

ACCENT

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Autism Conference Slated for Downtown Campus by Urban and Public Affairs

A conference on programming for autism in Tennessee will be held December 6-8 at the Downtown Campus.

The Center for Urban and Public Affairs, a joint effort of TSU and Middle Tennessee State University, is sponsoring the conference under Project ASTAC (Project to Assess Services to Tennessee's Autistic Children).

The project is funded in part under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Office of Developmental Disabilities.

The keynote address will be given by Dr. Eric Shopler, director of Division TEACCH and professor of psychiatry at the University of North Carolina.

Other speakers will be Dr. Nicholas Hobbs, professor of psychology at Vanderbilt, and Frank Warren of the National Society of Autistic Children.

Representatives from the state department of education, the state department of mental health and mental retardation, and the state planning office will present an overview of current policy.

Workshops will deal with the prescriptive diagnostic process, model classrooms, programs for adolescents and adults, at home behavior management for parents, respite care training, group homes and the family as co-therapists.

A needs assessment panel will discuss needs in Tennessee from the perspective of parents, teachers, program administrators, and clinicians.

Participants will write recommendations for future autism programming on the final day of the conference.

A reception for conference participants will be held at the Sheraton-Nashville. Media presentations on existing autism programs in Tennessee and elsewhere will be given.

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TSU Hosts SOLINET Workshops

TSU hosted one of five regional workshops of the Southeastern Library Network Inc., (SOLINET) on December 4th and 5th.

The workshop designed for library staff new to the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC), was held at the W. S. Davis Home Economics and Nursing Education Complex on the Main Campus.

Dr. Evelyn P. Fancher, director of the library, stated the University's library recently became a member of SOLINET, joining over 208 academic, public, state and special libraries in 10 southeastern states. SOLINET'S primary goal is to provide cost-effective regional library

service for its members through computer and communications technology.

"The first step towards SOLINET'S goal has been contract services with the OCLC," said Dr. Fancher.

"Through OCLC and developments of its own, SOLINET will be active in many facets of library services including bibliographic access to monographic serials and non-book materials; information retrieval for journal and newspaper articles and reports; physical access to library materials within the region and beyond it; protection of resources from deterioration and/or destruction, cooperative collection; stabilization of the rapid increase of expenses for library activities; reduction of processing time and elimination of backlogs; improvement of the quality of cataloging and subsequently greater availability of materials."

Jane K. Starnes, member services coordinator for SOLINET, led the workshop. About 50 librarians from the southeastern region are registered for the conference.

Daily Messenger Service

The State provides daily messenger service between the Main Campus, the Downtown Campus, the State Board of Regents' offices and other State offices in Metro Nashville

The Downtown pickup is at 8:00 a.m. and the Main Campus pickup is at 10:00 a.m. All messages routed by messenger should be in the post office by 9:30 a.m.

UNIVERSITY CHOIR TO PRESENT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The University Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Charlotte Rhodes, will present a CHRISTMAS CONCERT on Sunday, December 9, 1979 in the Recital Hall of the Music Building. The program will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will feature compositions by Bach, Vivaldi, Gounod, Menin and other composers. Of particular interest will be a new composition, "Let There Be Peace on Earth," recently arranged for the University Choir by Dr. Guy Bockmon, member of the music faculty and coordinator of music at the Downtown Campus.

ACCENT'S SCHEDULE

ACCENT, the University publication for faculty and staff, is published each Monday by the Bureau of Public Relations through the fall and spring semesters. Deadline for inclusion is 10:00 a.m. Monday for publication the following Monday.

Private Support Helps Maintain TSU Farm

The Full Service Equipment Company, Inc., distributors of John Deere farm equipment in Cottage Grove, Tenn., recently provided a power-till seeder and a tractor to sow winter wheat on the University's Experimental Farm. The John Deere seeder works without conventional land preparation, farm manager McDawson L. Burton, Jr., explained.

Burton said the company charged TSU only for the gas expense involved in driving to and from Cottage Grove. The wheat planted will provide winter ground cover for the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program's (CARP) soybean study led by Dr. Desh Duseja.

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CARP Director Dr. Handy Williamson, Jr., said the cooperation of the John Deere Company was appreciated and that such support for the farm was necessary to supplement state support if TSU is to maintain a leadership role among agriculture programs.

Brown Bag Theatre presents One-Act Play Festival

The Brown Bag theatre will present a one-act play festival December 5, 6, and 7 in the Administration Building Auditorium.

These will be original productions by the students of Mr. W. D. Cox's directing class. Admission is free.

All members of the TSU community are invited to attend. The time of productions is 12:00-1:00 p.m. (bring your lunch . . . it's the Brown Bag Theatre!) and 6:00-7:30 p.m. on all three days.

More About Autism

Autism, according to the National Society for Autistic Children, is a "life-long brain disorder that prevents proper understanding of what a person sees, hears, or otherwise senses. It causes severe problems in learning, communication and behavior."

Project ASTAC (Project to Assess Services to Tennessee's Autistic Children) is a six-month study to determine special needs and services for these children.

The project is sponsored by the Center for Urban and Public Affairs, a joint effort of TSU and MTSU.

Three goals of the project are: 1) to assess the programs and services for autistic individuals and their families that now exist in Tennessee, 2) to assess the needs that are not yet met and 3) to investigate suggestions for future programming for the state-wide system.

"Autism develops from birth. Diagnosis is made usually from 18 months to 2½ years of age. It is usually, but not always, signaled by a radical change in behavior," said Sharon Chilcote-Doner, project director.

We get calls every week from parents who have been through all of the services available and still do not know what is wrong with their child. It is important for this project to develop improved diagnostic systems," added Susie Baird, co-director and mother of an autistic child.

Ms. Baird stated that 15 out of every 10,000 children are autistic.

Autistic children exhibit a variety of behaviors from a general withdrawal to extreme repetitive behavior. The symptoms are so widespread in variety and intensity that it is difficult to generalize the symptoms or to diagnose correctly.

Ms. Chilcote-Doner explained that identification of these children and methods of treatment are part of Project ASTAC. "Pediatricians and parents particularly need to be aware of the variety of symptoms," she said.

"Some of these children are brilliant in certain areas. Some can only communicate on a typewriter, others have a mind for patterns and can fit a tiny puzzle piece into place when it took the rest of us a week," Ms. Chilcote-Doner continued.

"Behavior modification is used but the treatment is much broader than that," Ms. Baird explained.

"Communication is the key to organizing a plan of study for these children. They perceive the world differently from the rest of us. The teacher must find out how that child relates to its surroundings. Once that is established, the behavior can be changed," Ms. Chilcote-Doner said.

Ms. Baird then explained that the individualized education plan or IEP is administered according to Public Law 94-142—the Education for all Handicapped Children Act. This law ensures that any child with special needs receives the type of education most suited to her or him.

The IEP is a contract agreed upon between parents of the child and the teacher, after diagnosis and consultations. The plan is in effect for one year and details all of the educational processes—physical, mental and academic.

"The tragedy of these children is that we don't know whether autism is preventable or whether it is curable. But we can work around it," Ms. Baird continued.

Once communication and the IEP are established, there are many needs that state and local agencies need to fill to support the parents and family of an autistic child.

"Family counseling services are needed. It is pretty devastating to have an autistic child in the family. Sometimes only one member of the family ends up taking care of the child. Is that fair?"

"We need to help the child without destroying the family unit," she continued.

The family of an autistic child needs time off from the duties of taking care of that child. Respite care is a service of trained personnel capable of taking over the responsibility for the management of the child for a day or an entire weekend. This service is in short supply in Tennessee.

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A sense of the value of time—that is, of the best way to divide one's time into one's various activities—is an essential preliminary to efficient work; it is the only method of avoiding a hurry.

—Arnold Bennett

Financial Aid Form Revised

Students applying for financial assistance for the 1980-81 school year will find the Financial Aid Form (FAF) a little different from those used in the past.

"The application is new and the format is a little different from last year's," says Evelyn Cannon, financial aid assistant at the Downtown Campus.

The major difference in the forms is an additional two-page supplemental form, for students with financial situation changes.

A student applying for financial aid falls into this category if: 1) the parent or spouse of the applicant earned money in 1979 but has been completely out of work for at least ten weeks in 1980; 2) the parent or spouse earned money in 1979 but has been unable to earn money for at least ten weeks in 1980 (disability or natural disaster occurring in '79 or '80); 3) the applicant has worked full time (at least 35 hours a week) for at least 30 weeks in 1979 but is not working now; 4) the applicant, spouse or parent got nontaxable income in 1979 and lost this

Autism Conference

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The conference findings will go into a report from Project ASTAC to the state department of mental health and mental retardation in March.

It is hoped that the study conducted by the project and the recommendations of the conference participants will point the way for a statewide network of services for autistic children.

Project ASTAC has been endorsed "with enthusiasm" by the Tennessee International Year of the Child Committee. Mozelle Core, IYC director, will welcome participants to the conference.

Autism week has been proclaimed as December 2 through December 8 by Governor Alexander in conjunction with National Autism Week.

Registration fees include two luncheons and the reception and conference materials. The fee is \$15. Brochures and further information on the conference is available from the Conferences and Institutes Office (251-1354).

Further information on autism and Project ASTAC is available from the Center for Urban and Public Affairs, 251-1174.

income in 1979 or '80 (unemployment, social security or welfare benefits); 5) the applicant or parent is separated or divorced since filing for the grant; and 6) the spouse or parent of the applicant has died since the previous application was filed.

"The Financial Aid Forms will be made available to students in December, before the Christmas holidays," said Ms. Cannon, "Students may begin filling out the application when the 1979 Income tax form is completed."

"If they do not file income tax, they may go ahead and apply in January," she added.

For preferential treatment, returning students should apply April 1 and new students May 1, of 1980.

Since it takes four to six weeks for the College Scholarship Service to process the forms, it is advised that students apply to CSS at least six weeks before the April 1 and May 1 deadlines.

Faculty advisers should remind students seeking financial aid about the changes.

Operation Crossroads Summer Program

During the past 21 years, Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc., a non-profit organization focusing on international development and educational exchange, has sent more than 5,000 volunteers (students and professionals) to 34 English-speaking and French-speaking African countries to spend the summer helping rural village communities.

Projects involve: art, oral history and archaeology; ethnomusicology; agricultural development; community development; tutoring; clinical medical work; health education, media development and construction of clinics, schools and community facilities.

This experience provides a brief but intense immersion in traditional and modern African life and pushes individuals to reconsider basic attitudes, standards, and beliefs in relation to people with contrasting values and beliefs. Most volunteers arrange to receive academic credit for international relations, higher education and business.

Persons interested in participating in the Crossroads' Summer Work/Travel/Study Program may contact Dr. Rufus Akeju, Department of Government and Public Affairs, ext. 3600.

Letter from Ralph Boston—Class of '62

This year's Homecoming was perhaps the most enjoyable since my undergraduate days. The campus seemed to sing with "That Ole T.S.U. Spirit!" It was alive with grads greeting old friends, old flames and former instructors and even old nemeses. But there was one portion of the weekend that left a sad note on the hearts of everyone who has followed the progress of T.S.U., the death of Dr. W. S. Davis.

When I came to the University in '57 the entire freshman class was greeted by Dr. Davis. He talked to us about goals and aspirations, things many of us had never heard. He made it clear that this was our University and that it (the University) was here to serve the students. He pointed out that the University's motto, "think, work, serve," should be the charge of all T.S.U. students and grads and he constantly made that point.

In later years, I was to become somewhat of a known figure, but he still treated me with the same respect and honesty that had prevailed over the early years. I remember sitting at breakfast one morning and hearing "Doc" stress Excellence, both in and out of the classroom!" This idea became a permanent part of my T.S.U. mentality. Excellence. Always Excellence anywhere and everywhere.

His song was carried throughout the world on the swift feet of the world famous "Tigerbelle" or in the hearts and actions of all T.S.U. grads. Largely because of his efforts we are an internationally known body, respected and feared by friend and rivals alike. One tribute to his leadership and greatness is that in the 1960 Olympics, T.S.U. athletes won more gold medals than 55 combined nations of the world, including such nations as Great Britain, Spain, France and Greece. A remarkable feat for a small black school of less than 6000 students.

There are those who of course were critical of "Doc" but I honestly feel that they could not have known him very well, for if they had, they certainly would have had the love for him that I did and would have felt the love that he had for all of us. For the song and love in his heart, today we are better people. So for all of us who feel as I do, thank you Dr. Davis for giving us the opportunity to grow in the company of the best that the world has to offer.

CSC Systems Division Offers Sabbatical Program

Attention faculty! Computer Science Corporation of Falls Church, Va. is offering a one- or two-year sabbatical to selected faculty members. Time is short, you must apply before January 1.

Positions are available in communications, electrical/electronic engineering, computer sciences with a background in controls theory, thermodynamics as related to energy control of ventilation equipment, information sciences with a background in data base management systems, mini-macro applications, management control systems, distributed data processing and base systems, physical and computer security and turnkey systems.

The applicant must have a masters or doctorate in one of the above mentioned fields and must be a United States citizen. Resumes must be received by January 1, 1980 by:

M. Whitaker
CSC Systems Division
6565 Arlington Blvd.
Falls Church, Va. 22046

Notification of acceptance will be made by April 1, 1980. Accepted applicants will begin work in the summer 1980 at one of the CSC Systems Division Installations.

Holiday Schedule for TSU

Academic personnel (9 mos.) will begin the Christmas holidays as soon as desks are cleared on December 14 and grades have been submitted to the Office of Admissions and Records. All grades are due no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 18. Holidays will end Wednesday, January 2, at 8:00 a.m.

All other personnel with fiscal appointments (12 mos.) will begin their holidays December 25th and return to work on January 2. If Dec. 24th is taken, an annual leave day will be charged.

All supervisory personnel are instructed to display their personnel in accordance with the principle that the responsibilities which assure the physical operation of the campus are maintained during this period, yet provide each employee with the entitled number of holidays.

News Briefs

Dr. Arie Halachmi (government & public affairs) published an article titled "On the Job Training of Social Workers" in the **Journal of International Social Work** Vol. 12, No. 1. The journal is the Professional publication of the International Council on Social Welfare, the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Federation of Social Workers.

Another article "Local Training Policies—Are they Needed," which had been published originally in December of 1978, was recently reprinted in **Current Municipal Problems**, Vol. 6, No. 1.

Dr. Dean B. Roberts (graduate program) recently conducted an inservice workshop for personnel of Christ the King School. Roberts topic was "Cognitive Moral Developmentalism: Implications for Religious Education."

Dr. Bobby L. Lovett, (history) served on the advisory panel in evaluating proposals submitted to the Pre-College Teacher Development in Science Program. The panelists met in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Rev. Kendrick S. W. Jangdhari (auxiliary enterprises) recently celebrated his 12th anniversary at the First Community Church of Nashville.

Dr. Jayme C. and McDonald Williams, were co-moderators for a workshop at a conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) at Clark College in Atlanta, Ga. Their topic was "Budgeting and Financing Honors Programs. Others attending the meeting were Dorothy Benton, Janet Dickerson, Kim Jones, Tony Lyons, Eric Rogers and Karen Terry.

Dr. James Farrell, associate vice president for continuing education, extension and public service, and Ken Nye, director of grants and contracts development, attended the first meeting of the newly formed Tennessee Alliance for Continuing Education at Fall Creek Falls State Park. National and state leaders in continuing education met to discuss the increasing roles of higher education in meeting citizen needs for lifelong learning.

Ken Nye served as chairman of the first meeting of the Middle Tennessee Task Force on Resource Sharing in Continuing Education in November. Ten representatives from other institutions in higher education were also in attendance. A conference for Middle Tennessee is planned in Nashville during February, 1980, followed by a statewide conference of all institutions in Memphis in March.

Dr. Frederick Humphries, president of the University will be presented an award at the "Future Fashions and Educational Awards Banquet," December 8th at 7:30 p.m. The evening of entertainment, sponsored by the Women Organizing for Progress, will be held in the Fisk University cafeteria.

Tickets for the affair are available at Mahalia Jackson's, Gentry's, Ann Herbert and Haddock Pharmacy. For further information, call Addie Muhammad, 329-0413 or Mahasin Abdullah, 225-6818/320-7392.

GIFTS

The School of Engineering and Technology has received gifts of \$1,000, \$352 and \$500 from Monsanto Company, Procter and Gamble and Dow Chemical, respectively.

FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE—FALL SEMESTER, Dec 1979				Schedule
TIME	Tuesday Dec 11	Wednesday Dec 12	Thursday Dec 13	Friday Dec 14
8-10 a.m.	8I classes	8M classes	9M classes	9:25T classes
10-12 n.	10:50T classes	10M classes	11M classes	12:15T classes
1-3 p.m.	1:40T classes	12M classes	1M classes	3:05T classes
3-5 p.m.	Acctg 212	2M classes	3M classes	4 MW classes
6-8 p.m.	4:30T classes	6M classes	6W classes	6Th/7Th classes
8-10 p.m.	6T/7T classes	4W classes	4T classes	4Th classes

Examinations for Acctg 211 will be administered during regularly scheduled examination periods.
Examinations for Saturday classes will be administered during the last regularly scheduled meeting for the semester.