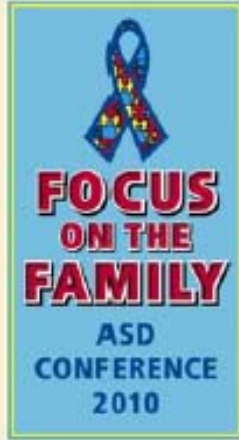


AUTISM CONFERENCE

FINALLY A CONFERENCE
THAT ADDRESSES THE
NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND
PARENTS ALIKE!



Friday: April 30

La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA

Children's Program

Limited
Scholarships
Are Available!



By Green Tree School
Students



ACT 48 Credits



DISCOVER WHAT MAKES THIS CONFERENCE ONE OF THE
BEST AUTISM GATHERINGS!

www.gtpartnerships.org (609) 518-1259





Presented by:



www.gtpartnerships.org
(609) 518-1259

AGENDA

4th Annual Autism Conference

Date

Friday, April 30, 2010

Location

La Salle University - Student Union building
1900 W. Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19141

Cost

\$0 Children (**Six and up**; Pre-Registration Required - Deadline is March 15 to register children)

\$35 Parents & Students

\$55 All Others

Limited Scholarships Are Available!

Schedule

8:00 – 9:00	Registration Coffee/Networking/Exhibits *
9:00 – 10:30	Opening Remarks Keynote Speaker
10:30 – 10:45	Break *
10:45 – 12:30	Break-out Session A
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch *
1:30 – 3:15	Break-out Session B
3:30 – 4:00	Closing Ceremony (music)

* Vendors are available during these times

ASD: Focus on the Family

The conference will look at ASD from the perspective of the family. Presentations will speak directly to the concerns of families that include those on the Autistic Spectrum.

One of the goals of this annual conference is to provide a family-friendly forum for people living on the Autism Spectrum and their families, where they can share their experiences and obtain needed information.

A Focus on the Children – Exciting Children’s Programs

For the first time, this annual conference will invite school-age children ages six and up to participate.

- **A Fun and Gentle Parent/Child Yoga Class**
Presented by Stages Yoga
- **A Musical Performance**
Presented by Green Tree School Students
- **Free Activities & Programs**
Provided by La Salle University





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REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name

Company

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Children

FREE

Use Children's Registration Form on Page 5

Parents & Students

\$35.00

All Others

\$55.00

Please provide name (s) of child or children attending

PAYMENT INFORMATION



Check #

Card Type

Name on Card

Card No

Exp Date

CVC

Date

Signature

WORKSHOPS

A: #

B: #

MAILING INFORMATION

You may register by phone, fax, email or through the Green Tree Partnerships (GTP) website at www.gtpartnerships.org.

Phone: (609) 518-1259

Fax: (609) 518-1283

Email: lavinia@eventmood.com

Web: www.gtpartnerships.org

Mail: Autism Conference
C/O Event Mood, Corp.
P.O. Box 321
Lumberton, NJ 08048

Payment must accompany this form for registration to be valid.

For more information, call event management company Event Mood, Corp. at (609) 518-1259 or Green Tree Partnerships at (215) 843-4528.

Make all checks payable to Green Tree Partnerships

Photo Disclaimer: Please note that this event will be videotaped and/or photographed. Green Tree Partnerships and La Salle University reserve the right to videotape and photograph attendees for use in promotional and marketing materials.

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Friday, April 30, 2010
8am - 4pm
La Salle University Student Union building
1900 W. Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19141

\$00 Children
\$35 Parents & Students
\$55 All Others

Keynote Speaker
Krisine P. Koenig, PhD, OTR/L
New York University
Topic: ... Strategies for Home and School

To register for this conference or to make inquiries, please call Event Mood, Corp. at (609) 518-1259 or send an email to info@eventmood.com.

Log on to www.gtpartnerships.org to register online.

Children's Program

- Musical Performance
- Lunch
- Childcare
- Parent/Child Yoga

Limited Scholarships Are Available!






REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE ATTENDEE INFORMATION - TO BE USED TO REGISTER ATTENDING CHILDREN

Child's Name	Age
Child's Name	Age
Parent's Name	
Parent's Emergency Contact Information:	

ADMISSION INFORMATION	CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
Children FREE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Childcare
<i>Pre-registration required for children - Deadline March 15</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/Child Yoga
Please list any food allergies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities designed by La Salle University Students

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Keynote Speaker
 Kristine P. Koenig, PhD, OTR/L
 New York University
 Topic: ... Strategies for Home and School

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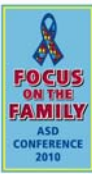
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9:00 - 10:30: Opening Remarks/Keynote Address

Keynote Speaker: Kristie P. Koenig, PhD, OTR/L (New York University)

Topic: Self-Regulation and the Impact of Sensory Processing: Strategies for Home and School

Self-regulation is the ability to monitor one's own behavior and adjust to environmental demands. Critical to self-regulation is to control behavior automatically without outside help. This is a developmental process and is impacted by additional factors for those on the autistic spectrum. A key factor for those with ASD is how the individual processes the environmental demands, including sensory information. Research, practical strategies and "expert perspectives" of those with ASD will be presented in order to facilitate and understand effective self-regulatory strategies that can be used in home, school and community environments.



Kristie P. Koenig, PhD, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, New York University, Department of Occupational Therapy. Dr. Koenig is an occupational therapist, with a PhD in Educational Psychology who examines the influence of self-regulation, sensory processing and motor planning deficits on behavior and functional communication in children and adults with neurobehavioral disorders; specifically autistic spectrum disorders and regulatory disorders. Her research focuses on utilizing a relationship based paradigm and the individual with ASD's perspective to understand the impact of these issues on quality of life and adaptive behavior in order to guide person centered interventions in inclusive settings. Dr. Koenig has published and presented nationally and internationally on topics related to examining the efficacy of sensory and motor interventions that impact one's ability to regulate behavior in home and community environments.

10:45 – 12:30: Workshop Session A

(1) Fathering Children on the Spectrum (A Parent Panel Discussion)

Presenters: Anthony Driggers, Jack Junod, & Tony Wilson
Facilitator: Dr. Eric Mitchell, Green Tree School

In the ASD community, fathers are sometimes overlooked, even though they may be a crucial factor for positive outcomes of children on the spectrum and their families. This interactive panel discussion will delve into some poignant and inspiring stories of the trials and tribulations of three devoted fathers, although their paths have not necessarily been smoothly paved. Come and hear how these dads have been coping with life in the ASD community, and how the ASD community and related systems can support them as they navigate a course to support their families.

(2) Using Creative Movement Activities to Enhance Communication and Playful Interaction with Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Presenters: Gayle Gates & Amy Hunter, Green Tree School

This workshop will introduce techniques of play, creative movement activities and use of props to enhance verbal and non verbal communication between parent and child and support the potential for shared joint attention, reciprocity, imitation and functional and symbolic play. Participants will explore kinesthetic, tactile, visual and auditory elements of the play experience and learn how to attune to the child's play behaviors and use props to initiate and sustain playful interactions with the child.

(3) A Social Skills Seminar

Presenters: Carol Moog Ph.D. & Parin Patel M.S., University of Pennsylvania

Adults with Aspergers Syndrome and other social learning disorders have unique social deficits that interfere with their ability to communicate effectively, find employment, and develop meaningful interpersonal relationships. Many cannot effectively "read" nonverbal social cues such as facial expressions and body language. Their ability to intuit others' emotional states is limited, and therefore they have trouble predicting the behavior of others. These problems in communication often lead to misperceptions of other people's feelings and motivations.

The seminar focuses on **noticing and understanding nonverbal communication** which helps promote conversational, job interviewing, and relationship skills.

(4) Building a Community of Young Adults on the Spectrum

Presenters: Lorie Brew, M.S. & Joyce Harding, R.N., The Coffeehouse Center of Bucks County

The Coffeehouse Center of Bucks County is a community program that supports young adults with Aspergers Syndrome/PDD, NOS transitioning into adulthood. Through a panel presentation, Members and Staff will provide participants with experiences of living with Aspergers Syndrome and PDD/NOS and how others could support individuals as they negotiate relationships, advocate and acquire independent living skills.

The workshop will also offer participants best practices when facilitating individuals with Aspergers Disorder, PDD, NOS with navigating peer and other societal interactions. The presenters will also provide knowledge through their general observations of the challenges, successes and surprises when facilitating young adults in a natural group setting.





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10:45 – 12:30: Workshop Session A

(5) Families First: The Challenges of Autism

Presenter: Dr. Donna Tonrey, La Salle University - Marriage Family Therapy

This workshop will focus on helping families cope as a family with the challenges that come when a member has autism. Covered will be the following: Identifying the family system, the family strengths, the roles each person plays in the family, learning to cope as a family first and as a family with a member who has autism. The workshop is intended to be interactive and there will be time for open discussion.

(6) Families and Attachment Issues

Presenter: Dr. Patricia Wilson, La Salle University, Psychology

(7) Advocacy for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum

Presenter: Dr. Bonnie Zetick, La Salle University, Social Work

Some resources and programs have developed for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. An objective of this workshop will be to provide information on identifying and accessing these resources. A second objective is to explore the role of advocacy as a key factor in expanding programs and resources for this population. Current gaps in the service system will be discussed, and strategies for successful advocacy, as well as examples of past accomplishments, will be shared.

The overall objective is to provide participants with information about what has been accomplished, as well as to encourage families, professionals serving this population, and individuals on the autism spectrum to keep up advocacy efforts to develop additional services and programs to benefit this population.

12:30 – 1:30: Lunch Presentations

Poster Sessions - Student Insight: The Family Reality and the Research

Presenters: La Salle University Students from "Families and Autism" Seminar
Facilitator: Dr. Carole Patrylo, La Salle University

Carole Patrylo is currently a fulltime faculty member in Undergraduate and Graduate Programs: Regular and Special Education. She is Supervisor, Co-Director and Director of the Graduate Special Education Practicum II (Inclusion Program) at La Salle University.

1:00 – 1:30 Parent-Child Yoga Session

Presenter: Rossana Parsons, Stages Yoga

This class will introduce both parent and child to some of the most interesting animal yoga poses, some breathing techniques to help with stress and anxiety. Additionally, parents will walk away with some useful tips to help calm their children during challenging times as well as some stress relieving breathing and stretching tips for the parents and caregivers.

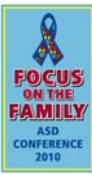
Rossana Mancini Parsons is the founder of Stages Yoga, an outreach company that tailors off-site yoga programs for various populations according to their specific needs. Currently, Stages conducts several programs in the New Jersey area, including an after-school yoga program for elementary school children at the Montessori School in Delran; a special needs yoga/movement program at the Katz Jewish Community Center, Cherry Hill; a seniors' chair yoga program at St. Mary's Catholic Home, Cherry Hill, among others.

Rossana holds certifications by **YogaFit International** and **AFPA** (American Fitness Professionals & Associates) and specializes in Senior Yoga instruction. She is also a graduate of Temple University with Bachelor's Degree.



Courtesy of Stages Yoga





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1:30 – 3:15: Workshops Session B

(1) Seamless Inclusion

Presenters: Stephen Downs & Lisa Lingman, La Salle University

(2) Self Advocacy and Social Skills for College Life, a course developed by the Drexel Autism Support Program (DASP)

Presenters: Dr. Felicia Hurewitz & Erin Abrigo, M.A., Drexel University

The workshop will focus on the implementation and dissemination of a social skills and self advocacy course developed by the Drexel Autism Support Program. Under the umbrella of the Eastern ASERT, Drexel University has created a program that provides supports for college-based trainers to offer an onsite 8-week seminar addressing adjustment to college life and the (continued) development of interpersonal skills, geared towards the needs of the burgeoning population of high functioning individuals with autism who are attending college.

The program includes training peer mentors, who are partnered with each student, and "real world" assignments where students and mentors work together outside of class to practice skills. Our model emphasizes self-determination, and assumes students will be assisted by learning from the experiences of other individuals with autism who have found strategies for success in college. Materials for creating the course were, in part, researched through surveys and videos collected from Youth Advocate Programs (YAP), who used informants with autism to assess the needs of this population. Also included are blackboard based e-courses to provide materials and cross-site discussion as other colleges adopt the DASP model. This session will include an overview of the status of this program after the first iterations, including initial feasibility results and a description of some the challenges associated with initiating this sort of program.

(3) "Myths, Facts, and Families"

Presenter: Dr. Eric Mitchell, Green Tree School

When families are trying to navigate their way through development of their children on the autistic spectrum through adulthood, the pitfalls are many and safe havens are few. This workshop will explore some of the myths associated with treatment, family coping, divorce, sibling outcomes, and a host of bewildering issues. Grains of truth will be highlighted and discussed to help families and those helping families find their way.

(4) Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Developmental Pediatrician's Overview

Presenter: Dr. Wendy Ross, Albert Einstein Medical Center

Autism is an increasingly common disorder in the United States. This talk will provide an overview of autism spectrum disorder including the ways autism can manifest itself, diagnostic procedures, therapeutic treatments, and recent controversies.

At the end of this talk, participants should be able to:

1. Describe features of autism, especially how they relate to the categories of socialization, communication, and atypical behaviors or interests.
2. Identify a diagnostic procedure for autism
3. Recognize therapeutic interventions for autism.
4. Discuss controversies regarding autism.

1:30 – 3:15: Workshops Session B

(5) Functional Family Therapy

Presenter: Lori Exum Thompson, M.H.S., Green Tree School

(6) Support for Siblings of Children with ASD

Presenter: Monique Turner, Green Tree School

Do you have other children that are not on the Spectrum? This workshop will:

1. Help you understand how your child feels about living with ASD
2. Help you understand how to spend quality time with the child without ASD.
3. How to include them without making them the co-parent.

(7) Fostering Positive Relationships between Families and School

Presenter: Doreen Williams, Green Tree School

This workshop will offer techniques that schools can use to develop and maintain positive relationships with the families of children on the autism spectrum. Workshop will include:

- Parents of students will speak (via taped sessions) about the experiences they encountered before finding an appropriate placement which causes anger and tension that they may have carried over
- Specific examples of techniques that can be used to develop a positive rapport with families upon entering into a new school setting
- Ways/Ideas to foster positive communication including:
 1. Parent Support Meetings
 2. Pre-IEP meetings
 3. IEP Conferences
 4. Report Cards
 5. Daily Communication with homeroom teachers and specialty teachers
 6. Celebrating life events





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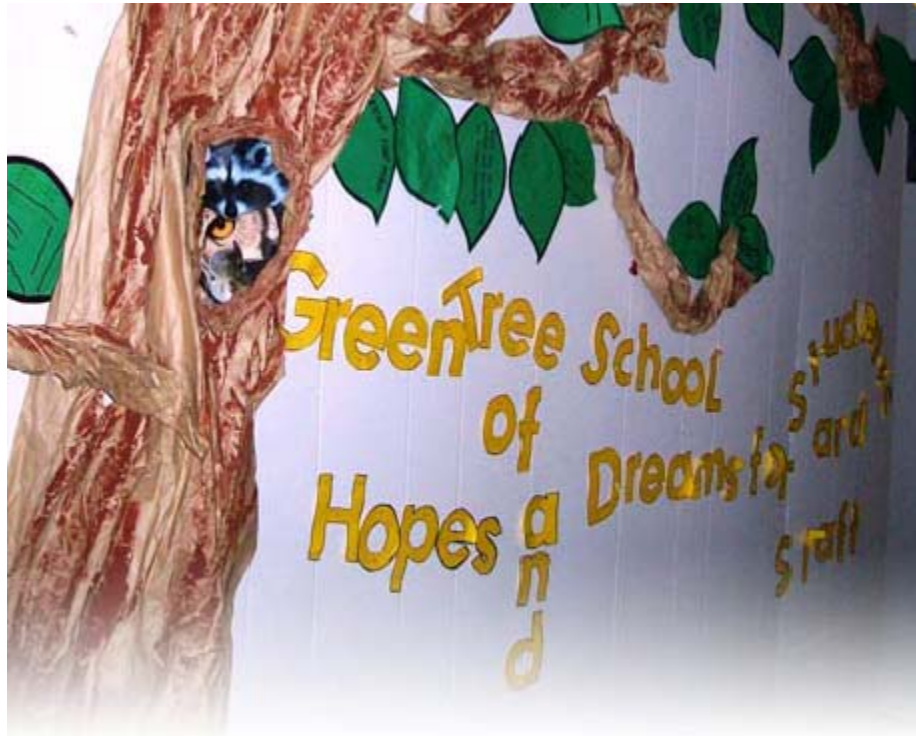
3:30 – 4:00: Closing Ceremony

A Musical Farewell

Presenter: Students, Classroom A, Green Tree School

Music Leader: Lauren Gagliardi MT-BC, Music Therapist Green Tree School

Green Tree students will perform vocal and instrumental/drumming solos and group pieces, including the “Goodbye Song” the class composed the fall of 2009.



Conference Contact

To find out more about this conference or to register by phone, please call:
Event Mood, Corp. at (609) 518-1259 or send an email to info@eventmood.com.

If you provide services for the Autistic community and would like to be a vendor, contact Lavinia Awosanya of Event Mood for a vendor registration form.

Driving Directions to La Salle University

From NY, Northern NJ, New England

I-95 South to NJ Turnpike South to Exit 6 (connection to PA Turnpike); follow PA Turnpike to Exit 339 (Ft. Washington exit); to Route 309 South; 309 South becomes Ogontz Avenue. Do not bear left when Rt. 309 South splits at Ogontz Avenue. Follow Ogontz Avenue for about 5 miles until intersection of Ogontz and Olney Ave. Right on Olney Avenue to first light (20th Street). Go straight through the light. At Penn Boulevard make a left and proceed to **J parking lot**. Make a right into the parking lot. At the Security Booth, the security personnel will direct you to the designated visitor parking spaces.

From The North I-95 South to Route I-676 West (Vine Street Expressway), to Route 76 West. To continue, see directions from Route 76 West.

From The South I-95 North to Route I-676 West (Vine Street Expressway), to Route 76 West. To continue, see directions from Route 76 West.

From The East Route 42 West to Walt Whitman Bridge; from the bridge, follow Route 76 West to US 1 North (Roosevelt Expressway). To continue, see directions from Route 76 West.

From The West PA Turnpike East to Exit 326 (Route 76 East, Valley Forge). To continue, see directions from Route 76 East.

From Route 76 East to US 1 North (Roosevelt Expressway), to Broad Street Exit (Route 611). Left on Broad Street (North), go one mile to Somerville Avenue. Left on Somerville to Ogontz Avenue. Right on Ogontz to second light (Olney Avenue). Left on Olney to first light (20th Street). Go straight through the light. Continue on Olney. Olney becomes Chew Avenue at Wister Street. You will **park in G-Lot which is located at "Shoppes at LaSalle" off of Chew Avenue**. Shuttles will run every 15 minutes from G-Lot to Main Campus.

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