

Burkhart Buzz



Gala Latina: A Huge Success

On October 8, 2009, the Caprock Foundation presented a check to the Burkhart Center in the amount of \$30,000, all of which was raised at last month's fundraising event.



"Gala Latina: Mi Cuba," an evening featuring the Cuban culture, was held at the Science Spectrum on September 26, 2009. Many local business representatives, members of the medical community, and other civic leaders were in attendance.

We want to thank everyone who participated, as well as the Caprock Foundation,



Left: Dean Ruch accepts a check from Caprock Foundation director, Juanema Christensen.

for showing such support to the Burkhart Center and to the awareness of autism. Your kindness is truly appreciated, and we were honored to be the recipients of this year's proceeds.

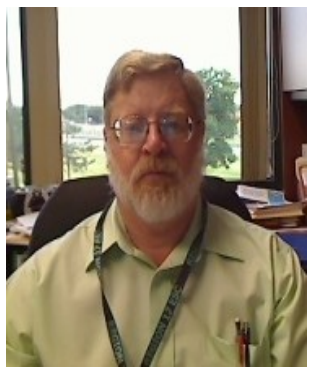
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Introducing: Dr. David C. Jenkins, Autism Consultant for Region 17



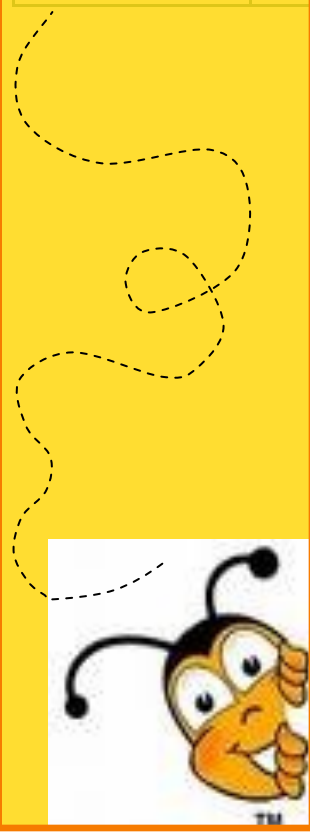
The Burkhart Center is working in collaboration with Region 17 Education Service Center and its autism consultant, Dr. David C. Jenkins, to provide training to area educators through our annual Teaching Academy.

Dr. Jenkins, a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology and Behavior Specialist, moved to Lubbock in 1980 where he completed his masters and doctoral degrees at Texas Tech University.

Since then, he has spent time as a psychologist and administrator for the Lubbock State School, worked as a school psychologist for the Plainview Independent School District, and completed seven years in private practice, contracting with school districts in the region to provide psychological services.

For the last six years, he has worked at the Education Service Center as an Autism Consultant for Region 17. He says, "Most of my 25+ years experience was with individuals on the autism spectrum."

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During his time at Region 17, he has had the opportunity to serve on the Statewide Autism Network with the other 19 Education Service Center Autism Consultants throughout Texas. This has allowed for access to an even broader range of experience and expertise in the area of autism, in addition to the training and services that Region 17 already provides.

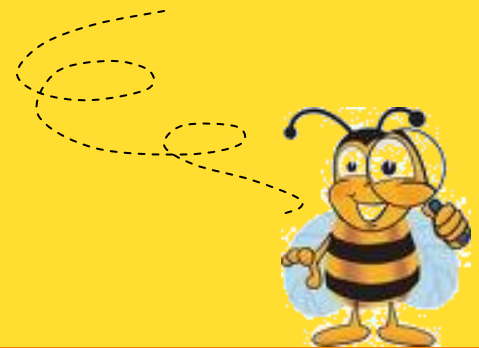
Dr. Jenkins also helps organize the biennial Autism Conference and says it serves as “another way to impact the knowledge and skill base level of those in our region.” The upcoming conference will be held on June 8 and 9, 2010 at the Civic Center. Registration will begin in January.

Staff from the Burkhart Center were asked to participate as members of the Region 17 Autism Planning and Advisory Team when it was created several years ago. The Teaching Academy is just another example where this partnership can be seen.

Dr. Jenkins’ personal experience, as well as the services already provided by Region 17 Education Service Center, can only further enhance the Teaching Academy and strengthen the collaborative efforts between the Burkhart Center and our community. Educators interested in attending the Teaching Academy can find more information at www.burkhartcenter.org or register online at www.esc17.net.

Upcoming Events

October 27, 2009	SPAN	6:30-8:00
November 6, 2009	Parents’ Night Out	6:00-9:00
November 12, 2009	Teaching Academy	12:00-3:00



Spotlight On: Dr. Amy T. Parker



Dr. Amy T. Parker is a Research Assistant Professor for the Virginia Murray Sowell Center for Research and Education in Sensory Impairments at Texas Tech University. She grew up in Henderson, Tennessee. Dr. Parker got an undergraduate degree in psychology and began working in adult rehabilitation and special education. In August 2009, she received her doctorate degree in special education from Texas Tech.

There are three people in particular who have helped fuel Dr. Parker’s passion for people with disabilities. Her older sister, Melody, was her first teacher and friend. Despite having visual and learning disabilities, Melody works at Pizza Hut, is a member of a local church, and has hosted Thanksgiving at her house. Joe is a man Dr. Parker met while working as an employment counselor and job coach. He has autism and other developmental disabilities. He puts together materials for workshops and training manuals in the print shop of a newspaper. More recently, Dr. Parker became the mother to her son James, who has Asperger’s. She says, “James teaches me everyday about how he sees the world differently and I am both grateful and challenged by his perceptions.” She feels thankful that she has had the opportunity to work with several adults who have disabilities and see them experience success.

On October 20, Dr. Parker took a team to the Helen Keller World Conference in Uganda for two weeks. You may follow their exciting adventure by visiting www.educ.ttu.edu/africablog/. In next month’s newsletter, we will have more details about their fascinating trip.

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