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International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals e-Newsletter

THE EXPERTS' EXPRESS

Viewpoint—Inside IARP

Pulling it Together

A Perspective on Strategic Planning

*Carl Wangman
IARP Executive Director*

In October 2008 IARP conducted a comprehensive member needs assessment survey of the total membership. The survey included separate elements for each of the four sections; case management, disability management, forensic and life care planning. The SSVE section was not created until June 2009. Over 800 members responded to the survey.

The IARP Board of Directors used the survey results to guide its strategic planning. Simultaneously the life care planners (IALCP section) initiated the strategic planning process facilitated by my staff colleague, Pam Boea, and me. Both the IARP board and the IALCP section board performed traditional SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analyses.

The IALCP section announced its plan in September 2009, including goals, strategies (action steps), and deadlines after six months' work. In presenting the plan to the section members, Cloie Johnson, IALCP chair, wrote:

"Over the last five months, Tony Choppa, Heidi Fawber, Tim Field, Susan Riddick-Grisham, Ann Neulicht, Karen Preston, Carl Wangman, Steve Yuhas, and I have worked diligently to complete our section's strategic plan. We have striven to be thorough, concise, forward thinking and conscientious in this process. My sincere thanks to everyone for their time and efforts involved in achieving this outcome.

It is anticipated the IARP IALCP Strategic Plan will assist in current and future development of our position in the rehabilitation community, specifically amongst life care planners."

IARP IALCP Section Strategic Plan:

GOAL 1: Provide a high quality, relevant, peer-reviewed quarterly publication that is delivered on time.

GOAL 2: Provide high quality educational programs.

GOAL 3: Promote IARP IALCP as the leading organization for life care planners.

GOAL 4: Formalize an IARP IALCP promotion program that targets life care planners.

GOAL 5: Identify our need and ability to generate revenue.

Last June IARP President Rodney Isom led the IARP board as it reviewed its own SWOT analysis and the work-in-progress of the life care planners' section. He and Neil Bennett, immediate past president, stressed the importance of each section's formulating its own plan.

(Viewpoint Continued on page 5)

Providing a Community for Rehabilitation Professionals

Gale Gibson Memorial Educational Scholarship

Neil Bennett
IARP Immediate Past President

Gale Gibson 1934 - 2010

Every IARP Member/Every Day has had access to Gale's legacy work in the classification of occupations for use in a variety of business and professional settings. They include the assessment and rehabilitation of people with disabilities, the evaluation of wage earning potential, and general career guidance.

Gale Gibson has a long standing record of supporting the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals. His legion of colleagues and friends from our association know that Gale represented the truest attributes of a professional. He was an innovator and a friend. He made a conscious effort to reach out to old friends and to those he had never met. He also told you what he thought. You always knew where Gale stood on issues.

In our association he strongly supported building both the professional members in general and the vocational experts' forensic and SSVE sections in particular. His name often appeared on the list serves and he provided countless hours of advice. Whether it was locally here with the IARP Washington Chapter or at the International level he could be counted on for involvement and support. He first joined the association in 1987 and has been active for 23 years. His firm has been one of the major supporters of our sections' conferences and at our annual meetings. He was, indeed, a supporter for all seasons. Gale was IARP.

IARP has created an educational scholarship in his name. The Forensic section of IARP has also established the Gale Gibson Life-time achievement award for Forensic Rehabilitation Service. This section will honor Gale as its inaugural recipient this November at its conference in New Orleans, then annually at its ongoing conferences.

I met Gale at least 25 years ago when the company I worked for had purchased one of the earliest versions of his work product which revolutionized the way I conducted my work. We kept in touch over the years at conferences. I welcomed the opportunity to lose my hand into his paw as we greeted each other. I had the professional opportunity to lead a project to develop a case management system for a company, I consulted with Gale about his ideas for organizing occupational information, he freely shared with me rather than try to sell me his product. He valued and placed sharing his ideas more highly than just making a sale.

When IARP learned of Gale's passing, our listserv was virtually on fire with memories, salutations and recitations of the quality of his personality and contributions. I offer one tribute contributed by Mary Barros-Bailey, a long standing IARP member whose successful professional life has been significantly impacted by the mentoring she received from Gale ...

'I met Gale a decade ago in Dallas -- the same place I was when I learned of his passing. Couched into those 10 years were a lot of talks, memories, and e-mails. I even have an e-mail folder just for Gale's correspondence. One episode stands out for me several months ago when Gale and I spent the weekend dialoging and exploring over long e-mails one of his passions -- transferable skills. Within the last year, he became a tether to reality in my professional life that I feel a bit lost without. In Dallas, many of us present at the OIADAP meetings felt a tremendous loss with his passing. After all, he introduced many of us to each other. There, I saw a t-shirt that spoke to me of Gale with a quote by JFK that reads, "A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on." Gale was a man of ideas. He sparked ideas in me. I can only hope to be true to those for him.'

Donations to the educational scholarship fund may be made to:

Gale Gibson Memorial Education Scholarship
IARP
1926 Waukegan Road
Suite 1
Glenview, IL 60025

Focal Point—IARP Chapters

IARP Carolina Chapter

Nancy Wells
IARP Carolina Chapter President

The Carolinas Chapter has two announcements for all interested parties, including chapter members and non-members who practice rehabilitation in the Carolinas. Following the momentum of a very successful Fall conference held in Columbia, South Carolina, the Carolinas Chapter will host a spring conference on Friday, April 23rd at Carolina Beach, North Carolina. This will be a great opportunity to receive training in current rehabilitation trends, learn about updates in North Carolina Workers' Compensation regulations, and network with fellow colleagues. Be sure to save the date and keep an eye out for additional information as it becomes finalized. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Wells, Chapter President at nwells@carolinacasemgmt.com.

The Carolinas Chapter also wishes to remind all individuals who have yet to participate in the Workers' Compensation "Rehab Rules" Primer that opportunities to attend are still present. This highly informative course provides audience members a clear depiction of the North Carolina Workers' Compensation statutes, including the rules that govern case management practices in the state and is likely to be mandated by the NC Industrial Commission in the near future. If a person practices as an onsite or telephonic medical or vocational rehab provider in the state of North Carolina, this course will become a requirement for practicing, so this applies to all those based outside of North Carolina as well! As dates, times, and locations are scheduled, registration information will become available. The next training session is tentatively scheduled for May 6 in Charlotte. Details will be provided in future newsletters. Seating is limited for each session.

IARP New York Chapter

The New York Chapter is planning a training conference for April 8, 2010 at Tarrytown, New York. It will be an all-day conference. The agenda is still being planned but we have assured the following topics: Conducting Effective Claimant and Treatment Provider Interviews; How Social Security Measures Mental Illness; Depression in the Workplace; Mediation Training in the Healthcare and Insurance Profession; Ergonomics; and one additional topic to be determined.

Our location will be the Doubletree Hotel Tarrytown, 455 S. Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591. Telephone: 914-524-6432.

We will plan an informal get together after dinner for those staying overnight the evening before. The committee has negotiated a discount room rate of \$139 at the Doubletree.

The conference will be free to members. Non-members will be charged \$60 at the door, and \$50 for an early registration before April 1. There will be a ten percent discount for three or more attendees from the same firm. The registration form will be available soon. For more information, contact Marvin Reed, IARP New York Chapter President, at marvin@reedrehab.com.

IARP Wisconsin Chapter

The IARP Wisconsin Chapter will be holding the 2010 spring seminar 4/23/10 at the Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee. Topics to be discussed include current issues in rehabilitation from an experienced physiatrist, the state economy and labor market trends, and professional ethics for medical and vocational rehabilitation professionals. Please contact any board member with questions. We look forward to stimulating discussion at this popular event!

IARP Nebraska Chapter

Patricia Reilly
IARP Nebraska Chapter President
Michelle Hultine
IARP Nebraska Chapter Past President



On November 19, 2003, twenty nine year old Jeremy Cline was working at his job as a switchman in western Nebraska. To his horror he fell under a railcar resulting in the severance of his right leg below his knee. Jeremy's case was referred to Mr. Bart Hultine, PhD, to assess the entitlement and appropriateness for vocational rehabilitation services. Upon completion of a vocational evaluation, it was found that Jeremy had an assessed and expressed interest in orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic technology as he himself had benefited greatly from the advances in this field.

After completing labor market research, Mr. Hultine quickly discovered that the most effective and prudent mechanism for one to become certified in this profession was to engage in an intensive on-the-job training program culminating in a competency and certification examination. Generally, on-the-job training programs are cumbersome to develop and implement.

(Focal Point Continued on page 6)

Amalgamated Scope—IARP Sections

Forensic Section Begins Strategic Planning

*Dale A. Thomas
IARP Forensic Section Chair*

In January the forensic section surveyed the section membership with questions that addressed the strengths and weaknesses of the section and hopes for the future. Sixty-five members completed the survey. The responses were very interesting and helpful to the select group of members who are serving on the Forensic Section Strategic Planning Committee. The committee met in February to review the survey results. We will continue to meet over the next several months as we focus on about a half dozen areas that we want the section to address in the years ahead. We will prepare goals, action plans and assign responsibilities to implement the plans to achieve the goals.

Several themes stood out in the survey results. Among these were: DOT/OIDAP, listserv management, annual forensic conferences, professional publications, growing the section's membership numbers, professional standards, member education, the relationship between vocational and Life Care Planning within the section, section leadership, and the economy and its impact on our practices.

Your additional concerns and comments are welcomed as the Forensic Section Strategic Planning Committee continues its work. Committee members include:

The Forensic Section Board of Directors:

Dale Thomas, Chair
Barb Byers, Co-Chair
Lisa Clapp, Past Chair
Kathy Mundy, Past Co-Chair
Angie Heitzman, Section Representative the IARP Board
Deb Veatch, Member at Large

From the Section membership:

Barb Nelson
Nici King
Rick Robinson
Ann Wallace
Katherine Dunlap
Paulette Freeman
Aubrey Corwin

From IARP HQ:

Carl Wangman and Pam Boea

Past Chair of the Forensic Section

This article is the second in a series of interviews that are currently provided in each publication of The Experts' Express. Past leaders (now elected as Chairs) of the forensic interests in our organization since 1996, have been asked to be randomly interviewed. This is done to once again commend their service and to encourage a continuous momentum of strong leadership within the section as it renews itself from year to year. Forensic chairpersons now take on an extraordinary commitment by volunteering for a three-year term as Chair Elect, Chair, and Past Chair. Bob Paré, who has served in various roles on recent forensic section boards, has offered to interview each of the past leaders and bring you their updates and reflections at this time. What has evolved into the forensic section of IARP has been fortunate to have had the benefit of service from the following IARP members:

*1997 Kristy Farnsworth; 1997-1998 Steve Duchesne;
1998-1999 Ann Neulicht; 1999-2000 Randall Thomas;
2000-2001 Bob Taylor; 2001-2002 Bob
Mosley; 2002-2003 Steve Bast; 2003-2004 John
Meltzer; 2004-2005 John Berg; 2005-2006 Brian
Preston; 2006-2007 Steve Shedlin; 2007-2008 Ann
Wallace; 2008-2009 Lisa Clapp; 2009-2010 Dale Tho-
mas; 2010-2011 Anne Savage Veh (Chair-Elect)*

Interview #2 with Steve Duchesne, M.A., CRC, CDMS Term: 1998-1999

BP: Steve, when we initially scheduled a time for this interview, you used terms like cloudy, nebulous, unstructured, and "not yet operationalized" to describe the status of the most-early stages of what was to become of the IARP Forensic Section. Let's start there, shall we?

SD: As you know, the organization was not even called IARP then, Bob.

BP: I know. It was NARPPS, and from what I have learned, it was you who suggested the name change when you later served a 2-year stint as a director on the NARPPS Board, following your formal leadership with the forensic folks.

SD: Funny that you called it "folks"—we were not a section then. But, there was such a thirst for specialization, knowledge, for identity, and for recognition. You probably don't know this,

(IARP Sections Continued on page 7)

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(Pulling it Together Continued from page 1)

The current IARP plan, due to be completed this June, has already reached certain decisions based upon its work last June. They are:

- Re-examination of IARP mission (or tag line): "Providing a community for rehabilitation professionals in their quest for education and professional growth." Agreed to leave mission statement as is reflected on the IARP website:

"IARP is dedicated to: promoting effective multidisciplinary rehabilitation, disability management, and return-to-work services on behalf of persons with disabilities and the economically disadvantaged; enhancing the competency of service providers; supporting innovation in related business development and management; and becoming the pre-eminent source for shaping public policy that affects rehabilitation."

- Determination of association goals:

- Membership/member benefits – develop a marketing program to attract new members.
- Technology – invest/upgrade current systems: deliver better member experience; deliver better member prospect experience; automate functions that are currently done by staff.
- Chapters/Sections – establish SSVE section; support education for CM/DM sections with an annual conference; support establishment of Canadian chapter; re-establish section budgets.
- Education/training – develop a calendar for webinars in 2010; each section will be responsible for developing two webinars per year; establish distance learning opportunities through San Diego State University or similar entity; explore relationship between in-person conference committees (forensic and CM/DM) and education committee.
- Strategic Alliance Outreach

- Research
- Financial & Governance

At the IARP Board of Directors meeting earlier this month, President Isom re-emphasized the need to focus on membership growth at all levels within the association. He said, "With the average age of the IARP member at 57, we must address the students and IARP's involvement with them. Our future depends upon the new generation."

The IARP board has approved a blue-ribbon committee to take on the membership building project. The committee, chaired by Dennis Funk, the current chair of the IARP Council of Chapter Presidents, will have the following members, at a minimum:

- Two at-large members of the IARP Board of Directors,
- Two current chapter presidents, and
- Five section representatives, one from each section

Funk's committee has been charged with presenting its plan and budget at the April 29 IARP Board of Directors meeting.

Forensic and Disability Management Sections Strategic Planning Underway

The forensic section has used the IALCP model in its approach. This month it surveyed section members using a similar approach to that of the IALCP section. The forensic planning team is consolidating the survey results and will move to the next stage; establishing the section's goals for the next several years.

At the CM/DM Conference earlier this month, the disability management section held their first session on strategic planning. They performed a SWOT analysis among the committee members and began to organize the section's goals and priorities.

Both sections are scheduled to complete their plans by the time the new section boards officially take office May 1.

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(IARP Chapters Continued from page 3)

However, Mr. Hultine had past successful experience Developing OJT's in a variety of venues including the Nebraska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Nebraska Department of Labor, and with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Funding for the training had been arranged through the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court (NWCC).

When Mr. Hultine first proposed the plan, there was great opposition to an extensive OJT but as the proposal progressed Mr. Hultine was able to demonstrate the advantages of providing an incentive for a potential employer and insured employee to successfully complete such a program. Thanks to the persistence of Mr. Hultine, John Timmermier the attorney for the insured, Robert Chaloupka the attorney for Mr. Cline, Dr. Robert Anderson, NWCC Specialist and the adjuster from the workers' compensation carrier, the plan moved forward and a two year OJT plan comprising some 4,000 hours of on-the-job training was initiated and accomplished. The vocational rehabilitation plan allowed Jeremy Cline to complete the 4,000 hours of on-the-job training and then sit for the certification examination in Seattle, Washington on October 8, 2009. Mr. Cline passed the examination and became a Registered Technician-Prosthetics in November 2009, a certificate awarded by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics.

As time drew nearer for Jeremy to complete his training program, the employer providing the OJT, Prosthetic and Orthotic Group of Northern Colorado, LLC, located in Fort Collins, Colorado, entered into negotiations for Mr. Cline to become competitively employed with their company. Jeremy began working for P&O in July 2009 earning a wage fully commensurate with his pre-injury wage. Jeremy Cline is looking forward to a long term relationship with his new employer.

In the picture above, on October 31, 2009, Mr. Hultine awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from Western Vocational Services, Inc., to Mr. Kevin Burton, the owner of P&O. Kevin and his staff are commended for their diligence in working with Jeremy Cline in ensuring he was exposed to on-the-job work activities that allowed him to learn in a real work environment the skills and knowledge necessary for Mr. Cline to pass the certification examination. The employer advised all parties as to Mr. Cline's progress. They did an excellent job of remaining compliant with reporting expectations of Mr. Hultine, the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court, the attorneys and the carrier.

The expenses involved in the compilation of the on-the-job training opportunity were covered by the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court. The NWCC covered Jeremy's travel to/ from work and for the certification examination that took place in Seattle. The NWCC also covered the expense of the associated travel costs for the exam. The cost to the carrier was substantially more, but the end result was a fully engaged worker successfully placed in the labor market. The training and certification had minimized Mr. Cline's loss that occurred as a result of a severe work related injury. Through the joint effort of all parties Mr. Cline's vocational rehabilitation was a great success and was perhaps one of the most successful rehabilitation projects Mr. Hultine had the pleasure to work on.

IARP Tennessee Chapter

During the 2009 IARP Forensic conference in Memphis, the Tennessee chapter met with all the attending members and began planning an ethics conference as suggested by members from the University of Memphis. On December 4 and 5, 2009, the Tennessee IARP Chapter, in collaboration with the University of Memphis, held a 15 hour conference, 10 of which were ethics, via video conferencing. We set up a site in Chattanooga on the campus of Unum to house East Tennessee residents and a site on the campus of the University of Memphis for those on the West side of the state. This simulcast was successfully accomplished through the wonders of video conference technology.

Speakers from the University of Memphis, Chrisann Schiro-Geist, PhD, and Emer Broadbent, PhD were each located at a different site and since participants were able to observe both, the presentation flowed freely between them with interaction from the participants. Fifteen members participated and all feedback was very positive regarding the method and presentation with one request that a site be located mid-state for those who reside in the Knoxville-Nashville area. Currently, the sitting president, Kelly Marsiano and President-elect Paulette Lemaire are planning another day long conference and are in the process of contacting the University of Tennessee Knoxville to set up a video conference site there as well as maintain our relationship with the University of Memphis and Unum in order to have sites across the state.

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Thank you IARP 2010 CM/DM Conference Exhibitors and Sponsors

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The University of Arizona and National Network of ADA Centers
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(IARP Sections continued from page 4)

but Kristy Farnsworth almost single-handedly put on the first ever "forensic conference" early in 1997. From then on, I was hooked. Actually, it was Ann Neulicht and I together who sat as attendees at that conference in Scottsdale and we just knew then that we had to form some kind of an organization. We appointed ourselves as a small Board, talked about some bylaws, took the ball, and ran with it. There were no elections at that time. It was really something in a formative stage. Kristy had put on a conference; next, we want to create an organization.

BP: So, what gave you the vision? What prepared you to form something out of nothing?

SD: I really do not believe that I am owed all the credit-- Ann Neulicht and Randall Thomas were indispensable influences and hard workers. So was Carl Gann. We were all in the thick of it. So, while we and the board of NARPPS were working on defining the identity and extent of who we were, we went ahead and organized a second conference. Not entirely different from today, that one also addressed both the medical as well as vocational aspects of forensics. It was very successful in terms of attendance and content. Most probably my earlier years of involvement somehow gave me confidence and might have helped to set the stage for pioneering something new.

BP: It sounds like you are on some kind of wild ride with a phenomenal entrepreneurial spirit. What background gave you the

exposure, contacts, and a good feel for the needs of not only your own career, but also for that of your peers?

SD: Of course it seldom comes up anymore, but I am one of the charter members of NARPPS, and I went to its first conference back in 1980. I also served 2 years as President of the Northwest Rehabilitation Management Association in Washington state, a pre-cursor, I guess, to the "chapters" structure that we have now. I was a very active member within NARPPS, and had served for 5 years as the organization's representative to the CRCC.

BP: May I ask you, do you have a mentor?

SD: I have already named a few, and there are others. However, the earliest influence on me was my rehabilitation professor at Seattle University. Joe Afanador is his name. He taught me the basics and gave me a lifelong foundation in rehabilitation counseling—I keep in touch with him to this day.

BP: What do you think of the Forensic Section in 2010?

SD: It just keeps snowballing; it has become everything I hoped it would be. Someday, I'd like to see more unity among all of us, including ABOVE, more peer review, and a formally organized mentor program. Maybe someday our website will be the "go to place" for vocational forensics nationally.

BP: Thanks, Steve, for forever being the visionary! Our debt of gratitude to you is a deep one.

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IARP Board of Directors

Rodney Isom

President

isomrehab@gmail.com

Neil R. Bennett

Immediate Past President

neil@osc-voc.com

J. Patrick Decoteau

Secretary/Treasurer

jdecotea@spfldcol.edu

Dennis Funk

Council of Chapter Presidents

Representative

dennisf@funksvocconsulting.com

Steve Shedlin

Member At-Large

ShedlinSatREx@aol.com

Ann Wallace

Member At-Large

ann@wallacerehab.com

Susan N. Riddick-Grisham

IALCP Representative

sgrisham@comcast.net

Angela Heitzman

Forensic Representative

angela@heitzmanrehab.com

Donald Shrey

Disability Management

Representative

shreyde@uc.edu

Jon P. Veltri

Case Management Representative

jon.veltri@genexservices.com

Amy Vercillo

SS/VE Representative

avercillo@verizon.net



I am IARP

Synchronicity and Opportunity – A Chance Meeting with an Amazing Amputee

Lisa Clapp, MA, CRC, CEA

IARP Forensic Section Board Member

Ever wonder at the incredible opportunities we have in our profession to meet and mingle with people who have not only overcome horrific life challenges, but embraced them, monopolized on their experience and enrich the lives of others as a result?

A recent chance meeting with such an individual made me pause and reflect upon this particular gift of our profession. I had the opportunity after the CM/DM Conference in Scottsdale, AZ to meet an amazing person at a separate conference across town for the Arizona Workers' Compensation Claims Association (AWCCA).

John Siciliano was the closing speaker for the AWCCA Annual Conference Friday February 12th, 2010. John, an amputee, wears as many "hats", as he does different prosthetic legs. He is a professional actor in Los Angeles, a Paralympics Athlete, motivational speaker and a Certified Peer Visitor through Amputee Empowerment Partners.

John is recognized by Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics as a member of Team Hanger. The following information was gleaned from his profile on Hanger's website and speaks to his amazing story. Born in 1971 near Pittsburgh in a small town, John is the youngest of nine children. He experienced his first tragic loss, when at the age of nine, John's mother unexpectedly passed away. Growing up, John was a devoted Pittsburgh Steelers fan, and played sports religiously. In high school, John discovered his passion of acting. He found he could escape the burdens of life by portraying other characters. John not only excelled in athletics, he was equally talented in acting.

Following High School graduation, John studied theater and journalism at Point Park College, in downtown Pittsburgh. In 1992, he received a soccer scholarship and was appointed as team captain. In 1993, a drunk driver ran a red light and struck the jeep in which John was a passenger. Ejected from the Jeep, John was seriously injured.

John awoke in a hospital bed the next day, in a

(Amazing continued on page 9)

IARP SPEAKERS BUREAU



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Questions? Contact aneulicht@ipass.net

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THE EXPERTS' EXPRESS

Presented by the IARP-IALCP Section

Practical Information on Speech Recognition Software

Webinar for Rehab Professionals and Their Clients

Arlette Loeser

President, Advanced Life Care Planning LLC

And

Kimberly Patch

President Redstart Systems

March 25, 2010

9:00 a.m. Pacific; 10:00 a.m. Mountain; 11:00 a.m. Central; Noon Eastern

Or Anytime in the Archive!*

Participants will be able to explain:

- 1) the value, benefits and challenges of speech recognition to the use of speech recognition software
- 2) recommended hardware, software and parameter settings for successful use
- 3) ergonomic and vocal health strategies for the end user
- 4) training and ongoing strategies for successful use

\$59 members

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(Amazing continued from page 8)

neck brace with a tracheotomy tube in his throat, and hands strapped to the bed railings. He was positioned such that it prevented him from looking down at his legs. He knew that something was terribly wrong. Three days later, surrounded by friends and family, John was informed it had been necessary to amputate his right leg four inches above the knee.

During the next four months, John worked hard with his physical therapist; slowly he walked first in parallel bars, then using two canes, then one cane and finally completely unassisted. In January of 1994, John was prepared to resume his life, with the use of a prosthesis. Desperately missing athletics and theater, he enrolled again at Point Park College, uncertain if he could ever make a career out of his two passions.

According to his profile on the Hanger website, several months after returning to school, John read a brochure about amputees competing in track and field events, and met several of these unique athletes. He discovered it was possible to once again compete athletically, as an amputee. Ever determined, John procured

a special prosthesis designed for running, and began training with the goal of representing the United States as an athlete in the 1996 Paralympics Games.

"During the Paralympic Trials in Atlanta he broke the 200 meter record in the T-42 classification and earned a spot on the United States Paralympic Team. He spent the next few months prior to the Games training vigorously every day. Lining up in the starting blocks at the 1996 Paralympic Games, John took a brief moment to reflect on his accomplishments since his tragic accident just three years earlier. He achieved his goal and proudly wore the Team USA uniform as the 200 meter race was about to begin.

It was a very hot day with high humidity. "All of the athletes were sweating under the harsh conditions", said Siciliano. The gun went off and the eight athletes shot out of the blocks. "I felt my leg start to slip off in the first 20 meters but I just concentrated on the race and ran my hardest. But 50 meters later it came off completely and I went down hard", he recalls. John refused to give up, so he threw his prosthesis over his shoulder and finished

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New IARP Discount Partner

The Business Training Library assists small and mid-sized organizations by delivering world-class employee training programs that are cost-effective, convenient and results-oriented. As the nation's leading provider of e-learning platforms and support, and blended learning solutions for organizations with fewer than 2,500 employees, we offer more than 6,000 video, CD-ROM, DVD, streaming video and online training courses covering business and professional skills training, computer skills training, workplace health and safety training, legal compliance training, as well as custom e-learning solutions. We can also manage the technology so you can focus on delivering the best employee training program possible with our state-of-the-art learning management system. To take advantage of this member benefit or to browse available online training courses please visit <https://secure.companycollege.com/cccomautoauth.asp?code=IARP>.

(Amazing continued from page 9)

the race hopping on one leg.

John returned to Point Park College and completed his degrees. He received the "Swim with Mike Scholarship" to attend USC theater graduate school. As he pursued his master of fine arts degree, John had the opportunity to write and act in his life story in an "Off – Off Broadway" play entitled "Siciliano." He teamed up with the National Theater Workshop for the Handicapped, directed by Brother Rick Curry S.J., to bring his inspirational story to the stage. The play received national exposure in USA Today, People Magazine and on the national news program 60 Minutes.

John has been featured on numerous programs including the Fox Family Channel show "Courage", the Discovery Health Channel, a national Verizon commercial and the hit TV show "ER". He also appears in the feature film, "The Wager," starring Bert Young and Priscilla Lee Taylor, scheduled to be released soon.

When John is not acting on stage, television or in movies, he can be found working out in the gym and running. John now spends a lot of time working with young amputee athletes, teaching them the importance of proper fitness while using a prosthesis. He works closely with physical therapists to help them understand the emotional and physical challenges that face new amputees. And is regularly asked to speak at school assemblies, educating children about disabilities and how they can be overcome.

"When your disability gets you down, try to remember that things could always be worse and be very thankful that you still have your mind, heart and soul."

John Siciliano, 1996

<http://www.hanger.com/prosthetics/experience/patientprofiles/Pages/TeamSiciliano.aspx>

In his presentation to the attendees of the AWCCA Conference John unabashedly shared some of the rigors of his life experiences as an amputee actor and athlete. He provided numerous examples. One example, which particularly struck me, was the incredible variety of prosthetic legs he had, and the unique challenges being a prosthetic user posed. In jest, John grinned as he

described the "electronic line-up" of his multiple outlet energy source near his bed stand...cell phone, I-Pod and microprocessor for the C-Leg". The humor-filled, matter-of-fact method, with which John shared these extra considerations, amazed me. Grace and humility surrounding my narrow perspective as an able bodied person, coupled with John's gift for fullness of life, created a level of awareness I may not have experienced otherwise.

I listened intently, as John shared about his C-Leg, with its microprocessor and hydraulic knee with swing and stance phase control. John explained how the prosthetic knee joint has an on-board sensor technology that scans 50 times per second to ensure his gait is as similar to natural walking as possible. Having attended an entire session covering similar adaptive equipment earlier that day at the CM/DM Conference, hearing and watching John drove home the importance of our continuing education in this area of technology and innovation.

That afternoon, following the AWCCA Conference, John hung around with many of the attendees to visit and share more about his mission in life. He demonstrated a spacious transparency not readily accessible in many folks, let alone someone of his background. Approached about his career as an actor and numerous activities involving outreach to other amputees, John was genuine in his offers to avail himself to traumatic amputees from all walks of life. He was also gracious in recognizing the significance of those involved in rehabilitation services to amputees. From physicians, therapists, and prosthetists to the adjusters and case managers handling services, John made a point to acknowledge the importance of everyone's role in the individual amputee's return to a full life.

My pause continued as I commuted home that evening. John was a special individual, as is everyone we have the opportunity to evaluate. The uniqueness of every evaluatee in our analyses was in the forefront of my mind. There are so many significant factors to consider, from the severity of injury to the age, education, pre-accident vocation, ad infinitum. I smiled to myself, remembering how I nearly chose to forego the AWCCA Conference that afternoon, having had a full day at the CM/DM Conference that morning. It was a reminder. If we are willing to show up, the synchronicity of life offers otherwise missed opportunities, significant not only to our profession, but our humanity.

Providing a Community for Rehabilitation Professionals

THE EXPERTS' EXPRESS



LCP Summit 2010: Diverse Experiences Promoting Unity



Message from IARP President Rodney Isom

Life Care Planning Summits bring together life care planners from many organizations and disciplines to establish benchmarks for practice in the field. Practitioners, academics and organizational representatives leverage their diverse know-how to foster ultimate unity.

This year we'll meet April 17-18 in Atlanta to continue this work, debating important issues including decision-making boundaries and attendant care choices.

I'm truly looking forward to the standard-setting discussions and hope you, too, will bring your unique experience to the table.

Join me at the Life Care Planning Summit 2010!

Rodney Isom
IARP President

HOTEL DISCOUNT THROUGH MARCH 15

Life Care Planning Summit 2010 organizers secured a discounted room rate at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. The hotel is located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, with shopping, dining and an indoor connection to the subway in the adjoining Peachtree Center complex.

Our room block is nearing capacity and may very well sell out before the March 15 expiration date of the discount.

Reserve your room today.

NOTE: Summit discussions will take place at the Georgia State University Student Center. Review Hotel & Venue Information.

REGISTRATION STILL A BARGAIN

While early birds caught a discount, you can still register for the LCP Summit 2010. Members still receive \$50 off the regular fee and students may register for \$150. Register today at <http://www.rehabpro.org/documents/events/2010summitreg.pdf>.

Attendance is limited to 100 participants given the intense nature of discussions scheduled to take place. Topics include a review of

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International Association of Rehabilitation
Professionals
1926 Waukegan Rd., Suite 1
Glenview, IL 60025

Phone: (847) 657-6964
Toll Free: (888) 427-7722
Fax: (847) 657-6819
Email: IARP-hq@tcag.com

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The International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals provides a community for rehabilitation professionals in their quest for education and professional growth.

- ◆ IARP serves a diverse membership practicing in the fields of long-term disability and disability management consulting, case management and managed care, forensics and expert testimony, life care planning, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) consulting.
- ◆ IARP supports professional growth of its 2,500 members by providing an ethics code, professional competence standards, continuing education programs, networking opportunities, and group-discounted packages of professional benefits.
- ◆ IARP fosters rehabilitation research and management innovation through national conferences and the publication of peer-reviewed articles in RehabPro, its quarterly journal.
- ◆ IARP strives to shape public policy favorable to private-sector rehabilitation by working closely with other professional associations, government, and industry. Explore our web site to learn more about the IARP mission and how we work to achieve it.

IARP New Web Site Features IARP Connect

IARP Connect is a new online collaboration center for the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP).

The IARP Connect Community

The IARP Connect Community allows rehabilitation professional leaders to engage and exchange information. New social networking features within the community let IARP members find and connect with like-minded individuals, collaborate with peers and develop innovative solutions to issues faced by IARP members everyday. IARP Connect offers tools that empower rehabilitation professionals to communicate, collaborate and lend their voice to the community:

To learn more about the IARP Connect Community please visit the web site at <http://connect.rehabpro.org/REHABPRO/Connect/Home/Default.aspx>

GET READY TO COLLABORATE!!!

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