



Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter
April 2024

Autism Awareness Month



ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL | DIPLOMA | MAY 2024

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE | ASSOCIATE OF ARTS | MAY 2024

SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN | CLASS OF 2027

What A WEEK!

There is no true adjective to describe what our family is experiencing right now. Overwhelming joy, gratitude, astonishment, exhilaration - I mean I could go on and on. When you plant a seed it grows, and when you pour into someone you receive and infinite return on your investment. We witnessed the beauty of the village come to light this week when our daughter stood in front of a packed audience at the Palladium and participated in a full debate! As we

were sitting in the audience my husband and I just stared at each other in wonderment! All the work, all the time, all the energy, all the support - PAID OFF! Once again - sincere appreciation to the women of the Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. for mentoring my daughter for 10 years.



AND THEN~THE AWARD CEREMONY!

Seniors everywhere are saying goodbye and celebrating their milestones. Our family quite honestly was grateful to reach this milestone and honestly did not know what to expect at the Senior Award Ceremony.

- **First surprise** - my husband insisted our daughter drive us to the ceremony. I think my mother and I were going to pass out. My mother literally held onto her cross the entire time.
- **Second surprise** - our daughter was acknowledged for the scholarships she received and for her school spirit.
- **Lastly** - she received recognition for graduating Cum Laude. It was truly special. To reflect on all she had to do to reach this milestone.



What a Week! Our hearts our full.

Sensory Science

A colleague shared this opportunity with me about a successful former student, Darcy Pritchett affiliated with the CARD, the Center for Autism and Related Disorders at USF.



Center for Autism & Related Disabilities

The Center for Autism & Related Disabilities at USF is a community-based project that provides information and consultation to individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities. CARD-USF offers instruction and coaching to families and professionals through a training and assistance model.

[Learn More](#)

Darcy's passion is to expand interest in science and make it accessible to everyone. This month on April 30th Darcy will host an Autism Awareness event on a new project, "Sensational SciFest" - that works on including the needs of sensory-sensitive kids at science fairs. You never know where you are going to discover your child's center of excellence. Projects like these help our kids

explore who they are and what they are capable of. If you are able- the Sensory Science program is worth an hour of your time.



Sensational SciFest — Scientists Inc

Sensational SciFest is a celebration of science designed for children with sensory sensitivities and other special needs. We offer a safe and sensational experience for everyone.

[Get More Information](#)

Autism Awareness Month VIRTUAL EVENT

Date:

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Time:

12:00pm to 1:00pm

Virtual Event:

Zoom Meeting

Featuring:

Darcy Pritchett, Senior
Consultant and CEO of
RoC Aviation Services



Meeting URL:

<https://spcollege.zoom.us/j/94958297738>

Meeting ID:

949 5829 7738

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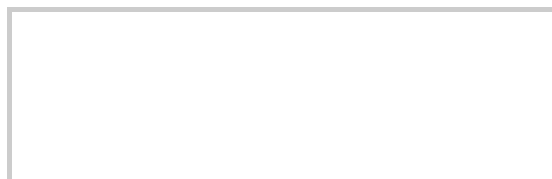
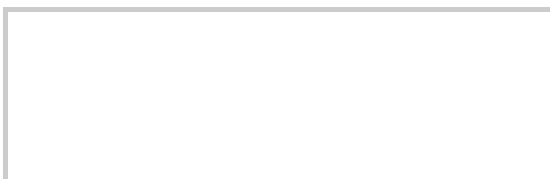
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Last IEP- Again

I thought we were done but we were clearly not. It is quite possible that I blocked the date of the very Last IEP we will ever have in the K-12 system. Really - I am quite sure I blocked it out. So, when I received an email stating we had to meet one more time I was truly aghast. Turns out, however, that the meeting was simply to let us know that the county is released from all services after our daughter graduates. It was a simple, painless call but it left me wondering how parents move on when there is no longer a support system in place. Even though services are not perfect - at least they exist. It has been a true passion of mine to share resources with those who cannot or do not know how to access them. I am sharing what was shared with me along with a host of other resources gathered over the years- because access matters.

"Education and especially literacy can foster power; therefore, equitable access to education and literacy is equitable access to power." James Baldwin





Transition Services Guide

[Download Document](#)

Placement Local Agencies

[Find Agencies](#)



Transitioning into Adulthood Autism Resources Repository

[Find More Information](#)



Autism Speaks Transition Tool Kit

[Read Article](#)

Amanda Seales

I was chatting with my friends last night and they shared that Amanda Seales, a performer, actress and actress shared she was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. While controversial in her presentation to some, the fact is many black girls and women go undiagnosed.

Her first statement- "I am a genius" was incredible, because it reminds me that tolerance requires action. To understand the Black Autistic Female population, we need to spend more time learning who they are and how they function.



["Amanda Seales Just Announced She Has Autism - Here's Why So Many Black Women Go Undiagnosed - Black Health Matters"](#)

[Read All About It](#)



[Black Autistic Female Excluded \(SHOCKING\)](#)

[Watch Video](#)

A Look Back

If you SEEK you will find. As we celebrate the end of Autism Awareness Month, I want to thank the many people who continue to educate, uplift and dedicate their time to helping persons on the spectrum and those who love and support them. When someone asks me what more they can do - I ask them to be present.



World Autism Awareness Day with Haley Moss, Esq.

In recognition of World Autism Day, Ms. Moss will share her journey from diagnosis as a child to becoming the first Florida Bar Association member to identify as autistic. She will address the importance of economic empowerment and workforce equity aligned with the missions of SPC and ISPS. Joining the conversation will be Baker Act expert, Martha Lenderman.

[Watch Video](#)



Autism Spectrum African American community

Watch a series of five short films that "raise awareness and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and services available to Minnesota families within the following communities: African American, Hmong, Latino, Native American, and Somali..."

[Watch Video](#)



The Urban Cafe Radio interview. Kim shared details about her journey with raising a daughter on the spectrum.

[Watch Video](#)



Attorney **Haley Moss, Esq.** is featured at a [World Autism Awareness Day](#) program. She is the first Florida Bar member to identify as autistic.

[Watch Video](#)



Kim Kuruzovich and Keli Mondello Mom's like me sharing their story and amazingly - **CHANGING LIVES!**

Watch Podcast



Kimberly Jackson, Esq. Talks about Autism and how it impacts our lives.

Watch Video



ISPS Autism Awareness Breakfast
ISPS and John Hopkins All Children's Hospital (JHACH) hosted a breakfast as autism experts from different areas discussed current trends and perspectives in the field

Watch Video



ISPS: Guardianship Series II
Learn about guardianships for parents, elderly loved ones, or disabled adults who are incapacitated. Serve as a guardian for an incapacitated person, what are the responsibilities and potential liabilities.

Watch Video

In case you missed it! [March Newsletter](#)

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