Matt Jahnke works with UW Engineering students to develop adaptive equipment for people with disabilities. Introduction to Engineering 160 and Bio Medical Engineering at UW Madison. Matt Jahnke is the program director of adult human services at United Cerebral Palsy. Matt said his father was an electrical engineer and has always enjoyed hands on building.

The first project the students made were stair railings for a person with cerebral palsy. It is important for the person who requested help to be interactive with UW students, to give input into the project as it develops. Other projects the students made were a shower chair, ramps, a one handed cutting board, a gait trainer, and a kitchen table. The table can be raised or lowered for a wheel chair, it also has a hole in the middle made for a mixing bowl.

The students like to make projects that make a difference in peoples’ lives. The connection with the UW is dependent on coming with new ideas. It’s a good resource for the community.

To submit your request go to: http://www.engr.wisc.edu/interegr/160/
In 2012 the DD system held a series of listening and planning sessions with the aim of crafting a new narrative. The summary document that emerged acknowledged the limitations of our financial resources as well as the untapped opportunities for meaningful contribution and social connection existing within Dane County. It challenged us to develop new, stronger partnerships with individuals and organizations outside the developmental disabilities service system. United Cerebral Palsy’s collaboration with the UW engineering students is one example of the new narrative in action.

In October a young man and his broker took me on a walking tour of Stoughton, introducing me to the Director of Parks and Recreation, the head of the Chamber of Commerce, local business owners and the mayor. Stories abounded of the contribution people with disabilities make in Stoughton’s civic life. Whether serving as an ambassador to visiting dignitaries from Stoughton’s sister city in Norway, setting up tables for the Chamber’s annual job fair, serving homemade snacks at the summer outdoor concert series, leading classes for Parks and Recreation or helping build Syttende Mai floats, people with disabilities are making a difference in Stoughton. As you will read in this issue, families in McFarland are working to strengthen community connections in their town. Through Partners in Business, employers are actively supporting individuals with disabilities to work in their businesses. At the annual Self-Directed Services conference people from across the state gathered at the Kalahari to tell stories of their rich, full lives and the partnerships that make that possible.

I was recently at a training where a video clip from a TED talk (http://www.ted.com/talks/alejandro_aravena_my_architectural_philosophy_brin..._the_proccess) was shown. The first six minutes discussed the design challenge of providing affordable housing in Chilean cities when faced with the need to accommodate a large number of people in a short period of time with a scarcity of funding. The local government and citizens faced this challenge through innovation and community engagement. They worked together, combining resources to build good houses that met people’s needs. Alone the local government would have build a house half as good. This video and lecture served as a powerful metaphor for our work in Dane County. While we are fortunate to live in a place with many quality services, people’s lives are richer when they have strong family ties, good jobs, friends and neighbors who care.

As the New Year approaches I challenge everyone to nurture new partnerships and strengthen existing collaborations. Our system and community are stronger for the effort.

**Upcoming 2015: Waisman Center Day with the Experts**

The Waisman Center presents community “Day with the Experts” educational events. The series features presentations by Waisman Center researchers and clinicians, as well as a panel discussion with individuals and family members who share their experiences and expertise.

The Waisman Center collaborates with several community and campus partners to host and promote these event including the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin, the Madison Area Down Syndrome Society, and the Department of Surgery, Division of Otolaryngology.

All Waisman Center Day with the Experts events are free and everyone is welcome to attend. Advance registration is encouraged as space is limited.

Autism: January 24, 2015  
Down Syndrome: March 21, 2015  
Cochlear Implants: May 30, 2015

Register or view the Webcast online: [http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/events-experts.htm](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/events-experts.htm)
Dora’s Pet Corner: Bruno’s Tiger Show
By Dora Norland

One of my favorite comedy movies (and maybe one of the best comedy movies of all time) is *It’s A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*, from 1963 (back when American men wore hats). This movie is over two hours long and stars almost every American comedian then living (so many it would take one or two pages just to list them all). The main characters are eight ordinary people (Edie Adams, Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, Buddy Hackett, Ethel Merman, Dorothy Provine, Mickey Rooney, and Jonathan Winters) who go chasing after a buried fortune left by a dying man (Jimmy Durante) and get into all kinds of wacky situations along the way. Meanwhile, a small-town police officer (Spencer Tracy) tries to keep up with the eight's progress (and lack thereof) while dealing with his unenviable family and a less-than-decent pension. Along the way, two of the eight charter a rickety old biplane while two more fast-talk a hungover Jim Backus into flying them in his plane (big mistake), three more (Berle, Merman, and Provine) get a ride from a British cactus-collector (Terry-Thomas), and the last (Winters) is mistaken for a madman and ends up destroying a roadside garage. There's also a locked basement, two cabbies, a sneaky salesman, a mama's-boy lifeguard, and $350,000 that gets scattered all over town. In the climax, fourteen people (including Tracy's less-than-honest cop) chase each other all over town to get the money--and wind up in the hospital. If this review sounds wandering and/or unfocused, my bad; but there’s a lot of action in this movie, and I think you'll enjoy seeing it (if only to see how many comedians you can identify).

For this issue I had a chance to see a white Bengal Tiger named Monica who is five years old and weighs 350 pounds, 400-500 pounds when fully grown. The tiger can weigh up to 700 pounds. The tiger eats termites, elephant calves, moose, deer species, pigs, cows, horses, buffalos, goats, tapirs, elephants, rhinoceros, leopards, wild dogs, grass, wild cattle, wild boars, fish, and crabs. The lifespan of a tiger is 26 years and 15 in the wild. Most tigers live in Asia, specifically throughout Southeast Asia, China, Korea, and Russia. Tigers like to live in swamps, grasslands, and rainforest. Usually where tigers live there are trees, bushes, and clumps of tall grass. Tigers are very powerful swimmers. There are thirteen breeds of tigers.
The Self-Determination Conference was held on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 12 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The theme for the conference was Mission Possible.

The first of the day conference there were three keynote speakers: a self-advocate named Alisha Courtier, Darcy Elks from the Administration on Intellectual and the Developmental Disabilities, and Deputy Administrator Aaron Bishop from the Department of Human Services.

After the keynote speakers I looked through the booths of small business and organizations. After lunch I then went to a session about the timebank. The presenter was Cathy Derezinski. The timebank is a way to ask and to provide others with services.

The next session I went to was on healthy living. The presenter was Molly Immendorf. This session was about making healthy choices. She talked about how to make healthy lunches and breakfast. She talked about how to make healthy choices of what kind of foods to eat and ways to stay active.

On Wednesday, the first session I attended was called Mission Possible: You Belong Here. The presenters were Mary Sykes and Erin Moonlight. One packet we received during this session was called a meaningful day. We worked on this packet during the session. Mary and Erin talked to us about how to build a stronger community. The discussion turned to how we can build support using a people map. The people map is made up of four sections. The sections were family, friends, the community and paid staff.

The last session I attended was called Relationship Possible. It was presented by Pam Malin. We talked about relationships. Pam had all of the advocates sit on the inside circle and the people that support them sit on the outside circle. The support staff listened to the advocates first and then the advocates listened to the support staff. We talked about dating relationships and how support staff can help make safe choices in a relationship. A few people were in dating relationships.

The end of the conference was really cool. Fil Clissa handed out door prizes. Several people received awards as well.
Focus on Employment: Series by Jeffrey Johnson

2014 Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference: People First Wisconsin Meeting Focusing on Community Employment

I attended People First Wisconsin Board Meeting on Monday, November 10th at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The People First Board Meeting was called to order by our president Jason Enders and Cindy Bentley, executive director, for People First Wisconsin. People First Wisconsin has 17 chapters in Wisconsin.

The guest speaker was Lisa Pugh from Disability Rights Wisconsin. Lisa asked some of the People First members to come up and practice ways to talk to your Legislator. Jennifer Kuhr of People First Wisconsin played the part of the legislator, people came up to her to talk community employment. It is a good time to talk about community employment with your legislator for people with disabilities. People are waiting for more money to go toward community jobs.

People with disabilities that work in sheltered workshops earn 30 percent less. People with Disabilities like working but not in sheltered workshops. Jennifer feels it is not fair to people with disabilities. The sheltered workshops get funded 92 million dollars a year and community employment only received 23 million dollars a year. We need more money to go toward community employment. She feels we have to transfer most of the money and move it over to community employment side. People that work in sheltered workshops don’t get paid very well; it is called piece work. We need jobs in the community.

These are the steps I took toward community employment. I used to work in a sheltered workshop called Madison Packaging and Assembly. I started working at Access to Independent Living Center September 25, 2000. I worked there for four years and then started working at Waisman Outreach Center January 5, 2004. I have been working as a reporter for Choices newsletter for 11 years.

Progressive Community Service
Supported Self Employment

I interviewed Shannel Yancey who is with Progressive Community Services and coordinates the Supported Self-Employment (SSE) Program in Dane County. The Support Broker Agencies and Progressive Services started in 2004 in Dane County.

A small business is called a microenterprise and it is usually owned by one person. It can also have up to five employees. Some of the successful microenterprises that are in Dane County include selling books and collectibles on Ebay and Amazon, lawn care services, and different honor boxes. If you have microenterprise then you are no longer unemployed. It could be an option for people with disabilities to turn a hobby into a business.

Shannel Yancey works with people to develop a business plan and Progressive Community Services will help start pre-planning. There is a self employment network in Dane County called The Wisconsin Woman’s Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) that will make sure the business is marketable. If they need help, they will bring in a professional. Many business are supported by Vocational Services and family and friends also offer supports. There are people with initiative who have passion and a strong supports system and a positive attitude.

There are thirty three business owned by people with disabilities that are involved in SSE Program and eight other business being developed around the state. It could be an employment option for unemployed or under-employed individuals in the developmental disability system.

October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month
Focus on Employment: Series by Jeffrey Johnson

Governor Walker Conference Call: Better Bottom Line Initiative

I was able to listen in on a conference call with Governor Scott Walker. He said that he would not stop until all people with disabilities have a job that want one. They also talked about the Better Bottom Line Initiative, an agency-wide effort focusing on improving employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

More than 200 people or organizations joined in to hear about the Better Bottom Line Initiative. Walker talked about how the Department of Workforce Development helped out 2700 people with disabilities find jobs in 2012; last year it increased to finding 3800 jobs. Disability Rights Wisconsin says Governor Scott Walker has been a leader on employment.

Walker looked at going to each district and encouraging business to help create jobs for people with disabilities.

Patrick who has a disability works at a place in Menomonee Falls. Governor Scott Walker visited Patrick at his work site. Walker sees how Patrick has made a positive impact on their business. The job site has gotten just as much out of Patrick working there as he has.

People with disabilities tend to be very loyal at their jobs. Walker is looking at ways to provide public education for employers. He looks at wanting to place people with disabilities that are ready and willing to work. Walker wants people with disabilities to be placed in jobs they are interested in. Also, finding a person’s unique ability that they can bring to the business instead of focusing on their limitations.

Walker also talked about the impact of adding a certain sense of value to the worksite having the person with a disability within that site. People tend to find out that the person with a disability have similar interests as they do. Eighty percent of people with disabilities want to work.

Project Search, a school-to-work program that takes place at the workplace, started in 2008 with one site. Project Search has steadily increased. This program helps young people with their transition from high school into the workforce. Soon there will be 27 sites and hopefully more. There is also parallel program available for kids transitioning from high school to attend a technical college around the state.

Governor Walker encourages people to go on site visits to bring congressmen/women and state lawmakers to show how well folks with disabilities have a positive impact on their business. He feels this will bring to light how important workforce development is.

Partners with Business

Partners with Business started in Dane County five or six years ago. The idea came from a national conference in Colorado in collaboration with the Developmental Disabilities System, Progressive Community Services and Dane County school districts. Since then, the program has grown; there are nine graduates this year involved with the Partners with Business program. There were as many as nineteen vocational agencies including Goodwill, MARC, WORC, CWS, (Community Work Services) Channels to Employment, SWO, (Successful Work Options), which were part of the pilot program that has been operating for up to six years.

The advantage of Partners with Business program is that it is the most integrated because individuals receive their support from co-workers and supervisors. The vocational agencies are in the background and provide support from the beginning. For example, they can provide monthly contact with the employer and employee to make sure all is going well. At any time, the employer and employee could contact the vocational agency to let them know they need help (such as training with a new job responsibility). It is possible for the vocational agency to come in for support and training and phase out so the employer can take over.

Partners with Business could be an option for anyone. There are people involved in the program who need support a majority of the time, it all depends on how much employers are willing to provide that support to the person. The training for both employee and co-workers involves how to ask for help so neither feels stuck.

This and other programs and agencies assist integrating people with disabilities so that they can access their world as much as possible. This ideal promotes the highest independence as it empowers the person to live very flexible. This type of support model assures people with disabilities receive help when they need it in a cost effective way. Teachers, Partners with Business Consultants and job coaches can train individuals with disabilities in these jobs as well as the employee themselves. The employer who is providing the job support compensates the business for their time and compensation is different because every persons’ needs are different.

The Partners with Business model looks for companies that are job developing. If they have a person in mind that could fit their needs, then they move forward with it. Most new employees that work within this system are at least twenty-one years old. Anne Spires describes a Partner with Business success story. An individual works at Daisy Café. She does light cleaning and folds cupcake boxes she loves it that she does not need a job coach following her around. However, at first she was sacred and nervous to be on her own.
Community Partners/Opportunities

Community Connections of McFarland: Creating Meaningful Relationships
By Jeffrey Johnson

Community Connections of McFarland was started by Stacy Geiger and Jeanne Sterken. Community Connections is a newly formed organization. Stacy and Jeanne help young adults stay connected in their community. They were introduced to each other through a Dane County organization called Living Our Vision (LOV) Dane.

Stacy wanted to start Community Connections because of her brother. He graduated from McFarland High School in 2003. He continues to hold down a job within the village. Stacy wanted to make sure that her brother had connections within his community after high school.

The first activity Community Connections had was an ice cream social at McFarland’s Coffee House. For their next activity, they went bowling at Spartan Bowl. They also went to the pumpkin patch, went on a scavenger hunt, and they had an activity at Spartan Fitness. They started this group for young adults by finding activities and getting social interaction that they would enjoy. Jeanne and Stacy are looking for help all the time.

This group started in McFarland about 3 months ago. Their group has about 10 to 15 members depending on the event and is growing. The main focus is for the young people already living in McFarland. The group has monthly meetings at the McFarland Coffee House. They are hoping to expand in the future.

New Medication Dispenser
By Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Tim and his support broker Jaimie Kluge about his experience using his new medication dispenser. Tim got help getting the dispenser set up from Duane at Sound Response.

Jaimie contacted Sound Response and they talked to the county about getting a medication dispenser for Tim. They started using the medication dispenser in July. Tim has memory problems. Sound Response has been very helpful with the medication machine. Duane helped teach them how to use the medication dispenser.

The machine goes off at 9:00 am. It’s a locked machine and will rotate to give the medication for that day. It holds 28 days of medication. It also has an alarm on it to remind Tim of taking his medication.

Other methods to remind Tim to take his medication weren’t working as well. Pill boxes and notes did not work. They tried having the job coaches help and people calling. These methods did not work well. This machine keeps things working more smoothly. Jamie knew of medication dispensers but contacted Sound Response to help set everything up. Before the medication machine, Tim didn’t always take his medications correctly. Since Tim has memory problems, he would forget to take his meds or would take them at the wrong time. The alarm on the medication dispenser is a reminder for him to take his meds.
Community Partners/Opportunities

Mallatt’s Homecare Pharmacy
By Jeffrey Johnson

Mike Flint is the owner of Mallatt's pharmacy and he is a people person. Mallatt’s Pharmacy started it’s traditional location on Monroe Street and Williamson Street in Madison.

Mallatt’s Homecare Pharmacy is located in a 12,000 square foot building. This location has ten full-time pharmacists and twenty five technicians. Mallatt’s is an employee owned business. Mallatt’s Homecare makes between 100 and 200 deliveries per day. They currently have around 3000 customers within a 100 mile radius with thoughts of expanding.

The story behind the Homecare Pharmacy dates back to 1992 when an older customer came to Mike with a problem. The customer was confused with all of his medications and bottles. Mike started prepackaging the medications for him and others. From there it grew into Mallatt’s Homecare Pharmacy.

What makes Mallatt’s Homecare Pharmacy so special?

Mallatt’s will come to their customer’s home and do a one on one evaluation with them. Mallatt’s will deliver right to their customer’s home. They will customize medication packaging into multi-dose strips, medication boxes, blister packs, and regular bottles. With Mallatt’s, there is no need for people with disabilities to travel. This helps create independent living.

Mallatt’s Homecare Pharmacy is looking to grow and expand this area of business. Mike Flint believes the best way to grow is by word of mouth. Working with county agencies and constant communication with doctors and nurses will help make that happen. Mike Flint is a people person at heart and he enjoys one on one contact with people. Mike is trying to refer others to use Mallatt’s as their home pharmacy. Mike comes home in a great mood from helping others and that is why he wanted to be a pharmacist.

Training and Consultation Program
By Jeffrey Johnson

There are many kinds of training and consultation programs offered though the Waisman Outreach Center. Many kinds of training and are available for staff and people with disabilities. Trainings include health care, behavior support, mental health, disability safety, daily living skills, and tornado and fire safety. Most classes are one and half or two hours long. The learning together classes are $5.00 per person and most other classes are $12 per person. The price depends on the training.

Most of the classes offered during the workweek during the day. There are some evening classes as well. The most popular class is the art class. The art classes are offered on the second Monday of the month. Another class that is offered is a cooking and nutrition class. The Stars class is about relationship and sexuality for people with disabilities. Some classes are important for caregivers so they can provide the best support possible. In addition, taking classes can provide a way to be safe in the community for individuals with disabilities.

People can be added to Rachel Weingarten’s email list. She sends out upcoming trainings reminders at least once a month. People can also check out the website at cow.waisman.wisc.edu. People can also email Rachel at weingarten@waisman.wisc.edu. Rachel is always looking for new ideas for classes or ideas for fun activities.
Sponsored by The Arc-Dane County, Epilepsy Foundation and the Madison Concourse Hotel – will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2015 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at The Madison Concourse Hotel, 1 West Dayton St., Madison, WI. Tickets must be pre-purchased from The Arc-Dane County for each person. (Sorry, no free tickets for staff, attendants, or family members). The ticket includes the Ball, bagged snack, soda plus The Epilepsy Foundation will be sponsoring some hot and cold hors’ at the beginning of the festivities [‘til they are gone’ (2:00-3:00 p.m.)]

*COST: $4.00 Arc-Dane County member $8.00 Non-member
*Due to increasing costs associated with sponsoring our social events, The Arc-Dane County board of directors approved an increase in ticket prices of $1 for members and $3 for non-members. Our last price increase was 7 years ago. If you wish to be a member of The Arc-Dane County, go to our web site and print off a form. Providers may join at the Corporate category, self-advocates may join under limited income category. Go to: http://www.arcdanecounty.org/membership.html

Ticket requests must be received by Monday, January 12, 2015. NOTE: This event sells out quickly- get your ticket orders in before the deadline! Upon receipt of the ticket request and payment, the tickets will be sent prior to the event. Each person, family or agency is responsible for distributing the tickets purchased. If you have ordered too many tickets or need more tickets, please network with others so that the tickets may be used. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis.

NOTE: All individuals must carry emergency contact information at the Winter Ball. All individuals/provider/family are responsible for own transportation arrangements to and from the Winter Ball.

2015 Winter Ball TICKET REQUEST FORM
Note: The name & address below is where the tickets will be sent!
Thanks for getting your ticket requests in on/before January 12!

Name: ____________________________ Agency: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________ City: ____________________________ Zip: ____________________________
Phone #: ____________________________ Cell #: ____________________________ Emergency Contact #: ____________________________
E-mail: ____________________________

TICKETS @ $4.00 (current paid Arc-Dane County member) _____
TICKETS @ $8.00 (Non-member) ________________
_________________ TOTAL DUE: ___________________

SEND FORM & PAYMENT payable to The Arc-Dane County:
The Arc-Dane County
Paul A. Yochum, Exec. Dir.
6602 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719

Ticket requests must be received on/before Monday, January 12, 2014!

FAX #: 833-1307 E-MAIL: arcdane@chorus.net
TELEPHONE: 833-1199 WEB: www.arcdanecounty.org
...And the “Oh, Yeah’s...”

**CHOICES Newsletter**

is published quarterly to provide information to consumers, families, guardians, and service providers about Self-Determination Services in Dane County.

The Next Issue of CHOICES will be out March 2015. Contact the editor with ideas for articles before January 31. Articles due by February 9 or until the issue is full.

To Place a Connections Ad:

Submit Connections Ads to: Angela Klemm, Editor, 1202 Northport Drive Madison, WI 53704 or klemm.angela@countyofdane.com. We will run your ad for at least 3 issues unless you tell us otherwise.

Announce a Transition:

Tell us about a new job, an Engagement, a marriage, a new place to live, or say goodbye to someone who has passed away.

**Choices is on the COW Website?!**

Did you know that Choices newsletter has a fun color version that you can view online??

http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu/publications.html

Web versions do not include Connections ads or Transitions information.

Contributors to this issue:

Jeffrey Johnson, Bill Worthy, Dora Norland, TJ Scholoss, Greg Pesl, Monica Bear, and Rachel Weingarten

Please send your stories, comments and suggestions

Contributions, comments and suggestions are encouraged and may be directed to Angela Klemm, Editor

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