



Autism National Convention 2012
Autism - Moving Forward

October 5-6, 2012
 Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel
 Columbia, Maryland 21044

AutCom is honored to partner with these outstanding organizations:



Friday, October 5, 2012

8:30 - 9:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 9:20	Opening Ceremonies: Welcome by Ari Ne'eman , President and co-founder of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network
9:20 - 10:45	Imagine . . . Keynote Address by Jennifer Paige Seybert Ms. Seybert will talk about how individuals with disabilities were previously cared for, looked upon and educated, about the limited gains made in the past twenty years which have resulted in individuals still not envisioned as having competence, and about criteria necessary for society to change attitudes.
10:45 - 11:00	BREAK
11:00 - 12:15	Concurrent Sessions
Lakeview A	Loud Hands Project's Neurodiversity 101 Savannah Nicole Logsdon-Breakstone In our society, the loudest voices in any conversation are the ones who can come up with the newest words at the fastest pace. Finding meaningful ways to include and honor people who communicate in nonstandard ways or at different speeds is an essential prerequisite to having authentic or representative discussions about disability, autism, and humanity as a whole.

Lakeview B	<p><i>Introduction to Supported Typing</i> Larry Bissonnette, Pascal Cheng, Harvey Lavoy, Tracy Thresher</p> <p>This session will provide a general overview of facilitated communication (FC), a method of augmentative and alternative communication used by people with limited speaking abilities who have difficulty with reliable, independent pointing. Topics covered will include basic elements of the FC technique, the role of movement differences in communication, determining candidacy for FC, the training process for facilitators and a review of best practices.</p>
Lakeview C	<p><i>Rated “R”: That Oh-So-Difficult Topic</i> Nick Pentzell, Hope Block, Jacob Pratt, and Autumn Dae Miller</p> <p>We've watched Casablanca 17 times, and we know about the birds and the bees, but --uh - love and s-e-x weren't taught as social skills or as PT, OT, or sensory integration ... How do we go about having mature relationships? And how in the world do we integrate support staff??</p> <p>We invite you to join us in discussing the challenges of having adult relationships, romance, and sexuality on the spectrum. We don't have all the answers, but we hope you'll help us ask the questions. It's time they were voiced.</p> <p><i>Review from 2010 session:</i></p> <p>“This group of wonderfully funny and perceptive people have summoned the courage to share their innermost desires and fears - as well as the no-nonsense ideas they have come up</p> <p>with for hurdling the barriers between themselves and their goals. The ongoing conversation is altogether forthright, serious, and myth-busting.”</p>
Lakeview D	<p><i>Human Development Journey</i> Cecilia Breinbauer, MD, MPH</p> <p>This presentation will describe how the new training in the DIR Model and Floortime principles embraces strengths, presumes competence, incorporates the voice of the autistic community and promotes self-determination throughout the lifespan.</p>
12:15 - 1:30	LUNCH

1:30 - 3:00	<p><i>Empowering Autistic Rights and Reframing the Autism Narrative: The Right to Communicate and Self-Advocate for Life Opportunities</i> Keynote Address by Scott Michael Robertson, MHCI, Ph.D. candidate (ABD)</p> <p>Scott is an autistic adult and disability rights leader. His presentation will focus on empowering autistic adults and youth by bolstering their communication and self-advocacy. This can assist autistic adults and youth in improving their life opportunities in such areas as securing better jobs, attaining greater education, accessing needed healthcare services, and living in their own communities. Neurodiversity and a social-ecological model of disability help to frame this discussion.</p>
3:00 - 3:15	BREAK
3:15 - 4:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Concurrent Sessions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Note: Some sessions will be split into two shorter presentations.</p>
Lakview A (3:15-3:45)	<p><i>ASD and Higher Education: A Heuristic Analysis of the Experiences of Students with ASDs in College</i> Fleur Wiorkowski</p> <p>Fleur is an autistic Ph.D. dissertation research student seeking to bring the voices of those on the autism spectrum into the research conversation regarding higher education. She will share from her research her discovery of themes that underlie the experiences of the eleven people in her study. This presentation will be directly applicable to other people with ASDs who are either in college or thinking about college.</p>
Lakeview A (3:45-4:45)	<p><i>Life after College</i> Sam Leckrone and Melanie Yergeau</p> <p>This presentation is about experiences after college, finding and getting a job, finding an apartment, and getting involved with the community</p>
Lakeview B	<p><i>Efforts towards Inclusion for a Student with ASD from a Self-advocate's and Parent's Perspective</i> Jordan Ackerson and Lisa Lieberman</p> <p>Schools must reflect as a microcosm of the larger society in which they exist in order to prepare students for meaningful life beyond high school. A self-advocate graduate and his mother outline concrete steps taken, having moved from a self-contained placement towards greater inclusion. Suggestions offered apply to a variety of students, incorporating ideas about self-advocacy and collaborative team efforts.</p>

Lakeview C	<p><i>Purpose and Perceptions - Worth Considering</i> Lois Prislovsky, Ph.D. and Barb Rentenbach</p> <p>This lecture will introduce the concept that attitudes matter by exploring and understanding daily experiences of an individual with severe autism. We are all teachers. The presenters challenge you to rethink beliefs and assumptions in order to change how you teach. Attendees are asked to participate in activities illuminating how to live and teach what you love in order to change connotations of “special education” – the kind of special no one wants to be. Proven techniques of teaching from the heart to the heart are discussed.</p>
Lakeview D (3:15-3:45)	<p><i>Anxiety and Overcoming It</i> Mike Hoover</p> <p>Mike Hoover, from Boulder, Colorado, has a part-time job at a brewery and is a past Board member of AutCom. He is on the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council and the Colorado TASH Board. He writes: “I love to go to the legislature to lobby for good bills and stop bad ones. I think public speaking is great, too. The nice thing is getting to meet new people and go to new places. The thing I need to present about is anxiety and overcoming it. I will use a PowerPoint presentation.”</p>
Lakeview D (3:55-4:45)	<p><i>Feature Matching Apps for Optimal Handheld Device Usage</i> Tonya Williams-Walker and Catherine Hunter</p> <p>With as many as 300 new apps released each day, it can be challenging for individuals with and without disabilities to find apps that meet their needs. Join us for an informative look at how selecting apps based on both your needs and on how you process information can help you to more effectively integrate your handheld device into your personal lifestyle.</p>
4:45 - 6:00	BREAK
6:00 - 7:00	<p>DINNER Note: those who are not registered for dinner may come at 7:00 for the performances</p>
7:00 - 7:10	<i>Musical Performance by Jordan Ackerson</i>
7:10 - 9:00	<p><i>Film: Wretches and Jabberers</i> Followed by Q & A with the stars, Larry Bissonnette, Tracy Thresher, Harvey Lavoy and Pascal Cheng</p>



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Saturday, October 6, 2012

8:30 - 9:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 10:45	<p><i>How Is It That You Move?</i> Keynote Address by Marilyn Chadwick</p> <p>Drawing on disciplines of rhythm, body organization, and the use of reflexes, this talk will describe the foundations of movement and how those foundations lead to gestures, facial expression, pointing and speaking. We will explore the role of touch in facilitating effective, intentional movement.</p>
10:45 - 11:00	BREAK
11:00 - 12:15	<p>Concurrent Sessions Note: Some sessions will be split into two shorter presentations.</p>
Lakeview A (11:00-11:35)	<p><i>Who's Listening? The missing piece of the autism puzzle is the voice of autistics</i> Ariane Zurcher</p> <p>This session is ideal for attendees new to the world of autistic self-advocacy. It will be a discussion on the various ways in which autism has been depicted to date and how that is slowly changing, in large part because Autistics are gaining in strength and numbers and making their voices heard.</p>
Lakeview A (11:35-12:15)	<p><i>Accommodations in College: Must Live with Them, Can't Live without Them</i> Sean Sokler</p> <p>When I attended George Mason University 1999-2005, the Disability Services told me I would have a full-time assistant while on campus and that I would have a small, quiet room for tests and final exams, and that the assistant would help me with getting from building to building on the large campus, and would buy me a lunch or dinner with my Mason Patriots card. Also I got to hire the assistant myself.</p>

Lakeview B	<p><i>Supporting the Process of Independent Communication: Techniques of Supported Typing - Moving Toward Independence</i> Harvey Lavoy, Larry Bissonnette, Tracy Thresher, Pascal Cheng</p> <p>This session will focus on specific techniques and strategies that can be used to help individuals who use FC gain greater levels of independence with their communication. Participants will learn a problem-solving process for identifying motor/movement difficulties that interfere with independent communication and then determining appropriate strategies and supports. Larry Bissonnette and Tracy Thresher will share their experiences with the process of independence.</p>
Lakeview C	<p><i>Amplifying Your Voice: Strategies for Grassroots Advocacy to Increase Awareness and Create Positive Change</i> Lydia Brown and Emily Titon</p> <p>This session will address the impact of social media and online and offline grassroots activism in effecting change in individual cases and public policy on disability rights issues. Come learn about how these petitions and campaigns have started, how they can help, what we have learned about what works and what doesn't, and how YOU can use these tactics to create positive change yourselves. Using social media to assist in grassroots advocacy, we can all be part of the change!</p>
12:15 - 1:30	LUNCH
1:30 - 3:00	<p><i>Situated Functioning: An Approach to Addressing Problems of Living</i> Keynote Address by Matthew Moore</p> <p>Matthew Moore is a Doctoral Candidate in the History of Consciousness Department, UC Santa Cruz. He will review how assessments of “individual functioning” have relied on assumptions of intelligence and sociability as enduring, inflexible personal traits, without attention to the enabling or disabling effect of social and other contexts. He will explain how a “situated functioning” approach can help re-orient the way we talk (and think) about autism and dis/ability and help to identify barriers to progress that are not obvious with a high/low framework. Matthew is working on a dissertation that focuses on the autistic rights movement, the power of diagnostic categories, and the politics of dis/ability.</p>
3:00 - 3:15	BREAK
3:15 - 4:15	Concurrent Sessions

Lakeview A	<p><i>Erasing the Margin - Inviting Marginalized Voices to Build Community</i> Michael Dowling and Rob Cutler</p> <p>Michael and Rob will present from their acclaimed SPUN program (Silent People Until Now) at Medicine Wheel, where they work with young heroin addicts and adjudicated youth. They will explore ways of taking a cultural action that leads to self-awareness that allows the gifts of the individual to become essential to the community. They will also explore the need to create the new supports that are necessary to achieve this goal.</p>
Lakeview B	<p><i>Committed Relationships Panel</i> Hope Block, Jacob Pratt, Savannah Nicole Logsdon-Breakstone, Nick Pentzell, Katie Miller (Moderator: Autumn Dae Miller)</p> <p>An extension of yesterday's session, <i>Rated "R": That Oh-So-Difficult Topic</i>, this will be a discussion shared with the attendees on experiences and lessons learned regarding committed relationships.</p>
Lakeview C	<p><i>My Many Steps to "Fire the Middle Man"</i> Jenn Seybert and Marilyn Chadwick</p> <p>I thought that learning to type independently would be so easy and in my mind it is. But independence has been hard to achieve, a roller coaster of a ride. It has taken many small steps with the support, wisdom and patience of key people. Come learn about my journey. Marilyn will provide the technical understanding of the road I have taken.</p>
Lakeview D	<p><i>Parent & Self-Advocate Panel - What Is Helpful on the Journey?</i> Barbara Platt and Laura Butler, Jordan R. Ackerson and Lisa Lieberman, Innocent Byamugisha, Ariane Zurcher, Melody Latimer, Kermia Cevik, Phil Schwarz (Moderators: Emily Titon and Jim Butler)</p> <p>Parents and self-advocates will discuss their journeys to learn, promote and develop independence and the strategies they are using to pursue this goal.</p>
4:15 - 4:25	BREAK
4:25 - 5:00	<p><i>Film – Finding Our Voices</i> Written by DJ Savarese Produced by Rob Rooy</p>
5:00 - 5:40	<p style="text-align: center;">THE LAST WORD by members of the AUTCOM Board of Directors who are on the spectrum <i>and</i> RAFFLE results!</p>

About the presenters

Jordan Ackerson is a 24-year-old man with ASD who lives in Oregon. He currently works part-time at a private fitness club. He sings in the community college choir and takes private voice lessons. With an innate sense of social justice, Jordan has presented at numerous national conferences. He looks forward to being a spokesperson about how it feels to have a diagnostic label, and the importance of not underestimating people with challenges. Jordan wrote an article published in several national newsletters and has been the subject of several feature articles, both in his school newspaper and the local newspaper. He has also been interviewed by CNN and two local radio talk shows. (Fri 3:15 - concurrent, Fri 7:00 - musical performance, Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

Julia Bascom is an autistic woman, writer, and self-advocate. She writes about autistic identity and community, neuropoetics, disability rights and disability theory, special education, and autistic rights and autism acceptance. She is interested in developing ethnography of the Autistic community and its many manifestations, investigating the gap between what research and policy say and how they are implemented in the lives of autistic people, community directed research, and metaphor, storytelling, and autism. She has done presentations for ASAN on Autistic Culture, is on her state Developmental Disabilities Council, and is the founder and project organizer for The Loud Hands Project. Her website is <http://juststimming.wordpress.com/>. (Fri 11:00 - concurrent)

Larry Bissonnette is an advocate and artist who lives in Milton, Vermont and has had his work exhibited regularly both locally and nationally. His work is in the permanent collection of the Musée de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland, and in many private collections. His work was most recently featured in a 2011 exhibit entitled "Unheard Voices" at the SEABA Center Gallery in Burlington, Vermont. He is both the subject and writer of an award winning film about his life, *My Classic Life as an Artist: A Portrait of Larry Bissonnette (2005)*. Most recently, he and Tracy Thresher were featured in a documentary showing their quest to change the world's view of disability, *Wretches and Jabberers*. In 1991, Larry learned to communicate through typing and began combining words with his art to express his thoughts and ideas. Over the past 15 years, he has been a featured presenter at many educational conferences and has written and spoken on the topics of autism, communication and art. (Fri 11:00 - concurrent; Fri 7:10 - film)

Hope Block is a woman with autism who lives in a condo in Newport. She has used FC for many years. It has given her a voice. She finds it difficult to let people know how smart she is. She wants to help others with autism who operate like her and feel trapped inside their bodies. Hope has presented at regional and national conferences on topics related to self-advocacy and facilitated communication. She is engaged to Jacob Pratt and would like to be with him always, but they face many barriers because they live and get supports in different states. (Fri 11:00 - concurrent, Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

Cecilia Breinbauer, MD, MPH is the Executive Director of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental & Learning Disorders, ICDL, a non-profit organization founded by the late Dr. Stanley Greenspan. She launched the ICDL Graduate School, offering a unique, online Ph.D in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and Developmental Disorders. The program currently trains more than 80 professionals from different disciplines, states and countries. In addition, Dr. Breinbauer redesigned the certificate training of the DIR Model and Floortime Principles, based on the seminal work of Dr. Greenspan, incorporating a lifespan approach, and making it more accessible to anyone interesting in

learning this model. Before joining ICDL, Dr. Breinbauer worked for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO, 2001-2005) coordinating child and adolescent health and development projects in more than 12 countries in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, and for the Inter American Development Bank (IDB, 2005-2006) evaluating early child development projects in Chile, Nicaragua and Honduras. She also worked as a consultant for UNICEF and as a child psychiatrist for more than 20 years. Dr. Breinbauer received her medical degree and completed her residency in child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of Chile, followed by a M.A. in Public Health from George Washington University. She has published extensively in the field of early child development and developmental disorders as well as authoring a book, *Youth: Choices and Changes* (PAHO, 2005), which uses a developmental perspective to promote healthy behaviors in adolescence. Dr. Breinbauer is a Chilean citizen and mother of three wonderful young adults. She speaks Spanish and English fluently. (Fri 11:00 - concurrent)

Lydia Brown is the 2012 Patricia Morrissey Disability Policy Fellow at the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)'s Center for Workforce Development (CWD). She also interns for the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN). Lydia is also a member of the National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN) Outreach and Awareness Committee, the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Youth Caucus, the Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) Consumer Advisory Council, and TASH New England's Board of Directors. In 2011, she served on the Adult Services Subcommittee of the Massachusetts Special Commission Relative to Autism. Lydia is an undergraduate at Georgetown University. (Sat 11:00 - concurrent)

Marilyn Chadwick is a Speech/Language Pathologist in private practice in Syracuse, NY. Formerly the Director of Training for the Institute on Communication and Inclusion at Syracuse University, she has worked in the field of augmentative and alternative communication for over twenty five years, helping many individuals to communication through typing. Marilyn is also a Feldenkrais practitioner, holds a certificate in Neurologic Music Therapy, and is currently studying the Masgutova Method. For more about Marilyn, see www.bodyspeaks.org. (Sat 9:00 - keynote, Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

Pascal Cheng has assisted Larry Bissonnette in his writing and presentations about art and disability issues since 1991. Pascal has a M.Ed. and a C.A.S. in Special Education from the University of Vermont. He has worked in the fields of education and human services for over 30 years as a special education teacher, coordinator of educational and vocational programs for adults with developmental disabilities, and consultant for individuals with complex communication needs. He is currently an Education and Communication Specialist for the Howard Center in Burlington, Vermont, providing training and technical assistance for communication and literacy in both school and community settings. He serves as a member of the Vermont Communication Task Force, a group that works to improve communication supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities in the state of Vermont. (Fri 11:00 - concurrent; Fri 7:10 - film)

Rob Cutler has dedicated his life to advocating for an inclusive world in which everyone is welcomed to take their rightful place as citizens. Rob's challenge to all of us is to look at our own abilities, not at someone's disabilities, and join together to change the world.

For the past ten years he has moved his advocacy work away from the disability world and into advocating for all marginalized persons. His work at Medicine Wheel as resident humanitarian has had an enormous impact. Rob continues to serve the Department of Developmental Services as a member of the area's Citizen Advisory Board. He continues his tireless work presenting at conferences, including TASH, TASH NE and AutCom. He regularly advocates at the Massachusetts State House. Rob is a past president of Autcom and a Board member of the Herb Lovett Memorial Fund. His story, *Not To Yield*, has been published in Hank Bersani's *Responding to the Challenge: Essays to Honor Gunnar Dybwad*. Rob lives in Arlington, MA, close to his family. (Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

Michael Dowling has been creating award-winning public art for over 25 years which responds to and relates to the natural environment. Much of Dowling's work is located in nature, such as No Man's Land in South Boston historic Dorchester Heights which has transformed an abandoned piece of land into an urban public art park; and Conspire, which sat atop a floating barge in Charlestown. In 1992, he founded Medicine Wheel Productions (MWP) and is the Artistic Director of this artist-led nonprofit organization. MWP's mission is to enable individuals to access the hidden world through art. The organization invites people to gain awareness of themselves in their communities by participating in the creation of enduring, site-specific public art projects in which they explore and share issues unique to their individual and collective experience. Two key threads of Dowling's art practice and the work created by Medicine Wheel Productions projects and programs are to promote healing and to address grief on individual, collective, and community levels. The annual Medicine Wheel Installation for World AIDS Day at the Boston Center for the Arts Cyclorama and the Tonnes Project in Ireland which is connecting the residents of the area along the Foyle River on both sides of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, are some of the many examples of Michael and MWP's important and needed work. (Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

Mike Hoover, from Boulder, Colorado, has a part-time job at a brewery and is a past Board member of AutCom. He is on the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council and the Colorado TASH Board.

Catherine Hunter has been a special educator for 16 years and has provided differentiated instruction in a variety of settings in Maryland and at National Children's Center in Washington, D.C. She has also been an Educational Specialist at Pediatric HSC in Washington, DC. Currently, she serves as an Assistive Technology Consultant on an interdisciplinary augmentative and alternative communication technology team. (Fri 3:55 - concurrent)

Harvey F. Lavoy, III, has worked for Community Developmental Services (CDS), a division of Washington County Mental Health Services, in Montpelier, Vermont since 1994. He has a B.S. in Special Education and has worked in the field of Human Services for over 30 years. He currently is Director of Communication Training and Resources at CDS and provides education, training and technical assistance to adults and children with complex communication needs as well as their families, support staff, educational teams, schools and agencies. He has been a member of the Vermont Statewide Communication Task Force since 2000, providing statewide trainings, workshops, and conferences to enable adults in Vermont with developmental disabilities to communicate, make social connections, and participate in community life more fully. He is a member of the International Network of Master Facilitated Communication Trainers. He received a Certificate of Recognition as a Master Trainer in Facilitated Communication in 2006 from the Facilitated Communication Institute at Syracuse University. (Fri 11:00 - concurrent; Fri 7:10 - film)

Sam Leckrone is a 27 year old man with autism, who graduated with his B.A. in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan and his M.A. from Purdue University, also in Civil Engineering, on a full scholarship. He now lives in Johnson City, Tennessee, and works for the Virginia Department of Transportation. (Fri 3:45 - concurrent)

Lisa A Lieberman, MSW, LCSW is an Oregon psychotherapist in private practice with over 35 years experience. She has published numerous articles and a book, *A Stranger Among Us*, a comprehensive guide to hiring in-home support staff for children and young adults with ASD. Most importantly, she and her husband of 33 years enjoy witnessing the journey of their 24 year old son Jordan Ackerson, who has ASD. (Fri 3:15 - concurrent, Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

Savannah Nicole Logsdon-Breakstone is an autistic advocate and activist from rural PA. She has been actively involved in advocacy since her mother asked her to sit on a panel at a state level conference when she was 12. She blogs at crackedmirrorinshalott.wordpress.com and is currently working on a series of videos on stimming in public. In her spare time Savannah enjoys Doctor Who, anthropology, and disability history. (Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

Autumn Dae Miller, Widener College recipient of the 2004 KALINOWSKI grant to conduct research on teaching the topic of human sexuality to undergraduates, is Treasurer of Gamma Eta Rho, the first national honor society in human sexuality. This Society was established to encourage and recognize excellence in intellectual achievement, critical inquiry and creative thought relating to all aspects of human sexuality.

The first chapter of Gamma Eta Rho, Alpha Nu chapter, was established at Widener University in 2008. The Society seeks to help students develop meaningful goals for their roles in society; to foster professional relationships and growth; and to advance the fields of human sexuality research, therapy, and education. (Fri 11:00 - concurrent, Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

Matthew Moore is a Doctoral Candidate in the History of Consciousness Department, UC Santa Cruz. He is working on a dissertation that focuses on the autistic rights movement, the power of diagnostic categories, and the politics of dis/ability.

Ari Ne'eman is the President and co-founder of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. In 2009, he was appointed by President Obama to the National Council on Disability, making him the first openly Autistic presidential appointee in American history. He currently chairs the Council's Policy & Program Evaluation Committee. (Fri 9:00 - welcome)

Nick Pentzell is a Communication Arts major at Delaware County Community College in suburban Philadelphia. He is determinedly pursuing self-determination and increasingly living a more independent life (with supports). He advocates for himself and others as a workshop/conference presenter and writer. Besides AutCom, he has done presentations for the Society for Disability Studies, Millersville and Temple Universities, Penn Autism Network, Networks for Training and Development, Values Into Action, and Youth Advocate Programs. His recent publications include a lengthy quotation in the "A Question of Sex" section of William Stillman's Empowered Autism Parenting (2009). (Fri 11:00 - concurrent, Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

Jacob Pratt is currently Executive Director of the Autism Spectrum Differences Institute of New England, Inc. He has been a public policy activist, consultant, and trainer about autism issues, has presented in a number of states, and uses facilitated communication to express his humor, thoughtfulness, and overall poignant perspectives. Jacob is currently engaged to a woman who also types to communicate, is taking college classes, and serves on the Board of Directors of AutCom among other groups such as the TASH/New England Chapter Board. (Fri 11:00 - concurrent, Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

Lois Prislovsky, Ph.D., completed over 128 hours of post-doctoral studies in assessment, cognitive psychology, Lindamood-Bell reading therapy and advanced certification in Ericksonian hypnosis. Other areas of expertise include communication and social skills training with clients on the autism spectrum and ADD/ADHD coaching. Prislovsky joined with Barb Rentenbach to found the Greater Living Institute (GLI) to assist those with disabilities in maximizing their highest potential. Dr. Prislovsky serves as the Executive Director of GLI, President of Psychoeducational Network (private practice group) and President of Mule and Muse Productions, LLC. (Fri 3:15 - concurrent)

Barb Rentenbach is a writer and advocate for people with disabilities. She is an impassioned speaker concerning Autism, Social Justice, Teacher Training, and Communication. Barb continues rigorous

self-education to develop her writing and speaking in order to champion others. She helped create “Greater Living Institute” (GLI) a non-profit organization designed to serve bright adolescents and adults with disabilities. Barb is the co-founder and CEO of Mule and Muse Productions, LLC. (Fri 3:15 - concurrent)

Scott Michael Robertson, an autistic adult, leads disability rights projects and conducts disability research. Appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Scott serves on the U.S. Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee. Scott participates as Vice-Chair of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), a national nonprofit he co-founded. He also serves as Council Member on the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council and Board member of the Autism National Committee. Scott graduated Summa Cum Laude from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a B.A. in computer science. He earned an M.A. in Human-Computer Interaction from Carnegie Mellon University. Scott, a Google Lime Scholar, currently attends a doctoral program at Penn State University and studies bullying of autistic youth for his dissertation research. He has authored several funded grants and published many peer-reviewed articles on disability research in journals and conference proceedings. Scott has presented keynotes and invited lectures at conferences and schools nationwide. He has also led the development of support systems for adults and youth with disabilities. For instance, Scott served on an advisory workgroup for the Pennsylvania government that helped create services criteria for the Adult Autism Medicaid Waiver (AAMW). AAMW provides supports and services to a few hundred autistic adults to help them live and work in their own communities. Recognizing this work's impact, the American Public Health Association awarded Scott their Jay S. Drotman Memorial Award. (Fri 1:30 - keynote)

Jennifer Paige Seybert recently completed a Master's degree in Disability Studies at Syracuse University and a New York Certification in Advanced Studies. She began her undergraduate education at Penn State University in Pennsylvania and later transferred to Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, where she completed a B.A. in Psychology in 2006. During her studies at Le Moyne, she was inducted into Psi Chi, the National Psychology Honor Society.

While living in PA, Jennifer was active in advocacy and presented for the PA Office of Mental Retardation throughout the state as an autism expert for staff at all levels, teachers, family members and people with disabilities. She organized an advocacy group who joined her in speaking to others about being advocates with and for those with disabilities.

After moving to Central New York, she continued to serve as a presenter and participated in many trainings and conferences. She was selected to represent Central New York in the state-wide Conference for Community Participation. In November, 2007, she completed her accreditation in the New York State Partners in Policymaking. (Fri 9:20 - keynote, Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

Sean Sokler has a B.A. from George Mason University with a major in Psychology and minor in History/Art History, in 2005. After this, he took 24 credit hours in Journalism and Italian. Sean has recently been accepted at University of South Florida, St. Petersburg campus, for an M.A. in Online Media and Journalism, entirely online. Sean has used supported typing for 21 years and has presented at various conferences for 14 years. (Sat 11:35 - concurrent)

Tracy Thresher, Community Developmental Services. Tracy is a native Vermonter who lives and works in Vermont. Tracy began using FC in 1990 and was one of the first individuals with autism in Vermont to be introduced to it. He has presented at local, statewide, and national workshops and conferences. He has consulted with local schools, is a member of the Vermont Developmental Services State Program Standing Committee and the Statewide Autism Advisory Committee, worked part-time for Green Mountain Self-Advocates and works with the Facilitated Communication Institute at Syracuse University as a lead trainer. He and his partner in crime, Larry Bissonnette, are the subjects of a documentary film and have traveled the world visiting Sri Lanka, Japan, and Finland on a quest to change the world's view of disability. (Fri 11:00 - concurrent; Fri 7:10 - film)

Emily Titon is an Autistic from Rhode Island. Emily is actively involved with ASAN, Occupy Providence, TASH, AutCom, and Advocates in Action. Emily loves emergency preparedness, aviation, intelligence/security, and cats. Emily also enjoys photography, watching sci-fi like X-Files and Battlestar Galactica, and cooking. (Sat 11:00 - concurrent, Sat 3:15 - concurrent)

http://www.iod.unh.edu/ASI%202012/Strand%20B/B4_Brown_Amplifying_Your_Voice.pdf

Tonya Williams-Walker has been a speech language pathologist for 16 years. She currently serves as an Assistive Technology Consultant on an interdisciplinary augmentative and alternative communication technology team and is a Lecturer in the Hearing and Speech Sciences Department at the University of Maryland at College Park. (Fri 3:55 - concurrent)

Melanie Yergeau is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Michigan. Active in the neurodiversity movement, she serves as Board Chair of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. (3:45 - concurrent)

Ariane Zurcher's blog [Emma's Hope Book](#) was nominated as a Top Autism Blog for 2013. Her daughter, Emma, was profiled on [The Thinking Person's Guide to Autism](#) for their Slice of Life Series in April, 2012. (Sat 11:00 - concurrent, Sat 3:15 - concurrent)