



# Are you the next Taylor Hicks?



Join us as we look for the 2006 Alabama APSE Idol. This event will take place on Thursday afternoon beginning at 5:00 p.m. during a reception to honor our exhibitors, award winners and conference attendees. With a list of more than 20,000 songs, chances are the DJ will have your favorite. We need 15 contestants.

Sign up early at the registration desk or email your plan to sing to [alabamaapse@aol.com](mailto:alabamaapse@aol.com)



**SPECIAL GUESTS**

*Commissioner Steve Shivers, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and Commissioner John M. Houston, Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation will provide agency updates and answer your questions during their breakout session scheduled for August 9, 2006 at 2:30 p.m.*

Check out our website: [www.al-apse.org](http://www.al-apse.org)



AL-APSE  
8228 Royal Oak Court  
Montgomery, AL 36117

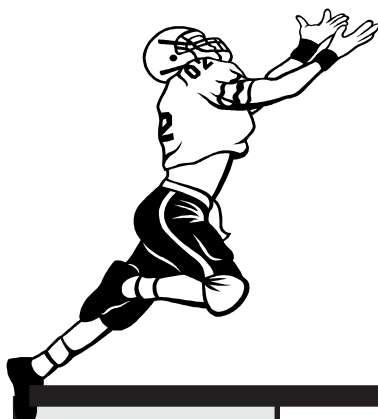
*A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.*

*~ James Dent*

# AL-APSE Independence

JUNE 2006

THE NETWORK ON EMPLOYMENT



## Time to Cheer for Your Favorite Award Winner

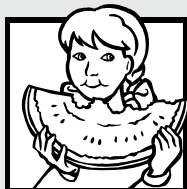
We look forward to seeing you at our "sports banquet" to honor the winners of this year's AL-APSE awards. Everyone is encouraged to dress "professionally casual" in their team colors.




**Banquet Kicks Off**  
12 Noon on 8/9/2006  
Registration 9 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.



Alabama APSE  
Annual  
Silent Auction  
Thursday,  
August 10, 2006  
Grand Ballroom,  
Wynfrey Hotel  
10:00 a.m. –  
6:30 p.m.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

APSE receives Grant funding	1
AL-APSE Conference Update	1
Conference Keynotes	2
Breakout Sessions	2
 Salute to Leadership	3
More Conference Highlights	4

## AL-APSE Receives Grant Funding from ACDD

Alabama APSE has been awarded a 15 month grant entitled "Enhancing Employment Opportunities through Intensive Job Site Supports". This grant (pilot study) will provide community-based information and training to individuals throughout the state to equip them with skills necessary to provide intensive job site supports and follow-up for supported employees with the most severe disabilities. The activities of this grant will include:

- A minimum of seven training events will be held in major urban cities to provide training to family members, agency volunteers, friends and others.
- National experts will be invited to participate in the annual AL-APSE conference.
- Representative from the Project Staff will attend national training events to gather state of the art information on work site training, accommodations, and behavioral management.
- A written report will be completed following this pilot study to indicate whether or not more individuals were successful at maintaining their employment as a result of more intensive on-site support and follow-up.



Alabama APSE will hold its 8<sup>th</sup> annual conference August 9 – 11, 2006 in at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham Alabama. Plans are being finalized for this year's conference.

**8<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNUAL AL-APSE  
CONFERENCE DATE  
NEARS

Keynote speakers will include Tim Piccirilo of Maryland, Dr. Peter Gerhardt of Baltimore and Jenny Nolen of Cullman. The conference will include theme tracks and a variety of other breakout sessions to address employment for people with disabilities. Check out our website at [www.al-apse.org](http://www.al-apse.org) for more information.

AL-APSE is sponsoring a raffle to support the Chuck Sheehan Scholarship. Purchase your \$1.00 ticket for a chance to win

**\$500.00.**

ALABAMA

**A P**

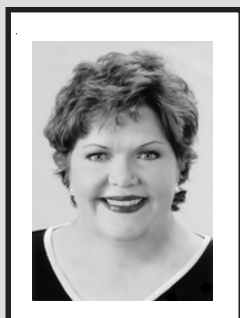
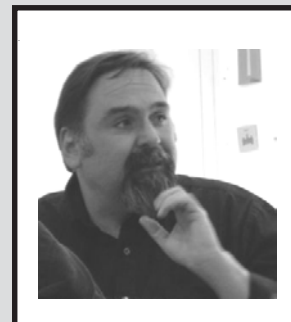
**S E**

# Meet Your Keynote Speakers



As a Dynamic professional, humorist and magician, **Tim Piccirillo** has worked with businesses, schools, associations and organizations, proving that EVERYONE is capable of being more, doing more, and having more. Having learned to live with Tourettes Syndrome “one day at a time”, Tim shows audiences that “**it’s not what happens to you that matters, it’s what you do about what happens to you**”.

**Dr. Peter Gerhardt** is a consultant whose private practice is based in Baltimore, MD. He has published and spoken widely on the needs of adults with autism spectrum disorder, the school-to-work-transition process, and analysis and intervention of problematic behavior. He currently serves on numerous professional advisory boards and is the Chairperson of the Scientific Council of the Organization for Autism Research (OAR) along with serving on the Board of Directors of Global and Regional Asperger Syndrome Partnership (GRASP). He co-founded the Douglass Group, a social skills and support service for adults with Aspergers Disorder or High Functioning Autism. Dr. Gerhardt received his doctorate from the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education.



**Jenny Nolen** is a talented and versatile speaker who entertains and inspires audiences with story-telling and characters, songs and laughter, celebrating humor in her life and teaching others to do the same in their own lives. Her southern fried humor showcases her adaptability and flexibility as a pianist, vocalist, and character artist. She leaves her audiences thoroughly entertained, motivated, and even inspired.

Jenny is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi in social work and counseling psychology. She has worked in recruitment, retention, training and recognition of volunteers. She balances this work with the time she spends with her family and a vigorous speaking schedule.

## AL-APSE Conference Breakout Sessions (Partial List)

- Stress-Busting for the Millennium: How to Reduce—Not Just Manage the Stress in Your Life!
- PASS and Work Incentives for Self Sufficiency
- Workplace Strategies for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Asperger Syndrome and Adulthood
- Social and Life Skill Interventions for Adults with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Overview and practical suggestions for transition planning for competent adulthood
- Choosing a Winning Strategy for Employment Success
- Reducing Problem Behaviors in Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
- Working Sensibility
- Assessment and Case Studies
- Medical and Other Health Issues related to ASD
- Individual and Family Track
- A Business of My Own: How JKE Enterprises Got It's Start
- Five People Who Should Never Get High and other Basic Insights into Substance Abuse
- Infusing Job Carving into a “Rigid Marketplace”
- “I Don’t Need my Legs to Sing”
- Overview of Supported Employment
- Creating a Family Budget
- Job Site Training and Support puts the S in Support Part 1
- Choosing a Winning Strategy for Employment Success
- Avoid Being a Victim of Identity Theft
- “I Don’t Need my Legs to Sing”
- Medication Update for Individuals with a Severe Mental Illness

**Best Practices In Supported  
Employment  
Job Coach Training**

**September 20 – 22, 2006  
Montgomery, Alabama**

**For More Information  
Visit  
[www.al-apse.org](http://www.al-apse.org)**



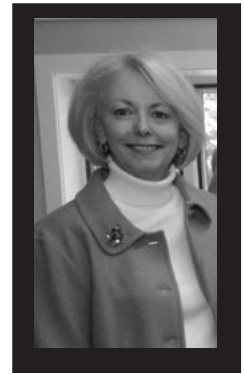


# APSE SALUTE TO LEADERSHIP



## Barbara Carroll

VISIONARY LEADER  
CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
TRAIL BLAZER  
ADVOCATE



Barbara Carroll has been involved with programs that place individuals in community employment for the past 20 years. As the teacher of a transition class for students age 18 to 21, she worked diligently to help students make the transition from school to work. As an outgrowth of her class, she was asked to coordinate a JTPA School-to-Work Program for the Tuscaloosa City and County School Systems. Mrs. Carroll's five-year association with this program resulted in an average of 25 students per year being placed in community employment.

She has extensive experience job developing, job coaching, and teaching pre-employment skills. Further, she served as a member of the AIM Team, a team of professionals dedicated to the expansion of opportunities for full inclusion and choice in the employment arena for all individuals with significant disabilities.

As Executive Director of The Arc of Tuscaloosa County, she has built a program and a team of which everyone is proud. That pride is reflected throughout the agency. In the words of Palk Enterprises Program Coordinator Ryan Delfin, "there are so many characteristics of Barbara Carroll that my department respects that it is truly hard to discuss only one. In this case, however, I would say her dedication to the cause that we all work for. She advocates for all of the people that we serve and continually challenges our agency employees to advocate more for them. She provides all employees

with everything that we need to thoroughly do our jobs and enthusiastically acknowledges all accomplishments – big and small. She leads by example."

Tim Green, Program Coordinator of Palk Enterprises Supported Employment Program says, "Barbara Carroll is a name that is recognized and respected throughout the state of Alabama when it comes to leadership and advocating for the individuals we serve. She has created an environment at The Arc of Tuscaloosa that encourages pride in our accomplishments and we look forward to coming to work every day. In my opinion, she has accomplished what many leaders try their whole career to achieve but few are successful, being a great supervisor and friend to their staff at the same time. Because of her dedication and leadership to improve the lives of people and the services they receive, Mrs. Carroll truly stands out in her field and community."

The greatest accolades of all come from former students. The special relationship they still share is evident. Former student Bart Brown secured his job in the Tuscaloosa City School System twenty years ago as a direct result of the vision of Barbara Carroll. Bart says, "She was a great teacher and helped me get a job. I like working and making my own money." Indeed, Barbara Carroll taught her students many things in the classroom but perhaps her most important lesson is that each person is a valued part of the fabric of our community, that

they have someone who can help them through challenges, and people who celebrate their triumphs and accomplishments.

**Congratulations Barbara Carroll We Salute You for a Job Well Done!!**



Alabama APSE is pleased to

announce that Byron White has been elected to the national APSE Board. White, who currently serves as President of the Alabama Chapter, will begin his three year term in July. Current Board member, Judy Barclay, will complete her second three year term in June. Congratulations Alabama APSE for representation on the national Board.



Alabama APSE has published a guide on how to access supported employment in Alabama. To obtain your copy, email [Alabamaapse@aol.com](mailto:Alabamaapse@aol.com)