

Conference Information

Conference Location

Sheraton Hotel of West Des Moines
1800 50th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50265
Phone: 515-223-1800

Rooms have been reserved for the conference participants under the Autism Society Group Block. Rooms will be held until March 25, 2016.

Continuing Education Units

4.50 hours will be credited for Social Work and Speech Language Pathology

Conference Scholarships

There are family scholarships available for this conference, based on financial need. Please fill out the family scholarship form on our web site www.autismia.org and send it to autism50ia@aol.com or call the Autism society of Iowa at 1-515-327-9075.

ADA Accommodations

If ADA accommodations are needed for you to attend this conference, please contact ASI by March 1, 2016.

Friday Night Family Fun Night

Date: Friday, April 15
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Place: Courage League Sports at 4405 121st Street, Urbandale, IA 50323
Cost: Free

Courage League Sports invites you and your family to a fun-filled evening of activities geared towards those with Autism. Located in Urbandale, Courage League Sports is an adaptive sports and recreational facility for children and adults who have a cognitive, physical, emotional or social disorder. Since nearly 60% of Courage League's participants are on the spectrum, many of the programs are designed to fit their needs. Participants can try out virtual video gaming, sensory drumming and noodle ball to name a few of the activities that will be offered on April 15th.



Registration for Spring Symposium Conference and Family Fun Night

Fax: 515-457-7225
Phone: 515-327-9075 or 1-888-722-4799
Email: autism50ia@aol.com
Mail: P.O. Box 65311, West Des Moines, IA 50265

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email address for registration confirmation _____

Please select your lunch:

- Club croissant, salad, and chips
 Chicken strips and fries
 Gluten Free
 Vegetarian
 I will not eat lunch at the conference

Registration:

- _____ \$40.00 for ASI Members (\$50.00 after 4/12/16)
_____ \$50.00 for non-ASI Members (\$60.00 after 4/12/16)
_____ Free – Individual with Autism
_____ \$10.00 ASI Membership
_____ Free – Friday Evening Gym Night at Courage League Sports
_____ Number of people who will attend the Gym Night if you will be in attending

Check Payment: Please make check payable to ASI

Charge Card Payment:

MasterCard Visa American Express
Card # _____
Exp. Date ____/____/____
3-digit number on back _____
Name on Card _____

Purchase Order Payment:

Please mail or fax to the Autism Society of Iowa and an invoice will be sent.

Online Registration: www.autismia.org

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Autism Society of Iowa
4549 Waterford Drive
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

Autism Society of Iowa Spring Symposium



Saturday, April 16, 2016

**Sheraton Hotel
West Des Moines**

Keynote Speakers:

Jean-Paul Bovee

Julie Donnelly Ph.D.

Anthony Ianni

*Audience: Family Members,
Educators, Professionals,
Nurses, Residential Care
Providers, Persons with Autism*

Conference Agenda

8:30 – Registration

9:00 – Welcome and Announcements

9:15 – 10:15 – The Adventures of Jean-Paul
presented by Jean-Paul Bovee and Julie Donnelly, Ph.D.

Julie Donnelly, mother of Jean-Paul Bovee, shares her story of trying to find communication for Jean-Paul, who was non-verbal and had classic autism when he was young and Jean-Paul speaks about growing up with autism and his life currently.

10:15-10:30 – Break

10:30 – 11:45 – Advances in Transition Services
presented by Jean-Paul Bovee and Julie Donnelly, Ph.D.

Jean-Paul Bovee will speak on his struggle with finding and keeping work. Julie Donnelly, Ph.D. will speak on finding employment that uses particular interests and talents to keep the employee with autism motivated and share ideas on: Including transition services in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP); Developing soft skills and job specific skills; Support services for college and college programs; post high school college programs that prepare the student for life and employment.

11:45 – 12:45 – Lunch

12:45 – 2:00 – Autism and Anti- Bullying Strategies
presented by Anthony Ianni

“Bullying can affect everybody today. A stat most people don’t know is that 65-90% of kids with autism are the prime target for bullies. I was one of those victims when I was younger and it continued until I was a freshman in high school. After I heard this stat, I knew I had to take action!”
-Anthony Ianni

2:00 – 2:15 – Break

2:15 – 3:15 – Panel of Adults with Autism - “Our Experiences with Autism”
Michael Dierdorff, Anthony Ianni, Reyma McCoy McDeid

Conference Speakers

Jean-Paul Bovee

Jean-Paul Bovee is a 47 year old man on the autism spectrum. He was diagnosed first at age 3 and a half and again at age 5. When the “experts” diagnosed him, they said that he was not capable of doing anything with his life. Well, he has a Master of Arts degree in Medieval and Roman History from the University of Kansas and a Master of Arts Degree in Library and Informational Science from the University of Missouri. Currently, he works at Quest Diagnostics: ExamOne in Lenexa, Kansas. Jean-Paul has been married to his wife Debbie for 12 years and has two young children.

Julie Donnelly, Ph.D.

Julie A Donnelly, Ph.D. has retired from being Associate Director of the Missouri state educational autism agency, Project ACCESS, but still has a private consulting agency, Autism Support Services. She has helped to initiate an online Master’s Degree in Autism program for the University of Missouri-Columbia. Julie has taught and consulted in the public schools for over 30 years and publishes and presents nationally and internationally. She is the mother of Jean-Paul Bovee who has progressed from having classic autism to gain the skills to have a functional life.

Anthony Ianni

Anthony Ianni, of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, is one of the most sought-after motivational speakers in the region.

At the age of 4, Anthony was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), a disorder on the autism spectrum. Doctors told Anthony’s parents that he would barely graduate from high school, would never graduate from college, would never have a shot at being an athlete, and as an adult, he would likely live in a group institution. Anthony’s family was devastated but pledged they would help Anthony be successful, no matter what.

And he is. In spite of the bullies, the adversity and the many personal challenges, Anthony worked hard and never gave up. Not only did he earn his Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from Michigan State University, he is the first-known athlete with autism to play Division 1 college basketball. Anthony played for legendary coach Tom Izzo while at MSU. He won two Big Ten Championships, a Big Ten Tournament Title, was the recipient of both the 2011 Tim Bograkovs Walk On Award and the 2012 Unsung Player Award, and was a member of the 2010 Final Four team. He is also the recipient of the Epling Agent of Change Award.

Anthony has pledged his life and career to help those who face similar challenges. He has been invited to tell his story and share his message across the country and has inspired countless individuals to LYD - Live Your Dreams. Anthony is 26. He has only just begun.

Michael Dierdorff

Michael Dierdorff lives in Grundy Center with his wife Margo, who is an occupational therapist at Grundy County Memorial Hospital; and his two stepsons, Alex Eichholz, 17, who is a junior at Grundy Center High School, and Drew Eichholz,

15, who attends River Hills School in Cedar Falls. The boys’ paternal grandmother, Claudine Eichholz, also lives with the family.

Michael currently works at Adams Thermal Systems in Cedar Falls as an assembler/tester of cooling modules for John Deere agricultural equipment. He has also done some public speaking talking about various subjects related to autism. In addition, he has served on a couple of panels for conferences put on by the Autism Society of Iowa. He is actively looking for speaking engagements within the state of Iowa, with his main audiences that he wants to focus on being schools, businesses, and emergency personnel, although he is open and willing to speak to any group who is interested.

He is currently serving a three year term on the Board of Directors for the Autism Society of Iowa, and has been since 2014. He also serves on the ASD Safety and Risk initiative based in Iowa City. His outside interests include sports, and he is a fan of anything Hawkeyes and an avid St Louis Cardinals fan.

Reyma McCoy McDeid

Reyma McCoy McDeid is the Executive Director of Central Iowa Center for Independent Living and Founder of Autism Business and Lifestyle Enterprises.

She has carved out a unique career in employment services, executive coaching, nonprofit consulting, and education. In her most recent position, she oversaw the day-to-day operations for the largest community-based supported employment provider in the state of Iowa. She holds a Master’s degree in Nonprofit Administration with concentrations in Business and Human Services and is working towards an MA in Education.

Her vocation is supporting fellow individuals on the Autism spectrum to lead independent, fulfilling lives.