Attention, Educators: Here Are Two Events Your Students Should See
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November 23, 2011 by Jo Lynne Lyon

People with disabilities enter the civil rights movement in this 1960s-era photo. It is included in the disability history exhibit.

Please save these dates:

From January 9-27, an exhibit on the history of disability and advocacy in the western world will be available in Special Collections at the Merrill-Cazier Library.

On January 20th, the movie Lives Worth Living will be screened at the Merrill-Cazier Library at 1 p.m. in room 154. This event is co-sponsored by the Disability Resource Center. The 55-minute movie documents the history of America's disability rights movement. We have some different options for using this film as an educational opportunity, so please read the details below.

The Exhibit

The exhibit includes panels that outline the history of disability and advocacy. This walk through 3000 years of the human condition is remarkably detailed. It’s sometimes shocking, sometimes poignant, and always informative.

For example, it shows a dark side to the Greek tradition that revered perfection in the human body: Aristotle also recommended that there should be a law “to prevent the rearing of deformed children.” In his Politics, Aristotle wrote, “As to the exposure and rearing of children, let there be a law that no deformed child shall live.”

Here's an excerpt from two thousand years farther down the timeline: The medical model emerged around the 18th century, defining disability as any one of a series of biological deficiencies located in the body. ... A gradual understanding of science lead to new and often painful treatments for persons with disabilities. People become objects of study, are used in experiments, and assume the role of “patients.”

The exhibit will be in the Special Collections area of the Merrill-Cazier Library. Three cases will also display some of the CPD's current, disability-related work.

The film screening

Lives Worth Living documents the history of America's disability rights movement. It was produced by the PBS Series Independent Lens. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion on “The Disability Rights Movement: Past, Present, and Future.”

Space is limited for the screening of the film and panel presentation, and seating is available on a first come, first served basis. Faculty members who are interested in arranging a separate showing of the film and related guest lecture should contact Jeff Sheen.