

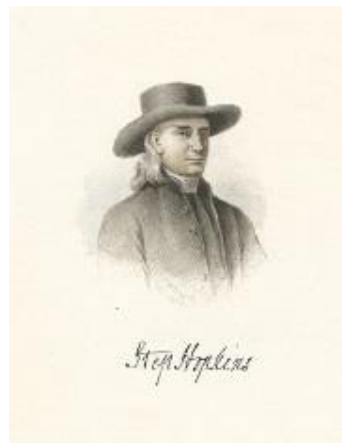
## Milestones of the Disability Rights Movement Over the Years

The Center for Students with Disabilities is celebrating our 50th year of service at the University of Connecticut. In memorandum of the past 50 years, this timeline was created. The timeline details historical events relating to disability rights and advocacy, as well as major milestones for our Center across the years. Join us in celebrating the history of our Center by taking a virtual walk through various events throughout time that have been influential to our success.



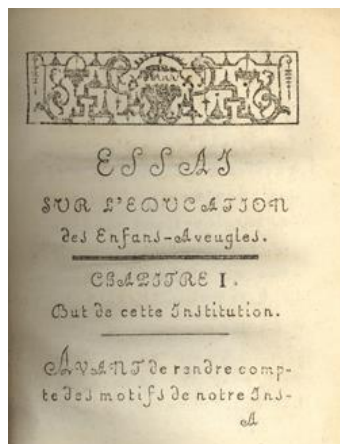
### 1776 Declaration of Independence signed by Stephen Hopkins

Stephen Hopkins, a man with cerebral palsy signs the Declaration of Independence. His historic statement echos, “my hands may tremble, but my heart does not.”



### 1784 Institution for Blind Children founded in Paris

Valentin Huay established the Institution for Blind Children, a facility in Paris aimed at making life more accessible to those who are blind. Huay also discovered that individuals who are blind could read if texts were printed with raised letters.

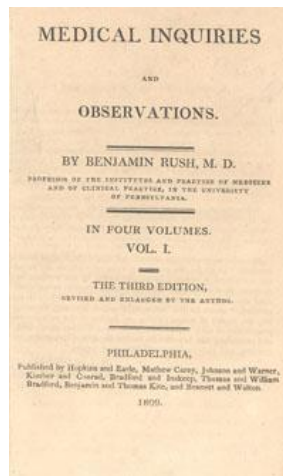


### **1800 Treatise on Insanity is Published**

The first medical classification system of mental disorders created by Phillipe Pinsel in his *Treatise on Insanity*. His classification system included 4 parts: melancholy, dementia, mania without delirium, and mani without delirium.

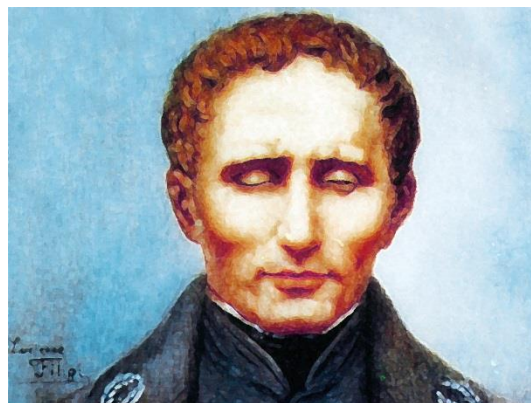
### **1805 Medical Inquiries and Observations Published**

Father of modern day psychiatry, Dr. Benjamin Rush published *Medical Inquiries and Observations*, a text aimed at explaining the symptomatology of mental disorders.



### **Louis Braille**

**1809:** Louis Braille is born. He attended the Paris Blind School, founded by Valentin Huay.



### **1817 Connecticut Asylum for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons**

Thomas Galludet founded the Connecticut Asylum for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons in Hartford, Connecticut - the first school for the deaf in America.

**DEAF AND DUMB.**

**I**N consequence of arrangements made between the States of Massachusetts and Maine, and the American Asylum for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb;—a new class will enter the Asylum on the 25th of October next. Opportunity will thus be afforded for the admission, at that time, of any who may wish to be received as pupils. **THOMAS H. GALLAUDET,**  
Principal of the Asylum.  
Hartford, September 1. 1w

**1818 McLean Asylum for the Insane Opens**

First patient admitted to the McLean Asylum for the Insane (formerly the Charlestown branch of Massachusetts General Hospital). The hospital eventually becomes one of the best mental hospitals in the country.

**1829 Raised Point Alphabet (Braille) Invented**

Louis Braille invented the raised point alphabet (braille). Braille does not make it to the United States until many years later (1860) at the Louis School for the Blind.



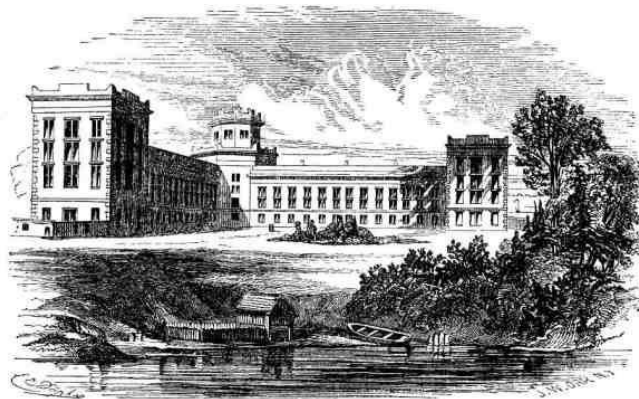
**1844 American Psychiatric Association Founded**

The Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane (later the American Psychiatric Association) is founded. The original members are pictured below.



### **1855 First Facility open to the Criminally Insane**

The New York State Lunatic Asylum for Insane Convicts is opened, the first facility designed to house the criminally insane.



LUNATIC ASYLUM, BLACKWELL'S ISLAND.

### **1860 Investigations of Cerebral Palsy**

Dr. William Little makes strides in identifying children with cerebral palsy (at the time called Little's disease). He describes children with stiff and spastic muscles in their arms and legs. Way ahead of his time, Dr. Little postulates the cerebral palsy is caused by lack of oxygen during birth.



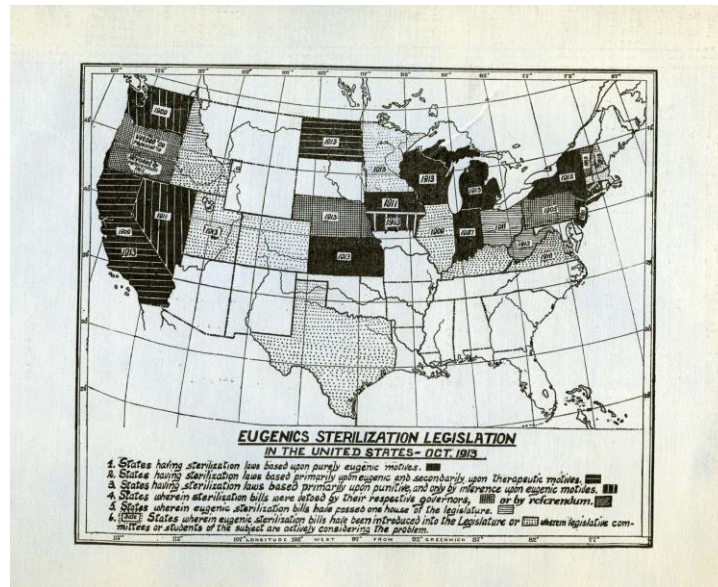
### **1887 Helen Keller**

Helen Keller, a Deaf-Blind community legend meets her first tutor, Annie Sullivan.



## 1907 Eugenic Sterilization

Indiana was the first state to pass a eugenic sterilization law - making it medically impossible for “confirmed idiots, imbeciles, and rapists” in state institutions to conceive. 24 other states adopted this law.



## 1918 Rehabilitation Programs for Soldiers

Following World War I, many veterans returned home with disabilities. Congress passed rehabilitation programs for soldiers, guaranteeing federal funds for job counseling and vocational training for veterans with disabilities.



### **1919 Easter Seals**

Edgar Allen founds the Ohio Society for Crippled Children (later the national Easter Seals organization).



### **1925 Frida Kahlo**

Frida Kahlo is injured in a bus accident, her spinal column, collarbone, ribs, and pelvis are broken leaving her bedridden. She began to paint during this time, and becomes one of the most prolific artists of today.



### **1925 Studying Dyslexia**

Samuel Orton begins to study dyslexia. Orton believed that dyslexia was a neurological as compared to a visual condition. He also postulated that dyslexia was connected to left-handedness (false). Samuel Orton is considered a pioneer of the study of learning disabilities.



### **1932 President Roosevelt**

Franklin D. Roosevelt elected as president of the United States and re-elected for 4 terms. Roosevelt had polio, which resulted in permanent paralysis from the waist down. He founded the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (now the March of Dimes).

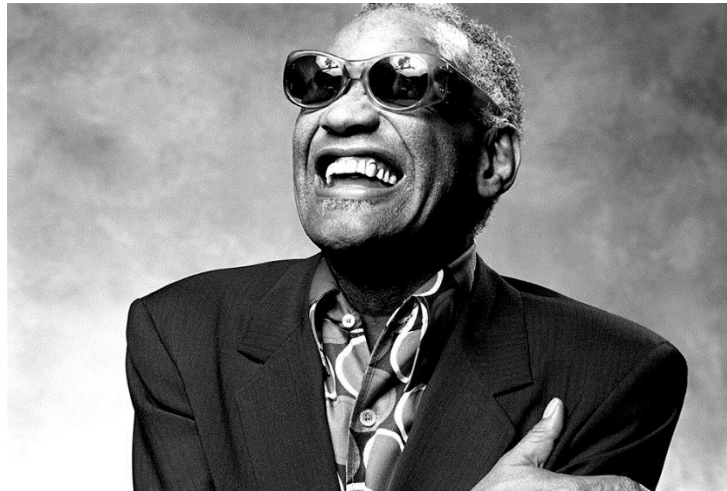


### **1935 Social Security**

Roosevelt signs the Social Security Act, establishing federal financial assistance for adults with disabilities.

### **1937 Ray Charles**

Ray Charles loses his sight due to glaucoma. He learned to read music in braille and became one of the most famous musicians of his time.



### **1939 Disability in the Holocaust**

Adolf Hitler mandates “mercy killing” of all sick and disabled individuals in Nazi Germany. 75,000-250,000 people with intellectual or physical disabilities were systematically killed.

### **1941 Rosemary Kennedy**

Rosemary Kennedy is hospitalized after a failed prefrontal lobotomy, hypothesized as a cure for aggressive behaviors and intellectual disabilities. Rosemary is moved to the St. Coletta School for Exceptional Children in Wisconsin. Eunice Kennedy Shriver later founded the Special Olympics organization in memorandum of Rosemary.





### **1950 Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC)**

Parents of children diagnosed with intellectual disabilities found the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC). ARC aimed to educate society at large about individuals with disabilities, and ensure access to service and supports needed for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

### **1952 Ed Roberts and Polio**

Ed Roberts (a founder of the disability rights movement) contracts polio. Roberts was told by doctors that he would spend the rest of his life as a vegetable. As an activist for disability rights he joked, “If I’m going to be a vegetable, I’m going to be an artichoke, prickly on the outside with a big heart in the middle” – speaking to his passion for protecting individuals with disabilities, and his fearlessness in doing so. He attended UC Berkley later on – a program with no accommodations for students with disabilities. He paved the way for other students with disabilities attending the university. He later became California’s Director of Rehabilitation, which was ironic as that very department had detested his attendance of college due to a perceived inability to work because of polio.



### **1961 Stevie Wonder**

Stevie Wonder is discovered by Ronnie White (from The Miracles) and arranges an audition with Motown Records. Stevie is signed immediately as “Little Stevie Wonder.”



### **1967 Program for the Physically Handicapped**

Program for the Physically Handicapped within Public Health Services opens its doors to students at the University of Connecticut (UConn). Director, Barbara Shea operated with the goal to improve access to the university for students with disabilities.

### **Special Olympic Games**

**1968:** The first international Special Olympics Games is hosted in Chicago, Illinois. Thanks to Eunice Kennedy Shriver and the Kennedy Institute.



### **1970 Judy Heumann and the New York Department of Education**

Judy Heumann, a teacher by training, was denied a teaching license in the state of New York due to post-polio paralysis and a perceived inability to work effectively in the classroom. She sued the department and her story made national news. This injustice was the impetus for the founding of the Disabled in Action organization. She eventually worked at Berkeley at the Center for Independent Living alongside Ed Roberts. See link below for Judy Heumann's Ted Talk on Disability Rights.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABFpTRIJUuc>

### **1972 Students with Disabilities Graduate from UConn**

In the 1970s there were approximately 170 students on UConn's campus with registered disabilities. Today we serve over 3,000 students with disabilities on campus. In 1976 7 students with disabilities completed their degree programs and graduated from the university. Upon graduation these graduates spoke about the rising level of awareness around campus surrounding students with disabilities. Notice in the article the lack of use of "person-first" language in referring to students with disabilities. Today, a trend in many related fields includes the use of person-first language when referring to individuals with disabilities. Person-first language means wordage like "student with a learning disability" as opposed to a "learning disabled student." Person-first language puts the person, and their unique abilities, interests, personality, and preferences before their disability.

H.C. 6/13/72

## 7 Handicapped Getting Degrees From University

STORRS — Seven physically handicapped students will receive degrees from the University of Connecticut Monday.

They are among 174 handicapped UConn students, according to Mrs. Barbara L. Shay, UConn coordinator of public health services who has been working with the students.

Disabilities of the seven students range from a congenital hip disorder to cerebral palsy.

Dennis Clark, of New Haven, completed a five-year program in the School of Pharmacy although he must use crutches to move around.

Clark said he has seen changes in faculty and student attitudes toward handicapped students in his years at UConn, evidenced by the formation of Community Resources United in Total Concern for the Handicapped (CRUTCH), a group he heads.

Professors routinely prepare oral examinations for students unable to use their hands to write, Clark said, and a braille campus map is being prepared. Ramps will soon be installed in classroom buildings, he said.

One of the seven seniors has been working with a Hartford vocational rehabilitation center, Clark said, and another student, a paraplegic, will attend medical school next year.

### 1973 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

This federal law prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in federally funded public spaces and programs. UConn, a federally funded institution, complied with Section 504 by initially modifying ramps, doors, restrooms, and installed elevators in accessible buildings. UConn

continues to adapt with legislation, and strives for excellence in accessible and services for students with disabilities. Resistance to Section 504 from president Carter's administration prompted hundreds of disability rights sit ins and protests. In addition, civil rights activists, such as the Black Panther party, demonstrated solidarity with the disability community by supporting Section 504 and anti-discrimination efforts. Section 504 was later signed into federal law.



### **1974 Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) sometimes referred to as the “Buckley Amendment” is signed into federal legislation. FERPA protects the privacy of student educational records. All universities receiving federal funding must comply with FERPA. Educational records means things like grades, disciplinary records, and financial aid records. Under FERPA, students have the right to inspect their educational records, control disclosure of information, request amendments of inaccurate or misleading content, and file FERPA non-compliance complaints with the Family Policy Office of the U.S. Department of Education.

### **April 1975 UConn Awareness Week**

UConn's Special Student Services office hosted Awareness Week on campus annually. This programming was designed to promote awareness of disabilities amongst all students on campus. Activities during Awareness Week included “immersion” activities as pictured, where a UConn student is blindfolded and learned what it might be like to have a visual impairment and navigate campus.

# Connecticut Daily Campus

Serving Storrs Since 1896

STORRS, CONNECTICUT

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1975

5 CENTS OFF CAMPUS



**BECOMING AWARE** - A student encounters the difficulties of the blind as a friend guides her around campus Monday during the first day of Awareness Week. The program, sponsored by Special Student Services, is designed to increase understanding between the handicapped and the rest of the University.

## **1975 Education for all Handicapped Children Act**

The Education for all Handicapped Children Act now called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is signed into action. This mandates a free, appropriate, public education for all children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment.

## 1976 Linda the Librarian

Linda Bove, a deaf woman, lands the role of “Linda the Librarian” on Sesame Street. Linda graduated from Gallaudet College and is a well-known face in the National Theater for the Deaf.



## July 1976 Miss Wheelchair

Wilma Kirk wins the Miss Wheelchair pageant. Today organizations like Ms. Wheelchair America still hold pageants for women with physical disabilities who use wheelchairs. However, instead of judging women based on attractiveness, women participating in the pageant are judged based on disability advocacy, achievement, communication, and presentation today. Whoever wins the pageant must work toward promoting awareness for individuals with disabilities, eliminating attitudinal and architectural accessibility barriers, and working with “able-bodied” America to make the country a better place for individuals with disabilities.

S.C., Sunday, July 25, 1976

### She's Holding Her Head High

By **DEBBIE BOUTON**  
Staff Writer

"I had enough confidence to know I'd be among the semifinalists, but I never thought I might win. That is how Wilma Kirk of Rock Hill reacted to being named Miss Wheelchair South Carolina for 1976 Saturday night."

Miss Kirk, 27, said she would "do my best to hold my head up high for all the handicapped people of South Carolina" in the Miss Wheelchair America Pageant, to be held here, 28 in Columbus, Ohio.

When told by the master of ceremonies that he knew she'd make a fine representative for the Palmetto State, Miss Kirk, who majored in data processing and did her work at York Technical College, jokingly replied, "I think I'll make a fine representative, too."

Victoria Covington of Columbia and Marilyn Jane of Darlington were named as first and second runners-up, respectively.

Miss Covington, 30, moved to Columbia only a week ago in hopes of securing a three-bedroom at her Quail Hill apartment. A native of Bennettsville, she has finished doctorate work in music education at the University of Illinois in Urbana.

Twenty-year-old Miss Jane of Darlington says that her main goal is to show everyone "that I can do what anyone else can and as different as I'm just sitting down and it may take me longer to do it, but I can probably do it a lot better than other non-handicapped people."

Planning to become a rehabilitation counselor, Miss Jane is a Junior at St. Andrew's College in Laurensburg, N.C.

June Hooser of West Columbia was chosen by the eight contestants as "Miss Congeniality."

Contestants were judged in three areas. Personal accomplishment provided 40 per cent of the judges' score, while appearance and personality were rated 30 per cent each.

About 100 people filled a room at the Quality Inn at Broad River Road Saturday night to cheer the contestants on.

The contestants were escorted by 11 sailors of the U.S.S. Sierra currently docked in Charleston.

In giving up her crown, Columbia's Gene Morton said, "In a way I'm glad to give up the title because it gives another person a chance to experience what I've felt this year."

Mrs. Morton, who represented South Carolina as an at-large contestant in last year's national competition, plans to help work with the Clubs for the Advancement of Physically Handicapped (CAPH) in planning a year's program, which hopefully will have at least 50 contestants. Meanwhile, CAPH will work toward raising some \$500 to send Miss Kirk to the national competition.

Wilma Kirk Of Rock Hill  
... The New Miss Wheelchair

## 1976 Inception of UConn Accessible Van

In the fall semester of the 1976 academic year, UConn began an accessible van service. The van was designed for transporting students with disabilities around campus. The van was intended for students with wheelchairs and temporary disabilities. At this time UConn had about 50 enrolled students with physical disabilities. UConn's hilly and "ring based" campus was difficult to access for some students with disabilities. So the inception of the accessible van service contributed to UConn's continued accessibility efforts.



## 1977 Interpreter works with Deaf Students in a Broadway Show

In the late 70s breakthrough occurred for the Deaf community and their involvement with theatre arts. Miss Robinson, an interpreter for the Broadway show *Runaways* built a bridge between the Deaf community and the arts. She described her work with students as important, and referenced facilitating skill development in visual arts. Today students with both high and low incidence disabilities are able to participate in theatre arts thanks to the work of wonderful interpreters and assistive technology.



## Her role in B'way show has meaning for deaf

**E**ight times a week, before cheering audiences, Lorie Robinson, 27, and Bruck Hlibok, 18, clasp hands and take their bows together from the stage of the Broadway hit musical, "Runaways." Miss Robinson, however, is no actress;



Lorie Robinson onstage with deaf actor Bruce Hlibok, in scene from "Runaways."

she is an interpreter for the deaf who received her advanced training at NYU's Deafness Research Center. At each "Runaways" performance, she adds a unique dimension to the play about alienated youth by speaking and doing sign language for Mr. Hlibok, a deaf actor.

"I feel I have a dual responsibility: helping an artist get across his art, and helping the deaf to hear visually," says Miss Robinson, a 1977 graduate of NYU's three-month National Interpreters Consortium. A former special education teacher, Miss Robinson had been "signing" for the deaf for several years. In 1977, when she heard that Elizabeth Swados (the young composer who wrote and directed "Runaways") was looking for an interpreter to work with a deaf youth in the cast, Miss Robinson applied for the job. During the show, she accompanies Mr. Hlibok onstage, repeating his difficult-to-understand speech for the benefit of the hearing audience, and translating it into sign language for the deaf. Sometimes, she gets her cues by lip-reading the young actor; other times, she follows his basic sign language gestures, performing a more detailed version.

Miss Robinson sees her role in "Runaways" as an important breakthrough for the deaf in the arts. Says she: "One of the most-asked questions among deaf people and their families is: 'Is this show okay for the deaf?' My goal is to create a bridge for deaf people to have full access to the media and the arts, so that such considerations are forever banished."

—V.H.O.

## 1977 Jim Stacy

Most famous for his role in *Lancer*, a CBS television program, Jim Stacy, was struck by a drunk driver in 1973 resulting in the amputation of his left leg. Jim Stacy did not let his physical disability stop him, he returned to acting in 1975, staying active on the big screen in programs like *South Pacific*. Jim Stacy's love for acting and perseverance is admired by the disability community.

Chicago Sun-Times, Thursday, Sept. 29, 1977

### Starting to live again

Actor Jim Stacy is finding there's more to life than limbs

Barbara Farris



It took Jim Stacy two days to get used to his new legs. "I had to get used to the fact that I was no longer a whole person," he says. "I had to get used to the fact that I was no longer a whole person." Stacy, 42, was struck by a drunk driver in 1973, resulting in the amputation of his left leg. He returned to acting in 1975, staying active on the big screen in programs like *South Pacific*.

Stacy, who was one of the most active actors in Hollywood before being hit by a bus and losing his left leg in a traffic accident, is now a successful actor and director. He has appeared in several films, including *The Untouchables*, *The Godfather Part II*, and *The Untouchables*.

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## 1978 National Council on Disability

National Council on Disability within the US Department of Education is founded. The Council is dedicated to promoting policies and programs that increase opportunity and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

## April 1980 UConn Wheelchair Basketball Game

Students at UConn participated in a wheelchair basketball game during "Awareness Week." Awareness Week was an annual event hosted on campus designed to advocate for individuals with disabilities on UConn's campus. The wheelchair basketball tournament consisted of individuals with physical disabilities against UConn athletes. Fundraising from Awareness Week went to create accessible ramps for buildings on campus in 1980.

## Basketball Will Aid Disabled

### STORRS

STORRS — A wheelchair basketball game to benefit the disabled is scheduled Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the University of Connecticut's Field House.

The game between the Connecticut Spokebenders, a team of handicapped players, and the "UConn All Stars," a team of UConn athletes, is one of several activities in "Awareness Week," a period designed to increase the community's knowledge about disabled people.

Other events include a two-mile wheelchair race around campus, with UConn athletes participating, and a seminar to discuss the various aspects of a disabled person's life not often recognized by non-handicapped people.

Set for Thursday at 1 p.m. in Room 208 of the Student Union, the seminar will feature John Pappanikou, a professor of education psychology, Frank Miklave from the Services for the Blind in Wethersfield, and Jack Plummer, director of psychology at the Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford.

Proceeds from Wednesday's wheel-

chair basketball game will to build an access ramp for a UConn building and to the "University in Community Fund."

The fund was created to provide a tangible means of support for a 25-year-old female graduate student who apparently was assaulted while jogging on campus last fall. The woman faces at least a year of rehabilitation.

4/22/80  
Hartford Courant

### 1983 American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today (ADAPT)

Formal Establishment of American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today (ADAPT) in Denver, Colorado. Reverend Wade Blank, a former nursing home recreational director who assisted in providing equal and appropriate housing in the community for nursing home residents founded the group. ADAPT is well known today in respect to making community supports available to individuals with disabilities.

### 1984 University Program for Students with Learning Disabilities (UPLD)

UConn's University Program for Students with Learning Disabilities (UPLD) was founded. UPLD was a support program specifically for students with learning disabilities. The program began with just four staff members, and a student population of 20. UPLD grew rapidly over the years.

### 1988 Government Assisted Accessible Housing

An extension of the Fair Housing Act is instated as an amendment. A predetermined number of accessible housing units must be installed in all new government assisted housing projects.

### 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is signed into legislation by president George H.W. Bush. In its humble beginnings, ADA was intended to reduce discrimination, promote employment of individuals with disabilities, and ensure access to education. In the coming years, many addendums to ADA have been made in response to the needs and civil rights of individuals with disabilities.



### **1990 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA is a transformation and extension of its predecessor, the Education for all Handicapped Children Act. Per IDEA, students with disabilities are entitled to free and appropriate public education (FAPE) and families are included in educational and transition planning.

### **1991 The World Wide Web**

The World Wide Web (WWW) debuts on the Internet as a public service.

### **1992 The Center for Students with Disabilities**

UConn coins new office name, the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD).

### **1992 Careers for Individuals with Disabilities**

Rehabilitation Act Amendments instituted - this revision placed on emphasis on careers rather than entry level jobs for individuals with disabilities. Further, this revision intended to improve employment outcomes for the disability community, and argued that individuals who are disabled are equally employable. These amendments also required states to provide Independent Living Services for adults with disabilities.

### **1992 The Metro Deaf School**

Metro Deaf School in Minnesota, is the first school to open its doors exclusively to students K-8 who are deaf. This service model for providing education to the Deaf community has expanded exponentially across generations.



### **1993 Improving Homeownership Outcomes for Adults with Disabilities**

National Home of Your Own Alliance is established with the goal of improving homeownership outcomes for adults with developmental disabilities.

### **1993 Donna Korbel hired at UConn**

Donna Korbel, M.Ed. hired as the Coordinator of the CSD. During those early years, the staff consisted of the Coordinators, an office assistant, a part time graduate assistant (GA), and two student employees working closely in a two room office in Wilbur Cross serving 173 students with disabilities. Now the center serves more than 3,750 students in a considerably larger space in Wilbur Cross, with a staff size of over 25 professionals, 6 GA's, and over 500 student employees.



### **1994 Las Vegas ADAPT Demonstration**

ADAPT demonstration, in Las Vegas, CA. ADAPT continued to gain momentum as a grassroots disability advocacy and awareness group. They continued to be well known for their nonviolent direct action and peaceful protests to bring attention to civil rights issues for individuals in the disability community.



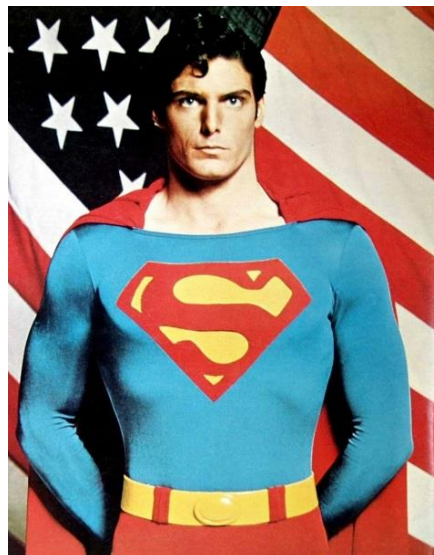
### **1995 Consumer Disabilities**

### **Power for People with**

American Association of People with Disabilities is founded, an organization dedicated to giving “consumer power” and public options for individuals with disabilities.

### **1995 Christopher Reeves**

Christopher Reeves is paralyzed in a horse riding accident. Reeves is well known for his role as Superman. Following his accident he searched for a cure for spinal cord injuries, and left an ongoing legacy of research in this discipline.

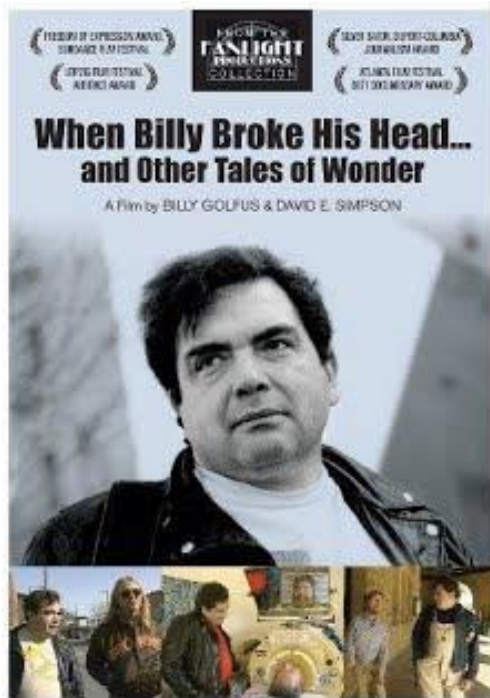


### **1995 Newspaper Available to the Blind Community**

The National Federation of the Blind developed a dial-up synthetic-speech talking newspaper, making daily print news available to blind people on the day of the issue.

### **1995 When Billy Broke His Head and Other Tales of Wonder**

Sundance Film Festival and Freedom of Expression recognized film, When Billy Broke His Head and Other Tales of Wonder, aired on the Public Broadcast Service (PBS). The film details the history of the disability rights movement.



### **1996 The Telecommunications Act**

Passage of the Telecommunications Act, which mandated that computers, telephones, and closed captioning be made more accessible to the disability community.

### **1997 Improvements to IDEA**

IDEA is reauthorized by Congress. This reauthorization revamped the special education system and process in the U.S. The 6 major principles of IDEA include FAPE, Appropriate Psychoeducational Evaluation, Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), Least Restrictive Environments for Education, Parent Participation, and Procedural Safeguards.

### **1998 The Assistive Technology Act**

President Bill Clinton signed the Assistive Technology Act into law. This legislation supported grants to states for the provision of assistive technologies for individuals with disabilities. The goal of this law was to allow people with disabilities to participate fully in education, employment, and all other daily activities.

### **1998 Philadelphia ADAPT Demonstration**

ADAPT demonstration in Philadelphia, PA. ADAPT protests inaccessible transit buses.



### **1999 UConn ranked in the Top 10**

UConn was voted one of the Top Ten Disability-Friendly Colleges in 1999 by *New Mobility* Magazine.



### **1999 Guidelines Released for Website Accessibility**

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) released guidelines for making websites more accessible to individuals with disabilities (text, images, and sounds).

### **2001 Workforce Support Services and the Department of Labor**



Congress provided funding for the creation of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) within the federal Department of Labor. ODEP works to improve workforce support services to individuals with disabilities.



### **2001 No Child Left Behind**

Congress passed No Child Left Behind (NCLB), an accountability based reformative law aimed at improving educational outcomes for students attending federally funded schools.

### **2002 UConn's CSD Makes Some Big Changes**

The CSD moved from a 330 square foot room in the Student Union serving 125 students with disabilities, to a 3,600 square foot state of the art twelve-room facility in the Student Services Center. The CSD drastically increased its numbers, and served over 1,100 students at this time in the new location.

### **2002 Minnesota North Star Academy**

Minnesota North Star Academy (MNSA) was founded - the first high school exclusively for educating students who are deaf.

### **2003 Accessible Residence Halls at UConn**

3 more accessible residence halls become available to UConn students with disabilities.

### **2004 Amendments to the Assistive Technology Act**

Major amendments to the Assistive Technology Act including mandated provision of the following: device demonstrations, device loans, device reuse, and financial assistance for purchasing assistive technologies provided by federally funded institutions.

### **2005 UPLD Grows at UConn**

UConn's UPLD now served over 700 students.

### **2008 SEAD program at UConn**

The CSD establishes the Strategic Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (SEAD) program. SEAD aimed to help students have a smooth transition to college and gain self-determination skills for college life and the workforce. Students learned about themselves, their disability, and how to be autonomous college students. The SEAD program is now known as the Beyond Access program.



### **2008 the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAA)**

At its inception ADA was a great law and provided equal access to millions of people with disabilities. However, some members of the disability community were still struggling to obtain basic civil rights due to the invisible nature of their conditions. The ADAA expanded the definition of disability to encompass civil rights for all individuals with disabilities in 2008.

### **2008 UPLD and CSD Unified**

The CSD and UPLD combine forces, to merge services provided to all students with disabilities.

### **2008 Disability Culture and History in the Classroom**

In West Virginia, state legislation was instated mandating the public school students be taught the history of the disability rights movement in core curriculum. This mandate was passed in response to the requests of 20 young adults with disabilities who disdained the lack of inclusion of disability culture in taught history lessons.

### **2010 International Honors Society for Students with Disabilities at UConn**

Delta Alpha Pi (DAP) Alpha Rho chapter established at UConn, by the CSD. DAP is an international organization who wishes to recognize academic excellence among students with disabilities on college campuses across the nation. Due to the stigma associated with disabilities, this organization also seeks to empower these students to advocate for themselves and others and serve as mentors.



### **2012 Fighting for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities**

Loretta Claiborne, a special Olympian with an intellectual disability inspired the nation in regard to anti-bullying movements for individuals with disabilities. Her story speaks to individuals of all backgrounds, and advises all to respect and honor differences in ability, and overcome adversity through hard work and determination. See link below to Loretta Claiborne's Ted Talk on the Special Olympics and her fight for disability rights.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XXqr\\_ZSsMg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XXqr_ZSsMg)

### **2015 CSD wins award for Multicultural Competency**

CSD wins NASPA's "Silver Excellence Award" for multicultural competency. Historically, NASPA stands for National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. However, we have updated the name of the association to NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

### **November 2016 New England Deaf Community**

Screening debut of this film, on the history of the New England Deaf community, was made available in 2016. New England is described as the cradle of the Deaf community, which is built upon advocacy and solidarity. The 20 minute film is a must watch if you'd like learn more about the Deaf community!

<https://www.convorelay.com/communities/newengland/>

### **2016 CSD ranked within Top 10 Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities**

CSD at UConn is ranked #9 out of the top 10 best colleges for students with learning disabilities in *College Magazine*. Writers note CSD's holistic approach to supporting students with disabilities, including both accommodations and enhanced service programs.

### **2016 Present CSD**

Today, the CSD consists of a Director, two Associate Directors, an Assistant Director, a Program Coordinator, a Program Assistant, an Assistive Technology Coordinator and Technology Team, 6 Graduate Assistants, a Greater Hartford Campus Coordinator, a Stamford Campus Coordinator, multiple sign language Interpreters, CART (Communication Access Real-Time Translation) reporters, and over 200 Student Employees. There are 30 new or renovated academic buildings

with state of the art access, and 25 more are slated for completion in the coming years. Students at UConn have 11 accessible residence hall options including a Greek Village. The CSD boasts nationally recognized enhanced service programs, Beyond Access and HuskyGPS. The Beyond Access program pairs students with trained strategy instructors to identify and work towards academic and personal goals set forth by the student. Beyond Access aims to help students identify their strengths and challenges, increase awareness and use of strategies and technologies in and outside of the classroom, facilitate networking with students, staff, families, and faculty, and learn vital self-advocacy and self-determination skills. HuskyGPS is an online and in-person integrated program, for students with disabilities entering into their freshman year at UConn. HuskyGPS teaches students about campus resources, study and organizational skills, and assistive technologies. The goal of HuskyGPS is to facilitate a smooth transition experience for students with disabilities into postsecondary education.



### **2016 Accolades for Beyond Access**

UConn's Beyond Access program mentioned in the *New York Times*, recognized for provision of comprehensive services to students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

### **2016 CSD at UConn recognized for support to Engineering Students with Mental Disabilities**

The CSD is nominated within the "7 Best Colleges for Engineering Students with Mental Disabilities" on *Outstanding Colleges*. CSD is recognized for its enhanced service and support programs like Beyond Access.



### **2016 CSD rated within the Top 10 Best Disability Friendly Colleges in College Choice**

CSD rated within the top 10 of "50 Best Disability Friendly Colleges and Universities." UConn is recognized for its strong staffing in disability services and accessible residence halls on *College Choice*.

### **2017 Let's See How Far We've Come**

The disability advocacy community is ever growing in solidarity, support, and membership. Something innovative born out of the past few years includes the inclusion of people with

developmental and intellectual disabilities as leaders within the disability community. Much of early disability advocacy came from leaders with “neurotypical minds” – this new movement sheds light on the struggles of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but also allows them to use their strengths to fight for justice and opportunities. We still have a long ways to go. Individuals with disabilities around the world face unemployment, poverty, mass incarceration and institutionalization, limited access to information and technological advances, police brutality, limited access to education, negative beliefs about ability to parent, and a high risk for sexual and domestic abuse. Educational access for students with disabilities has changed dramatically over the centuries, but other aspects of life for individuals with disabilities are not as progressive. We’ve come a long way, but still have a ways to go. Thank you to all professionals, individuals, and organizations that fight for individuals and students with disabilities. Our efforts and advocacy are so important to the continued progress of disability rights and accessibility.