

OUR STUDENTS

Stetson University College of Law 31st Annual
National Conference for Law and Higher Education
February 22, 2010

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Veterans On Campus

- More than 3,000 veterans (and their dependants) are currently enrolled on American campuses
- Veterans of 5 wars (while few, there are some WWII vets taking courses on campus)
- Eager to be treated like every other student
- Committed and serious about goal achievement



Veterans' Needs on Campus

- Transitional Challenges
- Faculty and staff trained to meet the needs of those with injuries and/or disabilities
- Flexible academic programs
- Institutions that recognize military training credits
- Easily accessible, accurate information regarding their benefits
- Streamlined campus admissions/other administrative procedures
- Opportunities to connect with their peers

Common Issues for Veterans On Campus

- Post – Traumatic Stress
- Fear of academic pressure
- Negative reaction about the war from faculty and peers
- Having someone to talk to and understand them



Veteran's On Campus Resources

- Post 911 GI Bill - www.gibill.va.gov/
- **From Soldier to Student: Easing the Transition of Service Members to Campus**
www.aascu.org./media/pdf/09 StudenttoSoldierFinalReport.pdf
- Department of Government Affairs - <http://www.va.gov/>
- **No Soldier Left Behind: Veterans seek college education**
Elizabeth Stringer – The Bulletin, ACUI, Volume 75 Issue 5, September 2007
- Student Veterans of America - <http://www.studentveterans.org/>
- The GI GO Fund – <http://www.gigofund.org>
- **From Battlefield to Ivy League, on the G.I. Bill**
Lisa W. Foderaro – The NY Times, Jan. 9, 2010

Asperger's and Autism

- For many college students Autism has not been diagnosed or is denied as a diagnosis.
- Many autistic students at the 4 yr level have Asperger's Syndrome. They usually have average or above average IQs and are high functioning on the Autism spectrum.
- Community colleges often have a bigger challenge because students who have been mainstreamed w/in-class support are admitted through open admission policies and may be lower functioning.
- Many autistic students are bullied or taken advantage of because they seek friends and to fit in.
- Issues may include social awkwardness, problems w/ loud noises, outward verbalizations, facial tics and/or secondary diagnoses of Tourett's, ADD, ADHD or OCD.

Asperger Disorders

- **What Is Asperger Syndrome?**

Often called "the little professor" or "geek" syndrome, Asperger syndrome describes individuals at the highest-functioning end of the autism spectrum. Unlike other autism spectrum disorders, Asperger syndrome is often diagnosed in teens and adults.

- **What Is PDD-NOS?**

"Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified" is a mouthful of words that are often applied to people on the autism spectrum. It describes individuals who don't fully fit the criteria for other specific diagnoses, but are nevertheless autistic. It's important to note that PDD-NOS does NOT mean the same thing as "mild autism."

- **What Are the Autism Spectrum Disorders?**
- By [Lisa Jo Rudy](#), About.com Guide

Asperger Disorders

- **What Is Fragile X Syndrome?**

This rare genetic disorder causes a range of significant mental impairments, of which autism is one.

- **What Is Rett Syndrome?**

Like Fragile X, Rett syndrome is a genetic disorder that can cause many mental impairments, autism included. Its symptoms are quite distinct, and it affects only females.

- **What Is Tuberous Sclerosis?**

Tuberous sclerosis is a disease which causes brain lesions. In turn, these lesions can produce a number of symptoms such as speech delays, social disorders, and difficulties with communication. Often, people diagnosed with tuberous sclerosis are also diagnosed with autism.

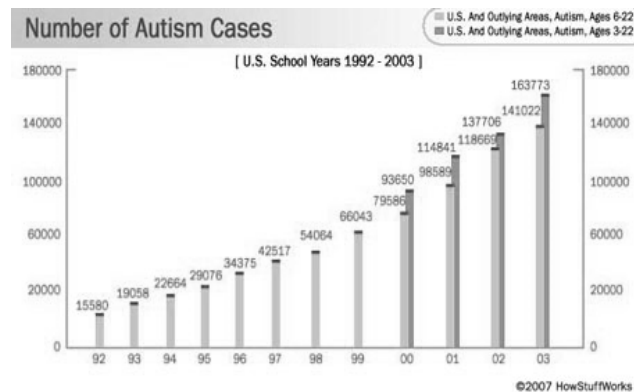
Aperger's Disorders

- **What Do People with Autism Have in Common?**

While people with autism may be different from one other, they do have certain challenges and traits in common. Of course, it's always possible that you'll meet an autistic person who doesn't fit the mold. Overall, autism implies an impaired ability to read and manage social cues. Autistic people are unlikely to be the life of the party, though they may well be quite talented in such areas as engineering, technology and music. It's important to know that stereotypes of autistic people as "idiot savants" (such as the character presented by Dustin Hoffman in the movie "Rainman") may represent a few unusual individuals, but these are by no means typical of all people on the autism spectrum. .

- By [Lisa Jo Rudy](#), About.com Guide Updated: March 03, 2009

Autism Cases Rising



Statistics from [Idea Data](#) and CDC

**Montclair State University
Disability Resource Center**

Faculty Fact Sheet — Asperger's Syndrome

Definition: "A neurological disorder that affects one's ability to understand and respond to others' thoughts and feelings" (Altwood)

The syndrome is at the high end of the autism spectrum --- often referred to as "High Functioning Autism"

Typical Symptoms

- Poor eye contact;
- Inappropriate social interaction
- Unusually strong narrow interests
- Above average to superior intelligence
- Lacking voice intonation
- Impulsivity
- Very literal and concrete thinking patterns
- Difficulties adjusting to change;
- Inflexibility
- Hypersensitivity to sensory stimuli.
- Difficulty interpreting body language of others
- Motor coordination difficulties
- Organizational difficulties
- Poor handwriting.

Classroom Behaviors

Students may:

- Attempt to monopolize conversations
- Become tangential in answering questions
- Exhibit distracting behaviors during class
- Engage in self-stimulating behavior (e.g., rocking, tapping, manipulating objects)
- Be argumentative

Strategies

- Provide clear expectations and rules for behavior.
- Allow student breaks during class (as needed) to prevent over-stimulation.
- Redirect response to bring student to point of answer.
- Provide clearly established and ordered routines.
- Stop inappropriate behaviors with short, clear and precise statements, as non-verbal cues are often missed.
- Avoid situations which may cause sensory overload, such as loud noises or bright lights.
- Instruct student who engages in perseverative questioning or commenting to write down his/her questions and comments and address them after class.
- Create an explicit visual cue to use when the student's questions or comments interfere with classroom instruction.
- Avoid sarcasm, double meanings, and idiomatic expressions.
- Allow student to use word-processing software for assignments and essay questions.

■ If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Linda Smith, Director of the Disability Resource Center, by phone at (973) 655-5341 or by email at smilfd@montclair.edu ■

Autism Resources

• **Going Through College with Autism: Hints and Tips**

By Lisa Jo Rudy, About.com Guide Updated: Dec. 02, 2007
<http://autism.about.com/od/transitioncollegejobs/a/mjohnsontips.htm>

• <http://www.bellaonline.com/subjects/9841.asp>



Helping students with special needs experience independence and transition into a life full of opportunity

http://www.cleinc.net/exceptionalities/autism_spectrum_disorders.aspx

• <http://www.collegeautismspectrum.com>



**ASPERGER
FOUNDATION
INTERNATIONAL**

www.aspfi.org/college/

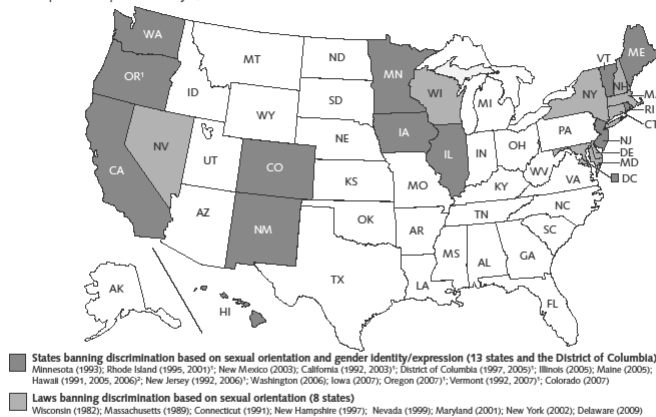
Transgendered Student Issues

- Use of bathrooms and locker rooms
- Residence halls
- Faculty and name changes
- Records and documents
- Programming
- Counseling and Health Care
- Isolation and loneliness
- Parents and family acceptance



State Nondiscrimination Laws in the U.S.

This map was last updated on July 1, 2009



¹ California, DC, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont first passed sexual orientation nondiscrimination laws, then later passed gender identity/expression laws.

² In 1991, Hawaii enacted a law prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in employment. In 2005, it enacted a law prohibiting sexual orientation and gender identity/expression discrimination in housing. In 2006, public accommodations protections were added for sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

Transgendered Student Resources



- Transgender Issues on College Campuses. Brett Beemyn, et al. Wiley Periodicals. New Directions for Student Services, no. 111, Fall 2005.
- ERIC # 427802 - Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender College Students: A Handbook for Faculty and Administrators. (Ronnie Sanlo, Ed.)
- Serving the Needs of Transgender College Students . Brett Beemyn. Journal of Gay & Lesbian Issues in Education, 2003 - umass.edu
- <http://www.transgenderlaw.org/college/guidelines.htm>



Nontraditional Students

- In 2003, some 6.1 million nontraditional college-age students (age 25 or older) were enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities, composing about 37 percent of all college students -- a proportion that has remained fairly constant since the late 1980s, according to U.S. census data. Another estimate using a slightly different definition of "nontraditional" put the number in 2005 at 12 million out of a total of almost 15 million.
- Nontraditional college-age students are much more likely than their younger counterparts to attend college part-time (56 percent compared with 16 percent), according to the census data.
- Studies have shown that nontraditional students have different needs and interests. For example, one recent study of a large, diverse sample of undergraduate students at an urban four-year university found that young traditional students want college to be an extension of high school, with instructors who are fun and relatively less challenging, while nontraditional students want instructors and courses that are "by and large, more rigorous, more serious, and more readily applicable to the 'real world.'"



Nontraditional Students



- Older adults also often are interested in starting a new career, and therefore many want a prior learning assessment, accelerated programs, improved career counseling and job placement, according to an October 2007 report by the American Council on Education -- *Framing New Terrain: Older Adults and Higher Education*.

Nontraditional Student Issues

- Time and time management
- Fear of being with younger students and fitting in
- Money
- Not being able to relate to other students in class
- Technology
- Being willing and ready to accept help



Nontraditional Student Resources

- Nontraditional College Students. Benshoff, James M. - Lewis, Henry A.
Eric Digest #347483 Publication Date: 1992-12-00
- Association for Non-Traditional Students in Higher Education
<http://www.antshe.org/>
- The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid for Non-Traditional Students. <http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/nontraditional.phtml>
- <http://non-traditional-students.blogspot.com/>