

society for disability studies

Newsletter
Volume 3, Issue 1
Spring 2011

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SDS Membership,

An important theme for the next period for SDS is communication. In the last six months the transition of our Executive Office from CUNY to AHEAD has brought us all renewed energy. We look forward to the San Jose conference, and to other initiatives that will help us implement our strategic plan. In San Jose you will get to meet Stephan Hamlin-Smith and Valerie Spears from the office and I can't thank them and the rest of the staff enough for their guidance.

By now you should have all renewed your membership and you will soon be asked to vote for board members. We are happy to have some veterans running for reelection and some new people. Board members are your representatives and we urge you to establish a dialogue with us both directly and via our listserv. One of my goals is to strengthen and enliven our committee structure. Serving on committees is an important path to leadership. When we think of a new major task, such as the role of Program Chair, for example, we start by thinking of people who have served on the Program Committee. We recently stopped having a student honorary board member. It became unnecessary as we have consistently had students serving as full board members. This talent and experience should serve us well into the future. Look through this newsletter, think about what is important to you and what leadership role you would like to assume, and plan on joining a committee. Each committee will do a bit of show and tell to highlight its work at our annual meeting in San Jose.

Great congratulations go to Tammy Berberi and Liat Ben-Moshe, our Program Co-Chairs for 2011. This is simply the most time consuming job in SDS. They have put together an exciting and welcoming program. We are also very happy to be co-sponsoring a day on Race and Disability with the SVILC, Silicon Valley Independent Living Center in San Jose. This is a critical topic for SDS, one that we have addressed in the past and will surely address in the future. We urge you to support SVILC in this effort. If you can't make it yourself, consider donating so others can attend.

In the past, SDS meetings have been held in cities where we have university partners who have assumed a large part of the work. With the expertise of our new office, we are continually expanding our options. We now have the capacity to mount our conference without a huge local logistical effort. However, we do strive to engage with local disability studies scholars and activists wherever we go. Our 2012 meetings will be in Denver. Local plans are already

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underway to conduct a major arts and disability festival during SDS_week. We will be looking at the Northeast and Southeast regions for 2013. Providence? Atlanta? Charlotte? Send your suggestions!

This summer we will turn to reviewing all of our systems and preserving our past and future institutional memory. Look for opportunities to share more information through a redesigned website, better archives, and more activities between annual meetings.

SDS is solvent now but we are seeing an increase in need for scholarships and support to under employed members. We encourage those of you with good institutional support to think about donating a little extra to our meeting scholarship fund. All members should be able to have the intellectual stimulation that only comes from our vibrant face-to-face meetings.

One last bit of business, as Tammy is Program Co-Chair this year, I am continuing her very successful silent auction from last year. You will soon see my hands on a flyer, at my spinning wheel, making yarn for the SDS silent auction. The worse the world news, the faster I spin. What do you do to relax? Donate those products to the auction. Signed copies of members books did very well last year.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you all.

My very best,

Devva

Devva@earthlink.net

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AT THE....
SDS 23rd Annual Conference
San José California, Doubletree Hotel
June 15-18, 2011**

**Beyond Access: From Disability Rights to Disability Justice
Early Bird Registration Ends May 2nd**

Visit http://www.disstudies.org/conference/2011_conference for more details about the conference and to register!

Conference Highlights
(as of late April - subject to change)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15TH

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Co-sponsored Workshop on Race and Disability

Held at the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC)

(short light-rail ride from DoubleTree; separate registration fee includes lunch)

This workshop will provide a rare opportunity to discuss intersections of race and disability within disability communities. Academics and activists will work together to examine the ways that race, white privilege, and racism impact work on disability issues. To facilitate discussion and create safe spaces, we will provide

dual tracks – one that will focus on issues that disabled people of color face in their communities and another that will critically examine white privilege in the disability community.

9 a.m.-noon **Pre-conference - Enhancing Faculty Knowledge and Practices Related to Students with Disabilities in Higher Education**

(Held at the DoubleTree; \$50 fee added to conference registration)

This half-day Capacity Building Institute will focus on implementation of a model training program developed at the University of Hawai'i that enhances faculty awareness and skills related to students with disabilities. The model program focuses on three key topics: (a) Universal Design for Learning, (b) Cultural Diversity, and (c) Mentoring. Participants in the Institute will view a presentation about the training modules, and explore strategies for enhancing faculty development programs and education efforts to better integrate disability awareness and disability studies concepts into the postsecondary classroom.

6:00 p.m. **Opening Reception** (light refreshments served)

8:00 p.m. **Plenary Performance, *Scars: A Love Story*, by Jim Ferris**

Jim Ferris: bats right, throws right, votes left. He is author of *Facts of Life* and *The Hospital Poems*, which Edward Hirsch selected as winner of the Main Street Rag Book Award in 2004. His book of poems *Slouching Towards Guantanamo* will be published this year. Ferris, who holds a doctorate in performance studies, has performed at the Kennedy Center and across the United States, Canada and Great Britain. Past president of the Society for Disability Studies, he has received fellowship awards in poetry as well as creative nonfiction. His writing has appeared in dozens of publications, ranging from *The Georgia Review* to *Text & Performance Quarterly*, from the *Michigan Quarterly Review* to weekly newspapers. Ferris holds the Ability Center Endowed Chair in Disability Studies at the University of Toledo.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16TH

11:45-1:00 **Plenary Luncheon on policy issues** (lunch provided)

Kathy Martinez, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor; Others TBA

6:00-7:30 p.m. **New Book Reception** (refreshments served)

8:00 p.m. ***Still Lives*, A Different Light Theatre Performance**

Still Lives, a Performance by Different Light Theatre Company Different Light Theatre Company has been devising public performance for six years and has presented productions such as *Ship of Fools*, *Frankenstein's Children*, *The Poor Dears* and *Wizard of Oz* at festivals in New Zealand and Australia to great critical acclaim.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH

4:30-5:45 p.m. **Fundamentals of Physically Integrated Dance, a dance and movement workshop with AXIS Dance Co.** (free for SDS attendees, participation limited to 30 people; pre-registration at conference welcome desk)
Join AXIS dancers for an invigorating workshop that combines creative movement, improvisation and modern dance to explore the exciting genre of physically integrated dance. The focus is to deepen our capacity for movement invention both in our own unique bodies and in relation to the bodies around us. For people with and without physical disabilities, no dance experience required. Founded in 1987, AXIS Dance Company performs nationally, teaches dance, and educates about collaboration and disability through their extensive community education and outreach programs, *Dance Access* and *Dance Access/KIDS!*

6:00-7:00 p.m. **Annual SDS Business Meeting** (light refreshments served)

9:00p.m.-12:00 **Annual SDS Dance!**

SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH

10:15-11:30 **SDS Award Winners Panel**

Recipient of the 2011 SDS Senior Scholar Award, *Tobin Siebers* "Visible Signs: Aesthetics and the Disqualification of Disability" and recipients of the Irving K. Zola Award for Emerging Scholars, Harold Braswell and Bethany Stevens.

11:30a. -1:00 **SDS Poster Session & Annual Members' Auction**, cash-and-carry lunch available

1:00-2:15 **Activism Plenary**

With *Jean Stewart*, CUIDO / Arnieville; *Margaret Price*, author of *Mad at School: Rhetorics of Mental Disability and Academic Life*; other participant(s) TBA

6:30 p.m. ***My Body Love Story*, performed by Dominika Bednarska**

Dominika Bednarska is a doctoral student in English and Disability Studies and a queer disabled femme. Her writing has appeared in *The Bellevue Literary Review*, *Nobody Passes: Rejecting the Rules of Gender and Conformity*, *What I Want From You: An Anthology of East Bay Lesbian Poets*, and *Crippling Femme*. Her solo show entitled *My Body Love Story* was developed as part of the AIRspace residency program and was recently performed as part of the National Queer Arts Festival. It is also cosponsored by FabledASP. Using humor, monologues and dance, *My Body Love Story* chronicles one of the most important relationships that we have: the one with our own body.

Evening entertainment (details TBA)

Welcome to Lovely San Jose!

The 2011 SDS Conference will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel (www.doubletreesanjose.com) in San Jose, California (www.sanjose.org) just a mile from the San Jose international airport (code: SJC). The Program and Site committees are hard at work to ensure that you find both the Conference content and the location to be absolutely wonderful!

Located in the heart of the Silicon Valley, San Jose is home to countless companies and community organizations committed to sustaining the beauty and vibrancy of the area. One of those community leaders, the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (www.svilc.org) is a featured host partner for the SDS Conference. The DoubleTree Hotel is also very excited to roll out the red carpet for SDS and is heavily engaged with the planning committees to ensure that they do everything possible to create the most welcoming and inclusive environments possible for the SDS Conference attendees.



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;

There are several pretty user-friendly transportation options available for Conference attendees getting to, and in/around, the San Jose and greater Bay area. Please visit the “transportation” pages of the SDS 2011 Conference Web pages for a quick run-down of the where’s and how’s of getting around easily.

http://www.disstudies.org/conference/2011_conference/2011_conference

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.



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. San Jose 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.

Your Generosity Matters

The 2011 SDS Fundraising Campaign is underway. Please consider each of the following ways to support SDS:

- * **Advertise in our program:** If you have a new book, program, service or business to advertise, you are in luck! SDS is now taking orders for advertisements to be placed in the 2011 conference program. Various options are available to match your or your publisher's budget. To place a program advertisement, you can find more information at the SDS website, disstudies.org, under [conference](#). The deadline is **May 20, 2011**.
- * **Donate something to the SDS silent auction or raffle to be held at the conference.** SDS is thrilled to announce the return of the silent auction. We are seeking donations of goods from individuals and businesses to be raffled or auctioned at the conference. Don't be shy! Your autographed books, art, and other products will be treasured by fans and admirers. To make a donation of goods for auction, please contact Devva Kasnitz at devva@earthlink.net
- ***Support SDS and the annual conference and become a Sponsor, Benefactor, Supporter, or Friend of SDS:** To learn about the various levels of support and the benefits offered, visit the "membership" link at the SDS website: <http://www.disstudies.org/member/type>

Increasing the financial capacity of SDS is essential to 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 advertisement, membership, and donation provide 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 daily operations and growth of SDS

The SDS fundraising committee appreciates your generosity in support of our organization and in furtherance of our mission to positively influence the experiences of disabled people. SDS thanks all of those individuals and organizations that support SDS through financial, in-kind, and volunteer contributions!

SDS AWARDS

Tobin Siebers is Awarded the 2011 Senior Scholar Award

Siebers currently serves as Professor of English Language and Literature, the V.L. Parrington Collegiate Professor of Literary and Cultural Criticism, and Professor of Art and Design at the University of Michigan. His many valued contributions to disability studies include *Disability Theory* (2008) and *Disability Aesthetics* (2010) as well as a number of essays and articles including, for example, “My Withered Limb” (1998), “Tender Organs, Narcissism, and Identity Politics” (2002), “Disability Studies and the Future of Identity Politics” (2006) and “In the Name of Pain” (2010). Siebers’ scholarship has had a tremendous impact on the field, fundamentally influencing the conceptualization and study of disability across many academic fields. In his award-winning book, *Disability Theory*, Siebers addresses a range of theoretical debates regarding social constructionism and embodiment in an engaging, accessible manner to argue that disability studies must incorporate the corporeal body into its analysis. Letters of support referred to *Disability Theory* as “field-defining” and “a magisterial survey of debates surrounding identity construction and disability.” SDS also recognizes Siebers for his leadership and service in the field beyond the written word. He has worked to advance the field of disability studies at the University of Michigan, and on a national scale through his work with the Modern Language Association and the Future of Minority Studies, a national academic think tank. Through his outstanding scholarship and leadership, Dr. Siebers has fostered the growth, rigor, and recognition of disability studies.



Irving K. Zola Award for Emerging Scholars

The 2011 Irving K. Zola Award goes to two emerging scholars this year: Harold Braswell for his paper *Can There Be A Disability Studies Theory of "End-of-Life Autonomy,"* and Bethany Stevens for her paper *Interrogating Transability: A Catalyst to View Disability as Body Art.* Braswell is a student in the interdisciplinary PhD program at Emory University’s Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts. Bethany Stevens is a faculty member and policy analyst for the Center for Leadership in Disability in the Institute of Public Health at Georgia State University.



Congratulations!



Save the Date

SDS 2012 Annual Conference will be June 20-23 in Denver, Colorado!

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>.

Update from the SDS Affiliated Scholar: Laura Lofaro

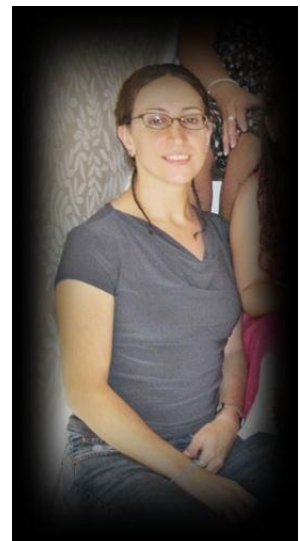
I am proud to be an SDS Affiliated Scholar. This opportunity has provided me with full access to the Ohio State University's library resources and much leeway in terms of research strategies. The program has enabled me to pursue my research endeavors in the disability studies field in a flexible, mainly independent way, and has allowed for a creative approach (i.e. a range of topics and methodologies may be explored and implemented, within the realm of disability studies). I plan to complete my current research and submit my first academic article to *Disability Studies Quarterly*.

Upon graduating with my Masters degree in this field, I sought to continue my academic pursuits. Thus, I applied for this program and was honored to be selected. I am growing both personally and professionally while gaining a wealth of experience from participating in this new program. I also believe that my research will contribute valuable knowledge to the field.

As an Affiliated Scholar, I am currently engaged in qualitative research that I hope will benefit the disability community by increasing awareness of issues that have been undermined. I am examining the "hierarchy" of disabilities and the integration and segregation within existing affiliations (groups and organizations) in the disability community. By gathering first-hand accounts of people's experiences with fellow members and organizers of various communal organizations, I aim to uncover and highlight the structural and attitudinal changes that will strengthen our community and its foundation of inclusion.

This research will give voice to the participants as they communicate how and why they band together with others who have disabilities- similar or different- and the ways in which they relate or don't relate. Such views will then be explored with the topic of participation in disability related organizations and events. The variable of whether these organizations are "for", "by," or "of" people with disabilities, as well as the types of institutions, will be looked at as well.

Diversity within the disability community has been explored to an extent and remains a unique phenomenon within disability culture. Disability service organizations, academic organizations, activist groups, and other types of groups attempt to make efforts toward inclusion, yet have encountered barriers to all-inclusiveness due to the human variation, combined with structural and attitudinal variation, that exists within the broad disability community.



This study aims to increase insight in the area of diversity within disability and its effects on the disability movement and culture. By exploring the hierarchy issue and the insider/outsider status of people within the disability community as it currently stands, the motivating factors leading someone to choose to join a professional association of disabled scholars, artists, activist, etc., what they have gained from joining such groups and/or the reasons why they chose not to become involved in such groups will lead to emerging themes. The direction of both existing and future forming organizations could benefit from expanding their outreach to less represented members of the community, and such institutions could “grow” (qualitatively and, perhaps, quantitatively) in their communities.

I encourage others to become involved in this innovative and exciting program. If you are a scholar (or aim to become a scholar), a professional, an activist, or an artist who is not currently affiliated with a university, this opportunity might provide the means to attain your goals. If you are someone who is passionate about disability studies, you have something to offer this program, and the program has much to offer.

Call for Nominations to the Editorial Board of Disability Studies Quarterly

The Editors of Disability Studies Quarterly, the oldest journal of disability studies scholarship and the flagship publication of the Society for Disability Studies, are seeking nominations to the Editorial Board. The general purpose of the Editorial Board is to provide knowledgeable support for the publication of scholarship of the highest quality. Members of the Editorial Board are highly-regarded scholars and researchers from a variety of academic disciplines and areas of expertise. Editorial Board members typically serve for a period of three years with the possibility of renewal for additional terms.

Responsibilities of Board members include:

- Conducting three to five reviews of submissions to DSQ annually;
- Recommending additional reviewers for submissions;
- Serving in an advisory capacity on matters related to special issues or requests and on the development of a clear policy between SDS and DSQ;
- Attending, if at all possible, the annual SDS meeting and a special meeting of the DSQ editorial board at that conference;
- Promoting the journal in their own institutions, affiliations and fields and directing potential authors and scholars to DSQ.

We invite nominations or self-nominations for service on the Disability Studies Quarterly Editorial board. Please send a brief letter of your interest that highlights your expertise in the field of Disability Studies and a current resume/CV. Electronic submissions are preferred. SEND TO: dsgjournal@gmail.com

REVIEW OF NOMINATIONS WILL BEGIN MAY 15, 2011

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 announcements regarding elections coming soon!

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.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Awards - Nina Slota (chair) (nina_p_slota@yahoo.com)

-Senior Scholar- Allison Carey (ACCare@ship.edu)

-Zola - Sunaura Taylor (sunaurataylor@gmail.com)

-Affiliated Scholars - Alberto Guzman (albertog@email.arizona.edu)

Fundraising Susan Baglieri (chair) (susan.baglieri@liu.edu)

Membership- Allison Carey (chair) (ACCare@ship.edu)

Nominations/Elections - Pratik Patel (chair) (Pratikp1@gmail.com)

Policy - Devva Kasnitz (devva@earthlink.net)

Program -Tammy Berberi, (berberit@umn.edu)

& Liat Ben-Moshe (lbenmosh@maxwell.syr.edu)

Access/local Arrangements (for conference)- Alberto Guzman albertog@email.arizona.edu

Research and Publications - Alex Lubet (chair) (lubet001@umn.edu)

AD-HOC COMMITTEES

By-laws revision - Frank Wyman, chair (chips314@aol.com)

Goal implementation - Pamela Block; chair (pblock@notes.cc.sunysb.edu)

Website/accessibility Liat Ben-Moshe; (lbenmosh@maxwell.syr.edu)

& Tammy Berberi (berberit@umn.edu).

CAUCUSES

People of color: Akemi Nishida, chair (anishida@gc.cuny.edu)

Queer: Lesley Freeman, chair (efemmera@yahoo.com)

International: Vladimir Cuk, chair (vcuk2@uic.edu)

SDS Caucuses

The SDS Caucuses are informal groups that meet to discuss particular issues of concern, provide a network, and advocate for its members in SDS and in the broader community.

People of Color Caucus, Akemi Nishida, chair (anishida@gc.cuny.edu).

The people of color caucus is scheduled for Thursday, June 16th, 5- 6:15pm.

There is a workshop in conjunction with the caucus scheduled for Thursday, June 16th, 3:15-4:30 PM, entitled, Scholars- collective responsibilities to the disability community: on a hyphen of activism and scholarship. What are our collective responsibilities as scholars to the disability community?

The mission of SDS attempts to forge a meaningful relationship between academic theory and social practice/justice. Embedded in the disability community, SDS has been confronted about its position in the disability rights and justice movements. While presenting disability rights and justice activists' criticism toward disability studies, this workshop urges scholars to unlearn our privilege and to engage in our collective responsibilities to the disability community. We will start our workshop by presenting criticism toward disability studies from disability rights and justice activists and a larger disability community. Then the facilitators will present our intended goals and purpose of the workshop.

Facilitators: Akemi Nishida, Nirmala Erevelles, Marjorie McGee

Queer and Trans Caucus, Lesley Freeman, chair (efemmera@yahoo.com)

The Queer and Trans caucus provides an informal space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, genderqueer, and other queer and trans conference-goers to meet, network, and share experiences, ideas, and resources. The caucus serves as a hub for queer and trans newcomers seeking community, and for support during the busy, sometimes overwhelming conference schedule. The Queer and Trans Caucus also represents and advocates for queer and trans members within the broader SDS community, and has, in the past, worked with and alongside other caucus groups to bring attention to issues of identity and inclusion at SDS.

International Caucus, Vladimir Cuk, chair (vcuk2@uic.edu)

The International caucus provides an informal space for disability studies scholars to exchange their interests in international, cross national and comparative research in the broad area of disability studies. It serves as an international component of SDS. While the caucus typically engages international students, it also motivates American students to expand their academic horizons.

Member Profile: Vladimir Cuk



Vladimir Cuk serves as a program officer with the International Disability Alliance (IDA), which is a unique, international network of global and regional organizations of persons with disabilities. Established in 1999, each IDA member represents a large number of national disabled persons organizations (DPOs) from around the globe or from a specific region, covering the whole range of disability constituencies. IDA thus represents the collective global voice of persons with disabilities counting

among the estimated 650 million persons with disabilities worldwide.

Mr. Cuk received his M.S. degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago in Disability and Human Development. Currently, he is a PhD candidate with a dissertation that explores the transformation of the disability policies in the transition of Serbia towards the European Union and the neoliberal discourse. He received a diploma, "Long Term Training Course on Projects in South East Europe" from the Council of Europe.

Mr. Cuk served as the executive director of the Association of Students with Disabilities of Serbia and Montenegro for 4 years. He was a founder of the Southeast European Network for Young People and Students with Disabilities. Mr. Cuk published a book, *Disability Services at Universities in Southeast Europe: Achieving Equality*, and several articles including one in the internationally acclaimed *Encyclopedia of Disability* as well as a World Bank conference background paper "Young people with disabilities in the Europe and Central Asia region." He has received seven awards in recognition for his academic achievements. Mr. Cuk delivered over 30 presentations in many countries of the world. He co-facilitated numerous workshops and produced several policy briefs tackling disability policies and practices in the regions of Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Middle East and North Africa.

Vladimir Cuk's research interest is in the international cooperation and international disability movement. Mr. Cuk participated in the creation of the Youth Declaration "Towards a Barrier Free Europe for Young People with Disability," as one of editors. Mr. Cuk organized part of the World Bank conference "Young People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: From Policy to Action," dedicated to the youth with disabilities. His MS thesis investigated higher education practices and recommendations for students with disabilities in the developing world. Mr. Cuk's PhD dissertation investigates intersection of human rights and neoliberal discourses in international disability policies.

Remembrances

Laura Hershey 1962-2010



"If you are not proud
For who you are, for what you say, for how you look;
If every time you stop
To think of yourself, you do not see yourself glowing
With golden light; do not, therefore, give up on yourself.
You can get proud..."

An excerpt from Hershey's poem, "You Get Proud by Practicing"

Laura Hershey, a well-respected poet, writer, and activist, spent her life fighting for the rights of people with disabilities to live in the community and lead valued lives. She pushed Americans to re-think the paternalism of the telethon, arguing that fundraising does not need to sacrifice the dignity of people with disabilities. Laura graduated with a bachelor's degree, and later received an honorary degree, from Colorado College. She worked with many disability-rights groups, including ADAPT, Not Dead Yet, and the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition. She was also an inspired writer, essayist, and poet. She passed away at the age of 48.

The following pages contain many examples of Hershey's work, a page dedicated to her memorial, and a formal obituary from the *Littleton Independent*.

www.laurahershey.com

www.laurahershey.com/memorial

Max Starkloff, 1937-2010

With the loss of Max Starkloff, the disability community loses a great activist and trail-blazer. With his wife Colleen, Starkloff co-founded Paraquad, Inc. in 1970, one of earliest federally funded independent living centers in the U.S. In 2005, they co-founded the Starkloff Disability Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to changing societal attitudes about people with disabilities through projects that send a positive message about living with disability. The Institute's work included such projects as The Disability Studies Initiative, The Disability History Project, and Universal Design Summit. To read more about Max Starkloff and the Starkloff Institute, go to <http://www.starkloff.org/starkloff>



Wolf Wolfensberger 1934-2011

Wolf Wolfensberger's **scholarship** had a dramatic impact on research and policy in the field of developmental disabilities. A professor at Syracuse University since 1973, Wolfensberger spread the philosophy of normalization throughout America, formulated the concept of Social Role Valorization, and promoted the provision of community services. Dr. Wolfensberger also worked toward enhancing "citizen advocacy" and developing mechanisms by which to monitor community services. His most influential books include *Changing Patterns in Residential Services for the Mentally Retarded* and *The Principle of Normalization*. To view an obituary, please go to: <http://obits.syracuse.com/obituaries/syracuse/obituary.aspx?n=wolf-wolfensberger&pid=149061423>



News From Our Members

Developments in Disability Studies

The University at Buffalo Center for Disability Studies

<http://disabilitystudies.buffalo.edu/index.html> is excited to announce a new formal concentration in disability studies at the level of the master's degree. The official (and exceedingly awkward) title of the degree is: "Master of Arts (M.A.) in Humanities-Interdisciplinary, with a formal Concentration in Disability Studies." The formal concentration has received all internal approvals at the University at Buffalo, and is awaiting State Education Department approval in Albany, which is anticipated to come very soon. The first cohort of MA students will be admitted for the fall 2011 term. Please direct any queries David Gerber (dagerber@buffalo.edu) or Mike Rembis (marembis@buffalo.edu).

Dr. Edith F. Miller, co-founder and president and **Dr. Julianne Albier-Walton**, co-founder and vice president are pleased to announce the establishment of a scholarship fund for undergraduate members of Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society (DAPI). Delta Alpha Pi is the first and only collegiate honorary that recognizes the academic accomplishments

of college and university students with disabilities. Dr. Miller and Dr. Walton who are faculty members in the Office of Disability Services at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, founded Delta Alpha Pi in 2004. Currently, the honor society has 54 chapters at colleges and universities in 25 states. Information can be located at: <http://deltaalphahonorsociety.org>

News from Our Members: Personal Achievements

Jeffery Brune (Gallaudet University) has been awarded a year-long residential research fellowship at the Center on Human Policy, Law, and Disability Studies at Syracuse University. He will be there during the 2011-2012 academic year to work on his book, *Disability Stigma and the Modern American State*, and will return to Gallaudet in fall 2012.

Jim Ferris' new book, *Slouching Towards Guantanamo*, is scheduled for publication May 31, and is currently available for pre-order at a significant discount. Advanced order can be placed with the Main Street Rag Online Bookstore (http://www.mainstreetrag.com/JFerris_2.html).

Doris Zames Fleischer - In June 2011, Temple University Press will publish a new editor of Fleischer's *The Disability Rights Movement: From Charity to Confrontation*, originally published in 2001. Later this year, Routledge will publish *The International Handbook of Human Rights* (Thomas Cushman, ed.), which includes Zames Fleischer's essay "Disability Rights."

Petra Koppers' *Disability Culture and Community Performance: Find a Strange and Twisted Shape* will be published by Palgrave in August 2011. The book presents a senior practitioner's/critic's exploration of creative community processes sustained over more than a decade, and models the connections between arts-based research and research-based arts.

Alex Lubet (U of Minnesota) recently published articles in the *International Journal of Inclusive Education* and *Critical Studies in Improvisation*. He gave seven presentations as an artist-scholar at the University of Utah, sponsored by their programs in Music, Disability Studies, Women's/Gender Studies, and Middle East Studies. He also presented at "Bob Dylan and the Law," a conference sponsored by the law schools of Touro and Fordham Universities. Lubet has also been invited to join the *American Art and Music Academic Delegation to Jerusalem*, at Hebrew University in June.

Margaret Price's *Mad at School: Rhetorics of Mental Disability and Academic Life* has been published this year by University of Michigan Press.

Steven Taylor (Syracuse University) was given a "Presidential Award" at the annual meeting of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities this June. The award is for serving as Editor of *Mental Retardation/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* since 1993.

Mark C. Weber (DePaul University College of Law) recently published articles which include: "The Common Law of Disability Discrimination," *Utah Law Review* (forthcoming 2011)

(http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1788239); “Disability Rights, Welfare Law,” *Cardozo Law Review* (forthcoming 2011),
(http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1661158); “Unreasonable Accommodation and Due Hardship,” 62 *Florida Law Review* 1119 (2010),
(http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1559899); and “A New Look at Section 504 and the ADA in Special Education Cases, [Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium],” 16 *Texas Journal On Civil Liberties And Civil Rights* 1 (2010),
(http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1636483).

Nikki Wedgwood’s “Can anybody play? An introduction to the sociology of sport and disability” appeared In S. Georgakis and K. Russell (Eds.), *Youth Sport in Australia*. Sydney: Sydney University Press, 101-117.
<http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/sup/9781920899646>

Elizabeth Wheeler, Associate Professor of English, University of Oregon, will be on sabbatical in 2011-12 to work on her forthcoming book, *HandiLand: Kids with Disabilities in Literature, Life Stories, and Landscapes*.