



ALPINE LEARNING GROUP  
*Meeting the Challenge*

777 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ 07652  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*A Nonprofit Education and Treatment Program  
Serving Individuals with Autism*

[www.alpinelearninggroup.org](http://www.alpinelearninggroup.org)

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There is no deduction from your account or your interest earned.

## Calendar of Events

### A Star-Studded Evening of Comedy to Benefit Autism Education

**Airing on Comedy Central—Thursday, October 21st at 9:00pm EST**  
Jon Stewart hosted The Night of Too Many Stars which took place on Saturday, October 2nd and featured the talents of Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Fallon, Tina Fey, Ricky Gervais, Chris Rock, Adam Sandler, Sarah Silverman and Triumph the Insult Comic Dog and many more. You can laugh the night away and support Alpine Learning Group and Autism Education by making a contribution during the live telethon on October 21st. Celebrities such as George Clooney, Jimmy Kimmel and Sofia Vergara will be manning the phones.



### A Garage Sale Like No Other!

**Saturday, October 16th and Sunday, October 17th • 9am—3pm**  
830 Linwood Avenue West, Paramus, NJ (Parking available next door at Alpine Learning Group)  
If you are looking for treasures, this is the place to be! Alpine families, friends and supporters have donated furniture, books, holiday items, clothing and lots more. All proceeds will benefit Alpine Learning Group's Adult Learning Center.



### A Special Evening at SLATE Honoring our Friends at TD Bank

**Tuesday, November 9th**  
**SLATE, 54 W. 21st Street, New York City**  
Please join us for this very special event featuring food, fun, music, billiards and fabulous live and silent auction items. Tickets are \$150 per person. Tickets and journal greetings can be purchased on line at [www.alpinelearninggroup.org](http://www.alpinelearninggroup.org).



# ALPINE LEARNING GROUP Summit

Dedicated to providing state-of-the-art education and intervention services to individuals with autism and their families

## Cyclists "Go the Distance" and Raise \$150,000 for Alpine Learning Group



Sunday, May 16th was the perfect day for a bike ride as cyclists, families and teams took to the roads of Bergen County in

support of the first annual "Go the Distance for Autism" Family Bike Event. The ride was a collaborative effort between Alpine Learning Group, EPIC and REED Academy and riders raised over \$300,000 in support of the students and families of all three schools.

"By collaborating on this event, we were able to use one voice to reach out to corporate sponsors and the local community," said Wendy Worden, Director of Development at Alpine Learning Group. "The outpouring of support from businesses, individuals, teams and families was amazing and is what made this event so successful."

Alpine Learning Group's sponsors, riders and teams raised \$150,000 and the top fundraising team, Team Melik-Baschkopf, raised over \$74,000 which will be doubled through a Matching Grant from the Melik-Baschkopf Foundation for Alpine's new Adult Learning Center.

TD Bank was the Premiere Sponsor of the event and was represented by employees who rode for Team TD. Additional support was provided by Hudson City Savings Bank, PSE&G, NVE Bank and Columbia Bank.

Northern Highlands Regional High School in Allendale hosted the event and provided the perfect venue for over 500 cyclists who participated in the 50, 25 and 3 mile routes or the Family Ride which was held on the school campus.

Following the ride, participants and families mingled during Family Fun Time where children enjoyed bounce houses, games, face painting and entertainment. Sandwiches and snacks were donated by Blue Ribbon Restaurants and Blue Moon Café. Natale's Pizzeria of Waldwick provided pizza for the event.

"This was a phenomenal event," said Bridget Taylor. "Our families and supporters really made a commitment to riding for Alpine Learning Group students and we're already looking forward to 2011."

**Thank you** to all of the riders, teams, sponsors, donors and volunteers who made this day a tremendous success.



Team TD Bank goes the distance!

### We are looking for Volunteers!

If you are interested in lending a helping hand for the 2011 Go the Distance for Autism Family Bike Event, please contact Wendy Worden at [wworden@alpinelearninggroup.org](mailto:wworden@alpinelearninggroup.org).

## Staff

**Dr. Bridget A. Taylor** Psy.D, BCBA-D  
Executive Director

**Kate Cerino Britton** MSEd., MA, BCBA  
Principal/Assistant Director

**Angela Pagliaro** MA, BCBA  
Director of Outreach Services

**Erin Richard White**, MA, BCBA  
Director of Adult & Transition Services

**Jaime Stine**, MS, BCBA  
Teacher

**Karissa Masuicca** MSEd, BCBA  
Teacher

**Casey Cooper** MA, BCBA  
Teacher

**Wendy Worden**  
Director of Development

**Terri Pisano**  
Business Manager

**Linda Moran**  
Human Resources Manager

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Associate Professor,  
Department of Psychology,  
Auburn University

# Message from the Director

Dear Friends:

Every morning when I walk into Alpine Learning Group I am reminded of so many important achievements of our students and staff: David learned to write his name— Emily has learned multiplication and division... Jack can ride his bike independently. These are all reminders of the successes that our students, families and staff achieve every day and I am continually amazed and impressed by their talent and tenacity. It truly is a life-long learning process and this year was chock full of exciting events and accomplishments to continue this legacy.

In May, we collaborated with EPIC and REED for the first annual "Go the Distance for Autism" Family Bike Event at Northern Highlands in Allendale. It was filled with firsts...the first annual, the first collaborative fundraising event and the first time that I rode 25 miles on a bike. It truly was an exceptional event that used the combined voices of all three schools to raise funds and awareness in support of autism education. Many thanks to the riders, sponsors and supporters who helped us raise \$150,000 for Alpine Learning Group.

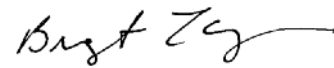
The big news this year has been the Adult Learning Center and I am happy to report that we've made amazing strides in the design and construction of the center. Since purchasing the property next door in October 2009, our "Dream Team" of architects, engineers and attorneys have helped us receive approval from the town for the construction and designed a functional and beautiful building that will

accommodate our growing number of adults. Of course, none of this would be possible without the powerful support of both the Dell Foundation and the Melik-Baschkopf Foundation who provided the initial funding for the Center. Our friends at the Quest Autism Foundation have provided generous support as well and most recently we received approval for a \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant from Bergen County.

Of course, there is still much more to accomplish. Our capital campaign to raise an additional \$4 million for the construction of the Adult Learning Center has just begun and we are fortunate to be working with Ruotolo Associates, our fundraising partners for this initiative. As many of you know firsthand, the path to adulthood for individuals with autism can be challenging. Alpine Learning Group is committed to meeting that challenge and creating a future for adults with autism filled with promise and potential.

On behalf of all of the students at Alpine Learning Group, thank you for your continued support.

Warmly,



Bridget



## Many Thanks to Our Bike Event Sponsors

### PREMIERE SPONSOR



### PLATINUM SPONSORS



### DIAMOND SPONSORS



### CYCLING SPONSORS



### MEDIA SPONSOR



## Congratulations Alpine Graduates!

On June 18th, over 100 family members, friends, students and staff celebrated with Lauren and Jonathan as they graduated from Alpine's Education Program to our Adult Program. They have both been students at Alpine since they were very young and have worked hard to achieve their many accomplishments.

### Picture Perfect

Jonathan has been Alpine's resident photographer since he picked up his first digital camera and Graduation Day was no exception. He loves to work, has an uncanny ability for giving driving directions and enjoys his job delivering mail to seniors. His hard-working attitude keeps Alpine staff on their toes and his sense of humor keeps a smile on everyone's face.

### Miss Independence

Lauren has always been an excellent student. She is Alpine's resident fashionista, a long distance runner, has learned to use the internet and enjoys her job at the EPIC school performing a variety of tasks.

We are very proud of Lauren and Jonathan and their many accomplishments — from learning to read to mastering vocational skills to socializing with friends and family. They have both worked hard to achieve their successes and we congratulate them on their graduation.



*"The extraordinary accomplishments of both Lauren and Jonathan would not have been possible without the brilliance, hard work and dedication of all of their teachers, their parents and family members."*

—Bridget Taylor

## Giving Back to the Community

### Upcoming Publications by Alpine Learning Group Staff

Alpine Outreach parent and Oral Surgeon, Dr. Blitz, and Alpine's Assistant Director Kate Britton published an article in the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America*, outlining procedures to use when working with children with behavioral challenges during dental visits. Blitz, M., & Britton, K. C. (2010). Management of the Uncooperative Child. *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America, Volume 22, Issue 4*.

Taylor, B.A., & DeQuinzio, J.A. (in press). Video Modeling. In James K. Luiselli's *Teaching and Behavior Support for Children and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders: A "How To" Practitioner's Guide*. NC: Oxford University Press.

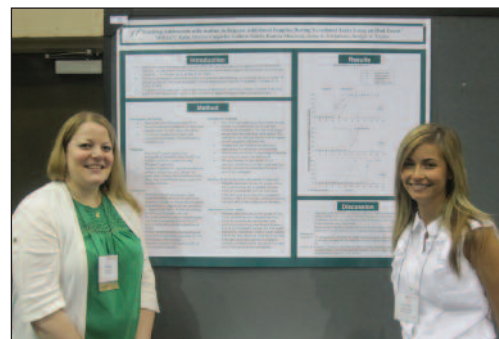
Taylor, B.A., & Fisher, J. (in press). Three Important Things to Consider when Starting Intervention for a Child Newly Diagnosed with Autism. *Behavior Analysis in Practice*.

White, E. R., Hoffman, B. H., Hoch, H., and Taylor, B.A. (in press). Teaching teamwork to adolescents with autism: The cooperative use of activity schedules. *Behavior Analysis in Practice*.

### Alpine Learning Group Staff Members Presented at ABAI Conference

As part of our commitment to giving back to the scientific community, Alpine Learning Group staff gave ten presentations at the 36th Annual International Conference in Applied Behavior Analysis in San Antonio. Eight of the presentations were applied studies examining innovative interventions developed and implemented at Alpine Learning Group.

In addition, Dr. Bridget Taylor was recognized as one of the Prominent Women in Behavior Analysis and presented on a panel along with other prominent women in the field.



Melissa Kabn and Deanna Cappiello

### Dr. Taylor Speaks to International Community

In April, Dr. Bridget Taylor was invited to speak at Anadolu University in Turkey. She visited the Tohum Autism Foundation for Early Diagnosis and Education and spoke to an enthusiastic audience of therapists, caregivers and educators regarding ABA interventions in autism. Dr. Taylor is pictured at right with the event organizers and panelists at Anadolu University.



# Adult Learning Center

## Adult Program Objectives

In the six years since the Adult Program was started, our goals have been to provide continuing education in life skills and career training as well as paid supported employment opportunities. The Adult Learning Center will allow us to expand the program and serve the growing population of adults with autism. The goals of the center are:

- **Ensure that every participant in the program is employed;**
- **Enhance community integration and raise society's expectations of adults with autism;**
- **Provide support to families by distributing information on important topics such as funding and health insurance;**
- **Increase public awareness of the severe lack of services for adults with autism and the social and financial impact this will have on society;**
- **Increase the number of trained staff available to serve the adult autism community;**
- **Work with similar programs to share knowledge and information;**
- **Systematically track, evaluate, and publish results of programs and interventions.**

## Adult Center Highlights

- **In October 2009, Alpine Learning Group purchased the property adjacent to the current education center in Paramus.**
- **In July 2009, the Paramus Board of Adjustments gave approval to construct the Adult Learning Center.**
- **The Adult Learning Center will be the first facility of its kind in northern New Jersey.**
- **The center will provide community integration and paid employment opportunities for all participants.**
- **The campus will serve the educational needs of children and adults with autism throughout their lifetime.**
- **The 13,000 square foot structure includes:**
  - Vocational Skills Training Facilities
  - Individual and Group Work Areas
  - Kitchen and Dining Area
  - Fitness Facilities
  - Recreational Facilities
  - Public Gathering Space for presentations and events
- **Perkins Eastman's design includes substantial green features that limit the environmental impact of the building.**



## A Foundation of Support

**The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation**  
\$500,000 Fixed Grant

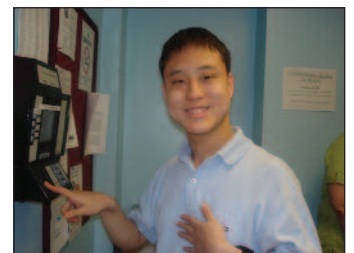
**The Melik-Baschkopf Foundation**  
\$500,000 Fixed and  
\$500,000 Matching Grants

**The Quest Autism Foundation**  
\$750,000 Grant

**Bergen County Community  
Development Block Grant**  
\$300,000 Grant

"We strive to ensure that all of the program participants earn a paycheck demonstrating that effective adult programs can change the way that individuals with autism contribute to society as well as the way that the community recognizes their capabilities."

—Dr. Bridget Taylor



## Alpine Learning Group's "Dream Team"

We are fortunate to have worked with an amazing team of professionals led by **Gwen Purcell**, the Adult Learning Center's Project Manager. **Perkins Eastman** has designed a state-of-the-art structure while **Pashman Stein** and **Lapatka Associates** have guided us through the legal and site engineering challenges and helped us secure approvals from the town, state and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the Adult Learning Center. The newest member of our team, **Ruotolo Associates**, will help us secure the funding to make the Adult Learning Center a reality.

The Adult Learning Center Project Manager, Gwen Purcell, retired from the position of Senior Vice President, Facilities and Contract Management at the New York Branch of The Royal Bank of Scotland in early 2008 and joined Alpine Learning Group later that year. Her past professional experience coupled with her long time association with Alpine make her ideal to coordinate all facets of this project.



**Perkins Eastman** Perkins Eastman is among the top architecture and design firms in the world. The firm prides itself on progressive and inventive design that meets client goals and enhances the human experience. Because of its depth and range, Perkins Eastman works seamlessly with developers and owners on assignments from niche buildings to complex projects that enrich whole communities. The firm provides award-winning design through its eight domestic offices and internationally.

**LAPATKA ASSOCIATES** Established in 1983, Lapatka Associates Inc. is a Paramus based Consulting Civil Engineering firm that provides services for land development studies, planning, and design. Their projects include commercial, residential, and institutional sites. Al Lapatka is the president and owner and has provided his expertise throughout the design, planning and approval process for the Adult Center.



Pashman Stein P.C. is one of New Jersey's leading commercial law firms. Founded by the sons of two New Jersey Supreme Court Justices, the firm's lawyers are dedicated to providing the highest quality legal services and to meeting the particular needs of each client. Scott Lippert, chair of the firm's

real estate department, has guided Alpine Learning Group through the process of acquiring the property and obtaining the approvals for the Adult Center.



Ruotolo Associates, Inc., headquartered in Cresskill, is a full-service consulting firm for fundraising and related management services. Since 1979, RA has partnered with more than 1,000 non-profits nationwide,

providing tailored approaches designed to address the specific short and long term needs of each individual client. The newest team member, Ruotolo will be Alpine's fundraising partner throughout the Capital Campaign.

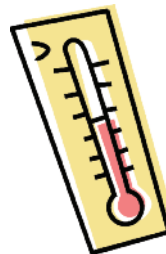
## Community Support



Alpine Learning Group has been awarded a \$300,000 Federal Grant under the Community Development Block Grant program for the construction of the Adult Learning Center. This is a highly competitive grant process and the county receives hundreds of applications each year. Many thanks to Community Development Director, Anthony Mastrogiovanni, the

Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders and County Executive, Dennis McNerney for their support of this project.

## We've (Almost) Met Our Match!



In December 2008, the Melik-Baschopf Foundation issued Alpine Learning Group a \$500,000 Matching Grant Challenge to raise funds for the Adult Learning Center. We are proud to say that our families, friends, donors and sponsors answered the challenge and together we have raised \$424,000 so far. Our goal is to

reach \$500,000 by December 31st and the Foundation will match these donations for a total of \$1,000,000 towards the Center.

## Alpine Learning Group Hosts Teachers from Kosovo



This past March, Alpine Learning Group hosted two special education teachers from Kosovo. Jeta Deva and Lume Berisha were sponsored by a local family and spent four intense weeks at

Alpine Learning Group receiving behavioral based teaching. The story began when Shpresa Xhakli, whose adult son is on the spectrum and whose nephew attends Alpine, saw the difficulties that families in her homeland of Kosovo faced when trying to find appropriate programs for their children with autism. Upon her return to the US, she contacted Dr. Bridget Taylor and asked for help in providing ABA training and experience for Jeta and Lume.

"I have seen remarkable progress with both my son and my nephew and knew that these same therapies could help the children and families struggling with autism in Kosovo," said Mrs. Xhakli. "The teachers are eager to learn but there is no money and no opportunity for them to receive ABA training. Dr. Taylor and the Alpine staff were so helpful in providing the teaching model that will ultimately lead to success for the children of Kosovo."

In addition to the training, Alpine staff members and families collected new and gently used toys and other learning tools. Shpresa and her team of teachers then drove from village to village delivering much needed items to thirteen different schools across the countryside. In addition, Shpresa hosted a licensed ABA trainer from the US for one week in Kosovo who trained dozens of teachers in ABA methods while Jeta and Lume translated.

In recognition of Alpine's assistance with this training, Nezafete Sejdiu, the wife of Kosovo's president, visited Alpine for a firsthand look at our program on April 2nd, the United Nation's Autism Awareness Day.



*Shpresa Xhakli, Nezafete Sejdiu, Dr. Bridget Taylor, Shqipe Biba*

## Players Ante Up for Alpine Learning Group's First Poker Tournament

On Wednesday, August 4th over 100 people gathered at the Paramus Elks Club for Alpine Learning Group's first Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament. It was a great night filled with good food, good fun, great card playing and a spectacular finish!

The top ten players shared a \$6,000 prize pool and the winner was Jonathan Bomser (at right). Congratulations Jonathan and all of the final table players!



The Final Table was:

1. Jonathan Bomser
2. Michael Mistretta
3. Michael Coates
4. Carmine Abruzzo
5. Carole Unger
6. Martin Abruzzo
7. Joe Tashjian
8. Joe Badalamente
9. Chiro Djurovic
10. Joe Caifa

The event raised over \$10,000 which will be applied to the construction of the new Adult Learning Center. This was such a popular event that we are planning to hold another tournament in the near future so keep those card skills sharpened!

Many thanks to the following individuals and businesses for their support of this event and their help in making the evening a success!

Paramus Elks Club  
JR Cigar  
King Pizza  
Turvino's Pizzeria  
Tumbling Dice  
Adele Badalamenti  
Kate Britton  
Michelle Cerullo  
Casey Cooper  
Jo Gatto  
Christiana Hunt  
Ingrid Munin  
Jaime Schilling  
Jaime Stine  
Cindy Wellekens



# News and Announcements

## Dr. Bridget Taylor's Future Speaking Engagements

- November 5, 2010** Central California Autism Center  
www.csufresno.edu
- 
- November 16, 2010** Baldwin County Public Schools
- 
- December 11, 2010** ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment  
and Development, Ontario Canada
- 
- January 15, 2011** University of Central Florida's Center  
for Autism & Related Disabilities  
www.ucf-card.org
- 
- February 18, 2011** California Association for Behavior  
Analysts • www.calaba.org
- 
- March 2, 2011** New York Center for Infants and  
Toddlers www.nycit.org/abaconference
- 
- March 25, 2011** The Pennsylvania Association for  
Behavior Analysis • www.PennABA1.org

## Ethics and Professionalism Workshop for Behavior Analysts

This workshop is open to the public and takes place on October 23rd from 9:00am to 12:00pm at Alpine Learning Group.

*Presented by Angela Pagliaro, MA, BCBA  
and Erin Richard White, MA, BCBA*

3 Type 2 CEU credits provided for BCBA and BCaBA certification

To register for this workshop, go to [www.alpinelearninggroup.org](http://www.alpinelearninggroup.org) and click the Workshop link on the Home Page.

*For more information, contact Angela Pagliaro at 201-612-7800 x17 or [apagliaro@alpinelearninggroup.org](mailto:apagliaro@alpinelearninggroup.org).*

## Free Lecture Series on Autism

Alpine Learning Group staff members are presenting a Free Lecture Series to provide information and strategies on various issues facing families and caregivers of children with autism. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Please contact Diane Ramge at [dramge@alpinelearninggroup.org](mailto:dramge@alpinelearninggroup.org) to register. All Lectures take place from 6:30pm - 8:00pm at Alpine Learning Group.

- October 20th** Practical Strategies to Address Challenging Behavior
- 
- November 18th** Teaching Self-Care Skills
- 
- December 15th** Promoting Safety Skills
- 
- January 19th** Verbal Behavior: Increasing Communication Skills
- 
- February 16th** Teaching Play and Leisure Skills
- 
- March 16th** Addressing Eating Issues
- 
- April 20th** Activity Schedules to Promote Independence
- 
- May 19th** Ask the Experts—Open Q&A



### WELCOME

**New Professional Advisory  
Board Member**

**James E. Carr, Ph.D., BCBA-D**  
Associate Professor  
Dept. of Psychology, Auburn University



### CONGRATULATIONS

To one of Alpine Learning Group's amazing Teachers, **Jaime Stine, MS** for becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.



### MANY THANKS....

On August 28th, over 100 friends and family members of the Flynn Family gathered at Hooters on Long Island for a fundraiser to support Liam and Riley King (pictured left and right) and all of their classmates at Alpine Learning Group. The event raised over \$6,000 through donations, ticket sales and raffle items which will support the construction of the new Adult Learning Center. Many thanks to Laurajeon Flynn for organizing the event and to the King Family and all of the event attendees for their support of Alpine Learning Group.



*Event Organizer Laurajeon Flynn  
with her sister, Colleen King*