



SDASP UPDATE



SDASP Annual Fall Conference

September 20-21, 2012

**AmericInn Lodge & Suites, Moose Lodge Room
Chamberlain, SD**

The focus of this year's conference is high functioning autism spectrum disorders. Experts in ASD disorders will present on behavioral and medical related issues.

See inside for information about the speakers
and a registration form.

Earn Continuing Professional Development Hours

Register now!

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SDASP Website:
<http://www.sdasp.k12.sd.us/>

Conference Speakers Focusing on Higher Functioning ASD



**Dr. Frank Sansosti, PhD,
NCSP, Kent State**

From the Kent State University Faculty and Staff page:

<http://www.kent.edu/ehhs/spsy/faculty.cfm>

"After receiving my B.S. in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh, I began my professional career working at the Autism Center located at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. After several years of assisting with research and working with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in both clinical and summer camp settings, I enrolled in the School Psychology Program at the University of South Florida. There, I received my Ph.D. in School Psychology with an emphasis in pediatric health issues. Prior to joining the faculty at Kent State University, I worked as a school psychologist and autism consultant for the District School Board of Pasco County in West Central Florida. While working as a school psychologist, I provided coaching and technical assistance for inclusion practices for children with ASD, behavioral disorders, and other severe and low-incidence disabilities. As an applied school psychologist and researcher, I focus on the use of a problem-solving model that takes a contextual/systems approach for the identification of and program planning for children with disabilities. Currently, my research and professional interests include the development and implementation of behavioral and social skills interventions for young children with ASD and for individuals with severe and low-incidence developmental disabilities, behavior management, data-based service delivery systems, and systemic educational reform (i.e. Response to Intervention).

Dr. Sansosti will be Thursday's featured speaker. His presentations at the conference will assist practitioners in learning to:

- Identify characteristics of higher functioning ASD that may affect school performance and how to implement effective teaching practices to accommodate these students.
- Incorporate strategies that support the development of behavioral skills in school-based settings.
- Incorporate strategies for social skills programming in structured & unstructured activities at school.
- Interact with families and educational team members in responsive and defensible ways.

**Dr. Scott Schneider, MD,
Avera Medical Group
Midwest Psychiatric
Medicine**

**Keynote Speaker
on
Friday Morning**

Dr. Schneider graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine in Vermillion, South Dakota.

He completed his residencies at:

University of Kansas School of Medicine, Wichita

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; University of Wisconsin Hospital, Madison

Learning Objectives for his sessions are:

- Recognize early warning signs of Asperger's and potential co-morbid disorders.
- Understand how Asperger's presents differently depending on co-morbid disorders.
- Learn about medications sometimes used to treat Asperger's.
- Learn about conditions that promote favorable outcomes and improved functioning.

SDASP Annual Fall Conference Registration Form

September 20-21, 2012

AmericInn Lodge & Suites, Moose Lodge Room
Chamberlain, SD (Exit 265)

Please complete a separate registration form for each person attending.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PROFESSION: _____

Registration Fees (include continental breakfast and luncheon on Thursday and snacks both days):

	<i>Both days</i>	<i>Thursday only</i>	<i>Friday only</i>
<i>SDASP Member</i>	\$150	\$110	\$50
<i>Nonmember</i>	\$185	\$130	\$65
<i>Student</i>	\$50	\$40	\$20

Send registration form with a check payable to SDASP to:

***Kari Oyen
Lennox School District Box 38
Lennox, SD 57039***

We are unable to accept PO or credit cards at this time.

Cancellations: Full refunds (less a \$25 fee) will be granted until September 14, 2012; half fee refunds (less a \$25 fee) will be issued following this date. All cancellations and changes **must be submitted in writing to Kari Oyen, address listed above or at kari.oyen@k12.sd.us**.

Notice to individuals with disabilities: This conference is being held in a physically accessible place. Limited handicapped parking is also available. Please notify Kristi Kafka by September 6, 2012 if you have special needs for which SDASP will need to make arrangements.

Questions: Contact Kristi Kafka, SDASP President 2011-2012, kristi.kafka@k12.sd.us, 605/487-5279.

From the Editor

As usual, the summer went by quickly, but that doesn't surprise me anymore. After all, summer is only a few weeks long. When I close up shop in June, I always have this grand illusion that August is some far off time. I guess it's more like denial than illusion.

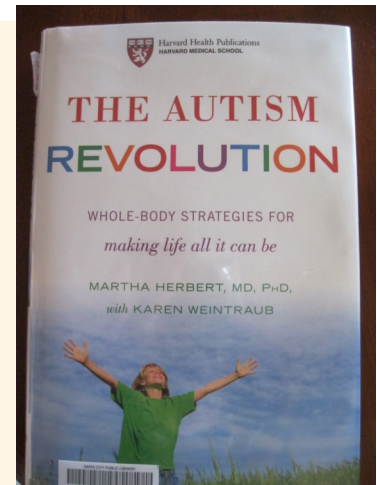
I have been back to work full time for more than three weeks now. I have organized as much of my schedule and caseloads as I can. It's kind of like preparing a pack for a long cross country hike. There's only so much space in the calendar (backpack) and it seems hardly possible that everything will fit. I have decided to try out a concept called auto-pilot scheduling. It's really nothing too technical, but just a way to cause more things to happen in a timely manner. As I have begun to use it, I am thinking that maybe it is a psychological way of convincing myself that the tasks on my list will and must fit into the schedule of my week. I have a tendency to be a helper kind of person and find myself doing things for others that then causes my work hours to bulge and spill over into family time; sometimes it's not just spilling, but actually flooding. So, I am starting out the year with a plan. Auto-pilot scheduling is something I read about in a blog called Study Hacks. The writer of the blog basically studies how to study. I enjoy his dissatisfaction with the status quo.

My goal for this year is to spend a little time every week reviewing new research in the area of autism spectrum disorders. I just need to figure out how I want to organize my review, because there are so many aspects of the disability to consider.

See you at the conference.

Dr. Herbert, author of [The Autism Revolution](#) (see sidebar), included a dozen tips from Brenda Smith Myles, an autism researcher and educator, for "doing an end run around behavior problems."

1. *Don't rush. You need to operate on autism time rather than expecting your child to act on yours.*
2. *Take more time to do fewer things. A rough rule of thumb is that people with autism take twice the time to accomplish half as much.*
3. *Provide structure and spell out routines through pictures, stories, or other reinforcement.*
4. *Take frequent breaks. Leave time for relaxation.*
5. *Anticipate physical needs, such as bathroom and eating breaks, and provide for them ahead of time.*
6. *Have a clear plan and routine, but be ready to change it and help the child with the change. Offer structured predictability.*
7. *Teach calming skills.*
8. *Respect your child's interests and abilities and give them space.*
9. *Praise your child abundantly.*
10. *"Live out loud"—narrate what you are doing and why you are doing it, and problem-solve out loud, too.*
11. *Use daily activities and events to teach basic information that your child may not learn spontaneously.*
12. *Don't forget to laugh! Having fun with your child is the best revenge you can take against whatever got you in this position in the first place.*



Book Review

"The autism world is filled with different groups that often disagree with one another. But they all make important points...Most of what I offer here are strategies I think everyone can get behind. They're safe, relatively simple, and often effective. Systems science supports my belief that small adjustments can sometimes trigger big changes. My goal is to offer parents, caregivers, and adults facing autism themselves some new ways of thinking about what they do every day and how the parts interact." ~ excerpted from the book [The Autism Revolution](#), published in 2012 by Harvard University.

[The Autism Revolution](#) was written by Martha Herbert, MD, PhD, assistant professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and a pediatric neurologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, where she is the director of the TRANSCEND Research Program. She sits on the Scientific Advisory Committee for Autism Speaks.

Dr. Herbert looks at autism as a set of symptoms and works to help the reader sort out possible sources of stress, both biological and contextual, then gives ideas for intervening. The book provides a good review of brain biology and cell functioning. Dr. Herbert tells many individual stories of successful intervention, but also cautions that what works for one person may not be the key to another's success.

Student News



Kristi Kafka, SDASP President

INVITATION

*Come join us
in Chamberlain
for the SDASP
Annual
Fall
Conference,
September
20-21!
If you haven't
registered or
booked a room,
please do so soon
and remember
SDASP is a NASP
Approved Pro-
vider, now able to
offer CPDs close
to home! I hope
to see you there!*

I am Erin Alsum Edzards, and I have just recently begun my internship with the Rapid City Area Schools. The last two years I have called Vermillion home while completing the classwork for the Ed.S. program at USD, but I am originally from Iowa. My undergraduate degree is in psychology from Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. I had an interest in working in education but did not know what role I could play. After some research and shadowing a local school psychologist, I knew I found a career I could be excited about. Helping find ways that allow children be successful in their education is what drives me the most. I am looking forward to being exposed to the different facets of a school psychologist's job and finding my specific interests this year.

I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to be in a larger district and to have supportive and knowledgeable school psychologists and staff to learn from. While I am not at schools or in front of a computer, I plan to take full advantage of the hiking trails in the area with my husband.



*Erin Alsum Edzards,
USD school psychology intern
in the Rapid City Area Schools*

“After some research and shadowing a local school psychologist, I knew I found a career I could be excited about.”

SPAN/GPR: Opportunities for Advocacy



Ericka Kotab,
SPAN/GPR Committee Chair

I have often heard it asked, “What does SPAN stand for?” or “What is GPR?” You too may have wondered this. The SPAN (School Psychology Action Network) and GPR (Government and Professional Relations) Committee for SDASP (oh, we school psychologists love our acronyms) works to advocate on behalf of students, educators, and school psychologists in South Dakota.

In an era of little funding and a lot of accountability, NASP assists states by providing a roadmap for advocacy. In March 2010, NASP adopted the Model for Comprehensive and Integrated Psychological Services (a.k.a. the NASP Practice Model). This document aims to provide states a format for improving the quality, effectiveness and efficiency, as well as consistency, of school psychological services across the country. It describes six organizational principles and ten domains of practice that are intended to improve outcomes for students and schools. Each of these can be found in the NASP Practice Model Overview, which can be found on-line at :

http://www.nasponline.org/standards/2010standards/2_PracticeModel.pdf A condensed version can be found at :

http://www.nasponline.org/standards/practice-model/Practice_Model_Brochure.pdf

These guidelines can serve each South Dakota School Psychologist by improving their practice individually, but can also provide other stakeholders a framework for understanding the roles and responsibilities of school psychologists. The SPAN/GPR committee currently engages in the following activities to advocate for our profession: annual attendance at Children’s Day at the Capital and response to relevant legislation affecting the profession. But as the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The SPAN/GPR committee and the SDASP board hopes to improve advocacy efforts in South Dakota by using the Advocacy Roadmap (which integrates the NASP Practice Model, Standards for Graduate Preparation of School Psychologists, Standards for the Credentialing of School Psychologists, and the Principles for Professional Ethics) to define contemporary school psychology, promote school psychologists’ services for children, families and school, and provide a foundation for the future of school psychology.

Please consider being a part of the committee that promotes our profession and advocates for you.

Please consider being a part of the committee that promotes our profession and advocates for you. If you are interested in being on the SPAN/GPR Committee, please contact Ericka Kotab, SPAN/GPR Committee Chair at Ericka.kotab@k12.sd.us. A short committee meeting is also planned for Thursday, September 20, at 4:30 AmericInn Lodge and Suites in Chamberlain.

SDASP Board Meets in Chamberlain



SDASP board members present at August meeting in Chamberlain

Pictured back row, left to right: Amanda Wilson, Central Representative; Kari Oyen, Treasurer; Curtis Middleton, Western Representative; Roxanna Uttermark, Immediate Past-President; Anita Winter, NASP Delegate; Stephanie Nesselhuff, President-Elect; Cora Lee Alley, Newsletter Editor. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: Ericka Kotab, SPAN Contact; Alyssa Larson, Secretary; Maria Meyer, Northeast Representative; Kristi Kafka, President

Board members covered a full agenda at their meeting at Cedar Shores in Chamberlain on August 27th. Among items of discussion were upcoming openings on the board and possible candidates, area reports, and Early Service Recognition Award nominations. SDASP has traditionally awarded a School Psychologist of the Year award; the Early Service award will be given in addition to the School Psychologist of the Year award to a school psychologist with 5 or fewer years of experience. Although Dr. Benson from USD was not able to attend the board meeting, he indicated to Kristi that several poster presentations from students would be on display at the conference. The constitution and bylaws were discussed at length with recommendations made for updating the content. Those updates will be sent out to membership for review and then be discussed at the general membership meeting with a vote for ratification. Anita Winter reminded board members of the free webinars available at NASP online for those interested in continuing education.

Mark Your Calendar!

NASP 2013 Annual Convention

February 12-15,

2013

Washington State
Convention Center/
Sheraton Seattle

Seattle, WA

The theme for this
year's conference is
Building Leaders.



Regional News



Curtis Middleton,
West Area
Representative

WEST RIVER:

Rapid City Area Schools has revamped the Response to Intervention process used in the district. One essential component of the process has been the establishment of decision points in order to create consistency across the district in determining who is in need of Tier 2 interventions. The district has also identified specific tools for measuring progress.

Bridget Henrikson has been hired as a half-time school psychologist in Rapid City. Bridget was previously employed in Colorado as a school psychologist. She has experience in the Response to Intervention process and development of behavioral intervention plans. Erin Alsum will also be working in the district as an intern. Keyra Comer has returned to the Rapid City Area Schools serving as a school psychologist after working as a special education director in Spearfish the last few years. Sonja Shannon, who retired a year ago, has been contracting through the state as a mediator to assist in increasing communication between families and schools.

This past summer, Curtis Middleton, West Area Representative, and Sarah Hohn, special education teacher, provided swimming and sports exploration activities for children with autism spectrum disorders. Three age groups participated including a group for children 5-9, another group for children 10-14, and also an adult group. Curtis met with parents at the end of the session to discuss each child's skill development and possible opportunities for further involvement in sports activities.



Amanda Wilson,
Central Representative

CENTRAL:

Amanda Wilson reported that a new psychologist, **Jennifer Johnson**, has been hired in Pierre after Margaret Pierre's retirement last year.



Maria Meyer, North-
east Representative

NORTHEAST:

An intern has been hired at the South Dakota Developmental Center. Also, an ADOS training was recently held in Aberdeen and was hosted by North Central Special Education Coop.

ALERT!

The **SDASP Update** is seeking the following information:

—SDASP member involvement in state committees

—Events such as retirements, awards, deaths

—If you are in private practice as a school psychologist, let us know about your successes or challenges

—Student perspectives or seasoned perspectives

Send submissions to
coralee@rap.midco.net
The next deadline for submission
is **January 1, 2013.**

Regional News is continued
on the next page...

Regional News (Continued)



Jolene Keckler,
Southeast
Representative

SOUTHEAST:

We would like to welcome **Paige Wettern** as the new school psychologist for the West Central School District in Hartford/Humboldt. Paige provided a summary of her education and background (See Below).

Getting to Know Paige Wettern...

Education-Work Experience - I received my Education Specialists Degree in School Psychology from Tennessee State University in May of 2012. I completed both my practicum and internship with the Franklin Special School District in Franklin, TN. This is my first "official" year as a school psychologist but my internship provided me with a wide array of experiences. I spent time in the preschool, elementary, and middle school settings and by the beginning of second semester, I was given an elementary school to manage on my own while I continued to work with the preschool and middle schools as well. While completing my graduate studies, I also worked with a group of individuals under a Nationally Certified Behavior Analyst (NCBA) doing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy with a child who has autism.

Family - I have been married to my husband, Jeff Thurn, for just over a year and we live with our three dogs and cat in Hartford, SD. My husband grew up in Sioux Falls and I in Red Wing, MN. We knew we wanted to move closer to family when I was finished with my schooling. We are now only minutes away from my mother-in-law, a few hours from my family in Red Wing, and are very happy to be back in the Midwest!

Goals for My Position - I hope to continue to learn and grow my first few years as a school psychologist and am very excited to be doing so with the West Central School District. I am looking forward to being a member of SDASP and meeting other school psychologists across the state!

Hobbies - Above all, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I like to take my dogs for walks, go out to dinner with my husband, visit my parents and nieces, and spend time with my best friends Helene and Staci. I also like to read and travel to warm places like Mexico.

Where is the West Central School District?

*The West Central School District is essentially a bedroom community for the City of Sioux Falls, which has a population of approximately 140,000. The City of Hartford is located 12 miles from the City of Sioux Falls with the City of Humboldt located eight more miles to the west.
Population: City of Hartford – 1925 -- City of Humboldt - 521
<http://westcentral.k12.sd.us/community/>*

SDASP Executive Board Members

President – Kristi Kafka
kristi.kafka@k12.sd.us

President-Elect –
Stephanie Nesselhuff
stephanie.nesselhuff@k12.sd.us

Secretary – Alyssa Larson
alyssa.larson@k12.sd.us

Treasurer – Kari Oyen
kari.oyen@k12.sd.us

Past-President –
Roxana Uttermark
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Northeast Rep – Maria Meyer
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Central Rep – Amanda Wilson
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Western Rep – Curtis Middleton
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Southeast Rep – Jolene Keckler
jolene.keckler@k12.sd.us

Student Rep – Kali Briggs
kali.briggs@usd.edu

USD Liaison – Nicholas Benson
nicholas.benson@usd.edu

Webmaster – Jennifer Burkett
jennifer.burkett@k12.sd.us

Newsletter – Cora Lee Alley
coralee.alley@k12.sd.us

Delegate - Anita Winter
anita.winter@k12.sd.us

GPR Committee Chairs :

Ruth Fodness
rfodness@mchsi.com

Ericka Kotab (SPAN Contact)
ericka.kotab@k12.sd.us

SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS
SDASP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
 (Membership Year October 1 to September 30)

NAME:	JOB TITLE:
ADDRESS: (Zip)	EMPLOYER: ADDRESS: (Zip)
PHONE:	PHONE:
E-MAIL (will automatically receive SDASP & NASP announcements/news):	FAX:
NCSP CERTIFIED: Yes No	NASP MEMBER: Yes No
HIGHEST DEGREE:	TRAINING INSTITUTION:
MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY:	MEMBERSHIP DUES: <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 for Regular & Associate <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 for Student & Retired
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: <input type="checkbox"/> Regular (must hold valid SD School Psychologist Endorsement) <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (allied fields)	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Student – To be eligible, your advisor must complete the following.
I am interested in participating in the following SDASP activities: <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Position <input type="checkbox"/> State Newsletter/Web Contributor <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee <input type="checkbox"/> PR Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Convention/Workshop Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Government & Professional Relations Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Other	I certify that the above named student is enrolled in a college or university program & is not engaged in full-time employment. ADVISOR'S SIGNATURE: NAME OF SCHOOL:
<i>Send check or money order payable to SDASP to:</i>	Kari Oyen Lennox School District Box 38 Lennox, SD 57039

The *SDASP Update* invites articles, letters, and other items of interest.

We need submissions from our readership. Please consider this opportunity.

The editor reserves the right to edit articles.

EDITOR:

Cora Lee Alley
Rapid City Area Schools

Email:

coralee@rap.midco.net

The *SDASP Update* is emailed to members. Archives can be found on the website at: <http://www.sdasp.k12.sd.us/>

SDASP Update is published by the South Dakota Association of School Psychologists for its members. Views expressed in *SDASP Update* do not necessarily reflect the position of the SDASP Executive Board or its members. Test, book, or product reviews and announcements do not imply endorsement by SDASP.

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Issue	Closing Date for Submissions	Approximate Distribution Date
Summer	June 1	June 15
Fall	September 1	September 15
Winter	January 1	January 15

SDASP

**An organization that believes that
all children can learn!**

