



Autism Without Limits 2011 Annual Conference

Friday, October 21

8:30 - 9:00 am Registration and Continental Breakfast

Vine A will be available as a “crash room” throughout the conference.

9:00 am **Welcome** **Academy Ballroom**
Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Matt Karatz

9:15 - 10:45 am Sue Rubin **Academy Ballroom**
Keynote: *Autism Without Limits*

I will talk about the supports I have had over the past twenty years that have allowed me to live quite a different life than most others who are as autistic as I am. We will discuss school, supported living, relationships, having a lot of awesome friends, and people who care about me besides my family.

10:45 - 11:00 am **Break**

11am - 12:15 pm **Concurrent sessions**

1. ***Demystifying FC: An Ultra Close Look at What Constitutes the Practice of FC***

Don Cardinal, Ph.D.

Academy 4

For some, the phrase facilitated communication (FC) is unclear, possibly even unknown. For others, it evokes extreme emotion of all types. Still others who label their practice as FC may not be using FC at all. This presentation will carefully outline each component of FC and trace each element back to its origin in research. The goal is to demystify facilitated communication and clarify what FC is and is not. How the elements of FC work together is as important as understanding its components. Don Cardinal and Darlene Hanson will then engage in an open dialog with those attending the session.

2. ***Treading Each Treason and Treasure in a Troublesome World***

Peyton Goddard

Academy 6

Finding Freedom in the so-called “Limits” of Autism.

3. ***Evaluating the Neurodiversity Movement: History, Progress, and the Path Forward***

Steven Kapp, M.A.

Sunset

This presentation by an autistic self-advocate and autism researcher covers the history and status of the neurodiversity movement, including its meaning and defining issues. In the past two decades, aided by the rise of autism diagnoses, the Internet and assistive

technologies, the self-advocacy movement, and the pro-cure autism movement to oppose, Autistic people have formed a community in a struggle for full participation in society. More recently the neurodiversity movement has become more political and firmly aligned itself within a cross-disability coalition. It continues to build allies among family members, providers, and other professionals, and to seek greater involvement among Autistic people. Nevertheless, challenges remain to advance the rights and support the needs of the full autism spectrum.

4. **Rethinking Autism**

Dana Commandatore

Academy 5

All too often in the world of autism, celebrity and sex appeal are used to promote pseudo-science and personal agendas. RethinkingAutism.com wants to change minds, change the current media conversation and help give autistic people a more prominent voice in the conversation. Up to this point, certain celebrities and some parents of autistic children have dominated the media with their miracle cures and unsubstantiated theories on causation. This exploits Autistic people, their family members and the public. Without the support of the general public, autistic adults will have to continually fight for equal rights. Dana Commandatore will discuss the past, present and future of Rethinking Autism.

12:15 -1:15 pm Lunch

Academy Ballroom

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Stephen Hinkle, M.A.

Academy Ballroom

The Hidden Social Curriculum

Inclusion, social skills, friendships, and relationships are all very important for individuals with autism. Stephen Hinkle, an individual with autism, will highlight his personal experiences in this session.

3:00 – 3:15 pm Break

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm Concurrent sessions

1. **Communication ... Bring It On!!!**

Darlene Hanson, M.A., S/LP

Academy 4

When provided with technology, individuals with significant communication differences are joining the mainstream in ways we only imagined before. Access to things like the iPad, iPod, Say it Sam and others are opening up opportunities for participation, friendships, and advocacy. Today we want to talk about the road to communication through support, organization, and use of technology. This session will describe the basic principles of supporting communication as defined in our *Standards of Best Practice*. The session will include video examples and opportunities for practice of the strategies described.

2. **Learning Self-Advocacy Skills: Exploration of Issues from the Advocate and Parent Perspectives**

Jordan Ackerson and Lisa A. Lieberman, MSW, LCSW

Sunset

Self-advocacy is an essential skill as teens with ASD transition into adulthood. A 23-year-old shares experiences and suggestions for learning and implementing effective advocacy. His mother, a mental health professional, will discuss ways to support children to move towards a more self-determined life within the context of a mutual partnership. The session will include concrete suggestions, wisdom from other young

people, and ideas for how parents can find that balance between support and letting go and inspiration for a successful life journey.

3. ***How to Get the Life You Choose***

Rob Cutler and Mike Hoover

Academy 6

Panelists Mike Hoover and Rob Cutler will share their knowledge, experiences, struggles and successes as advocates. They have both traveled extensively to educate and advocate about disability, social justice and the necessity of providing effective communication systems to those with limited or no speech. Their impact as advisors, mentors and educators has changed the perceptions of parents, people with disabilities, professionals, and government leaders. This change informs current public policy. [Additional panelists may be announced at the time of the event.]

4. ***Things They Would Not Teach Me of in College: Navigating the Academic Environment for People on the Spectrum***

Lars Perner, Ph.D.

Academy 5

Individuals on the spectrum often experience problems at various stages of going through the educational system. Although awareness of the autism spectrum is growing among educators and society in general, the specific challenges faced by each individual are often less well understood. This session discusses types of issues that might be experienced and possible ways to prepare. Opportunities to pursue special interests in academia are also discussed.

4:30 – 6:00 pm Break

Network and visit exhibits.

6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner

Academy Ballroom

7:00 – 9:00 pm Johnny Seitz and Chris Rials-Seitz, M.A.

Academy Ballroom

God Does Not Make Garbage: A Dialogue in Our World

A video presentation followed by a lecture by Johnny and Chris opens up a window that takes participants directly into the world of autism. Through mime, poetry, and music, an empathic message is clearly generated to be experienced by conference participants.

Autism Without Limits

2011 Annual Conference

Saturday, October 22

8:30 - 9:00 am Registration and Continental Breakfast

Vine A will be available as a "crash room" throughout the conference.

9:00 am Welcome

Academy Ballroom

9:15 - 10:30 am

Anne Donnellan, Ph.D.

Rethinking Autism: How Sensory-Movement Differences and Disturbances Affect Autistic People and Their Story

This presentation addresses sensory-movement issues which challenge people with the autism label and often confuse those who love, care for, and/or study them. This perspective is not meant to create another diagnostic category. Rather, it suggests that our "assessment" of people with autism is based on our experience of them, not necessarily their experience. Greater understanding of the lived experience of autism may help to shift the emphasis from "control" to providing "accommodations" to support those with the autism label.

10:30 – 10:45 am Break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm Concurrent sessions

1. *Raising an Empowered Self-Advocate: Parent Panel*

Academy 5

Moderator: Jeff Strully

Participants: Rita Rubin, Emily Doyle Iland, Lisa Lieberman, and Nancy Brady

Panel participants will discuss their individual approaches to parenting and nurturing self-advocates. What worked? What didn't work? What would they approach differently if they had known what they do now?

2. *Rated 'R': That Oh-So-Difficult Topic*

Nick Pentzell and Hope Block

Academy 6

We've watched Casablanca 17 times, and we know about the birds and the bees, but – uh – love and s-e-x weren't taught as social skills or as PT, OT, or sensory integration ... How do we go about having mature relationships? And how in the world do we integrate support staff?? Nick and Hope invite you to join them in discussing the challenges of having adult relationships, romance, and sexuality on the spectrum. We don't have all the answers, but we hope you'll help us ask the questions. It's time they were voiced.

3. *A Full Life with Autism*

Jeremy Sicile-Kira

Sunset

Jeremy will present about his life, what helped him become a high school graduate and be successful in life and college. He will describe the life skills he had to learn before leaving high school. Jeremy will discuss the importance of good supports and what they are for someone like him. He will also address how to fully include someone with autism like him.

4. ***A Process to Independent Communication***

Darlene Hanson

Academy 4

This session will take the principles described in *Communication ... Bring it on!!!* and move us toward how we increase independent communication when using AAC. Participants will learn how to assess their current levels of support and develop appropriate next step goals as they work as a team to increase independent communication. We will also touch on advocacy for communication, assessments, and Best Practice. The session will include video examples and opportunities for practice of the strategies described.

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Lunch

Academy Ballroom

1:30 – 2:45 pm

Jodi Robledo, Ph.D.

Academy Ballroom

Sue Rubin, Peyton Goddard, and Stephen Hinkle

Properties of Supportive Relationships from the Perspective of Individuals on the Autism Spectrum

“...supportive relationships are not only important for those of us with autism, but for every successful individual.” (Sue Rubin). This session will explore the properties of supportive relationships from the perspectives of individuals on the autism spectrum. Dr. Robledo will lead a discussion with self-advocates Sue Rubin, Peyton Goddard, and Stephen Hinkle.

2:45 – 3:00 pm

Break

3:15 pm – 4:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

1. ***Sound and Fury: When Opposition to Facilitated Communication Functions as Hate Speech***

Anna Stubblefield, Ph.D.

Academy 5

Some aspects of continuing anti-FC expression meet the criteria to count as hate speech. While I am not suggesting that such expression be censored, the purpose of this presentation is to point out the function that such expression is performing. By identifying it as what it is—hate speech—I hope to highlight the political aspects of the controversy over the use of FC as a communication tool and the ways in which anti-FC rhetoric oppresses FC users. The most recent work on hate speech has moved from categorizing hate speech as assaultive, derogatory remarks targeted at victims (e.g., name-calling, threats) to defining hate speech as expression that subordinates people by calling into question their intelligence, character, or rights and that undermines their ability to express themselves, be understood, and be taken seriously. In the face of studies that have validated the authorship of FC users, and given the growing number of former FC users who now type independently, continued anti-FC expression functions as hate speech when it calls into question, without substantiation, the intellectual competence of FC users, thereby undermining their opportunity to exercise their right to freedom of expression.

2. ***Art as Advocacy – Finding Our Voices***

DJ Savarese

Academy 4

A powerful collage of writings by nine people who type to communicate is acted out by DJ's peers from high school in this video edited, narrated, and assistant directed by DJ. This film contains pieces written by Roy Bedward, Daniel McConnell, Amy Sequenzia, Chandy Rajapatirana, Tracy Thresher, Jamie Burke, Quinn Partridge, and Nick Pentzell.

3. ***Creating Successful Environments for Individuals with Autism***

Steven Gersten, J.D.

Sunset

Empathize with and respect the rights and unique needs of the individual and then actually take the steps to create a successful environment so that the person with autism is, in fact, accommodated and given the opportunity to reach his/her full potential.

4. ***The College Dream Comes True***

Kayla Takeuchi

Academy 6

Kayla will take you on her journey from childhood to high school to graduation to the beginning of college with time for your questions in the latter part of the session.

4:30 – 4:45 pm

Break

4:45 – 5:30 pm

The Last Word

Academy Ballroom

by members of AutCom's Board of Directors who are on the spectrum
and Raffle Results