



CHRIS  
NEWSLETTER

FALL  
2006

VOLUME  
XV

NUMBER  
2

C O M M E N T S

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## A Kind Hello from the New Kid on the Block

Kimberly Crawford, Ph. D., CCC-SLP  
DOE Program Specialist, Speech/Language & Child Find

Some of you may have heard about this “new kid on the block,” while others may not be aware that there is someone who is picking up where Rachael Spanjer left off. So, let me start by telling you a little about myself. My name is Kimberly Crawford and as indicated above, I am not only stepping into Rachael’s shoes, but I am the Program Specialist for Speech/Language Services as well. I recently came aboard at the Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (DOE BEESS) this past summer - July 7th to be exact. My life has been a whirlwind of sorts since that time.

For the past four years, I had been working on my doctorate at Florida State University in Communication Disorders. I defended my dissertation on June 28th and began this position a week later, while I finalized manuscript revisions, filed paperwork, and said my good-byes to my friends and family at FSU before the commencement ceremony on August 5th. (By the way, I have shared a picture of me from this recent happening!) In a sense,

I was beginning a new chapter in my life before I had completely closed the previous one.

On that note, this new position has been quite a transition for me. I worked for Leon County Public Schools for several years before beginning my doctoral program. During my time at FSU, I continued my involvement in the school system through my research efforts, working with preschoolers and their families. Thus, this change to a state position was somewhat of a shock to my system, as I no longer participate in the hands-on work with children and families. However, as each day goes by, I see how the work we do here at BEESS impacts students through our relationship with those who teach and serve them.

Another notable part of the transition involves filling two positions. First, let me say that I have continued to make gains in my ability to multi-task! As I noted, my background and experience is in speech/language disorders, thus my knowledge and experience in this



area has come in handy. I do, however, still have quite a bit to learn about the Child Find process and CHRIS. Thus, I appreciate the graciousness and patience many of you have shown as I continue to learn and adapt to this new position. I did have the privilege of attending a CHRIS *Plus* training, which enlightened me as to what CHRIS *Plus* is all about! Additionally, I have had several opportunities to interact with FDLRS managers who have been most helpful in discussing the inner workings of Child Find.

Although there is much more I could

# A Kind Hello from the New Kid on the Block

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share about myself, this new journey I am on, and the wonderful people I have met along the way, I will save that for some face-to-face conversations I hope to have with many of you in the near future. For now, let me share that I noticed how Rachael noted in her farewell article in the Spring issue of this year that she worked with wonderful people who had "risen to the challenge and made CHRIS an essential tool for Child Find." Through my time spent with Rachael and conversations with many FDLRS staff and Child Find specialists, I can see that Florida has some of the most wonderful individuals working for the sake of our children. This includes the CHRIS team whom I will have the privilege of meeting in person this month. I'm looking forward to putting faces with names and continuing to make new friends!

On a final note...GO 'NOLES!

## CHRIS Points Program

**Aimee A. Echeverri**

The CHRIS Points Program was created to heighten awareness of CHRIS and to encourage users to provide feedback about the program. In return for their involvement, sites and users who earn the most CHRIS points are recognized in the CHRIS Comments Newsletter. Top points activities this past year included: attending and completing training, returning site documentation, and providing computer labs for training. Thank you to all those who participated.



### Top Individual Winners

**Jeri Hash**

FDLRS/Sunrise Associate Center

**Betsy Stephens**

FDLRS/Miccosukee Associate Center

**Cathy Seals**

FDLRS/NEFEC Associate Center

**Debbie Smalbach**

FDLRS/Gulfcoast Associate Center

### Top Site Winners

FDLRS/Gulfcoast Associate Center, Pinellas County

FDLRS/Gulfcoast Associate Center, Pasco County

FDLRS/Sunrise Associate Center, Hardee County

FDLRS/Sunrise Associate Center, Polk County



This newsletter was developed by the University of Miami, Department of Psychology, through the Children's Registry and Information System (CHRIS), a special project funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS), through federal assistance under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B. The CHRIS Comments newsletter provides updates and information for the users of the CHRIS Registry.

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CHRIS Comments  
Newsletter Schedule for 2006-2007  
August, November, February, May

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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

# Training Update 2006

Aimee A. Echeverri

So far this year, the CHRIS Project has conducted a total of 24 training sessions. A total of 109 users have been trained. This has been the busiest year we have had for our training program in the past five years. We are pleased to see that so many users are interested in our New User, Data Facilitator, and Reporter training sessions. Reporter training is becoming more popular as sites realize the powerful reporting capabilities

that exist within the CHRIS program.

The success of these training sessions would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our traveling trainer, Cory Beermann. For information about our upcoming trainings, please visit <http://www.chris.miami.edu/training.htm>. To request a session, please email Cory at: [cory@miami.edu](mailto:cory@miami.edu) or contact the Help Desk.

Excellent training!



Cory Beermann, Training Specialist

## Training Hall of Fame

*Here are pictures from some of the training sessions conducted this year around the State. Thank you to those users who participated in our trainings sessions and welcomed CHRIS to their training facilities.*

FDLRS/Gulfcoast



FDLRS/Miccosukee



FDLRS/Crown



FDLRS/Suncoast



FDLRS/Galaxy



FDLRS/Crown



University of Miami



University of Miami



FDLRS/South



## NEWS BRIEFS

### *Good-bye CHRIS, Hello New Beginnings*

**Aimee A. Echeverri**

And so it began back in April 2001 when I was hired to be the Help Desk representative for CHRIS. I was still studying for my Bachelor's degree and I was working with FileMaker 5.0. I remember we had to manage 38 separate databases in the State of Florida, collect data from all the sites, and create a master database to run reports for DOE and other administrators. Since those early days, I graduated, got married, bought a condo, and was promoted to Supervisor of Technical Support and Publications. I feel that I have been part of CHRIS

during important milestones in my life. Furthermore, I hope to have made a significant contribution to the development of the CHRIS project.

Now five years later the time has come for me to say good-bye and move on to new beginnings once again. I have accepted a new position as a Systems Analyst here at the University of Miami. I will be in the Treasury department and making frequent stops at CHRIS Headquarters to say "hello". I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members



*Aimee and her husband, Carlos*

of the CHRIS project for the patience, guidance, and friendship that they have shared with me over the past few years. It has been wonderful working with all of you. I will miss you all and I feel confident that CHRIS will continue to excel in all future endeavors.

Finally... GO CANES!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Upcoming CHRIS Training**

To register for a training, please send an e-mail to Cory Beermann at [cory@miami.edu](mailto:cory@miami.edu) or visit the Training web page at [www.chris.miami.edu/training.htm](http://www.chris.miami.edu/training.htm).

#### **New User Training**

November 17th

FDLRS/Reach Associate Center  
Broward County



### **Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

The TAWG Advisory Board Meeting for November has been cancelled. The schedule for future meetings will be communicated via email to participating members.

### **Share a CHRIS story and earn CHRIS Points!**

Do you have an interesting CHRIS story that you would like to share with everyone? If so, please email the us at [chris.um@miami.edu](mailto:chris.um@miami.edu).



### **Do you want to be on the CHRIS mailing list?**

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the CHRIS Comments Newsletter via email, send us your email address at [chris.um@miami.edu](mailto:chris.um@miami.edu). Newsletters are distributed in Adobe PDF format and can be downloaded and saved on your local computer. If you cannot open PDF files, go to [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and download a copy of the free Adobe Acrobat Reader today!

### **Closed for the Holidays**

Please make a note of our upcoming holiday schedule. The Help Desk will not be available on the following days.

#### *Thanksgiving*

November 23 & 24

#### *Christmas*

December 22, 25, & 26

#### *New Years*

December 29 and January 1

