ASPEN’S ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE
Adulting on the Autism Spectrum

Keynote Presenter
Becca Lory Hector, CAS, BCCS
Autism Consultant, Advocate, Author and Speaker
Self-Defined Living for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum

Young Adult/Adult Panel Discussion
Stephen Bloshuk, Becca Lory Hector, Matt Kamis,
Jonathan Kratchman, Samantha Rosenthal & Dennis Taylor
In Our Own Voices

Afternoon Keynote
Anthony Pacilio
Vice President and Global Head, Autism at Work, JPMorgan Chase
Autism/Neurodiversity @Work: A Spectrum of Talent

Plus Afternoon Workshops!
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

BACK TO OLD LOCATION:
APA HOTEL WOODBRIDGE
120 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey
Adulting on the Autism Spectrum

ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Becca Lory Hector, CAS, BCCS

Self-Defined Living for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum

How do you define “success”? What does a “happy” life mean? Individuals on the autism spectrum often find that society, family, cultural norms, or even a boss define what makes life successful, acceptable, and even happy. In this session, we will learn what self-defined living means and some simple techniques that individuals on the autism spectrum can use to redefine their lives with the goal of achieving the best possible quality of life.

This session will include personal experiences while living a self-defined lifestyle versus a traditionally defined lifestyle as an individual on the autism spectrum. Techniques for living a self-defined life will be discussed and encompass areas of both daily and independent living that may present challenges as traditionally defined. Discussed will be the basics of mindfulness techniques for the purpose of redefining life goals, examples of restructuring activities of daily living, techniques for managing challenges, the benefits of compromise, and the importance of self-value.

YOUNG ADULT/ADULT PANEL DISCUSSION

Stephen Bloshuk, Becca Lory Hector, Matt Kamis, Jonathan Kratchman, Samantha Rosenthal & Dennis Taylor

In Our Own Words

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

Anthony Pacilio and Samantha Rosenthal

Autism/Neurodiversity@Work: A Spectrum of Talent

What is the national/international Autism@Work movement? Who is involved? Who is it suited for? What is the process? What does the initiative look like at JPMorgan Chase & Co.? Find out the answers plus what one job applicant’s experience with the application, interview and notification process was. Join us to hear from the experts! There will be Q&A at the end of the session.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

A) Building Job Skills Needed for the Future & Tapping Into Your Passion

presented by Dan Ruotolo

The presenter will share the traits and skills that have been shown to help those with ASD successfully maintain employment and rise and thrive in the workplace. He will give an interactive presentation with a case study on a company that has a unique approach to identifying, training, developing and employing people with ASD. Dan will discuss the skills needed for future jobs, after first identifying each individual’s unique strengths and tapping into their passions. The importance, value and benefits of technology in the workplace will also be discussed.
B) What About Driving?
presented by Allison Devor, Katie Hutzayluk and Brigitte Muehlbauer

Driving is an exciting yet scary time for parents and teens alike. When we think of driving, we think of independence and freedom to go places we need to go to, as well as places we enjoy going to. However, driving is not for everyone. During this presentation we will discuss how to determine if your loved one with ASD is ready to drive. We will go over concerns/red flag areas of cognition, vision, and perception for those who are not ready, as well as skills that are necessary to handle the task of driving. The process in which one is tested will be reviewed from start to finish, starting with the referral process, the pre-driver clinic evaluation, and the behind-the-wheel evaluation.

Who should determine whether one is ready to drive? You will leave with the understanding of what a Certified Rehab Specialist does to ensure that your child is getting the best evaluation and recommendation possible. We will share our experiences working with those on the spectrum and provide areas of therapeutic intervention. Case studies will also be reviewed as well as funding.

C) Succeeding in College: Making the Right Choices--Before You Go and Once You Are There!!!
presented by Pam Lubbers and finnigan madison

We will identify and explore resources to: help you prepare for college, find the right school, understand college expectations and resources, and position yourself for internships and employment during and after college. The session will be practical and experiential as we review online resources and hear the “lived experiences” of some college students and graduates with autism. Bring your laptops to maximize your experience!

D) Sexuality and the Spectrum:
Lessons on Sex, Dating, and Love, Autism Style
presented by Amy Gravino

Individuals on the autism spectrum are sexual beings, yet we are usually not taught the necessary skills to be successful in sexual and romantic relationships. This workshop illustrates the challenges faced in this area through the firsthand perspective of a woman on the spectrum. Myths and misconceptions surrounding autism and relationships will be addressed, along with tips for helping autistic people learn dating skills. Strategies will be provided for self-advocates, as well as for parents and professionals looking to open a dialogue about dating and sexuality with their children and clients.

E) Your Financial Life Path: A Walk Down Two Roads
presented by Nicholas Scheibner

In this session, Certified Financial Planner™ Nicholas J. Scheibner will speak about navigating the “Financial Life Plan” for children on the autism spectrum and their parents. From birth, to retirement, to end-of-life, what are the financial considerations we should know along the way? We’ll talk about DDD, DVRS, SSI and SSDI benefits, and review the resources available through New Jersey. During the session, we’ll review a real-life example of Social Security Disability benefits, and the effects of the Family Max, survivor benefits, and more. We’ll also look at the 529 Plan ABLE account, and review options for Trusteeship.
ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

AM KEYNOTE

BECCA LORY HECTOR, CAS, BCCS
was diagnosed on the autism spectrum as an adult, and has since become a dynamic autism advocate, consultant, speaker, and author. With a focus on living an active, positive life, her work includes autism/neurodiversity/inclusion consulting; public speaking engagements; a monthly blog, “Live Positively Autistic”; a weekly YouTube news show, “Neurodiversity Newstand;” and being an Assistant Editor/Feature Writer for Spectrum Women Magazine. Becca has published multiple articles about life on the autism spectrum with the goal of spreading acceptance, building understanding, and encouraging self-advocacy. She spent four years supporting the autism community in the non-profit sector in her work for grass-roots organizations that provide resources and services directly to individuals on the autism spectrum. Becca left non-profit to pursue dual certifications as a Certified Autism Specialist (CAS) and Cognitive Specialist (BCCS), and to establish her autism consulting business. An animal lover with a special affinity for cats, Becca spends most of her free time with her many animals, her husband Antonio Hector, and their Emotional Support Animal (ESA), Sir Walter Underfoot. Sir Walter Underfoot travels, does woofing engagements, and has his very own Instagram to help share with the world his life as an ESA to an autistic adult.

PANELISTS

Stephen Bloshuk
was born in Rockaway, New Jersey, and diagnosed with Asperger’s at the age of 13. Since that time, he works hard to master the various social skills and feels that his greatest challenge is making friends and fitting in. However, some of his greatest attributes are his ability to pick up information quickly, as well as his memory for facts and information. Despite challenges when aspects of social nuance still escape him, Stephen lives with a “never give up” mentality that he feels has served him well over the years.

He is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary College (Class of 2016) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. While in college, he realized that he could turn his lifelong love of books into a career and decided to become a librarian. To further pursue this goal, Stephen earned his Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree from Rutgers University in 2018. He currently works as an Academic Librarian for Eastern International College. Stephen is a member of the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) and the American Library Association (ALA). In addition to this, he also is a volunteer for the Literacy Volunteers of Morris County, and is a member of several local community service organizations in his town.

Matt Kamis
is a graduating Senior Film Major at Fairleigh Dickinson University, with an interest in making Jewish-Focused Films. Besides being active on campus with Greek Life, Film Clubs and Charity, Matt has also been a vocal advocate for student rights and has participated in university-sponsored events addressing the myths and realities of college life as an individual on the Autism Spectrum. In his free time, Matt engages in all things art and film, having worked on multiple feature films and interning at the Cannes Film Festival both in high school and college.

Jonathan Kratchman
is a 22-year-old graduate of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 3. Through very intensive therapies, he finally was able to talk when he was about 3½ years old. From there, he has come so far in his own personal development both as an individual and advocate for others. One hallmark of Jonathan’s advocacy included proposing and serving on a task force looking at transition services for adults with ASD.

Jonathan serves as an example to all in the self-advocate community. Currently, he works full time as an analyst with HealthCore Inc. In the future, he hopes to attend law school or a master’s program and pursue a career in public health and disability advocacy. In the meantime, he will continue to fight for people with autism and other disabilities as a self-advocate. Other honors Jonathan received in self-advocacy include the Organization for Autism Research’s Schwallie Family Scholarship and the Rutgers Chancellor's Leadership Award.

Samantha Rosenthal
is autistic and adhd and has generalized anxiety disorder. She is also an applied math major with minors in statistics, computer science, and economics. Upon graduation, she will be starting a job as a software engineer at JP Morgan Chase. In her free time, she enjoys reading, tutoring mathematics, running back and forth across empty rooms, and making balloon animals for anyone who will take one.
Dennis James Taylor is a 26-year-old digital organizer from northern New Jersey. His professional career began at Spectrum Works in Secaucus, New Jersey, a nonprofit organization that hires people on the autism spectrum. He has been a representative at their community events and fundraisers. Spectrum facilitated his current position with F&M Expressions, the graphics department of Green Distribution. He is presently shopping a publisher for a children’s book that he authored and illustrated, Bandit’s Legacy, the story of a young raptor trying to make his way in the world. Additionally, he is developing his own animated series, “The Taylor Cubs.” Dennis is also a consultant for a new animated PBS series, “Hero Elementary,” with input on its character, AJ Gadgets, a high-functioning Aspie. His interests include animation, animals, travel, music and museums. He is single and a graduate of Bergen Community College, with an associate degree in Applied Arts and Sciences.

PM KEYNOTE

Anthony Pacilio is Vice President and Global Head of Autism at Work for JPMorgan Chase. In this role, he manages recruiting efforts, as well as developing candidate pipelines and ensuring best practices for ongoing support. Anthony has been with JPMC 8 years, serving in a variety of technology roles in Consumer and Community Banking. Prior to joining JPMC, he held various positions in the finance and healthcare industry. Anthony’s previous companies include MBNA America, Bank of America and CIGNA.

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

Dan Ruotolo is the managing partner at the accounting firm of Ruotolo, Spewak & Co. and Founder/CEO of DIGIT, a digital accounting service and training company. With a combination of digital accounting technologies, artificial intelligence and as an employer of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, DIGIT is revolutionizing the industry and how owners do business.

Community advocacy is a fundamental part of Dan’s professional and personal lives. Dan founded and is the current Chairman of the Board of Student Working Professionals (SWP), a non-profit organization transforming the students of today into the stars of tomorrow who will ultimately evolve into the socially conscious leaders of the future. This real-world business job readiness program is designed for all youth, and in the past 25+ years, has provided more than 400 students with practical paid work experience while instilling the value and importance of a socially conscious commitment to giving back to the community.

Allison Devor holds a master’s degree in Occupational Therapy and has been in the field close to 20 years. A majority of Allison’s knowledge as a therapist came from working at John F. Kennedy Institute for Rehabilitation where she spent 10 years of her career working with traumatic brain injuries on the acute Brain Trauma Unit (BTU) and Extended Recovery Unit (ERU). Allison earned her Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialty Certification (CDRS) in 2005, making her one of just 7, at the time, in the State of New Jersey. She continues to work at JFK Medical Center with a variety of clients including those with high level Autism/Asperger Syndrome.

Katie Hutzayluk has a master’s degree in OT and has been an occupational therapist for more than a decade. She holds several certifications, including Certified Driver Rehab Specialist (CDRS), Association of Driver Rehab Specialists, and specializes in driver rehabilitation. She works in the outpatient department of Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in Flemington and is motivated by helping people work towards being their personal best so that they can enjoy their life to the fullest. She believes in the saying that “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

Brigitte A. Muehlbauer graduated from College Misericordia in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Science and a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. She started her career in school-based therapy, working with students aged 3-21 with a variety of diagnoses, including students with ASD. Brigitte came to Hackensack Meridian Health @JFK-JRI in 2004, and holds several certifications including driver rehabilitation (CDRS).

Pam Lubbers is the program manager for Spectrum Scholars, a comprehensive college-to-careers program for matriculated University of Delaware students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She has responsibility for both the daily operation of the program and building relationships at the university and community at-large that foster inclusion, support and appreciation of all students, neuro-diverse and otherwise. Daily operations involve leading the Spectrum Scholars team to provide comprehensive supports directly to autistic students and their peers. Her additional role is to work collaboratively to educate and cross-train faculty, staff, students, employers and community members to honor and effectively engage with autistic people.

Before coming to the University of Delaware, Pam ran a comprehensive, inclusive support program for matriculated autistic students at a major university for eight years. Prior to that, she used her teaching and administrative background to work with autistic and non-autistic students from middle school through adulthood. An educator and advocate, Pam is a certified teacher in Michigan, New York and New Jersey. She also holds certification in special education, supervision and curriculum design in New Jersey.
**finnigan madison** (ze/hir & he/him) is an autistic, jewish, gay & genderqueer trans man from newark, de. ze holds a BA in asian studies from university of delaware ('19), with a minor in religious studies. he is currently an ambassador and self-advocate working with spectrum scholars, a college-to-career program for autistic students at hir alma mater. his aspirations are to become a rabbi and a gestational parent. ze strongly dislikes capital letters.

**Amy Gravino, M.A.,** is Certified Autism Specialist and international speaker. As the founder and President of A.S.C.O.T Consulting, Amy offers autism consulting and college coaching services for individuals on the autism spectrum, mentoring services for young adults with autism, and professional presentations for conferences, autism events, schools and professional development workshops. Amy has given two TED talks, spoken twice at the United Nations for World Autism Awareness Day (2011 and 2018), and presented to numerous audiences on a variety of topics, including: autism and sexuality; issues faced by girls with ASD; growing up on the spectrum; bullying and bullying prevention; and transitioning individuals on the spectrum to higher education. Amy obtained her master’s degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Caldwell University in 2010, and currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Specialisterne USA, Yes She Can, Inc., and the Golden Door International Film Festival of Jersey City, and as co-facilitator of the Morris County adult support group chapter of ASPEN. Amy is now authoring *The Naughty Autie*, a memoir of her experiences with dating, relationships, and sexuality from the firsthand perspective of a woman on the autism spectrum.

**Nicholas Scheibner** is a wealth management advisor and Certified Financial Planner™ at Baron Financial Group in Fair Lawn, NJ. At Baron Financial Group, Nick works with Special Needs families and their loved ones to help develop their investment and estate plan while guiding them through their journey towards financial security. Nicholas has been quoted in *The New York Times*, CNBC.com and NJMoneyHelp.com.

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**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

Parents, grandparents, other family members and caregivers; individuals (age 14 and older) with Autism Spectrum Disorder; educational professionals; medical and health professionals; legal professionals.

Educators attending this full day conference will earn 6 Professional Development Hours.
• All registration fees are per person. Cash, check, money order, purchase order, or online via PayPal.
• Registration must be postmarked by 4/7/2020. Early registration is suggested due to limited seating.
• Additional copies of this form may be downloaded from our website at www.aspennj.org.
• If the number of registrants reaches capacity, registration will close earlier than the deadline.

Directions to APA Hotel Woodbridge
Visit their website at http://www.apahotelwoodbridge.com

Hotel Accommodations
For special ASPEN Conference rates at the APA Hotel Woodbridge, call (732) 494-6200 as soon as possible.

CUT AND RETURN THIS PORTION

REGISTRATION FORM:

SPRING CONFERENCE
Sunday, April 19, 2020
Early Registration Discount Deadline 3/31/2020

Please Print:
Name(s) _______________________________________
Address ________________________________________
________________________________________________
Phone (______)_________________________________
Email _________________________________________

Check One: Legal Professional __
          Parent ___ Medical/Health Professional ___
          Grandparent ___ Educational Professional ___
          Family Member ___ Young Adult with ASD ___

Please choose one afternoon workshop for each registrant (by indicating their initials).

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS (2:45-4:00PM)
___ A) Building Job Skills and Tapping Into Your Passion
___ B) What About Driving?
___ C) Succeeding in College: Making the Right Choices
___ D) Sexuality and the Spectrum: Lessons on Sex, Dating, and Love, Autism Style
___ E) Your Financial Life Path: A Walk Down Two Roads

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT: WWW.ASPENNJ.ORG

ASPEN Member? (as of date of conference)
Yes _____ Chapter ________________________
No _____ If you would like to join, please enclose a SEPARATE check for annual dues (Families: $35; Professionals: $55) payable to ASPEN, along with a check for the member conference registration fee.

Kindly mail your completed form with your check or money order made payable to ASPEN to:

ASPEN SPRING CONFERENCE 2020
9 Aspen Circle
Edison, NJ 08820

Please complete section below.

REGISTRATION FEES
(Includes conference materials, breakfast and lunch)

ALL FEES ARE PER PERSON • JOIN TODAY AND SAVE

Take Advantage of Our Early-Bird Discount Pricing!

______ MEMBER (PARENT or GRANDPARENT)
$115.00 ($145.00 after 3/31/2020)

______ MEMBER (PROFESSIONAL)
$185.00 ($215.00 after 3/31/2020)

______ MEMBER (YOUNG ADULT INDIVIDUAL WITH ASD)
$80.00 ($100.00 after 3/31/2020)

______ NON-MEMBER (PARENT or FAMILY MEMBER)
$155.00 ($185.00 after 3/31/2020)

______ NON-MEMBER (PROFESSIONAL)
$230.00 ($260.00 after 3/31/2020)

______ NON-MEMBER (YOUNG ADULT INDIVIDUAL WITH ASD)
$125.00 ($145.00 after 3/31/2020)
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:00 AM  REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST/ VISIT EXHIBITORS

9:00 AM  LORI SHERY, PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASPEN®— Opening Remarks

9:15 AM  BECCA LORY HECTOR, CAS, BCCS — Keynote Presentation – Self-Defined Living for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum

10:45 AM BREAK/VISIT EXHIBITORS

11:00 AM  PANEL DISCUSSION — Plenary Session— In Our Own Words

12:15 PM  BUFFET LUNCH/VISIT EXHIBITORS

1:30 PM  ANTHONY PACILIO — Afternoon Keynote—Autism/Neurodiversity@Work: A Spectrum of Talent

2:00 PM  BREAK/VISIT EXHIBITORS

2:45 PM  AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Conference concludes at 4:00pm.

General Questions or to Become a Conference Exhibitor or Sponsor

Conference exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities are available on a first come, first served basis. For more information or to request a vendor contract or sponsor form, please contact our office: (732) 321-0880 or aspenorg@aol.com.

ASPEN provides information, support and advocacy to individuals and families whose lives are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (formerly known as Asperger Syndrome, PDD-NOS, and High-Functioning Autism) and Nonverbal Learning Disabilities. Its numerous chapters meet monthly, alternating support meetings with scheduled speakers. Members receive an online newsletter; have access to a lending library of books and videos; are provided with online access to the ASPEN Resource Directory; and are entitled to free attendance at all monthly chapter meetings in addition to substantial discounts on conferences. A NJ Department of Education Professional Development Provider (#1619), ASPEN sponsors workshops and conferences featuring many of the most prominent names in the autism field. ASPEN is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

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