

CANVAS Meeting Agenda, 10-14-25

Tues, Oct 14 at 10am EST

Meeting Link: <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/99181690674>

Anticipated Participants (Highlight your name if in attendance)

- Clara Brunner Ampuero (University of Denver, Learning Effectiveness Program)
- Andrea Philleo (University of Denver, Learning Effectiveness Program)
- Brett Ranon Nachman (College Autism Network | University of Pittsburgh)
- Gretchen LaBonte, UMass Amherst - College of Natural Sciences
- Margot Margarones, Lives in the Balance
- Emily Rodgers, UMass Amherst, College of Natural Sciences (will be setting up in a shared space where all 5 of our First Year Advisors can tune in)
- Greta Heathcote, University of Calgary
- Adva Waranyuwat, UMass Amherst - College of Natural Science (may have to leave early)
- Kate Lukasavage SUNY Ulster Community College
- Anna Barry, UMass Amherst - College of Natural Sciences
- Samina Mian, UMass Amherst - College of Natural Sciences
- Dave Caudel (Frist Center for Autism & Innovation, Vanderbilt University)
- Beth Felsen (Spectrum Transition Coaching LLC)
- Justin Wade, Missouri State University-West Plains (TJ Swift House ASCEND Program, Neurodiversity and Autism Center)
- Lee Williams (CAN)
- Maya Albin (McMaster University)
- Michael Canale (UMBC)
- Clarissa Barnes (ASD Affinity Program, Defiance College)
- Maria Cecilia Montenegro (New Faculty at UTRGV, and attempting to build a support program for students:)
- Lyn Broyles, UMass Amherst College of Information and Computer Sciences
- Jackie Brousseau-Pereira, Assistant Dean, UMass Amherst College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Jodi dUke, George Mason University
- Lauren Allen, SUNY Empire State University & Center for Autism Advocacy: Research, Education, & Supports (CAARES)
- Kathy Szechy, University of Windsor
- Alice Feldman, UMass Amherst - Commonwealth Honors College
- Cody Olson, UMass Amherst - Commonwealth Honors College
- Peter Woodsum - UMass Amherst - Commonwealth Honors College
- Ken Gobbo-Landmark College
- Breyana Roman- UMass Amherst Commonwealth Honors College
- Gina Hoagland - UMBC
- Kelly Matthew- Holyoke Community College

Meeting Plan

CANVAS Updates

- Join our CANVAS list-serv - Our primary means of connecting, sharing info

1. Click [here to join](#)
 2. Send email to the list
<https://groups.google.com/a/collegeautismnetwork.org/forum/#!forum/can-canvas/join> by emailing can-canvas@collegeautismnetwork.org
 3. [CAN Membership Details](#) We appreciate the support your membership provides to help us offer CANVAS and other opportunities.
 4. [College Autism Summit](#): Nov 2-5 in Pittsburgh, PA
- **Share a Resource!** Are you conducting any research studies that you'd like the community to know about? Read an interesting article recently? Discovered a cool resource? This is your chance to briefly share that news with the CANVAS group! List your name and any relevant links below so others may access it at their convenience!

Presentation Details

Date: Tues, Oct 14 at 10am EST

Presenters: Dr. So Yoon Kim (Assistant Professor of Diversity and Special Education, Korea University) and Dr. Shannon LaPoint, Assistant Professor of Special Education, Florida State University)

Presentation Title: Transitions, Adjustments, and Persistence: Autistic Undergraduates Navigating Higher Education

Presentation Description: Drawing from two in-depth qualitative studies, this presentation highlights autistic undergraduates' experiences of transition, adjustment, and persistence in college. Early transition was shaped by proximity to home, family support, new social relationships, transition programs, structural changes from high school, and logistical barriers such as transportation and housing. Students felt adjusted after developing familiarity with campus routines, achieving academic success, and forming meaningful peer connections. Persistence was driven by intrinsic motivation, the value of a degree, and family expectations. Findings highlight the need for autism-tailored, neurodiversity-affirming transition programs, proactive academic advising that fosters routine, predictability, and engagement with academic interests, and expanded peer engagement opportunities to help students navigate college and persist.

Upcoming Presentation

Date: Fri, Nov 21 at 11am ET

Presenters: Elinor Lim, PhD Candidate, University of Portsmouth

Presentation Title: The Role and Impact of Family in Autistic Students' University Journeys

Presentation Description: This presentation will discuss findings from 3 studies conducted during my PhD: A scoping review on the role of family for autistic higher education students; an interview study on autistic students' family relationships and family support; and a quantitative online survey exploring links between autistic students' family support and student outcomes. I will also share reflections on the participatory elements of this research (steering group; consultation) as well as implications of the studies' findings.