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Gain Humorous New Perspective on Disability at BlueBlaze

Laughter leads to insight at BlueBlaze, which debuts at Atlanta's Emory University on Friday, January 31. The free mid-day event features comedian Josh Blue, winner of TV's Last Comic Standing, and Jon McCullough, Executive Director of BlazeSports, leading a conversation on disability, sports, comedy, leadership and the meaning of life. A collaboration between the university's Disability Studies Initiative and BlazeSports, the program promises a unique combination of fun, education, and inspiration.

Josh Blue and Jon McCullough met when they played soccer for the U.S. team in 2004 Paralympics. Blue's career took off when he was the winner of Last Comic Standing in 2004. Now appearing on stages from California to Florida, he's in Atlanta to perform at the Punchline Jan. 30 and Feb. 1 (<http://www.punchline.com/shows.asp?showdate=1/30/2014>).

McCullough is back as a new resident and the new Executive Director of BlazeSports, a living legacy organization of the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta. He is also chairman of the U.S. Soccer Federation's Athlete Council, a member of the International Paralympic Committee's Athlete Council, and a leader in the disability rights movement.

The two are teammates again: BlueBlaze marks Blue's first effort as a BlazeSports Ambassador. Blaze is dedicated to expanding opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to engage in sport and active lifestyles as a means of reaching their full potential. Josh has used sport as a tool in his achievements off the field of play. He proves the organization's credo and supports its mission. It makes for a perfect partnership.

Emory's Disability Studies Initiative is a working group of faculty and students who are interested in the social, cultural, historical, political, and legal dimensions of disability in our world. The program sponsors lectures, performances, film screenings, and presentations on disability-related topics throughout the academic year. Find out more at www.disabilitystudies.emory.edu.

Although admission is free, an RSVP is requested. E-mail: DSI.RSVP@gmail.com. The educational forum fueled by laughter begins at noon on Friday, January 31, in Emory University's Center for Ethics lecture hall (room 102). Parking is available at campus lots for visitors; refreshments are provided by the Disability Studies Initiative.

There will be a BlazeDay event prior to the program at Coan Park Recreational Center at 10am. This will include sports programs for individuals with and without disabilities. It will be an exhibition event that will include active participation for those interested. Coan Park Recreational Center is located at: 1530 Woodbine Ave. SE, Atlanta, GA, 30317.

About BlazeSports America

BlazeSports America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, that changes the lives of children and adults with physical disabilities worldwide through sport. Formed in 1993, as the direct legacy of the 1996 Atlanta Summer Paralympic Games, BlazeSports programs and services encourage lifelong health, build leadership skills, foster independence and inclusion, and promote an inclusive society. BlazeSports is the member of United States Olympic Committee - Multi-Sport Organization, the National Governing Body for Boccia in the US and the USA Member Organization of Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association. For more information about BlazeSports, visit <http://www.blazesports.org>.