



REMEMBER THE PAST \* CHALLENGE THE PRESENT \* DEFINE THE FUTURE

# DISABILITY RIGHTS AND PUBLIC POLICY IN PENNSYLVANIA: A COMMEMORATIVE CONFERENCE

(View speakers below)

**September 28 2018**

Registration opens at 8:15 AM

Sessions from 8:50 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Millersville University, Winter Visual & Performing Arts Center

In collaboration with the Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance, The Arc of PA, PAR, PA-TASH, and other disability advocacy organizations, Millersville University will host a one-day forum on disability rights and history.

Prominent advocates, policymakers, and scholars will address the history of disability rights and current concerns in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A keynote speaker, panels on history and rights, education, employment, adult services, and other critical topics will provide useful information for individuals and families living with disabilities. Special attention will be given to intellectual and developmental disabilities.

An exhibit area will include display tables from agencies and advocacy organizations from across Pennsylvania.

There is no registration fee but advanced registration is encouraged to receive a conference packet. A luncheon reception will be available at a minimal individual charge. Students and whole classes are encouraged to attend.

To reserve tickets, call [717-871-7600](tel:717-871-7600), or in person at the Student Memorial Center Ticket Office (Room 103, 21 S. George St., Millersville). The Student Memorial Center ticket office is open [Monday](#) through [Friday](#), 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

CONTACT: Dr. Dennis B. Downey [dennis.downey@millersville.edu](mailto:dennis.downey@millersville.edu)

# Millersville Conference to Feature Nationally Known Disability Advocates

## Disability Rights and Public Policy Agenda:

### Morning

**8:15** Coffee and Registration

**8:50** Welcoming Remarks and Presentation



Moderated by Dr. Dennis Downey, Emeritus Professor of History at Millersville University and primary organizer of this event. Dennis has a scholarly interest in the history of disabilities and social thought and is past president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association and a current board member of the PMPA.

**9:15** Keynote Address-



Michael Gamel-McCormick, Washington DC, Disability Policy Director for Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania. Past Associate Executive Director for Research and Policy at Association of University Centers on Disabilities



Bill Baldini, Philadelphia, PA, broadcasting pioneer responsible for the groundbreaking 1968 documentary *Suffer the Little Children* that oriented Pennhurst toward its place in history.

**10:15**

### Panel One: Right to Education



Mary Schreiner Ph.D., Lititz, PA, has worked in various roles with adult services and special education to develop programs and relationships that honor the lives of individuals with human differences. Since completing her doctorate in Special Education at Penn State University, Dr. Schreiner now works as an Associate Professor of Education at Alvernia University in Reading, PA and board member of the PMPA.



Judith Gran, Esq., Philadelphia, PA, a partner in the law firm Reisman Carolla Gran LLP, specializing in disability law. She has a national practice focused on disability rights and has represented clients in more than a half dozen states in disputes over inclusion and community service plans. She is also secretary of the board of PMPA.



**Frank Laski Esq., Boston, MA, former Executive Director of the Massachusetts Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee. He was also Director of Disability Projects for the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia. He is a Past President of TASH**



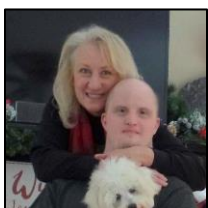
**Joe and Lydia Gaskin, Carlisle, PA, Gaskin v. Commonwealth of PA, class action lawsuit settled in 2005 had 12 named plaintiffs and 11 disability organizations. Lydia Gaskin was the lead plaintiff in the case represented by the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia. The main focus the settlement was to ensure that school districts comply with existing federal laws, specifically around issues of "Least Restrictive Environment" (LRE).**

### **11:30 WITF Documentary Preview- Keira McGuire, Director of I Go Home**

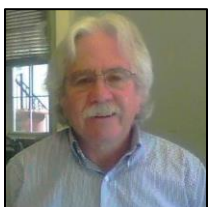
**Be one of the first to preview the trailer of the latest film "Going Home", a follow-up documentary film to "I Go Home".**

## **Luncheon Reception**

### **Afternoon Panel Two: Advocacy**



**Janet Albert-Herman, Reading, PA is a volunteer advocate with over 30 years experience, past board director of The Arc of the US, president of the board of the Arc of PA, board member of PMPA, and proud mother to Matthew.**



**Mark Friedman Ph.D, Executive Director of Blue Fire Consulting, Murfreesboro, TN, Adjunct Professor at City University of New York, and board member of PMPA.**



**Debra Robinson, Philadelphia, PA is Executive Director of Speaking for Ourselves, Pennsylvania, and a past member of the National Council on Disability.**



**Ruthie-Marie Beckwith Ph.D, Washington DC, Executive Director of national TASH and Adjunct Professor at City University of New York. She is the author of two books, Disability Servitude: From Peonage to Poverty and Seven Days at Oak Valley**

## 2:15 Panel Three: Employment and Adult Services



**James Conroy PhD, Philadelphia, PA, Principal Investigator and designer of the Pennhurst Longitudinal Study, the largest study ever done up to that time on the topic of moving people with developmental disabilities from institutions to small community homes. He has been responsible for more than 250 formal research reports to government agencies and foundations and is co-president of the PMPA.**



**Jean Searle, Harrisburg, PA, policy advocate for the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania for over 20 years, long-time self-advocate and a force within the disability rights movement, Jean has experienced the trauma of institutionalization first-hand. Jean is co-president of the Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance.**



**Michelle Sparling, Philadelphia, PA, Employment and Transition Director at Networks for Training and Development, Inc, helping others to reach their goals and achieve success in life, teaching, supporting, coaching, consulting, presenting, and developing.**



**Kelly Darr, Philadelphia, PA, Disability Rights Pennsylvania, Legal Director, representing clients in special education, Medicaid, and disability discrimination cases. Prior to joining DRP in 2009, she represented children with disabilities at the Education Law Center.**

## 3:30 Community Forum: Disability Policy 2018



**Moderated by Thomas Neuville Ph.D, Professor of Special Education and Disability Studies at Millersville University, PA. He is recognized internationally for preserving and archiving the work of Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger in video format. Dr. Neuville's keynote address, 40 Years of Inclusion in North America, at the International Inclusion Conference at Moscow State University in Moscow Russia, continues to be used internationally.**

## 4:15 Conclusion

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