

Mary Lou Bensy, Ed.D.
Malverne, New York
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EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Ed. D., Doctor of Education, Hofstra University, N. Y., May, 2012
Concentration: Foundations, Leadership and Policy Studies
Bensy, M. L. (2012). *Lending my voice out loud: The sexual abuse of students with disabilities in American schools* (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from UMI Dissertation Publishing. (UMI #3405271.)

Professional Specialist Diploma in Educational Administration (SDA), Queens College, NY, Feb., 2001
Concentration: School Administration and Supervision (SAS); Special Education

Masters of Education, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June, 1974
Concentration: Special Education

Masters of Education, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, August, 1973
Concentration: Adaptive Physical Education
Bensy, M. L. (1973). *The effect of a contingency management system upon the learning rates of trainable mentally retarded and normal kindergarten children through an individually prescribed instructional system*. (M.Ed. thesis).

Bachelor of Science, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, June, 1972
Major: Health, Physical Education, Recreation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

President: "Expectations" (2009). Private consulting/advocacy for families and children with disabilities

Adjunct Professor, Department of Special Education, Hofstra University, NY, 2005-present

Student Teacher Field Supervisor, Office of Field Services, Hofstra University, NY, 2009-present

Administrative Intern Field Supervisor, Education and Policy Leadership Studies, Hofstra University, NY, 2013

Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Special Education and Central Registration, Amityville School District, NY, 2007-2008

Interim Principal, School for Language and Communication Development Middle-High School, New school opening, Woodside, Queens, NY, 2006-2007

Field Services Administrative Coordinator, Special Education, Office of Field Services, Hofstra University, NY, 2005-2006

Director of Special Education, Malverne School District, Malverne, NY, Chairperson of CSE and CPSE,

2002-2004

Assistant Principal, Francis J. O'Neill Elementary, Central Islip School District Liaison, Central Islip, NY, Elementary Science Program Testing and Assessment Coordinator, Building Level Facilitator, Site Based Planning Team, 2000-2002

Associate Director, US Department of Education Title VII Grant, Project GAINS, New York City Board of Education, District 75, P811Q, Bilingual ESL Unit Coordinator, Chairperson, Site Based Planning Team, 1997-2000

Primary Grant Writer and Associate Director, New York City Board of Education, D75, 1995-2000
Design, proposal and implementation of grant awards
Coordination with auxiliary federal, state and local funding
Budget regulation, materials inventory and distribution

Staff Development Specialist, New York City Board of Education, D75, P811Q Coordination and implementation of staff development programs to address school reform initiatives, 1992-1995

Classroom Teacher of Students with Disabilities, New York City Board of Education, District 75, P233Q & P811Q, 1990-1992

Classroom Teacher of Students with Disabilities, United Cerebral Palsy of Queens Pre-School, Queens, NY, 1986-1990

Program Director of Intensive Care Facilities (ICF), Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Melville, NY, 1986-1987

RESEARCH AND PRESENTATIONS

Bensy, M. L. (2012). *Lending my voice out loud: The sexual abuse of students with disabilities in American schools* (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from UMI Dissertation Publishing. (UMI #3405271.)

Bensy, M. L. & Caldas, S. J. (2110, April). *Lending my voice, out loud: A study of the sexual abuse of students with disabilities in American schools*. Paper presented at the New England annual conference, The Association of Persons with Severe Disabilities, College of Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

Caldas, S. J. & Bensy, M. L. (2011, August). *A comprehensive national profile of the sexual abuse of students with disabilities in American schools*. Paper presented at annual conference, American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV.

Bensy, M. L. & Caldas, S. J. (2011, December). *Profiling of the sexual abuse of students with disabilities in American schools*. Paper presented at national conference, The Association for Persons with Severe Disabilities, Atlanta, GA.

Caldas, S. & Bensy, M. L. (2013, April). *Findings from a national study of the sexual abuse of children with disabilities in American schools*. Presentation at the faculty lecture series, Manhattanville

College, Purchase, NY.

Caldas, S. J. & Bensy, M. L. (2013, January). *The sexual abuse of students with disabilities in American school settings*. Manuscript accepted for publication (June, 2013) in *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*. Publication date April/May 2014.

Bensy, M. L. (2006). *Changing the Water . . . An exploration of special education services and cultures: An ethnographic study of the self-contained, segregated school setting and the experience of special education administrators in that setting*. (Unpublished doctoral research project, qualitative inquiry). Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY.

Research Interests:

Sexual violence and abuse in of students with disabilities in school settings; Educator sexual misconduct (certified); Safe School Initiatives: awareness, prevention, response and training

Harassment and bullying in school settings (discrimination, intimidation, taunting). New York State Dignity for All Students Act, 2010

Dangerous and harmful use of restraints and seclusion: The Alliance to Prevent Restraint, Aversive Interventions and Seclusion (APRAIS) and the protection of children with significant disabilities, who exhibit challenging behaviors, from abuse in schools; Supportive School Disciplinary Practices

Culture of disability and Ableism in American schools: equity, opportunity, issues of civil rights and social injustice

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR HOFSTRA: COURSEWORK

Students are enrolled in graduate and undergraduate level coursework and in both general and special education majors programs:

SPED 102, 201: The Exceptional Child: Introduction to Special Education (Foundations)

SPED 102, 264: Inclusion: Meeting Special Needs in PreK-12 Programs

SPED 211: Strategies for Teaching Students with Cognitive (and Multiple) Disabilities

SPED 237, 219G/S: Special Education Student Teacher Seminar for Teaching Student with Disabilities

RELATED UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

City University of New York, New York State Consortium for the Study of Disabilities, Kennedy Fellowship Mentor, 1998-2000

Columbia University Teachers College, Fourth Annual Bilingual/ESL Education Technology Institute, Presenter, 1998

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), State Conference Presenter, "Yes! We Can: Integrated

Instructional Strategies for Teaching Bilingual Special Education Students with Multiple and Severe Challenges”, 1999

Queens College, Graduate School of Education, Special Education, Adjunct Professor, Fall 1999:
ECPSE750: Strategies for Teaching Limited English Proficient Students with Severe and Multiple Disabilities (funded by Project GAINS in collaboration with Dr. Fredda Brown)

Queens College, Graduate School of Education, Special Education, Coordinator of Student Intern Project, Summer, 2000

Fordham University, Graduate School of Education, Bilingual Education Institute “Native Language Literacy: High Standards for the Education of the Bilingual Exceptional Student, Institute Chairperson, April, 1998

Fordham University, Graduate School of Education, English as a Second Language Institute, “High Standards for the Education of Bilingual Students with Disabilities, Adjunct Instructor, April, 1999

Hofstra University, Graduate School of Education, Long Island Division of Early Childhood Council for Exceptional Children, Special Education, Guest Speaker, “Yes! We Can! Working with Students with Severe and Multiple Challenges”, 1999

National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE), 28th Annual International Bilingual/Multicultural Education Conference Presenter, “Yes! We Can: Integrated Instructional Strategies for Teaching Bilingual Special Education Students with Multiple and Severe Challenges”, January, 1999.

New York State Association of Bilingual Education (SABE), 22nd Annual State Conference Presenter, “Yes! We Can! Integrated Instructional Strategies for Teaching Bilingual Special Education Students with Multiple and Severe Challenges”, March, 1999

State University of New York at College of Old Westbury, Teacher Education Program, Adjunct Instructor: ED4870 Creative Arts for Students with Disabilities, ED4875 Workshop for Affective Education, Springs, 1999 and 2000

EXTRACURRICULAR COLLEGIATE ACTIVITIES

Mission and Growth and Development Committee Member: School of Education, Hofstra University, 2012

Director of Task Force to Change Campus Signs to incorporate Person First Language, 2006
The Hofstra Chronicle, May 12, 2006. “Students petition to ‘put people first’ on campus”
Members of SPED 102 (Professor Betsy) proposed a new parking sign for those that were currently designated as ‘handicapped parking.’ The Task force, made up of undergraduate students studying foundations of special education, was successful in its efforts resulting in parking signs being changed over the full campus from ‘handicapped parking’ to ‘first-person priority parking’. Also reported by Able News, March, 2008: “A Person-First Tradition Thrives at Hofstra”

Hofstra Team Leader, 2009-2012. Alexander's Angels Long Island Buddy Walk

Consultant to Student Athlete Services at Hofstra, 2011. To promote student athlete volunteerism in the provision of services in community settings to individuals with disabilities

GRANT AWARDS - Primary Grant Writer and Associate Director, New York City Board of Education, District 75, P811Q, 1995-2000. Grant awards included:

US Department of Education Title VII Grant, Project GAINS, 1997-2000

New York State Department of Education, GOALS 2000 Educate America Grants, 1995-1998 (three consecutive years)

New York State Office of Bilingual Education, EXCEL Grant, 1997

New York State Improved Student Services (ISS) Grant, 1996

New York City Comprehensive Education Plan Grant, 1997

New York City Project ARTS Award, 1996

Awards total: 2.0 million

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Nominated for H. Alan Robinson Outstanding Dissertation Award, September, 2012. Nominated by Dr. Stephen Caldas

Doctoral Fellow, Department of Foundations, Leadership and Policy Studies, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, 2004-2012

Kappa Delta Pi Educational Honor Society, Queens College, 1998-2000

United States Office of Education Teaching Fellowship Award, Scholastic Honors, 1973-1974

United States Office of Education Teaching Fellowship Award, Scholastic Honors, 1972-1973

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

American Association of University Professionals (AAUP)

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH)

CAN DO Disability and Abuse Project

Children's Justice Task Force, Columbia University

Communities against Violence Network (CAVNET)

Council of Exceptional Children (CEC)

Council of Parents, Attorneys and Advocates (COPPA)
Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation (DSAF)
International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)
Justice for All, U.S. Department of Justice (JUVJUST)
National Council on Disability (NCD)
National Inclusive Schools (NIS)
National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
National Women's Health Network (NWHN)
Parent2Parent, National and New York State
Stop Educator Sexual Abuse, Misconduct and Exploitation (SESAME)
Stop It Now! Child Sex Abuse Protection and Prevention Center
Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)
Survival Network for those Abused by Priests (SNAP)
United University Professions (UUP)