

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and welcome to the Fall/Winter edition of the Kennedy Krieger Alumni Association Newsletter. This issue contains exciting news about KKAA's continued evolution and growth.

We have a new look and tagline— **Caring People Staying Connected**. Sounds like the perfect description of us. I want to acknowledge George Skillman for the development of our new logo and for his patience and guidance.

Our membership continues to rise; we currently have 185 members. The Association had a presence at Kennedy Krieger's Health Benefits Fair. It was a great opportunity to highlight KKAA and recruit future members. I also want to thank Donna Thomas (KKI Administration) for her help in recruiting former KKI colleagues.

In this issue of the newsletter you will find updates from the Communications, Membership and Social Committees. There is an article written by Dr. Ron Walcher in which he describes his early days at the Institute, as well as valuable information about continuing education opportunities. We also have an overview of Kennedy Krieger's plan to enhance and expand services.

I hope you enjoy this edition of OUR newsletter--it is another way to stay connected. Remember, we are always interested in hearing from YOU.

I wish you and your family happiness throughout the holidays and beautiful moments to remember long after the season has passed. Take care.

Roni

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



Roni and Jean staffed a KK Alumni table at the KKI Health Benefits Fair in October and November. It was great to see so many people we knew from our days at Kennedy! After the hugs, the most frequently heard comment was, "Wow, I didn't know there was an alumni association, that's great, I can't wait to join!"

We also think we had the best door prize at the Fair. Check out the picture of the Ravens chair, hat and snacks.

Sharon Avent (Neuropsychology) won the Broadway drawing and Jim Wright (Information Systems) won the Greenspring drawing.

There was also a big surprise when Poe, the Raven's bird arrived. We got a couple of good pictures with him.



Welcome New Members!

Eighteen former colleagues have joined the Association. From Special Education: Traci Blow, Kelly Hardesty, David Kadis, Jessica Lough and Jasmyn Williams. Mary Anderson and Darlene Williams worked in Behavior Psychology and are now KKA members. April Greer (Guest Relations), Devon Coals and Maggie Shulka (Nursing), Ruth Hoffman (Neuropsychology), Caryn Puchat (Social Work) and Barbara Lukasevich (Administration) have joined. We also welcome Mary Rawlings (NDM) and Terri Levin (Neuropsychology), Terri Leishear (Administration), Rudolph Chapple (Cytogenetics), and Catherine Mayo (Health Information Management) are our newest.

If you are in touch with former coworkers, please tell them about the Alumni Association and encourage them to join. They can go to our website, kkaalumni.org and complete the contact form. They can also email us at webmaster@kkaalumni.org or call 410-215-8972.

Our latest project is to expand our membership list to include the Department, or area where our members worked.

Thank you,
KKA Membership Committee

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Have you checked out our website - kcalumni.org, lately? We have made some changes! We've added a HISTORY tab where we hope to add photos of KKI memorabilia, photographs, or any other interesting information that our members want to share. Is there a chance you would be interested in being our KCAA HISTORIAN? If so Email me, Jean at smootjean@yahoo.com

We are looking for contributions to the HISTORY PAGE. Do you have any vintage KKI items? Take a photo and send it to us, or we will try to come to you to photograph the item. We are in the process of building this page, so check it from time to time for new additions.

Our website also houses the most recent edition of the KCAA newsletter, a membership list, photos of events, information about upcoming events, and a contact form.

The KCAA Newsletter is published twice a year. It will always contain committee updates, but we also want to hear from YOU. Remember, OUR newsletter is a fun way for US to stay connected.

Be sure to keep us up to date with any changes in your Email address, your mailing address or phone number. I have heard from a few people who have found KCAA Emails in their Spam or Trash folder. If you are not receiving emails from us, please check these folders.



HOW YOU CAN STAY IN TOUCH

Join our Facebook group, Kennedy Krieger Alumni
Check out our website kcalumni.org

We keep it simple; we have one main Email address...

Email the Alumni at webmaster@kcalumni.org

President Roni Gross at webmaster@kcalumni.org

Vice President Jean Smoot at webmaster@kcalumni.org

Membership Committee webmaster@kcalumni.org

Social Committee webmaster@kcalumni.org

To reach us by phone: 410-215-8972

KCAA Newsletter smootjean@yahoo.com

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

SUMMER PICNIC

August 20 was the perfect day for a picnic, especially if you were at the Alumni Associations Picnic at Sparrows Point Country Club. The locale and the weather were perfect. We did what most folks do at a picnic—we laughed, caught up on each other's happenings, reminisced and we ate and ate. We dined on expertly prepared hot dogs and hamburgers. I guess we should call Bernice Bowan "Chef Bernice" since she managed the grill. The snacks and desserts were good as well --- did I say we ate?

There is already talk about planning our 2017 Spring Gathering.



FESTIVAL OF TREES

You could not have asked for a better location for our Fall Gathering than the Festival of Trees. It was good to see alumni members and their families. After our meet and greet we gathered for a few group photos. Then everyone was free to stroll through the Festival to admire the beautifully decorated trees, gingerbread houses and wreaths. The entertainment was wonderful and the vendors were plentiful. Some of us even purchased holiday gifts there. We know that the children who came with KAA members enjoyed the Kids' Zone.

"The Festival of Trees was worth the ride on Mobility Transport," said Novella Ragins. "It was magnificent."

Some Association members plan to volunteer at the next Festival of Trees. Let us know if you would like to join us.



Kennedy Krieger News

On Wednesday October 5 the Young Marines of Central Maryland, Kennedy Krieger High School Unit, presented the colors at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Harry and Jeanette Weinberg building at KKI.

The new 8 floor building will be located on Ashland Ave. next to the parking garage at the 801 N. Broadway.

Once constructed and opened the Institute will be able to serve thousands of additional children and families. This facility will allow the Institute to expand its programs and services. It will provide children with comprehensive outpatient care often utilizing new approaches--integrating all components of developmental health--in one location. According to Jim Anders, "We anticipate this 180,000 sq. ft. facility will be completed in the spring of 2019." Kennedy Krieger's existing outpatient physical rehabilitation center is designed to provide care to patients with motor and physical impairments. This new facility will extend that level of service to those with cognitive, behavioral, and affective disorders as well as those affected by abuse, neglect and other traumatic experiences. It will enable providers to collaborate addressing the needs of individuals with autism and developmental disabilities. In addition, the building will include a training and educational center.



MEMBER NEWS:

Marc Young retired last year from the Kennedy Krieger School. He may be the busiest KKAA member I have talked to so far!

Marc volunteers about 3 times a month at the USO at BWI. This is the largest USO on the east coast providing a "home away from home" to active duty military personnel, their dependents, and retired military. They are open 365 days a year and operates a Lounge with a Snack Bar, sleep room, family room, telephone and computer services all free of charge.

He volunteers once a week for an English as Second Language (ESL) program that works with adults from different countries who want to learn conversational and practical English for every day living. Marc says he uses all the teaching skills he honed at Kennedy Krieger to work with some very special adults who are trying to make their way in America.



Next, he belongs to Watson's Tin Box Sherlock Holmes Society located in Howard County. They meet once a month to discuss and ruminate, over dinner of course, one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's many stories written about the great detective.

Marc says at times they solve some of the less notorious cases that come their way.

Anyone is free to join. Coming once is probably a mistake because a second visit makes you a member!

And if that isn't enough, after playing some golf and visiting his children he also volunteers at The Howard County Conservancy. The Conservancy is a non-profit land trust that operates a nature center in Woodstock, Maryland. It is located at the 300 year old, 232 acre Mt. Pleasant Farm. They have nature programs for kids and summer camps. Marc is in charge of the Geo Caching Program. Geo caches are treasures hidden around the world that are located using GPS coordinates. Hmm, I am seeing a future article about Geo Caching....



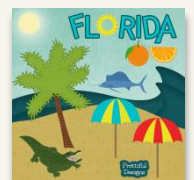
Thanksgiving blessings to Liz Kent (Special Education) and her husband, Jack. Liz and Jack welcomed their second child, 7 Lb. 2 oz. Leah Marie on November 9, 2016. Their son is very happy to be a "big" brother.

One of our newest KK Alumni Members Follows Her Dreams

Terri Leishear (Administration) loved her job at Kennedy Krieger, and says there is no other place in Maryland that she would want to work. Terri and her husband Ed often vacationed and visited friends who live in the St. Pete area of Florida. Terri was commuting 3 hours a day to Kennedy from Kent Island, and the long cold winters were getting old.

After weighing all their options, they decided it was time to take a leap of faith – that there was no time like the present.

They took the plunge and moved to Florida. Terri still plans to work but didn't want to wait to retirement to follow that dream.



What are our members doing with their time? Has something exciting happened in their life? What are they up to?

Jackie Krick (Director, Nutrition) is so proud of granddaughter Emily and her classmates. The children learned some wonderful lessons about gratitude and service to the community this year. Emily attends Pinewood Elementary School where the Art Service Club teamed up to decorate a tree for the Kennedy Krieger Festival of Trees. The tree was donated to fellow student, second grader, Kevric Beatty and his family. Kevric recently battled cancer, and then his family lost everything in a house fire.

The students also partnered with Hammy's Heart and Casey Cares to collect grocery gift cards for families with critically ill children. The Hammy's Heart program is a year-round effort to defray grocery bills for families with critically ill children.



Pinewood's art teacher, Mr. Lebowitz led the effort. He summed up his thoughts saying, "I think it is important for the children to know where the blessings lie, and for me, the blessing is to be able to do something like this."

Alma Durm worked in the Behavioral Medicine Clinic with Keith Slifer, and then transferred to the Kennedy Krieger LEAP program. She was one of the first teachers to help implement the Behavior Management program at the school. The first year was so successful that the results were presented at the ABA conference. Alma now teaches High School students at a level 5 public special education school in Millersville, Maryland.

Alma is one of 41 teachers who have been nominated for Anne Arundel County Public and Independent School Teacher of the Year. The nominees will be honored next April, at the 31st annual Excellence in Education Banquet. The event will culminate with the announcement of the Public School Teacher of the Year. This teacher will represent the county in the Maryland State Teacher of the Year competition.

Alma sums up her love for teaching, "I realize now that above all else, a teacher must have passion. It is passion that brings me to compulsively dissect old lessons. It is passion that drives me to bridge the gap between school and home. I am passionate about making my students' lives better, their futures brighter and making their voices heard."



Most of our Alumni members probably know Chris Small (Information Systems) from his days at Kennedy - setting up or getting our computers to work. Well he is busier than ever working at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab and being Pa-Pa to his two little boys Parker and Ryland. These days he also is the fraternity chapter advisor for Sigma Alpha Mu at Towson University. Last year the University started a program that requires all fraternities and sororities to perform community service, training and other events. Each event is given a point value, the higher percentage of participation, the more points they earn. At the end of the year all points are tallied and awards are given.

This year the chapter teamed up with Charm City Builders to help clean up the alley and street surrounding a new apartment building they had recently completed. Charm City Builders is known for acquiring and building homes with the hope of helping to revitalize Baltimore.



In November Sigma Alpha Mu brothers participated in the cleanup, filling a dumpster with trash and debris.

Believing that you can never start too young, Chris brought his boys, ages 2 and 6, to help with the clean-up. The boys made a game of it, but the underlying message was that they are setting an example for others to follow by all their hard work.

DR. RON WALCHER SHARES HIS MEMORIES ABOUT AN IMPORTANT TIME IN THE HISTORY OF KKI

1970 Ushers in New Beginnings for Kennedy Krieger And The Patients They Serve

Dr. Ronald Walcher (Dr. Ron) has a long history at Kennedy Krieger. He was a Pediatric Fellow from 1970-1972, and a part-time faculty member from 1972-1998. Dr. Ron shares some of his memories about an important time in the history of KKI:

Although the facility we now call Kennedy Krieger opened in late 1968, 1970 was a big year for me professionally, and a big year for the John F. Kennedy Institute for the Habilitation of the Mentally and Physically Handicapped Child. (How's that for a name?) It was the year I began my fellowship, and also the year that marked a turning point for the Institute. Dr. Fred Richardson and Dr. Arnold Capute, came from the Hopkins Diagnostic and Evaluation Clinic along with two fellows, Drs. Bim Pal and Ada Conejero. At that time Dr. Richardson was Director, and these four physicians provided all the developmental pediatric services to our patients.

When Dr. Richardson transitioned to another facility, Dr. Capute's role increased. While he took on more administrative duties, his first love was always the training of pediatricians. In July, 1970 Dr. Robert Haslam came from a fellowship in neurology at the University of Kentucky to be the new Director of the Institute. Dr. Haslam was a former chief resident in pediatrics at Hopkins and was influenced significantly by Dr. Robert Cooke who was then the Chairman of Pediatrics at Hopkins. These Physicians were instrumental in helping pave the way for all that the Institute was to become.

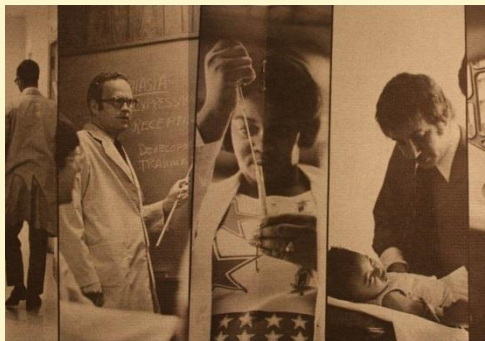
Dr. Cooke knew members of the Kennedy family personally. He and the Kennedy's had a special bond as Dr. Cooke and the Kennedy's both had children in their families with developmental disabilities. Dr. Cooke and the Kennedy's were concerned that the clinicians looking at their family member's medical diagnosis were completely separated from those providing therapy and treatment. It was Dr. Cooke's vision to bring these providers together and to bring this population out of the shadows.

Dr. Cooke's influence was a major factor in the development of what came to be known as the University Affiliated Programs (UAPs). There were initially 40 UAPs associated with universities across the country. Ours was the largest, and the only one with an in-patient component. The UAP program was designed to bring into the academic environment a population that had largely been relegated to some of the darkest places in our society. So, as you can see, with Dr. Cooke's vision, and the development of the UAP, the Institute began a transformation into what we know it to be today.

At the same time that all of this was occurring, we also added 5 more pediatric fellows (I was one) bringing the total number of fellows to 7. As you can imagine, there was a real period of adjustment with all of these new people arriving at the same time, to a facility that was accustomed to having only 4 physicians.

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Not only were there more physicians, but there were trainees everywhere, in all departments! In its original design, and as one of its major functions, the Institute was meant to provide training in all areas of pediatric development. For example, Susan Harryman and Patricia Potter, the heads of physical and occupational therapy, transitioned to KKI from the Children's Rehabilitation Institute (CRI). CRI was a facility developed by Dr. Winfred Phelps an orthopedic surgeon and pioneer in the treatment of cerebral palsy. Susan and Patricia each had several trainees in their departments. Pretty soon we had 1100 trainees per year coming through the facility.



With a high staff to patient ratio each patient received an incredible amount of care. In fact, there was a time when each child was seen for 12-14 evaluations! Videos were often made of these evaluations, and for many years these videos were used as the foundation for training. Following the individual evaluations by each discipline a "steering conference" was held in which the child and the various aspects of their case were discussed, and a treatment plan was outlined.

Another very significant component of our early years was the weekly "Habilitation" Conference. During this time Dr. Haslam and the staff gathered in the small Turner building auditorium where a case discussion was held. This Habilitation Conference was both a clinical discussion of a particular patient and their disorder, as well as a major part of our training program. During the discussion we learned about specific clinical diagnoses, the scientific basis for the disorder, (if it was known), and the varied options for a treatment program. This was a rich and very important part of our early history when we recognized that individual disciplines can't effectively provide the care for a child with developmental disabilities. We knew that we needed each other, and the child needed us as a team.

In future articles we'll look at more of our historical roots and the various aspects that have made us both effective and relevant.

J. Ronald Walcher, M.D. Pediatric Fellow from 1970-1972
and part-time faculty member 1972-1998.

MEMBER PROFILE

Mother/ Daughter Team Up To Help Fight Prostate Cancer



Maggie Shulka (Nursing/PACT) and Chrissy Shulka Lake (Care Management and Kennedy Krieger School- PDD program) have a special interest in the fight against prostate cancer. Maggie's husband and Chrissy's father, Phil Shulka, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer in 2006 during a routine exam with his general practitioner. At the time, Phil was an avid runner and exhibited no symptoms of being sick.

During the time that Phil was receiving treatment, he recognized that there was a need for men to be able to communicate about what was happening to them. He found that the strong foundation of support that exists for many other diagnoses was virtually nonexistent for men with prostate cancer. After his treatment was complete he set out to help change this. Phil now works as a recovery coach for Chesapeake Urology, speaking with men prior to their surgery and/or treatment and visiting them in the hospital while they recover. He is available for emotional support, questions about treatment, and guidance about further medical needs.

Because of his interest in running, it was a perfect fit for him to become involved in helping to start the Prostate Race, and to make it something more than just a race. The goal was, and continues to be, that it will be a nurturing and celebratory event. Each year, prostate cancer survivors are honored with an early morning breakfast. This year their guest speaker was Ken Griffey Sr.

Participants can join in a 10k, 5k, 1 mile fun run, 30 minute Zumba session, Snooze For Dudes or a Kids Dash For Dads. All events kick off at Johnny Unitas Stadium in Towson and end with an after party at the Greene Turtle in downtown Towson. Performances by Nashville Recording Artist, Jimmy Charles, can be enjoyed prior to the run and at the after party. Each year, excitement surrounds his performance of 'Superman' which has gained national attention on Country Music Television. This song was co-written by Phil and chronicles his battle with Prostate cancer, while urging men to not be afraid to ask for help. Check out the official video here: <https://youtu.be/c8AF6gx8CY0>

This is the 10th year for the event that was held on Sunday September 25th at Towson University's Johnny Unitas Stadium. With over 2,300 registered participants their goal was to top last year's total of over \$500,000. Over the past 9 years, the event has raised nearly \$3 million dollars.

The money raised will help fund critical programs and services to help fight prostate cancer for men in underserved communities throughout the greater Baltimore area. It will also be used to aid in groundbreaking research to find a cure for the disease. Approximately 180,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year. This is a treatable cancer if found early, which is why early detection and research are crucial.

If you are interested in participating in next year's race, you can find information on all local news stations during the month of September, the official month for Prostate Cancer Awareness. Maggie, Chrissy and Phil hope they will see you at the event next year!

I hope you enjoyed hearing about our members and what they are doing as much as I did. Please consider sharing your "news" with us in the next edition, Spring/Summer 2017, by emailing Jean at smootjean@yahoo.com

LIFELONG LEARNING



Jackie Krick (Director/Nutrition) has been keeping busy with volunteering, grandchildren and taking classes in subjects like art history and great literature. (I also found that she takes some beautiful photographs as seen on her Facebook page!). Jackie has taken several classes through the Golden ID program at Towson University.

If you do some internet research you will find that there is a wealth of information out there about affordable continuing education opportunities for people over and under 60.

The Golden ID Tuition Reduction program is a program for people who are over 60. It is offered at many Maryland Colleges including Towson University and The University of Maryland. If you are interested, check into the University System of Maryland which includes 12 Maryland Universities. The Golden ID includes a substantially discounted flat-fee rate for tuition, use of the library and recreational facilities, and discounts on parking permits. There are several eligibility requirements including not being gainfully employed for more than 20 hours per week.

There are two Johns Hopkins programs, the Odyssey Advance Academic Program and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

The Odyssey Program offers a non-credit liberal arts program that is open to anyone who has an interest in learning. There is no age requirement. Whether it is a passion you want to pursue, a hobby you wish to cultivate or a job skill you would like to master, Odyssey has a wide selection of courses, workshops and lecture series delivered by top-notch JHU faculty and community experts. Odyssey doesn't have grades or exams. Again, it is all about learning for the sake of learning.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's goal is to enhance the leisure time of semi-retired and retired individuals. The Institute offers an array of courses, lectures, and activities. Programs are non-credit. There are no entrance requirements or tests, just learning for the sake of learning.

The Road Scholar Program at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University runs programs 40 weeks of the year on topics like music history, classical music and film/Broadway tunes.

Here are some other examples of what is available: The University of Baltimore's Law School, Business School and Arts and Science Division each has its own speakers' series; Goucher College hosts a three-part series with faculty experts; The College of Notre Dame is known for its Renaissance Institute; Salisbury University has Humanities seminars; at McDaniel College in Westminster seniors can audit courses at a reduced cost and participate in a free, semester-long lecture series.

For a peek at on line learning, check out the Ed2 Go course selection. Ed2go offers hundreds of online courses, covering every topic from Accounting to Web Design. You can take all of their courses from the comfort of your home at the times that are most convenient to you. A new session of each course starts monthly. Most courses cost \$145, run for six weeks and are composed of 12 lessons, representing 24 hours of instruction.

Have you taken continuing education course? Do you plan on taking one in the future? As always, we want to hear about it so let us know!

Have you noticed our wonderful new look? Many of you may know Sharon Skillman (current KKI employee). Her husband George created our new logo and tag line.



This will appear on all of our literature and our website. George also created the sign we used at the KKI Health Benefits Fair.

We think George is the best! Take a look at his website, georgeshoots.com to see examples of his wonderful photography and video work. He has an "eye" for capturing that special moment. If you would like to contact him here is his information.



THE KKAA NEWSLETTER

I hope you enjoyed the Fall/Winter edition of the KKAA Newsletter. I am looking forward to hearing from you with your ideas and contributions to the Spring/ Summer 2017 edition. Contact me at smootjean@yahoo.com and tell me about your travels, activities and news.

Sneak Peek...

Check out our next issue, What Does One Of Our KK Alumni Members Have To Do With "The Walking Dead"?

Let's stay connected!

Jean

