

Institute for Disability Studies
ShareCare Notes: Caregiving News
May 26, 2006

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1. Favorite Songs Refresh Aging Minds

There was an article in Alzheimer's Daily News about a music therapist who uses old-time favorite tunes to trigger memories for people with Alzheimer's disease (AD). The article describes how the therapist played "You Are My Sunshine" to an 89 year old patient. The woman was able to remember every word of the song she had heard eighty years before as a child. The therapist uses this method with other patients with AD similar results. Doctors, therapists and even family members are now realizing that using songs can help them interact with their loved one living with memory impairments.

For the full article, please visit: http://www.dailynews.com/dennismccarthy/ci_3861576

For a list of sing-along tapes and DVDs visit The Alzheimer's Store at www.alzstore.com

2. Caregiver Research

Dr. Patricia Rivera at the University of Alabama-Birmingham is recruiting family caregivers for a study. "This project will test the effectiveness of a problem-solving training program tailored to the unique needs of family caregivers of persons with TBI."

To find out more, please visit:

<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct/show/NCT00164645?order=1>. ShareCare also has an

enrollment letter from Dr. Rivera that we can email to you. Contact

Christy.harrison@usm.edu or Stella.fair@usm.edu

Dr. Tamilyn Bakas at Indiana University School of Nursing is recruiting caregivers for a study "to test a new educational program for families taking care of persons who have had a stroke." Recruitment will continue through June. For more information, see

<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct/show/NCT00264745?order=1>

3. Upcoming June Events

On June 8, 2006 at 6 p.m., Forrest General Hospital will be having their monthly support group in the Elm Room. Dr. Schwartz will be the guest speaker. If you have any questions, please contact Christy by phone 601.266.5163 or TTY 1.888.671.0051 or by e-mail Christy.harrison@usm.edu .

On June 13, 2006 at 11:30 a.m., we will host a Brown Bag lunch at the Institute for Disability Studies, which is located on the fourth floor in Bond Hall. The theme for the potluck is a Salad Luncheon. Please bring your favorite salad item or sandwich. The Mississippi Department of Mental Health's Division of Alzheimer's will provide a

discussion on “How to Communicate with a Person with Memory Loss”. We are reviving the Brown Bag lunch in an effort to support our caregivers both on and off campus. If you have any questions, please contact Christy by phone 601.266.5163 or TTY 1.888.671.0051 or by e-mail Christy.harrison@usm.edu .

On June 15, 2006, the City of Hattiesburg Parks and Recreation Department will host a Senior Fair at the Lake Terrace Convention Center. This fair is for adults 50 and over or their caregivers. The event will start at 9 a.m. and last until 12 p.m. There will be exhibitors providing information on products and services for senior adults. There will be door prizes and refreshments. A shuttle service will be provided and wheelchairs will be available. For more information, contact Mike Smith at 601.545.4674.