

Conference Presenters

Julia Beems is Senior Instructor and Outreach Coordinator for Assistive Technology Partners, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Colorado Denver. She holds an MA degree in Rehabilitation Counseling with an emphasis in Vocational Evaluation from the University of Northern Colorado. Julia has over 25 years experience in the field of disabilities and assistive technology providing assessments, technical assistance and training to individuals with disabilities, their family members, and the professionals who serve them. During the past 25 years, she has been a guest lecturer at numerous universities, conferences, and workshops throughout Colorado and across the country. Ms Beems' current responsibilities include providing outreach services across Colorado to individuals with disabilities and their family members, professionals from educational, employment and healthcare agencies, policy makers and legislators, and the general public.

Christine A. Fruhauf, Ph.D. is an assistant professor in the College of Applied Human Sciences at Colorado State University. Fruhauf also serves as the associate director of the Colorado State University Center on Aging. Her research interests include family caregiving for older adults, grandparents raising grandchildren, and quality of life for individuals who have dementia. Christine has over 15 years experience working with and researching aging families. In June 2006, Christine received a Fulbright-Hays award to travel to Hungary .

Pamela P. Hanes, Ph.D. is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Colorado Health Institute. Hanes has been involved in health policy formulation, health services research and program evaluation for more than 30 years in a variety of venues. She has served as executive director of the Oregon Health Policy Institute (OHPI) and director of the Center for Health and Disability Policy within OHPI. Pam also held a faculty appointment in the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at the Oregon Health and Science University. In 2000, Pam co-founded and served as principal investigator to the National Consortium for Health Systems Development, one of two national technical assistance centers authorized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to assist states in the development and monitoring of supportive services and other Medicaid enhancements for workers with disabilities. Previously, she was an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin in Madison following a stint as a senior researcher at the Institute for Health and Aging, University of California, San Francisco. During the early 1980s, Pam was the principal health and welfare consultant to the California Assembly Ways and Means Committee in Sacramento. Dr. Hanes served as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in 2002 at the Institute for Public Health, Collegium Medicum in the Jagellonian University in Krakow, Poland. She holds a PhD in social welfare policy from the University of California, Berkeley and a master's in social work from California State University, Sacramento.

Laurel Kubin, MS CFCS, is the Director of the Larimer County Office of Colorado State University. As a Family and Consumer Sciences professional, she has focused her Extension work on education related to family economic stability and issues of aging. Laurel has been a member of Extension's Gerontology Work Team since 1992 and is co-leader of Extension's Family Economic Stability Work Team. She has a BS from Colorado State University and MS from Oregon State University. With more than thirty years experience as an Extension educator, she has implemented community programs that have improved financial and physical well-being for people of all ages.

Lynette McGowan is the Caregiver Support Program Coordinator with the Larimer County Area Agency on Aging. She provides consultation, case management, resources and support to families caring for an older relative at home. Lynette has over 20 years experience in program development with older adult services, including international work in Southeast Asia.

Ken Ross became CEO of Pinnacol Assurance in 2005. Ross previously was CEO and Executive Director of the New York State Insurance Fund (NYSIF). Before joining NYSIF, he spent nine years as a defense attorney, specializing in commercial insurance and real estate litigation. Before that, he was director of operations for New York City's Criminal Justice Agency. In 2003, the New York Claim Association honored Ross with its "Man of the Year" award for leadership following the events of September 11 and for the humanitarian and professional standards he brings to the industry. The American Society of Workers' Compensation Professionals presented Ross with its Legends Award in 2004, citing his wealth of knowledge and outstanding leadership skills. He has served as president of the American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds, the primary trade association for state-affiliated workers' comp insurers. Ross earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Boston University in 1972 and his law degree in 1986 from Fordham University, where he received the American Jurisprudence Award for excellence in bankruptcy law.

Michael A. Smyer, Ph.D. is the Provost at Bucknell University. A clinical psychologist by training, he has been active in geriatric mental health research for more than 30 years. He was a founding co-director, with Marcie Pitt-Catsoupes, of the Center on Aging and Work at Boston College. Smyer is a fellow of the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Society, and the Gerontological Society of America and a recipient of the M. Powell Lawton award for distinguished contributions to clinical geropsychology. He is past president of the Division of Adult Development and Aging (Division 20) and the Society of Clinical Geropsychology (Section II of the Division of Clinical Psychology) of the American Psychological Association. He currently serves on the American Psychological Association's Committee on Aging. Smyer has been on the editorial boards of the *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, *Psychology and Aging*, and, currently, *Generations*. He is the co-author of *Aging and Mental Health* (1999: Blackwell Publishers) and co-editor of *Challenges of an Aging Society: Ethical dilemmas, political issues* (2007: Johns Hopkins University Press), *Changes in Decision-Making Capacity in Older Adults: Assessment and Intervention* (2007: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.), and *Aging, Biotechnology, and the Future* (2008: Johns Hopkins University). A native New Orleanian. He received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Yale University and his doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Duke University.

Todd Swanson works for the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services. His responsibilities include being Chief State Planner for Aging Issues for the State of Colorado and he is the Staff Authority for the *State Plan on Aging*. He directed humanitarian relief programs for five years in war-torn former Yugoslavia. He has presented at numerous regional and national conferences and is the author of several articles.

Tim Wollerman is responsible for developing solution based approaches to addressing aging workforce issues through the creation and dissemination of employer best practices, research and management tools including AARP's Workforce Assessment Tool. Wollerman's efforts have been cited in business media including Fortune and Business Week. Prior to joining AARP, Wollerman held a variety of positions in social services and community development including Manager of Community Relations for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Director of Development and Community Relations for the Mid-Michigan Chapter of American Red Cross. Wollerman received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Masters in Public Policy and Administration from Michigan State University.

Patricia Yeager holds an MS degree in Rehabilitation from West Virginia University and has worked for 30 years working in area of disability services, advocacy and public policy across the country. Most recently, as the director of the state association of California Independent Living Centers she completed a six year, federally funded research project on the use and effectiveness of assistive technology for persons with disabilities. Currently she is a doctoral student in Human Rehabilitation at the University of Northern Colorado. She has been hearing impaired since the age of 2.