

# BECAUSE COMMUNITY REALLY MATTERS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BACHELOR OF  
COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAM

## DEPARTMENT HEAD WELCOME

BY DR. FIONA CLEMENT

We are celebrating another fantastic year! Our Community Health Sciences' community is back in full swing with a wonderful buzz in the office from our students, staff and faculty! With leadership from the student body, we are excitedly planning for our first ever Student Research Showcase to be held on Thursday April 27. We will celebrate the awesome research across all 5 of the educational programs in the Department. It will be a wonderful, inspiring event that, of course, we couldn't dream up without the incredible students and community partnerships that shape us!

**"The truth is, the status quo loves to say no. It is the easiest thing in the world to say no, especially in the world of business and finance. But for the first time we were discussing civil rights, and no other civil rights issue has ever been questioned because of the cost."**

Judith Heumann, *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist (1947-2023)*

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# In Memoriam: Dr. E. Anne Hughson

BY DR. JOANNA RANKIN



Dr. E. Anne Hughson  
June 2, 1957 - June 12, 2022

Anne was such a huge part of so many of our lives and touched so many people within and beyond the program. Whether directly or indirectly Anne influenced and guided so many students and graduates of the BCR program, as well as the CRDS graduate program. Anne was truly someone who wanted to change the world, and worked tirelessly to do so. She was a fighter, wasn't afraid to challenge systems (including the university, school systems etc), she was a bad ass leader, someone who wasn't afraid to ask hard questions, and seek out answers and solutions. And she always did it with style. She refused to accept no in the face of challenges to the inclusion of people with disabilities. One of the characteristics that many of us admire in Anne, (in addition to her mastery of the art of dropping an F bomb) was that she was a person who truly lived the messages she espoused. She was an amazing colleague, and true leader in our field and a beautiful friend.

The first time I met Anne was as a master's student in the Pan Canadian program while Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies was still part of the Faculty of Education. I was scared of her, when we first met. I later learned that that wasn't just me. Her passion to challenge systems and bureaucracies accompanied her sometime harsh words aimed to trouble issues, to shake up systems and old order. Anne's passion came with some colourful words and hard challenges. I quickly came to appreciate the directness of her questions, and ability to push me forward in my thinking, my learning and my understandings of disability in the world. As one of our colleagues noted, "I have never met anyone with such a refined bullshit meter." This was never more clearly revealed than when I, trying to sound smarter than I am, in one of her courses, discussed hegemony. Anne asked me to describe what this meant for the class, before I could move on. Stumbling through, I quickly learned, to think more purposefully and more knowledgably about what I was talking about, especially in her presence. These kinds of challenges, though, were accompanied by kindness, mentorship and a desire to really dig into the kinds of scholarship that we engage in. With her long history as a mentor, a teacher and an advocate, we can see that Anne cared enough to lead us through what have sometimes been hard, but important lessons. Her passion as an educator and for changing the world is clear to see through her dedication. So very, very many of us stand on Anne's shoulders.

Anne was always asking questions about the rest of us and taking care of our lives. So, it took me a while to learn about her life. I learned that Anne started her work in the disability field at an institution where she was horrified by the deplorable conditions experienced by people with disabilities. She started working in the Behaviour Support Team/Community Inclusion Support Team with the university in 1979. She completed her PhD in Educational Psychology in 1997. She often referred to herself as a "recovering psychologist" but I am sure that many of you and all of us at work used her as our personal, on-call therapist on a regular basis. She was an integral part of the development of the Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies program, alongside Aldred and Nancy and worked hard to shape what it has become today.



One of the gifts Anne shared with many of us was her outstanding capacity for mentorship. Each of us who work in the program were able to benefit from her ability to push us forward in our distinctive roles, to work towards being better people and to contribute, in our own ways, to changing the world. So many people have mentioned to me, in the wake of Anne's death, that they would not be where they are without her support and her ability to lift us up. In the time that I knew Anne, she gave endlessly to her role as a mentor in a way that I have rarely encountered. As a friend and a mentor, she pushed me to pursue a PhD., to explore my place in the field of disability studies, to explore the good bad and the ugly of academic life and to eventually return to the UC as a faculty member. As a leader, Anne grounded us, led by example, and reminded us of the purpose of our work. As academics, so often tempted by shiny things and opportunities, she reminded us often of the goals and potential of a program like ours, outside of traditional academic milestones.

One of the joys Anne frequently shared in her life was the work that she did with graduate students and the passion that she felt in supporting them, their work, growth and potential to shape the future for people with disabilities. She would often describe long nights, multiple rounds of editing and in-depth discussions about student research topics and dissertations. She had a seemingly endless list of mentees, and projects on the go. Her influence and guidance and her passion for teaching and learning both in the classroom and in the community have shaped the field and the slow but progressive change that has occurred in the disability sector. CRDS students and graduates at all levels, impacted by Anne's vision and teaching, have and continue to influence and change the world, locally, nationally and internationally. As many of her previous students and colleagues noted she greatly influenced career paths and decisions. Always humble, she downplayed her role in these trajectories. I will never forget when we attended a conference together, we hung out with the president of the university, who she casually mentioned was a previous student, and met another previous student on that trip who had worked for Nelson Mandela. Patti captured her huge influence on so many of us saying "I am who I am because of her...I would wager to guess there are a lot of others who would say the same."

When Anne announced her retirement, I cried. I think we all cried. Trying to follow in her footsteps, to maintain and move forward what she had been so instrumental in building seemed an impossible task. As the interim program director, I felt completely unprepared to step into her always fashionable shoes. Shoes that would be impossible to fill. As always, Anne mentored and encouraged and supported me, usually over a few glasses of wine, to act in this role, to face some of the difficult challenges that come with it, and to start to develop some of the skills that we all admired so much in her, while still putting my own spin on things. For her retirement party, where she seemed very reticent about being the centre of attention, we all thought long and hard about what to write on the cake. To capture the career and the person we were there to honour. We landed simply on "we love you Anne" because we did, and do, and will continue to.

Finally, to me, and to many of us who worked with her, Anne was an amazing and dear friend. I cannot capture the level of her generosity, with her knowledge, her time, her possessions, but most importantly with her love and care. She spent countless hours with all of us, talking through our problems. Always turning the conversation away from herself, she listened and supported without limits. She has invited all of us into her life, to the cabin, on trips, over for parties and meals, always making sure our stomachs and wine glasses were full.

Your passing has left a huge hole in so many of our hearts and I know that all of us, and especially me, will miss you terribly.





## FACULTY FOCUS: DR. ZACK MARSHALL

In July 2022, the BCR program was pleased to welcome Dr. Zack Marshall to our team.

Dr. Marshall obtained his PhD in Community Health from Memorial University. A trans scholar, he is passionate about how we can leverage research for transformative social change.

Born in Northern Ireland, Zack lived in 5 provinces (NL, NS, NB, QC & ON) before heading west to Alberta. You may have seen him on campus teaching CORE 487 and CORE 473.

We asked Dr. Marshall a few questions to get to know him a bit better.

### **If you could be anyone from any time period, who would it be and why?**

I would really like to be a time traveler. This question reminds me of the Brandi Carlisle song Right on Time. There is so much we can learn from history, and from the future. I also think about time travel as a form of witnessing. My family immigrated to Canada in the 1970's from Belfast. My parents were in their late 20's. I would love to experience what it was like from their perspective, even for a few days. My dad had only been to Canada once for the job interview, and my Mom had never set foot in Canada before. When they arrived it was a very hot June in Brampton, Ontario. We had a hard time adjusting to the heat and my Mom used to take me and my brother to the mall to cool down during the day. I can only imagine what it was like for them arriving in a totally new country, with a newborn and a toddler.

### **What is the best book you have ever read?**

This is such a hard question. I love reading and audiobooks (but I am pretty fussy about narrators). I also watch Booktube to relax. I can tell you my favourite book from 2022 was *The Starless Sea* by Erin Morgenstern. So far in 2023, I have not had a lot of luck with my book selections. I started two books I just could not finish, but am getting back on track with the amazing *What We All Long For* by Dionne Brand and *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. I usually have a couple of books on the go at the same time. Being new to Calgary, I have been checking out the second hand bookstores. Fair's Fair, especially the warehouse location in the SE, is amazing. I am also really looking forward to attending Queereads YYC. It's once a month on Monday evenings and I hope to join them this summer. Book recommendations are always welcome!



**“Are you kidding me? Life’s surprises”.**

DR. ZACK MARSHALL



## FACULTY FOCUS: DR. ZACK MARSHALL CONTINUED

### What is the weirdest job you have ever had?

Mushroom farmer. It was terrible! It was after my first year of university. I had returned to Saint John, New Brunswick and it was a student summer job. Mushrooms grow in very dark, humid environments. My job was to water mushroom beds in the dark, “rake” dirt with a hand rake, and spray pesticides using a backpack fogger blower in boiling hot rooms. The rake was a short piece of wood with nails sticking out one side. A headlamp was my only source of light most of the day. At lunch time, workers would take a break outside and often they would not come back. I lasted for about three weeks. Then, luckily, my friend Ingrid told me about a summer job working in medical records at St. Joseph’s Hospital. I loved that job so much, especially compared to the mushroom farm! The structure and calm of medical records was such a great fit for me, and it started me on my first of many jobs working in and around hospitals and healthcare.

### What is the title of your autobiography?

“Are you kidding me? Life’s surprises”.

### What is your favourite pizza?

BBQ chicken pizza. This was a great invention!

**“When other people see you as a third-class citizen, the first thing you need is a belief in yourself and the knowledge that you have rights. The next thing you need is a group of friends to fight back with.”**

**Judith Heumann, *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist* (1947-2023)**

## LUCY DIEP, BSC '08, BCR '13, MSC '17 BETWEEN FRIENDS, TEAM LEAD, MEMBERSHIP



**What is your favourite BCR memory?** I think fondly back to my undergraduate experience as a BCR student. I enjoyed the opportunities we had as a small cohort of students sharing our individual experiences and intersecting those experiences from an academic and critical lens. I also had the opportunity to expand my education in qualitative research and academic writing with the 'Wolb Pack', led by Dr. Gregor Wolbring. Here, I had the opportunity to work with and meet professors, instructors, and students in the disability studies field across Canada and the world. I enjoyed participating in thoughtful discussions through a critical disability lens, and being a part of a supportive community of continued learning and academic skill development.

**Looking back, what advice would you give yourself as a student?** Get comfortable with writing a bad first draft.

**What is the best thing about your current job?** Between Friends provides quality social, recreation and development opportunities for people with disabilities. In addition to being able to support our members and providing them with a positive experience in our programs and services, I also have the opportunity to work with a great team that is committed to working towards building a more inclusive Calgary. Through continued learning, critical thinking, and collaboration, I get to work with leaders and community members toward creating inclusion training and services to share with the community.

**How did your BCR degree help you get to where you are now/current career?** My educational experience in the CRDS program provided me with foundational knowledge of the intersectionality of disability and its impacts, and the importance of diverse perspectives and lived experiences. This understanding is what I take into my role as a team member and as a leader when working with the disability community. My skills in critical thinking, academic writing, and research has been valuable to my ability to support with grant and report writing to major funders, and to communicating with community members about the work we are doing, its impact to those who directly access our programs and services, and the impact to the greater community through inclusive practice.

**How can a disability studies perspective help change the world?** The disability studies perspective is often a perspective that is overlooked, leaving out an important and significant voice at the table when it comes to decision making, policies, and problem solving. There are unique, complex, human components and experiences to disability that are revealed through the investigation of social, political, economic, and cultural intersections. Disability studies perspective is one amongst many perspectives that need to be observed within our decisions as designers, developers, creators, and policy makers in order to understand both impact and implications of our actions.





## STUDENT EXPERIENCE: AMANDA DENIS



My name is Amanda, graduate of the CRDS program with an embedded certificate in Mental Wellbeing and Resiliency. I completed my degree in June 2022 and now work as a research assistant on the Radical Mental Health Doula (RMHD) project here at UCalgary, supervised by Dr. Joanna Rankin, Dr. Tiffany Boulton and Dr. Xiao Yang Fang. My path is one filled with bumps and bruises, yet I am a true believer that life always works out as it should.

In 2018, after being a stay-at-home mom for 10 years, I knew two things for sure. I wanted to make a difference in other people's lives, and I was going to start university for the first time. The adjustment to university life was hard as a mom, a wife, being there for my extended family and as a student. Herding cats might have been the easier option that year. In my second year, I transferred into the CRDS program, and I felt like I had found my way home. For me, the close-knit classes, faculty members who truly care about their students, and practicum placements in the community was what I was looking for. I began working in classrooms with school aged children and I thought for sure this was how I could make my impact on the world. What happened though was the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic and uncertainty for the future.

With the unpredictability of Covid-19 restrictions, I chose a research practicum for my CORE 487 placement because of flexibility in hours. It was a practical decision to balance my roles and the ongoing challenges Covid-19 brought for my family. What I was not prepared for was being catapulted towards a career path that truly was meant for me. Under the guidance of Dr. Rankin, I began to see how advocacy and social justice issues are intertwined and compliment the world of qualitative research. My research partner, Mylan So and I began working to understand the barriers students may face when trying to access their own research opportunities while attending university through a Students as Partners (SaP) lens. As a research team, we were successful in Taylor Institute SoTL grant, and I took on a leadership role through my CORE 594 and 595 placement. The icing on the cake was travelling to the University of Alabama to present our findings.

I completed my role on the SaP project in the summer and joined the RMHD project team. My role as a research assistant is unique in that I do a bit of everything from data collection and analysis to now curriculum development. Community engagement and collaboration with people with lived experience and our community partners is exciting as we expose the gaps in the Mental Health system and how doulas could fill this space. Doulas will support, comfort, advocate, and educate so no one is left behind and the pilot is set for early 2023. I am working through my grad school application, and I never could have predicted that this is where I would end up. Yet, as the days go by, I continue to learn and grow. I am grateful for the opportunity, I am grateful for the support, and I am grateful for all the challenges along the way.



## STUDENT EXPERIENCE: CRDSSA, ATHINA SPIROPOULOS

Hey, you...

I heard that you have been looking for an organization dedicated to fostering community and advocating for students' needs within the CRDS program?

The Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies Students Association (CRDSSA) is committed to doing just that! In addition to organizing large scale events such as an annual Gala and disability research conference, we also host bake sales, online competitions, virtual work sessions and run an exclusive discord server with over 300 members to help students make the most of their university degree. What's more, CRDSSA regularly meets with faculty and administration within the Cumming School of Medicine to ensure that students' needs are at the forefront of their decision making process.



Like what you just read? Follow us on Instagram ([crdssa.uofc](https://www.instagram.com/crdssa.uofc)) to stay up-to-date with the many events the CRDSSA will be hosting throughout the 2022/2023 academic year and beyond!

## COMING EVENTS

### **CONNECTOR 2023: Connecting students, graduates and service providers in our community**

Join us as our CRDS students showcase the work they have been doing with our partner agencies in their senior level practicums in a 3-minute thesis-style event!

April 5, 2023 11:00 - 12:50 MT

More information: <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/bcr>





1st Annual

# DISABILITY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Disability: A Discursive, Institutional, and Cultural Experience

Saturday, March 25 2023

On Saturday March 25th, 2023 we are hosting our first annual CRDSSA Disability Research Conference! This all-day event will include three keynote speakers from our esteemed faculty, student presentations, a community panel, networking opportunities with faculty, students, and community partners, and two meals. What's more, this event is 100% free for students thanks to the generous support of the Sinneave Family Foundation and the Department of Community Health Sciences!

If you are interested in presenting research you have done in class, with a professor, or at your practicum sites please fill out this registration and abstract submission link:

<https://forms.gle/N6fedUqkKxRSfvAH9>

If you are just interested in attending this fantastic event, fill out this registration link:

<https://forms.gle/oDovfBgMZxk3kz6b9>

Registration closes March 1st, 2023 and limited spots are available, so act fast and we can't wait to see you there!

CRDSSA  
**DISABILITY RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

Undergraduate and graduate students welcome!

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS!

25 MARCH, 2023  
MACKIMMIE TOWER

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**DR. ALAN MARTINO**

**DR. GREGOR WOLBRING**

**DR. KATRINA MILANEY**

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## NOTEABLES

### CONGRATULATIONS!

**Dr. Zack Marshall** is the recipient of The Farah Jamal Award from the Campbell Collaboration. **Dr. Katrina Milaney** has been awarded the Glenda McQueen Distinguished Leadership Award from the University of Calgary. **Valerie Martin** has received a Cumming School of Medicine Service to People/Partners award. Congratulations to all our winners! Finally, **Dr. Alan Martino** has launched his Disability and Sexuality Lab, the first of its kind.

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (Students names in bold)

Marshall, Z., Kaposy, C., Brunger, F., & Welch, V. (2022). Trans Research Ethics: Challenges and Recommendations for Change. *Bulletin of Applied Transgender Studies*, 1(3-4), 187-210.

Wolbring, Gregor and **Gill, Simerta** (2023) Potential Impact of Environmental Activism: A Survey and a Scoping Review in *Sustainability* 2023, 15(4), 2962; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15042962>

Santinele Martino, A. (2022). The intersection of sexuality and intellectual disabilities: Shattering the taboo. In N. L. Fischer, Westbrook, L., & Seidman, S. (Ed.), *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies: Original Essays* (4th Edition ed., pp. 460-469). Routledge.

Edwards, M. (2022) Community Research with Impact-Practical examples from the Research 2 Social Action HUB, O'Brien Institute for Public Health Friday Seminar Series, March 4, 2022. <https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/chs-oiph-seminar-series-2022-03-04>

**Mfoafo-M'Carthy, N., Cruise, C.,** Lashewicz, B. & Ganesh, A. (2022). Imperfect patients: Disparities in treatment of stroke patients with pre-morbid disability. *The Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences*, pp. 1-37. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/cjn.2022.341>

Pearl, A.J., Rankin, J.C., McSharry McGrath, M., Dyer, S., Jorre de S Jorre, T. (2023) Students-as-Partners and Engaged Scholarship; Complementary Frameworks. In Ketcham, C., Weaver, A., & Moore, J., *Cultivating Capstones*. Stylus Publishing. Retrieved from <https://www.perlego.com/book/3738306/cultivating-capstones-designing-highquality-culminating-experiences-for-student-learning-pdf>