

# The E.C. Voice

Volume 5, Issue #7

May 2009

## “Independence 101”



### Guilford County Partnership for Exceptional Children



#### Family Support Network Mom & Dad's Cookout

🕒 Saturday, May 30 6:30 PM  
Home of Brook & Jason Juneau  
RSVP ☎ (336) 334-5601 x217  
✉ brook.juneau@ncmail.net



#### An Evening with Dave Spicer

🕒 Saturday, May 30 6:30 PM  
Brooks Global Elementary School  
Dave Spicer is a writer and speaker and a person living on the spectrum. He is also a father of a child on the spectrum. Mr. Spicer has spoken for many years at the Autism Society of North Carolina Annual Conference. His insight is invaluable for Parents and teachers alike. He is a true inspiration for anyone who knows and loves a person on the spectrum.

#### Submissions for EC Voice

If you would like to submit information to the *EC Voice* please contact Teresa Dodson:

☎ (336) 996-3714  
✉ tdodson@rocketmail.com

All submissions are due by the 15th of the month before printing. The *EC Voice* is distributed during the school year.

#### Your EC Contacts

Erika Kuepferle – *EC Advocacy*  
☎ (336) 638-2107  
✉ angelsx2@triad.rr.com

Teresa Dodson – *EC Communications*  
☎ (336) 996-3714  
✉ tdodson@rocketmail.com

Carla Sutton - *EC Training*  
☎ (336) 676-4403  
✉ suttonc@bellsouth.net

Ask one of the 18 students in the Beyond Academics program what they like most about college life, and just like any recent high school graduate, the majority will shout resoundingly: “INDEPENDENCE!”

*Beyond Academics*, a division of Charles A. Hines and Son, Inc. provides university-based experiences for adults with intellectual disabilities. The Beyond Academics program, in collaboration with the University of North Carolina – Greensboro, has enrolled students ranging in age from 19 to 50, the majority of whom are in their twenties. Participants in this progressive transition program have concluded services offered by the public school system and have a documented diagnosis of a developmental or intellectual disability. Among other criterion, qualified candidates must be 18 years or older and perhaps most importantly, have a personal desire to gain the necessary skills for independent living.

Numerous classes are held on campus in integrated classes with UNC-Greensboro students through the Department of Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality Management, the Department of Specialized Education Services, as well as the Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships. Focus is placed on subjects such as: Self-Advocacy, Safe and Healthy Lifestyles, Community Connections, Meal Planning and Preparation, Household Preparation, Finance Management, and Career Planning and Experiences. Classes offer inclusive learning environments for students to sharpen independent living skills while socially connecting with their peers.

Individual tutoring is a valuable part of the program and allows for skill development at a pace tailored to the individual. In addition to typical classroom exercises, program participants join UNCG students in the evening and on weekends engaging in inclusive social events on campus and in the community. Beyond Academics students live in a student housing community on campus, with UNCG students as apartment mates.

Beyond Academics values the partnership with the NC Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services, NC Division of Medical Assistance and the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities. These agencies provide technical expertise and other resources to operate and study this program concept and its viability for future replication.

The greatest testament to the effectiveness



of any service or support is reflected through the impression of the person served and the impact on his/her quality of life. Through his participation in the Beyond Academics program, one student has connected with the UNCG Men's Basketball team and serves as an assistant manager. His involvement with the team has not only benefitted him personally, but has opened doors for educating his college peers about people with disabilities. When asked about his relationship with the team, he says “players treat me like a friend, and not any different.” Now, that's what we call a “WIN” for everyone!

For more information about Beyond Academics, contact Eric Marshburn in our Admissions Office:

☎ (336) 288-8125  
✉ eric@beyondacademics.org or visit:  
🌐 www.beyondacademics.org

#### Find Your School's EC Advocate

You can locate your school's EC advocate by downloading the following Adobe PDF document:

📄 [guilfordcountyppta.org/uploads/\\_PTA\\_Advocate\\_List\\_1-30-08.pdf](http://guilfordcountyppta.org/uploads/_PTA_Advocate_List_1-30-08.pdf)

👉 See reverse side for UPCOMING EVENTS and more!

# upcoming events

## Family Support Network of Central Carolina

### Moms & DADS Support Group BBQ

In May, instead of our regular meetings, we'll be getting BOTH groups together for an end-of-the-year celebration! Reserve your baby-sitters today, and join us for this very special event.

Saturday, May 30th, 6:30—8:00 PM

Home of Brooke & Jason Juneau

702 Leawood Drive, Greensboro

We will be grilling up the main course. Please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share.

RSVP: ☎ (336) 334-5601 x217

✉ brook.juneau@ncmail.net

Moms' Group and Dads' Group are an informal support groups for parents with children of any age, with any type of special needs. For more information on these programs & the many other services of the Family Support Network of Central Carolina, call at ☎ (336) 832-6507 or visit: [www.fsnc.org](http://www.fsnc.org)

### Dream Camp BBQ & Silent Auction

Come kick off your Memorial Day weekend with us and be a part of a great event raising awareness and funds for *Dream Camp*, a UNC-G summer day camp program for children ages 6-16 with Aspergers Disorder.

The High Point Elk's Club has kindly donated the use of the space. An awesome band *The Last Resort* will play from 8:00 – 11:00 PM and we'll enjoy some great food! A Silent Auction will start the evening featuring great items as well. Learn more about Dream Camp by visiting [www.uncg.edu/psy/clinic.htm](http://www.uncg.edu/psy/clinic.htm)

Contact Kellie Whelan ☎ 209-0280; ✉ [jwhelan01@triad.rr.com](mailto:jwhelan01@triad.rr.com)

## Sign Language is Beautiful!

- ◆ I've always wanted to learn!
- ◆ I want to teach my baby to sign!
- ◆ It would be great to communicate with my co-worker/neighbor who signs!

**Level 1** requires NO prior experience with signing. Class will focus on finger spelling, numbers, basic sign vocabulary for simple communication, and Deaf culture.

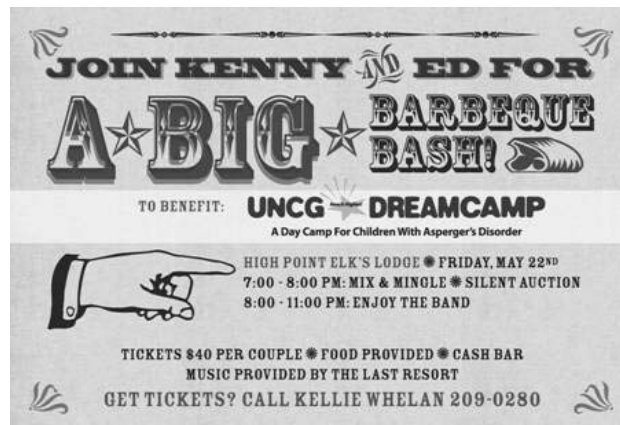
**Level 2** students should have proficiency in fingerspelling and beginning sign vocabulary. Expect to begin interacting with one another without the use of their voices during some activities.

**Level 3** students should have proficiency in fingerspelling and wide variety of sign vocabulary. Will concentrate on correct production of signs and increase receptive skills. Students will interact with one another without the use of their voices and interact with members of the Deaf community.

Classes available on Mondays: June 8th – July 27th, 2009  
and on Thursdays: June 11th – July 30th, 2009

Registration Cost	Early Bird	Regular	Late
	\$50	\$60	\$80
<b>Due IN OFFICE</b> (postmarks do not count)	May 29	June 3	June 8

Classes are for persons 17 years or older. (Those between 12-16 years old must be accompanied by an adult.) No on-site registration. These classes are not direct training for sign language interpreters.




## Schools and Businesses Work to Prepare Students for Tomorrow

Approximately 340 high school students in Guilford County are preparing for their future by following the Occupational Course of Study diploma tract. The OCS curriculum prepares students to be competent, dependable employees as well as independent, responsible adults. This program is offered to certain students in the Exceptional Children's program who are best served by a course of study that includes functional academics and hands-on vocational training. In addition to the academic requirements,

OCS students must complete a total of 900 hours of in-school training, community-based training (CBT) and competitive paid work to receive a diploma.

As students work on their community-based training hours, they are learning valuable skills that prepare them for the work force. When they begin their 360 competitive paid employment hours, they bring this knowledge to their new work setting. Not only do OCS students make great employees but businesses may be eligible for a tax credit for hiring students who are in the Occupational Course of Study. Some of the businesses

that are partnering with the Guilford County School's OCS program through community-based training and/or competitive paid work opportunities are: Big Lots, Brighton Gardens, Chocolate Pops, Cici's Pizza, Forest Oaks Animal Clinic, Golden Corral, Harris Teeter, High Point Country Club, Jamestown United Methodist Church, J & S Cafeteria, McDonald's, Salvation Army, Subway, TJ Maxx, and Tuesday Morning. Guilford County Schools is seeking to expand our business partnerships. Contact Karen Abourjilie, EC Program Administrator for OCS ☎ (336) 370-8260 for more information.