



School of Continuing Education
Marketing

NEWS

Issued by Terry Gillick
414-227-3147 or tgillick@uwm.edu

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UWM Uses Autism Awareness Month to
Announce August 11-12 Conference

MILWAUKEE – Autism Awareness Month is a time for learning more about a baffling and growing issue. Approximately 1.5 million people currently are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. The number is expected to grow in the next decade to around 4 million.

Among those numbers are the many, many young people growing and developing through adolescence and into adulthood. This transition carries familiar trials for anyone. It presents extraordinary challenges, however, for people within the autism spectrum and their families.

In August, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee hosts a two-day conference, “Autism Journeys: Today, Tomorrow and Beyond.” The August 11-12 program is primarily for professionals and practitioners working in the field of autism, but also offers families and caregivers access to a generous source of valuable information and ideas.

Chicagoan Dr. David Royko presents the opening session, called “When Autism Joins the Family.” He has written about autism extensively, leads seminars, has an informative website and has appeared on NPR’s “This American Life.” At the conference, Royko delivers a look at his family’s journey, and shares insights and experiences underscoring contrasts between typical and autistic family life.

With a broad variety of session topics, the conference explores themes prevalent in each “journey.” These include education, recreation, socialization, employment, financial security, living arrangements and more.

The other conference keynote is presented by Marilyn and Joseph Henn. The Hennis are nationally known for their video documentary that spans 30 years as their daughter, who has significant autism, progressed from school to work and finally to full time employment for over 10 years. She was named the Autism Society of America 2003 Outstanding Individual with Autism. The Hennis detail how family agencies and funding sources collaborated to provide their daughter with individualized housing, transportation, job development, recreation, and ongoing behavioral supports using best practices.

“Autism Journeys: Today, Tomorrow and Beyond,” presented by the UWM School of Continuing Education, is being held at the UWM Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. The conference is made possible with support from the UWM Department of Psychology; the Wisconsin Early Autism Project, Inc.; Milwaukee Public Schools Department of Special Services; WI FACETS; Next Level Planning and Wealth Management; and the Oconomowoc Developmental Training Center.

For more information, visit sce-autism.uwm.edu. For additional details and special needs requests, contact Mary Pick via email at mpick@uwm.edu or call 414-227-3312.

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