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the National Anthem was played. Mr. Henry Barclay offered the invocation before everyone enjoyed a delicious meal.

Attendees also received welcoming remarks from Mrs. Celane McWhorter, Executive Director of National APSE, Mr. Steve Shivers, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and Mr. John Houston, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Many individuals from across the state were recognized for their outstanding achievement and contributions. Please see related stories on **page 2 -3** for more details.

AL-APSE
8228 Royal Oak Court
Montgomery, AL 36117



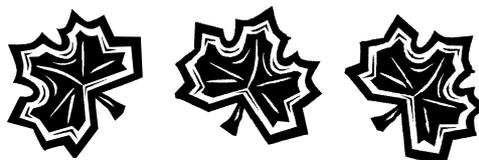
TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS
9th Annual AL-APSE Conference
September 10-12, 2007
Riverview Plaza - Mobile, Alabama

Alabama APSE is pleased to announce training for families, agency volunteers and other interested community members to gain skills to provide job site training and behavior management and intervention. Training is provided free of cost and stipends are available to offset travel and expenses.

Dates & Locations:

- ◆ November 14 -15, 2006 Dothan
- ◆ November 16 – 17, 2006 Mobile

For information on additional training opportunities, visit the AL-APSE website at www.al-apse.org



AL-APSE Independence

OCTOBER 2006

THE NETWORK ON EMPLOYMENT



ADRS and DMH/MR: Collaborating to Make Employment Happen:

One of the first concurrent sessions at this year's conference brought Steve Shivers Commissioner of ADRS and John Houston,

Commissioner of the Dept. of MH/MR to discuss the growing partnership between these two state agencies. Steve Shivers began his career with ADRS as a vocational counselor/evaluator more than 30 years ago and John Houston likewise has worked a similar length of time in the field of social services beginning as a patient advocate/mental health therapist before obtaining his current position. These years of experience in their perspective fields makes a grass roots foundation for the current collaboration.

Steve Shivers reviewed the purpose and services available through ADRS and explained its primary focus: employment that is consumer oriented and based on informed choice. This department is committed to assisting individuals with disabling conditions reach their chosen employment goal.

John Houston gave a historical perspective of mental health treatment for those receiving services through his department. Originally work was considered treatment for individuals in state mental health facilities. It was the only treatment. As federal guidelines were developed, a shift was made to active treatment for habilitation/rehabilitation of the individual, and work was no longer a major focus. Today, active treatment includes all of the services an individual may need to live a productive life. Work is a component of this treatment plan. ADRS and the Dept. of MR/MH will work together to provide the chosen employment and to insure successful outcomes.



The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham scored a BIG Victory for Alabama APSE. The 8th annual conference was held outside of Mobile for the first time in seven years. Feedback from attendees indicated satisfaction with the location. The convenience of shopping, dining, and comfortable meeting rooms all helped to make the Wynfrey a location that Alabama APSE will consider for future training events.

Approximately 320 individuals attended this year's awards banquet that kicked the conference off on August 9th. Those attending dressed in their team colors for the sports themed event. The room was colorfully decorated in crimson and white, orange and blue and other colors to represent other colleges and universities throughout the state and southeast.

Byron White, President of Alabama APSE, welcomed everyone to the banquet. College fight songs were played as everyone entered the banquet room. Guests stood and saluted the flag as

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Alabama APSE names 2006 APSE Idol

Mr. Baron Owes, Employment Development Coordinator from the Montgomery VR office won the 2006 APSE Idol contest. Mr. Owes wowed the crowd with his own version of *Sweet Home Chicago*. Paula, Randy and Simon helped to narrow the field of 14 down to the final 3. The two other finalists were Curtis Glisson and Natasha Gebhardt. The contest was another big hit. Look for more APSE Idol in 2007.



AL-APSE Award Winners

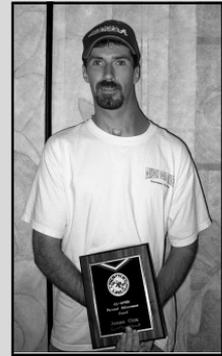
PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WINNERS



Morris Harwood is a graduate of Jacksonville State University where he earned both a BS and MA Degree in Physical Education. In September 2002, Morris was hospitalized for a severe mental illness. Following his discharge from Bryce Hospital, Morris continued his treatment at JBS Mental Health Authority and was hired as their fitness instructor.



Kelley Baughtman has been described as a “committed worker”, “a real inspiration” and “a ray of sunshine” by coworkers and supervisors. Her rehabilitation counselor states that “the world is a better place with folks like Kelly”.



Jesse Cox has exhibited a great attitude despite overwhelming odds. In 1992, an automobile accident left him with a traumatic brain injury. Jesse’s recovery was a long journey, but his optimism & determination kept him going.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD



Durrell Adams spent a great deal of his life living in an institution. He had never worked in the community before beginning a supported employment program in January of 2005. Since that time, he has started his own janitorial business.

FAMILIES OF THE YEAR



The Carlos Smith Family



The Baughtman Family



The Jim Green Agency of the Year Award was awarded to the **Arc of Walker County** representing a small supported employment agency in Alabama. The **Arc of Mobile** and **The Arc of Tuscaloosa County** shared in the recognition for a large supported employment agency in Alabama. Directors, Lou Vick, Jeff Zoghby and Barbara Carroll were on hand to accept these awards.

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AL-APSE Award Winners

PROFESSIONAL AWARD



John Payne is a vocational rehabilitation counselor with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. He works in Baldwin County and serves as liaison counselor to the local mental health center.



Mary Guyton has worked as a job coach for several years and has always demonstrated the highest level of professionalism and diligence in her work. More importantly, she truly cares for the individuals she works with as evidenced by her tireless efforts to assist them in obtaining employment.

BRENDA MCCOMB LEADERSHIP



Lisa Alford

EMPLOYERS OF THE YEAR



McDonalds of Rainsville/Ft. Payne and Attalla is a group of businesses who have worked with one local community to support countless individuals in their employment efforts. They have created positions and provided natural supports for multiple employees in recent years.

Forest Manor Nursing Home has worked with a supported employment program for the past 3 years.

During this time they have hired 10 individuals with disabilities, most of whom are still working. They provide natural supports that result in job stability.



APSE SPIRIT AWARD



Tim Green



Latricia Mitchell

PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Joe McComb

The Arc of Jackson County received the Best Practice Award for their *Business Buddies Program*. This program was developed to increase community understanding of the capabilities of individuals with disabilities and expand natural supports for these individuals as they go to work.

