



DDD Pays Tribute to Senator Edward Kennedy and Mrs. Eunice Kennedy

Senator Edward Kennedy (1932–2009)



Members and supporters of the Division on Developmental Disabilities (DDD) of the International Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) mourn the passing of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, who was a long-time national policy advocate for persons with disabilities. At the 2008 CEC International Convention, held in Boston, DDD and CEC honored Sena-

tor Kennedy with the Division's "Distinguished Legislator" award. His personal acceptance of the award and rousing speech in support of children with disabilities was a highlight of the convention.

Senator Kennedy gave his life to the national policy arena, serving for 46 years in the U.S. Senate while working in a constructive, effective manner with 10 different presidents. As chairman of the powerful Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Senator Kennedy played a critical role in numerous pieces of legislation that have improved the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities. Important legislation that received his advocacy and leadership support include the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Developmental Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Family Opportunity Act, and, most recently, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. His recent legislative focus included vigorous support for comprehensive health-care reform and legislation designed to enable all Americans, including those with developmental disabilities, to receive long-term care services and supports in their homes and communities. Senator Kennedy was a hero within the disability community and to millions of others needing a voice within the legislative process.

Robert Stodden, DDD's Critical Issues Committee chair and Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation Public Policy Fellow, stated, "Senator Kennedy was the most significant national policy advocate for persons with disabilities ever to serve in the U.S. Congress, and he will be sorely missed in the disability community—his unwavering support for children and adults with special needs and disabilities touched the lives of many people in our country."

DDD members and supporters would like to express their extreme gratitude to the family and friends of Senator Edward Kennedy and vow to continue fighting for the many national policy initiatives he supported so passionately.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver (1921–2009)



It was with great sadness that the world learned of the passing of Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver on August 11, 2009. Mrs. Shriver, however, has left behind a legacy that is honored and will be remembered by millions.

Educated as a social worker in the 1950s, Mrs. Shriver began working with the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation in 1957, with a focus on prevention of intellectual disabilities and improving the means by which society can meet the needs of citizens with those disabilities. She and the foundation helped establish President Kennedy's Committee on Mental Retardation in 1961, developed the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in 1962, established a network of university-affiliated facilities and mental retardation research centers across the nation in 1967, created centers for the study of medical ethics in 1971, and developed the "Community of Caring" concept in 1982, which grew into programs in 1,200 public and private schools from 1990 to 2006.

Even with all of these accomplishments, Mrs. Shriver is best known for the creation of the Special Olympics, which was inspired by her sister, Rosemary. Mrs. Shriver began Special Olympics in 1962 in her backyard as Camp Shriver, a day camp for children and adults with developmental disabilities. The first Special Olympics Games were held in Chicago on June 20, 1968. Since its inception, more than 3 million athletes have participated in Special Olympics in all of the states and 181 countries.

In 1984, Mrs. Shriver was formally acknowledged and honored for her work by President Ronald Reagan, when she was presented with the Medal of Freedom. In December 2008, on the 40th anniversary of the Special Olympics, she was given the first Sportsman of the Year Legacy Award. Personal tributes may be posted on her website (www.eunicekennedyshriver.org).

Mrs. Shriver may be best remembered for words that became the motto for the Special Olympics: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." As a community of teachers, learners, family members, and individuals in the field of special education, we are thankful for Mrs. Shriver's brave spirit. DDD would like to say thank you to such a remarkable woman, and we know her memory will live on.

President's Message

Dave Smith

It was with great sadness that the world learned of the passing of Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver on August 11, 2009. Mrs. Shriver, however, left behind accomplishments that are honored and will be remembered by millions. On August 25th, her brother, Edward Kennedy, died. These two individuals leave a shared legacy of advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities. We in our division will miss them both, and this edition of *Express* includes tributes to them.



I would like to focus my message, however, on the unique contributions of Mrs. Shriver to the visibility of persons with intellectual disabilities in our society and the world. The fact that Eunice Kennedy Shriver is rightly credited with helping to bring people with intellectual disabilities into the mainstream of human life and transforming the view of them from institutionalized "patients" to friends and neighbors was made clear to me by the media coverage of the recent unveiling of a painting

of her at the National Portrait Gallery. In the painting she is pictured with four Special Olympians. She is smiling and placing her hand on the shoulder of a man to her left. His name is Marty Sheets, and he lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. I live and work in Greensboro. Marty competed in the first Special Olympics in the summer of 1968. Over the next four decades, Marty's life—along with the lives of countless others with intellectual and developmental disabilities—was changed by participation in Special Olympics.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver may best be remembered for her words that became the motto for the Special Olympics: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." As a community of teachers, learners, family members, and individuals in the field of special education, we are thankful for the brave spirit that Mrs. Shriver brought to us all. We are also mindful of the frequent references in commentary on the lives, and deaths, of the Kennedy family to the "torch being passed." We will remain mindful of this, and we will dedicate ourselves to continuing their work, to carrying the torch forward. The Division on Developmental Disabilities would like express appreciation for the life of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, and we know her memory will live on.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of our division. Thanks to all of you for your encouragement and support.

DDD Recognizes Extraordinary Service of Journal Editor Dr. Stan Zucker



At its April 2009 Business Meeting in Seattle, the Division on Developmental Disabilities presented a plaque of special recognition to **Dr. Stan Zucker**, longtime editor of the division's flagship journal, *Education and Training in Developmental Disabilities*. Dr. Zucker began his duties as editor for the June 1987 issue of the journal. Since that time he has coordinated the efforts of hundreds of reviewers in evaluating literally thousands of manuscripts submitted by professionals throughout the world.

The journal's articles have targeted every conceivable dimension of the field of developmental disabilities. Given the high professional stature of the journal, it is difficult to overstate the magnitude of the impact Dr. Zucker's work has had in shaping the field of developmental disabilities over the past two decades. The journal is universally recognized as providing consistent and timely high-quality information to thousands of professionals in the field.

DDD Changes Its Name

It's official! Beginning January 1, 2010, our new name will be the **Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD)**. This represents a significant effort for our division: to focus on autism spectrum disorders while continuing our advocacy and educational efforts regarding intellectual and other developmental disabilities. For many of us, moving away from the term *mental retardation* and adding *autism* as a focus for our division was not easy. However, the board—and obviously the membership—believe that to remain a viable advocacy and educational group, we must change with the times. When the board voted yes to the name change, it also voted to delete all references to the term *mental retardation*. Instead, we will use *intellectual disabilities* in place of that label, again reflecting the changing field of special education. The Board is excited about this new direction. Let's all take advantage of the revised focus to increase membership and expand our advocacy and educational efforts.



12th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disabilities, & Other Developmental Disabilities

Research to Practice

Council for Exceptional Children

Division on Autism & Developmental Disabilities

The Board of Directors for CEC's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities is pleased to extend an invitation to join us in Maui, Hawaii, January 20–22, 2010, for a stellar professional learning opportunity!

The 12th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disabilities, and Other Developmental Disabilities will integrate research and practice, reflecting the need for evidenced-based strategies and interventions within this diverse field.

The program features more than 100 lecture and poster presentations; conference delegates may also attend an in-depth pre-conference training institute on ASD, led by Dr. Brenda Smith Myles.

Featured speakers include Drs. Ann & Rud Turnbull, Dr. Robert Stodden, Dr. J. David Smith, Taylor Crowe, and Dr. David Crowe.

The conference will be held at the spectacular Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa, located on Ka'anapali Beach, near Lahaina.

For further information, please contact:

Cindy Perras, Conference Coordinator
cindy.perras@cogeco.ca

Online registration available at:
www.dddcec.org



*Sheraton Maui
Resort & Spa*

CEC-DDD Annual Awards

The Division on Developmental Disabilities of the Council for Exceptional Children is pleased to provide annual recognition of individuals and subdivisions through a number of awards:

- **BURTON BLATT HUMANITARIAN AWARD** is available to honor an individual who is a member of DDD and who has demonstrated exceptional effort in furthering the cause of persons with intellectual disabilities/cognitive disabilities, autism, and other developmental disabilities.
- **LEGISLATIVE AWARD** is available to honor an individual who has been involved in the development, support, and/or enactment of legislation designed to meet the needs of persons with developmental disabilities. The award is to be given annually, and the person need not be a member of DDD.
- **TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD** is available to recognize a special education teacher or general education classroom teacher from each subdivision for exceptional performance in supporting students who have developmental disabilities.
- **PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD** is available to recognize a paraeducator from each subdivision who participates as a member of the teaching team and who exhibits exemplary personal and professional skills in supporting students who have developmental disabilities

Note. For the previous two awards, the teacher or the paraeducator need not be a member of DDD, and each state/provincial subdivision is encouraged to nominate an individual for each of these awards.

- **JOHN W. KIDD SUBDIVISION AWARD** may be given annually to the subdivision that has shown exceptional performance during the past year. Criteria used may include (a) innovative programming and (b) participation of members in related activities beyond the subdivision level.
- **RESEARCH AWARD** is to be given annually to an individual, or group of individuals, in recognition of outstanding basic and/or applied research in the area of developmental disabilities. *For more information on the criteria for this award, please visit the DDD Web site (<http://www.dddcec.org>).*

Please note: Any CEC-DDD member may nominate individuals for the **BURTON BLATT HUMANITARIAN AWARD** or the **LEGISLATIVE AWARD**. Only **subdivision presidents** may nominate individuals for the **TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD** and the **PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**. Additionally, subdivision presidents may apply for consideration for the **JOHN W. KIDD SUBDIVISION AWARD**.

Nominations/applications, accompanied by appropriate supporting data/information, must be submitted by DDD members **NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 2010**. Awards that meet the stated criteria are presented during the DDD Annual Business Meeting at the CEC Convention.

Send nominations, applications, and requests for additional information to:

Toni Merfeld, DDD Awards Committee Chair
15136 Sheridan Ave., Clive, Iowa 5032
phone: 515-205-6861
e-mail: toni@metrowestkids.net

Write a Proposal for CEC 2011 (Washington, DC, National Harbor)

Proposal deadlines will soon be announced for the 2011 **Annual Convention and Expo of the Council for Exceptional Children** to be held in our nation's capital, Washington, DC (National Harbor), April 25–28. So, mark your calendars and continue to check the CEC and DDD websites for updated information on the due dates. Meanwhile, the DDD invites you to consider submitting a proposal to share your innovations and research in the areas of autism and developmental disabilities for the 2011 conference. Encourage your co-workers and graduate students to also submit their proposals. Remember, proposals accepted by DDD for the 2011 CEC Convention may be considered for CEC-DADD Practitioner and Student Awards.

Visit the official Web site of the Division
on Developmental Disabilities at
<http://www.dddcec.org/>



Search the Entire Archives of
**Education and Training in
Mental Retardation/
Developmental Disabilities**
at

<http://www.dddcec.org/search.htm>

Teachers' Corner



Tom E.C. Smith
University of Arkansas

What Teachers Need to Know About Section 504

Too often, special education teachers think that Section 504 does not apply to them because they are serving their students under IDEA. However, because the definition of disability used in Section 504 is broader than the one used in IDEA, all IDEA students are also protected under Section 504. This does not mean that schools need to complete 504 paperwork in addition to the required IDEA paperwork. Paperwork requirements for IDEA go way beyond what is required for 504. Still, 504 issues will arise when working with students served under special education, so teachers need to understand the law.

Section 504 is civil rights legislation. As such, its purpose is to prevent discrimination against otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities (Smith & Patton, 2007). The definition of *disability* under Section 504 is broader than the one used in IDEA. To be eligible under 504, an individual must have a physical or mental impairment (not specified) that substantially limits a major life activity. Because all students served under IDEA meet the definition of *disability* used in Section 504, the only criterion related to 504 that is in question is being “otherwise qualified.” In other words, if a student with a developmental disability wants to participate in an event, the key issue is whether he or she is *otherwise qualified* to be in the club. If the only participation requirement a high school has is that the student must attend that school, the student with a developmental disability is *otherwise qualified* and therefore eligible to participate in the event. On the other hand, if the event requirements include completing a certain course or meeting other prerequisites, a student with a developmental disability may not be *otherwise qualified* to participate (Smith & Patton, 2007).

There are several different questions teachers can ask themselves to ensure that a student with a developmental disability does not face discrimination according to 504:

Am I allowing all students in my class equal opportunities to access the general education curriculum? Students with disabilities have a right to access the general

education curriculum. In fact, IDEA requires it. If a student is *otherwise qualified*, he or she must be provided the same access to the curriculum as that of other student.

Am I allowing all students in my class to participate in all of the activities of the class? Field trips, extracurricular activities, and other activities available for students without disabilities must be available to *otherwise qualified* students with disabilities. For example, if students in a third-grade class are going on a field trip, the student with a developmental disability in that class should be afforded the opportunity to go. Just because the student needs special supports would not preclude his or her participation in the field trip.

Do I treat students with disabilities fairly? Although this is a simple question, it is at the core of Section 504 requirements. Treating a student differently simply because of a disability is discrimination. For example, if a student with a developmental disability wants to enroll in driver's education, and the student is *otherwise qualified* to enroll in the course, not allowing him or her to do so would be a civil rights violation under Section 504, regardless of whether he or she has a disability. The key is *otherwise qualified*. No student with a disability should ever be treated differently because of that disability. On the other hand, if a student is not qualified to participate in an event, denying that student participation would not be a violation of 504.

Do I use common sense? Most of what is required by Section 504 is common sense. Good teachers have always acted in ways that promoted nondiscrimination against individuals with disabilities. Long before Section 504 was passed in 1973, teachers made the very accommodations that Section 504 now requires.

For students served under IDEA, Section 504 typically applies to a student's opportunity to access the general education curriculum, extracurricular activities, and other activities sponsored by the school. By using common sense and doing the right thing, schools will likely not only be in legal compliance with this law but also be promoting equal opportunities—because it's simply the right thing to do.

Reference

Smith, T. E. C., & Patton, J. R. (2007). *Section 504 and public schools* (2nd ed.). Austin, TX: PRO-ED.

DADD at 2010 CEC in NASHVILLE



DDD has many great presentations, poster sessions, and demonstrations scheduled for the 2010 CEC Convention in Nashville, covering a range of issues on educating students with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. The **DADD Showcase** session at the 2010 Convention will focus on preparing youth with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disabilities for postsecondary education and employ-

ment. Featured speakers will include **Drs. Robert Stodden, Paul Wehman, David Mank, and Debra Hart**. The DADD will also have another invited session, which will focus on the name change from DDD to DADD and the larger implications for the field of developmental disabilities. Featured speakers for this session include **Drs. Tom E. C. Smith, J. David Smith, and Brenda S. Myles**.

2010 DADD Meetings and Social Events • See You in NASHVILLE!



Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 20, 7:00–9:30 pm
DADD Presidential Suite



Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 8:30 am–5:00 pm
DADD Presidential Suite



Divisions' Diversity Chairs: Shared Agenda Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 7:30–8:30 am
DADD Presidential Suite



Critical Issues Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 8:30–9:30 am
DADD Presidential Suite



Subdivisions Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 12:00–1:00 pm
DADD Presidential Suite



Awards Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 1:00–1:30 pm
DADD Presidential Suite



Past Presidents' Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 1:30–2:30 pm
DADD Presidential Suite



Professional Development and Standards

Thursday, April 22, 2:30–3:30 pm
DADD Presidential Suite



Finance

Thursday, April 22, 3:30–4 pm
DADD Presidential Suite



General Business Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 5:00–7:00 pm
Location to be announced



President's Reception

Thursday, April 22, 7:30–10:00 pm
DADD Presidential Suite



Diversity Meeting

Friday, April 23, 8:00–9:00 am
DADD Presidential Suite



Membership Meeting

Friday, April 23, 9:00–10:00 am
DADD Presidential Suite



Conference Meeting

Friday, April 23, 10:00–11:00 am
DADD Presidential Suite



Publications Meeting

Friday, April 23, 11:00 am–12:00 pm
DADD Presidential Suite



Communications Meeting

Friday, April 24, 12:00–1:00 pm
DADD Presidential Suite



How to Publish in ETDD

Friday, April 24, 1:00–2:00 pm
DADD Presidential Suite



Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, April 24, 5:00–7:00 pm
DADD Presidential Suite

Students' Corner

Angi Stone-MacDonald
Student Governor



As many of you know from reading the Web site and the article in this newsletter, this division is in the process of changing its name to the Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD). So, if you are interested in autism, you are in the right place. Because of our name change, I am going to focus my article on autism.

By now, everyone is well into the school year. It is probably cold where many people are. When it gets colder, I like to take a break by curling up on the couch with a good book. This week I was reading a book about a boy with autism that I had assigned for one of my classes called *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. This fictional novel about a boy with autism chronicles a series of events in his neighborhood and teaches us about his interactions with his family and neighbors. An excellent nonfiction book about autism is *Let Me Hear Your Voice: A Family's Triumph Over Autism* by Catherine Maurice, the mother of a child with autism.

As students and future teachers, we need to work with children with autism and their families, but there is never enough time to get the experiences we want in our field placements or our student teaching assignments. One way to increase our knowledge is to read books written by people with autism and their families to learn their perspectives. I encourage each of you to find one or two books about people with autism and read them this winter when you want to take a break from studying. I have included a list of a few more books I can recommend:

- *Embracing the Wide Sky: A Tour Across the Horizons of the Mind* by Daniel Tammet (2009), New York: Free Press
- *Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism* by Temple Grandin (2006), New York: Knopf
- *Autism Heroes: Portraits of Families Meeting the Challenge* by Barbara Firestone (2007), Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers
- *Daniel Isn't Talking: A Novel* by Marti Leimbach [Fiction] (2006), New York: Nan A. Talese/Doubleday.

Don't forget the DADD International Conference January 20–22, 2010, in Maui, Hawaii. You can still plan to come, and it is a great way to learn and meet people (and enjoy the warm weather in the middle of winter!). A special student conference registration rate is available.

Executive Director's Corner

Tom E. C. Smith



Hard to believe, but another school year is already flying by. That means that we must be getting ready quickly for the division conference in Maui in January and the annual CEC conference in Nashville in April. Cindy Perras, our conference coordinator, has done a marvelous job of putting together a tremendous program for the Maui event. This conference has evolved over the past 20 years into one of the best available conferences with a focus on autism and developmental disabilities. The keynote speakers who will present represent some of the most influential professionals and self-advocates in the field. We hope all of you can attend and participate. For Nashville,

DDD (which will be DADD by then) will have its share of sessions focusing on autism and intellectual disabilities. As always, the annual CEC conference will bring many opportunities for professional growth. You will soon see our committee and presentation schedules, so you can plan on attending as many events as possible that focus on autism and intellectual disabilities. Again, we hope you attend and get involved with our division. If I can assist you in any way—organizing a subdivision, holding a state conference, or just answering questions about DDD/DADD—please don't hesitate to ask. You can reach me via email (tecsmith@uark.edu). I hope to see many of you in Maui and Nashville.

Membership and Unit Development Committee News



Debora Wichmanowski
Chairperson

As reported in our last newsletter, we are continuing to see a slight downward trend in the number of individual memberships during these rough economic times, as people make tough choices concerning their expendable income. However, although the number of individual members has declined, we are pleased to congratulate our **newest DDD subdivision—Idaho**—which began its charter this past October at the Idaho State CEC Conference. Way to go, Idaho!

A reminder to all of our members: Your membership includes the following benefits: subscriptions to *Education and*

Training in Development Disabilities (ETDD), *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, and this newsletter; position papers developed by DDD to address the critical issues in the field; and practitioner-oriented books and monographs on autism and developmental disabilities, including the *Prism Series*.

In addition, individuals who join CEC and DDD gain access to a variety of resources, including participation in conferences and conventions. We have a few other states that are in the organizing stage for a subdivision. We hope to welcome them soon to our division. If your state does not have a current subdivision and would like to start one, please contact me.

Finally, and most important, please remember that DDD membership is the most cost-effective way to boost your professional skills and become a better, more informed practitioner. Helping us grow our membership numbers is everyone's responsibility, and we need your help in sharing this information with potential new members.

Our conference this year is in beautiful Hawaii, on the island of Maui. We hope to see you there! Aloha!

JOIN A DDD Committee!

The following is a list of the **DDD Committees and Chairpersons for 2008–2009**. Contact any Committee Chairperson directly to obtain information and/or to **JOIN A COMMITTEE!**

Awards	Toni Merfeld (toni@metrowestkids.net)
Communications	Darlene Perner (dperner@bloomu.edu)
Conference	Emily Bouck (bouck@purdue.edu)
Coordination	Cindy Perras (cindy.perras@cogeco.ca)
Critical Issues	Bob Stodden (stodden@hawaii.edu) Nikki Murdick (murdickn@shu.edu)
Diversity	Rosa Lockwood (rosa.lockwood@earthlink.net) Charles Dukes (cdukes@fau.edu)
Finance	Gardner Umbarger (gumbarg@bgsu.edu)
Legislative (CAN)	Bob Stodden (stodden@hawaii.edu)
Membership/Unit Dev.	Debbie Wichmanowski (dwichman@pasco.k12.fl.us)
Nominations	Polly Parrish (Pparrish15@aol.com)
Professional Dev./Standards	Scott Sparks (sparks@oak.cats.ohiou.edu)
Publications	Jack Hourcade (jhourca@boisestate.edu)

Editor's Note . . .

Darlene Perner



On behalf of DDD, I would like to thank our contributor to the **Teachers' Corner: What Teachers Need to Know About Section 504**, **Tom E. C. Smith**. Thanks also go to **Bob Stodden** and **J. David Smith** for the *DDD Tributes to Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Senator Edward Kennedy*.

Please note that DDD is offering a number of new publications (DVDs and books). Please check our Web site (www.dddcec.org) for more information. If you have any questions, please contact me via email (dperner@bloomu.edu) or regular mail (Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Department of Exceptionality Programs, 400 E. 2nd St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815). Please notify CEC if you have a change of address.