

Join us for a special  
speaker series



Appleton Education Foundation

Community Education Series

*Brain to Five*

Mar. 5 • Apr. 2 • Apr. 23 • May 13

## SHAPING THE BRAIN



Support for this  
community series  
provided by:

Featuring Presentations from  
UW-Madison Waisman Center  
Brain Investigators

**MARCH 5 • 7 p.m. • North HS**  
Susan Ellis Weismer, Ph.D.

**APRIL 2 • 7 p.m. • North HS**  
Jenny Saffran, Ph.D.

**APRIL 23 • 7 p.m. • North HS**  
Seth David Pollak, Ph.D.

**MAY 13 • 7 p.m. • East HS**  
Richard Davidson, Ph.D.  
(Rescheduled from Feb. 6)

Affinity Health System  
Appleton Education  
Foundation

Community First  
Credit Union

J. J. Keller  
Foundation, Inc.

Mielke Family  
Foundation

ThedaCare

Thrivent Financial  
for Lutherans

University of Wisconsin  
Foundation

Waisman Center  
UW Madison

Wisconsin Academy  
of Sciences,  
Arts and Letters

All presentations at Appleton North High School except  
Dr. Davidson - Appleton East High School  
[www.AppletonEducationFoundation.org](http://www.AppletonEducationFoundation.org)

## PhDs, Yes... and Parents, too

The brain investigators featured in the Appleton Education Foundation's first-ever community education series are conducting some of today's most important scientific and clinical research on the brain. Perhaps most important, all of our esteemed speakers are proud parents themselves and bring a real-life flavor to their respective messages.

*"One of the amazing things about the work I do  
is I get to look inside people's brains virtually  
every day. That's still an amazing experience  
and one that I am humbled by."*

*-Richard Davidson, Ph.D.*

## Bringing Focus to the First Five Years

*— improving early learning opportunities*

Research shows that a child's first five years are critical to growth and development – physically, emotionally and socially as well as health- and learning-wise.

To ensure we're giving our kids the tools, skills and knowledge they need for success in school and life, the Appleton Education Foundation is marking its 10th anniversary by offering the AEF Community Education Series – *Brain to Five* in partnership with the Waisman Center at UW-Madison and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

This first-of-its-kind, FREE series welcomes nationally-renowned researchers (known as "brain investigators") to the Fox Cities and features presentations designed to help parents, educators, child care providers and the entire community understand how babies and toddlers process the world around them and how each of us plays an integral role in our children's early learning and development.

## Partnering for Our Children

With special collaboration among the Appleton Education Foundation, the Waisman Center at UW-Madison and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, *Brain to Five* creates a unique, exciting opportunity for our community to learn from leading researchers who have years of hands-on experience and insight in early learning.

### ABOUT THE AEF

Established in 1997 by parents and community leaders in the Fox Cities, the Appleton Education Foundation provides classroom teachers with accessible, flexible resources to enhance student learning. In the last 10 years, the AEF has supported a variety of innovative learning projects and awarded more than \$1 million in funding for educational programs that aren't financed by public budgets.

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

### ABOUT THE WAISMAN CENTER

For 34 years, the Waisman Center has been dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about human development, developmental disabilities and neurodegenerative diseases. It is one of nine national facilities with a Mental Retardation Development Disabilities Research Center and houses 60 labs, seven specialty clinics and the brain imaging center. The Waisman Center is a place for discovery, care and learning as its faculty develop new therapies and treatments for people with developmental disabilities.

[www.waisman.wisc.edu](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu)

### ABOUT THE WISCONSIN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, ARTS AND LETTERS

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters was founded in 1870 and is an independent, nonprofit organization connecting people and ideas from all areas of knowledge and all walks of life to celebrate thought, culture and nature in Wisconsin and help solve common problems. The Academy provides information to members and the public and creates a community where citizens and experts can share ideas.

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

## Continuing Education

Continuing Education Credits are being offered toward professional development and training for certain fields/interests, including child care and education. Please check with your professional liaisons for more information.

## WHAT DOES THAT GURGLE REALLY MEAN? EARLY LANGUAGE AND YOUR TODDLER



**Susan Ellis Weismer, Ph.D.**

*Wednesday, March 5, 7 p.m. — North High*

### PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

With years of experience in language processing, Dr. Ellis Weismer will take parents and caregivers through the stages of child language development, from cooing to forming full sentences, as they complete their journey through early childhood. She will also share comparisons among typically developing children, late talkers and toddlers with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), and talk about how to identify language learning difficulties and disorders early on.

### ABOUT DR. ELLIS WEISMER

Also focusing her research efforts on school-age children and adolescents with language impairment, Dr. Ellis Weismer has published several notable studies and received honors from the Wisconsin Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 2003.

### CREDENTIALS

*Ph.D., Indiana University; Professor – Communicative Disorders; Associate Dean for Research for the College of Letters and Science*



**Under the direction of Dr. Richard Davidson, the Waisman Center's Brain and Imaging Laboratory is performing cutting-edge research on brain function and development. Davidson was named *Madison Magazine's* Person of the Year (2007).**

## CHILDREN'S EMOTIONS AND THE DEVELOPING BRAIN



**Seth David Pollak, Ph.D.**

*Wednesday, April 23, 7 p.m. — North High*

### PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Pollak sheds light on the processes and patterns of a child's normal emotional development. His ongoing studies with kids help show how emotions are shaped by nature and nurture, the effects early experiences may have later in life and how child maltreatment can shape emotions. With a special interest in Down syndrome, Dr. Pollak also discusses the emotional impact this genetic disorder can have.

### ABOUT DR. POLLAK

Truly committed to his studies, Dr. Pollak initiated an outreach project for children adopted from international orphanages and was named the 1998-2000 recipient of the Science Scholar Award from the National Down Syndrome Society.

### CREDENTIALS

*Ph.D., University of Rochester; Faculty Co-Director, Research Participation Core; Distinguished Professor of Psychology and of Psychiatry Pediatrics*

## HOW BABIES LEARN



**Jenny Saffran, Ph.D.**

*Wednesday, April 2, 7 p.m. — North High*

### PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Director of the Waisman Center's Infant Learning Lab, Dr. Saffran's hands-on research gives us a better understanding of babies' incredible language processing abilities. She talks about how babies learn at different stages and explains the skills most critical to building their vocabulary. Dr. Saffran also discusses the ways parents and caregivers can encourage babies' language development.

### ABOUT DR. SAFFRAN

Dr. Saffran has been recognized for her work as an honoree of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers and 2007 Scholar Award grant recipient from the James S. McDonnell Foundation.

### CREDENTIALS

*Ph.D., University of Rochester; Group Coordinator, Communication and Cognitive Processes Group; UW-Madison Distinguished Professor of Psychology*

A partnership promoting excellence in education



*Enhancing Educational Excellence Since 1997*



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

## SHAPING YOUR CHILD'S BRAIN



**Richard Davidson, Ph.D.**

*Tuesday, May 13, 7 p.m. — East High*

### PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Providing an inside look at brain development, Dr. Davidson describes how a baby's brain develops and changes throughout life. He'll share his findings on brain studies of normal children and those at risk for affective disorders such as depression and anxiety. He also explains how we regulate our emotions and the incredible advances in brain imaging to explore and understand how our brains function.

### ABOUT DR. DAVIDSON

Dr. Davidson was named one of the world's 100 most influential people by *Time* magazine in 2006, worked with the Mind and Life Institute and has traveled to India to complete brain studies with the Dalai Lama and monk community.

### CREDENTIALS

*Ph.D., Harvard; Faculty Core Director, Waisman Center Scientific Core; Faculty Core Director, Brain Imaging Core; Vilas Professor, Psychology and Psychiatry*

