

# UDaily

## For the Record, Nov. 12, 2010

**Beth Mineo**, director of the Center for Disabilities Studies, will present a session at the annual convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, which will be held in Philadelphia, Nov. 18-20, 2010. The two-hour seminar, titled "Communication Services for Individuals with Severe Disabilities," is part of an ongoing effort by the National Joint Committee for the Communication Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities to ensure that those with the most significant communication challenges have access to appropriate communications services and supports.

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) held its annual conference Oct. 30-Nov. 3, 2010, in Crystal City, Va. A number of Center for Disabilities Studies staff members presented at the conference:

A poster titled "Open to Interpretation: Reasonable Accommodations and Effective Communication in Health Care Facilities Still Present Challenges to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Patients" was presented by **Ilka Riddle**, director of the Health and Wellness unit, **Eileen Sparling**, coordinator of the Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities (HDWD) Project, and **Sharon Romelczyk**, graduate assistant with HDWD, who was a recipient of the AUCD Trainee Volunteer Scholarship.

**Ilka Riddle** led the Health Special Interest Group session at the conference, in which attendees discussed obesity and disability and explored how the AUCD network can address this issue.

**Laura Eisenman**, associate professor in the School of Education and member of the CDS management team, and **Michael Gamel-McCormick**, professor in the School of Human Development and Family Studies and former CDS director, led a presentation titled "Disability Policy and Culture at a Global Scale: Study Abroad in Four Non-Western Countries." The presentation included three UD students from the disabilities studies minor -- **Meghan Moritz**, **Ashley Curran** and Swank Scholarship recipient **Rachel McCulley**. They discussed the Winter Session 2010 trip taken 21 UD students to Ghana, United Arab Emirates, Nepal and Thailand and the influence of the trip on their understanding of disability and culture. **Kim Musheno**, director of legislative affairs at AUCD, accompanied the group on the study abroad trip and joined them for the conference presentation. Moritz, Curran and McCulley were recipients of Trainee Travel Scholarships from AUCD.

Eight ambassadors from the Community Connectors program gave a presentation titled "The Nuts and Bolts of Community Connection" at the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Kinetic Connections conference, Baltimore, Nov. 6, 2010. The presenters -- **Brian Donovan**, **Laura Kelly**, **Dan Klopfenstein**, **Brynn MacBride**, **Michele Ogden**, **Eric Pryor**, **Miriam Shafi** and **Maura Siebold** -- worked individually and as a group for more than 25 hours each to prepare for the conference. Pathways for Life Project Leader **Debbie Bain** coordinated the participation of the Community Connectors at the conference.