

society for disability studies

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Newsletter
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Dear SDS Membership,

We have had a busy summer. I want to thank our outgoing President, Pam Block, for leaving SDS in such good shape and for hanging in for her ex-officio year. The transition of our Executive Office from CUNY to AHEAD appears to be complete. Many thanks to all involved. We say goodbye to Ashleigh at CUNY and welcome Pratik and Mariette from their role as CUNY staff to the Board. Our new Executive Director is Stephan Hamlin-Smith of AHEAD. You might as well learn his name as “Well, Stephan advises.....” seems to flow from my mouth and fingertips all the time. We are setting up new systems to more efficiently track SDS activities. We are also starting our new fiscal year. Now, all memberships will be due with the calendar year. Some of you have had an almost one year grace period from dues during this switch. You will soon receive new membership forms from which we will create an online member directory. Our conference registration system may look the same but is powered by software that gives us more control and will automatically generate a listing of abstracts. We are moving to a period of strong record-keeping accountability that should serve us well in fundraising.

Most of all, we want to commit ourselves to fine member services. Having dedicated paid staff at AHEAD will further this goal. We should be more and more quickly responsive to you. As fitting, the buck stops with me and my email and phone are always available. Although, because of my speech impairment, I do recommend email, IM, text, Skype, or voicemail, unless you are familiar with my speech.

Stephan and I toured hotels in August and settled on the Doubletree San Jose for our 2011 meeting. We should have more space at less cost than any hotel we have visited. The rooms are huge. Although the pool is not a spa with slide, it is lovely and next to the bar and meeting rooms. Fluffy terry cloth robes will be considered appropriate meeting attire. Tammy Berberi and Liat Ben-Moshe are the 2011 Program Chairs, arguably one of the most time consuming roles in SDS. We are working diligently on meeting sites for future years. All ideas are welcome.

This year I want to devote myself to our operational systems, fiscal health, and member satisfaction. I hope to also have time for some special projects. I want to better understand and improve SDS's patterns of member retention, I want to broaden member committee participation, I hope to see the website enlivened, and we must prepare for a new contract cycle for the editorship of DSQ. We also want to work on our archives and find better ways of honoring our members who die. I welcome all your ideas and concerns. We will have a large number of officers and committee chairs leaving the board this year. Please think hard about serving SDS. SDS will be what we make it.

My very best,

Devva, Devva@earthlink.net, 510-206-5767

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SDS 23rd Annual Conference
San José California, Doubletree Hotel
June 15-18, 2011

Call for Papers
Beyond Access: From Disability Rights to Disability Justice

Deadline for submissions: **December 15, 2010**

To submit go to www.disstudies.org

“[Disability justice is] not self-sufficiency but self-determination, not independence but interdependence, not functional separateness but personal connection, not physical autonomy but human community.” - Paul K. Longmore

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and 2008 witnessed both the passage of the ADA Amendments Act and, on the international stage, the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). In passing the ADA Amendments Act, the U.S. Congress sought to redress nearly twenty years of rulings that severely narrowed the scope of protections afforded in the original bill. The Convention formally marks a paradigm shift towards considering people with disabilities as subjects who must be able to exercise their own rights, rather than objects of medical inquiry or charitable intervention. These developments seem to suggest gains in the history of disability rights, and yet many disability activists contend that real gains can only be made if disability is conceptualized as part of an intersecting network of historic and contemporary power structures that must be addressed holistically and systemically.

We invite conference participants to reconsider the issues of rights and access in light of local, national and global commitments and resistance to achieving disability justice. We offer the following broad questions in a variety of disciplines and encourage interdisciplinary perspectives:

- How is social justice conceptualized? What competing visions emerge within these conceptualizations?
- What tensions have hampered social justice gains for people with disabilities?
- How might disability-based conceptualizations of social justice complicate and enhance other issues of social justice?
- How have coalitional politics shaped momentum—or barriers—to achieving disability justice?
- How do various technologies—and access to them—shape coalitions and enhance or hinder progress?
- How are or how can societies address the enduring poverty that people with disabilities face throughout the world? How does poverty shape / limit access to opportunities?
- How might institutions and agencies be transformed to better ensure justice for individuals with disabilities and their communities?
- How might community engagement serve the cause of enhancing disability justice?
- How does cultural context shape a local agenda for rights and access?
- How does the intersection of disability studies with other critical scholarship (critical race studies, gender/feminist studies, queer studies, immigrant studies, post-colonial studies) promote more nuanced understandings of social justice?
- How can and how do liberatory textual and / or performative practices enact disability justice?
- What liberatory moments, paradigms, practices, and aspirations have shaped the path(s) towards disability justice?

We welcome proposals in all areas of disability studies, as well as submissions premised on this year's theme. To submit please go to www.disstudies.org.

Get excited for San Jose!

The 2011 Conference Site committee (Devva Kasnitz, Alberto Guzman, Pratik Patel, and Stephan Hamlin-Smith) is pleased to announce that SDS has secured the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose California as the site for the next conference.



The hotel offers many sleeping rooms at reasonable rates along with an atypically large number of rooms that have been thoughtfully adapted to accommodate guests with a broad range of specific requirements for sleeping, bathing and dressing. Additionally, the hotel is providing SDS with complimentary convenient meeting space appropriate to the needs of the organization that is all located on the main floor of the hotel in a user-friendly layout. Other highlights of the hotel and area include:

- Location within two blocks (sidewalks, ramps, lighted) of the accessible San Jose light rail stop;
- 25 restaurants within reasonable pedestrian distance of the hotel (details provided at check-in) in addition to the four eateries within the hotel itself ranging from coffee shop/deli to finer dining;
- Lift-equipped and non-lift-equipped complimentary airport transportation between the San Jose International airport and the hotel;
- Spacious and plentiful public spaces, both inside and out, conducive to stopping, visiting, having an informal discussion, whatever you like;
- Complimentary wireless internet for hotel guests in all sleeping rooms and public spaces;
- And a whole lot more!

This location is so convenient to many great places and sites. To accommodate conference attendees who would like to come early, or stay late to take advantage of the area, the Doubletree will also honor the SDS group rate up to three days before and three days after the conference itself. The SDS room block will become available for reservations in early January 2011, and we will ensure that everyone receives full details well-in-advance regarding making reservations and accessing the deeply discounted SDS room rate of US\$109/night, single or double occupancy.



On behalf of the site committee – we look forward to seeing you in San Jose!

San Jose Highlights



San Jose is located at the southern end of San Francisco Bay. The third-largest city in California, and the 10th largest in the United States, San Jose offers many exciting attractions and points of interest. There are beautiful parks and outdoor recreational activities such as the Almaden Quicksilver County Park, with 4,147 acres of former mercury mines, and Rosicrucian Park which showcases Egyptian and Moorish architecture set among lawns, rose gardens, statuary, and fountains. San Jose offers a trail system with over 53 miles of trails. It is home to many cultural attraction such as the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies (home of the largest Beethoven collection outside of Europe), the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, the Portuguese Historical Museum, the San Jose Museum of Art, and the Tech Museum of Innovation. And for sports fans, in June the minor league baseball team, the San Jose Giants, should be playing.

The Affiliated Scholar Program Selects its First Recipient

The SDS Board of Directors is glad to announce its first Affiliated Scholar: Laura Lofaro.

The Affiliated Scholar Program is a new program, conducted in collaboration with the Ohio State University, designed to open research opportunities to SDS members who face barriers in doing their research due to lack of institutional support.

Ms. Lofaro will be conducting a study which explores Disability as a Social Qualifying Factor. She will be gathering first-hand accounts on this topic and developing theories pertaining to conditional acceptance (i.e. who "fits in" in disability culture and community).

The board is very excited about this research project and the Affiliated Scholar program roll out. Please look for future calls seeking new scholars.

Congratulations to Laura Lofaro!



[Call for Nominations for the 2011 SDS Senior Scholar Award](#)

SDS invites nominations for the 2011 SDS Senior Scholar Award. The award will be presented at the 2011 SDS Conference, to be held in San Jose, California. Please consider nominating your mentors and colleagues who have shaped the field of disability studies.

General qualifications for a "senior scholar" include:

- The nominee should have a terminal degree in his/her relevant field (PhD, EdD, MFA, DOT, DPT, etc.)
- The scholar should have a minimum of a decade of experience as a scholar in the field (such experience can include published scholarship, creative/artistic production, significant grants/applied research, or other equivalent activities)
- The nominee's scholarship should have made a significant contribution to and/or impact on the field of Disability Studies
- The nominee should have demonstrated excellence in and commitment to teaching, mentoring, or other kinds of leadership
- There are no restrictions on a nominee's discipline or area of study (films, performances, on-line publications, traditional academic books and articles are all viewed as equally acceptable and deserving of recognition)
- The nominee does not have to be a member of SDS

RESTRICTIONS for nominations for this award:

Members of the SDS Board are ineligible for the award during their tenure on the board.

SDS SENIOR SCHOLAR APPLICATION:

The following must be submitted for an individual to be considered for the award:

- A brief letter of nomination. We encourage self-nominations, as well as nominations of other individuals. If you wish to nominate someone other than yourself, please consult with that individual. We will ask that individual to confirm that she/he is willing to be considered.
- A minimum of two letters of support from individuals other than the nominee.
- A copy of the nominee's CV.
- Contact information for the nominee.

Additional material may be requested (i.e., if the review committee is unable to locate and/or retrieve the nominee's materials through databases and libraries). Application packets should be sent electronically to: Allison Carey at accare@ship.edu (or if necessary, by fax at 717-477-4011 or by mail at Allison C. Carey, Department of Sociology, 436 Grove Hall, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257)

All applications must be received and complete by **January 28, 2011**.

AWARD:

The recipient of the SDS Senior Scholar Award will receive the following recognition:

- A reserved slot to give a presentation at the 2011 SDS Conference;
- Her/his name permanently posted on the SDS Website as a recipient of the award;
- A certificate of recognition.

We look forward to receiving nominations for this honor.

Irving K. Zola Award for Emerging Scholars in Disability Studies

The Society for Disability Studies (SDS) is pleased to announce the 2011 Irving K. Zola Award for Emerging Scholars in Disability Studies. Funded through the generosity of the late Professor Zola's colleagues at Brandeis University, this annual award recognizes excellence in research and writing that shares the values and commitment to disability studies exemplified by Irving K. Zola's life and scholarship.

Eligibility:

- The Zola Award is typically given to an emerging scholar in disability studies. This will typically be someone who has completed a Ph.D. within the past seven years and who does not yet have tenure. Applications will also be accepted from scholars with other degrees or those who received their degrees earlier but only recently moved into the area of disability studies. Emerging scholars who work in non-academic settings are also welcome to apply.
- The research submitted must be relevant to disability studies, which we define broadly to include the examinations of concepts and values related to disability in all forms of cultural representation throughout history, as well as analyses which deepen our understanding of the personal and social dimensions of the lived experience of disability.

Award: The winner will receive:

- A financial award of \$350;
- Conference registration for the SDS 2011 conference;
- An opportunity to present his or her work at the SDS 2011 conference;
- Publication in *Disability Studies Quarterly* ;
- The possibility of a public presentation at Brandeis University; and
- A certificate.

Submission:

- All manuscripts must be submitted by **January 28th, 2011**. The recipient of the award will be announced on or around March 30th, 2011.

To be considered for the competition, all manuscripts must adhere to the following criteria:

- Overall length must not exceed 30 pages (double spaced, 12 point font);
- Citations should follow the formatting appropriate for the author's field of study;
- Must be written in English;
- Must be available in alternative formats (e.g., large print, Braille, audiotape) upon request of the Awards Committee;
- Must have content reflecting on a topic relevant to disability studies;
- Must be written by a single author who is also primarily responsible for the research described.
- Must not have been previously published. Manuscripts not currently under consideration are preferred;
- Manuscript must be accompanied by a current CV and the completed application form.
- Please send the completed application form, the manuscript, and a CV, as attachments, in MSWord, to [Sunaura Taylor](mailto:sunaura.taylor@brandeis.edu) with "Irving K. Zola Award" in the subject line. **The application form can be found at:**

http://disstudies.org/about/awards/2011_zola_award/2011_irving_k_zola_award_emerging_scholars_disability_studies. If e-mail is not available, send the application form, a current CV, and five copies of the manuscript to the following address: Sunaura Taylor. 333 Henry St, Apt A Oakland, CA 94607



In Memoriam Paul Miller (1961 – 2010)

SDS mourns the loss of disability studies scholar, lawyer, and activist Paul Steven Miller. Miller graduated from Harvard Law School and in 1990 became the director of litigation for the Western Law Center for Disability Rights at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. Miller quickly gained a reputation as an expert in disability law and employment discrimination. He served as advisor to two presidents – Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. In 1994, President Clinton appointed Miller to be Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a position that he held for 10 years. In 2004, Miller accepted a position as professor of law at University of Washington (UW). While at UW, Miller directed the disability studies program from 2006 to 2009 and in 2008 was appointed the Henry M. Jackson Professor of Law. Later in his career, Miller’s research interests focused on the relationship between employment discrimination and genetics, and he played a significant role in the passage of the 2008 Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act. Miller worked tirelessly as a leader in the disability rights movement, and in 2002 received the Award for Promoting Awareness of Individuals with Dwarfism from the organization Little People of America. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Coletti Mechen, two daughters, and two step siblings.

Remembering Paul Longmore By Cathy Kudlick

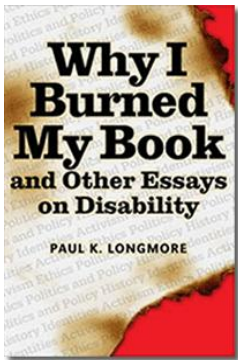
By the time I finally met Paul Longmore fifteen years ago, I was a complete wreck. New to disability studies and awkward about my own “legal blindness,” I had plucked up all my courage and written him a breathless, deeply personal “coming out” letter. Now here I was at SDS two years later, and he hadn’t answered. What was I thinking, writing to such an eminent disabled scholar and activist? Had I said too much? Been too naïve? Had I inadvertently written something insensitive about disability and disabled people? Maybe I should have said “people with disabilities.” Or “disabled persons.”

But finally, in June 1995 lurking at the back of a session in a packed, stuffy hotel conference room, I heard this clear-voiced, witty, unnervingly articulate man in the audience respond to something one of the presenters couldn’t quite explain. He spoke in a paragraph, commanding the attention of the room. His presence was simultaneously inviting and uncompromising, laced with - I searched for the right word because it wasn’t one I often applied to academics - mischievousness. Swallowing hard, I knew it had to be *him*.

“Oh my goodness, I owe you a letter!” Paul moaned, once I’d managed to squeak out my name and tried to figure out if/where/how to shake his hand as nystagmus made my eyes jump. Describing himself as a “hunchback in reverse and basically all bugged up” to help clarify my confusion, he invited me to lunch in the hotel restaurant. I think it must have been just the two of us because I remember him unsuccessfully teaching me how to feed him, both of us cracking up when my lack of depth perception caused me to miss my target. “Remind me never to go to lunch alone with a blind person!” he quipped, and for reasons that say everything about Paul’s way of being in the world, I felt at ease enough to tease back “next time be sure to order the piping hot soup and the spaghetti!”



Over the years when people in the disability community would swap stories about how they'd met, I'd always ask Paul when he was going to respond to my letter. "Not that letter again!" he'd say. "I'm still working on it: I have polio, so it needs to be perfect."



I always wondered what he would have written as a response. At the time I didn't know that he typed by using hunt and peck with a pencil in his mouth to tap the keys. I imagine him stretched out on his bed, surrounded by open books and papers, or leaning against the podium he had on his dining room table where he'd read the *New York Times* and sometimes looked over one of his print-outs, one minute exclaiming "this is the best paragraph I've ever written," and the next completely tearing it apart with equal relish, saying "now I know what I was trying to do all along!" I imagine the response to my letter flickering on his screen, interrupted by composing a long, passionate email to one of his many listserv communities. Some of those posts should be collected and published - he's the only one I ever knew to include footnotes.

But back to his response to my letter. "Dear Cathy," and the phone rings, someone wanting his advice about how to find a lawyer specializing in disability discrimination. After an hour he has soothed the distraught mother of an autistic child and introduced her to several organizations, some related to law, others related to autism. He hangs up, only to have the phone ring again. He listens to a series of excited questions, this time soothing a department colleague after a dreary meeting. Then another call, this one about an upcoming talk to a group of physicians who want the disability perspective. "Do they, really?!" he smiles, a twinkle in his eye. His evening attendant arrives to fix dinner and get him ready for bed, but she's giving two day's notice because she has to relocate to another state to join her partner who finally got a decent job. How to find a new one, especially one who is reliable, trustworthy, and discrete? Tomorrow's lecture needs tweaking, he wants to finish watching that Greta Garbo movie he started, he wonders who among the three maintenance and grounds people he's bonded with at the university would most quickly fix the broken elevator, he's almost done reading that article on linguistic theory that will help him parse out the role of language in early America. Back to the computer: "Dear Cathy," dear Cathy, dear Cathy

Words begin to flow as he considers his first important principle, that people who identify as disabled must be the ones to write their own histories: "People with disabilities and people without disabilities often perceive 'disability' in very different ways. Indeed, many times their assumptions and perceptions radically conflict. As a result, their expectations and prescriptions about 'what needs to be done' clash too. This seems to be a feature of the historical experience of disability throughout, at least, the modern era. Much of the time, in the present, as in the past, nondisabled perspectives have dominated while disabled views have typically been viewed as illegitimate. Disabled people have often been considered unqualified to speak for themselves, to interpret their own experience."

He pauses to consider the endless numbers of books and classes about disabled people, most of them missing the mark precisely because they fail to take the perspective of disabled people into account. He smiles, wondering if this Cathy or most readers will appreciate his wording: "That deficiency characterizes academic research not only in the applied fields, but also in the social sciences and humanities. Beyond the academy, that defect impairs professional practice in a wide array of disability-related fields, including education, medicine, policy making, psychology, social work, and vocational rehabilitation."

But maybe he first needs to explain why writing such histories should matter at all. Of course it's obvious to him, and probably to this Cathy Person - she's a history professor, after all! But it isn't always so obvious to his disabled brothers and sisters just trying to get by in daily life. He contemplates the many talks he's given over the years, to disability rights rallies, before various advocacy groups,

outside of nursing homes, government buildings, impromptu gatherings, to students in his office and living room. Heroes, feel good stories, aren't enough. Processes, Systems, Movements, Individuals all need rigorous, objective study, even if it means uncovering contradictions and unpleasant realities. Only through this understanding can we begin to address what's wrong and bring about lasting change. Whether it's his speeches or the words he hopes to publish, he's on "a search for 'a useable past' for the disability rights movement. Even the pieces that address contemporary issues [must] seek to locate these concerns in a larger and longer-term historical context." Then he beams triumphantly as the perfect phrase flows from his mind to the screen: "The reconstruction of a useable past can contribute to the building of an accessible future."



Now that he's figured out a pithy way to explain the importance of history to disabled people, he needs to find one for convincing historians why disability matters. They're a stubborn, skeptical lot, grounded in facts and archives, the real workhorses of the humanities and bearers of that creative spark. He thinks back to the joys of researching and writing his PhD dissertation that would at last morph into one of his proudest accomplishments, *The Invention of George Washington*, published by a university press in 1988. He recalls his double life back then. In one he was the Disability Activist who fought against the cruel Catch-22 rules of the Social Security Administration that wouldn't (and still won't) allow him to accept fellowship money without cutting the benefits he needs to pay for in-home attendant care. In the other, he satisfied his insatiable hunger to understand America's colonial past, pouring over documents and treatises, sparring with his professors and fellow graduate students in seminars. "Personal inclinations made me a historian," he writes, "personal encounters with public policies made me an activist." Only once he came upon Lennard Kriegel's 1962 essay "Uncle Tom and Tiny Tim: Some Reflections on the Cripple as Negro" almost two decades after it had appeared in the *American Scholar* did he begin to see how his double life need not be double at all. He pauses to ponder burning his book about George Washington as a PR stunt to draw attention to "work disincentives" built into aid for disabled people; it's funny how more than anything else, this single act simultaneously underscored his double life and made it one.

But how to frame disability in terms that will satisfy the curmudgeons and animate the newcomers to history as a discipline? So simple and central, yet so complex when applied to what historians think they already know: "It has functioned as a ubiquitous, though unacknowledged, organizing concept and symbol in the modern world, operating synergistically as public problem, cultural metaphor, social identity, and mechanism for managing social relations. Disability, then, is at once a neglected set of historical experiences, an important theme overlooked in many fields, and a central component of history in general." If anything is ever going to change society's attitudes toward disability and disabled people, it will have to be built on the solid foundations of historical evidence. And for historians to think of disability as important, "like gender, race, and class, it must become both a subject of comparative historical study and a standard, indispensable tool of historical analysis." Above all, to win converts and to remain true to his own principles, these histories have to be well done, rigorous, exacting, and ever-mindful of offering real tools for bringing about change.

Of course it isn't just about history, he thinks, as he returns to *The Letter*. There are films and television, and other representations that reinforce stereotypes, feed into all the misunderstandings about physician-assisted suicide, medical decision-making, how people with disabilities make sense of a world that mostly wishes they weren't around. He sighs. *The Letter* is already turning out to be longer than the one that requires a response.

Maybe the best example of how his disability activism and historical scholarship work in tandem would be an idea that's kicking around in his head, what he's already thinking of as "The Telethon Book." He imagines it as a critical, deeply researched history of the most egregious exploitation of disabled people and resources. Revealing these processes and their historical roots has everything for everyone in the worlds he cares most about: Economic incentives of maintaining and nurturing disability as a multi-billion dollar industry. Politics and policy linked to a useless healthcare system. American ideas of philanthropy and doing-good, "conspicuous contribution" (he must write that one down - could come in useful someday!) Shameless exploiting of children and their families to earn money by promoting pity. The impact of mass media, manipulation that trades in and perpetuates stigma.



His head hurts, plus he's supposed to plan a second date with one of the two women he's been flirting with on email, "Dr. Strangelove" is on TV, or maybe a jazz concert He closes the file and sighs.

Five years have passed, and still no response to my letter, as I'm always quick to remind Paul. But we spend hours on the phone and occasional dinners of delivered pizza in his living room, an easy meal to serve, even for someone without depth perception. He shares his excitement of getting funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to run a Summer Institute for faculty interested in exploring Disability Studies. He will host it at San Francisco State in July 2000 with Rosemarie Garland-Thomson a professor of English at Howard University whose own work is also shaping the field. They will bring together twenty-five scholars from a variety of humanities disciplines, and he promises to write a response to my application letter if I apply. I'm nervous, feeling unsure, not smart or disabled enough, my project about the history of blind people in France not relevant enough. He comforts me with an email about my proposed research: "You're the one to do it. You're the only one who can. It's also important because it will enable you to explore some vitally important personal stuff. And I will support you and listen to you and give you feedback all of the way. We are all embarked on truly significant work. We are developing a useable past. And you have a key role to play." (Email, November 29, 1999)

I realize that encouraging someone like me isn't just about ego maintenance; it's part of a larger strategy to build a field that will change attitudes. He sees all the pieces: the scholarship and the teaching, but also the broader institutional structures that will nurture the work and sustain the message. Not surprisingly, as he's planning for the Summer Institute, he has also been thinking of other possible allies in academe, as his May 9, 2000 email to the DS-HUM discussion list makes clear: "The presence of senior academicians with disabilities suggests some encouraging possibilities. Because these experienced professionals know the ropes of academic career-building, they could mentor younger disabled scholars. Because of their experience in academic administration and institutional politics (some have been departmental chairs, deans, and occupied other administrative and leadership positions), they could play an important role in building Disability Studies programs.

"At the same time, many of them need to be 'mentored' about a minority group perspective regarding disability. Many were taught that the way to achieve legitimacy was to 'overcome' their disabilities by personal striving. They had to operate and succeed professionally within a totally unreformed system. They got little or no encouragement to name disability prejudice as their chief burden or to resist disability discrimination. Yet at varying levels of awareness, they knew that they faced disability bias. The task on our side is to nurture that awareness. We need to do that, not just through political advocacy, but through personal relationships. Who better than we to identify and empathize with the struggles of other pwds?"

Benefiting from the five-weeks of lively, sustained, intense discussions at the NEH Summer Institute in 2000, our cohort of “Paul’s Kids and Rosemarie’s Babies” gets a crash course in these lessons, ones that Paul knows we’ll carry out into our own institutional worlds. In fact, countless seeds sprout that will grow into interdisciplinary collaborations, conferences, articles, books, creative work . . . Paul rallies several of us historians at the Summer Institute to discuss the possibility of disability history being its own field. We need a discussion list, our own scholarly organization, and our own journal - one that, Paul argues passionately, must be started and maintained by established, respected historians and fed by innovative new scholarship. With the launch of H-Disability, our merry little band quickly expands to several hundred members; a few years later in 2005 the Disability History Association will bring added legitimacy. By 2008 Paul will host the first major disability history conference, again at San Francisco State, which will draw more than sixty participants from around the world. Over the years we’ll also reach out to the American Historical Association, where he’ll play a key role on the newly-formed Task Force on Disability Issues as the go-to person for all questions related to access and making the profession more welcoming to people with disabilities. But he’s quick to remind everyone - as he has since early in his career - that access must always be interwoven with rigorous scholarship in disability history because the concrete and the cerebral inevitably nurture one another.

I tear up at the thought of Paul no longer being with us: now I’ll never get a response to my letter! And worse still, I won’t be able to rib him about it. But as all the quotes I’ve included from his published work and emails reveal, he’s been responding all along.

Check out DSQ

Disability Studies Quarterly, the first journal in the field of disability studies, is the journal of the SDS. Current issues and the full archives are accessible free of charge at <http://www.dsqsds.org>. Please check our recent issues:

Vol 30 No. 3/4 (2010): Disability And/In Time

Vol 30 No. 2 (2010): Learning Disabilities

Vol 3 No 1 (2010): Autism and the Concept of NeuroDiversity

From the SDS Executive Office

As you are likely aware, SDS' new executive offices are housed within the offices of the Association on Higher Education And Disability (AHEAD). We are pleased to report that the transition from operations at CUNY to AHEAD have gone very well; due in no-small-part to the tremendous efforts of the staff at CUNY including Mariette Bates, Ashleigh Thompson, and Pratik Patel who worked tirelessly to prepare for this transition. AHEAD looks forward to providing the SDS membership and organization with a successful and supportive executive office for the next several years. Like any transition – no matter how smooth – it is always possible that there will be little bumps along the way. If you notice a bump... please let us know.

To familiarize you with your new primary staff, the following is a brief overview introduction to the staff members who are working for you, their contact information, and a little bit about the types of works they do on behalf of SDS.

Tri Do (pronounced Tree Doh) is the manager of information services. His areas of responsibility and service to SDS include the Website, the mechanics of electronic communications (e.g. listervs), the mechanics of online payment, registration and program support functions, and responding to the info@disstudies.org email inquiry account. You can reach Tri by email at Tri@ahead.org

Oanh Huynh (pronounced Wan Whin), AHEAD's associate director, is the manager of accounts and finance for SDS. Oanh will handle all book-keeping, financial records, accounts payable and receivable, reimbursements, Federal and State tax and reporting, and the facilitation of financial audits as requested by the SDS Board of Directors. Oanh can be reached by email at Oanh@ahead.org

Stephan Hamlin-Smith, AHEAD's executive director, serves as the executive officer for SDS as well. Stephan's primary areas of responsibility for SDS are the overall management of the Society's business operations, support for the Board of Directors and their initiatives, and oversight of all work done by the staff on behalf of SDS. Stephan can be reached by email at Stephan@ahead.org

Valerie Spears-Jarrell, AHEAD's manager of communications, will serve as the primary member services contact for SDS members. Additionally, Valerie provides support in areas of conference planning, editing, layout, design, and special projects/support requested by the SDS Board of Directors. Valerie can be reached by e-mail at Valerie@ahead.org

In addition to the individual email addresses show above, the staff for SDS can also be reached by calling SDS' telephone number at: 704-274-9240 or AHEAD's telephone number at 704-947-7779. If you utilize relay services for telephone calling, please feel welcome to contact us through your traditional relay service or by using the link available on the homepage of www.ahead.org

Your executive office staff is here to be of service to you and we always welcome hearing from you!

Your Generosity Matters

Become an Organizational Member and/or Supporter of SDS

Increasing the financial capacity of SDS is essential to maintaining the health of the organization, as well as to initiate and support programs that benefit our members and further the work of disability studies. Your donation provides support for:

- ✓ *Disability Studies Quarterly*—the first journal dedicated to disability studies
- ✓ Travel Scholarships—to enable more members to participate in the annual conference
- ✓ The Affiliated Scholar Program—a new initiative, which endeavors to provide access to resources through academic institutional affiliations for SDS members in need
- ✓ The daily operations of SDS

The Organizational Membership is a package of benefits designed just for institutions of higher learning or other organizations. For \$250 per year, organizational members:

- May nominate up to two student/low-income members for free SDS memberships
- Can post freely to a job page on the SDS website and listserv
- Are listed in the conference program as supporters of SDS
- For more information go to: http://www.disstudies.org/membership/membership_type/

To learn more options for donating to SDS, please visit our website at:

http://disstudies.org/conference/2011_conference_call_programs/2011_conference_advertising_and_sponsorship/2011_conference.

SDS thanks all of those individuals and organizations that support SDS through financial, in-kind, and volunteer contributions!

Report from the Finance Committee

The financial health of the Society has stabilized in the last few years, but only by the measure that operating deficits have been reduced. This improvement has been due to better management and charitable contributions. On a long-term basis, however, the organization needs new sources of revenue in addition to membership dues and conference attendance fees. This support must come from foundations, charities and even businesses. At the same time, the Board recognizes that SDS does not desire support from organizations whose goals or activities are directly at variance with the goals of the Society. Therefore, the Board respectfully asks all members to consider with care what contacts they may have that could properly support SDS. Please send all suggestions, with contact information for the organization or individual, to the SDS Treasurer, Franklin K. Wyman, Ph.D., at Chips314@aol.com. We would appreciate hearing your suggestions by December 15th, 2010 to enable us to prepare for our 2011 fundraising drive.

SDS Board Members

Our current board consists of:

Devva Kasnitz, President	Frank Wyman, Treasurer
Alberto Guzman, Vice President	Joan Ostrove, Secretary
Susan Baglieri	Mariette Bates
Liat Ben-Moshe	Tammy Berberi
Allison Carey	Lawrence Carter-Long
Alex Lubet	Nina Slota
Pratik Patel	Sunaura Taylor
Pamela Block - ex officio	

Look for a call for new board members coming soon, and please consider running and bringing your skills and interests to the SDS board. SDS is what we make it!

SDS Committees

List of SDS Committees and Chairs

We thank all of you who have served on SDS Committees. Please consider serving on an SDS committee. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the chair of the committee of interest or Joan Ostrove at ostrove@macalester.edu.

Awards Committee, Nina Slota, nina_p_slota@yahoo.com

Senior Scholar Award, Allison Carey, accare@ship.edu

Irving K. Zola Award, Sunara Taylor, sunarataylor@gmail.com

Affiliated Scholar Award, Alberto Guzman, albertog@email.arizona.edu

Finance, Frank Wyman, chips314@aol.com

Fundraising, Sue Baglieri, susan.baglieri@liu.edu

Membership, Allison Carey, accare@ship.edu, & Nina Slota, nina_p_sloata@yahoo.com

Nominations/Elections, Pratik Patel, pratikp@gmail.com

Policy, Devva Kasnitz, devva@earthlink.net

Program Committee, Tammy Berberi, berberit@umn.edu & Liat Ben-Moshe, lbenmoshe@maxwell.syr.edu

Local Arrangements: Alberto Guzman, alberto@email.arizona.edu

Accessibility, Joan Ostrove [as secretary], ostrove@macalester.edu

Research and Publications, Amy Vidali, amy.vadali@undenver.edu & Alex Lubet, lubet001@umn.edu

AD-HOC COMMITTEES

By-law revision, Frank Wyman, chips314@aol.com

Goal Implementation, Pam Block, pblock@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

In Depth Member Profiles

At the 2010 SDS conference, we had a session for new members and a panel at which some of the early founders of SDS presented. As a follow-up, we invited a newer SDS member, Heidi A. Temple, and one of the original members, Sharon Barnartt, to contribute member profiles.

Heidi A. Temple, University of Maryland, College Park, PhD Student

I first became interested in Disability Studies as a Theatre Studies graduate student at Florida State University (2004-6). My advisor, Dr. Carrie Sandahl, is one of the primary reasons that I chose this field (although sometimes it feels like the field chose me). Her work in disability and performance, as well as her course on Disability and Media Representation lit a fire that would result in my master's thesis: " 'Every Now and Then a Madman's Bound to Come Along': The Use of Disability Metaphor in the Musicals of Stephen Sondheim – Freak Shows and Freakish Love." I have since had the opportunity to present part of this work at a Sondheim Symposium, where the artist himself was in attendance. While at FSU, I also earned a Museum Studies certification, which culminated in the completion of a full analysis and critique of the Mutter Museum located in Philadelphia, PA. After completing my masters, I had the opportunity to serve as an intern with Katherine Ott in the Medicine and Sciences Division of the Smithsonian's American History Museum. This allowed for my first publication(s) in the *Encyclopedia of American Disability History*, edited by Susan Burch.



My American Studies PhD work began at the University of Maryland in 2007. Initially, I continued to focus on the use of disability in musical theatre, but my current work has been heavily influenced by the Women's Studies certification that I have also earned at Maryland. My dissertation project is an analysis and critique of the ongoing deployment of a particular late nineteenth century female rhetors' argumentation style. I argue that feminists' devotion to this idiom, with its reliance on disability rhetoric, the binary of independence/dependence, and expediency arguments, is a leading contribution to the fractures in today's women's movement. This discourse has had a long-standing impact on current feminist arguments surrounding rights and citizenship, particularly those that relate to disabled women, motherhood, and reproductive rights.

At Maryland, I have worked to include Disability Studies readings in every course that I teach. I have been able to bring readings in to every week of class for an "Introduction to American Studies" course on identity construction, and have proposed and taught my own course entitled, "Cultural Representations of Disability in the US." I have also had a number of opportunities to guest lecture, in undergraduate and graduate classes, on Disability Studies and Disability Issues while at Maryland. In Spring 2010, I will be teaching "Cultural Representations of Disability, Gender and Sexuality in the U.S." in the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department at Anne Arundel Community College in Annapolis, MD. This course will look specifically at intersectional approaches to disability, gender and sexuality, which is very exciting to me, and the director of that program is eager to include Disability Studies as another component of the work that is done within this department.

My dissertation prospectus defense will be held in November, and my goal is to finish my dissertation (I think that's all I need focus on for now ☺) in May 2012.

In-Depth Member Profiles

Sharon Barnartt, Professor of Sociology, Gallaudet University, Washington DC



I was trained as a sociologist--although my Ph.D actually says 'Committee on Human Development' on it--and my jobs have been in sociology departments. I attended my first SDS meeting in 1985, when it was called the Society for the Study of Chronic Illness, Impairment, and Disability and was part of the Western Social Science Association. [Note: SCIID still exists and meets with WSSA]. There was only one session at a time, and everyone interacted with everyone. It was an amazing experience to be at a small [75 people?] meeting in which everyone shared at least some interests. I had been a student of Irv Zola's in the late 1960's, when he did not have a disability consciousness and I had not yet encountered Gallaudet and deafness. The convergence of interests felt like I was coming home, professionally. And I met people who became some of my closest friends in the atmosphere which mixed personal and professional seamlessly.

I became active in SCIID, later SDS, and served on the board, as membership chair, and as president. It was while I was president that we were initially able to set up the central office. I also worked on local arrangements twice when the meetings were in Washington, DC.

By the late 1990's, while my research related to deafness and disability from a sociological point of view had continued, as had my need to interact with colleagues who shared those interests, my interactions with SDS had waned. I felt less able to present my research to an audience with a strong social science background, so I continued to attend sporadically but with less commitment.

SDS now has to compete with disability sections or special interest groups in many disciplines which did not exist when SDS began. SDS is still potentially a good audience for my research, but the split between social science and other aspect of disability studies has made it less appealing to me as a professional venue. I am sorry that has happened, and I hope it will change. I hope that SDS will emulate some of the international disability studies organizations, such as the British Disability Studies Organization and the Nordic Network on Disability Studies, which are more empirically based; if it does, I will be happy to become involved again.

News From Our Members Conferences and CFPs

Disability Studies Quarterly (DSQ) is seeking papers for their Special Issue on Mediated Communication, guest edited by Jeremy L. Brunson and Mitchell E. Loeb. Individuals who experience disablement are often left without complete participation in the society in which they live. This can take different forms and have varying consequences depending the specific type of disability and the environmental accommodations that are available. Individuals whose communication modality differs from the rest of society are often dependent on assistive technologies to facilitate their communication or an intermediary to communicate on their behalf in order to fully participate in society. This Special Issue of Disability Studies Quarterly will focus on mediated communication. Submissions can include but are not restricted to theoretical/empirical papers, cultural/social commentaries, creative works, book/film reviews, and policy/legal analyses. Mediated communication is a cross-cutting subject area that can be explored through literal applications, such as sign language interpreting for deaf people, the use of communication boards and facilitated communication for autistic individuals or individuals with intellectual disabilities; or more figurative/creative representations. Scholars from all disciplines are encouraged to submit an abstract by **December 15, 2010**. Authors will be notified by January 15, 2011 with an anticipated publication date of fall 2011. Submissions can be sent to: jeremy.brunson@gallaudet.edu and mloeb@cdc.gov.

Breaking Boundaries: Body Politics and the Dynamics of Difference, a Conference at Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York, March 4-5, 2011. Free and Open to the Public. Featuring addresses by Marilyn Wann, fat activist and author of *Fat!So?*, and Susan Schweik, author of *The Ugly Laws: Disability in Public*. Submissions due **December 3, 2010**. For information and to submit abstracts, email Tara James at tjames@sarahlawrence.edu.

North Central Sociological Association will hold its annual conference March 31st to April 2nd, 2012 in Cleveland Ohio. The theme is Pragmatism in Research and Education. There are at least two sections focused on disability: Perceptions of Ability and Disability, organized by Leslie Elrond, and Disability and the Pursuit of Social Justice, organized by Allison Carey. Submission deadline is **December 15, 2011**. To see the full CFP, go to: <http://www.ncsanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/CALL-FOR-PAPERS-2011-Oct-21.pdf>.

Nordic Network in Disability Research will hold its upcoming conference May 27-28, 2011 in Reykjavik, Iceland. Submissions are due **December 1st, 2010**. For more information go to <http://www.yourhost.is/nndr2011/nndr-and-national-network-conferences.html>.

Developments in Disability Studies

Disability and Health Journal announces its latest volume, ADA 20th Anniversary: Update on Health Care Services for People with Disabilities, Vol. 3, Issue 4, October 2010.

The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, has initiated a new undergraduate minor in Disability Studies. The minor adds to an existing Disability Studies graduate certificate. www.disabilitystudies.utah.edu.

Mat Fraser, President of the **UK National Association of Disability Practitioners (NADP)** presented at a conference with the NADP Chair, Nicola Martin. As a result, some useful exchanges are taking

place across the Atlantic. NADP promotes disability equality in post-school education and training and is mainly UK based with some international members (disabled people and allies working mainly in universities). NADP is particularly interested in initiatives to promote disability equality in the majority world. Anyone wishing to engage with the network of over 700 people should contact Beverley Fraser (no relation) Beverley@nadp-uk.org.

Harlan Hahn Bequest to the University of Washington Disability Studies Program. The Disability Studies Program at the University of Washington has received a large donation of \$550,000 from the estate of Harlan D. Hahn, disability activist and political scientist. Hahn was a professor at the University of Southern California, specializing in American and urban politics. He was a pioneering scholar in the nascent field of disability studies in the 1970s, and a key figure in the disability civil rights movement. He worked for passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Hahn died in April of 2008. His bequest stipulates that the University of Washington must use the funds for either an endowed chair in disability studies or for disability studies scholarships and research grants. The Disability Studies Program has decided to use some of the funds immediately for student scholarships and faculty grants, while looking for additional gifts to establish an endowed chair in the future. The Harlan Hahn endowment was officially announced in April 2010 (see <http://uwnews.org/uweek/article.aspx?id=57234>). Please visit <http://depts.washington.edu/disstud> for further information on the UW's DS program.

News from Our Members: Personal Achievements

Barbara Altman and Sharon Barnartt announce the publication of *Research in Social Sciences and Disability (RSSD)*, Vol. 5, *Disability as a Fluid State* (November 2010, Emerald Press). This volume argues that the relationship between impairment (physical state) and disability is neither fixed nor permanent but is fluid and not easily predicted. The papers in the volume examine disability at all levels of analysis. Several look at micro-level interactional processes which shape physical conditions into disabilities or impairments into 'normality, some look at cultural differences or changes over time in what constitutes disability, and some look at how social processes and institutions create or deny the status of disability. For more information go to <http://info.emeraldinsight.com/products/books/series.htm?id=1479-3547>.

Suzanne Bailey announces the publication of her book, *Cognitive Style and Perceptual Difference in Browning's Poetry* (Routledge 2010). This biographical and critical study of the Victorian poet Robert Browning is dedicated to her students with learning disabilities, who have taught her to value cognitive difference and its links to creativity. The study explores various cognitive styles, including narrative patterns related to disorders of attention, examining Browning's life and work through this lens.

Jeff Brune received the Priority Grant from the Gallaudet Research Institute to conduct research for his monograph *Faking It?: Disability Stigma and the Modern American State*.

Telory Davies is crafting a book (under contract) on Autistic Artistry that has two sections. In the first section, Davies discusses specific theatrical productions and films that involve either a lead autistic character or a collaborator on the autism spectrum, autism as content focus, art therapy for those on the spectrum, and art as a communication tool, instructional opportunity, backdrop for autistic culture, and reflection of challenges for autistic people. Davies would like the second section to be

composed of creative work by artists on the spectrum, including poetry, short prose, monologues, scenes, play scripts or screenplays, visual art of any kind, and anything that is printable. If you are an artist on the autism spectrum and would like to contribute to this project, please send your questions and/or contributions to Professor Telory Davies at twdavies@missouristate.edu.

Devva Kasnitz, SDS President, was elected to a three-year term on the Committee on Minority Affairs of the American Anthropological Association.

Petra Koppers is researching international disability culture in a post-colonial context at the Australian National University in Canberra, as a Humanities Research Fellow, September-December 2010. Together with Neil Marcus, she is performing 'Journey to the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin' in Brisbane and Canberra in October, and is running master classes and seminars in Melbourne and Dunedin, NZ, in November. On December 8th, the two are back in the US and are performing Cripple Poetics at CSU San Marcos.

Valerie Leiter has organized a thematic panel for the Eastern Sociological Society meetings (Philadelphia, February 24-27, 2011) on "Intersectionality in Disability Studies," including **Liat Ben-Moshe**, **Allison Carey**, **Reshawna Chapple**, **Jay Chaskes** and **Anthony Sommo**.

Alex Lubet delivered the keynote address at the Guelph Jazz Festival Colloquium in Guelph, Ontario. His talk was entitled Paralyzed on One Side(Man): Jazz Meets Disability Studies through the Hands of Horace Parlan. He also spoke on "A Musical Model of Disability" at York University in Toronto. He chaired the first University of Minnesota Symposium on Disability Studies and Inclusive Education in July, 2010 with keynote speakers Marcia Rioux (York University) and Andrew Azzopardi (University of Malta), and presented and performed at the conference.

Jennifer Mankoff, **Gillian Hayes** and **Devva Kasnitz** won Best Paper Award at the SigAssets of ACM Conference, Orlando, FL for their paper *Disability Studies as a Source of Critical Inquiry for the Field of Assistive Technology*. <http://www.sigaccess.org/assets10/schedule.html>.

Ann Millett-Gallant, *The Disabled Body in Contemporary Art* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010) is now available. *The Disabled Body in Contemporary Art* is the first book to cross the disciplines of art history and disability studies. Millett-Gallant visually analyzes images of the body in visual culture—from painting, sculpture, photography, and performance art to medical displays to the nineteenth- and twentieth-century freak show—placing the work of disabled and non-disabled artists in critical dialogue. Pursuing the agenda of disability studies, this book examines western art history through a new lens and draws parallels to sexism, racism, classism, and heterosexism/homophobia.

Michelle Nario-Redmond was just awarded The Vencl/Carr Recognition of Teaching Excellence Award from Hiram College. This Outstanding Teacher Award recognizes individuals who have made an unusual and significant contribution to the education of students beyond the classroom. She recently signed on to serve as the new department chair as well.

Denise Nepveux and **Kate Kaul** have taken up postdoctoral positions at Syracuse University this fall in the Center on Human Policy, Law and Disability Studies.

Elizabeth Reis published "Fetal Dex and Intersex: Why History Matters," co-authored with Suzanne J. Kessler, in the *American Journal of Bioethics* 10:9 (September 2010), 58-59.

Lynn Rose (AKA Martha Edwards) is at the University of Rostock, Germany, on a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship for the 2010-11 academic year. Her invitation to teach Disability Studies courses came from the Institute of British & American Studies and the Special Education Department. Her dog, cat, and husband are spending the year with her in Rostock. Her essay, "Gender, Generation, Ageing, and Disability: The Case of Cheryl Marie Wade" will be published, in German, as part of the *Proceedings of the 2009 Gender Conference*, by LitVerlag. Rose, whose primary field is ancient Greek history, is focusing on projects such as Disability Poetry, Disability Studies Pedagogy, and Disability in the 1950's Midwest. Lynn was severely injured in a car accident in March, 2009; if she has failed to respond to any attempts at contact, this incident is the only reason.

In early October, **Mark Swetz** produced his first practice-based Ph.D. work on Blind Spectatorship at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. He is investigating how to create mainstream theatre and live performance that is more open to audiences with various sensory abilities. The first two pieces of this practical research, *In the Tunnel* and *Foto* were written by ex-AXIS and CandoCo dancer Nadia Adame, who also performs *In the Tunnel*. Mark would be interested in hearing from anyone doing similar work in opening performance to a broader audience: mark@yeca.org.

Frank Wyman, SDS Treasurer, will be teaching a three-course concentration devoted to disabilities in the Medical Humanities program at Drew University: Introduction to the History and Historiography of Disability; Social, Political, Psychological and Legal Aspects of Disability; and Disability: Personal Narrative and Empowerment.