

Subject: College Autism Network - January 2023 Updates

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COLLEGE AUTISM NETWORK
ADVOCACY | RESEARCH | TRAINING

College Autism Network News and Notes

January 2023

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College Autism Summit Returns! Save the Date!

We're excited to let you know that the 2023 College Autism Summit will be held in Nashville at Vanderbilt University October 18-20. We'll have more information, including the Call for Programs, in the February newsletter. For now, just tune up that guitar and polish those boots and mark your calendar for your trip to Tennessee.



Other CAN News: Renew Your Membership!

CAN's memberships are annual and unlike some other groups, we don't automatically charge your credit card to get your renewal payment. Instead, we send you a note that tells you your membership will expire soon and hope that you will renew voluntarily. Your membership fee helps support our many services and resources that we happily provide to all professionals and self-advocates interested in supporting autistic college students. So please renew when you get that notice!



Upcoming Events: CANVAS Call, Program Directors' Call

The Spring 2023 CANVAS Series of Research Discussions kicks off on **Friday, January 20 at 1 pm ET** with Kayden Stockwell from the University of Virginia discussing his research, entitled "*I just had to figure out what I was doing and hope I was correct:*" *Autistic young adults navigate higher education.* Here's the link to the [agenda](#) to sign up and the [link to the Zoom](#).

Our Program Directors will have the opportunity to continue the discussion on social skills curriculum models on **Tuesday, January 17 at 4 pm ET**. We'll be hearing from *HEARTS* creators Emily Rothman and Susan White and *iSocial* creators Bob Etzel and John Bruno. *HEARTS* is a six-session online class supporting autistic adults who want to strengthen their friendships and dating relationships. It was designed collaboratively with autistic people. *iSocial* is an online cohorted "social competence intervention," with a new Professional Communication and Leadership Skills module appropriate for college students looking toward employment.

More info about this call, including the Zoom link, will come on the Program Directors' listserv. If you're not on this listserv but would like to be (and you are a

campus or independent program director or leader), please email [Lee](#) to be added.

Employment 3-Part Series to Launch in February

Mark your calendars for an exciting opportunity to explore the opportunities and challenges of neurodiversity and employment. CAN and UConn's Center for Neurodiversity Employment and Innovation are co-sponsoring a three-part series in February and March: *Understanding the Employment Landscape for Neurodivergent College Students: How it works, Who is doing it well, Why it matters.*

These will be a series of discussions among employers and college support professionals with the goal of increased understanding and strategies for improvement in both directions. Dates are February 22, March 8, and March 22, 1-2 pm ET. To register and receive the Zoom link, please visit the [CAN site](#). This event is free.

Dell Summer Program Seeks Interns

Neurodiversity@Dell is seeking candidates for 2023 Summer internships, open to both graduate and undergraduate students. There are a variety of positions available including software engineering, data science, marketing, finance, and supply chain management. Finalist candidates will be invited to participate in a project-based interview facilitated by our team at [Neurodiversity In The Workplace](#). Interested candidates can learn more and apply at <https://dell2.avature.net/fy24neurodiverseinternship?jobId=54563>. Applications will be open until early-February.

Autistic 22-year old turns obsession into internship

We loved [this story](#) about a perfect alignment of hyperfocus, passion and commerce, plus, it gave us the rare opportunity to insert a photo of a professional wrestling doll, a first for our newsletter. Sammy Ellenport is an autistic young man who loves (loves...LOVES) professional wrestling. His story should



inspire all of you who are working to find internships and job opportunities for yourselves or your students. It's worth sitting through the 30 seconds of Yahoo

commercials. And if you're wondering, that's "Triple H" in the image on the right. He also looks like the image below. Pretty good likeness, if you ask us.



MIT Researchers Discover More Women Excluded from Autism Studies

No surprise here, but it's nice to have validation from the big brains at MIT. **This article** was published in Autism Research and explores the ways that screening tests, particularly the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) weed out female participants. Research datasets typically have a ratio of men to women of 8:1, the result, no doubt, of the ADOS being designed based on subjects that were disproportionately male. (Editor's note: Didn't Carol Gilligan cover this same discrepancy in the 1980s?)

U of Montana Group Creates Student-Led Network for Peers

A student at the University of Montana (seen in this story wearing a t-shirt that should be available in every campus bookstore) has **launched, along with their roommate, a peer group** to "create an intentional autistic space for other autistic students." The student interviewed, Mebust, is impressive in their understanding of both the challenges faced by autistic students and the ways in which a university environment impacts their experience. Added bonus: the article mentions MOSSAIC, UM's autism resource program led by CAN member Jennifer Schoffer Closson. Yay Jennifer!

Oberlin Student Develops Passion for Sports (starting with Brutus Buckeye)



To wrap up this particularly inspiration-oriented issue of CAN's monthly newsletter, here's **one more story** of a student, this one told in a first-person essay. Kayla Kim is the sports editor for Oberlin's student newspaper, and her essay details her journey from being uninterested in athletics as a child to relishing this new campus role she has undertaken. We especially like her vivid writing: "Occasionally when I go to games to report or spectate, I can observe too much — the blaring noise of the buzzer, the squeaky shoes on the gym floor, the texture of the seat, the greasy smell of a dining hall burger, the color of someone's sweater, the glare of overhead fluorescent lights — and accidentally forget about the actual game. However, I think it gives me more vivid imagery to work with in my articles, and I'm proud of my ability to push outside my comfort zone."

*This newsletter is published monthly by the **College Autism Network**, an independent 501(c)3 organization supporting the success of autistic college students and the professionals who work with them. Want to share an article? Feature an upcoming event? Post a job opportunity in autism support services?*