Laura Singler is a graduate student in Social Work at UW-Madison. Laura is an intern with LOV-Dane. LOV-Dane works with families and young adults on community organizing. This organization is a group of individuals with disabilities, their families, friends and allies committed to creating community centered lives. This involves having family, friends and choices. LOV-Dane is working to ensure that adults with disabilities are valued members of our community through employment, neighborhood involvement and meaningful relationships. Laura likes grassroots advocacy work and helping people with disabilities work in the community. Laura is working on a project called circle building with LOV-Dane. Circle building helps bring people together. Their circle members are family members, paid and unpaid staff, friends and community members. The circle building is about making sure someone’s supports are ongoing through their life.

The third project Laura is working on with LOV-Dane is community connections. She feels that community connections can provide good support for people throughout their life. Laura feels it is important that individuals with disabilities have relationships with people in their community. Laura works on finding out from the LOV-Dane members what their interests are. Laura then finds community members who might share their interests and who need volunteers. As time goes on, she hopes to find connections for all of the LOV-Dane members.
INTERVIEW WITH MR. DAN ROSSITER
by Dan Remick on Thursday, January 29, 2009

1. **What kind of new changes will there be for people with disabilities who live in their own apartment?**
   When two individuals who are supported by different agencies want to move in together they are working to get a third party to support them living together.

2. **The budget is very small and there are a lot of people with disabilities in Dane County who are very worried about this. Should they be worried?**
   It will be a long process. Family Care will not cost more money and waiting lists will continue to grow. The federal Government created a waiver called self directed supports (IRIS). Dane County will have to choose IRIS or family care in the next 4 to 5 years.

3. **With the budget as it is now, do we have to worry about agencies cutting or ending services due to lack of money?**
   Yes, agencies will have to cut back. People may have more roommates then they previously had. This is a less expensive way to provide support. In supported employment rather than having a job coach they will pay the company to do the coaching.

4. **What do you think the future will be like for people with disabilities?**
   It may be another 4 years before things start to look better. 5 years ago there were 90 people who were 60 and older and now there are 175 people over 60. They are working on figuring out what to do with older adults.

5. **Do you know if Southern Wisconsin Center will be closing?**
   The only thing holding up the movement out of Southern Center is that they can’t get parents to agree to move their children out. Parents like knowing where their children are.

SELF-ADVOCATES BECOMING EMPOWERED
Jeffrey and Kate at the SABE Conference in Indianapolis
by Jeffrey Johnson

The 2008 SABE Conference was in Indianapolis from September 4th though the 7th. SABE stands for Self Advocates Becoming Empowered.

Friday Kate and I drove on down to Indianapolis for the SABE Conference. We got there at 5:15 on Friday September 5th.

We went to watch a movie called Born on the fourth of July. It was not Born on the Fourth of July. The movie that was showing was I am Sam. They had the right movie just had it on the wrong day playing Born on the first of July on Sunday September 7th.

The first breakout I went to was on Saturday September 6th. It was called Making It On Your Own. Betty was interviewing Kevin to be her case manager.

During their skit Kevin told her who he was. He did not give Betty a chance to tell him who she was. After the skit they asked the audience how it went. The audience agreed that it was not too good. Then they started over again. This time Kevin told her who he was. When he was done he asked her who she was. She said my name is Betty and I want to hire you as my case manager. Kevin had all of Betty’s information at his office but I wanted to meet Betty face to face.

When that one was over with I went to the next one on leadership. We got a packet of leadership information. In the packet there were resources like Leadership links. There were two brochures and several of articles on leadership. We got a book on leadership development too. All of this information is to help you and others how to be a good leader or leaders of your self advocacy group.

The last breakout session was about high school mentors. The person speaking was a high school mentor and also a job coach. He told all of us how he helped people with disabilities find a job they liked.

When Sunday came, Kate and I went to the closing ceremony. They showed a video of Obama. Then we checked out of our hotel and packed up our bags and headed on home.
Learning to Walk Again
Robin Keri’s Miracle
by Jeffrey Johnson

Robin’s injury happened on June 11, 1999 when she and her boyfriend David got done with work at Wal-Mart on Watts Road at about 4:30 pm. They were walking to David’s car when Robin’s ex-boyfriend came out of the bushes. He shot both of them then afterward he shot himself.

Robin’s ex-boyfriend shot David first and he died on the way to the hospital. She is still alive today because she got to the hospital very fast. The paramedics called Med Flight and took Robin to UW hospital where she was in surgery for five hours. Surely this seemed like forever to her mom.

Robin was in the hospital for four months and then she went to a rehab facility for 6 more months. Robin was away from her home for about a year.

Robin went through a lot to get better. She couldn’t eat or drink on her own for a long time. Since Robin’s left ear got shot when she was injured, they had to fix it the best they could with plastic surgery. Robin’s ear doesn’t bend like a normal ear does. They had to put a hearing aid in her left ear so fluid doesn’t build up in it. Robin cannot smell or taste things unless they are very strong. Also Robin had to thicken all of her drinks except for V8 to get the proper consistency. Robin can not see very well out of her left eye from the injury. Robin was left handed so that made it very difficult for Robin at first, but now she is learning how to use her right hand for more things.

The doctor told Robin’s mom that she was as hurt she could be without being dead. Robin was told that she would not be able to walk on her own. Robin’s biggest goal is to regain her balance and be able to walk on her own without assistance. Robin continues to push herself everyday with more challenging balance exercises and by staying active in the community. Robin goes and works out at Sports Medicine three days a week for two and half hours.

Robin was in the Infoshare Fashion Show in August. Robin enjoyed dressing up and getting her hair and make up done. She said the most important thing to her was her faith which helped her walk down the runway on her own.

Every Wednesday afternoon Robin attends Bible study which she enjoys very much. She also goes to church on Sundays. It helps her feel much better. Jesus helped Robin to live through her injury and also inspired Robin to walk again. Many people didn’t believe she would make it, but she did make it by asking God for help and keeping faith and hope alive. We are very happy that she is alive and well and hope for her continued success.

Meet Paul White
Waisman Center Program Manager
by Catherine E. Clodius

I had the pleasure of sitting down and talking with Paul White of the Waisman Center.

My first question of Paul was of his background and he has a BA in Psychology and a Masters in Psychology and Education Psychology. Paul worked in the 70’s for children with developmental and emotional challenges. Then in the 80’s he worked for Orchard Hill with 96 consumers with behavioral challenges as the Behavior Treatment Director. Now Paul is working for the Waisman Center as the Program Manager for the Waisman Community Outreach Center. Paul is the director of Community Ties, Sound Response, training and consultation, and Voices, and works with Dane County to support consumers well in these programs.

The history of the Waisman Center started in the 1970’s with the Kennedy family giving money to create these centers which the Waisman Center is one of them. The Waisman Center opened in 1973 and is named after the late Dr. Harry Waisman who was a Pediatrician, biochemist and pioneer in Mental Retardation. There are two parts to the Waisman Center. One is revolved around research including Stem Cell research, human development and intellectual challenges, and the University Center for Excellence. Paul really wants all individuals to know that the Waisman Center is there to support families who have a child with a disability with inclusiveness.

The Waisman Center gets funding from Dane County but the budgets are really tight and that it means doing the same amount of work with less money. The Waisman Center continues to be important for families with disabilities. The Waisman Center has two locations one is located on the west edge of the University campus and the outreach office is located on Olin Ave.

EDITOR: Let me add a personal note that Dr. Waisman was Catherine’s pediatrician for a couple of years back in the 1950’s
EmployAlliance Shares Ideas About How to Find Jobs

by Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Molly Damon from EmployAlliance. Molly is the EmployAlliance coordinator. The people that are in this group are job developers, transition teachers from High Schools, and Vocational agencies, and brokers. This group shares ideas about how to find jobs. They work to find a good job match for people with both developmental disabilities and mental disabilities.

EmployAlliance’s mission is to “Establish partnerships with businesses to assist them in recruiting and maintaining a qualified and diverse workforce.”

The meetings are setup by Molly. The meetings are once per month. If you would like to learn more, contact Molly Damon at mollyd@pcsdane.org or by phone at 608-333-9694.

EmployAlliance got started in Chicago in 2001. Molly was a job developer while working there. She moved to Madison and was able to bring the model with her to Madison with their permission. They advocate for best practices and work on potential work barriers.
Mindy Connors and Amber Blanchard left for Argentina on March 15th, 2008 and came back four weeks later.

The US and Argentina both have Rotary Clubs. This trip was hosted by Rotary International, who sent five members from Wisconsin to Argentina. They gave a presentation about their trip to Argentina when they returned. They talked about what they learned about services in Argentina compared to the U.S. system. Argentina has some of the same services that the U.S. does. I also learned how different their services can be from ours.

The U.S. and Argentina both have the Birth to 3 programs. U.S. and Argentina both have employment services. The U.S. and Argentina both have day center services for people with disabilities. Both groups like to tango and do the chicken dance.

The U.S. and Argentina both have institutions. We have state institutions. They have public institutions. Both countries want people to live in the community.

They both have advocacy groups. The U.S. and Argentina both like people to have a choice. Argentina doesn’t have the money or the resources to give people with disabilities as much of a choice. They have special schools starting at age 3 to 4 years old. When they graduate then they are put in to a vocational agency.

The U.S. and Argentina both have social workers. The social workers in Argentina can have up to 200 people on their case loads where in the U.S. they have between 20 and 30 on their case load.

In Argentina, they don’t always put in curb cuts in sidewalks and sidewalks are not always very good. Buildings are not all accessible either. There isn’t any incentive to follow the law. There was a cat and dog factory that someone with a disability tried working at but it didn’t work out because that work site was not accessible. In Argentina, the SSI check doesn’t pay as well there as it does here. It is only for people with disabilities.

Argentina has some of the same services that the U.S. does and also some differences, but people in both communities like to tango and do the chicken dance...
Jennifer Kopp found out about Dakin Mobile Massage from her broker about four years ago. Dakin Mobile comes over to her apartment to give her massages three times per month. Jennifer got her very first massage from Scott about 4 years ago and has worked with him ever since. The areas Scott works on the most are her jaw, arms, and legs to treat her discomfort and pain. Jennifer said that Dakin Mobile provides good service and Scott does a very good job.

Jennifer would recommend this to any of her friends that would like to get a massage some day. They should call to schedule an appointment: 219-1735, or on the web at dakinmobile.com.

The rates for Dakin Mobile are $40 for a half-hour, $75 for 1 hour, $100 for an hour and a half, and $120 for 2 hours with some discounts available for people with limited income.

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Halloween Party
by Catherine E. Clodius

Catholic Charities Support Brokers had their annual Halloween Bash on Thursday October 23, 2008 at the Bishop O’Connor Center for over 200 guests.

The party was so much fun. The staff served Pizza, chips, cookies, punch and candy and they had so much lively music in which to dance by. Once again Eric Miller of ACS was DJ for the event with some help from James Heiman. They also gave out ribbons for the cutest costume. Everyone had a really nice time at this special party.

My Family’s Trip to Chicago, Illinois
by Emily Datta

Hello and welcome to my story called My family’s trip in Chicago Illinois. My family and I recently visited an amazing site in Chicago where my older sister lives downtown. The name of the site that we’ve visited is called the Shedd Aquarium. It is a vast place to see all of the marine life and its animal inhabitance.

In the first section of the Shedd Aquarium my family and I saw the Caribbean Reef. This section of the building contains a huge circular water tank filled with colorful coral reefs, fish, sea turtle’s, sharks and other marine life which belongs to the Caribbean sea.

In the second section of the Aquarium we’ve seen the Amazon Rising wild reef. Inside this section the wildlife that we’ve seen is the mock setup of the Amazon wild river, coral reefs undersea animals and etc. which belongs to the Amazon River.

In the next section of the Shedd Aquarium my family and I saw the Lizard and the komodo king section. In this section of the building we’ve seen the world’s largest lizard live! This Komodo lizard’s size is very huge! It is 8 feet, and 3 inches long and this komodo lizard weighs up to 178 pounds.

At last we’ve walked over to the Oceanarium and we’ve seen feeding presentation shows on three different animals, such as Beluga Whales, dolphins and even feeding the penguins too.

To sum up this story on my family’s trip in Chicago my family and I all had a grand time and had fun, Chicago is a great place to visit and go traveling in the city and I’ll always will treasure it.

Theresa Explains The Brain
by Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Theresa Ellis and spoke about the Personal Brain computer program. Theresa learned about Personal Brain from David and Faye Wetherow, who use it for personal networking. This program lets you see social connections and how they can be used in business and personal life. The Brain also keeps track of your associations; it can track other people, organizations and life goals.

The Brain lets you look at your thoughts in a relationship way and gives more of a network picture. It could be used for person centered planning, since it helps build relationships and find new friends. Information on this program can

(continued on p. 9)
A Tale of Two Renters: Tim and Bill
by Howard Mandeville

Tim and Bill both have permanent disabilities and rely on support funded by Dane County’s self-directed services. Each receives a monthly SSI check plus a small amount from employment. They have a household income of about $1800 a month.

Two years ago, the men rented a modest 2-bedroom apartment for $1000 a month. A year later their rent increased by $60. Rent amounted to well over half their household income.

In spring they faced another move because they could not afford the high rent—plus, the landlord would not renew the lease.

Their support teams envisioned the kind of living situation that would work: space to accommodate Tim, Bill, and their support staff; affordable rent; a big yard to absorb Tim’s exuberant energy, and accessibility modifications to accommodate Bill’s wheel chair. Tim and Bill found these qualities and more in a rental home purchased and rehabbed in response to their specific needs. Movin’ Out found a safe, affordable, permanent housing solution for Tim and Bill—and also provided measurable savings to the tax-funded county service system that supports them day to day. As a non-profit whose mission is finding permanent housing solutions for very low income people with disabilities, Movin’ Out provides disability-sensitive property management and lease terms that support long term tenancy.

Tim and Bill now share a rent of $690/month plus utilities, about 38% of their household income. A purchase subsidy from the City of Madison, a grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank, and the property tax exemption granted by the city assessor, enables Movin’ Out to manage the property so that the operating budget is covered by rents affordable to the tenants. Dane County’s long-term support system covered much of the cost of adding accessibility improvements and continues to fund caregivers who help the tenants with information, support, and guidance.

This tale of two renters is a composite story, combining some features of a few of our tenants. But the fact is that Movin’ Out can provide safe, accessible, affordable rental homes so that people participating in self-directed supports can live in small, typical, neighborhood settings.

I really enjoyed reading this book because it was very interesting and exciting! I liked the part in the book when the groups of poor people saved a couple of lives and then took them to their secret homes to live with them.

What I didn’t like about the book was that there was too much violence, like too many people getting hurt.

I would recommend this book to other people who like a good mystery.

FOR MORE INFO... Contact Howard Mandeville at Movin’ Out, 251-4446 extension 3

Theresa Explains The Brain, continued from p. 8

be found on the website www.thebrain.com, where you will find a free version to download. A Pro version lets you merge different brains together, like sports brain, gardening brain etc.

Theresa is working to see if LOV-Dane can use this program to help their organization. When Theresa started working with computers 30 years ago she was using computers that took up the whole room.

This book is a mystery about a group of people that are running away and hiding from the government, who is trying to kill them. The groups of people are poor. They live and hide in different corners of the city. The only time that they come out of hiding is at night to get some food.

I really enjoyed reading this book because it was very interesting and exciting! I liked the part in the book when the groups of poor people saved a couple of lives and then took them to their secret homes to live with them.

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BOOK REVIEW

by Christa Decker

NIGHT FALLS ON THE CITY

Author: Sarah Gainham

FOR MORE INFO... Contact Howard Mandeville at Movin’ Out, 251-4446 extension 3

Theresa Explains The Brain, continued from p. 8

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CAPTAIN COPY!
by Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Tom Welhoefer who is the owner of a micro enterprise called Captain Copy. Tom transfers VHS tapes to DVD to help people keep up with the times since stores don’t sell VHS recorders anymore - they are old technology.

Tom started Captain Copy on February 28th, 2008. He wanted to make a profit from his microenterprise, so Responsible Employment Services (RES) helped by providing videos and DVDs that helped him learn how to transfer (VHS) video tapes to DVDs.

Tom now runs his business out of his house. He has two expensive dubbing machines that transfer data by themselves. Tom’s basic package is $15 to transfer from a VHS to a DVD. It costs $5 extra for a personalized package labeling and $5 for additional DVD copies. DVD duplication is only $10, plus $5 for additional copies.

Several reasons to copy from a VHS to a DVD are safer storage, more durable, more portable, easier to share, saves space, weighs less and cost less to mail.

If people want more information they can call Tom at 608-246-8060, or they can email Tom at captaintcopy@charter.net

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The Spring Ball
Sunday, March 22
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 Spring Ball, light snacks, and some hot snacks (from 2:15 p.m. ‘til they are gone)

COST:
$3.00 - Arc-Dane County members
$5.00 - Non-members

In order to make preparations for this event,

Ticket requests must be received by Monday, March 9, 2009.

Upon receipt of the ticket request and payment, the tickets will be mailed 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 are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

All clients must carry emergency contact information at The Ball and must provide own transportation to and from The Spring Ball.

Ticket Request for The Spring Ball:
Please list name and/or agency of person responsible for distributing tickets purchased)

Name: ___________________________Agency: ___________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________
City: ______________________________  State:__________ Zip: __________
Phone:____________________________Cell #:__________________________
Emergency Contact #:   ______________________________________________

#TICKETS @ $3.00 - Arc-Dane County members $________
#TICKETS @ $5.00 - 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 BY MONDAY, MARCH 9

FAX #: 833-1307 E-MAIL: arcdane@chorus.net
TELEPHONE: 833-1199 Web site: www.arcdancecounty.org
And the Oh, Yeah’s...

To place a Connections ad:
Submit Connections Ads to:
Stefanie Primm, Editor 122 E Olin Avenue Suite 100 Madison WI 53713 263-5557, or primm@waisman.wisc.edu. We will run your ad for 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 by e-mail
Prefer to reduce paper coming in the mail? Choices newsletter is now available electronically via e-mail. If you would prefer to receive a pdf or link, please e-mail Stefanie Primm: primm@waisman.wisc.edu

The next issue of CHOICES will be out in June 2009. Contact the editor with ideas for articles before April 17. Contributions due by May 5 or until the issue is full.

CHOICES Newsletter is published quarterly to provide information to consumers, families, guardians, and service providers about Self-Determination Services in Dane County. Contributions, comments and suggestions regarding CHOICES are encouraged and may be directed to:

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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