

The Independence

Alabama APSE, The Network On Employment

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

SPRING 2009

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**Employment
for All
A Celebration in
the City of
Festivals!**

**June 30 - July 2,
2009
Hyatt Regency
Downtown
Milwaukee**

www.apse.org

Conference to Exceed Expectations!!!



Alabama APSE Co-Presidents Beth Hanks and Byron White are expecting a great Alabama APSE conference this year. The organization has teamed up with the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities (ACDD) to plan what they think will be a "super" conference on disability. "Planning the event has gone very smooth. We are thrilled to have the support of

ACDD this year," says Hank's. "We've always considered them one of our strongest partners in our quest to improve independence for people with disabilities. Therefore, selecting our theme, "AL-APSE & ACDD....Blazing New Trails" was effortless". Conference details can be found throughout this newsletter. The conference is slated for June 24- 26, 2009 at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Spa."



Dan Habib, the creator of the new documentary, *Including Samuel*, is the Filmmaker in Residence at the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire. Until joining UNH in April of 2008, Habib was the photography editor of the Concord (NH) Monitor. In 2006 and 2008, he was named the national Photography Editor of the Year for papers with a circulation under 100,000. He is a six-time NH photographer of the year, and he has been a judge of the Pulitzer Prizes, Pictures of the Year and Best of Photojournalism.

2009 Conference Speaker

Before his son Samuel was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, photojournalist Dan Habib rarely thought about the inclusion of people with disabilities. Now he thinks about inclusion every day. Shot and produced over four years, Habib's award-winning documentary film, *Including Samuel*, honestly chronicles the Habib family's efforts to include Samuel in every facet of their lives. The film also features four other families with varied inclusion experiences, plus interviews with dozens of teachers, young people, parents and disability rights experts.

Including Samuel is a highly personal, passionately photographed film that captures the cultural and systemic barriers to inclusion. It has been featured on NPR's *All Things Considered*, *Good Morning America NOW* and in the *Washington Post* and the *Boston Globe*. *Exceptional Parent* magazine said "*Including Samuel* is a must see film." The film won the Positive Images in Media award from TASH, an international group committed to the full inclusion of people with disabilities. The film was also screened at the Sprout Film Festival at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC) and named "Best Documentary" at the Somewhat North of Boston Film Festival. The global aid group Mercy Corps is using the film to support the Iraqi disability rights movement. Don't miss ***Including Samuel*** at this year's conference.



New APSE Logo and Branding

The APSE Business and Marketing Committee has been working very hard and will be working on a new direction for helping APSE market integrated employment. The first charge was to look at the organization's logo and branding. A hired marketing consultant, Vanessa LaCoste, created the new logo and added the new tag line of **"Advancing Employment. Connecting People."** She also looked at all the various state chapter logos and noted the variation which impacts the ability to brand APSE. She strongly recommended that APSE design state logos so that they do not lose any brand equity: brand awareness, brand loyalty, brand association and

appreciation of the APSE brand. Therefore, for brand consistency, the look and format of the state logos needed to be similar to the APSE logo. This consistency will make it easier for a viewer to understand the relationship between the association and the state chapter.



Robert "Bob" Streater

Meet Conference Speaker

Born to a fourteen-year-old mother in Richmond, Virginia, Bob learned early in life how to navigate the hurdles and many challenges that life brings. As child, Bob loved the outdoors. When he was 8 years old, he was playing near a pile of leaves one autumn afternoon. His uncle set fire to the leaves to burn them. Unknown to his uncle, young Bob's legs caught on fire. He was hospitalized, had numerous surgeries, skin grafts, and was told that he may not ever walk again. At the young age of 8 years, he grabbed hold of faith and a strong determination to walk. Through prayer, family support and a God-sent nurse that took care of him and everyday instilled in him that they were going to take away the "t", so whenever Bob said that he can't walk, the nurse had him to change it to "I can" do it. Those principles have resonated with him throughout his life.

Ultimately, he overcame his challenge and not only started walking, but began to run in high school. He became so fast that he caught the attention of the track coach who encouraged him to try out for the team. He made it, and went on to become the co-captain. The legs that the doctors said may

not ever enable him to walk were the same legs that afforded him to run in college on a track scholarship!

Today, Robert E. (Bob) Streater, III, M.A., is a sought after inspirational and motivation speaker. He is also an ordained minister. He uses his various experiences to encourage others across the nation, specializing in strengthening the family and fatherhood issues. He often shares his message of "F.O.C.U.S. in Life: **Follow On Course Until Successful**," © often making reference to the lanes on a track field, with each one representing a particular issue or concern.

He is a graduate of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and earned a Masters Degree from the Center for Biblical Studies in Tallahassee, Florida. He holds certificates from Christian Pairs, Marriage Enrichment Program; Abstinence Education by the Florida Department of Health; and FSU/FAMU Professional Development Partnership Family as Faculty Facilitator. Bob is a 2008 graduate of the Partners in Policymaking from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. Don't miss Bob at this year's APSE & ACDD conference.

U.S. Receives 'D' For State of Mental Health Care

By Michelle Diamant

March 11, 2009

D

America is doing a poor job addressing the needs of the mentally ill, earning a D grade in a new report by the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The report grades each state on access to medicine, housing and family education within the public mental health system for adults. The national average is a D, the same as the last time the report was issued in 2006.

Since 2006, grades for 14 states rose, while grades dropped for 12 states. Oklahoma had the most improvement, rising from a D to a B. Meanwhile, South Carolina's grade went from a B to a D. Alabama's D remained unchanged from 2006. NAMI representatives worry that despite the sorry state of services across the country, things could get worse as the tight economy cramps state budgets.

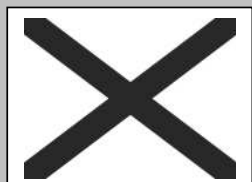
"Too many people living with mental illness end up hospitalized, on the street, in jail or dead," said NAMI executive director Michael J. Fitzpatrick. "We need governors and legislators willing to make investments in change."

<http://www.disabilityscoop.com>
www.nami.org



Colleen Wieck, PhD, is Executive Director of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities of the Department of Administration, a position she has held for the past 28 years.

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities is a federally funded, Governor appointed group of 25 members whose mission is to provide information, education, and training to increase the independence, self determination, productivity, integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Dr. Wieck has produced over 135 publications with the DD Council, five videotapes and a two disk CD ROM winning several national media awards. She produced a series of 30 public policy papers about the Welsch consent decree, eight public policy papers about planning for the closure of the state hospital system in Minnesota, five public policy briefing books for public officials including A New Way of Thinking and several publications devoted to personal futures planning and self determination. **Don't miss Colleen at this year's AL-APSE & ACDD conference!**



Budget News You Can Use!

Budget FY2008-09 General Fund \$11.82 billion
Education Fund \$12.58 billion
Deficit FY2008-09 \$1.2 billion

The state of Alabama has an annual budget that, unlike most states, begins in October. Revenue estimates are made in February. Statute requires the legislature pass a balanced budget and no deficit is permitted to carry over. Rainy day funds are intended to avoid across the-board cuts and require approval of the governor and two-thirds of the legislature. Alabama is the only state in the nation with two separate budgets for education and general government (all other services.) The Education Trust Fund consists of the state income tax and the bulk of the sales tax. These two revenue sources tend to ebb and flow more freely with downturns and growth in the economic climate. This is why additional rainy day funds were pursued by referendum in the 2008 elections. The state will be able to avoid additional cuts in the education budget by borrowing from the Oil and Gas Trust Fund. The FY2008-09 budget that began October 1st was reduced budget by a cut of \$400 million from the FY2007-08 budget. Additional cuts are expected as the budget was based on a 4% revenue growth rate, and rates have hovered closer to 1.5%. It is very likely additional cuts to the general funds budget will have to be made during the 2008-09 fiscal year. Unofficial estimates put the total 2008-09 fiscal year shortfall at approximately \$1.2 billion.

http://www.nationalstrategies.com/pdf/brief_2009BudgetOutlook.pdf

Supported Employment at an Integrated Worksite

**April 16. 2009
10 – 12 Noon**

MOBILE

**ADRS
Conference
Room
2419 Gordon
Smith Drive**

Utilizing

**Medicaid HCBS
MR Waiver Service**

**April 29. 2009
10 – 12 Noon
BIRMINGHAM
Oxmoor Towers
Training Room A
11 West Oxmoor Road**

**April 30. 2009
10 – 12 Noon**

MONTGOMERY

**AIDT
One Technology
Court**

For More Information visit www.al-apse.org or call Byron White 334-353-7713

AL-APSE & ACDD....Blazing New Trails!!!!

Conference & Training Event

June 24 – 26, 2009

Montgomery Renaissance Hotel & Spa

Room Rates: \$110.00 Single/Double

\$120.00 Triple/Quad

201 Tallapoosa Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone 1-334-481-5000
Fax 1-334-481-5005
Toll-free 1-877-545-0311

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mgmbr?groupCode> APSAPSA

Registration Fee:

**\$75.00 APSE Members
\$125.00 Non Members**

*Stipends available for
self-advocates and
families.*

Visit www.al-apse.org for
more information

AL-APSE

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