



MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE MUSEUM OF DISABILITY HISTORY

SUMMER 2014: VOLUME 11



“Monument for the Forgotten” Now Open!

By Dave Mack-Hardiman, Associate Vice President, People Inc.



On July 12, 2014, the dramatic and moving exhibit, “Monument for the Forgotten” was unveiled at the Museum of disABILITY History. A huge mosaic created by Brian Nesline of Faces of Buffalo, LLC, combines more than one thousand images of individual graves in institutional cemeteries in New York State.

The history of the restoration movements on a national, statewide and local level is traced in the exhibit. Unused or replaced grave markers are also on display. The nine foot high monument is the centerpiece of this one-of-a-kind display.

Speakers at the opening included Buffalo Comptroller Mark J. F. Schroeder; Brian Nesline of Faces of Buffalo; Douglas Farley, director of the Museum of disABILITY History and Mildred Kellner, a family member whom the Museum staff assisted in locating the final resting place of her relative.

Following the opening, a panel discussion was held regarding cemetery restorations. Joining me on the panel were Terry Abrams from the Western New York Association of Historical Agencies; Rosanne Higgins, PhD, anthropologist and author of *Orphans and Inmates* and Linda Stuhler, author of *The Inmates of Willard 1870 to 1900: A Genealogy Resource*.



Mark J. F. Schroeder, Buffalo Comptroller; James M. Boles, People Inc. president and chief executive officer; Rhonda Frederick, People Inc. chief operating officer; Dave Mack-Hardiman, People Inc. associate vice president; Brian Nesline, Faces of Buffalo LLC owner and creative director; and Doug Farley, Museum of disABILITY History director.

Guest Contribution

Faces of Buffalo Contributes to Monument for the Forgotten Exhibit

By Brian Nesline, Faces of Buffalo LLC Owner and Creative Director

I was honored to play a small part in the making of the Monument for the Forgotten exhibit. When I was first approached by David Mack-Hardiman, associate vice president of People Inc., with the vision for a larger than life mosaic made from the gravestones of the departed, I was excited that his organization chose Faces of Buffalo Community Art Mosaics to broaden the awareness of those who were buried without a name.

As I began my research, I felt a wide variety of emotions as I considered the faces of those that walked the stage of state institutions. At first I was sad in imagining the emptiness and confusion that might have been felt by the patients – perhaps frightened, feeling different, confused and cast out. Then my thoughts went to the heartbreak of the family members as I imagined their sincere attempts to help. I felt their longing to understand and relate; but to no avail. I witnessed a wave of deep despair that tethered both sides of the patient/family relationship.

I imagined the human services professionals who, with deep desire, to make wellness the reality to those they served were at the mercy of the limited knowledge and blocks to perception of the era. I reflected at how different it would be today and found myself wishing I could somehow bring them all with me to the here and now so they might find renewal, release, restoration and remembrance.

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Message from the Director



It's been a wonderful summer so far! I hope you are taking time to enjoy an iced tea in the shade of your favorite tree while you are reading this edition of *Moving Forward, Looking Back*.

When last I wrote, I shared that the Museum was adding a new immersive theater, called the Tour Room, to our disability history exhibits. I am pleased to report that work is now underway and we hope to have this great addition completed before snow flies. The Tour Room will be the first area visited by a variety of audiences. Short videos and vignettes, along with personal stories and testimonials related to disability history will be pre-

sented. Please pardon our dust for a short while so we can sort out the details of this great new project.

I want to bring your attention to two great events that are now under our belt and also a tremendous opportunity that still awaits you. We recently celebrated several improvements to the Niagara County Almshouse Cemetery in Lockport by holding a re-dedication event on site. More than 50 guests joined us on June 5, to commemorate the lives of the over 1,400 individuals who lived, died and were buried on the grounds of the old Niagara County Almshouse. The grand opening for our latest exhibit, "Monument for the Forgotten," was held July 12. The exhibit is designed to create awareness of the many abandoned graveyards across Western New York that were used to bury the dead, often in nameless or numbered plots. These departed souls were almost invisible in life, and have continued that ignominy into death. The good news in this is, if you missed the exhibit opening, you can still visit and view this tremendous addition to the Museum throughout the summer and autumn.

A few other great events helped us in our mission to increase understanding, acceptance and independence of people with disabilities. We hoped you got to enjoy the program by author and president and founder of the Tourette Syndrome Association of Greater New York State Susan Connors. The program, entitled, "Tourette Syndrome: What makes us tic,?" was so well received that we are inviting Susan back for Part II this fall. Another great event was the opening of the art show for Cindy Few of Lockport on June 21. We displayed Cindy's wonderful artistry for over a month in our entrance gallery. If you didn't get in to see her art, feel free to take a look at her website, www.cindyscrittercorner.com. Also in the "good time was had by all" category was the time we got to spend on July 19 with U.S. sled hockey Paralympian Adam Page. Adam is truly a remarkable young man and his story of triumph is an inspiration to everyone.

Moving on to upcoming programming, we hope you are planning to attend a few great events yet to come. Join us on Friday, August 22, at 7 p.m. when three very special friends from the University at Buffalo Anthropology Department will explain their work at the old Erie County Almshouse Cemetery, located throughout the UB South Campus between Bailey and Main Streets. This close neighbor to the Museum is also the site of thousands

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"Like" us on Facebook....and Write a Positive Review

What do you love most about the Museum of disABILITY History? Do you have a favorite exhibit or event? Why not write a review on the Museum of disABILITY History Facebook page and let others know more about it? Your positive comments will help promote our exhibits, events and educational activities and spread disability awareness! The "review option" is currently located at the top of the Museum of disABILITY History Facebook page, underneath the cover photo.



[facebook.com/museumofdisability](https://www.facebook.com/museumofdisability)

"Message from the Director" continued from page 2

of nameless burials. The staff of the Anthropology Department at UB will explain their pressing work involving reintering hundreds of bodies already discovered. Also upcoming is a Person First Forum presented by Carrie Marcotte and the artists from Starlight Studio and Art Gallery on Saturday, September 13, at 1 p.m. Additionally, you are encouraged to attend the Dialogues on disABILITY Speakers Series event presented by Steve Nowatniak on Friday, October 3, at 7 p.m. Steve will present from his book, *Handbook for Healthy Living*, which explains his day-to-day survival techniques in the face of bipolar disorder. Last, but not least, please mark your calendars for the return of the popular dance band, Universal Mind, from Aspire of WNY. These energetic individuals will once again entertain us with their extraordinary talent for our holiday party scheduled for Friday, December 5, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. If you missed this local treasure last year, here's your chance to be amazed (and dance)!

We are always grateful for everyone who visits the Museum, and we were especially pleased to welcome several groups from area schools, colleges and businesses during the past few months, including:

- Amherst Chamber of Commerce-Pro-Net Group
- Buffalo Broadcasters Association
- Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York (DDAWNY)
- Erie 1 BOCES
- Leadership Buffalo
- People Inc. Main Street Site Day Services
- People Inc. New Employees
- Randolph Campus
- Rivershore Administrative Team
- Venture Forthe
- WNED/Buffalo Schools FACE Family Engagement Group
- WXXI Public Broadcasting-Rochester

Enjoy this issue of *Moving Forward, Looking Back*. Thank you again for your interest and support of the Museum of disABILITY History.

Hope to see you soon!



Doug Farley, *Museum Director*

People Inc. Announces Retirement of James Boles, EdD as President/CEO; Appoints Current COO Rhonda Frederick as Successor Effective October 1

It was recently announced by the Board of Directors of People Inc., Western New York's leading non-profit human services agency and the Museum of disABILITY History's parent agency, that James M. Boles, EdD, will retire as president and chief executive officer effective October 1, 2014, and will be succeeded by Rhonda Frederick, currently chief operating officer for People Inc.

Dr. Boles is the founder of the Museum of disABILITY History. He was honored for his work with the Hervey B. Wilbur Preservation

Award from the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Frederick first began working at People Inc. in 1980 as a direct care staff member and rose through the ranks to become the agency's chief operating officer in 2002. Frederick was responsible for overseeing all residential and day services, service coordination, in-home supports, senior services and health-related services; and administrative oversight of the quality improvement, government relations, program development and legal functions.

She is People Inc.'s lead liaison with regulatory and government funding agencies and serves as president of the Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York.

After the leadership change becomes effective October 1, Dr. Boles will continue to serve in an advisory capacity and assist in the transition until the end of 2014, before continuing in his education, advocacy and research role supporting the work of the Museum of disABILITY History and producing publications through People Ink Press.



James M. Boles, EdD at the current Museum of disABILITY History at 3826 Main Street in Buffalo. Photo credit: Sharon Cantillon, *The Buffalo News*.



James M. Boles, EdD at the previous location for the Museum of disABILITY History on North Forest Road in Williamsville.

Upcoming Events

All events held at the Museum of disABILITY History. Stay tuned to the Museum of disABILITY website and Facebook page for more details!

Friday, August 22

7 p.m.

Dialogues on disABILITY Speaker Series featuring Anthropologists Douglas Perrelli, Ph.D., Joyce E. Sirianni, Ph.D. and Rosanne Higgins, Ph.D. Their presentation will be entitled, "Old Erie County Almshouse Project."

Saturday, September 13

1 p.m.

Person First Forum featuring Carrie Marcotte, founding director of Starlight Studio and Art Gallery, a vibrant art studio located in Buffalo that supports adults with disabilities in their artistic development.

Saturday, October 3

1 p.m.

Person First Forum featuring Steve Nowatniak, author of *Handbook for Healthy Living*, which is about bipolar disorder.

Friday, December 5

5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Celebrate the Holidays with music from Universal Mind, a band sponsored by Aspire of Western New York comprised of talented musicians who are differently-abled.



Lockport artist Jack DiMaggio and Cindy Few. Jack was Cindy's art teacher at Lockport High School. Photo credit: Niagara Art Trail.

Person First Forum with Artist Cindy Few

As part of its Person First Forum, the Museum of disABILITY History hosted artist Cindy Few on June 21, 2014. She presented "Art, My Gift and My Companion." The presentation focused on Cindy's personal experiences and highlighted numerous aspects of her growing career. A resident of Lockport, NY, Cindy's whimsical illustrations have helped her overcome life's challenges.

Cindy was born with a congenital heart defect and, at 14, underwent open heart surgery to help correct oxygen insufficiency and the possibility of stroke. Alongside this complication, learning disabilities made schoolwork a challenge. She later found that another challenge faced her besides her learning disability. Cindy developed schizophrenia, which adversely affected her concentration, as well as the motivation she had once had for her illustrations. However, she discovered a talent that was more powerful: her artistic abilities.

Help People Inc. with Bidding For Good

As part of the People Inc. Drive Fore Disabilities Golf Tournament, which takes place Monday, August 18, at East Aurora County Club, People Inc. is offering an online pre-auction hosted by Bidding For Good, a charitable e-commerce company that offers an online auction platform so interested parties can donate to a charitable organization by bidding on their auction items.

The online auction is an easy and fun way to support People Inc.! Log onto www.biddingforgood.com/peopleinc to discover amazing auction items that also support a great cause! Auction items include sports memorabilia, jewelry, fun gift cards and more! The auction will be open August 11, at 9 a.m. and continue through August 17, at 10 p.m. To learn more, donate an auction item or to find out more about the golf tournament, contact Sarah Snyder, People Inc. annual giving manager, at ssnyder@people-inc.org or 716.817.7269.

BiddingForGood



People Inc

Of Grave Importance

By Dave Mack-Hardiman, Associate Vice President, People Inc.



The Museum of disABILITY History, a project of People Inc., and Niagara County officials held a Ceremony of Remembrance on June 5, 2014, at the Niagara County Almshouse Cemetery in Lockport. A memorial plaque at the entrance and the newly refurbished Merritt stone were unveiled.

Volunteers began working at this cemetery two years ago. This is the final resting place of 1,400 people who lived at the almshouse. Much of the cemetery sat overgrown with weeds and vines and presented unique challenges to those who worked there.

Today, a memorial garden with an inscribed bench rests at one corner of the cemetery. William Ross, chairman of the Niagara County Legislature, presented a proclamation at the ceremony in appreciation of the restoration efforts.

Volunteers continue to ensure that the cemetery is kept in good condition. Currently, volunteers have started working on a fifth cemetery restoration project, the location of the former Craig Colony in Sonyea.



Doves are released during the ceremony for the restored Niagara County Almshouse Cemetery.



Unveiling of the Merritt-Spencer Monument. Pictured L-R: Doug Farley, Museum of disABILITY History director; Nancy Palumbo, People Inc. chief administrative officer; Rhonda Frederick, People Inc. chief operating officer and Dave Mack-Hardiman, People Inc. associate vice president.



The newly refurbished Merritt stone.

Interactive Tour Room Under Construction

The Museum of disABILITY History is excited to share that construction is underway for a new educational exhibit that will provide visitors a unique learning experience. Existing space is being re-used to create a small theater and interactive exhibit to be called the Tour Room.

The Tour Room will be the first area visited by a variety of audiences. Short videos and vignettes, along with personal stories and testimonials related to disability history will be presented.

The Museum of disABILITY is grateful to The Western New York Foundation who committed the first major donation to create the Tour Room with a grant of \$19,118. The People Inc. Foundation is also a significant contributor awarding \$15,200 to the Museum for this exciting expansion.

Please pardon our dust as we sort out the details of this great new project. Completion is expected by the end of the year. The Museum will be open during its normal business hours, Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Museum of disABILITY History Tour Room. Mock Up by Hadley Exhibits Inc.

“Faces of Buffalo” continued from page 1

The Monument for the Forgotten exhibit as it is presented at the Museum of disABILITY History has not only educated me on an important facet of history, but more importantly has inspired me to be a better human being. The exhibit has caused me to face fears, to suspend judgment and to dig deep into my mindful heart in my relations with others and draw upon that loving power whose variety of expression is our common life. I now think of those who were once forgotten as falling stars who, lost for a season, may rise again as the light of upward momentum for the betterment of all human services. I imagine the written records of the past will be recovered to reveal their names so that going forward they are always to be remembered. I admire the volunteers and staff who have and will continue to take action on important initiatives such as this in hopes that identity, both individual and collective, will remain at the forefront of our ever expanding consciousness, never again to be forgotten.

“...The exhibit has caused me to face fears, to suspend judgment...”

- Brian Nesline, Faces of Buffalo LLC Owner and Creative Director



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Faces of Buffalo Community Art Mosaics
716.854.5033
brian@facesofbuffalo.com

Disability history travels to you!



Disability themed exhibits available to rent for businesses, schools, colleges, conferences and events.

The Museum of disABILITY History proves that everything's possible. It is a trusted, go-to resource for anyone that is looking to learn about the history, challenges and achievements of individuals with disabilities over the past few centuries. Here, the history of people with disabilities becomes alive.

Enhance your event. Educate your community. Reserve an exhibit today! 716.629.3626.

Publication News

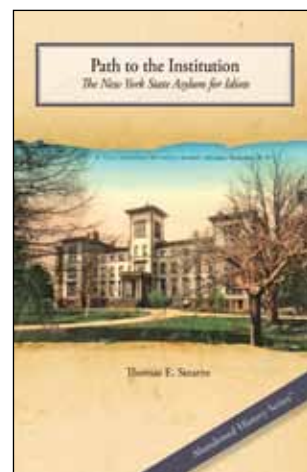
By Thomas Stearns, Research Assistant



This summer, the Museum of disABILITY History will release a brand new publication in its Abandoned History Series™. The book explores the history of the New York State Asylum for Idiots—an experimental school established by the legislature in 1851. At the time, “idiot”

was a generic term used by physicians, educators, lawmakers and the public to identify people who today would be described as having moderate to severe intellectual disabilities.

Many doubted the wisdom of the school's creation, believing that idiots were unteachable. However, the school quickly demonstrated success using a newly developed system of education and became a model for similar institutions in the United States and Europe—attracting visitors from around the world.



The book, entitled *Path to the Institution: The New York State Asylum for Idiots*, examines the origins of the school's first educational method, the legislative struggle to establish the school, the people who were most influential in the school's development and how the school evolved over its one-hundred and forty seven year existence. Featuring rare and never before published images, the book provides a unique glimpse into New York's first state-sponsored school for people with intellectual disabilities.



A girl's ironing class in the newly renovated laundry building of the The New York State Asylum for Idiots in Syracuse. Students completed nearly all of the school's laundry. Photograph circa 1906.

We are Members!



Buffalo Comptroller Mark J.F. Schroeder



Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw



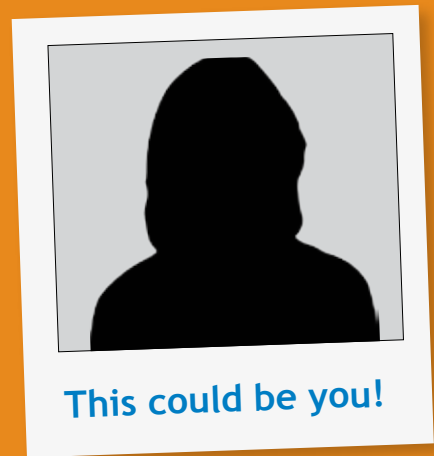
New York State Assemblymember Jane Corwin



New York Senator George D. Maziarz



Catherine Carey



New Members!

A warm welcome to our newest members:

Individual/Student

Becky Burns
New York State Assemblymember Jane Corwin
Adrian Esposito
Rosanne Higgins
Jessica Johnson
New York State Senator George D. Maziarz

Buffalo Comptroller Mark J.F. Schroeder
Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw
Consuelo Senior
Joyce Sirianni
Sue Spindler
Teresa Wojteczek

Family/Dual

Ruth Marie Beckwith
Mark Friedman
Brian Nesline

Sustainer

People Inc. Senior Living (18 locations throughout Western New York)

Corporate

Vanner Insurance

Support the Museum, Become a Member!

Want to support the Museum of disABILITY History? Membership opportunities are now available! With five different levels available, you can choose the one that is right for you. All supporting membership levels are good for one year.

To become a member, please call 716.629.3626 or log on to our website at www.museumofdisability.org. Click on the "Support Us" tab, click on "Membership," and then "Click Here to Become a Member." Thank you for your support!

Complementary and Holistic Therapies for People with Cerebral Palsy

By Virginia Cunningham, Freelance writer and holistic enthusiast living in the Los Angeles area

This article was originally posted on the Museum of disABILITY History's Blog.

Did you know that approximately 800,000 people in the United States are affected by cerebral palsy? Despite this, we know the potential of the brain is absolutely remarkable and there are many ways to help people with cerebral palsy surpass their current limitations. The sister of one of my friends has cerebral palsy and is the most cheerful person I have ever met, despite needing a walker. She has a great job teaching, is married to a devoted husband and has three beautiful children.

She has, without a doubt, been an amazing inspiration for me. And ever since I met her, I've spent a good deal of time looking into alternative therapies for those with cerebral palsy. Please keep in mind that, while many of these practices have not been fully tested or approved by the medical community, some have found these alternative therapies to be effective. I myself have seen children thrive as a result of practicing several of these. In addition to the actual benefits, I am a firm believer that engaging your children (disabled or otherwise) and spending time with them at these exercises is the true therapy. Your children will thrive because of your love and attention. Definitely consult your physician as well as specialists – they can help you set the most effective routine for your child. However, take advantage of the healing benefits of the therapies below.



Image courtesy of Pixabay

Bring out the kick boards and hand paddles

When your child is old enough, get them swimming! The earlier you start, the better. I've taught swimming lessons and coached swim teams on-and-off for ten years, and some of my best students have been ones with physical disabilities like cerebral palsy. Swimming does wonders for their muscles

since they aren't fighting gravity as much, and it is a life skill that they will be able to use forever. It also tends to put the child on an even playing field with their peers and it's fun!

Let's get galloping (though maybe not so literally)

In addition, try horseback riding (known as equine-assisted therapy, or hippotherapy, in the medical community). It stretches and strengthens muscles that are often forgotten, leading to better posture and function. Controlled trials show significant improvements in walking, running, and jumping – with improvements lasting up to sixteen weeks.



Image courtesy of Pixabay

The bond created between a horse and their rider is magical beyond words and I really can't describe how much horseback riding could help! It'd also be a good hobby for the both of you in the future.

Balancing the body in all ways

Additional body movement therapies promote emotional, mental, physical and spiritual balance and well-being. There is a broad range of Eastern and Western movement methods worth looking into, including Feldenkrais Method, Alexander Technique, Rolfing Structural Integration, Pilates and Trager Psychophysical Integration.

Conductive education

Another type of therapy that may be of interest is called conductive education, which is a program aimed at avoiding "learned helplessness" and promoting independent functioning through repetition, verbalization and discouragement of adaptive equipment.

After World War II, a Hungarian doctor by the name of Adres Peto strongly believed that just because a child was born with

brain damage, it didn't mean they were incapable of learning skills that could lead to an independent life. The Peto Institute was formed almost sixty years ago, where full-time teachers (conductors) show children how to move and have them repeat the routines until exhaustion. While it may sound a bit offsetting to some, the idea behind it is that if the brain is forced to try, it will find a way to connect mind and muscle.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy

Although it is not a widely agreed upon treatment for traumatic brain injury, there are a variety of studies currently undergoing recruitment and trials for hyperbaric oxygen. That being said, the theory behind how it works is that higher oxygen concentration enhances aerobic metabolic activity of CNS tissue, limiting the damaging effect of anaerobic metabolites and helping damaged mitochondria get their act together a little faster.

There's a book called *Hyperbaric Oxygen for Neurological Disorders* by Dr. Zhang that would be a good start if you are interested in learning more. Dr. Paul Harch (who is a big proponent) also writes literature, but I'd take it with a healthy dose of skepticism. There are also a couple overviews that have been written for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS).

If you have a child or family member with cerebral palsy, challenge them to try new things! Embrace the things they love and never, ever coddle or give up on them. Disability does not equate free pass, and remember, the small things are just as important as the big things. Tell them that life may be hard but to embrace it, and work on life experience and their education. Nothing is impossible unless you want it to be!

Virginia Cunningham is a freelance writer and holistic enthusiast living in the Los Angeles area. As a mother of a special needs child, and in collaboration with Northwest Pharmacy, she often shares her personal experiences with other parents who have special needs children, and encourages them to try considering these therapies. Learn more about her journey by visiting PrayForNathan.org.

ADA Turning 25 Years Old

By Israel Cruz Jr.



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment throughout state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities and transportation. It also mandates the establishment of TDD/telephone relay services. But all you have to do to in order to see initiatives of the ADA is to take a walk in your own neighborhood.

For example, at a crosswalk you can see the street crossing sign. This helps people to know when it is safe to cross and even gives them a countdown to when it will change again, which helps to make crossing the street a lot safer for everyone.

“ All you have to do to in order to see initiatives of the ADA is to take a walk in your own neighborhood.”

Some crossing lights even have a chirp system to let those who are visually impaired know when it is safe. As you stand waiting for the light to change you might notice that there are cuts in the sidewalks where they meet up the crosswalks or street crossings. This allows people who use wheelchairs to easily access the sidewalks and street crossings. These also are helpful for those who are visually impaired by making a smooth transition from the road to side walk or vice versa.

If you go to your local library or even school, you may notice a button by the door. Another item the ADA has brought us. Before it would be hard for me to access my work, but now all I have to do is push this button and the door will open right up, giving me complete access to my work and other places in the community.

If you get into an elevator you might see raised dots. These dots are called Braille, a tactile writing system used by people who are blind and visually impaired to read books, signs and elevator buttons.

These are just some examples of what the ADA has accomplished.

My DynaVox

By Charles Degraffenried



I have been a docent at the Museum of disABILITY History for over six years. I enjoy working at the Museum giving tours, helping keep track of the artifacts and doing research.

I use a DynaVox to help me communicate to those who might not be able to understand me fully. I do not use it in all conversations as I prefer that I use the voice that I was given. Although at times when meeting new people it's better to use my DynaVox, or Lorenzo as I like to call it. Without Lorenzo, I was finding that sometimes people were not understanding me and feeling uncomfortable about asking me to repeat myself. I don't bite. I'm a very nice guy that just wants what everyone else does: to have my needs, wants and opinions known.

How I use my DynaVox is different from most. As I can't use my hands to operate it, I have to use another part of my body to do so. I have a new type of added technology called Eye Gaze that is connected to Lorenzo. It picks up where my eyes are looking and when I look at it long enough it will click the picture and state the information. I have everything on here from things I like to eat to information for Museum tours. It's a great help when I don't have someone with me to help me.

Shop at the Museum of disABILITY History! Unique Gifts and Friendly Service

The Museum Store is open during the Museum of disABILITY History's regular hours, Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



A variety of books and DVDs for children, youth and adults are available at the Museum of disABILITY History Store.



Down's Upside: A Positive View of Down syndrome (hardcover book).



Shot Glass features Richardson Towers.



U.S. Paralympic Athlete Joins Person First Forum at the Museum of disABILITY History

By Doug Farley, Director, Museum of disABILITY History



The Museum of disABILITY History welcomed U.S. Paralympic athlete, Adam Page, as a speaker in its Person First Forum Series on July 19, 2014. The two-time gold U.S. Paralympic sled hockey champion presented “Living an Independent Life, Making Dreams a Reality.” The focus of Adam’s success story was on his personal experiences, highlighting his introduction to sled hockey and his road to Paralympic success.

A resident of Lancaster, NY, Adam has inspired many with his abilities on and off the ice. In 1992, he was born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus. Adam found sled hockey at the age of 6 and has been playing ever since. At age 14, he was chosen for the USA Development Team and, not long after, joined the USA men’s national team at the age of 15. Page has participated in the 2010 and 2014 Paralympics in Vancouver, British Columbia and Sochi, Russia, respectively. Additionally, he has taken part in four world championships, winning two gold medals, a silver and a bronze.

Adam thanked many people for his success in life, including his parents who taught him early that he would need to practice like no one else was willing to and to “be so good

there’s no reason for the coach not to play you.” His coach was equally inspiring with his advice. “What counts is how hard you practice, even when no one is watching,” he said.

Adam’s principal at St. Mary’s High School, Rebecca Krantz, was equally inspirational in his life. Krantz explained the special bond between St. Mary’s and Adam, and how he was inducted into the school’s Athletic Hall

“...Growing up, I only saw what I COULD do, not what I couldn’t do. Focus on your dreams without limitations!”

- Adam Page, U.S. Paralympic athlete

of Fame in June 2014. Adam credited Krantz with going above and beyond the call of duty and even making herself available to help him with his math homework, by Skype, when he was touring with the U.S. team in Japan.

Adam took all the encouragement to heart, but still had a lot of ups and downs along the way. At the tryouts for the U.S. team, many told him he was still too young and too small to make the team. It was with a huge sense of accomplishment that Adam proved them wrong at age 15, and became the youngest man ever to qualify for the U.S. Men’s Paralympic Sled Hockey Team.

Adam is very thankful for the tremendous opportunity presented by his participation on the U.S. team, including having traveled all over the world. He is also pleased to have met the president and vice president of the United States on two occasions. His future aspirations include yet another chance at Olympic Gold in 2018, in South Korea. If successful in that quest, Adam would be the only U.S. Paralympic team member ever to have won three gold medals.

Alongside his role as an athlete, Adam currently volunteers with his father, Norman, starting new sled hockey programs across the country. The programs give youth, adults and veterans the chance to play the sport that has given Adam, himself, so many opportunities.

In his spare time, Adam enjoys downhill skiing, golf and bowling. He is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in sports management at Medaille College. Adam’s childhood hockey sled, crafted by his father, is presently on display at the Museum of disABILITY History.

Adam finished his presentation with some reflections and advice for others in the room, including individuals with disabilities. Adam noted, “Growing up, I only saw what I COULD do, not what I couldn’t do. Focus on your dreams without limitations!”



Adam’s childhood hockey sled, made for him by his father. It is now on display at the Museum of disABILITY History as part of the Sports and Disability exhibit.




Paralympian Adam Page (middle) shares some laughs with Museum of disABILITY History Docents, Charles Degraffenried (left) and Israel Cruz Jr. (right).



Dialogues on disABILITY
**SPEAKER
SERIES**
Hosted by the Museum of disABILITY History



Museum of disABILITY History
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Buffalo, NY 14226
www.museumofdisability.org
716.629.3626

 www.facebook.com/museumofdisability

ADMISSION:

Museum Members – **FREE**
People Inc. employees – **FREE**
Adults – **\$5.00**
Students, Seniors, and Human
Service Employees – **\$2.50**

**Event fee includes admission to the
Museum of disABILITY History.*

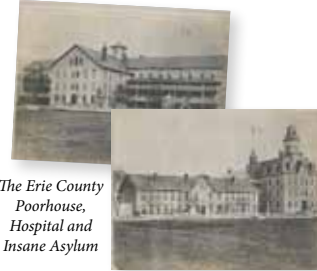
The Erie County Poorhouse Cemetery Project

Featuring Anthropologists Douglas Perrelli, Ph.D.,
Joyce E. Sirianni, Ph.D. and Rosanne Higgins, Ph.D.

Friday, August 22, 2014

7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Museum of disABILITY History
3826 Main Street, Buffalo



*The Erie County
Poorhouse,
Hospital and
Insane Asylum*

Learn about the historic Erie County Poorhouse in this three-part presentation!

Discover:

- The story behind the Erie County Poorhouse Cemetery Project
- Archeological findings
- Archival research
- Skeletal analysis and what it can tell us about the lives of people at the poorhouse

The presentation is ideal for:

- Students
- Historians
- Anthropology enthusiasts
- Anyone interested in local history

About the project:



Excavated burial sites from the Erie County Poorhouse Cemetery Project

In 2012, major infrastructure improvements brought about the need for an excavation of skeletal remains on what is now the University at Buffalo's Main Street Campus. The undertaking, named the Erie County Poorhouse Cemetery Project, was completed by archeological survey staff and physical anthropologists from the UB Department of Anthropology.

Out of 470 locations, 372 contained human remains, all of which are associated with the Erie County Poorhouse Cemetery (1851-1911).

Pairing knowledge gained from extensive historical records with their archeological discoveries, Drs. Douglas Perrelli, Joyce E. Sirianni and Rosanne Higgins are now able to present a critical analysis of human conditions at the Erie County Poorhouse.

Dr. Douglas Perrelli is an adjunct professor at the University at Buffalo who also serves as director and principal investigator for the UB Archeological Survey.

Dr. Joyce E. Sirianni is a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor at UB whose research interests include physical anthropology and craniofacial growth and development.

Dr. Rosanne Higgins, who earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University at Buffalo, has taken part in extensive research on Poorhouses throughout Western New York. She is a novelist whose first book, entitled *Orphans and Inmates*, chronicles fictional accounts of Poorhouse residents inspired by historical data she has collected.

Registration encouraged. RSVP to 716.629.3626.

25 Years for the Americans with Disabilities Act

By Doug Platt, Curator



The Museum of disABILITY History is pleased to join forces with the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act Legacy Project. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will turn 25 on July 26, 2015. This milestone marks the first generation of Americans who have lived in the ADA era. To celebrate this anniversary, ADA Legacy is going on a national tour and the Museum of disABILITY History will be along for the ride! ADA 25 requested the use of the Museum's Self-Advocacy Traveling Exhibit to accompany them as they spread awareness, preserve the past and celebrate the achievements of individuals with disabling conditions.



"Self-Advocacy: A History of People Speaking Up for Themselves" is a four-panel banner stand that traces the Self-Advocacy Movement from early educational facilities to the development of organizations established for and by individuals with disabilities. This includes the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. With the help of our talented graphic designer Rachel Gottorff, the Museum has updated the exhibit to include the ADA 25 logo. The exhibit will be on a 24 city ADA Legacy Tour for the next year. The tour kick-off was held in Houston, Texas on July 25, 2014, and will crisscross the nation.

The Museum of disABILITY History, University at Buffalo's Center for Disabilities Studies and ADA Legacy project are currently working

on plans to bring the tour to Buffalo at the Museum of disABILITY History in May of 2015. For more details, visit the ADA Legacy website at www.adalegacy.com.



An image from the Museum of disABILITY History's "Self-Advocacy: A History of People Speaking Up for Themselves" traveling exhibit.

MUSEUM INFO

3826 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14226
716.629.3626
info@museumofdisability.org
www.museumofdisability.org
store.museumofdisability.org

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday-Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

ADMISSION

General Admission:

Museum Members.....FREE
People Inc. employees.....FREE
Adults.....\$5.00
Students, Seniors, and Human Service Employees.....\$2.50
Children ages 6-17.....\$2.00
Children ages 5 and under.....FREE

Group Tour Rates:

All groups (greater than or equal to 10 people): \$4 per person
Rental of the KeyBank Room (1st Floor, up to 20 people): \$50 fee added to the total amount per person
Rental of the Main Training Room (2nd Floor w/ elevator access, up to 80 people): \$100 fee added to the total amount per person

MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum of disABILITY History advances the understanding, acceptance, and independence of people with disabilities. The Museum's exhibits, collections, archives and educational programs create awareness and a platform for dialogue and discovery.

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