

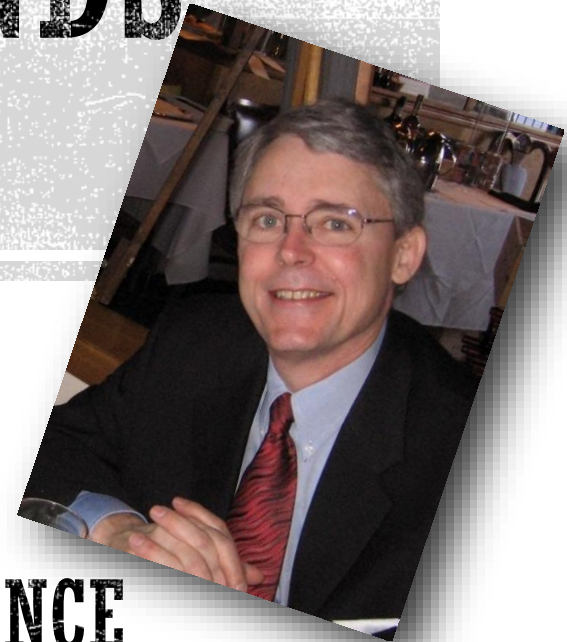


MENTORS AND FRIENDS

TWO MEN'S EXPERIENCE

Daniel Durany - Mentee/Mentor/Friend

Alan Bonderud - Mentor/Mentee/Friend



CHATTANOOGA AUTISM CONFERENCE
APRIL 2017

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DESCRIPTION



Daniel Durany had no difficulty finding jobs after college, just keeping them. Then, he was diagnosed with Asperger's and so began his journey seeking the answer to the question, "So what do I do now?"



Alan Bonderud took early retirement after 30 years selling transport aircraft. As Director of Mercy Ministry at his church he had no knowledge base or template upon which to fall back when several men asked him to help a young man with Asperger's find work.

This presentation covers the gradual unfolding of a Mentor / Mentee relationship becoming a lifelong friendship, impacting them both in ways they could not have imagined. It is presented here in such a way that, hopefully, others can learn from their experience.

OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate, by example, the importance of mentoring in the personal development of individuals with Asperger's
- Challenge men and women to step up and accept the mentor role in the lives of persons with Asperger's
 - Knowledge of the condition is not a pre-requisite
 - Willingness to learn and to change, is
- Allow persons attending the seminar to share their experiences so we all can learn from them and be encouraged by them

BIOS



Daniel S. Durany

- BS Communications Studies, TCU
- Speaker at autism conferences & school districts
 - Childhood struggles in school,
 - Transitioning high school to college and to employment
 - Approaches to help others with Asperger's
- Appointed by Governor to Texas State Council on Autism & Pervasive Developmental Disorders
- Keynote Speaker for Texas Autism Conference
- Teacher's Aid working with special needs elementary kids
- Referee for high school and college volleyball, basketball, softball
- Volunteer at FEAT (Families for Effective Autism Treatment)
- Launched local adult Asperger's Support Group
- Married to lovely wife, Mandy



feat-nt

Families for
Effective
Autism
Treatment
North Texas



Alan R. Bonderud

- Thirty years aircraft sales
- After retirement:
 - Executive Director - Mercy MedFlight, charitable air ambulance
- Coordinator, Mercy Ministry - Fort Worth Presbyterian Church
- Board President, Metanoia Prison Ministries - national prison ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America offering mentor programs in State prisons
- Married 40+ years with one grown son



Metanoia
MINISTRIES

IN THE BEGINNING...

ACCORDING TO DANIEL

- Childhood
- Love of sports
- Family relationships
- College and issues / depression
- Jobs gained and jobs lost (mostly lost)
- Diagnosis “I have Asperger’s, now what?”
- Seeking help from friends and finding help in the church
- Self education

IN THE BEGINNING...

ACCORDING TO ALAN

- That crazy ballgame
- Daniel grasps the nettle
- The guy needs work but what do I know about Asperger's?
- What character and determination!
- Worthy of engagement...
- Daniel begins to educate me
- Starting with the job search
- First speaking gig and “personal board of directors”

MY GREAT NEED...

ACCORDING TO DANIEL

Someone:

- I could trust to share my story - the whole story
- Willing to learn about Asperger's
- Who would be a good listener
- Willing to model their life of faith and their family life
- Show me how to do things I had never done before
- Willing to share their wisdom and not be afraid to tell me what I needed to hear
- Who would not give up on me

WHAT IS A MENTOR? ACCORDING TO ALAN

- “A person who enters into a personal relationship with another for the purpose of enriching the other person’s life through their guidance, teaching, encouragement, example, accountability, and love.”
- It is personal and life-enriching
- The mentor guides and teaches
- Mentors encourage and set examples
- Mentors are accountable
- Mentors model love
- Mentors help their mentees help themselves
- Mentors can become dear friends



TIMELINE

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

- First meetings
- First crack at a resume, cover letters and methodical job search
 - Sports and statistics
- Daniel's education
 - Careful, methodical
 - Self discipline
- Alan's education
 - Look Me In the Eye
 - Temple Grandin
 - Details about employment & Asperger's

Daniel Durany

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Analytical, detail-oriented. Team player. Experienced in communicating with customers through support to produce solutions. At ease in education and training environments. Adept at research, problem solving and organizing databases, as well as technical or descriptive writing where individual self-starting and personal discipline are highly desired. Desires office position in Human Resource using my degree emphasizing Human Relations.

Experience April 2011- June 2012. Sigma Pro, Fort Worth, TX. Molding Processor for local telecommunications manufacturing company. Audited micro-fiber parts on scales, inventoried parts in the warehouse for production team, shipped parts to Finished Goods department, and scanned parts for quality purposes through microscopes tailored for use in telecommunications industry.

August 2010 - Present, Fort Worth, TX. Sports Official responsible for officiating volleyball and basketball games for middle schools and high schools throughout Fort Worth during school year, and umpiring Pony League softball games in the spring and summer.

January 2009 - August 2010. Various temporary and part-time education positions in education field teaching and mentoring students on various subjects with masters such as writing, mathematics, computer-related, and after school activities.

- May 2010-Aug 2010. Keller ISD, Keller, TX. Teachers' Aide engaged in mentoring Special Needs students academically, athletically, and socially during the extended school year.
- Jan 2010- May 2010. Birdville ISD, Haltom City, TX. ASPIRE Teacher assisting with administrative duties building spreadsheets from survey implementing ideas toward generating activities for next year, while teaching various sports classes after school.
- Jan 2009 - Nov 2009. Crowley ISD, Crowley, TX. Substitute Teacher in elementary and high schools at Crowley school districts in subjects such as Algebra, U.S. History, Agriculture, Chemistry, and Business Computer.
- Oct 2006 - Oct 2007. Tarrant County College, Fort Worth, TX. Media Assistant position tailoring computer component packages for specific uses in classrooms.

January 2006 - June 2008. Engaged in-season with local professional sports teams.

- Dallas Desperados, Dallas, TX. Gameday Operations Intern. Served as marketing intern during the 2008 Arena Football season to promote Discover credit card.
- Texas Rangers, Arlington, TX. Retail Sales Associate. Organized inventory and displayed baseball products during 2007 season, while assisting baseball fans with merchandise at the stadium shop and kiosks.
- Fort Worth Flyers, Fort Worth, TX. Media Relations Intern. Designed media guide book to provide up-to-date statistics for NBA Development League (D-League) coaches and NBA scouts. From time-to-time filled in as mascot, and served as back-up video producer.

Education May 2006. Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX. Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Human Relations.

- Sigma Pi Chi, Communication Studies Honor Society
- Sports Editor responsible for NCAA Tennis for TCU campus newspaper, the *Daily Skiff*
- TCU Mascot - Super Frog for major sports & special events for children during junior year
- Played NCAA Division II Tennis as a freshman at Dallas Baptist University

Personal Speaker, author, editor and advocate for persons with Asperger's Syndrome and people who deal with it in others (see my website www.diddup.com). Passionate sports aficionado (see my twitter site @diddupology). Member of Fort Worth Presbyterian Church. Volunteer with Easter Seals soliciting companies to participate in symposia aimed at hiring people with disabilities. Proficient with use of computer, i.e., Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access.

TIMELINE

2008 2009 **2010** 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

- First speaking engagements
 - Parents' Group
 - Students
- Establishment of a "personal board of directors"
- Mother's participation in speaking
- Marriage & relationships discussions and counseling
- Bonderuds move to Chattanooga - very hard on both
- Specialized "speaker's resume" and business cards
- Dan starts as referee in Jr. High, early Sr. High basketball & volleyball



TIMELINE

2008 2009 2010 **2011** 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

- Several emails and calls per week to Marilyn and me
 - Jobs, interviews, presentation skills, finances, faith, mutual encouragement, relationships, relationship with family, correspondence, etc.
 - Lots of “Tell me what you think,” from Dan
- Return visit to Fort Worth
- Dan’s blogs and articles sent for review
- Dan continues refereeing youth sports, added softball
- Spiritual questions
- Employment at light manufacturing firm
 - “Alan, another week of working 40 hours!”

TIMELINE

2008 2009 2010 2011 **2012** 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

- Dan advises Alan how to help local man with autism
- Constantly sharing sports facts
- Very hard call - Dan laid off at work
 - Not crisis it once would've been
 - Thank you letter to firm!
 - No quitting / new resumes (data mining, HR, sports research)
 - Development of comprehensive Speaker's Package, brochure, business cards, etc.

Speaker's Package

Daniel S. Durany
My Journey with Asperger's

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*Devoted to making a positive difference in the lives of families
and individuals dealing with Autism Spectrum Disorders*

TIMELINE

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 **2013** 2014 2015 2016 2017

- “This is my dream - to be an NCAA official.”
- More education for Alan, “Listen to clips about Asperger's”...
- Daniel’s appointment to Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorder
- Financial crisis - Alan’s advice
 - Local financial mentor for review & accountability
 - Get as many ref jobs as possible and talk to family
 - Alan’s promise of a cash cushion (never needed!)
- Dan needed greater income and to pay off debt
- “Aha moment!” job diversification
 - Relying on multiple jobs i.e., speaking and refereeing as base, expanding to 1-on-1 personal counseling, etc.

TIMELINE

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

- Keynote speaker at Texas Autism Conference
- “I won’t be able to speak in El Paso...”
- More visits and breakfasts from time to time
- Takes position as teachers’ aid working with special kids
- Daniel marries Mandy, pays down debt, buys own home
- Daniel has it all together and the relationship changed
 - “Alan, I just refereed my first college game!”
 - “Dan, help me with my son. He is in trouble.”
 - “Alan, I’ll be in Chattanooga to speak at Conference.”
- “Let’s do one of these together.”

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

From Alan's perspective, we must be willing to:

- Serve, even if we feel inadequate
- Learn and “be mentored” ourselves
- Make it ‘a family affair’, like my wife did
- Don't push, be flexible & observant, work at mentee's speed
- Let relationship mature from Mentor/Mentee to friendship

From Daniel's perspective:

- Get a mentor you can trust
- Be a student of your condition thru each phase of life
- Establish goals
- Celebrate wins
- Recognize this is a continuous process

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

-- OPEN DISCUSSION

Any questions?

What experiences have you had with mentoring that you are willing to share?



THANK YOU!

