

Subject: Autumnal News and Notes
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From: College Autism Network
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College Autism Network News and Notes

October 2024

FRIST CENTER DIRECTOR KEIVAN STASSUN NAMED MACARTHUR FELLOW



We're very excited to share the news that Dr. Keivan Stassun, Founding Director of the Frist Center for Autism

Newsletter Highlights

Frist Center Director
Keivan Stassun Named
MacArthur Fellow

Last Call for Summit
Registrations: October 10

Free Course on
Neurodiversity Now
Available

Next CANVAS Call: This
Friday! 1 pm ET

Group Work and
Neurodiversity

Tips for Better Sleep

Autistic Faculty Member
Weighs In



and Innovation and Stevenson Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Vanderbilt University, has been named a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. Commonly known as “MacArthur Genius” awards, a MacArthur Fellowship recognizes “extraordinarily talented and creative individuals.” Keivan has been an important supporter and benefactor of the College Autism Network, so while we think he’s pretty impressive doing the whole “rocket scientist” thing, we are thrilled to see him recognized for a career of outstanding contributions to the diversity and neurodiversity fields.

With the Frist Center, Keivan has used his platform as an accomplished scholar to build a center that is making a difference in the academic and professional lives of autistic individuals. Recognition of his work by the MacArthur Foundation shines a light on the important work being done by many practitioners and researchers around the world. CAN is always proud to be affiliated with the Frist Center, but this week we are especially excited to celebrate Keivan and all of the good work happening at the Frist Center, our professional home.

LAST CALL FOR THE SUMMIT



Registration for the upcoming [College Autism Summit](#) (October 13-16 in Columbus, OH) ends on October 10th. We look forward to seeing you soon!

FREE COURSE FOR EDUCATORS ON NEURODIVERSITY NOW AVAILABLE



If you are looking for an opportunity to educate your colleagues about neurodiversity, we highly recommend [this free course](#), designed by Sarah Silverman. It's an asynchronous short course designed to introduce educators (including faculty, staff, advisors, librarians, and others) to the history, politics, and key terms of neurodiversity and its relevance to higher education. Participants will explore the origins of neurodiversity in the Autistic advocacy movement, learn the histories and definitions of key terms such as “neurodiversity”, “neurodivergent”, and “neurotypical”, and explore the relevance of disability law and policy to neurodiversity. First-person perspectives from neurodivergent students and staff as well as classroom case studies provide real-world reference points and applications for this background. This course is ideal for educators who are looking to build their foundational knowledge of neurodiversity and set goals for working toward greater inclusion. The course consists of four asynchronous modules, which can be combined with an optional “kick-off” or “wrap-up” event to summarize learning and make connections to campus or program goals.

**UPCOMING CANVAS CALL ON FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 4**



Yes--*this Friday!* October 4 at 1pm EST

M. Ariel Cascio, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor, Center for Bioethics and Social Justice, Michigan State University) will present her research, “Dealing with scams in remote interview research: Finding fakers without adding barriers.”

Remote interviews are an accessible, inclusive research method for many people, including autistic people. However, it is possible for people who are not eligible for the research to “fake” them. In this presentation, I describe my experience with interviews I think were “fake”, the solutions I rejected because they would add barriers, and the solution I chose. I added screening questions asking where the participant lived and how they heard about the study. I wanted questions that were easy to answer, not too private, and could find out who is “really eligible” without gatekeeping who is “really autistic.”

Meeting Agenda: [Sign up to participate here](#)

Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5235660844?omn=87475499993>

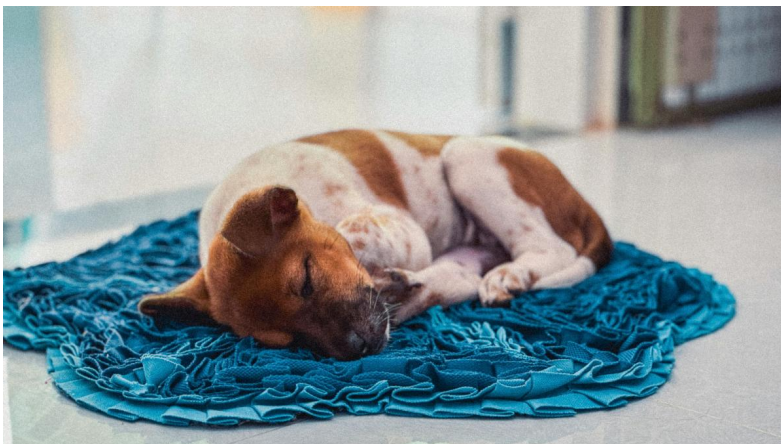
**INTERESTING ARTICLES FROM AROUND
THE INTERNET AND OTHER PLACES**

GROUP WORK AND NEURODIVERGENT STUDENTS



Sarah Silverman’s Substack, “Beyond the Scope,” has two recent posts that relate to neurodiversity and group work/class participation, which is a topic often discussed by our CAN members. Visit [here](#) for posts on “Group Work, Participation and Neurodiversity” and “Navigating Student Questions about UDL and Neurodiversity.”

SLEEPING, OR NOT: 40 TIPS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS TO OPTIMIZE THEIR SLEEP



This is an [interesting piece](#) about a topic our students (and maybe some of us) could always use more information about: good sleep habits.

PROFESSOR CHALLENGES CAMPUS CULTURE

AND EXPECTATIONS OF AUTISTIC FACULTY AND STUDENTS



Newsweek ran [this piece](#) by an autistic faculty member wrestling with his college's approach to supporting him. If you're looking for articles to share with faculty to help them better understand and related to their students, this is a good option.

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? Our monthly newsletter reaches over 2400 self-advocates and professionals. Send it [to Lee](#) and we'll share it.

Was someone nice enough to forward this newsletter to you? We're happy to add you to our mailing list to receive it directly. [Send us a note.](#)

If you appreciate our work, please consider [joining CAN](#) to receive additional information and discounts on some of our resources and to support our work. Individual and organizational memberships are available.

The [College Autism Network](#) is supported in large part by the [Frist Center for Autism and Innovation](#) at Vanderbilt University.

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