



UW AUTISM CENTER
CENTER ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & DISABILITY
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Center on Human Development and Disability

University of Washington Autism Center

Fall 2019



Illuminating Autism: Growing Strong Communities

4th Annual Dinner & Auction
Rainier Club, Downtown Seattle
Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 6pm



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Imagine being able to help children and parents navigate through the challenges of autism. Or realize that your efforts helped advance groundbreaking research to improve interventions and create new programs. Or know that your gift helped a child enjoy the simple pleasures of summer camp.

The UW Autism Center's 4th annual benefit dinner and auction, *Illuminating Autism*, provides the opportunity to achieve all of these dreams and more.

Come join our growing community to celebrate and enjoy presentations highlighting the Center's impact while having fun and participating in live and silent auctions.

Tickets now available!

The UW Autism Center is actively recruiting participants as part of our collaboration in the multicenter Infant Brain Imaging Study (IBIS). We are seeking [infants age 0-6 months](#) who have an older sibling on the autism spectrum, [Down Syndrome age 0-6 months](#), and [Down Syndrome age 7-11 years](#). Participants in each of these studies will complete developmental testing, and participate in MRI scans without the use of sedation.

Dr. Steve Dager and IBIS Coordinator, **Nicole Simard** are pictured above providing information about IBIS to the Down Syndrome community at the 2019 Puget Sound Buddy Walk.



Interested families may call us at 1.877.408.UWAC, or [follow this link for more information on how you can be involved.](#)



October marked International AAC Awareness Month! Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is an umbrella term that describes various methods of communication for those who are unable to use verbal speech and/or can be used to supplement communication. Examples are iPads, picture exchange, and dedicated speech devices. Our speech language pathologists (SLPs), **Carly Brukman** and **Jim Engracia**, attended an AAC collaboration night with fellow AAC specialists and SLPS to discuss different high-tech communication systems and evidence-based treatment strategies.

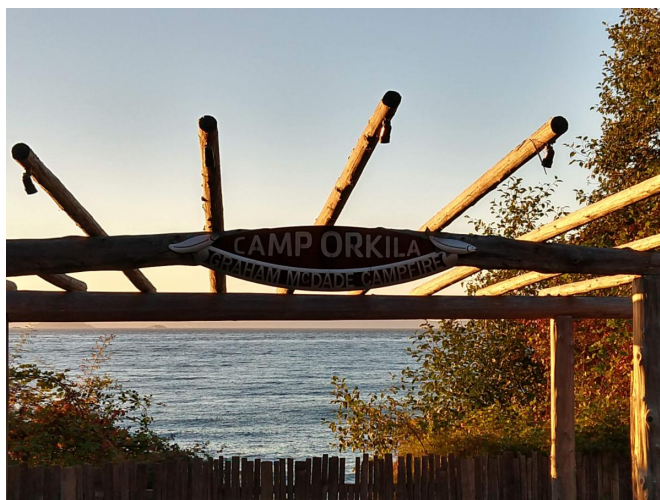
Training & School Services



The UWAC Training Team has been busy the past few months! Throughout September and October the Training Team has partnered with school districts and community agencies in 6 different counties to provide trainings and school consultations. Up next for the Training Team will be *ABA for SLPs* hosted by **James Engracia M.A. SLP-CCC**. In this training participants will learn the basic ins and outs of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and how to incorporate ABA strategies into an SLPs clinical practice.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

A big thank you to the many families who joined us in October at the Family Camp for Exceptional Families. The weekend was made possible by a partnership between we at the UWAC and the amazing folks at YMCA Camp Orkila. Families enjoyed outdoor activities, arts and crafts, and plenty of campfire songs surrounded by the natural beauty of Orcas Island. Thank you to the fabulous leadership and staff at Orkila for making this yet another wonderful and inclusive weekend for families!



UWAC Director of Operations, **Kathryn Larson**, and Research Scientist **Dr. Ashley Penney** attended the 2019 Microsoft Giving Campaign.

This event is always a great way to connect with families, local providers, and community organizations. Dr. Penney presented a keynote talk on On-Time Autism Services for Infants and Toddlers.



Employee Spotlights



The UWAC Fun Committee launched their first organized social event in October! It was a delightful event to welcome the Fall season and share a wonderful evening together.

Ellen Cambron is a graduate student in the Master of Social Work program at the University of Washington. She is completing a practicum at the UW Autism Center. She is also a LEND fellow.



Olexandra Nepochatyk is a graduate student in the MSW program at UW School of Social Work. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Welfare from UW Seattle. Olexandra is completing a practicum at the UW Autism Center.



A message from **Samantha Kim M.S., CF-SLP:**

"Hi everyone, I'm Samantha. I am very excited to be joining UWAC! I am a speech-language pathology Clinical Fellow. I recently completed my master's degree in medical speech-language pathology and my bachelor's degree in speech and hearing sciences all at the University of Washington. I am glad to still be a part of the university after all these years! I will be splitting my time between the Tacoma and Seattle campuses. I am excited to chat with you about expressive communication, understanding language, social and play skills, and much more! I started working at the UWAC at the beginning of October and look forward to getting to connect with everyone on the team."



Kassie Means received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology at Regent University. She is currently a student in the PsyD program at Northwest University. She is completing a practicum at the UW Autism Center.

Community

Learn
more

The Study of Autism and Self-Regulation at Seattle Pacific University is investigating the self-regulation skills of 3-to 6-year-old children with autism spectrum disorder to learn how these skills are related to adaptive functioning and social-emotional competence. The focus of the current study is on children's ability to regulate their behavior during emotion-eliciting events.



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