Our Mission

The mission of the UMass Lowell Center for Autism Research and Education is to educate our students and the public concerning issues of importance to the autism community. We conduct interdisciplinary research that is relevant to those with autism throughout the life-span, with a special focus on underserved populations. We also partner with local agencies that share our values of improving the lives of those with autism and their families.

Some of the CARE faculty.

From left to right, back: Joel Reynolds, John McKenna, Ashleigh Hillier, Richard Serna, Allyssa McCabe, Alice Frye, Matthew Coyle (graduate student assistant); Front: Eliza Bobek, Rocío Rosales, Gena Greher.
LOOKING BACK ON OUR FALL 2018
EXPERT SPEAKER SERIES

"Yes, Your SSI Kid CAN Work!"
Raymond Cebula III, Esq.

On August 1st, Raymond Cebula III, Program Director of ytiONLINE, spoke to adolescents with autism, their families, transition agencies, and others regarding social security. This was a very informative and well attended presentation.

"Tapping into a Rich Talent Pool: Employer Strategies for Reducing the Barriers to Employment for Candidates on the Autism Spectrum"
Maureen Crawford Hentz

On October 3rd, Maureen Crawford Hentz, Vice-President of A.W. Chesterton Company, spoke to employers, agencies working with autism, and adults with autism along with their families regarding the benefits the job market has by hiring individuals with autism and methods to ease both employers and potential employees with autism in the hiring process and work environment.

Upcoming Speakers: Spring 2019

CARE is proud to announce that Maureen Crawford Hentz will return in Spring to discuss employment seeking for individuals with autism. In addition, CARE welcomes Dr. Sarabeth Broder-Fingert on Thursday 7th March 3.30-5.00pm, who will discuss how to eliminate differences in care between children with autism and neurotypical children. Please see the CARE website for more information.
Dr. Joel Michael Reynolds is an assistant professor in the Philosophy Department at UMass Lowell. In addition to classes such as Ethical Issues in Technology and Bioethics & Genetic Research, next year Dr. Reynolds will teach the first Philosophy of Disability class in UMass Lowell’s history, which will become a staple in the university’s Disability Studies Minor.

While acquiring his Ph.D. in Philosophy at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, Dr. Reynolds ran the university’s Disabilities Studies Initiative, which encompassed multiple disciplines. This inspired Dr. Reynolds to join CARE upon joining UMass Lowell’s faculty, aspiring to share knowledge and enrich the community.

A large portion of Dr. Reynolds’s research is focused on the problem of ableism. He argues that abilities are fundamentally relational and context-dependent. In this sense, we should understand ability in terms of a spectrum. We should think in terms of what he calls transability: the ways in which our bodies are far more complex than the simple binary “ability and disability” suggests. We are all abled and disabled in intricate ways depending upon shifting and contingent contexts, perspectives, cultures, and histories. He hopes that a better understanding of transability and deeper knowledge about the meaning of ability and disability might help reduce ableism’s prevalence.

Furthermore, Dr. Reynolds is the Rice Family Fellow for Bioethics & Humanities at the Hastings Center. In addition to having spoken on TEDx Talks, he continues to illustrate his philosophical considerations in Ethics After Ableism: Disability, Pain, and the History of Morality and The Disability Bioethics Reader, among other projects. Dr. Reynolds looks forward to bringing new perspectives to CARE, enriching the greater community, and working alongside scholars of varying disciplines.

You can learn more about other CARE faculty members and their current projects at the link below.
https://www.uml.edu/Research/Autism/Research/Current-Projects.aspx
OTHER EVENTS & NEWS

The Center for Autism Research & Education (CARE) continues in its mission to connect with many of the organizations serving in Lowell and the surrounding areas, such as the Recreational Education Center. Additionally, there are many areas for potential collaboration between faculty in CARE and faculty at Queens University, a top university in Northern Ireland. This is an exciting opportunity for CARE to begin some international partnerships.

CARE has had the honor to present at multiple conferences and events this year. For example, Dr. Rocío Rosales presented on “Understanding and Dispelling Myths About Autism Spectrum Disorder” as part of Haverhill iHub’s Speaker Series. Dr. Rosales was later joined by Drs. Doreen Arcus and Ashleigh Hillier in presenting “Autism Spectrum Disorders: It’s a Family Affair” at the New England Psychological Association conference. Dr. Allyssa McCabe, in collaboration with Ashleigh Hillier, presented a symposium on improving narrative skills among those with ASD at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association conference in October.

CARE was proud to help promote “The Love of the Game,” a UMass Lowell student group who work to organize and conduct fun and engaging sporting events for individuals with developmental disabilities. The first basketball session occurred on November 4 and the first soccer session occurred on December 9. Those on our mailing list will receive information about other upcoming events.
The Network

The Network is a social networking group run by Ashleigh Hillier, Ph.D. for individuals on the autism spectrum, between 16 and 30 years old.

The group meets once a month either on campus or somewhere in the community. The goal is to provide opportunities to form lasting and rewarding connections and friendships.

There is also a group meeting for parents / guardians scheduled at the same times.

Autism Parent Support Group

The Autism Parent Support Group is coordinated by Rocio Rosales, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA in collaboration with NFI Family Resource Center in Lowell.

The group meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month at NFI. It has two components: a parent support group for caregivers of children with ASD (up to age 8), and a playgroup for the children. This portion is run by UMass Lowell students and focuses on encouraging the development of play, language, and social skills. For more information please contact the NFI Resource Center at 978-455-0701 or Dr. Rosales at 978-934-4305.
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Visit CARE's website for more information:
uml.edu/research/autism

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CONTACT US

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