

# HIGHER EXPECTATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A PANEL DISCUSSION MODERATED BY

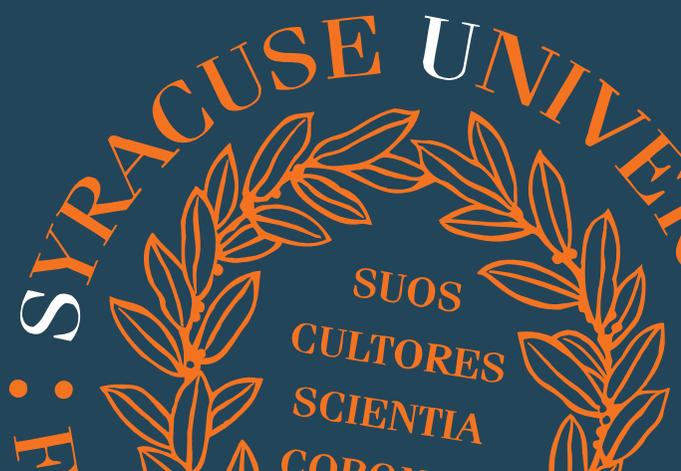
**Journalist and author Mark McEwen**

**AN ORANGE CENTRAL  
HEADLINER EVENT**

**October 15, 2010**

**The Hergenhan Auditorium**

**Newhouse 3**





# HIGHER EXPECTATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

## A PANEL DISCUSSION

Panelists will explore the importance—and advantage—of providing higher education opportunities for students with disabilities. They will also take a look at how model institutions can and should operate and the innovative role Syracuse University plays in promoting inclusive education, including the School of Education's Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education, which has been formed to improve educational outcomes for students who might not be included in the traditional higher educational environment. The research and work of the Taishoff Center aims to create vital understandings of disability in this under-utilized aspect of higher education.

**INTRODUCTION:** Brian P. McLane '69

**MODERATOR:** Mark McEwen

**PANELISTS:** Liat Ben-Moshe G'11  
Wendy Harbour  
Tom Hehir G'73  
John Robinson '90

# PARTICIPANTS



**LIAT BEN-MOSHE G'11** is the coordinator of SU's Disability Cultural Center Initiative and a doctoral candidate and instructor in sociology, disability studies, and women's studies. Her dissertation explores demands to close down repressive institutions that house those labeled as criminals, mentally disabled, and mentally ill. Her academic interests include activism, coalition building, critical disability studies, prison abolition, and inclusive pedagogy. She is co-editor of *Building Pedagogical Curb Cuts: Incorporating Disability in the University Classroom and Curriculum* (SU Press, 2005), and a special issue of *Disability Studies Quarterly on Disability in Israel/Palestine* (Summer 2007). Ben-Moshe has presented her work, including keynotes, in dozens of conferences as well as at activist and academic venues. A founding member of the Israeli Disability Studies Network, she is on the board of the Society for Disability Studies.



**WENDY S. HARBOUR** is the Lawrence B. Taishoff Professor for Inclusive Education and executive director of the Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education. She teaches courses in disability studies, inclusive K-12 education, and disability in higher education at the SU School of Education. Her areas of expertise are disability studies in education, universal design for learning, postsecondary disability services and accommodations, and transition from secondary to postsecondary settings. Recent publications include contributions to *Seeing Clearly: Ethical Considerations in the Education of Children who are Deaf* (Gallaudet University Press) and *Universal Design in Higher Education: From Principles to Practice* (Harvard Education Press). Harbour has conducted international research for the Association on Higher Education and Disability and managed federal grants for the Postsecondary Education Programs Network and the Center on Applied Special Technology, Inc. She completed her doctorate in education at Harvard University, where she is an adjunct lecturer in education. She earned master's degrees in education from Harvard University and the University of Minnesota.



**TOM HEHIR G'73** is Professor of Practice at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education and served as director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs from 1993 to 1999. As director, he was responsible for federal leadership in implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and played a leading role in developing the Clinton

administration's proposal for the 1997 reauthorization of the act, 90 percent of which was adopted by Congress. A former associate superintendent for the Chicago Public Schools, he was responsible for the special education services and student support services in the city's schools. In this role, he implemented major changes in the special education service delivery system, which enabled Chicago to reach significantly higher levels of compliance with the IDEA. He earned a bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross, a master's degree from Syracuse University, and a doctorate from Harvard University.



**MARK McEWEN** is a journalist, author, and former CBS news anchor, named one of the nation's "Ten Most Trusted TV News Personalities" in a *TV Guide* survey. He was a correspondent for *48 Hours* and is widely known for his role as the weatherman and entertainment reporter for *The Early Show* on CBS. McEwen's brother has autism and McEwen appeared on *Celebrity Jeopardy* twice, raising

\$50,000 for Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children. In 2005, McEwen suffered a near-fatal stroke and had to teach himself to walk and talk again.

The experience, which he recounts in his book *Change in the Weather: Life After Stroke* (Gotham, 2008), gave him a deeper understanding of what it's like to live with a disability—and galvanized his belief in the importance of striving for a more inclusive society.



**BRIAN P. McLANE '69** was born with cerebral palsy, and learned at an early age not to accept limits on his abilities. He was the first wheelchair-bound student to graduate from his high school and went on to graduate from the Syracuse University School of Speech and Dramatic Arts with a degree in broadcast journalism. He is known as a champion for the rights of individuals with disabilities, including lobbying for and consulting on the design of facilities for those with physical disabilities in the Carrier Dome and other major public venues. His advocacy efforts have been recognized by his induction into the National Hall of Fame for People with Disabilities in 2000, and by his being honored with the Caritas Medal from Niagara University, the Community Leadership Award from Hudson Valley Community College, and numerous other awards and recognitions. McLane is executive director of SU's Burton Blatt Institute and president and founder of Paradigm Solutions, a consulting firm helping individuals in the area of creative problem solving, community and government relations, and networking.



**JOHN ROBINSON '90** is general manager for WCNY, AXCESS Eastern Operations, a division of AXCESS Productions. In 2010, he started Disability Education Forum of New York (DEFNY), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating people in schools and businesses about people with disabilities. Previously, he worked as director of corporate support for WMHT in the Albany, Schenectady, and Troy, N.Y. area, and with the NBC affiliates in that region. He authored an autobiography *Get Off Your Knees: A Story of Faith, Courage, and Determination* (SU Press, 2009) with Dave Allen, and was the subject of *Get Off Your Knees: The John Robinson Story*, a national documentary shown on PBS. He is a graduate of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

# SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY: A LEADER IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

**Syracuse University is a pioneer in inclusive education, playing a leadership role in advancing the educational rights of people with disabilities. Among the milestones marked by Syracuse University in support of disability rights are:**

- 1946** SU establishes the Department for Exceptional Children, advancing the education of children with brain injuries, learning disabilities, and cerebral palsy.
- 1953** SU opens the Hoople Center for Special Education, one of the first special education buildings on a university campus in the nation.
- 1969** Burton Blatt, author of *Christmas in Purgatory*, the ground-breaking photographic exposé of institutions for people with mental retardation in the United States, is appointed director of the University's Division of Special Education and Rehabilitation.
- 1971** Burton Blatt founds the Center on Human Policy at Syracuse University, the first national institute for the study and creation of open, inclusive settings for people with disabilities.
- 1972** SU professors participate in formulating the famous NYSARC v. Rockefeller case that led to a court decree mandating reforms and deinstitutionalization at Willowbrook State School, the largest state institution housing people with mental retardation in the United States.
- 1987** SU faculty produce the first national film on school inclusion, *Regular Lives*, aired on PBS. It won numerous awards, including a Blue Ribbon from the American Film Institute.
- 1991** SU sponsors the first national conference on gender and disability and becomes the first research university to create an inclusive teacher training program.
- 1995** SU establishes the Disability Studies program, the first in the nation.
- 2005** SU creates the Burton Blatt Institute to advance the civic, economic, and social participation of people with disabilities worldwide.
- 2007** The Whitman School of Management founds the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities, in which participants learn entrepreneurial skills.
- 2009** The School of Education establishes the Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education, to promote the participation of students with intellectual and other disabilities in postsecondary education.
- 2009** SU Press establishes the *Critical Perspectives on Disability* series and publishes the first book in the series.
- 2010** The SU Senate approves the School of Education's undergraduate minor in disability studies.

For a more complete listing of SU's milestones in disability programs, visit [http://soe.syr.edu/centers\\_institutes/center\\_human\\_policy/default.aspx](http://soe.syr.edu/centers_institutes/center_human_policy/default.aspx).

## **ORANGE CENTRAL**

Orange Central, Syracuse University's combination reunion-homecoming weekend, is SU's premier event, offering students, alumni, and friends of the University an opportunity to connect, celebrate their Orange spirit, and enjoy a wide variety of events.



[orangecentral.syr.edu](http://orangecentral.syr.edu)

**SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY**

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