

Imagining the Future

Celebrating the Past

**American Association
on Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities**

134th Annual Meeting

June 9–11, 2010

The Westin Providence
Providence, Rhode Island

AAIDD International Awards

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Joanna L. Pierson, PhD

AAIDD President, 2009–2010

This month Joanna Pierson, PhD celebrates her 31st anniversary as the Executive Director of The Arc of Frederick County. She administers the agency's support coordination and fiscal intermediary services which she designed in the early 1980's. The Arc's services are based on the idea that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families want supports and services that are simple, flexible, available when needed, the least intrusive possible, and support people in living enviable lives.

Dr. Pierson earned a PhD in Social Work from the University of Maryland and holds an M.S.W. in community organizing from the University of Michigan. She has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work since 1994. Her doctoral dissertation was on leadership that creates innovative human services.

Dr. Pierson has consulted and presented at national conferences and throughout the United States on service coordination, fiscal intermediary services, creativity, effective meetings, and creating change. She also consults to a spin-off agency of The Arc Frederick County, which provides service coordination, a service she developed in Maryland. At the time of spin-off, the agency was serving over 14,000 people. She published a chapter on family support services in *Embarking on a New Century: Mental Retardation at the End of the 20th Century*.

Her current tenure as AAIDD's President follows a long history of involvement in the Association. Her other work at AAIDD includes: Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Directors at large member, Nominations and Elections Committee, Health Promotion Committee, Social



Work Division President, Assembly of Regions, National Conference Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair, Region IX Chair, Maryland Chapter Chair and Treasurer, National DD Coalition 2005 Summit Planning Committee, and AAIDD/The Arc Joint Position Statements Development Committee.

In, September 2008, Dr. Pierson participated as Co-Leader in a People to

People study tour to Russia led by AAIDD Executive Director Doreen Croser. The tour visited services for children and adults with disabilities in the Moscow and St. Petersburg areas, and spoke with Russian professionals in the intellectual and developmental disabilities field.

Dr. Pierson has conducted independent studies of emergency response services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Israel. These conversations have led to her having continuing linkages to nonprofit providers and professionals in both Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

In 1994, she received the National Council of Executives of The Arcs Executive Excellence Award. She co-lead the creation and implementation of the self-determination systems change funded through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in the 1990's. Serving on groups as varied as the Maryland Mortality Review Committee, both Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene 1115 Waiver Acute Care and Long Term Care Committees, the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council where she was the Chair for several years, and the Maryland Association of Community Services Board of Directors has been part of her effort to create systems change for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

AAIDD INTERNATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

AAIDD President 2008–2009

Joanna L. Pierson, PhD, FAAIDD

Presidential Address

Introduction by David A. Rotholz, PhD, FAAIDD

At the Intersection: Are We Still Moving Forward?

Joanna L. Pierson, PhD, FAAIDD, President

AAIDD International Awards

Eric "Ric" S. Zaharia, PhD, FAAIDD
Chairperson, Awards and Fellowship Committee

AAIDD International Award Recipients

Laura Lee McIntyre, PhD.....	Early Career Award
Brian R. Bryant, PhD.....	Education Award
Hope Community Resources	Full Community Inclusion Award
Roy McConkey, PhD	International Award
David L. Coulter, MD.....	Leadership Award
Gary W. LaVigna, PhD.....	Leadership Award
Thomas J. Willis, PhD.....	Leadership Award
Anthony Di Salvo.....	Media Award
Wayne P. Silverman, PhD.....	Research Award
Gary B. Mesibov, PhD	Service Award
Emily Shea Obremski.....	Student Award

Henri Nouwen Award

David J. Morstad

*Presented by Nella M. Uitvlugt
President, Religion & Spirituality Division*

Early Career Award

Laura Lee McIntyre, PhD

Laura Lee McIntyre is an Associate Professor and Director of the School Psychology Program in the Department of Special Education and Clinical Sciences at the University of Oregon. Prior to her appointment at the University of Oregon in 2009, she was an Assistant Professor in Psychology at Syracuse University and an affiliated faculty member in Pediatrics at the Center for Development, Behavior, and Genetics at SUNY Upstate Medical University. She received a master's degree in special education in 2000 and a PhD in school psychology in 2003 from the University of California-Riverside. She completed a predoctoral internship in behavioral psychology at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Dr. McIntyre is a licensed psychologist, credentialed school psychologist, and board certified behavior analyst.

Dr. McIntyre's research and clinical interests involve early identification and treatment of childhood developmental and behavioral problems, with an emphasis on the multiple systems of care that support children. Dr. McIntyre has authored or co-authored over 30 academic publications and has given 75 presentations at local, national, and international conferences. She is Principal Investigator on three research grants, including funded projects from the National Institutes of Health and private foundations. She is currently investigating the efficacy of family-based inter-



ventions to reduce child behavior problems and enhance parent well-being in preschool-aged children with developmental disabilities.

Dr. McIntyre serves as the co-editor of the Evidence Based Practice special section of the *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*

and serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of School Psychology* and the *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*. She is an ad-hoc reviewer for over a dozen other journals in the fields of psychology, special education, and pediatrics. She has held elected positions on the executive council for the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Division (Division 33) of the American Psychological Association and currently serves as Membership Chair.

Her commitment to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities extends to her community work and work with student trainees. She has held clinical positions in community settings, including hospital settings and school districts. While in Syracuse she served on the Board of Directors for Families for Effective Autism Treatment and the Autism Task Force in the Department of Health. Dr. McIntyre has taught and mentored undergraduate and graduate students in psychology and special education. She is the recipient of the Golden Apple teaching award and the Allport research mentor award.

Education Award

Brian R. Bryant, PhD

Dr. Bryant lives and works in Austin, Texas. Brian began his career as a special education teacher in Maine, where he taught students with intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, and emotional disturbance in Grades K–8 and then 9–12. He moved to Texas to pursue his doctorate in General Special Education at The University of Texas at Austin. While a student, Brian worked at an extended living center for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After receiving his doctorate, Brian worked as Research Director for Pro-Ed Publishing Company, where he worked with Dr. Robert Schalock and the other authors to revise the *AAMR Adaptive Behavior Scale*.

After the 1992 *Terminology and Classification Manual* introduced the 10 adaptive areas to adaptive measurement, Brian and his colleagues created the *Assessment of Adaptive Areas*, which reformulated the *AAMR Adaptive Behavior Scale's* items to generate scores in each of the 10 adaptive areas. Later, Brian was asked to join a team from AAIDD, led by Dr. Jim Thompson, to create a measure of support needs, again in response to policy recommendations in the *Terminology and Classification Manual*. Their work resulted in the publication of *AAIDD's Supports Intensity Scale*, which is now widely used in the United States, Canada, and around the world.



Brian has published more than 100 peer reviewed articles, books, chapters in books, and commercial works and has made over 100 presentations at state, national, and international conferences and school inservice workshops. He has served as an adjunct faculty member at The

University of Texas at Austin and Florida Atlantic University and has been a visiting instructor at the University of Louisville, Pacific Lutheran University, and the University of Hawaii. He currently works as a Project Manager with the Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk in the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin and will begin teaching courses this summer at Texas State University.

Brian has written and managed several grants, including a current grant with the Institute of Education Sciences that examines early mathematics for struggling students. Brian is a member of numerous professional organizations, including AAIDD, and he's presented workshops at the organization's state and national conferences. He has served on the editorial boards of numerous journals, and this summer, Brian and his wife Diane will begin a tenure as Editors-in-Chief of the *Learning Disability Quarterly*, the professional journal of the Council for Learning Disabilities.

Full Community Inclusion Award

Hope Community Resources

A sign once erected by pioneers of Hope read, “Home of Alaska’s Forgotten Children.” Certainly not an uplifting declaration, it stood to chronicle the tragic journey of so many individuals with disabilities. These were children, adolescents and adults who were once told that Alaska had no place for them, and so they were torn from the heart of their families, community, and culture and inhumanely isolated in large, out of state institutions. And they were forgotten.

Incorporated in 1968, Hope Community Resources was founded on advocacy and belief- keep kids at home within the natural family; assist adults towards independent living in communities of their choosing; and generate “follow along funding”, empowering families with choice, control, and dignity.

When the buzz words were “community based”, Hope insisted on “community”; when “categorical services” were in fashion, Hope offered “wrap-around” supports that were person centered and directed; when cultural sensitivity was talked about, Hope actually began rural and remote service delivery in villages and regional centers embracing culture, tradition and the wisdom of Elders. Hope rejected “home-like” for “home”, replacing “least restrictive environment” with “non-restrictive”.

Hope emphasizes that INCLUSION must begin within each corporate office; that it must be applied equally to all stakeholders/members; and that it must honor the essence of each individual. Inclusion not only measures freedom of choice to participate as fully as desired within community, but celebrates differences while bonding together in



similarities. Hope has engineered a corporate culture on established Beliefs, Values, Mission, Vision, and Expectations. This creates an atmosphere of daily interaction predicated on the unique and innate worth of all human beings to be valued and contributing members of a shared society.

Stakeholders live individual lives based on their beliefs, traditions, personal characteristics, spirituality and learning/educational goals. Central to full inclusion is the non-rejection/non-abandonment mandate for all Hope members. This becomes crystallized in the “No Discharge” policy, in “Open Door” communications, and in the “Dignity of Life” directive that are hallmarks of Hope. This focus on inclusion is reliant upon a Vision that our actions contribute to a greater, more global effort to build inclusive communities in every nation.

Knowing each individual’s dream and striving to assist in the achievement or approximation of that dream, is the very heart of Hope. Inclusion then becomes a knowledge that “never again” will any Alaskan wear that label of “forgotten”—that all will assume a valued place within the very fabric of community.

International Award Roy McConkey, PhD

Roy is Professor of Developmental Disabilities at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland; a post he has held for 13 years. A native of Belfast and a psychologist by training he has previously worked in England, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland. However his 40 year career in intellectual disabilities started as a camp counselor in New York State with young people who had various special needs.



Leonard Cheshire Foundation International; one of the world's largest non-governmental (NGO) disability agencies. The latter work took him to countries in the Asia-Pacific region as well as in sub-Saharan Africa. A common theme was the development of services to promote the social inclu-

sion of people with disabilities in family and community life.

More recently he has undertaken consultancies in Iran, India and South Africa on behalf of various United Nations Organizations including UNICEF and the World Health Organization, and for international NGOs such as Save the Children (UK) in Lesotho and NFU (Norway) in Zanzibar. A major focus here has been on making schools more inclusive for pupils with developmental disabilities.

More recently he has lead a team commissioned by Special Olympics International, to evaluate their Unified Sports programs in five European countries.

Roy is the author of several books aimed at parents and practitioners that have been translated into various languages. He has written on international aspects of intellectual disability in book chapters and journal articles and is a frequent speaker at international conferences and workshops. In 2006 he was elected a Fellow of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disability.

His research interests center on family support, community inclusion, innovative service models and new styles of educating front-line staff and family members. He is a strong advocate of creating better lives for people with intellectual disabilities and of the contribution research makes to this endeavour, especially when it is undertaken in partnership with service practitioners.

His international activities commenced in 1984 with support from Irish foreign aid; working in Zimbabwe to pioneer the development of video-based training materials for use in community-based rehabilitation projects. The idea was taken up by UNESCO and extended to various other African countries notably as a means of promoting early intervention for children with developmental disabilities in less affluent countries with scarce professional resources.

During the 1990s he was visiting consultant to the CBR program in Guyana, South America and also to the

Leadership Award

David L. Coulter, MD

David Coulter's leadership is based on seeing patients daily, which informs his national and international work on changing the way we think about people with disabilities. In 32 years of practice as a pediatric neurologist, he has personally cared for—and cared about—more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families and has learned much from them. From the time he joined AAIDD in 1982, David has tried to represent for our field a new kind of doctor, one who affirms and respects all people with I/DD, promotes their full community inclusion and participation, and supports them and their families.

In 2004, he declared the Medical Model dead and replaced it with a new Community Health Supports model that integrates all aspects of health for people with I/DD. He developed a new concept of the etiology of ID based on the analysis of multiple (often preventable) risk factors, and then redefined prevention of ID to emphasize the role of individual and family supports. Much of this work has been included in the *AAIDD Manual on Definition and Classification of ID*, for which David served as a co-author of the 1992, 2002 and 2010 editions.



David is associate professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and leads the training program in neurodevelopmental disabilities at Children's Hospital Boston. His curriculum vitae is full of articles, chapters and books describing ways to improve the care of

patients with I/DD. The neurology residents, who gave him their "Outstanding Teacher" award in 2005, cite in particular how he teaches them to care for patients with I/DD and to support their families.

David has had a long-standing research interest in bioethics, spirituality and disability. With Bill Gaventa, he co-edited the *Journal of Religion, Disability and Health* from 1999–2008. His research on the vegetative state and related disabilities has emphasized the dignity and moral worth of people in these conditions. He has lectured internationally on their personhood and on our ethical responsibilities for them. During his presidency of AAMR, he wrote, with Rud Turnbull, the *AAIDD Policy on Caring at the End of Life*, which specifies these principles. His Presidential Address in 2005 introduced the concept of spiritual valorization, parallel to Wolfensberger's concept of social role valorization, as a guide to help professionals in our field to make moral and ethical decisions in their practice.

Leadership Award

Gary W. LaVigna, PhD

Gary LaVigna is Clinical Director and Co-founder (with Tom Willis) of the Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis (IABA) in Los Angeles, California. He spends much of his time consulting with families and organizations on establishing positive behavior support plans for individuals exhibiting severe and



challenging behavior and presenting seminars and practicum training on the topic throughout the world. His work is reported in numerous published articles and his coauthored books—*Alternatives to Punishment*, *Progress Without Punishment* and *The Periodic Service Review: A Total Quality Assurance System For Human Services and Education*.

As a part of training thousands of people from around the world, he has had a professional presence on every continent, with the exception of the Antarctic.

Established in 1981, IABA now has a staff of approximately 600 people providing a variety of direct services beyond training and consultation. In 1985, IABA initiated one of the first supported employment services in California for people who courageously face life with an intellectual and/or developmental disability associated with challenging behavior. (It is this population that IABA is organized to serve.) It is notable that their individual earnings over the years have added to a running total of what is now more than \$8,000,000. In 1989, IABA again made California history by initiating its first supported living services. Finally, IABA provides a range of “youth” services, namely in-home respite for

families, intensive support so children can continue living with their families and go to neighborhood schools, and early intervention for young children diagnosed as having the characteristics associated with autism.

It is a point of pride that IABA does not have any licensed facilities.

All of its direct services are provided in people’s homes, in their places of employment and in their communities. About receiving the 2010 AAIDD Leadership Award, Dr. LaVigna says “I am honored and humbled by this award. As for others in our field of work, we do not do what we do to get this kind of public recognition, nor even for the paycheck we receive. Rather, we do what we do to engage the people we support in an ongoing process of ‘becoming.’ To support the people we serve and to see them continue to learn, grow and develop is what it is all about.”

As important as Dr. LaVigna’s work is to him, his primary identification isn’t as a professional, but rather as a family man. He has lived with his wife (Brenda) of more than 48-years in the same house for almost 39-years, where they raised their five children and now enjoy the frequent company and visits of their 11 grandchildren, all of whom live nearby. The entire LaVigna family also organizes a family charity triathlon (see www.triforlife.com), which raises money to improve the treatment conditions for children with Primary-Immunodeficiency (PI). PI was the underlying cause of their daughter Dina’s death at the age of 33.

Leadership Award

Thomas J. Willis, PhD

Dr. Willis is the Associate Director of the Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis (IABA). Along with his partner Gary W. LaVigna, PhD they cofounded IABA in 1981. Currently, IABA serves over 400 people with special needs through its Supported Living, Supported Employment, Children and Youth Services, and consultation services. Many of the people served by IABA manifest severe behavior challenges, which prevent them from experiencing life to its fullest. Dr. Willis, along with his team of behavioral clinicians, provides much of the clinical oversight for the treatment of individuals severe behavioral challenges. Currently, IABA employs approximately 600 staff.

Dr. Willis received his PhD from UCLA in 1988 under the mentorship of Ivar Lovaas, PhD. He has taught courses at Pepperdine University and the California Graduate Institute (CGI). He has co-authored numerous articles that have focused on the treatment of gender identity problems, hyperactivity, brain injury and people with severe challenging behaviors. He co-authored the *Periodic Service Review: A Total Quality Assurance System for Human Services and Education*, *The Behavior Assessment Guide*, *The Reinforcement Inventory for Children and*



Adults and the Emergency Management Guidelines. Of special importance, he co-authored an article in which the term “Episodic Severity” was first introduced into the field of Applied Behavior Analysis as a measure of the success or failure of the treatment of people with severe challenging behaviors.

Dr. Willis is a renowned lecturer in the area of positive behavior treatment. He is an internationally recognized authority and lecturer on the topics of behavioral assessment, the design of non-aversive/positive behavioral support services, emergency management, and staff management strategies for total quality assurance. He has lectured to more than 40,000 in his trainings and has trained more than 1000 professionals in multi-week, advanced trainings in the areas of functional behavior assessment and positive behavior supports. A sought after lecturer and trainer, Dr. Willis has trained human service professionals around the world, including Canada, the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. The multi-element treatment approach he teaches has been adopted by hundreds of agencies around the world as well as government entities.

Media Award Anthony Di Salvo

In 1979, Anthony Di Salvo founded the non-profit organization Sprout with the mission of helping people with developmental disabilities grow through travel and recreation. The only organization of its kind at the time, Sprout grew to be a well-respected and popular program for providing true vacation opportunities to over 2,000 participants each year.



exclusively related to the field of developmental disabilities. Showing films from around the world that feature people with developmental disabilities as actors or as subjects in documentaries, the Sprout Film Festival is now in its eighth year and the 3-day public event is held each spring at the Metropolitan

Museum of Art in NYC.

While Sprout's travel program flourished, Mr. Di Salvo, realized that there were very few, if any, actors with developmental disabilities being seen in the movies or on TV, and, when there were portrayals of someone with a developmental disability, they were often done by a non-disabled actor. In 1993, he started the Sprout Make-A-Movie program in which participants on a 5 day trip became actors in Sprout-produced videos. The main goals were to give the participants a chance to be "movie stars" and to also have the general public, through the viewing of the videos at private screenings, appreciate the acting skills of people with developmental disabilities. As of 2010 Mr. Di Salvo has made 14 short narratives, documentaries and animations.

The overwhelmingly positive reaction of members of the general public to these screenings lead Mr. Di Salvo to see the opportunity to push his ideas about people with developmental disabilities in the media further. In 2003, Mr. Di Salvo established the Sprout Film Festival, the only film festival to feature films

With an ever-growing collection of films in the Sprout Film Festival catalog, Mr. Di Salvo sought ways to bring the message of the film festival to a wider audience. In 2006, he established the Sprout Touring Film Festival which allows agencies, organizations and institutions to create a custom version of the Sprout Film Festival, selecting from currently over 130 films, and bring the film festival to their location. As of 2010 Mr. Di Salvo has run over 80 Sprout Touring Film Festivals for agencies, universities and conferences across the US and Canada. At many Touring Film Festivals, he also runs workshops in making films where he shares his experience, techniques and philosophy.

In 2009, he launched Sproutflix.org, a website which allows users around the world to stream videos from the Sprout Film Festival catalog directly to their computer. Charging a small fee for the service, Sproutflix gives half of the fee charged back to the individual filmmakers to support and encourage them in their work with people with developmental disabilities.

Research Award

Wayne P. Silverman, PhD

Wayne Silverman is currently the Associate Director of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center at the Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He completed his undergraduate and graduate training at the State University of New York at Buffalo and received a PhD in Cognitive Psychology in 1973.



He then joined the staff of the New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities (IBR) and studied various aspects of developmental disability over the next 33 years. He became its Chief of Psychology in 1989 and established, with his colleagues, what is probably the largest program of research focused on aging and developmental disabilities in the world. Influential publications focus on a broad range of topics relevant to aging of adults with ID, including: (a) assessment of dementia, a particularly difficult task in the context of lifelong cognitive deficits varying in severity, (b) biological factors contributing to individual differences in vulnerability to old-age related health concerns, (c) documentation of successful aging for adults with Down syndrome, (d) identification of factors that could reduce risk for dementia, and (d) more basic research focused on the neurobiology of Alzheimer's disease (for adults with

and without ID). His work has continued uninterrupted with his move to the Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins University in 2006, and he is now concentrating on studies of the complexities of lifespan development for adults with Down syndrome and their risk for Alzheimer's disease. This program em-

phasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, and has expanded to include scientists at Kennedy Krieger, Johns Hopkins, IBR and Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Silverman is the author/co-author of over 100 research publications and a Fellow of several professional associations (AAIDD, the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities). He has also played a leadership role within our broader field. He is a Past-President of both The Academy on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and APA's Division on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. He also served on the Executive Board of AAIDD and was a member of the National Research Council committee charged with recommending eligibility criteria defining intellectual disability for the Social Security Administration.

Service Award

Gary B. Mesibov, PhD

Dr. Gary B. Mesibov was the Director of Division TEACCH at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1992 until 2010. This internationally recognized statewide program is one of a kind in its pioneering approaches to service, treatment, training, research and the education of individuals with autism. Dr. Mesibov also serves as Professor of Psychology, Dept. of Psychiatry, and Clinical Professor, Dept. of Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Dr. Mesibov has received degrees from Stanford University (A.B.), The University of Michigan (M.A.), Brandeis University (PhD), and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Postdoctoral Fellow). Dr. Mesibov is a licensed Psychologist in the state of North Carolina.

Dr. Mesibov's editorial appointments have included: Editor of the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* from 1998–2008 and membership on the Editorial Boards of the *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology* and the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*. He has written numerous books, Journal articles, book reviews, editorials, chapters and research papers dealing with all aspects of autism and developmental disabilities, especially emphasizing educational and therapeutic approaches.

Together with his colleagues he has been the recipient of numerous state and federal grants used to further research, training and services in Autism. His work has been recognized by several prestigious Universities, professional and community-based awards. In May of 2006 he received the Chancellor's Award from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for meritorious service to the University community in the area of

Human Relations. The same year he received the State of North Carolina's highest award for excellence by an employee for outstanding performance in serving the citizens of the state. In 2000 he received an honorary degree from the University of Mons in Belgium for his work on developing educational programs for students with autism throughout the world. In the same

year he received the Emily & Frank Puzio award from the Eden Institute's Princeton Lecture Series for his leadership in improving the quality of life of individuals with autism. He was recognized for his Distinguished Professional contributions to Public Service by the American Psychological Association in 1997. In 1994 Dr. Mesibov was the recipient of the international award from Opleidingscentrum in Belgium for integrating theory and practice. He also received the Mary G. Clarke Award from the North Carolina Psychological Association for dedication, competence and high ethical standards. In 1990 the Mesibov Award was founded in his honor for excellence in community based residential services for the developmentally disabled, and in 1989 he received the American Psychological Association Society for Pediatric Psychology's Distinguished Contribution Award. In 1969 he was the Professor of the year at the University of Guam and in 1966 - 1967 he was a Sloan Scholar at Stanford University.

Dr. Mesibov's lectures and presentations have taken him throughout the U.S.A., and to Canada, England, Japan, Belgium, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Scotland, France, Mexico, The Netherlands, Venezuela, Australia, Qatar, Taiwan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, The United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Denmark, Norway, Singapore and Sweden.

Student Award

Emily Shea Obremski

Emily Shea Obremski is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Special Education at the University of Kansas, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), a trainee at the KU Center on Developmental Disabilities, and a doctoral fellow at the Beach Center on Disability.



Prior to arriving at the University of Kansas she received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Brown University and her master's degree from Rhode Island College in Special Education. She was a UCEDD trainee at the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities during which she managed a study examining the quality of life of 160 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Upon completing the master's program, she continued working at the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities in the role of project manager co-developing a process in which family members and teachers led the process of developing communication systems for children with IDD and limited communication skills. She also assisted with a state longitudinal transition study and early intervention transition to preschool analysis; was involved with the Support 360 project supporting parents with cognitive challenges; and served as a member of the school-wide positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) state team. She continues her collaborative efforts with the Paul V. Sherlock Center evaluating the reliability and validity of AAIDD's Children's Version of the *Supports Intensity Scale* and the *Diagnostic Adaptive Behavior Scale*.

Her current work focuses on the theoretical analysis of support needs

and adaptive behavior in children with IDD using structural equation modeling. She is also interested in the area of supported and customized employment and is currently working collaboratively on a web-based curriculum that blends self-directed planning practices with customized employment to achieve competitive

employment outcomes for adolescents with IDD.

Shea has been appointed as the only student member of the AAIDD Task Force that is developing the Children's Version of the Supports Intensity Scale; is a member of AAIDD's Student and Early Career Professionals Committee; and serves as Vice-President of the Kansas Chapter of AAIDD. In addition, she serves on the executive committee for the national Sibling Leadership Network and spends weekends coaching adolescents and adults through the local Special Olympics program. Shea recently completed her term as Student Member to the Representative Assembly for The Council for Exceptional Children, and President of the KU Professionals for Disability student organization.

She is honored and humbled to receive the AAIDD 2010 Student Award. "I have been truly blessed by the recipient of such incredible mentorship and support throughout my graduate studies, without which I would not be where I am today. I only hope that I may pass on the knowledge, integrity, and unwavering commitment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families that have been so inspiringly demonstrated by members and leaders of this organization."

Henri Nouwen Award

David J. Morstad

Dave Morstad is a lifelong Wisconsin resident. He was raised in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He and his wife Mary have three adult children. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, BFA and Education, and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, M.Ed., Education.



for Bethesda Lutheran Communities, and management of the Bethesda Institute.

Dave has presented seminars nationwide on topics that include: Staff Training and Development; Person-Centered Planning; Building Disability Ministries and Overcoming Barriers to Learning. He has

Dave has served in a number of capacities for Bethesda Lutheran Communities: Music Therapist; Chaplaincy Music Coordinator; Corporate Director of Training; and currently Vice President of Communications. For years, his music has been used by congregations in ministries with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In 2001, though, David facilitated the redesign of Breakthrough, Bethesda's quarterly publication for congregations and teachers that reaches over 7500 people and organizations across the US and Canada. Dave contributes regularly to Breakthrough with his songs and articles on teaching, inclusion and ministry. Breakthrough has become one of the best channels for sharing stories, resources, ideas, and information about inclusive ministries and the contributions that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities make to congregations and communities. It is free and useful for any congregation or organization interested in development of inclusive faith supports. David also oversees the development of curriculum and other resources

been a leader in planning the Lutheran Services of America-Disability Network Conferences. In 2007 he was part of a Bethesda team that presented a workshop on inclusion and disability ministry to church leaders in Latvia. He has been a leader in Bethesda's transition to community-based services and actively strives for full inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities in churches and the community.

Dave's writings include a history of Bethesda's advocacy efforts in support of inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities in congregations. "The Centennial of Bethesda Lutheran Homes & Services, Inc." appears in *Disability Advocacy Among Religious Organizations: Histories and Reflections*, Ed. Albert A. Herzog, Jr., PhD, MDIV, MA; Haworth Press, c. 2006.

For all these reasons, David Morstad exemplifies the spirit of the Henri Nouwen Award as someone whose lived relationships with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities has helped many others to see the gifts of their lives and the importance of inclusive spiritual supports.

New 30-Year AAIDD Members

Chris Adams
John E. Annison, PhD
Rowland P. Barrett, PhD
Valerie J. Bradley
Fredda A. Brown, PhD
Joseph R. Bucci
Raymond R. Dailey
Mark S. Diorio, PhD
Kenneth W. Dumars, MD
Joseph M. Ferrara, PhD
Thomas R. Fish, PhD
Marc J. Hanson, PhD
Tom M. Herman
Mary M. Hertz
Kenneth W. Johnson
Ronald E. Kruse, EdD
Ronald A. Langworthy
David M. Mank, PhD
Patti S. Manus
John L. McCune
Samuel L. Odom, PhD
Sally J. Rogers, PhD
Ollie J. Seay, PhD
David M. Shue
Renee Wallace
Ronald B. Wisecarver

Past Presidents

The history of the AAIDDD is long and distinguished. Our tradition, professional standing, and leadership in the area of intellectual and Developmental disabilities are exemplified in the persons of our Presidents. Our former Presidents are:

1876-1877	Edouard Sequin, MD	1921-1922	Joseph H. Ladd, MD	1965-1966	I. Ignacy Goldberg, EdD
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1893-1894	A.E. Osborne, MD	1937-1938	Harry C. Storrs, MD	1981-1982	Frank A. Borreca, EdD
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