For returning students, welcome back to UT Austin! We hope you had a relaxing winter break! Welcome as well to those of you who are new to campus and to SSD. We hope you find the 22nd edition of our newsletter, the Insider, useful and informative. In this newsletter you will discover: important dates and deadlines, information from our student organization: Disability Advocate Student Coalition (DASC), upcoming events, and more. We also want to remind everyone that SSD has gone live with a new database this spring, and many processes and services in SSD will become more streamlined. We appreciate everyone’s patience during this transitional period, and we want to remind everyone to continually check their emails and our homepage for the latest updates about any changes in policies and procedures.

Once again, welcome back and best wishes for a successful semester!

Kelli Bradley, LMSW, MBA
Executive Director

Autism Spectrum Group Meetings Monthly

On February 10, SSD hosted the first Spring semester meeting of Students on the Spectrum. This group provides an opportunity for students with Asperger’s Syndrome and other autism-spectrum diagnoses to come together and share their experiences, concerns, and ideas – as well as socialize and eat pizza! Since this group began in Fall 2014, we have had over a dozen students attend our monthly meetings, and we are still growing. Students have found great friends and helpful ideas and resources through these meetings, and we are excited about our growth. Students on the Spectrum is open to any UT student with Asperger’s Syndrome or other autism-spectrum diagnosis. Future meetings are scheduled for March 10 and April 7 from 5:30-6:30pm, in the SSD office. Please email laina.hubbard@austin.utexas.edu with questions or to RSVP for any of these meetings.
Students with Disabilities Survey and Forums

UT Student Government: Students with Disabilities Agency Director, Erin Gleim

Please take a few minutes to participate in our Students with Disabilities Survey:
https://utexas.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0jiGDP2vQDXMlz for the opportunity to win one of our $10 Starbucks gift cards! The survey results will be used to create a short presentation for the upcoming Students with Disabilities Forum to show common concerns students have and to outline what steps are being taken to address those concerns. All students with disabilities are encouraged to attend to let their voices be heard and to see what progress is being made to make the Forty Acres more accessible and inclusive.

The Students with Disabilities Forums are designed for students to share their concerns and suggestions about campus and student life accessibility and provide feedback on their experiences as a student with a disability at UT. The campus ADA Coordinator and SSD staff will be in attendance and food will be provided by Student Government’s Disabilities Inclusion Agency.

The next forum to provide opportunities for students to participate as their schedules allow: Thursday March 5 @ 5:00p.m. in PHR 2.108
(Pharmacy building, south of the SSB) Being rescheduled due to Winter Weather Closure, new date TBD.

Testing, Testing, Oh Wait, We don’t have a Testing Center.

How to arrange Test Accommodations … http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/using-testing-accommodations/
Questions? Contact Craig High, Coordinator of Assistive Technology and Testing Programs: cehigh@austin.utexas.edu

DATES!

March 16-21 Spring Break

April 6, Monday Course Load Reduction Deadline
Last day an undergraduate student may, with the dean’s approval, withdraw from the University or drop a class except for urgent and substantiated, nonacademic reasons.
Last day an undergraduate student may change registration in a class to or from the pass/fail basis.

April 15-17 & April 20-24 Academic Advising: 2015 Summer & Fall
Academic advising for continuing and readmitted students

April 20, Monday PRIORITY REGISTRATION
April 20—May 1, Daily 2015 Summer & Fall Registration
Registration for the summer session and fall semester for continuing and readmitted students.

April 24, Friday Late Course Load Reduction Deadline
Last day students can submit course load reduction application (for time-sensitive or extenuating circumstances), with supporting documentation required.

May 4, Monday Last class day in the School of Law.

May 6-9, 11-16, 18-19 Law School—Final Exams
Spring semester final examinations in the School of Law.

May 8, Friday Last class day except School of Law Medical Withdrawal Deadline
Last day a graduate student or a law student may, with the required approvals, drop a class or withdraw from the University.

May 11-12 & May 17 No-class days

May 13-16 & May 18-19 2015 Spring Semester Final Exams
Spring semester final examinations except in the School of Law.

May 22-23 Graduation—College Ceremonies

May 22, Friday Commissioning of ROTC graduates.

May 23, Saturday Commencement (official grad date).
Meet Our Graduate Intern Staff Member:  

**Luke Johnson**

**Where are you from?**

Evergreen, Colorado

**How did you get to UT Austin?**

I applied to Graduate School at UT because we have the #1 school of education in the country!

**What do you do for fun?**

I enjoy hanging out with friends and doing anything outdoors!

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**DASC: Disability Advocacy Student Coalition**

DASC is a student run advocacy group for people to learn and grow into responsible leaders in the world of disability advocacy. We are always accepting new members and love to incorporate anything you might have in mind. If you’d like to attend our next meeting or learn more about us, contact us at dascatut@gmail.com

**Dinner presents**

**Dinner in the Dark**

Tuesday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m.

SSB G1.106

3 course meal for only $2.00

Limited space so please RSVP dascatut@gmail.com

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**Accessible Media: Is your video captioned or subtitled for everyone to access?**

More and more classrooms today are utilizing online videos, whether they are short YouTube clips, a 5-minute segment from a PBS program, or homemade videos. Quite often these pieces of media are not accessible to everyone due to not having captions (open or closed) or English subtitles.

Often times it is assumed for those who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing can rely on the sign language interpreter(s) or live captioning services to access the videos shown in the classroom. This is an example of Universal Design, an accessible classroom for all. Using YouTube’s automatic captioning feature is NOT effective, and in fact the video still remains inaccessible.

The University must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act by ensuring all classroom related materials are accessible to every student enrolled in the course. A Captioning Unit was established in 2014 to work with departments and faculty members to ensure their media is accessible. A recent lawsuit on this very matter with Harvard and M.I.T. ([http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/13/education/harvard-and-mit-sued-over-failing-to-caption-online-courses.html?_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/13/education/harvard-and-mit-sued-over-failing-to-caption-online-courses.html?_r=0)) also addresses online courses, podcasts, and other educational materials with auditory information presented.

If you are showing a video for class/meeting/event and you’re not sure whether it is accessible, or you know it is not accessible, check our FAQ page on our website: [http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/captioning-videos/](http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/captioning-videos/)

And the Captioning & Transcription Services Department here at UT: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/captioning-and-transcription](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/captioning-and-transcription)

Additional information and resources regarding captioning your materials:

- The Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) has a list of YouTube ready captioning vendors: [http://youtubeready.dcmp.org/](http://youtubeready.dcmp.org/)