

Equality and Diversity Framework

Annual Progress Report 2014

UAL Diversity Team, May 2014



Disability: Research and Projects

Dyslexia Awareness Week | Autumn 2013

Natalie Brett, **UAL's Disability Champion**, encouraged staff with dyslexia to make use of UAL's dyslexia support such as assistive software for staff and students, the guide to Accessible Communications, and support in obtaining a dyslexia assessment.

LCF Teaching Award for work with Visually Impaired students | Autumn 2013

Claudette Davis-Bonnick, Associate lecturer at LCF, achieved a UAL Teaching Award, which included recognition of her work on the 'Seeing is Believing' research project, exploring how visually impaired students can undertake fashion studies.



Equality and Diversity Forum: Creativity and Mental Wealth | Spring 2014

Marking National University Mental Health and Wellbeing Day, the Forum debated the relationship between mental health and creativity, the idea of the 'mad artist' and whether mental health conditions enhance or hinder creativity.

Dr Jonathan Hurlow, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, presented research evidence on whether mental disorder is the price to pay for 'exceptional creativity'. Dr Jenny Tillotson, Reader in Sensory Fashion (CSM) shared her journey from the stigma of her bipolar diagnosis to her pioneering research on embedding sensory systems into clothing to positively affect mood.

Photo: Guy Hills, for Jenny Tillotson and Scentsory Design®

Better Lives Lecture Series - Ablism in Fashion | Spring 2014

Dr Carolyn Mair led an audience discussion to increase awareness and understanding of the reciprocal roles of psychology and fashion. Speakers included Kelly Knox (model), Michael Shamash (Chairman of the Restricted Growth Association), and Stef Reid (Professional Athlete for Great Britain and Paralympic medallist).

Disability and Dyslexia: Funding and support | Spring 2014

As part of National Student Money week, an advice workshop was run for students with Dyslexia or specific learning difficulties, long term health conditions, mental health difficulties, or physical impairments. Students were guided through funding options and how to access support from Student Finance England, Local Authorities, the Benefits Agency and the University.