Disability Studies is a ground-breaking field that challenges and changes society’s attitudes toward embodiment in terms of capacity and difference. At UCLA, Disability Studies examines the meaning, nature and consequences of disability from a variety of perspectives, including arts and humanities, genetics, law, psychology, public policy, technology, and education. Disability – whether physical, developmental or intellectual – is part of the universal human experience.

Disability Studies challenges the view that disability is a deficit and that individuals with disabilities are unfortunate victims. UCLA’s robust Disability Studies program is changing attitudes and redefining ‘normal’. By exploring disability as a social issue, rather than a medically defined condition, students minoring in Disability Studies use the experience of disability as a lens to re-envision models of access, inclusion, participation, communication, and equality.

In conjunction with the upcoming Disability as Spectacle International Conference, UCLA Disability Studies will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary in April 2017. This newsletter highlights Disability Studies and introduce the conference theme of disability as spectacle. We hope you will join us in April at the Disability as Spectacle Conference and to celebrate UCLA Disability Studies 10th Anniversary.

You’re invited to our BIRTHDAY PARTY
Thursday April 13, 2017
Evening @ Schoenberg

Disability Awareness Week Oct. 10 - 14, 2016

MONDAY (10/10): Art Gallery Kickoff @ 1-4pm in Kerckhoff Art Gallery, Artists: Tommy Hollestein & Melissa Allensworth
WEDNESDAY (10/12): Disability Studies Info Session @ 3pm in A316 Murphy Hall
THURSDAY (10/13): Braille on Bruinwalk @ 9-11am & “Born This Way” Screening and Cast Panel @ 6:30 – 8:30pm in AAP Pavilion

Disability Studies Fall Welcome: October 18, 2016 I 4:00-6:00 p.m. Shostak Terrace, Murphy Hall
DISABILITY AS SPECTACLE examines multiple and shifting aspects of visibility and performance. People with disabilities have been, and continue, to be made a spectacle often put on display to evoke fear and pity, or forced to be the center of attention completing quotidian tasks. Spectacle, however, has also been used as a tactic for social change, used to disrupt everyday life to demand attention to critical issues. New forms of media and technology has also increased how people with disabilities represent themselves and the ways in which they share their life experience. As such this conference aims to share these complex and dynamic ideas, in theory and practice, with artists, practitioners, students, and scholars.
In 2007, seven students were admitted into the Disability Studies minor and the first graduating class was only three students. Nearly a decade later, the minor has graduated over 100 students. Students in the Disability Studies minor are motivated by intellectual curiosity and sensitivity often kindled from the experience of a family member or friend, and by professional aspirations to work with disabled populations in a variety of career paths. Our students major in Philosophy to Neuroscience, to Psychology and English, and Dance and Theater.

As part of the minor, students expand their understanding of disability by completing courses that range from Studies in Disability Literatures, Perspectives on Autism and Neurodiversity, Intersections of Disability and Sexuality, and Disability Studies and the Law. In addition to completing courses, students must complete a two-term internship to gain real-life experiences and professional skill-building at organizations that work directly with the disabled community. As of 2016, there are 36 internship sites throughout Los Angeles, which include The Painted Turtle, the Early Childhood Partial Hospitalization Program (ECPHP), and Marilyn Hilton MS Achievement Center. Since 2007, courses have expanded and there are 36 internship sites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internship Sites</th>
<th>36</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students enroll in DS Courses annually</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Students Admitted</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Students Graduated</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled in 2007</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vs. 2016</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I am extremely passionate about educating our future generations and making change in the disability community through education. I want to present students with the most approachable and accessible materials in the most approachable and accessible ways.

As a teacher, I can make sure that every student acquires the skills to dissect and critique what they see. Analyzing the treatment of disabilities in literature and society is such an important skill, but it is rarely—if ever—taught in schools. So as a future public school teacher, I will teach the next generation to think critically about our society and literature, how they portray people with disabilities, and in what ways we as a class can change our society for the benefit of the disability community.

Justin Kawakami
2016 Samuel Oschin Scholarship Recipient
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

CENNTENIAL CAMPAIGN GOALS

In a new effort, UCLA seeks to partner with philanthropic leaders who share our vision and commitment to this important emerging field. Major investment will enable the Disability Studies program at UCLA to secure its future as the premier program of its kind in the country.

SECURING FUTURE EXCELLENCE

Funding opportunities include support for:

Faculty: Endowed chairs will allow faculty from various campus departments to dedicate their time to disability studies, providing leadership to expand course offerings, contribute new scholarship, and mentor students.

Students: Endowed scholarships and fellowships for graduate and undergraduate students will nurture nascent scholars and next-generation activists, healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs and service providers.

Programming and Events: An endowed program fund will allow us to host a variety of local and national public events, including an annual symposium or conference, aimed at raising awareness of important disability-related issues.

To learn how you can support Disability Studies at UCLA, please contact Ambareen Naqvi, Assistant Director of Development, Division of Undergraduate Education: (310) 206-8786 or anaqvi@support.ucla.edu.

THANK YOU TO OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

Faculty Advisory Committee

Victoria Marks (Chair)
World Arts and Cultures/Dance

Bruce Baker, Ph.D.
Psychology

Anurima Banerji, Ph.D.
World Arts and Cultures/Dance

Helen Deutsch, Ph.D.
English

Mary O’Connor, Ph.D.
Psychiatry & Bio-behavioral Sciences

The Disability Studies minor has rapidly emerged as one of UCLA’s most vibrant interdisciplinary curricular innovations. This could not have been done without our faculty, who conduct research and teach in the following interdisciplinary fields: communications, dance, economics, education, film and television, health sciences, history, linguistics, literature, law, musicology, political science, psychiatry, social welfare, technology and urban planning.

32 faculty from 16 departments

21 new courses developed

MEET OUR STAFF

Brooke Wilkinson
Dir. Academic Initiatives

Pia Palomo
Academic Advisor

Mana Hayakawa
Academic Mentor

disabilitystudies.ucla.edu