



CHBS Canopy

Inclusive Excellence

Volume 1 | Issue 11 – March 20, 2023

CHBS Viewpoints on Health

The CHBS Viewpoints on Health event provides an opportunity to hear and learn from leaders, scholars, and practitioners working on the cutting edge of complex issues facing our communities, our country, and the world. Linda Villarosa, NY Times Magazine health journalist and author of *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation*, will meet with students, faculty, and AUHs on Thursday, March 23, 2023. Health disparities and race will be the theme for the evening public address at 6:30 PM, Wilson Auditorium, followed by a book signing in the lobby. We hope as many students, faculty/staff, and community members join others in these conversations.

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The Legacy of Judy Heumann



As our last issue was published, the OT students invited all to hear a webinar by Judy Heumann, who died the day before their event. Judy Heumann was a leading voice for disability rights nationally, serving in the Clinton and Obama administrations. She sued New York to be the first teacher to use a wheelchair. Heumann is regarded by many as “the mother” of the disability rights movement.

She experienced and fought against discrimination as a woman in a wheelchair with a disability. At the age of two, Heumann contracted polio. Parents of that time who had children with a disability were advised to institutionalize children due to the hardship of economics and socialization. Her parents did not follow this advice but cobbled together a home-based education.

Being in a wheelchair as a kindergartener, she was denied entry, being labeled a “fire hazard.” After many early battles for access to the same experiences as other children, she eventually was able to get a bachelor’s degree from Long Island University and a master’s degree in public health from UC Berkeley. She was denied a teaching license in NY state for concerns for fire evacuation of herself in a wheelchair and her students.

Heumann became an activist because barriers prevented a full life experience as our society, practices, and policies attempted to curtail her access and opportunities as a person in a wheelchair. People and institutions failed to see the person and then failed to adjust society for the many people with similar experiences. The policy work of Heumann established the Independent Living Movement and the World Institute on Disability. She served on the American Association of People with Disabilities, the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Human Rights Watch, Save the Children, and the U.S. International Council on Disability. She fought both in the streets and in government to make a path for justice for persons with disabilities.

CHBS OT students selected well in their efforts to foster greater knowledge about the experiences of people with disabilities. We all have something to learn to combat our implicit bias about differing realities. Had Heumann not worked hard for inclusion through her activism and advocacy, many would still retain assumptions about the limits of a wheelchair rather than learning that the chair does not make the person regardless of what the chair may be. Our capacity to create greater accessibility for persons with disabilities into our majors is clearly a challenge that we should meet with openness and possibility.

Learn more about the life of [Judy Heumann](#)

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This week

There are many virtual and in-person learning opportunities occurring on campus this week. Three events are open to all.

"Disability is Diversity"

[Disability Advocacy Week \(DAW\) 2023](#)

Event registration is not required unless otherwise indicated. Contact disability-svcs@jmu.edu or 540-568-6705 with questions and accommodation requests.

[JMU Diversity Conference](#)

Festival Conference Center



[CHBS Viewpoints on Health](#)

Learning Highlights for This Week

Many of the learning opportunities this week are embedded in the JMU Diversity Conference, including sessions for Disability Awareness Week. Please use specific links for a full listing of opportunities.

For Staff (or Faculty)

Creating Accessible Materials in Microsoft Office (C.A.M.M.O.) Training

Tuesday 3/21/2023 @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm ([SSC 1075](#)) - Open to JMU Students/Faculty/Staff

Friday 3/24/2023 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm ([SSC 4049](#)) - Open to JMU Students/Faculty/Staff

JMU students, faculty, and staff are invited to learn to use the resources built into Microsoft Office 2021 to create materials that are accessible to people with disabilities.

For Staff

JMU Diversity Conference

Exploring Joy Culturally

Presented by: Gail Napora, Talent Development

Interacting with one another to learn more about each other increases our understanding and acceptance of different beliefs, habits, and behaviors. The more inter-group interactions we can have, the greater the opportunities for inclusion in the moment and in the future. Using the book *The Aesthetics of Joy* by Ingrid Fetell Lee as the framework around which we will interact, you will learn 10 aesthetics of joy and share at your own joys in three areas: personally, culturally, and JMU-ly. Come to this highly interactive session prepared to share your joys and learn about others'.

JMU Diversity Conference Sessions

March 22

The JMU Campus Climate Study: Recommendations from the LGBTQ Employee Advocacy Working Group

Presented by: Christine M. Robinson, Department of Justice Studies; Matthew Hunsberger, Dean of Students office; Kristen Kelley, Learning Centers; Jameaka Parham, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression; Logan Zeigler, James Madison Center for Civic Engagement

The members of the JMU SOGIE Advisory Board's Working Group on LGBTQ Employee Advocacy will give a presentation on our efforts to improve the campus climate for LGBTQ employees at JMU, focusing on our recommendations to JMU's Climate Study Response and Implementation Team. We will also highlight the actions that JMU has taken over the last three years to improve the campus climate (diversity, equity, and inclusion in policies, practices and programs) for LGBTQ employees. We will invite conversation with participants about additional recommendations and opportunities at JMU to collaborate and advance these efforts.

Presentation format: Virtual only. Attendees will be required to bring laptop or mobile device if accessing session while at Festival, room space and wifi will be available. Attendees may access from location of their choice.

Supporting Inclusive Teaching in Divisive Times

Presented by: College of Education's Diversity Council

Across the country, teachers and students from culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse backgrounds are under attack. Since January 2021, bills have been introduced in 42 states to restrict the teaching of critical race theory or limit the discussion of racism and sexism. In Virginia, Executive Order 1 was issued restricting access to equity practices; yet, teachers are still required and evaluated on their use of culturally responsive teaching and equitable practices. This presentation will highlight evidence to move forward with the important use of equity-focused teaching and provide an advocacy toolkit for participants to use to defend this work.

Disability on the Page and at the Podium

Presented by: Susannah Nevison, Department of English, Sweet Briar College and Molly McCully Brown, Department of English, Old Dominion University

Join two disabled writers and professors in discussing the practice and significance of centering disabled writers, thinkers and scholars on university syllabi. Learn about the particular joys, difficulties, and challenges of leading discussions of these texts, alongside a discussion of what it means to teach from the vantage point of disability. The presenters will also address issues surrounding disclosure, visibility and invisibility passing, and the complications of context switching inside academia.

"I've never seen this before! Is this disability accommodation request reasonable"

Presented by: Lori Hostetler, College of Education and ODS Faculty Liaison; Valerie L. Schoolcraft, Office of Disability Services

Have you ever received an Access Plan and thought, "that accommodation may be difficult with some of my course objectives"? Or have you wondered what to do when an accommodation doesn't seem appropriate for a clinical or field experience? This session identifies what to do when you think an accommodation approved by ODS might not be reasonable in a particular context. Join a faculty member and the ODS Director to move from basic awareness of accommodations to taking action to evaluate more complex concerns and to engage the collaborative process to explore potentially reasonable alternatives. Audience: Faculty, AUHs, and leaders of learning experiences.

Leveraging book club sessions to amplify cutting-edge research findings and diversify classroom curriculum and community advocacy. Applying insights from the CFI book read, "Inflamed: Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice." to the health sciences teaching and advocacy work

Presented by: Catherine Zeman, CHBS Health Sciences; Iulia Fratila, Health Sciences; JaNiece Woodson, Health in Color and Health Sciences Major; Sherri Wilson, Health Sciences

What are the physiological costs of inequity, domination/control and environmental destruction precisely? How do these costs translate into economic suffering and missed opportunities? Why do health equity scholars use systems approaches to understand these issues? How can a book club session be used to improve and enhance teaching case studies and community advocacy work in these areas? Join this session to answer these questions and learn about the recent CFI book club session focusing on, "Inflamed: Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice".