



**The Seventh Annual Disabilities Symposium** will be held at the University of Pennsylvania on Thursday, April 3, 2008. This year's theme, "New Directions," will focus on presenting new ideas on a variety of current topics.

As in past years, it will provide a forum for exchanging information and experiences with colleagues from many other colleges and universities.

Featured speakers this year include: **Rick Lavoie**, author and internationally recognized expert on learning disabilities; **Judith Heumann**, former Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services at the US Department of Education and life long civil rights advocate; and **Arthur Caplan**, Professor of Bioethics and Director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Enclosed please find:

- Description of Featured Plenary Speakers
- Morning and Afternoon Workshop Descriptions
- Schedule of Events
- Registration Form
- Hotel and Travel Information

We look forward to exploring *New Directions* with everyone on April 3<sup>rd</sup>!

*The Weingarten Learning Resources Center gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Stephanie (Wharton '86) and Marty Walcoe, who have made this symposium possible.*



## **Richard Lavoie, M.A., M.Ed.**

Rick Lavoie has served as an administrator of residential programs for children with special needs since 1972. He holds three degrees in Special Education and has served as an adjunct professor or visiting lecturer at numerous universities including Syracuse, Harvard, Gallaudet, Manhattanville College, University of Alabama and Georgetown. His numerous national television appearances include CBS Morning Show, Good Morning America, ABC Evening News and Disney Channel Presents.

Rick serves as a consultant on learning disabilities to several agencies and organizations including Public Broadcasting Service, New York Times, National Center for Learning Disabilities, Girl Scouts of America, Child Magazine and WETA. He is a member of the Professional Advisor Board of the Learning Disabilities Association.

Rick has delivered his message to over 500,000 parents and professionals throughout North America. He has the distinction of having delivered Keynote Addresses for all three of the major special needs advocacy organizations in the United States (Learning Disabilities Association, Council for Exceptional Children, Children with Attention Deficit Disorder).

Rick has held administrative positions at residential programs for thirty years. These experiences at residential school have provided Rick with a "living laboratory" in which he developed and refined his methods and philosophies related to the education of adolescents with special needs.

Rick is probably best known for his videos "**How Difficult Can This Be?: The "F.A.T. City Workshop"**" and "**Last One Picked, First One Picked On: The Social Implications of Learning Disabilities**". These award-winning films have brought Rick's sensitive and compelling message to countless thousands throughout the world. After viewing the videos, former First Lady Barbara Bush stated, "You really wowed us! I only wish that every parent and teacher in the United States today could also see your program." His new video on behavior management is entitled "**When the Chips are Down ...**" is now available through **LD OnLine**.

Rick lives on Cape Cod with his wife.

## Judith Heumann

Judith Heumann is an internationally recognized leader in the disability community and a lifelong civil rights advocate. She currently is the Director for the Department on Disability Services for the District of Columbia. She is responsible for the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability Administration and the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

From June 2002- 2006, Judith E. Heumann served as the World Bank's first Adviser on Disability and Development. In this position, Heumann led the World Bank's disability initiative to expand the Bank's knowledge and understanding of the importance of including disability when working with governments and civil society during Bank discussions with client countries, its country-based analytical work, and support for improving policies, programs, and projects that allow people with disabilities around the world to live and work in the economic and social mainstream of their communities. She is currently the Lead Consultant to the Global Partnership for Disability and Development.

From 1993 to 2001, Heumann served in the Clinton Administration as the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the Department of Education. Heumann was responsible for the implementation of legislation at the national level for programs in special education, disability research, vocational rehabilitation and independent living, serving more than 8 million youth and adults with disabilities.

For over 30 years, Heumann has been involved on the international front working with organizations and governments around the world to advance the human rights of disabled people. She represented Education Secretary, Richard Riley, at the 1995 International Congress on Disability in Mexico City. She was a US delegate to the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. And she has been active with Disabled People International, Rehabilitation International and numerous Independent Living Centers throughout the world. She co-founded the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley California and the World Institute on Disability in Oakland California.

Heumann has served on numerous local, national and international boards of directors and currently serves on a number of Boards of directors including the U.S. International Council on Disability, the American Association of People with Disabilities, Post Polio Health International and the Starkloff Institute.

She graduated from Long Island University in 1969 and received her Masters in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley in 1975. She has received numerous awards including being the first recipient of the Henry B. Betts Award in recognition of efforts to significantly improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. She has received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Long Island University in Brooklyn, an Honorary Doctorate of Public Administration from the University of Illinois, Champaign, and an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of Toledo.

## ARTHUR LEONARD CAPLAN

Currently, Arthur Caplan is the Emmanuel and Robert Hart Professor of Bioethics, Chair of the Department of Medical Ethics and the Director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Prior to coming to Penn in 1994, Caplan taught at the University of Minnesota, the University of Pittsburgh, and Columbia University. He was the Associate Director of the Hastings Center from 1984-1987.

Born in Boston, Caplan did his undergraduate work at Brandeis University, and did his graduate work at Columbia University where he received a Ph.D in the history and philosophy of science in 1979. He is the author or editor of 29 books and over 500 papers in refereed journals of medicine, science, philosophy, bioethics and health policy. His most recent book is **Smart Mice Not So Smart People** (Rowman Littlefield, 2006).

Arthur Caplan has served on a number of national and international committees. He chairs the following committees: National Cancer Institute Biobanking Ethics Working Group, Advisory Committee to the United Nations on Human Cloning, Advisory Committee to the Department of Health and Human Services on Blood Safety and Availability; and is a member of the following committees: Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Illnesses, Special Advisory Committee to the International Olympic Committee on Genetics and Gene Therapy, Ethics Committee of the American Society of Gene Therapy, and Special Advisory Panel to the National Institutes of Mental Health on Human Experimentation on Vulnerable Subjects. He has consulted with many corporations, not for profit organizations and consumer organizations. He is a member of the board of directors of The Keystone Center, Tengion, the National Center for Policy Research on Women and Families, Octagon, Iron Disorders Foundation and the National Disease Research Interchange. He chairs the advisory committee on bioethics at Glaxo. He is on the board of visitors of the Columbia University School of Nursing. He writes a regular column on bioethics for MSNBC.com. He is a frequent guest and commentator on various media outlets.

Caplan is the recipient of many awards and honors including the McGovern Medal of the American Medical Writers Association and the Franklin Award from the City of Philadelphia. He was a person of the Year-2001 from USA Today, one of the fifty most influential people in American health care by Modern Health Care magazine, one of the ten most influential people in America in biotechnology by the National Journal and one of the ten most influential people in the ethics of biotechnology by the editors of Nature Biotechnology. He holds seven honorary degrees from colleges and medical schools. He is a fellow of the Hastings Center, the NY Academy of Medicine, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



## **Morning**

- A**     **New Directions in the Assessment and Treatment of Students with ADHD**  
**Lenard Adler, MD., Director of the Adult ADHD Program in the Department of Psychiatry and Neurology at New York University**  
The author of “Scattered Minds: Hope and Help for Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder” will explore new directions and present information on the latest research on the assessment and treatment of college students with ADHD. This session will provide valuable information and greater understanding of the effect that ADHD has on cognitive functioning, social interaction, and academic performance that will help university administrators and disability service providers when determining reasonable academic accommodations and supportive services for students.
- B**     **The Intersection between Learning Resources and Student Disability Services**  
**Karen Marbury, M.Ed., Learning Instructor, Weingarten Learning Resources Center, University of Pennsylvania**  
This interactive session will examine the integral relationship between reasonable academic accommodation for a disability and instructional support to help increase a student’s academic potential. The University of Pennsylvania successfully combined the Office of Student Disabilities Services and the Office of Learning Resources to form the Weingarten Learning Resources Center. Karen Marbury, as the Learning Instructor for Students with Disabilities, is responsible for making this connection work. Participants will explore ways to develop a similar connection on their own campuses.
- C**     **New Directions in Universal Design of Instruction**  
**Manju Banerjee, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Department of Educational Psychology, University of Connecticut**  
Universal Design of Instruction (UDI) is increasingly gaining more support and greater realization in secondary and postsecondary curriculum. UDI emphasizes the effective use of technologies to facilitate equal access to information. This session will explore how to incorporate freeware, vendor demo software, and other low and high end technologies to create accessible course information and materials that can be used by all students in the class. The goal of this new generation of disability services will be to create supported/scaffolded environments, in collaboration with faculty, that are available to all students via existing university information platforms.
- D**     **New Directions in Higher Education and Disability**  
**Colleen Lewis, MS., Director of Disability Services, Columbia University**  
Disability Services in higher education is a quickly changing, rapidly evolving field. This workshop will take a futuristic look at emerging trends in this developing field, including shifts in underpinning ideologies, service paradigms, technology, and of course, the populations of college students with disabilities themselves. Plenty of time will be available to ask questions and discuss current emerging issues and trends on your campuses.

## Afternoon

### **E New Directions from Students with Disabilities**

**Max Schapiro (Wharton '08), Moderator**

This session provides new directions and ideas from a panel of students with disabilities from several northeastern colleges and universities. Students will provide valuable information on the effectiveness of our policies and procedures, academic adjustments and accommodations, use of technology, and environmental modifications. Students will comment on the transition to postsecondary education including the effect of having a disability on social adjustment and interactions with the campus community. Plenty of time will be reserved for questions from the audience.

### **F Accommodations on High-Stakes Standardized Tests: The ADA & Documentation Requirements**

**John Hosterman, PhD., Director of Disabilities Services for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)**

This session will explore the legal requirements and criteria necessary to be considered as a person with a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and review typical requirements for documenting disabilities for high-stakes exams. There will be a particular emphasis on explaining the components of comprehensive psychoeducational evaluation to determine the need for accommodation. Lastly, the session will outline a number of common reasons why accommodation requests are denied, and what students and disability-service providers can do to present a stronger case.

### **G More than Sadness: Depression and Bipolar Disorder on the College Campus** **Louis Littman, MD., PhD., private practice psychiatrist in Philadelphia and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine**

**Suzanne Datto, MD., private research consultant in Philadelphia**

Dr. Littman and Dr. Datto will present an overview of the effects of depression and bipolar disorder on patients, with a particular emphasis on the effects of these mental illnesses on college students. Topics discussed will include how these illnesses affect mood, sleep regulation, energy, concentration, and other physical aspects of the patients that can interfere with school and social function. Additionally, the psychological effects of diagnosis, changes in self-esteem and peer-interactions, and the effects of stigma will be discussed. Excerpts from a manuscript that Dr. Littman and Dr. Datto are currently writing, detailing personal observations of the effects of bipolar disorder, will be presented.

### **H The Journey to Self -Advocacy: Teaching Students with Disabilities to Effectively Communicate Their Needs**

**Deborah McCarthy, MS., Disability Services Coordinator, University of Texas at Austin**

Students with disabilities are an increasing voice on college campuses. In this interactive workshop educators will explore ways we can help students develop the skills necessary to successfully become strong self-advocates. Drawing from personal and professional experience as well as student development theory, the presenter will examine questions such as: What characterizes effective self-advocacy for students with disabilities? What if the best accommodation is “No?” What is the relationship between civility and self-advocacy, and what tools do students need in order to make the journey to self-advocacy?



## **Schedule of Events**

- 7:45 Symposium Opens
- 8:00 – 8:30 Continental Breakfast  
Welcome and Opening Remarks  
Dr. Max King, Associate Vice Provost
- 8:30 – 10:00 Morning Plenary Speaker  
Mr. Rick Lavoie  
“New Directions for Students with Learning Disabilities”
- 10:15 – 11:15 Morning Workshops
- 11:30 – 12:00 Lunch  
Recognitions and Remarks  
Ms. Stephanie Walcoe (Wharton '86)
- 12:00 – 1:30 Noon Plenary Speaker  
Ms. Judith Heumann  
“Directions Leading Towards Inclusion and Economic Empowerment”
- 1:45 – 2:45 Afternoon Workshops
- 3:00 – 4:30 Afternoon Plenary Speaker  
Dr. Arthur Caplan  
“Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis and the Ethical 'Relevance' of Disability”
- 4:30 A Philly Farewell - Snack & Chat  
Class of 1966 Reading Room, first floor



## Registration

**Deadline - March 27, 2008**

**Please! Type or print CLEARLY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Plan your day!

I plan to attend:

- Morning Plenary Session
- Morning Workshops
- Noon Plenary
- Afternoon Workshops
- Afternoon Plenary

Please  all that you are planning to attend.

### Workshop Choices:

Please circle your choices for the Morning Workshops

First Choice	A	B	C	D
Second Choice	A	B	C	D

Please circle your choices for the Afternoon Workshops

First Choice	E	F	G	H
Second Choice	E	F	G	H

### Registration Fee \$50.00

Registration fee is waived for participants affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania, students, and presenters.

**Continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and afternoon snack are included.**

Please make checks payable to “**Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania**”

Checks will be accepted at the time of the event, **but please register as early as possible.**

### Mail Registration and Payment to:

Weingarten Learning Resources Center  
3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6027  
ATTN: Symposium Chair  
Fax: 215-746-6326

### Dietary Restrictions:

### Disability Accommodations:



## Travel & Accommodation Information

### Symposium Location

Penn's Seventh Annual Disabilities Symposium will take place in Houston Hall on the University of Pennsylvania campus. Houston Hall, built in 1894, is America's first college union building. It is wheelchair accessible. Breakfast and lunch will be held in Bodek Lounge. Houston Hall is located at 3417 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA

(Penn Access: Houston Hall [http://www.facilities.upenn.edu/mapsBldgs/view\\_map.php3?id=284](http://www.facilities.upenn.edu/mapsBldgs/view_map.php3?id=284)).

### Hotel Accommodations

The following hotels are located close to the University of Pennsylvania campus. When making a reservation, please indicate that you are participating in the Student Disabilities Symposium to receive conference rates. Please make reservations early; we are holding a limited number of rooms.

*The Inn at Penn, a Hilton Hotel*, is located on the Penn Campus. (*guaranteed until March 9*)

**Event name:** Weingarten Disabilities Symposium  
**Rate:** \$229 plus tax, single and double rates  
**Address:** 3600 Sansom Street  
**Phone:** 215-222-0200  
**Parking:** Indoor, covered parking is available at a cost.

*Sheraton University City* - located two blocks from the Penn Campus. (*guaranteed until March 2*)

**Event name:** Weingarten Disabilities Symposium  
**Rate:** \$180 plus tax, single and double rates  
**Address:** 38<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Streets  
**Phone:** 215-387-8000 Reservation line: 877-459-1146  
**Parking:** Covered, self-parking is available for overnight guests at a cost of \$15/day. This charge is added to each individual guest room bill.

### Transportation from Airport

Lady Liberty Transportation Service provides transportation to and from Philadelphia International Airport at a charge of \$10.00 per person each way. Transportation is provided at the baggage claim area of each terminal. At the Ground Transportation Desk, dial "27". (*Please note: These vehicles are not wheelchair accessible*).

The R1 SEPTA Rail provides wheelchair accessible transportation to 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station at a charge of \$5.50 per person. From Philadelphia International Airport, cabs are available to Center City or Penn's Campus for a flat fee of \$ 26.50.

### Transportation from 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station

Amtrak stops at Philadelphia's 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station, which is a short taxi ride from Penn. Taxis are available on the east side of the building.

You are also able to travel to Penn on the LUCY – a wheelchair accessible mini-bus that is available from 6:10 am to 7:00 pm (Monday – Friday).

Please call the WLRC at 215.573.9235 to register for the **Penn Access Van**. Once registered, call: 215-898-RIDE (7433) and press "2" for the dispatcher to arrange a ride.