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DISABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Our first Newsletter of 2024 focuses on **DISABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY!**

Disability is part of the human life. Almost everyone will temporarily or permanently experience disability at some point in their life. According to WHO, it is estimated that 1.3 billion people (16% of the global population) currently experience a disability.

December 3rd was the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**. This annual observance was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life.

January 4th was **World Braille Day!** According to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Braille is essential in the context of social inclusion, education, and freedom of expression.

In this newsletter, we have two amazing UNC Charlotte spotlights, a page with campus and APA resources, and a list of recommendations related to disability, accessibility, and inclusivity.



UNC CHARLOTTE SPOTLIGHTS

Lee Anne Tourigny, BS



Michelle Lee Anne is a second-year M.A. student in the Community Psychology concentration of the M.A. Psychology program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She holds a B.S. in Psychology and a double minor in Communications and American Sign Language from Gardner-Webb University. Lee Anne currently serves as the Graduate Assistant: Coordinator for Disability Outreach at the University Career Center and Project Coordinator at PhotovoiceWorldwide. For her thesis, she is researching the challenges and opportunities of career services for students with disabilities across UNC Schools. As a neurodivergent individual herself, she has a passion for disability advocacy and inclusion within higher education and the workplace, holding the belief that every school and organization should be seeking both accessibility and inclusivity.

If you are a student or faculty wishing to connect on ways to improve disability inclusion on campus, please reach out to ltourign@charlotte.edu. For more information on programming through the career center, visit <https://career.charlotte.edu/identityatwork/disabled> or subscribe to the **[Disability @ Work Newsletter](#)**.

Stay tuned to Lee Anne's presentation at the TedXUNC Charlotte on Feb 17th!

Katie Montie, MSW, ADAC



Katie (she/her) serves as Senior Associate Director/Accessibility Consultant in Disability Services at UNC Charlotte. She's provided leadership and consultation on accessibility initiatives to all campus entities for over 18 years. Katie is an Accessibility and Civil Rights professional with 30 years of progressive experience in the workforce, including post-secondary education, consulting, legal compliance, mental health, project management and disability advocacy.

Katie is an alumna of UNC Charlotte and received her BA in psychology in 1990. She is particularly proud of being one of two psychology undergraduates who worked with Dr. Kim Buch to create a Psi Chi charter on campus! Katie earned a Master of Social Work degree in 1994 from UNC Chapel Hill. She obtained her ADA Coordinator Certificate from the University of Missouri. Katie's expertise resides primarily in various components of disability, including physical accessibility compliance, electronic accessibility, Universal Design, and disability culture. Her passions are educating and energizing faculty, staff, and students in understanding universal design, accessibility, and the crucial role disability plays in diversity. Reaching everyone on such a large campus is challenging but sparking that awareness for access and inclusion for all is worth the effort.

Contact: ksmontie@charlotte.edu



CAMPUS RESOURCES

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Office of Disability Services works to ensure that students with disabilities have access to education and campus life at the University. Along with determining accommodations to students, their website provides other helpful resources for students and faculty.

<https://ds.charlotte.edu/>

UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTER

Division of Academic Affairs

The University Career Center provides resources, mentorship, and student services to help our students with disabilities better prepare and connect to the workforce. The center also provides resources about other organizations and internship opportunities for students with disabilities.

<https://career.charlotte.edu/identityatwork/disabled>

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESOURCES

DisABILITY Resources Toolbox (DART)

DisABILITY Resources Toolbox (DART) is a central location replete with information and tools for practitioners, psychology training directors and faculty.

[DART Toolbox for Faculty and Administrators](#)

[DART Toolbox for Practitioners](#)

Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP)

[Check out the webpage of this APA committee. CDIP offers webinars, awards, and annual reports.](#)



ORGANIZATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS



Project 70Forward is a nonprofit organization that works towards inclusion for the persons with disability community in Charlotte, NC. Check out their website, social media, and learn about the initiatives of this local organization.

<https://project70forward.org/>



This is an online community dedicated to creating, sharing, and amplifying disability media and culture. Alice Wong, a disabled activist, writer, editor, media maker, and consultant, is the founder and director of this project.

<https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/t>

Video: Living with an Invisible Disability



Living With an Invisible Disability

Sarah Skinner

Kettering Fairmont High School



Here is the viewpoint of a teenager who lives with a serious medical condition you don't see.

Book:



In “Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century”, Alice Wong presents tough conversations as the book sheds light on the experience of life as an individual with disabilities.

