



### *Annual Conference*

Mark your calendar for the 2013 NCPEID Annual Conference – Thurs., July 11th through Sat., July 13th!

2013 NCPEID Annual Conference details:

- When: July 11-13, 2013
- Where: Crowne Plaza, Herndon, VA, just outside our nation's capital in the planned community of Reston, Virginia.

Situated near the Dulles International Airport (Washington, DC), conference attendees can enjoy the amenities of the Crowne Plaza Hotel as well as complimentary shuttle service back and forth between the hotel and airport. Join us for this wonderful national conference as well as the surrounding Washington, DC! Conference highlights include:

- Thursday, July 11th, will include the Conference Opening and Poster Session in the evening.
- Friday, July 12th, will include multiple sessions across the day including invited speakers, research presentations, practical/programming sessions and the NCPEID business meeting.
- Saturday, July 13th, will include multiple sessions across the day including invited speakers, Emerging Scholars Symposium, practical/programming sessions as well as the conference closing session.
- Sessions across all three days include nationally-known, invited guest speakers sharing their expertise on topics related to physical education and physical activity advocacy for individuals with disabilities. Conference sessions will also include poster presentations, free communication sessions and an Emerging Scholars Symposium.

*For additional conference information, please contact NCPEID Vice President, Dr. Suzanna Dillon at [sdillon@wayne.edu](mailto:sdillon@wayne.edu) or 313-577-9847.*

*Submit a Proposal for the 2013 NCPEID Annual Conference - <http://tinyurl.com/NCPEIDProposal>*

*Reserve a Hotel Room at the Crowne Plaza - Room rate is \$91 plus tax, per night, for both single and double occupancy rooms. This rate includes complimentary breakfast buffet and complimentary wireless Internet access. The cut-off date is June 26, 2013 for these great rates! By Phone: Call 703-471-6700 to make reservations online at <http://www.tinyurl.com/NCPEIDhotel>*

*Call for 2013 Award Nominations*

*The NCPEID Awards Committee requests nominations from the membership for the following awards:*

1. *The Hollis Fait Scholarly Contribution*
2. *The William A Hillman Distinguished Service*
3. *The Congressional Award*
4. *The G. Lawrence Rarick Research*

*Criteria and nomination procedures can be found at <http://www.ncperid.org/awards.htm>*

*All nomination materials must be submitted via email to [kstanton@iupui.edu](mailto:kstanton@iupui.edu), by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.*

### ***Congress Rewrites IDEA Funding Rule***

***By Michelle Diament (Disability Scoop)***

*A small change tucked inside a recent government spending bill may have big implications for special education. Lawmakers included language clarifying the penalties that states may face if they fail to adequately fund education programs for students with disabilities. The issue has become significant in recent years as states struggled financially in the recession and some sought to cut education spending. Under federal law, special education funding must be maintained or increased from one year to the next. If states fail to meet what's known as "maintenance of effort" without obtaining a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education, they can lose out on future federal dollars.*

*At least two states - South Carolina and Kansas - got into trouble in recent years for slashing their special education budgets without federal approval. As a result, they faced permanent reductions in their allocations from the Department of Education. Now, Congress has clarified that any penalties assessed for failing to meet maintenance of effort should only apply for the year or years that the requirement is not met. Moreover, any funds that are taken away from states for being out of compliance will not automatically return to the federal coffers, but instead can be redistributed to other states that follow the rules as bonus special education dollars. "Without this language, these funds for special education and related services would lapse and be unavailable for the children with disabilities they are intended to serve," said Michael Yudin, acting assistant secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the Department of Education, in a statement.*

*The change, which was proposed by the Obama administration, had broad support on Capitol Hill, congressional staffers say. The move is also winning props from state leaders. Mick Zais, South Carolina's superintendent of education, had been among the most vocal in pressing for a policy change after his state faced over \$36 million in what he called an "absurd perpetual penalty." "This is a victory for students with disabilities in South Carolina and across the nation," Zais said of the congressional action.*

### **Vanderbilt Tops Special Education Ranking**

**By Michelle Diament (Disability Scoop)**

A handful of universities retained the top slots this year in U.S. News & World Report's annual ranking of the nation's best training programs for special educators. Vanderbilt University claimed the number one spot on the publication's list of special education graduate programs, which was released this month. The University of Kansas, which tied with Vanderbilt for top billing last year, came in second. Other leading programs can be found at the University of Oregon, the University of Texas–Austin, the University of Virginia and the University of Florida, according to the ranking. The list of special education programs comes alongside similar rankings for other disciplines including law, business and engineering, featured in U.S. News' Best Graduate Schools 2014.

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### **Autism Rate Soars to 1/50**

**by Shaun Heasley (Disability Scoop)**

In less than a year's time, the federal government is again revising the prevalence of autism upward, saying the developmental disorder now affects 1 in 50 children. The latest estimate released Wednesday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention comes from a national telephone survey of nearly 100,000 parents conducted in 2011 and 2012. Parents were asked a number of health questions about their kids including whether they had ever been told by a doctor that their child had an autism spectrum disorder. The results suggest that autism is occurring in 2 percent of school-age children. That's substantially higher than prevalence numbers the CDC released just last March which put the rate of autism at 1 in 88 American children. That previous estimate relied on a study of health and education records collected on 8-year-olds. The current research included kids ages 6 to 17, but is considered by some to be less reliable since it is based on parent-reported information. Federal officials say the increase is largely due to better diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders. The jump in prevalence was most pronounced among older kids with milder forms of the condition. Consistent with previous findings, the survey found that boys were four times more likely than girls to have autism.

### Special Olympian Inducted into North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame

Stories of his incredible achievements could easily fill a book and yet many in his hometown may not know the story of one of Greensboro's most remarkable athletes. Marty Sheets grew up in Greensboro and graduated from Smith High School in 1972. A long-time employee of Hecht's Department Store (later Macy's), this man has met hundreds of celebrities, and has spoken with professional athletes, dignitaries, and even the President of the United States, during his long athletic career.

Marty Sheets' rise to fame began in 1968 when he and four other athletes were selected to represent North Carolina and the USA in the first International Special Olympic competition, held at Soldier's Field in Chicago. Unfortunately he became ill after arriving in Chicago and wasn't able to compete in his freestyle swimming event. He recovered to attend the post-event athlete banquet where he was personally awarded a Special Olympics Gold Medal by the group's founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver. That was the beginning of a long association with Special Olympics and a lasting friendship with Mrs. Shriver and the Shriver family.

Two years later he was selected to return to Chicago for the second International Special Olympic World Games and this time swam his events - returning with a first place blue ribbon in the 50 freestyle and a second place red ribbon in the 25 freestyle. When the Special Olympics introduced its winter competition in 1977, Sheets traveled to Steamboat Springs Colorado where he competed in skiing. After training for several months in Boone, North Carolina, Marty Sheets won bronze medals in flat track slalom and downhill slalom. He also had the opportunity to meet and ski with Olympic gold medalist, Billy Kidd.

In 1987 the Summer International Olympic Games were held at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Sheets was chosen to join singer John Denver in leading the USA delegation into the stadium for opening ceremonies. He also met Olympic gymnasts Bart Conner and Mary Lou Retton, race driver Cale Yarborough and several other celebrities during the event. Sheets competed in tennis skills and won the gold medal. His biggest thrill, however, was meeting and playing tennis with the great Arthur Ashe. Four years later, Marty Sheets was back on the road, this time as a weightlifter, competing in the Special Olympic Games in Minneapolis. While there, he lifted weights with former heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield and met several sports personalities, including NFL Hall of Famer, Lynn Swann. Sheets earned bronze medals in the weightlifting competition but also attended the first golf clinic ever held for Special Olympic athletes. That clinic introduced Sheets to a sport that would be a big part of his life for many years to come.

In 1993 Sheets was invited to play in golf tournament in Connecticut as part of a Special Olympic World Games fund raiser. He played on the same course that hosts the PGA's Hartford Open. He toured the state capital while there and even met Governor Lowell Wicker. His interest in golf eventually earned him a position as the Athlete Representative on the International Special Olympics Golf Committee. In that capacity, Sheets was often invited to speak about his Special Olympic experiences at clinics, to demonstrate golf shots and to present awards on behalf of the committee.

Marty Sheets has had an incredible athletic career. Over the years he has competed in local, state, national and international competitions and has collected over 250 medals in various sports. More recently, in 2009, Sheets was playing golf with his father at Oak Hollow Golf Course and couldn't find the ball on the green after his tee shot. They finally looked in the cup and there it was - Marty Sheets had made a hole-in-one!

But his athletic accomplishments are only part of Marty Sheets' remarkable story. Sheets has traveled all over the country attending events, recruiting volunteers, and representing the Special Olympic cause. He has donated not only his time but his own money to help give back to the community. His example and service to the community have been an inspiration to many. He has received several service awards including The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award presented to him by Governor James Hunt in 2000 and the Distinguished Citizen Award from the NC Employment Network of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. His long service to the Wyndham Championship was rewarded when he won the national Volunteer of the Year Award from the PGA Tour in 2006.

A recent inductee into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, Marty Sheets has lived his life in the spirit of the Special Olympics oath: Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt. Today, a portrait of the late Eunice Kennedy Shriver hangs in the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C. Five athletes were selected to be included in the portrait. One of those five is Marty Sheets - a true Sports Legend!



(Picture of Mrs. Shriver hanging in Smithsonian – Mrs. Shriver is looking at Marty Sheets)

### APENS Update

The mission of APENS is to promote the fifteen Adapted Physical Education National Standards (APENS) and national certification exam. The goal of APENS is to ensure that there is a nationally Certified Adapted Physical Educator (CAPE) within every school district in the country who can make meaningful decisions for children with disabilities in physical education. Come join the ranks of professionals who are dedicated to improving the quality of Physical Education for children with disabilities!

APENS Update! Several national surveys (on going) and both research and practical presentations using APENS related data and content were delivered in 2012. If you are interested in presenting materials on APENS in your state, please do not hesitate to contact the APENS office if you would like boiler plate information or up to date CAPE data.

For more information on how to become nationally certified visit our web site at [www.APENS.org](http://www.APENS.org) or contact: **Timothy D. Davis, Ph.D., CAPE, APENS Chair** [APENS@cortland.edu](mailto:APENS@cortland.edu), 607-753-4969

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TWU Project INVEST** – Texas Woman’s University received a grant from the US Olympic Opportunity Fund, in coordination with the Veterans Administration to start Project INVEST. INVEST stands for Injured Veterans Entering Sports Training and is designed to be an entry level opportunity for veterans who are injured, ill, or wounded to engage in sport/recreational activities in their communities. INVEST is run on campus and will also be conducted off site at selected military bases, forts, or posts. We are providing several Paralympic and non-Paralympic sports such as; goalball, sitting volleyball, rock climbing, water exercise and of course wheelchair basketball. We have launched the wheelchair basketball program in collaboration with the TWU intramurals program which was a first of its kind. Students without disabilities will be included on teams with veterans and play in a 6 team league that will culminate with a Championship game. Graduate students from the Disability Sport class serve as League Directors, Marketing, Coaches, Referee trainers, and Logistics personnel to facilitate the league through a modified Sport Education Curriculum model. Our next campus event will be a sitting volleyball clinic and brief competition.

As many of us begin to address the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) guidance document regarding non-discrimination concerning students with disabilities in extracurricular athletes, we believe that our collaborative approach with campus intramurals is a great start. It is our hope we will attract local students in our community to participate and expand this opportunity to local school districts. Anyone interested in learning more about Project INVEST or our intramural program please contact Michelle Enos, Doctoral Student and Grant Coordinator at [menos@twu.edu](mailto:menos@twu.edu).

#### NCPEID

Martin E. Block, Ph.D., CAPE  
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Newsletter Editors

**The Mission of the National Consortium for Physical Education and Individuals with Disabilities is to promote research, professional preparation, service delivery, and advocacy of Physical Education and Recreation for individuals with disabilities.**