOW SLEEP RESEARCH



STEPHEN CAMARATA



TONY MAUPIN



ANNE RAYNER



JOEL HOWELL



TONY MAUPIN

FRIDAY

a week in the life of



COURTESY OF CONTURE & WALDEN LAB



PATTY ABERNATHY



ANNE RAYNER



MARY DONALDSON

TOP: This child “driving” a jeep is helping us learn about stuttering and emotion. Edward Conture (Hearing & Speech Sciences) and Tedra Walden (Psychology & Human Development) are using physiological measures of emotional arousal, observation of emotional behaviors, parent report, and speech, language, and hearing tests to study how emotions and conversational speech and language influence stuttering and other dysfluencies.

MIDDLE LEFT TO RIGHT: This Reading Clinic student is among 29 this session, including students with developmental disabilities, who are becoming readers through intensive, individualized, one-to-one tutoring using assessment and instructional methods proven by research to promote reading. Licensed, experienced teachers and supervised, advanced undergraduate and graduate students provide the tutoring—contributing to the training of future teachers.

Michele Mosely, Peer Mentor, works with Josh Murray at the Behavioral Health & Intellectual Disabilities Clinic at Vanderbilt. A VKC partnership with Psychiatry, the Clinic serves individuals with developmental disabilities, ages 17 and up, who have behavior issues or mental health disorders. Training future providers and developing best practices are among the aims of the Clinic, directed by Bruce Davis (Psychiatry).

While Eva is playing, she’s receiving a therapy to help her talk more clearly. In the Clear Talk Project, Paul Yoder (Special Education) is comparing two inventions that research suggests are especially good for children with Down syndrome. Children ages 5-12 years receive hour-long therapy sessions, twice a week, for 6 months.



TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: (1) Megan Hart (Tennessee Disability Pathfinder) presents at a LEND Core Seminar. LEND trainees in 13 disciplines from Vanderbilt and four area universities attend this Seminar, one component of year-long training to prepare them to assume leadership roles in interdisciplinary, family-centered, culturally competent, coordinated health care for children with developmental disabilities. (2) Making our universities, communities, and states more welcoming for persons with disabilities was the focus of the VKC visit by Sharon Lewis, Commissioner of the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities. A parent of a child

with a disability, Lewis describes this as “passion work.” Lewis talked with Next Steps at Vanderbilt students, LEND and UCEDD trainees and faculty, and Community Advisory Council members. (3) Ray Johnson (Anesthesiology) manages the Neurochemistry Core, a VKC research support service core shared with the Center for Molecular Neuroscience. For more than 30 years, Johnson has worked with VKC investigators to review experimental needs, to establish protocols, and to provide rapid and reliable assay results. Neurochemistry is among several Basic Neuroscience Services.

MIDDLE LEFT TO RIGHT: (1) John Shouse (Autism Society of Middle Tennessee) works with representatives of State agencies, autism family organizations, and other agencies on the Tennessee Autism Summit Team. The Team’s goal is to improve the Tennessee service system for individuals with autism and their families. The VKC has more than 20 Community Partners with whom it collaborates. (2) Portia Carnahan is hard at work here 3 mornings each week as an AmeriCorps member. For individuals with disabilities, AmeriCorps service is an effective way to gain employment experience. Unemployment and underemployment

is a challenge in the disability community, which is why employment is now an area of emphasis in the VKC UCEDD. (3) Begun with a gift from Ann and Monroe Carell Jr., TRIAD Families First workshops are held on evenings or Saturdays to provide parents with ways to help their young children with autism build language and communication, play, and social skills, and manage challenging behaviors. Over 30 workshops have been held, serving over 800 parents from 3 states.

Andrea Warren and her son Taylor drove from Atlanta to take part in research to better understand behavior and development in Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS), a genetic disorder associated with severe overeating, obesity, and behavior problems, but also unusual strengths. This holistic study includes genetics, neurochemicals that regulate mood and appetite, lifespan development, and successful living (e.g., food, work, daily living, leisure). The goal is to develop behavioral and dietary interventions that lead to positive outcomes for persons with PWS and their families.

TOP TO BOTTOM:

(1) Grace Kulbaba administers a variety of tests to assess Taylor's strengths and weaknesses and problem-solving tasks like jigsaw puzzles, an unusual strength in PWS. (2) Elizabeth Roof (right), Research Coordinator, interviews Taylor's mom to collect data on Taylor's development and behavior and on family strengths and concerns. (3) Taylor wears a sensor net that makes it possible to monitor brain activity while he looks at images of food and nonfood items and of faces, or hears clicks or tones. Eye tracking is done as well.





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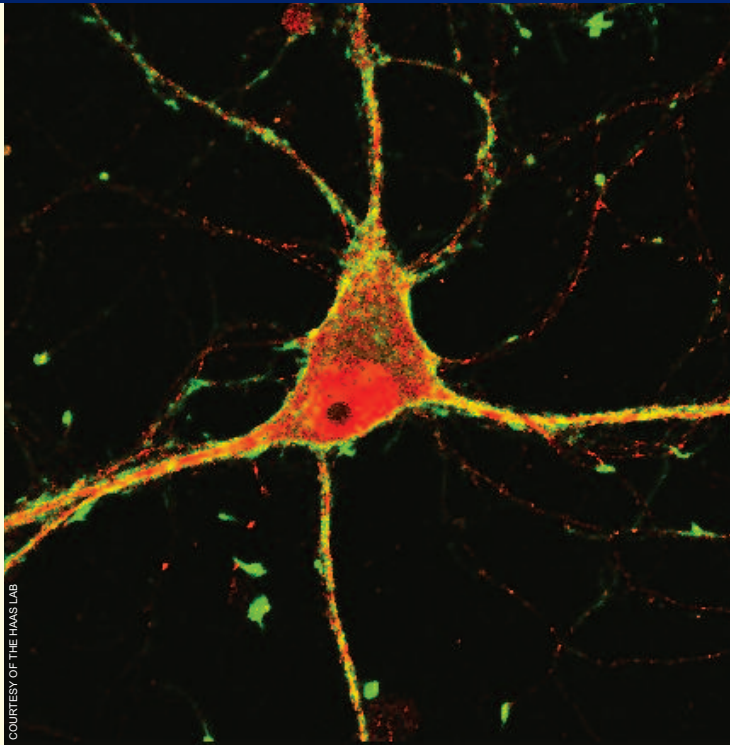
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Mrs. Carol Henderson	
Mr. Robert W. Henderson II	
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Mrs. Gail Gordon Jacobs	Mrs. Elise McMillan
Mr. Chris and Mrs. Rebecca	Dr. Louis J. Muglia
Link	Ms. Laura Pevahouse
	Mr. Tim Stafford



This issue of *Discovery* tells our story through photos of a typical week at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, on campus and in the community. You'll see discovery in process, far-ranging services, education from the university to the community and state, and the central role played by you—our families and friends, community providers and educators, disability advocates and donors. Thank you!

Discovery is a quarterly publication of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center designed to educate our friends and the community, from Nashville to the nation. The Center facilitates discoveries and best practices that make positive differences in the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. The Center is a university-wide research, training, diagnosis, and treatment institute. It is a *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center funded by the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. *Discovery* is supported in part by Grant No. HD 15052 from EKS NICHD, Administration on Developmental Disabilities Grant #90DD0595, and LEND Training Grant No. T73MC00050 MCHB/HRSA.

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Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders
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Discovery
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS | MARCH-MAY 2011

■ MARCH 22*

Disabilities, Religion, and Spirituality

Helping Individuals With Intellectual

Disabilities Cope With Loss

Panel discussion. Register at

kc.vanderbilt.edu/registration

Co-Sponsor Alive Hospice

Tuesday 12 noon

■ MARCH 23*

Developmental Disabilities Grand Rounds

New Approaches Toward

Understanding the Genetic

Architecture of Autism

Jonathan Haines, Ph.D., T. H.

Morgan Professor of Human

Genetics and Molecular Physiology

& Biophysics; Director, Center for

Human Genetics Research,

VKC Investigator

Wednesday 8 a.m.

■ MARCH 24

Discovery Lectures/Lectures

on Development and

Developmental Disabilities

How Gene Expression and

Neurobiology Contribute to

Rett Syndrome and Other

Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Huda Y. Zoghbi, M.D., Professor of

Molecular & Human Genetics,

Pediatrics, Neurology, and

Neuroscience, Baylor College of

Medicine; Investigator, Howard

Hughes Medical Institute

Co-sponsor Department of

Pediatrics

Room 208 Light Hall

Thursday 4 p.m.

■ APRIL 1-2*

Augmentative and Alternative

Communication Workshop

• FRIDAY

Perspectives on AAC:

A Parents' Panel

6-8:30 p.m. No cost.

• SATURDAY

Curriculum Adaptations for

Students with Complex

Communication Needs

Pati King-DeBaun, M.S., CCC-SLP

Register at [kc.vanderbilt.edu/](http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/registration)

registration—fee listed. Co-Sponsors

Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center,

Hearing & Speech Sciences, LEND,

Special Education; Disability Law

& Advocacy Center of Tennessee,

Technology Access Center,

Prentke Romich Company (PRC)

Saturday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

■ APRIL 4*

Lectures on Development and

Developmental Disabilities

Title TBA

Karl Deisseroth, M.D., Ph.D.,

Associate Professor of

Bioengineering and Psychiatry &

Behavioral Sciences, Stanford

University

Monday 4:10 p.m.

■ APRIL 5*

Research Ethics Grand Rounds

“Curing” Disabilities:

Ethical Considerations

Panel Discussion

Tuesday noon

■ APRIL 6*

Britt Henderson Training

Series for Educators

Using Self-Monitoring in

Academic Interventions

For school teams, individuals, parents

Register at [kc.vanderbilt.edu/](http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/kennedy/henderson)

[kennedy/henderson](http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/kennedy/henderson)

Information (615) 343-0706

Wednesday 5-7 p.m.

■ APRIL 8-9

Third Annual Tennessee

Adult Brothers and Sisters (TABS)

Conference

For adult siblings of individuals with

disabilities. Program details on

registration webpage. Holiday Inn at

Vanderbilt, 2613 West End Ave.,

(888) 465-4329 (call for room

reservations) \$50/person, \$25 student

Fee covers materials, meals, and gift

To register (required):

kc.vanderbilt.edu/registration

Contact (615) 343-0545

ashley.coulter@vanderbilt.edu

Friday-Saturday

■ APRIL 16*

SibSaturday

For siblings 5-7 and 8-13 years who

have brother/sister with disability

Games, friends, conversation

\$10/child or \$20/family. Financial

assistance available. Advance

registration required. Register at

kc.vanderbilt.edu/registration

■ APRIL 18

Capacity Building Institute,

Postsecondary Education for

Students with Intellectual

Disabilities

Strategies and resources for college

faculty and administrators and

community leaders to develop and

implement inclusive postsecondary

education options for students with

intellectual disabilities.

Holiday Inn at Vanderbilt

2613 West End Ave., Nashville

Organized by Think College.

Co-sponsors VKC UCEDD and

TN Council on Developmental

Disabilities. Cost \$50 includes

breakfast/lunch.

Registration (required)

kc.vanderbilt.edu/registration

Contact (866) 936-8852

laurie.fleming@vanderbilt.edu

Monday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



Helping persons with intellectual disabilities cope with loss is the topic of a March 22 panel.

Unless otherwise noted, events are free and open to the public. Events are subject to change. Please check the website calendar at kc.vanderbilt.edu or contact (615) 322-8240 or toll-free (1-866) 936-VUKC [8852].

Please keep this calendar and check the Event Calendar on the VKC website for updates. If you wish to receive event announcements by email, send your email address to amy.pottier@vanderbilt.edu.

For disability-related training and other events statewide and nationally, see the Pathfinder Disability Calendar www.familypathfinder.org.

*Event will be held in Room 241 Vanderbilt Kennedy Center/MRL Building.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS | MARCH-MAY 2011

■ APRIL 21*

Lectures on Development and Developmental Disabilities

Title TBA

Silvia A. Bunge, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Psychology,
University of California-Berkeley
Thursday 4:10 p.m.

■ APRIL 26*

TRIAD Families First Workshop

Understanding ABA

(Applied Behavior Analysis)

For parents of children, ages 2-5,
diagnosed with an autism
spectrum disorder. Register at
kc.vanderbilt.edu/registration
Information (615) 322-6027
families.first@vanderbilt.edu
Tuesday 6-8 p.m.

■ MAY 9

TRIAD Families First Workshop

Addressing Challenging Behaviors

For parents of children diagnosed
with an autism spectrum disorder.
Register at
kc.vanderbilt.edu/registration
Information (615) 322-6027
families.first@vanderbilt.edu
Iglesia Southminster Presbyterian,
643 Harding Place, Nashville, TN
Tuesday 6-8 p.m.

■ ARTS AND DISABILITIES*

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Exhibits

Monday-Friday

7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Lobby

Information contact (615) 936-8852

• APRIL 11-August 31, 2011

Birds of Tennessee + One

This exhibit features works of art
published in *Birds of Tennessee*
+ *One*, an alphabet book
produced by artists and writers
of Pacesetters, Inc. The book
illustrates 40 bird species native
to Tennessee and features
poems, text, and images for each
letter of the alphabet.

■ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES CLINIC

For individuals with intellectual
disabilities, ages 17 and up, with
behavioral and mental health
challenges

Contact (615) 343-9710
behavioralhealth@vanderbilt.edu

■ LEARNING ASSESSMENT CLINIC

Multidisciplinary academic
assessments of students, 5-25
years, to identify learning strengths
and challenges and to recommend
strategies to improve academic
learning

Contact (615) 936-5118
patty.abernathy@vanderbilt.edu

■ READING CLINIC

Assessment and tutoring for students
through middle school

Contact (615) 936-5118
patty.abernathy@vanderbilt.edu

■ TAKE PART IN RESEARCH

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
Research Studies, For children and
adults, with and without disabilities
Lynnette Henderson (615) 936-0448
Toll-free (1-866) 936-VUKC [8852]

• Research Family Partners

kc.vanderbilt.edu/rfp
Register and be notified of
research studies

• StudyFinder

kc.vanderbilt.edu/studyfinder
View lists of studies, criteria, and
contact information

• See also VUMC Clinical Trials

[www.vanderbilthealth.com/
clinicaltrials](http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/clinicaltrials)

■ TENNESSEE DISABILITY PATHFINDER

Helpline, Web-Searchable Database
with Calendar and Resource Library,
Print Resources

www.familypathfinder.org

English (615) 322-8529

Español (615) 479-9568

Toll-free (1-800) 640-INFO [4636]
tnpathfinder@vanderbilt.edu
Project of VKC UCEDD and TN
Council on Developmental Disabilities

■ TRIAD SCHOOL-AGE SERVICES

With the Tennessee Department of
Education, TRIAD offers free autism-
specific workshops for parents,
school personnel, and the community
in locations across the state.

Information and registration, contact
Linda.Copas@tn.gov, (615) 741-7790

See also [www.state.tn.us/education
/speced/announcements.shtml](http://www.state.tn.us/education/speced/announcements.shtml)

■ ASMT EVENTS

Autism Society of Middle Tennessee

ASMT event information

(615) 385-2077, www.tnautism.org

■ COMMUNITY EVENTS

• MARCH 26, 2011

Family-to-Family Outreach
Conference

Nashville Main Library
www.tndisability.org/familyvoices

• APRIL 10-16, 2011

Week of the Young Child
www.naeyc.org/woyc

• JUNE 2-3

Tennessee Disability
MegaConference
Nashville Airport Marriott
[www.tndisabilitymega
conference.org](http://www.tndisabilitymegaconference.org)

■ DSAMT EVENTS

Down Syndrome Association
of Middle Tennessee

DSAMT event information
(615) 386-9002, www.dsamt.org

• MAY 13-14

Statewide Conference:
Fired Up! For Down Syndrome
Brentwood United Methodist
Church, 309 Franklin Rd
Registration begins Feb. 1



April 11 - August 31, 2011

BIRDS OF TENNESSEE + ONE:
A "Painting the Tale" Special