Jaime Fountaine
Administrative Coordinator

When Jaime first arrived at the Autism Institute in Nov 2014, Dr. Jim Connell introduced her in his supervision meeting and exclaimed, “This is Jaime. We hired her because she’s a weirdo like us!”

Working as an Administrative Coordinator (and Jim’s memory) at a research institute is a bit of a stretch from serving as the first woman president, a job that she aspired to in the second grade. Instead of rubbing elbows with foreign diplomats, Jaime thought that putting her talents and BFA from the University of the Arts to use amongst the literary scene would be a more sane alternative. She’s been doing readings and performing around Philadelphia for most of the last decade. Once a month she hosts a reading series at Tattooed Mom on South Street, where she and her co-host showcase the work of writers they like, eat tater tots, and heckle each other. She also has what she likes to call a “weirdo literature variety hour” at the new Good Good Comedy Theater, where local authors can read alongside comedians and performers. A writer of mostly fiction, Jaime contributes regularly to publications such as Fanzine, Knee-Jerk, littletell, 3:AM, Pear Noir! #8, Monkeybicycle, and PANK.

Jaime found her way to the Institute in Nov 2014 as a member of the Administrative Core where she supports the Outreach and Clinical Cores as well as the Early Detection and Intervention Program. Juggling multiple calendars, clinical events, and outreach activities keeps her pretty busy, but it’s connecting with parents who call with concerns about their child that tugs at her heart strings. “Sometimes, these people just need someone to listen to them, and every time someone says, “thank you for listening to me,” or “thank you for being so nice to me,” my heart breaks a little bit. I think the work that’s being done here is hugely important, and I’m glad to support it in any way that I can. It’s really nice to be even a small part of a place that’s doing such significant work to positively impact our community and the world.”

When she’s not creating magic on the literary scene or calming anxious parents, Jaime likes to visit manmade exercises in futility, like Graceland Too in Holly Springs, Mississippi and Loveland Castle in Ohio, not only because they are fascinating, but also because they only cost about five dollars.

She’s also got a soft spot for Nashville and karaoke. “If you offer me a microphone, I’m going to show up.”