

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! I am delighted to introduce the Spring/Summer 2017 edition of the Kennedy Krieger Alumni Association Newsletter.

I am also very happy to share that our membership has increased to 196. Working with staff from the Institute's Human Resources Department, we have implemented strategies that have enhanced our recruitment capabilities.

In addition to committee reports, this issue is chock full of exciting updates from KKAA members. There is also an extraordinary profile of a member who lives "down under."

You will also read about two events that can be described as *historical milestones* occurring at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

I do want to note that we have missed some of you at previous KKAA gatherings; hopefully you will be able to clear your calendars and attend a future activity. I surely hope you can!

Please enjoy this edition of OUR newsletter—it is another way for us to stay connected. We are always interested in hearing from YOU.

Take Care,

Roni



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Our efforts to increase the Alumni Association membership continues. To this end, we collaborated with the Institute's Human Resources Department to develop an additional method to recruit new members. We now have the ability to introduce the Alumni Association to KKI employees prior to their leaving the Institute.

This is how it works: As soon as the HR department is notified that an employee plans to leave the Institute, that information is inserted into a special database. That entry automatically triggers an electronic notification to the Association's email system. Within a few hours we are able to use the employee's KKI email address to invite them to join the Alumni Association.

This process allows us an additional opportunity to tell people leaving KKI about the Alumni Association.

We will then mail a follow-up invitation to those individuals who do not respond within 30 days.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Welcome To Our New Members

We are pleased to welcome eleven (11) former colleagues to the KKAA. Shanna Pool, Gabe Shleifer, and Robyn Kincer (all from Special Education) have joined us. In addition, Melanie Haik (Nursing), Taisha Harrington (Care Management), Jennifer Markowitz (CS&D) and Matthew Peterson (IS) are now members of the Association. We also welcome Jennifer Accardo (NDM), Jennifer Ashley (HR), and Eva Queen and Catherine Walton (CARD).

If you are in touch with former coworkers, please tell them about the Alumni Association and encourage them to join. Remember, in order to join, they can log on to our website (kkalumni.org) and complete the contact form, email us at webmaster@kennedykrieger.org or call 410-215-8972.

Tessa Taylor is our member who is living and working the farthest away. Check out her Member Profile in this edition of the Newsletter. Tessa is also working on recruiting some former KKI employees living in other countries.

Thanks,
KKAA Membership Committee



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

How can we stay connected?

Check our website from time to time for updates and changes. You will find the KKAA newsletter, our membership list, photos of events, information about upcoming events, and a contact form for new members.

Join our Facebook page at Kennedy Krieger Alumni

The KKAA Newsletter is published twice a year. It contains committee updates and interesting information about our members, their projects and interests. Our newsletter will be a success if we hear from you.

Be sure to keep us up to date with any changes in your Email address, your mailing address or phone number.

IT IS EASY TO 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
- Social Committee at webmaster@kcalumni.org
- Membership Committee at webmaster@kcalumni.org
- To reach us by phone: 410-215-8972
- KKAA Newsletter smootjean@yahoo.com

MEMBER NEWS

We want to know: what are you doing with your time? Has something exciting happened in your life? SHARE your “news” with us in the next edition, Fall/Winter 2017, by Emailing Jean at smootjean@yahoo.com

Carolyn Reeder - Family News

Carolyn Reeder (Human Resources) and her mother, Barbara Moser (Social Work), shared a long history and love of Kennedy Krieger.



Barbara was hired by Bill Hersey when it was the John F. Kennedy Institute for Mentally and Physically Handicapped Children. She was the first Social Worker at KKI. She managed the CP Clinic and was the Social Worker in the Lead Program when it began. Barbara won the Hersey award for her dedication to Kennedy Krieger. When she retired after 20 years, she was Associate Director of Admissions working with Dr. Ron Walcher. Carolyn describes her as “one of the originals.”

Barbara passed away in early 2015 surrounded by her family. Carolyn says her mother lived a long, productive, happy life, and always held her work, memories of her colleagues and those she served at Kennedy Krieger near and dear to her heart.

Carolyn started at KKI in 1995 in Human Resources. She then spent 10 years in Family Support Services, was the Program Coordinator for FSS, and Program Manager for the program that supported the adults who were the last to leave Rosewood. These adults, who had lived at Rosewood for most, if not all their lives, were dual diagnosed with developmental disabilities and mental health disorders. KKI supported them with their transition to living in the community.

Carolyn came full circle, returning to HR as a Sr. HR Generalist before leaving in 2000. Carolyn says she was with KKI for 15 years as an employee, but spent all of her life loving Kennedy's family, mission, and vision. One of her earliest memories is of going to play with the children who were on the inpatient unit. She says it was the best example of quality time ever!

Now for some family news!

Carolyn continues to work at Kaiser Permanente and is about to celebrate 17 years of service with them. Her son, Price Dawson graduated from Salem United Methodist High School. He is taking a year off before starting his next big adventure.

Her Daughter, Lauren Anne, is a Sophomore at NDP and is considering a career in Education, focusing on children identified as being at high risk based on environmental factors.

Carolyn's husband, Bill, continues with his business, **Affairs to Remember**, where he decorates air space at events. Examples of his work are New Year's Eve balloon drops, The Baltimore Marathon balloon arches at the start and finish, with a confetti blast at the start, and Opening Day at Camden Yards.

MEMBER NEWS

An Exciting New Project For Chrissy Lake

Chrissy (Care Management and Kennedy Krieger School) has been working on a new project the past few months. She is on the curriculum committee for the Watershed Public Charter School, a potential new non-profit charter elementary school. If approved this will be the only charter school in Baltimore County. The need for the school is driven by extreme overcrowding in BCPS, and a desire for a multi-sensory, play, and environment based learning atmosphere.

Their vision is to “provide a rigorous and collaborative learning environment emphasizing artistic expression and scientific exploration of the natural world in and outside the classroom. Students develop critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills, as well as a sense of social responsibility and global awareness that promote a lifelong love of learning.”



The tentative start date for the school opening is September 2019.

Admission to WPCS is open to any Baltimore County resident and will be chosen by lottery.

They plan to serve grades K-8 when fully operational, but will start with K-3 and add a grade each year. They are actively looking for a location with ample outdoor space that is accessible to as many parts of the county as possible. There are many potential sites and partnerships being pursued, but no specific area yet. This summer they will be hosting a number of information sessions in and around Baltimore County.

You can find additional information on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and <https://watershedpcs.org/>

Christmas In July



June McIver (Case Manager) and her husband, John, participated in the building of the Jacksonville Senior Center Train Garden last year. The theme changes from year to year, and each year it gets bigger and better. To give you just a sampling of previous year displays, the 2015 train garden featured the U.S. Naval Academy, 34th Street, Army/Navy Lacrosse, Maryland State Fair/Race Track, Baltimore’s Inner Harbor and St. James Academy.

The 2016 garden included Baltimore Royal Farms Arena and the Ringling Brothers Circus, 34th St. Christmas decorations, the inner harbor light show, Four Corners in Jacksonville, and the Meadow Brook Mill, London Fog Building. They estimate that they had 5000 visitors! You can view pictures 2016 display on the Facebook page for Jacksonville Senior Center Train Garden.

Members are well on their way, designing and building the 2017 display. June is giving us a sneak peek at what is in the works. This year they are planning to include the polar bear plunge, Fells Point, Ocean City, and Deep Creek. June helps with painting people and scenery, while John is involved with the construction and electrical work. This very talented group of people builds everything from scratch! The center is located on Sweet Air Road in Jacksonville and there is no admission charge. We will include more information about this year’s train garden when it is available.

MEMBER NEWS

Take A Look Inside *The Walking Dead*

Roni Gross says, as a teenager (which was not so long ago in HER mind) she dreamed of being a movie star. Well as we all know, although she was discovered by KKI, Roni was never “discovered” by Hollywood. But, when Roni’s son, Herb, became VP of Production Finance for the TV network that produces the Walking Dead TV show, she thought, “WOW, this could be my Big Break. Surely I could get a small walk on role on the show”. ...WRONG!! Roni decided if she couldn’t be in front of the cameras, that she would find out what goes on behind them. She thought she would share what she found out.

The storyline for the Walking Dead TV show is based a comic book of the same name. The comic was written by Robert Kirkman. It was released in 2003 and has three compendiums. The show is currently filming from compendium number three. Kirkman continues to be a consultant on the show.

The first episode aired on October 31, 2010, and loosely follows events in the comic book.



The Walking Dead is filmed on a farm in Atlanta, GA and functions as a “closed set.” Strategic camera angles and many props give the viewer the impression that the characters are traveling across the country even though it is all filmed on this one set.

There are approximately 20 *main* characters and many extras; the number of extras changes per episode. If you have seen the show, you know there has to be a lot of make-up involved to produce those scary looking characters. The length of time it takes to apply make-up depends on the amount of time an actor will be in front of the camera. If someone is going to be in most of the scenes, his/her make-up application may average two hours. There are also “touch-ups” that are made throughout the taping. Just imagine - it takes approximately 250 staff members to produce just one episode! This includes actors, make-up artists, make-up effects (zombie look creators), set dressers, caterers, grips, construction and electrical staff, hair stylist, costumers, special effects personnel, director, sound and light engineers, location managers, security, costumers to name just a few.

The Walking Dead spawned a spin-off, Fear The Walking Dead. They are currently filming their 8th season which will include the 100th episode. They continue to enjoy high ratings and have been the recipient of several awards.

Roni also found out, even though you continue to “bug” a relative you may never get your Big Break! What you do get is a lot of “stuff”... she has a no shortage of baseball caps and other memorabilia!



MEMBER NEWS

Treasure Hunting In Your Own Back Yard, Or In Your Travels

In our last issue we found out that Marc Young is in charge of the geocaching program at the Howard County Conservancy. The Conservancy is a non-profit land trust that operates a nature center in Woodstock, Maryland.

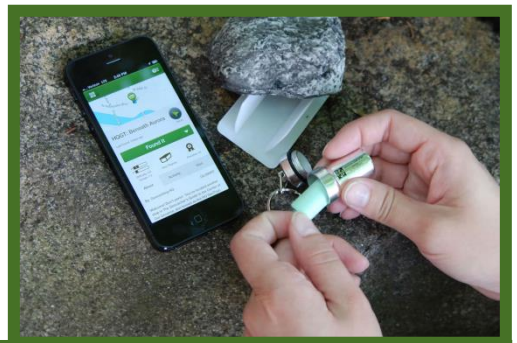
So we went to Marc to learn more. Marc started geocaching near his own house. He was surprised to learn that geocaches are literally everywhere. They are hidden in very clever locations. Some of the containers are magnetic and hidden on metal signs. Others may be hidden in trees with a camouflage container so they blend in with their surroundings. Marc has found caches in parks, at mile markers, near monuments and picnic tables. He has found them on the east coast, west coast and in the south. His favorite cache was hidden in a bird feeder attached to a well. The bird seed was glued to the feeder so you could not see inside. He had to take the feeder off and open it up to find the treasure. Usually, when a cache is listed, the owner will give clues on the geocaching website to help you locate it. If you like mysteries and puzzles, you will like geocaching.

There is a great video on the website www.geocaching.com. It is only about 75 seconds long, but it gives a lot of information. Marc says you used to have to buy a GPS device, but now there is a free app for your cell phone. The app is very easy to use, making this a great family activity for kids of any age as well as adults.

There are over 2 million geocaches hidden around the world, and you can find one almost anywhere you travel. When you create your own free account at geocaching.com, you can search for geocaches by zip code.

Marc sums it up saying geocaching is like going on a treasure hunt. Here are a few simple rules to follow:

1. Geocaches are always on public property.
2. They are always hidden, never buried.
3. Never tell a non-geocacher where a geocache is.
4. Whenever you find the geocache, replace it where you found it. There is usually a log to fill out to record that you were there.
5. When you find the cache, record it in your online account.



KENNEDY KRIEGER NEWS

This year the Institute commemorates another important milestone. It has been 80 years since the beginning when the Children's Rehabilitation Institute was founded.

On May 11, the Employee Service Celebration was held at M & T Bank Stadium. Darlene Hudkins Celebrated 50 years of service and is also the first person to receive the Darlene Hudkins Exceptional Service Award.

Darlene began her career at KKI in 1967 when she came to work at the John F. Kennedy Institute for Handicapped Children as a secretary. The Institute had about 50 employees then and had just moved into the building at 707 N. Broadway. She moved into the payroll office a short time after where she prepared the payroll manually and typed the checks. Employees would stop by the payroll office for their paychecks. She knew every employee by name and face.

Darlene has witnessed many changes and growth at the Institute as she watched the number of employees grow from 50 to 2600. She has witnessed the comings and goings of thousands of employees over that time.

Anne Moser and Debbie Simpson were recognized for 40 years of service.

For more than 40 years, Anne Moser and her late husband, Dr. Hugo W. Moser, investigated lipid metabolism and inborn errors of metabolism. In their Kennedy Krieger Institute laboratory, methods to diagnose X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy and related peroxisomal disorders were developed.

Along with her research team, Ann Moser also developed, tested, and validated the methodology for newborn screening of these diseases which was added to the national newborn screening program in August of 2015.

Knowing how to screen for these disorders was not enough for Anne and her team who continue to work on possible therapies through their research. The Kennedy Krieger Institute community considers itself fortunate to have her knowledge, experience, drive and compassion to support its mission and goal of helping every child reach their full potential.

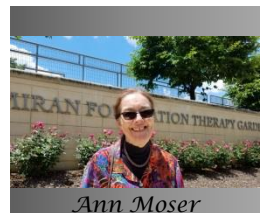
Debbie Simpson began her career at KKI at the age of 16 when she worked on the third floor inpatient unit as a summer worker. After graduation she worked for the Nursing Department and then for Dr. Shapiro in The Center for Development and Learning.

Now, as the Medical Care Center Director, she works with a team of 30 care center specialists, financial counselors, and supervisors.

Debbie says, "I love meeting new people every day. I love solving problems, and making people feel better. I go home at night knowing I may not have changed the world, but I did, at the least, make someone else's day brighter."



Darlene Hudkins



Ann Moser

MEMBER PROFILE



How did Tessa Taylor get from the Louisiana Bayou, to Australia ... via Kennedy Krieger?

Tessa Taylor (Behavior Psychology/Feeding) started her adventure in Bayou Sorrel Louisiana. She calls it swamp people land and says, "It's an anomaly that I got out! You'd have to subtitle my brother to understand him. His camp is right next door to Junior and Willie of the "Swamp People" television show!" Her "home town" was the setting for "The Killing Fields" which was filmed there, and the creators of The Wire made "Treme" in New Orleans which is 1.5 hours away.

After graduating from Louisiana State University and becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Tessa came to KKI as a predoctoral intern in Behavioral Psychology. From 2009 to 2015 she worked on the NBU inpatient and feeding units.

While at KKI she worked with a Special Interest Group for Paediatric Feeding for ABAI, and a consortium project looking at international feeding services, outcomes and programs. People would contact the group from all over the world, emailing, asking for resources, information and help. She made a holiday trip to Australia with a close colleague and roommate from KKI (she's still at KKI--Allison Lundahl). Allison's sister-in-law was working in Australia at the time. That trip helped convince Tessa to make the daring move.

Tessa soon found out how severely limited awareness, knowledge and availability of effective treatments for paediatric feeding were globally. There are only a handful of places in the US that can provide the type of services needed, and families and professionals worldwide don't know even know about the treatment options.

She also quickly learned about some of the differences in Australia. Some foods have different names, for instance, arugula is called rocket, and all the measurements are different. She also had no idea what a kilojoule was! They do have "barbies" (BBQ) and shrimp are called prawns. They use knives at every meal, and a napkin is called a serviette. She is happy to report that she hasn't been asked to feed any children kangaroo yet as they do eat it. There is also a learning curve with kid's shows, although she did know about the Wiggles.

Supplies are a huge challenge, and forget about trying to ship anything. The process to transfer all her credentials was also very involved. Most people don't know even know what a BCBA is.

Tessa feels she has a long way to go, and has so much more to do. When asked how KKI prepared her for this, she said she doesn't have the words to adequately express herself. She said, "KKI is an amazing place, like no other on the planet and it completely changed my life professionally and personally, forever!!!" Tessa meets with KKI people multiple times per year in multiple countries. She has been to Japan, Italy, Singapore and Vietnam, and France is next! The trip to Vietnam was to see another KKI mate, Nic Marchetto, who started working in the international schools where there are no services at all. Anu Dutt is working in Singapore teaching at University and doing clinical work.

Tessa works for herself and sees patients all over Australia, but her goal is to bring the knowledge and methods she learned at Kennedy to the international population. She is currently working on a website. She has learned that it is really difficult internationally, outside of KKI, to provide services and maintain integrity. She said she learned that it is really hard to leave KKI!

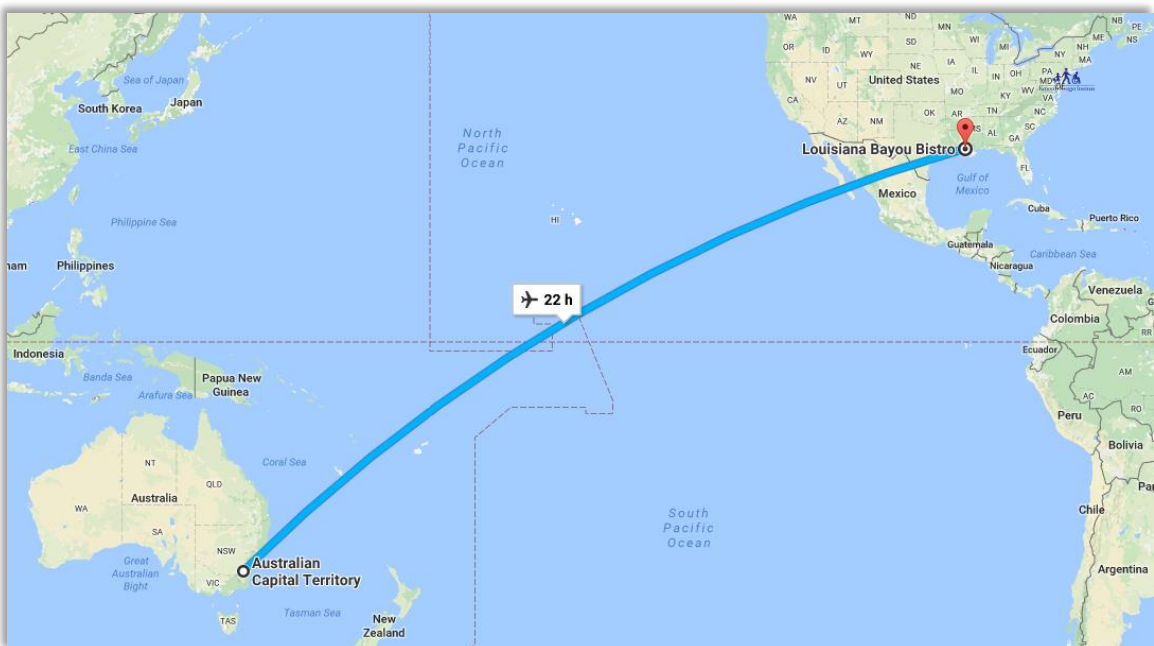
MEMBER PROFILE

Most of her referrals come from parents and behavior analysts. Mostly services are self-pay but the good news is that there is a new insurance rolling out for people with disabilities that will fund it. The parents have to seek out their own information and connections and are often more informed than the professionals. It's definitely a different culture. It seems that the autism community is more knowledgeable about her, but she feels she has way more work to do, especially working with children with tubes.

She does an intake via Skype or visits the family at home for an intake appointment. She has intake paperwork and a form for their physician to fill out. Families often send meal observation video clips. Internet speed/connection can also be a challenge. Tessa gathers all the information and formulates a plan of care. She normally reserves a 2 to 4 week period for the child and family. She then books a flight and stays at an Airbnb within walking distance of their home.

She finds it is quite an experience condensing 2 months of treatment into just a few weeks. The typical schedule is to run the sessions back to back with breaks in between to make the most of the day. Sometimes she even works through the weekend. She has an assistant with her to take data and help. She then trains the parents to do meals at school, restaurants and cafes and phases herself out. It's a flexible program and is all based on progress. She misses the KKI room and one-way mirror and team, and instead finds she has to maneuver around the family dog and siblings!

She admits she would love to have some of her KKI colleagues to work with. She feels she has so much yet to do professionally and personally. But, when she thinks back over these few short years, she realizes how much she has accomplished. She was 30 before she ever got on an airplane, and the first one was to Baltimore. She credits the friends she made here with helping her to learn and do everything. She got her passport in 2014, went to Australia, and now it's all stamped up!





SOCIAL COMMITTEE

What would you like your KKAA to look like? Last year we completed a survey to help the Social Committee plan opportunities for us to get together. The most popular activities selected were a reunion picnic and Spring/Fall Gatherings. We have had several Spring/Fall Gatherings that were well attended. We also had a great turnout at the Festival of Trees. While our picnic at the Sparrows Point Country Club was fun, we would have like to have seen more members there, and as you know we cancelled our Spring Gathering as we had a limited number of responses.

We all have commitments and busy schedules, which makes your input extremely important.

What would you like the Social Committee to plan for our yearly activities?

Please send your response to us at webmaster@kkalumni.org or call us at 410-215-8972.

We really want to stay connected.

WEBSITE HISTORY PAGE

We are always looking for contributions to our KK Alumni HISTORY PAGE. Do you have any KKI memorabilia? 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. Is there a chance you would be interested in being our KKAA Historian? If so contact Roni or Jean. We would welcome your experience and input.

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

*Let's stay connected!
Jean*