

Kennedy Krieger Alumni Association

Spring/Summer 2018 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2018 Edition of the Kennedy Krieger Alumni Association Newsletter. There is a lot interesting information in this newsletter that I am sure you will enjoy.

You will read about our recent KKAA Reunion. It was a fantastic event—the location was great, the food was exceptional, and *reconnecting* with friends and former colleagues was *priceless*.

The names of our newest members are included and I am extremely happy to welcome them to KKAA. Please continue to share information about the Association with former coworkers so we can continue to grow and *stay connected*.

Be sure to review the **Member News** section of this newsletter, there you will see articles about the impressive and heart-warming work Association members are doing, their exciting travels and family updates, and I am sure you will find the **Health Corner** very informative.

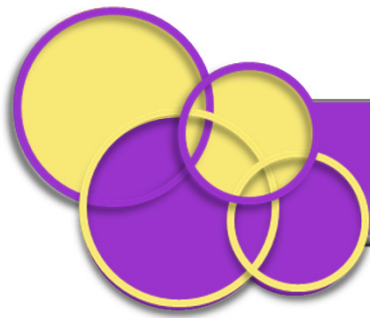
Information about Kennedy Krieger Institute's newest building is included, as well as a write up regarding the change in leadership.

Thank you for sharing your extraordinary stories—they are helping us *STAY CONNECTED*. I hope you have an amazing summer and are able to spend time with family and friends.

Take Care,

Roni





MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



Look who has joined the Kennedy Krieger Alumni Association in the past few months:

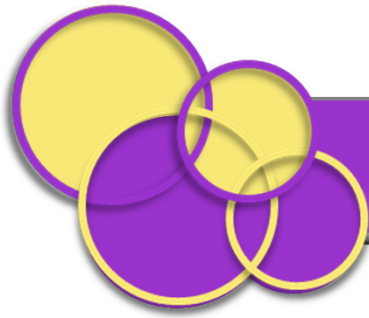
- Bonnie Simms (Special Education)
- Frank Updike (Facilities)
- Sharon Riccitelli (CARD)
- Dawn Beckner (Special Education)
- Dr. Charles “Chick” Silberstein (Orthopaedics)
- Dr. Martha Denckla (DCN)
- Bridget Johnson (Behavioral Psychology)
- Dianne Sestero (Behavioral Psychology)
- Victoria Stinnett (Genetics)

Fast Fact #1:

Dr. Silberstein began working at Kennedy Krieger Institute in 1966. Of course it was not called Kennedy Krieger back then. He retired in October of 2017 after 51 years of fantastic service.

*We are happy to welcome former colleagues to KKAA.
Thank you for helping to recruit new members,
please keep up the good work!*

We are always interested in contributions to our KK Alumni HISTORY PAGE. If you have any KKI memorabilia let us know. 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.



MEMBER NEWS

What are our members doing with their time?
Has something exciting happened in their lives?

See what they are up to and also, **SHARE** your “news” with us in the next edition,
Fall/Winter 2018, by Emailing Jean at smootjean@yahoo.com

PAYING HER BLESSINGS FORWARD

In the last issue we learned about The Beyond Our Dreams Marriage Retreat that Eva Queen (CARD) is involved with. The second retreat will be August 17-19 at Turf Valley Resort and Spa in Ellicott City. As if that wasn't enough, this year Eva has launched a non-profit organization called Community Advocates 4 You Inc.

In 2005, the youngest of Eva's 3 daughters was born with a catastrophic birth defect; Congenital Hydrocephalus, a rare neurological condition which caused significant brain damage. Eva said that coming to work at KKI changed the trajectory of her daughter's development, and their family's ability to self-advocate.

The connections they made to places like Kennedy Krieger, Johns Hopkins Children's Center, and the Parents Place of Maryland gave them access to amazing care and advocacy. These relationships also afforded opportunities for networking, training, and the acquisition of self-advocacy skills that has empowered and equipped them for life as parents of a child with disabilities.

Eva saw that unfortunately not every family is able to find the appropriate services for their children. This was the primary reason for establishing CA4Y. Their goal is to teach families about special education law and policies and procedures, linking them to the resources that helped her family.

Eva says she feels that Community Advocates 4 You, Inc. is her way to pay her blessings forward.

To learn more about CA4Y, go to their web site,
<https://advocates4you.org>

ALVONIA ALLEN CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF MARRIAGE



Alvonia and her husband Ron will be celebrating 40 years of marriage on July 29th. When she is not busy volunteering at St. Bernadine's Catholic Church and working as a Community Liaison she is traveling. Alvonia and Ron spent 8 days in the Dominican Republic last month. In October they will be taking an Adriatic cruise, spending a few days in Rome. Alvonia says she has been busy and hopes to keep it that way.



ONE OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS IS ENJOYING RETIREMENT

Sharon Ricitelli (CARD) is trying out her “retirement legs”. She just spent 4 beautiful days in Orlando with her two daughters Wendy and Vikki. They had great weather and really enjoyed the food and sights, including Universal Studios. Sharon recommends Cowfish restaurant with their great menu and excellent food. They thought the food at Margaretville was good, but the Margaritas... not so much. All in all she found Orlando to be a great place to visit.

Chrissy (Shulka) Lake (CMO), and her husband Tim welcomed **Juliana Elizabeth** to their family on March 21st. She weighed in at 7lbs 8oz. and was 21” long. Juliana is little sister to Ashlynn Carmen (16) and Nicholas (3).

**Oh
Baby,
Baby!**



Crystal Guengerich (Nursing/Inpatient Neurorehab/Ortho) and her wife Renee welcomed twins **Hugo and Moxie** on December 21, 2017. They are doing fabulously, and Crystal and Renee say they are enjoying parenthood.

April Greer (Guest Relations) and her husband, Travis will be welcoming another **boy** to their family in August. Zachary, 6 years old, is very excited to be a big brother soon.

Marge Fessler's grandson Jacob is in for a big change in his little 2 year old life. His parents are expecting **twin girls** in June! Marge (CDL) and her husband Ralph will be seeing them often as this growing family lives in DC.



MEMBER NEWS

CHARLENE DAVIS FEELING LIKE A CELEBRITY

Charlene Davis (CDL/Nursing) spent 2 glorious weeks cruising on the Norwegian ship the Breakaway. She and a group of friends traveled to a number of islands including San Juan Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Dominica and Barbados. Charlene has friends living in Barbados, so she was able to spend a special day with them. Charlene said the food and entertainment on the ship were out of this world.

One evening Charlene and her roommate went to see *Cirque de Soleil*, where they were seated at a table with four young men. When the show was over, some of the Cirque de Soleil cast members came to their table and began talking to the young men. Imagine Charlene's surprise when she found out that she had been sitting with the "Jersey Boys". The guys invited Charlene and her friend to come see their show - to which they PROMPTLY said **YES**.

After enjoying the "Jersey Boys" performance, she and her friend went to greet them and were instantly treated like long lost friends. Charlene said she is sure everyone was wondering who these two little ladies were, and at that moment she really felt like a celebrity!

JENNIFER ASHLEY TRAVELS THE WORLD

Jennifer (Payroll/ HR) is a Manager and Travel Consultant for A&A Cruise and Travel. Even though she has had clients from as far away as Venezuela, she is the rep for the Baltimore/Washington area. She has a number of certifications that allow her to sample an amazing array of travel opportunities. She does a lot of ship and resort inspections. In addition, resorts, cruise lines and tourist boards from different countries invite agents to come and see what they have to offer.

All she has to pay for is her air fare, which is often discounted.

This is just an example of her recent adventures: In April she was involved in a conference in Florida with travel agents from all over the world. Representatives from cruise lines, resorts and airlines were there asking for input from the agents, and informing them of changes they plan to make. As Travel Partners/Agents they are often selling resorts and cruises for dates that are not on line.

In May she was at the Royalton in Punta Cana where she had her own butler!!

Then on to the Bahamas, New York City, the christening of the Carnival cruise ship "Horizon", Bermuda, Panama City, Jamaica and Tahiti

I don't think she unpacks her suitcase!

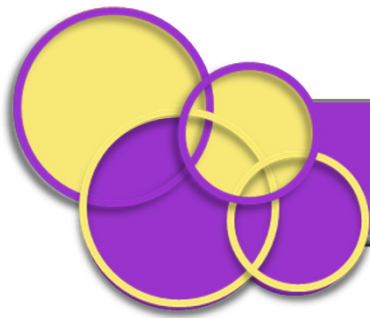
If you would like to contact Jennifer,
her email is ashlyjen@aol.com



UPDATES ON PAULA CAMERON: *IS SHE HEADED TO THE MOON?*

Paula (HR) has been gone from Kennedy for almost 20 years, but that doesn't mean she hasn't kept busy. After she left KKI, she spent lots of time volunteering at her children's schools. She worked at the elementary school as a lunch/recess aide and never missed a soccer or basketball practice or game. She was also the person who often ended up driving the teams around town. As her children got older, she started doing accounting work for several businesses, which allowed her the freedom to still do the "soccer/basketball" mom activities. Once her girls were out of high school she went to work at NASA. She is doing program management work for a contract supporting the Earth Science Mission Operations at Goddard. She said her work is great, but may not be as "cool" as it sounds!

As far as the kids, her oldest, Erin is working full time and going to school and her youngest Megan recently graduated with her BA.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Wow! What a Reunion!!

We had a wonderful reunion at Bluestone Restaurant on Saturday, April 28th. People who attended came from all over the state and beyond. Dr. Peter Fanning (former Vice President) and his wife Dina (Administration/Marcus Inst.) traveled all the way from Florida.

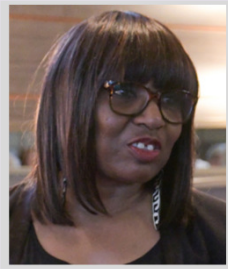
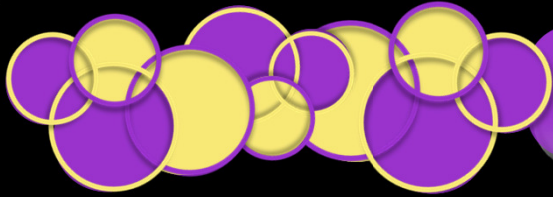
Everyone introduced themselves and told us a bit about what they did at Kennedy Krieger and what they are doing now. The member with the most years at Kennedy Krieger was Dr. George Thomas (Genetics) with 45 years. We had several members with 30 years or more. Now here is an impressive "fast fact #2"; the TOTAL number of years employed at KKI for those who attended was 513 years!!

We recognized Wanda Dewitt (Special Education) who was the first person to return the form and join the Alumni Association, and Novella Ragins (Family Center), the first to use the automatic membership system to join us. Novella was quite surprised and pleased to receive a gift card and lovely flower arrangement. Wanda could not attend and received her gifts by mail. Our newest member in attendance was Sharon Riccitelli (Center for Autism and Related Disorders) who retired in June.

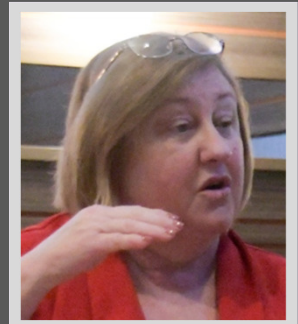
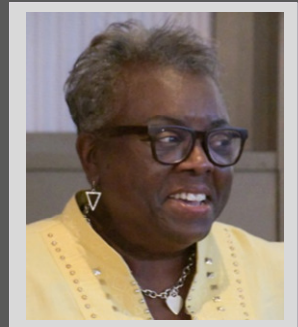
Jim Anders gave us an update about what is happening at Kennedy Krieger. He shared information about the new building, anticipated change in leadership, and apprised us of the Institute's continued growth and successes.

It was great reconnecting with folks we had not seen for years, as well as getting to know those who are new to the KKAA.

Be sure to check out pictures on the next page →



*The best effect
of fine persons
is felt after we
have left their
presence.*
Ralph Waldo Emerson



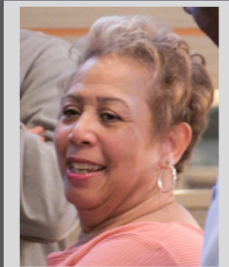
*No distance of
place or lapse
of time can
lessen the
friendship of
those who are
thoroughly
persuaded of
each other's
worth.*
Robert Southey

COMMITTEE



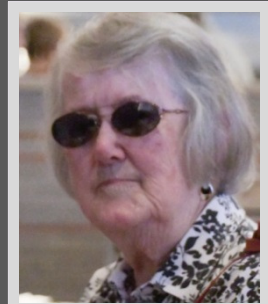
We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere.

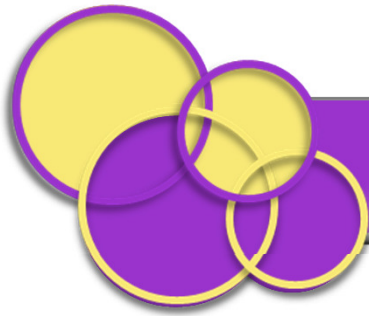
Tim McGraw



Reunion reveals friendship potential that haven't yet been emerged in the past.

Toba Beta





MEMBER NEWS

Alma Durm Continues to Excel

In the fall of 2016 we heard that Alma was nominated as an Anne Arundel County Public and Independent School Teacher of the Year. This year Alma was re-certified as a National Board Certified Teacher/ Exceptional Needs Specialist. She is currently teaching at the Ruth Eason School in AACPS. She has been at Ruth Eason since she left KKI in 2000. Working at the Institute prepared her well for her role as a Special Needs Education Specialist where she worked in Behavioral Psychology for 7 years and the Kennedy Krieger School for 3 years. The certification process requires creating and submitting a portfolio of her teaching for review to the accreditation board. *Alma said she won't have to do this again as she plans to retire before the certification expires in 10 years!*

Dr. Ron Walcher and His Wife

Find A Creative and Charitable Way To Clear Out "Stuff"

Dr. Ron Walcher (Neurology and Developmental Medicine) and his wife, Barbara are making a big change in their lives. After over 40 years of being home owners they are moving to a condominium. They feel that the house and yard are taking up too much of their time! They have discovered that going through 40 years of "stuff" has been quite an educational experience. Over and over they keep saying, "Why did I ever keep this?", and, "Nobody will want this old thing."

On June 1-2 they had a benefit sale for Justice Ventures International, A good friend of theirs volunteers with JVI. They did not put prices on most things, instead they asked people to make what they felt was a reasonable donation. Of course they want their "stuff" to find a new owner but their end goal was to raise money for Justice Ventures International.

JVI partners with local organizations and global stakeholders to bring freedom, justice and restoration to men, women and children suffering from human trafficking and other forms of extreme injustice. Globally, one billion people live in oppressive slums, surrounded by extreme desperation and crime, and more than forty million people are trapped in slavery. Justice is essential to ensuring a prosperous and fair society for all.

To learn more about JVI, check out their web site at <http://justiceventures.org>

An Exciting New Venture for Liz Kent



PERISSOS THERAPY

Liz (Social Work/Special Ed) worked for 3 years at Greenspring and 3 years as a Social Work supervisor at Fairmount. After leaving KKI she worked in a private practice which afforded her the opportunity to spend more time with her children Asher and Leah.

Her little ones are now 3.5 and 1.5 years old, so in July 2017 she decided the time was right to go out on her own and open her own practice, Perissos Therapy.

Perissos is a Greek word which means abundantly exceeding expectations. She primarily works with "busy, working moms" who are struggling to manage anxiety, stress, and a good work/life balance.

This is definitely a different population from the one she worked with at Kennedy Krieger, but Liz feels that all the behavioral interventions and parenting interactions she had in her role there have proven invaluable. Liz loves what she is doing; she also loves the flexibility, allowing her to spend more time with her children.

Her website is <https://www.perissostherapy.com/>

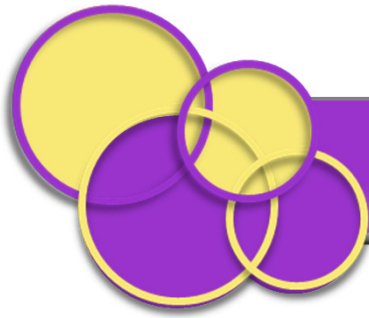
Pam Yerby-Hammack Sharing and Helping

Pam Yerby-Hammack (DCN) has authored a book entitled, "Flying with One Wing: God's Grace in Our Times of Adversity." The book is based on Pam's journey through a mental health crisis, and her unselfish desire to help others. Pam's courage has also led her to develop and host a mental health seminar, Mental Health and the Church.

You can obtain more information at Pam's author's website www.flyingwith1wing.com. You may also purchase her book from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Author House Website.

Pam continues to serve as assistant pastor at the City of Abraham Church and Ministries, Inc. in Baltimore City, and is widely known and respected in the evangelical community.





Kennedy Krieger News



NEW OUTPATIENT CENTER CONSTRUCTION NEARING COMPLETION

The new outpatient center, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building at 1741 Ashland Ave., is estimated to be complete by the end of 2018. When the move is complete there will not be any departments at Biddle Street.

The programs and services that will move into the new building include Psychiatric Mental Health services, Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress services, The Center for Autism and Related Disorders services, Care Management, Patient Accounting, Patient Financial Services, Human Resources, Finance, Professional and Regulatory Affairs, Professional Development and Conference Center, Workforce Training Center, Telehealth Suite, Nursing Mom's Room and a Catering Kitchen.

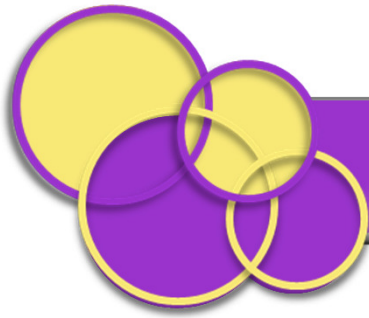
KENNEDY KRIEGER INSTITUTE HAS A NEW PRESIDENT



Bradley (Brad) L. Schlaggar, M.D., Ph.D, is the new President and Chief Executive Officer of Kennedy Krieger Institute. He is a graduate of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis where he received his M.D. and Ph.D. as part of its medical scientific training program.

Dr. Schlaggar has spent the last 19 years as a faculty member at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. In addition to his role as Director of Pediatric and Developmental Neurology at Washington University, he is also Professor of Neurology, Radiology, Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Neuroscience, and Co-Director of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center.

Dr. Schlaggar will assume his new position sometime this summer and former President, Gary W. Goldstein, M.D, will undertake the role of President of the Kennedy Krieger Foundation.



HEALTH CORNER

911 - Recognizing The Signs of a Stroke

Many people think a stroke happens in the heart, but it actually happens in the brain. Effects of a stroke and the resulting damage to the brain can be greatly reduced if a patient receives prompt medical treatment. The National Stroke Association has a wonderful website where you can learn more about strokes. <http://www.stroke.org/>

Remember this valuable information. It could help you, a friend, a neighbor or loved one.

Act FAST

FAST is an easy way to remember and identify the most common symptoms of a stroke. Recognition of stroke and calling 9-1-1 will determine how quickly someone will receive help and treatment. Getting to a hospital rapidly will more likely lead to a better recovery. Use FAST to Remember the Warning Signs of a Stroke

F

FACE: Ask the person to smile.
Does one side of the face droop?



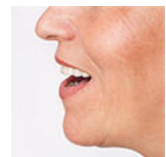
A

ARMS: Ask the person to raise both arms.
Does one arm drift downward?



S

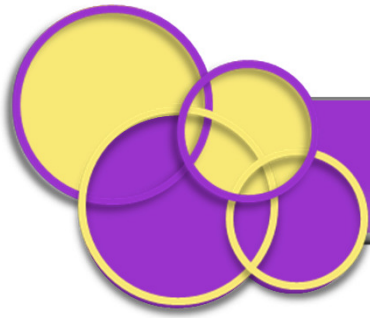
SPEECH: Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?



T

TIME: If you observe any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately.





HEALTH CORNER

Signs and Symptoms of Stroke

Knowing the signs and symptoms of a stroke is the first step to ensuring medical help is received immediately. For each minute a stroke goes untreated and blood flow to the brain continues to be blocked, a person loses about 1.9 million neurons. This could mean that a person's speech, movement, memory, and so much more can be affected.

Learn as many stroke symptoms as possible
so you can recognize stroke FAST and save a life!

Stroke symptoms include:



SUDDEN numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg,
especially on one side of the body

SUDDEN confusion, trouble speaking, or understanding



SUDDEN trouble seeing in one or both eyes

SUDDEN trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or
coordination



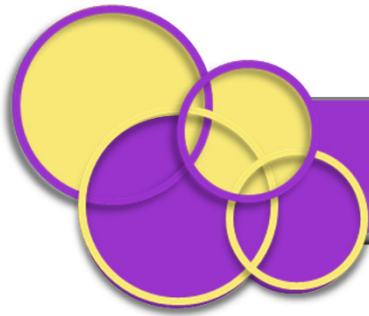
SUDDEN severe headache with no known cause

Call 9-1-1 immediately if you observe any of these symptoms.

Note the time of the first symptom.

This information is important and can affect treatment decisions.

Thank you to The National Stroke Association for permission to use their graphics.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

I hope you have enjoyed hearing about what our members are doing. I continue to be amazed when I hear about their creative endeavors, travels and the way they continue to find ways to “give back” even after leaving Kennedy.

The KKAA Newsletter is published twice a year. It will always contain committee updates, but we also want to hear from YOU. I hope you will consider sharing your news and ideas with us in future editions. All you have to do is send an Email to me with a few sentences. I will take it from there. Ask anyone who has taken the plunge, it really is painless!

Also, remember that our website houses all editions of the KKAA newsletter, a History page, membership list, photos of events, information about upcoming events, and a contact form. The contact form is an easy way for new members to join the KKAA.

I am looking forward to hearing from you with your ideas and contributions to the Fall/Winter 2018 edition. We have something special planned for that edition, a feature called “Where in the World”. I am going to ask you to send me a picture (or two) of your travels, with a caption of where it was taken.

I can be contacted at our Outlook address or at smootjean@yahoo.com

Let's stay connected!

Jean

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 at webmaster@kcalumni.org

To reach us by phone: 410-215-8972
KKAA Newsletter smootjean@yahoo.com

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