

# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama Autism Conference

Helping People with Autism Spectrum Disorder Navigate Their Social and Emotional Experience

February 26, 2016      Bryant Conference Center      Tuscaloosa, AL

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7:00 – 8:00 a.m.      *Registration and Continental Breakfast*

8:00 – 8:15 a.m.      Convene  
**Sarah O’Kelley, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, UAB Department of Psychology,  
Director, Autism Spectrum Disorders Clinic at UAB Civitan International Research  
Center – Sparks Clinics

8:15 – 9:30 a.m.      **It’s Never Too Late: Neuroplasticity, Social Development, and Mental Health in  
ASD Across the Lifespan**  
**Amy Vaughan Van Hecke, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology,  
Marquette University  
Assistant Adjunct Professor, Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Medical  
College of Wisconsin  
Director, Marquette Autism Clinic and PEERS Project

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.      *Break and Exhibits*

9:45 – 11:00 a.m.      **School Cultures That Support Students on the Autism Spectrum**  
**Cathy Pratt, Ph.D., BCBA-D**, Director, Indiana Resource Center for Autism,  
Indiana University Bloomington

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.      *Break and Exhibits*

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.      **Understanding and Managing Anxiety in Children with ASD**  
**Micah Mazurek, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Health Psychology, School of Health  
Professions, University of Missouri Health System

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.      *Lunch and CARES Award Presentation*

1:30 – 2:45 p.m.      Breakout Sessions:

**1. Interventions for Parenting Stress**

**Janet Shouse**, Disability Employment Specialist, Kessler Foundation’s Putting  
Faith to Work Grant, TennesseeWorks Partnership, Vanderbilt University

**Room: Sellers Auditorium**

**2. Changing the School Culture for Students with Autism: The Project Outreach Effect**

**Scott Parks**, Special Education Teacher, Spanish Fort High School

**Room: Birmingham-Central, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

*Break and Exhibits*

3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

**Panel of Adults with Autism**

**John Miller**, Facilitator

**Panelist: TBA**

4:30 p.m.

*Professional Approval Sign-in Sheets, CEU Certificates, and Adjournment*

**\*\*CEUs that were pre-ordered will be available at the Registration Desk after the conference. A red sticker will be on your nametag if you have pre-ordered one. Certificates of Attendance will be emailed after the conference.**