

**A Strange Story from a Strange Life:
My Life and the Neurodiversity Student Group**

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Student at the College of William and Mary
Neurodiversity Advocate

The Voice you are currently hearing belongs to this man



- Credentials**
- Junior at the College of William & Mary
 - Biology Major
 - Created the Neurodiversity Student Group at William and Mary
 - Eagle Scout
 - Autistic Self-Advocate
 - Public Speaker

- Life History**
- Born in Fairfax Hospital
 - Diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome in early Elementary School
 - Moved to Remington between Second and Third Grade

- Life History (cont)**
- Tested for GT program
 - Accelerated to 5th grade
 - Transferred to Taylor Middle School
 - First informed of diagnosis

Life History (cont)

- Joined BSA
- Transferred to Liberty High School
- Joined the Swim Team

Life History (cont)

- Studied psychology & my diagnosis
- First spoke to a group about Autism
- Accepted into William and Mary
- Reached Eagle Rank

Life History (cont)

- Declared Bio Major
- Created Neurodiversity Student Group
- Now looking forward

Coming to Terms with Diagnosis



<http://carolabartz.blogspot.com/2015/07/sunset-fence-by-sea.html>

Coming to Terms with Diagnosis



<http://wmblogs.wm.edu/admiss/good-news-can-come-in-small-packages/>

Transitions and Exercise Balls



Transitions and Exercise Balls



Neurodiversity Student Group



Neurodiversity

- Rising self advocacy movement
- Started by, but by no means limited to, Autistic people
- All people have value
- Brain differences have value to society

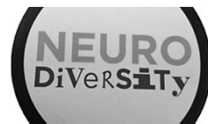
Objectives

- Advocacy
- Support
- Education

Past Events

- HOPE discussion panel
- CORPUS outreach
- Disability Day of Mourning

Neurodiversity at Large

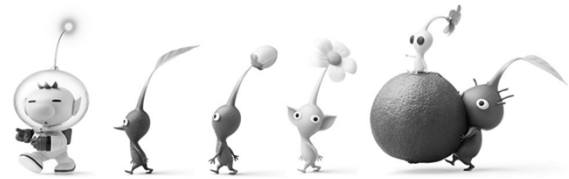


<http://www.vcuathletics.com/features/VisualIdentityUnveil>

Symptoms for Discussion

- Hyperfixation
- Sensory In/Sensitivity
- Social skills

Hyperfixation



Sensory In/Sensitivity

- Overstimulation
- Extreme Tolerance
- Meltdowns

Social Skills

- Teaching skills
- Experiencing social inadequacy
- Deficit mitigation (both sides)

Thanks for Listening!

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- Joel Carver on Facebook
- College of William and Mary