

# Disability + Relevant Design 2007-2009

## An Interdisciplinary Collaboration between Students with and without Disabilities

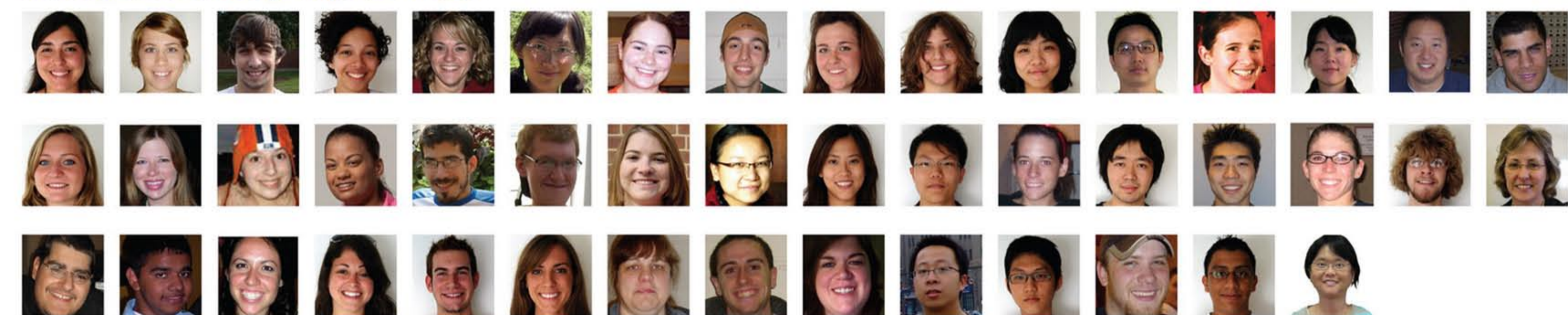


### 1. Course Coordinators

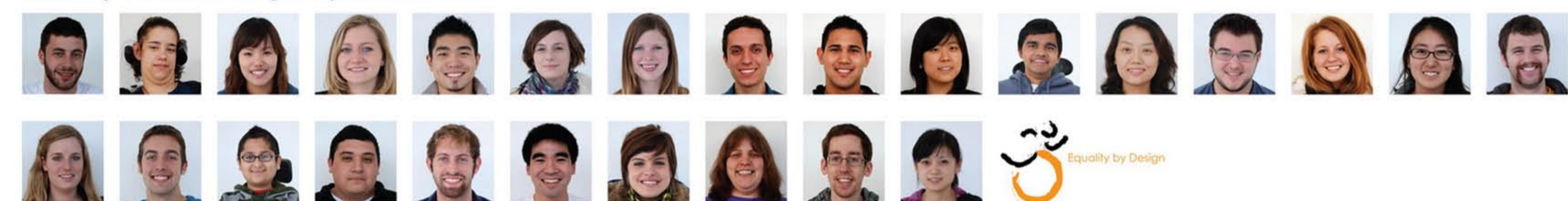
 <b>University Housing</b>  Dr. Lydia Khuri mkhuri@illinois.edu	 <b>School of Art + Design and Beckman Institute</b>  Dr. Deana McDonagh mcdonagh@illinois.edu	 <b>Disability Resources and Educational Services</b>  Susann Heft Sears sheft@illinois.edu
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### 2. Course Participants

#### Disability + Relevant Design Project: 2007-2008



#### Disability + Relevant Design Project: 2008-2009



### 3. Course Philosophy

The Disability + Relevant Design course focused on enabling students with disabilities to collaborate with Industrial Design students to develop design concepts that would enhance quality of life and improve communication. The University of Illinois offers a unique environment where students can become integrated within the designing process to ensure that previously underrepresented individuals can serve as major contributors to shape the material landscape (e.g. products and environments), which ultimately benefits the wider community.

This interdisciplinary and innovative course offered undergraduate students an opportunity to conduct empathic design research and new product development with individuals who are not adequately represented in the designing process. From the moment we wake up to the moment we fall asleep we are engaging with hundreds of products. For people with disabilities, our environments can become unnecessarily challenging. This course developed ways in which students co-create transferable knowledge and design outcomes that will help shape the material landscape and take the students outside the classroom and into the environment of the users.

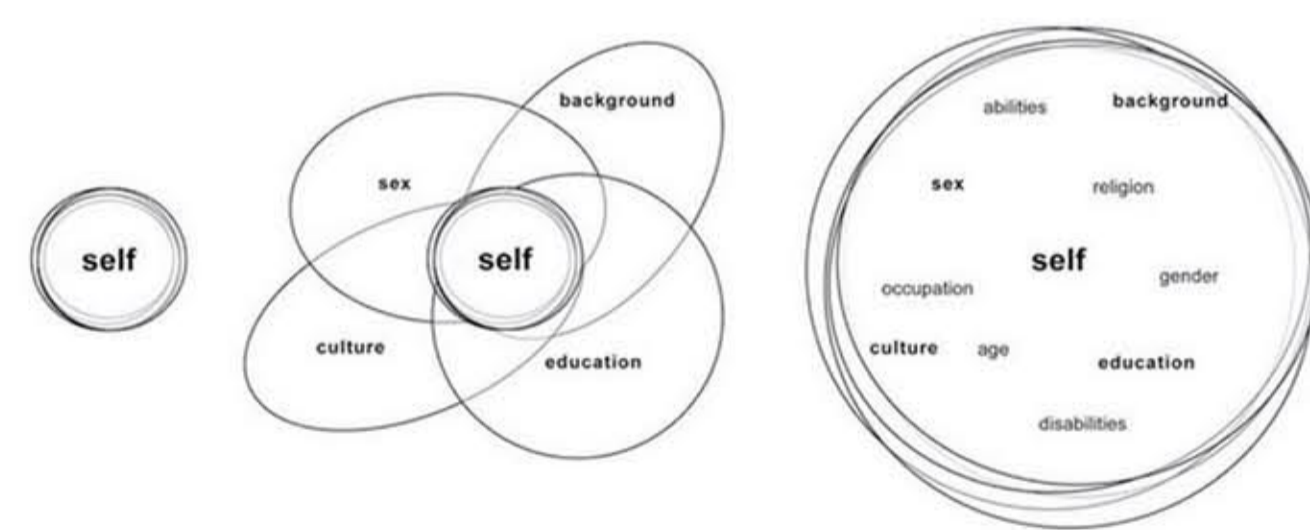
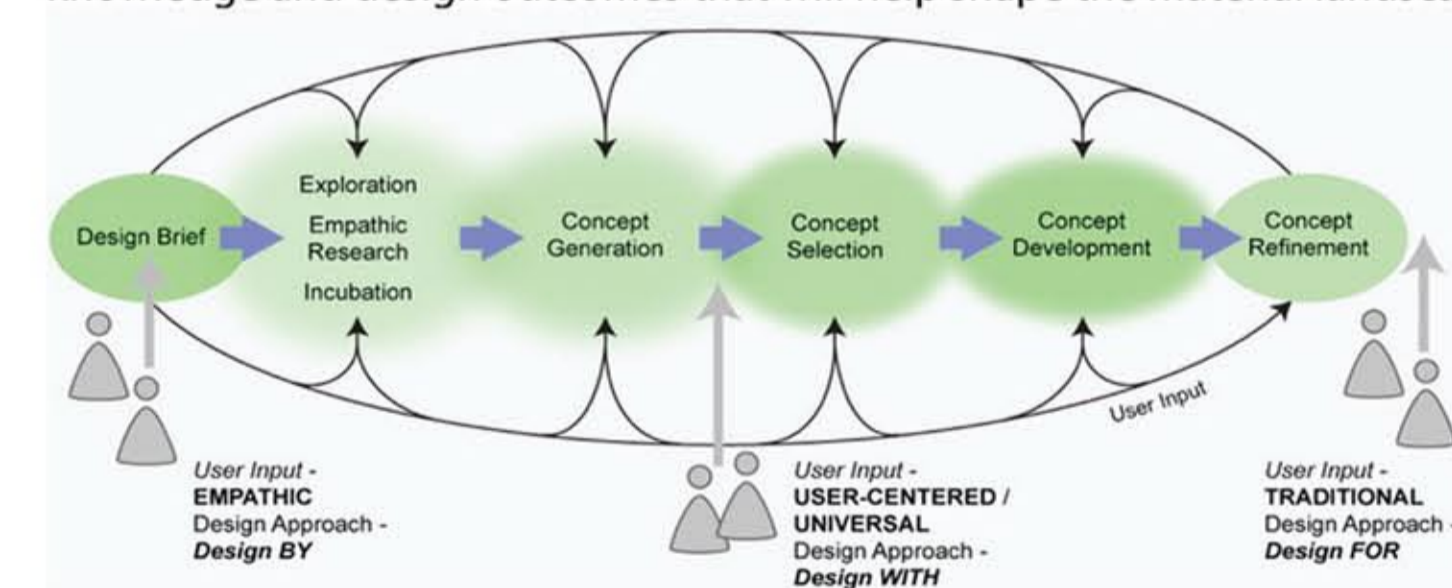


Figure: Design Process and User Input

Figure: Expanding empathic horizon

### 4. Course Activities

#### Instructor and Guest Speakers

Disability + Relevant Design invited guest speakers with variety background and covered topics including Universal Design, Empathic Research and Design, Assistive Technology etc.

 Dr. Deana McDonagh Professor   Industrial Design topic: <b>Empathic Research+Design</b>	 Kevin Reeder Professor   Industrial Design topic: <b>Ergonomics Methodology</b>	 Dr. Kathryn Anthony Professor   Architecture topic: <b>Environment Accessibility</b>	 Carl Lewis Professor   Architecture topic: <b>Access Solution</b>
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**Students' Feedback**

'I like her (Prof. Deana) lectures because she explores side to design that I would not necessarily think about'

'Her (Deana) lecture made me rethink about the meaning of design and role as a designer'

'He (Prof. Carl) seemed so passionate about the work he does which really helped me to become invested in his presentation.'

#### Instructor and Guest Speakers

 Dr. Brad Hedrick DRES Director topic: <b>Assistive Technology Abandonment</b>	 Dr. Pat Malik Beckwith Director topic: <b>Things we should Know about Disability</b>	 Eli Clare Writer, speaker, activist and artist topic: <b>Lived experience with Disability</b>	 Susann Heft Sears Mobility and Medical Specialist topic: <b>Disability Review</b>
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#### Students' Feedback

'He (Eli) was very emotionally connected to all he spoke about'

'Eli seems like a very experienced person who has seen the world as a woman and a man, he knows both cultures'

'I took away (From Dr. Brad) the importance of empathic design and how industrial designers can work with users to develop assistive technology.'

#### Literature and Media Immersion



#### Field Trip



#### Students' Feedback

'I loved the whole thing from sitting in a circle with everyone to offering tea to others before yourself...'

'It was a very relaxing and cultural experience...'

'It makes you appreciate the simplicity of life...'

#### Universal Design Audit Part\_1 Product Analysis

For design to be a significant differentiator the product outcome needs to have a balance of functionality and supra-functionality. Students brought products with stigma to class to enhance their understanding of Universal Design.

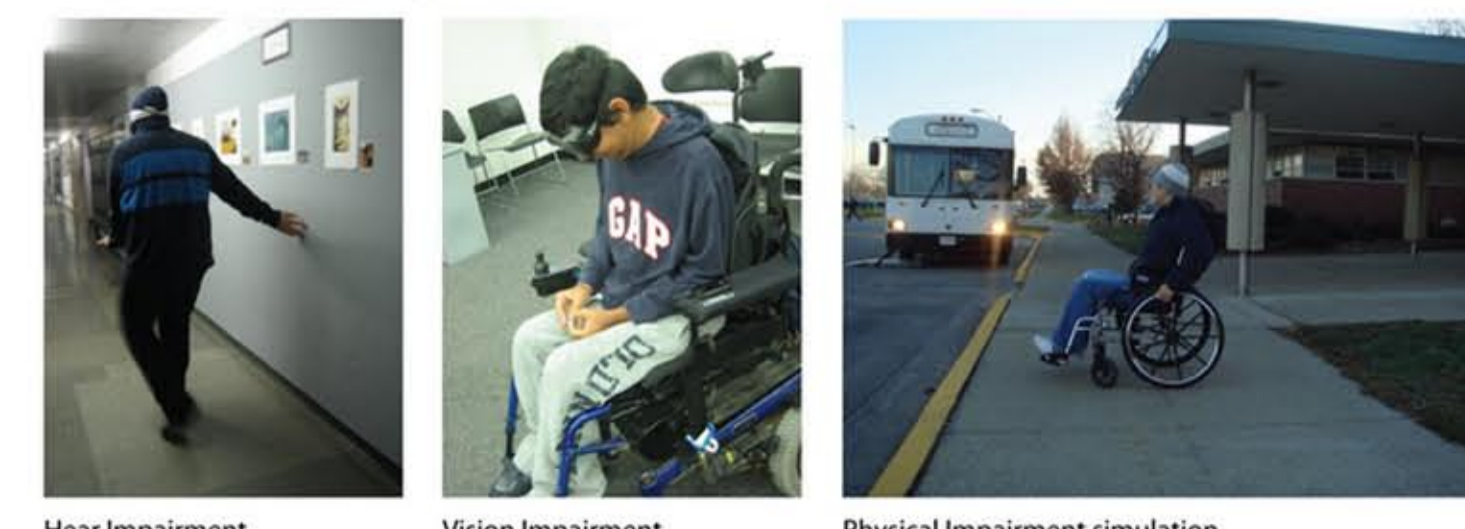
<p><b>Supra-functionality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cultural</li> <li>social</li> <li>tribal</li> <li>emotional</li> <li>aspirational</li> </ul>	
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#### Universal Design Audit Part\_2 Campus Accessibility

Guidelines: Human factor measurement methodology + Accessibility Guidelines for Building and Facilities



#### Empathic Modeling



Hear Impairment Student's Design Work Vision Impairment Physical Impairment simulation

#### Presentation and Exhibition

