In Spring 2018, students from various class years were enrolled in the first-year seminar, *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Fact vs. Fiction*. The course encouraged discussion about the misconceptions surrounding individuals with ASDs. In addition, students learned about diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and careers involving individuals with ASDs.

One of the main learning objectives is to have FYS students gain exposure to neuro-diverse individuals while neuro-diverse individuals will have peer interactions and build social skills. In the Kindness Rocks workshops, FYS students ($N = 14$) make rock art with students with special needs ($N = 15$) from the John Charlton School. Dr. Albee Mendoza and Professor Joshua Nobiling hosted the two workshops in the Longwood Hall Art Studio. Students interacted with individuals with ASDs and other neurodevelopmental disorders, which promoted building relationships with diverse populations as well as future professional development skills.

Another main event was to hear about the experiences of professionals caring for and working with individuals with ASD. On January 31, 2018, Ms. Kendra Rosner played interactive games with the students, shared her educational history, provided information about symptoms of ASD, discussed what happens to a family after a child is diagnosed with ASD, and stated what services and resources are available at Charlton. On March 7, 2018, Ms. Megan Polichetti shared her educational history, discussed strategies in managing the behaviors of their students, and provided information about the transition process after a student ages out of the Charlton School. On March 28, 2018, Mr. Thai Le spoke about his experience growing up with a younger sibling with a disability. He discussed the challenges and rewards him and his family face being ethnic minorities in an urban setting and navigating the healthcare system for his brother. On April 11, 2018, Ms. Dafne Cartwright, a Family Services Coordinator from Autism Delaware, who is also Wesley College alumni, talked to the students about her academic background and discussed services available for individuals with ASD in Kent, Sussex, and New Castle counties.

Students were given the extra credit opportunity to raise money for and participate in this year’s Walk for Autism on April 14, 2018 in Cape Henlopen State Park. Dr. Albee Mendoza created a team and together with faculty, students, and staff from Wesley College, Team Wesley raised a total of $270.00 in online, cash, and check donations. Team Wesley sponsored an event sign and had 11 Team Wesley members participate in the Walk who networked with families and advocates from all over the First State.

Pictures for this course as well as other activities from the Department of Psychology at Wesley College are available on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/WesleyCollegePsychology/.

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Walk for Autism Event Sign

Team Wesley at the Walk for Autism
Special Education Teachers from John Charlton School
Family Member of Sibling with ASD

Family Services Coordinator from Autism Delaware