Launched in 1996, the Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability was renamed in 2012 following the passing of its namesake. The Longmore Institute promotes a new and empowering understanding of people with disabilities as sources of ingenuity and engines of social change. We forge connections between vibrant Bay Area disability communities and the faculty and students at SF State to develop innovative research, community-based projects, and cultural events that benefit disabled and nondisabled people alike.
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A Note from the Director

Our second annual report finds the Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability immersed in our ambitious projects, including mounting an exhibit to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act in July 2015 and co-hosting Superfest: International Disability Film Festival. This past year included many accomplishments that we proudly look back on: our first Superfest event with a sold-out house; an interdisciplinary public conference, so popular that we started a wait list a mere two weeks after the registration link went live; and huge gains in making contact with and capturing the memories of disability rights protesters from the 1970s, whose stories will be featured in our historical exhibit. The Institute continued to grow in various ways. We increased our intern program, gained more social media followers, reached new colleagues to expand our disability studies network, and raised our expectations for what the Longmore Institute can accomplish. We’re in ongoing conversations on and off campus about exciting future projects related to inter-disciplinary education and public outreach that will resonate with and enhance San Francisco State University’s core programs and principles related to social justice, critical thinking, and comment engagement. We also seek to improve our fundraising efforts, especially now that our programs will start to be more visible and attract greater public interest.

We appreciate our amazing community of colleagues, supporters and donors, and hope you will stay involved with the Longmore Institute next year, as we take on our biggest projects yet.

In solidarity,

Catherine Kudlick
Director, Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability
kudlick@sfsu.edu
Superfest: International Disability Film Festival

Since 2012, the Institute has co-hosted Superfest, the longest-running international disability film festival in the world, with San Francisco LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. On October 12, 2013, we proudly marked Superfest’s return under our new leadership with our first public program, “The Dissies,” a special event modeled after the acclaimed Razzies. We contemplated disability in film by recognizing and reclaiming the more regrettable representations of disability in movies. We asked our disability communities to nominate the films in which negative portrayals of disability most affected them. We gleaned through each nomination to find the most “dis”enchanting moments to show at the festival. After showing a short clip from each nominee in categories such as “The Worst Disabled Villain” and “The Worst Portrayal of a Disability by A Nondisabled Actor,” the audience voted on the spot for the worst of the worst. Leaders from the disability communities gave mock acceptance speeches on behalf of the filmmakers who “could not be there to accept,” brief but informative commentary that both entertained and educated the diverse audience. The event took a painful topic, deeply personal for many Superfest attendees, and met it with laughter and community bonding.

We held the event at San Francisco’s Women’s Building and had a sold-out house of 175 people. Large in-kind donations came from Amramp and Smith Kettlewell Eye Institute. 18 disability and film organizations signed on as “community supporters,” helping publicize the event to their constituents. We demonstrated best practices in access, including audio description, closed and live captioning, and ASL interpreting. Emcee Lawrence Carter-Long, who hosted a month-long program on TCM related to disability film, greatly enhanced the program by blending humor with educational information about the history of disability in film.
Feedback from an anonymous Superfest attendee in a post-event survey spells out the core of why we set out to offer this event:

“We were defining ourselves. The disability community got to say who we were and what we abhorred in the movies. ... It had the feeling of being a mature event – one that had been happening every year for the past ten. That’s hard to do.”

With our first Superfest under our belt, we immediately launched into fundraising for an even bigger 2014 Superfest. Together with our partner organization, we have secured sponsorships and in-kind donations from: Woman of Her Words, the George Lucas Family Foundation, Audio Eyes, Contemporary Jewish Museum, Whill Mobility, Golden Gate Regional Foundation, Amramp, and Guide Dogs for the Blind. After soliciting films for what will be a one-day juried film festival of disability shorts, we organized a judge’s retreat in the Napa Valley at San Francisco Light House’s Enchanted Hills Camp, and selected the best 11 films from 51 entries. This year’s festival will double in size and length, November 2, 2014 at the Contemporary Jewish Museum.

**Patient No More**

Our greatest efforts this year went into researching and further developing our interactive, multi-media exhibit “Patient No More: People with Disabilities Securing Civil Rights.” Timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in July 2015, the exhibit highlights the San Francisco Bay Area’s unique contributions to this landmark legislation. While much of the ADA was the result of internal legislative negotiations thanks to a savvy group of Washington-based disability advocates and allies, the Bay Area provided disability leadership and an activist spark that brought everyday citizens into a grassroots political movement for change.
Our exhibit focuses on the “504 Sit-In” in April 1977 that epitomized this spirit. It tells the remarkable story of the more than one hundred people with different disabilities who occupied the San Francisco Federal Building for nearly a month to demand, and ultimate win, implementation of the first civil rights legislation for disabled people.

“Patient No More” will launch with a large public event July 26, 2015. The 4,000 sq. ft. main exhibit will be located at the Ed Roberts Campus, a hub of disability organizations in Berkeley, CA, and will run until December 2015. A traveling exhibit will launch in September 2015 with a large public event at the Cesar Chavez Art Gallery at SF State. Over the course of Fall/Winter 2015, it will travel to four additional sites, including the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, the Marin County Office of Education, and others. Each location will entail additional programming and field trips to pull in new attendees. Further, our accessible website will launch concurrently with the exhibits, serving as an educational resource while also making the exhibit content accessible to those who cannot (due to geography, resources, or impairments) attend in person.

The Longmore Institute is drawing upon vital energy and resources from SF State faculty and students to mount an impressive exhibit. In the Fall, the Institute hired SFSU museum studies alum and professional curator, Fran Osborne, who is working closely with staff and students to craft an exciting exhibit narrative. In Spring 2014, students in Journalism and History courses conducted a series of interviews with surviving participants from the protests, focusing in particular on outreach to “unsung heroes” who had not yet had a chance to tell their stories. With additional interviews conducted by Longmore staff, we now have 40 oral histories, which will feature prominently in the exhibit. Also in the Spring semester, 20 students in SFSU’s Design and Industry program interned for the Longmore Institute and worked tirelessly to create prototypes for exhibit stations, fonts, and other design elements,
drawing inspiration from the need for an accessible exhibit. All along the way we have been getting feedback from professional curators and our humanities advisors as well as a cross-section of people from the local disability communities, all helping us create a more nuanced history than has been told previously.

Our fundraising efforts continue, but we are grateful to have received grants from Cal Humanities, SF State’s Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and the East Bay Community Foundation. Major fundraising pushes to individual donors in Fall 2013 yielded roughly $15,000. In addition, house parties, hosted by two of our advisory committee members, helped bring in additional funds.

In one of the oral history interviews that will be featured in the exhibit, the speaker, an African American, low-income, blind man, told the Longmore Institute, “On behalf of my sister, my wife, my mother, and from the bottom of my heart, thank you for helping me share my story. I really thought that I might pass away before having the chance to do so.” Hearing this was an incredible reminder of the importance of our work; while we do not offer direct services to the disabled communities, we are still capable of improving people’s lives.

**Community Engagement**

We continued our efforts to extend outside SF State and connect with Bay Area social justice organizations. From the West Coast Disability Pride Festival to invited lectures at the Independent Living and Resource Center SF, the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, and the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, we actively participated in community engagement. In addition, we continued to co-facilitate the Greater Bay Area Disability Studies Consortium with UC Berkeley, organizing opportunities for disability scholars and community members to come together to discuss disability issues.
Longmore Fellows Program

In the Fall semester, we launched a program to reach out to SFSU faculty whose research and teaching would benefit from exposure to Disability Studies and dovetails with Institute projects. We brought on three scholars, Journalism professor Sachi Cunningham and longtime History Department lecturer and community activist Susan Englander together explored the intriguing relationships between journalistic profiles and oral histories to help us develop our interview implementation plan for the “Patient No More” exhibit. In addition, Design and Industry Professor Pino Trogu came on board to develop the exhibit design in the context of universal access. In the spring, Design and Industry Professor Silvan Linn also joined the fellows program, bringing his knowledge of technological systems to our exhibit design, and together with Professor Trogu, helped supervise our 20 design student interns.

Future Past: Disability, Eugenics, and Brave New Worlds

On November 1, 2013, the Longmore Institute was the lead organizer of “Future Past: Disability, Eugenics, and Brave New Worlds.” This one-day public symposium explored the history and ongoing implications of eugenic ideologies and practices for people with disabilities. A diverse group of 100 people, made up of SFSU faculty and students; Bay Area K-12 educators and some of their best students; international eugenics historians and disability studies scholars; and disability activists came together to ask: Why do these issues matter? How can we address them in teaching and pedagogy, in policy and activism, and in art?
We co-hosted the day-long event at San Francisco State’s Seven Hills Conference Center with the Center for Genetics and Society, The Living Archives on Eugenics in Western Canada, and Facing History and Ourselves. In addition to the financial contributions of the co-organizers, sponsorships came from the College of Education and the College of Ethnic Studies, as well as a large contribution from the initiative for Public Humanities within the College of Liberal and Creative Arts. Following an introduction by SF State Provost Sue Rosser, our diverse range of speakers helped “Future Past” escape being just another academic conference, by including a sterilization survivor, a performer and director who weaves eugenic topics into her pieces, and a high school teacher, who shared a successful pedagogical model for engaging students about current injustices through eugenic history. Facilitated group discussions helped attendees network and learn from one another. We received abundant positive feedback, as exemplified by one attendee’s post-event comment,

“I found it tremendously useful. And it was a really well-run conference. The speakers were terrific, the table activities were focused, and things moved along well. For me personally, too, I found the whole experience heartening.”

Remembering Paul Longmore

We continue to honor our namesake’s memory. The professional archivist we hired, Kate Tasker, organized and cataloged the noted scholar and activist’s papers. We celebrated the opening to the public of the impressive 156-box archive in SF State Library’s Special Collections on March 11, 2014; the reception and first annual Longmore lecture, delivered by leading disability studies scholar Alison Kafer (Southwestern University), attracted one-hundred attendees from campus and Bay Area disability communities.
Disability Studies Curriculum at SFSU

The Longmore Institute continues to work with a growing number of programs on campus. Over the past year, we have interacted closely with colleagues in BECA, Business, Design and Industry, English, Health Education, History, Journalism, Kinesiology, Museum Studies, Nursing, Philosophy, Rehabilitation Counseling, Special Education, and Women and Gender Studies. We have welcomed people from these departments to the Institute to discuss how to introduce and update disability into their offerings, and have given guest lectures in nine different departments. In fact, the sheer diversity of these programs underscores the need and capacity for introducing disability studies into the SF State curriculum. To this end (and as chair of the curriculum subcommittee for the All-University Committee), Institute director Catherine Kudlick led a series of conversations with colleagues from departments and units across campus to determine the best approach. We hosted an affinity group at SF State’s yearly day-long faculty retreat, which helped us reach new colleagues, and also hosted a brown bag lunch, for a new professor at SF State to share her disability studies work. In conjunction with faculty from various colleges across campus, the Institute is drawing up proposals for various courses in Disability Studies, including an introductory course designed to meet various GE and writing requirements that will attract large enrollments; down the road, the plan is to introduce a disability studies minor.

Mentoring Students

This year, we had even more SF State students regularly stopping by the Longmore Institute to pick our brains on how they might incorporate disability studies into their coursework or to use our disability studies library. Our six interns and two graduate student assistants benefited from hands-on direction and training in professionalization while working with us on our
event planning and exhibit research. Weekly discussions introduced them to key disability studies texts, providing an opportunity for them to get to know one another better while giving them an intellectual and practical foundation for discussing disability issues in their future careers.

**Scholarly Leadership in Academia and Beyond**

Longmore Institute Director Kudlick published two significant pieces this year. The first entailed an important intervention in the leading academic journal *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* in the inaugural “Forum.” The conversation proved so lively and rewarding that a special session was devoted to it at this year’s conference of the American Association of the History of Medicine. Kudlick also published an article in a special theme issue of *Disability Studies Quarterly* (DSQ) devoted to “Growing Disability Studies,” co-authored with Professor Susan Schweik (UC Berkeley) titled “Collision and Collusion: Artists, Academics, and Activists in Dialogue with the University of California and Critical Disability Studies.” Longmore Institute assistant director Emily Beitiks co-authored an invited encyclopedia entry with Marcy Darnovsky (Center for Genetics and Society) for the fourth edition of the *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*, titled “Biopolitics,” which included the topic of disability and reproductive justice.

We also continued efforts to communicate outside academia. The Longmore Institute was quoted in two newspaper articles, one television news piece, and one local radio interview. We more than doubled our views on our Wordpress blog “Disability Remix.” Our e-newsletter now reaches 1,500 recipients. We increased our Twitter followers to 405 and 642 on Facebook, and more importantly, these outreach efforts have successfully brought in new attendees to our events and helped us connect with other disability advocates in the Bay Area and beyond.
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