

VITA & BIBLIOGRAPHY

Burton Blatt

Spring 1985

Dean of the School of Education and Centennial Professor, Syracuse University. Bachelor of Science, 1949 (New York University), Master of Arts, 1950 (Teachers College, Columbia University), and Doctor of Education in Special Education, 1956 (Pennsylvania State University). In 1974, Ithaca College awarded him the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters.

Son of the late Abraham and Jennie Starr Blatt, Burton Blatt was born in New York City on May 23, 1927 and married the former Ethel Draizen, also from New York City, on December 24, 1951. They have three children: Dr. Edward R., 30, Dr. Steven D., 27, and Michael L., 24. During 1945-46, he served with the United States Navy in the Philippine Islands. In 1949, he was an English and Social Studies teacher; and between 1950 and 1955 he was a teacher of mentally retarded children, all for the New York City Board of Education. During the summer and fall 1950, he began doctoral work; and in 1955 he was awarded both a Penn State Graduate Scholarship and Teaching Assistantship, resuming his full-time graduate studies. He also received a New York State Regents Scholarship for Veterans, a Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children Scholarship, and an Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Scholarship.

After completing the doctorate in 1956, he was appointed Associate Professor and Coordinator of Special Education at New Haven State Teachers College (later Southern Connecticut State College, now Southern Connecticut State University), and in 1959 was promoted to Professor and Chairman of the new Department. It was in 1957 at Southern Connecticut State College when, with Professor Seymour Sarason (of Yale University), he helped create the first of three psycho-educational clinics to which he devoted great attention during that period of his academic career. Other

such settings were developed at Boston University (1961) and Syracuse University (1969), a model described in his works with Professors Sarason and Frank Garfunkel (of Boston University).

In 1961, he began his tenure at Boston University School of Education as Professor and Chairman of its Special Education Department. Also while at Boston University, he held a clinical professorship in the Medical School's Psychiatry Department, participating in a program training psychiatrists for teaching. Since 1969, and until his appointment as Dean of Syracuse University's School of Education in 1976, he was Director of the School's Division of Special Education and Rehabilitation and its Center on Human Policy (which he founded in 1971 with Professors Douglas Biklen, Robert Bogdan and others). In commemoration of the University's 100th Anniversary in 1970, he was named one of six Syracuse University Centennial Professors.

For the first time in thirty-five years, in 1965, the Boston University Yearbook honored him and a few others as outstanding members of the University's Faculty. In that same year, he was named an Outstanding Educator in the United States, and also was designated as Honorary Fund Drive Chairman of the Massachusetts Association for Retarded Children. At the 1967 meeting of the Massachusetts Psychological Association, he was presented with its major annual award "for outstanding contributions to the advancement of psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting human welfare." At their 1968 convention, the Massachusetts Association for Retarded Children gave him their principal annual award. The Massachusetts Hampden County Association for Retarded Children presented him with its Outstanding Citizen Award for 1969. Also in 1969, he was presented with a special citation from Governor Francis W. Sargent on behalf of the citizens of Massachusetts in recognition of his service to the Commonwealth as Assistant Commissioner and

Director of the Division of Mental Retardation, undertaken during a year's special leave of absence from Boston University. At that same ceremony, he was honored for "his many contributions to the mentally retarded by his friends and co-workers at the Massachusetts Association for Retarded Children, the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, and the Boston University School of Education." In 1973, the Northeast Region of the American Association on Mental Deficiency (AAMD) presented him with its annual Education Award for his "significant contributions to the dissemination of knowledge in the field of mental retardation." And at its national meeting the following year (1974), AAMD selected him for the Association's National Humanitarian Award. In the fall of 1974, Purdue University presented him with the Newell C. Kephart Memorial Award for "distinguished service to the handicapped citizens of Indiana and the United States of America." In 1976, at its Bi-Centennial Invitational Convocation in Special Education, the New York State Association of Teachers of Handicapped gave him its award for outstanding contributions to the field of mental retardation; and for the second time, at its 1983 annual meeting he was keynote speaker and received the Association's Award of Appreciation. In 1980, the College of New Rochelle's Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children honored him with an award for "his dedication to disfranchised individuals." In 1982, the Orange Grove Center, Chattanooga, Tennessee, presented him with an Award of Appreciation. Also in 1982, the Syracuse College for Living presented him with a special award in recognition of Syracuse University's support of its work with developmentally disabled adults. In 1983, the Pioneer Developmental Center of Chicopee, Massachusetts, gave him its annual award for outstanding efforts on behalf of mentally retarded citizens. Also in 1983, at its banquet, he was honored by the Young Adult Institute and Workshop of New York with its annual advocacy and professional leadership award. In 1984, at its "Education as a Celebration" concert in honor of the Syracuse University

School of Education's 50th Anniversary, he received an award for his support of the Arts in Education. And as keynote speaker at many meetings, such as the Indiana Association for Retarded Children Annual Convention (1971) and the Ohio Professional Association for Retardation (1983), he was presented with plaques and other awards and mementos commemorating the occasion. He has also received citations or awards from the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (for outstanding service), the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Kentucky Colonel), the Council for Exceptional Children, the American Association on Mental Deficiency, and many other professional, voluntary and governmental organizations for his contributions to the fields of mental retardation and special education.

He has served as consultant to: federal agencies; state departments of welfare, education, mental health, and mental retardation; publishers; associations for retarded citizens; universities; and related organizations in New York, New England and other sections of the United States. And through the years, he has delivered a great many endowed, "distinguished", and other "named" lectures at major research universities and other scholarly institutions (e.g., the Kephert Memorial Lecture, Purdue University; the Waisman Memorial Lecture, University of Wisconsin; the Ainsworth Lecture, University of Georgia; the Tisdall Memorial Lecture, University of Kentucky; the Beam Scholar, University of Iowa; Distinguished Visiting Lecturer, Calvin College; the McAuley Lecture, St. Joseph's College). In 1983, he participated in several Town Hall meetings in New York and Florida which won an award for Syracuse University from the Ford Motor Company and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education for its alumni-relations program. In 1984, he was elected by his colleagues at Syracuse University to deliver the J. Richard Street Memorial Lecture. Also, in that year, he was invited to give the lecture at the occasion honoring recipients of the

Syracuse University Chancellor's Citation for Exceptional Academic Achievement. During the past quarter of a century, he has lectured at most major universities in the United States, as well as others in Canada and Europe. He has also been invited numerous times to keynote national professional and scientific conferences and conventions (e.g., AAMD, the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, The Association for the Severely Handicapped, the National Association of School Psychologists, the Association for Retarded Citizens, the Young Adult Institute, the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, and other organizations). And beginning with the landmark Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens litigation in 1972, he has appeared as an expert witness during several judicial hearings, including the now-historic Willowbrook Case of 1974.

In 1959, Governor Abraham Ribicoff appointed him to the first Connecticut State Advisory Council on Mental Retardation. He has also served in the past at the request of Governors John Volpe and Francis Sargent of Massachusetts and Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York on boards and task forces studying problems related to mental retardation and mental illness. Since 1976, when Governor Hugh Carey of New York appointed him (re-appointed in 1980), he has been a member of the Board of Visitors of the Syracuse Developmental Center; and between 1978 and 1980, he was President of that Board. In 1980, Governor Carey also appointed him to his Conference on the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities and Infant Mortality. In 1981, Lt. Governor Mario Cuomo (later Governor) of New York appointed him to the Public Awareness Committee of the New York State Commission on the International Year of Disabled Persons. Also, for several years he has served as a member of the New York Special Olympics Summer Games Honorary Committee. In 1983, New York Lieutenant Governor Delbello appointed him to a task force on "Aging-out" and the Handicapped. And in 1978, State Education Commissioner Gordon Ambach appointed

him to the Doctoral Council of the State of New York; he completed his term in 1983, but remains an ad hoc member for Education reviews.

In the past, he has served: as consultant to the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation; on the National Advisory Boards of United Cerebral Palsy and the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness; at the requests of Governors Notte and Chafee as principal consultant to the Rhode Island Legislative Committee Studying the Education of Handicapped Youth (1962-1963); as Research Project Director, Massachusetts Study of Educational Opportunities for Handicapped and Disadvantaged Children, Massachusetts Advisory Council on Education (1970) -- a study which powered the development of the pioneering legislation, Massachusetts Chapter 766, enacted in 1972; and as research consultant on special education to the New York State (Fleischman) Commission on the Quality, Cost and Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education (1971). Between 1963 and 1969, he was principal consultant and prepared official reports and monographs for the Connecticut Seaside Regional Center Plan to Reduce Institutionalization of the Retarded, supported by Public Health Service, National Institute of Health. For five years during that same period, he was engaged as senior consultant on mental retardation to the Prince Edward Island, Canada, Provincial Government. He has also been the recipient of many other research, demonstration, and training grants and contracts under the auspices of such agencies as: the Department of Education, the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, Social Rehabilitation Services, National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Connecticut Cerebral Palsy Association, Massachusetts and New York State Departments of Education, and Massachusetts and New York State Offices of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

In 1973-74, he chaired the Senior Consultant Panel and was a participant in

the Systems Research Incorporated-Syracuse University Study of the Handicapped Effort in Head Start, Office of Child Development. He was a member of the Onondaga County Special Legislative Commission Studying Mental Health and Mental Retardation (1974-1975). He has also served as: a member of the Board of Directors of the Central New York-Trinidad Partners for the Americas; consultant to Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey; and as reviewer of research and training proposals for Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Special Education, and other units of the United States Department of Education. During 1976-1977, he was a member of the Behavior Research Control Group of the Hastings Center Institute of Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences. Between 1979 and 1982, he chaired the panel of consultants to the Syracuse University-Upstate Medical Center (SUNY) "Early Education of the Handicapped" service and demonstration project. And more recently he was consultant to: the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies and the State University of New York at Binghamton research project on the Assessment of Handicapped Children. Currently he is a member of: the New York Teacher Education Conference Board; the New York State Council of Education Deans (past chairman); the National Advisory Council of the Young Adult Institute and Workshop, New York City; the Developmental Evaluation Center Advisory Committee of the Pediatrics Department, Upstate Medical Center: SUNY; and the Syracuse Civil Seminar Advisory Board. Also, he is a founding member of "Operation Real Rights" (1981).

He is a member of: the Association for the Severely Handicapped, Onondaga Association for Retarded Citizens, National Society for the Study of Education, and Phi Delta Kappa; a fellow, life member, past National Councilor from the Northeast Region (1958, 1965), past national vice president: Education (1971-1973), and past national president (1976-1977) of the American Association on Mental

Deficiency; a founding member of the Board of Trustees of the American Foundation on Mental Deficiency (1984-present); past president (1970-1971) of the Teacher Education Division and past Connecticut state president (1960-1961) of the Council for Exceptional Children; and past member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Exceptional Children.

He and his family live at 106 Cedar Heights Drive, Jamesville, New York 13078. They are members of Temple Beth El of Syracuse, New York. His biography appears in many directories, including (since 1964) Who's Who in America. His bibliography follows under these headings: Books, Monographs, and Major Reports; Book Chapters, Surveys, and Other Reports (includes several technical reports); Articles, Reviews, and Introductions (mainly in refereed journals or other easily accessed publications); Brief Selection of Minor In-House, Journal, Newspaper, Newsletter, and Audio/Visual Publications (includes miscellaneous works in non-refereed or other hard-to-access media); and Editorships. A few of his works "in press," "submitted for publication," and "in preparation" are also listed.

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**Brief Selection of Minor In-House
Journal, Newspaper, Newsletter, and Audio/Visual Publications**

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