

## **ADVISORY BOARD**

### **James Patrick O'Donoghue**

Raised in, "the Immigrant City" of Lawrence, Massachusetts: James Patrick O'Donoghue is a Vietnam Era Veteran and a diverse individual of European, West Asian and Native American Indian heritage and is married to the Peruvian immigrant Adriana O'Donoghue. James has had an interest in architecture and how things work from his earliest years. By 1994 he went on to design a magnetic levitation (maglev) train system that solved the imperfections of prior art while advancing magnetic propulsion. He has been internationally recognized by maglev scientists and engineers from around the globe and has been an advocate for magnetic levitation, high-speed rail and urban transportation systems for smart growth cities since 1993. Since 2014, James has been the Vice-Chairman of the City of Lawrence Redevelopment Authority. James has used his talents and experience to bring forward ideas that can take Lawrence into the future. He served with others on the Economic Development Committee of Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera's Transition Team defining a vision that can move Lawrence into the future. He is a loyal supporter of the disabled community, especially for people on the Autism Spectrum.

## **ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Richard Rodriguez**



Attorney Richard Rodriguez is a product of Special Education and an advocate for people suffering from disabilities. His childhood experience can be best described by a recent *Eagle Tribune* article, "Local lawyer overcame obstacles to get college education." This article states that when he was growing up in a housing project in New York City, "other youths teased and ridiculed him because of his speech and hearing difficulty." Today Richard is an attorney practicing law in the Merrimack Valley area and serves as President/Chairperson of the Lawrence Commission on Disability. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, a Paralegal Certificate with Honor from Long Island University, a Postgraduate Certificate in Public Policy from the CORO Foundation in Public Policy, and his J.D. Degree from Massachusetts School of Law. As a role model to people suffering from disabilities, Attorney Rodriguez was selected to serve as Alumni Speaker at John Jay College where he presented a speech to motivate and inspire similarly disadvantaged students.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR**

### **Treasurer**

### **Adam Rajczyk**

Adam Rajczyk is a founding Board Member of Asperger Works, Inc. and is its Treasurer. Mr. Rajczyk is a government professional, who has been working as a part-time consultant since his retirement in 2002.

He received his education in Poland, a country he left in 1968, and in the United States.

Like his wife, Mr. Rajczyk has made himself completely accessible to Asperger Works. He has been extremely supportive of Mr. Rajczyk as he grew from a child to a man and is proud of all of his achievements. It is because of Daniel's difficulties in acquiring and maintaining employment that he wants to help others on the Spectrum succeed.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR**

### **Rachael J. Chambers**

Rachael J. Chambers fell in love with nonprofits at the tender age of 15 volunteering as a youth counselor. As a result, she quickly developed a deep passion for charitable work. Her passion would hit home when a close family member ended up being diagnosed with a disability and encountered problems receiving the proper care. This became a pinpoint point in her life and an act to make a change for people who encountered discrimination based on their disability and class. Over 15 years later, Rachael continues the work of service by empowering at-risk-youth, women, and people with disabilities. She serves on a Human Rights Committee and Marketing Committee that promotes fairness for all.



Rachael is a member of the National Society for Leadership and Success for her heart of service. She brings a creative touch in the areas of Marketing and Graphic Design to Asperger's Works. Her words of motivation are "Empower Yourself by Empowering Others."

## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR**

### **Lisa Rajczyk**

Lisa Rajczyk, Mr. Rajczyk's sister, is also a founding member of Asperger Works, Inc. and is our Volunteer Coordinator. She has been painfully aware of her brother's employment-related difficulties and is completely committed to the success of this organization.

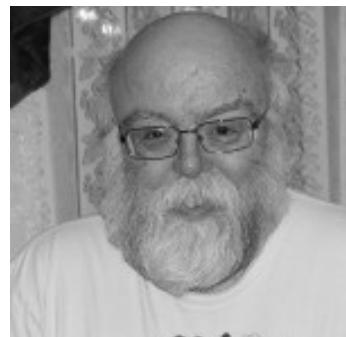


Ms. Rajczyk graduated The Evergreen State College (Olympia and Tacoma, Washington) with a BA in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Education and Law. She has also earned a number of certifications, including the National Paralegal Certification from WOLI. She is planning to work towards her Master's degree in Applied Behavior to enable her to work with autistic children.

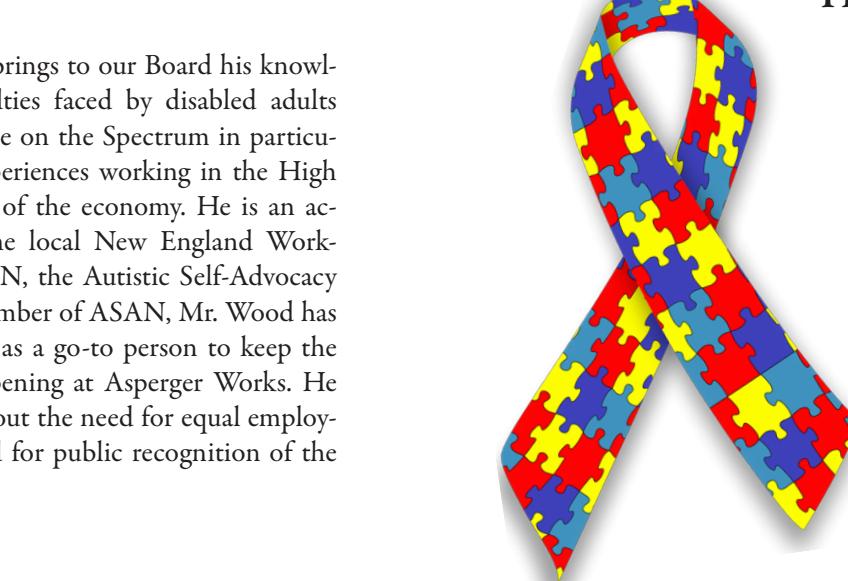
Lisa is very socially conscious, a fact that is demonstrated by the many volunteer projects and activities she has been involved in. Additionally, she is a political activist and has earned much respect among local and state politicians, including being appointed as the District A Neighborhood Association's Ambassador.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR**

### **Thomas C. Wood**



Thomas C. Wood brings to our Board his knowledge about difficulties faced by disabled adults in general and those on the Spectrum in particular through his experiences working in the High Technology sector of the economy. He is an active member of the local New England Working Group of ASAN, the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network. As a member of ASAN, Mr. Wood has volunteered to act as a go-to person to keep the local ASAN chapter informed about what is happening at Asperger Works. He joined our organization because he is passionate about the need for equal employment opportunities for those on the Spectrum and for public recognition of the value that every individual adds to society.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR**

### **Andrew De Carlo**

Andrew De Carlo has over 13 years experience working in research and development in academia and industry. He has been diagnosed with Autism in early childhood, and deeply and personally understands the issues that Autistic people face in the workplace. He is committed to helping Autistic people find appropriate and fulfilling employment.



He is an active member of Autism organizations including GRASP New England and the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN). He has been chapter leader of the Southwest Ohio chapter of ASAN from 2007 to 2008, and of the Boston chapter from 2009 through 2015. He works ceaselessly to break down barriers, end stigmas and stereotypes, and ensure that Autistic people are treated with dignity and respect.

He holds a BS in Electrical Engineering and an MS in Biomedical Engineering, with additional graduate coursework in Psychology and Statistics.

## **THE AUTISM AWARENESS RIBBON**

"The puzzle pattern reflects the complexity of the autism spectrum. The different colors and shapes represent the diversity of the people and families living with the condition."

The brightness of the ribbon signals hope ~ hope that through increased awareness of autism, and through early intervention and access to appropriate services/supports, people with autism will lead full lives able to interact with the world on their own terms." - Autism Society

*(Autism Awareness)*



**Asperger Works**  
Putting Autism to Work

# *Dinner of Hope*

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