

FALL
2010

Insider Newsletter

this issue

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Letter from Director:

For returning students, welcome back to UT Austin! We hope you had a wonderful summer! Welcome as well to those of you who are new to campus and to SSD. We have had a busy summer planning for the upcoming academic year and are looking forward to working with you.

We hope you find the 13th edition of our newsletter, the *Insider*, useful and informative. In this newsletter you will discover important dates and deadlines, information regarding the university's new Q-drop policy and course load reductions, workshop information, career placement and employment accommodation assistance, and more!

SSD continues to focus our attention on creating fun and exciting activities during October, Disability Awareness Month, which include a brown bag with the Law/Graduate schools, screenings of disability related films in ResLife, a co-sponsored event with Voices Against Violence and more! Be sure to check our Web site or your e-mail for details.

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

Stephani Wolfe, LMSW

Executive Director, Services for Students with Disabilities

Looking for Disability Training?

To start the fall semester off with a bang, SSD provided presentations for Residence Life and the Undergraduate Writing Center (UWC) prior to the first day of the semester. The presentations allowed for resident assistants within Residence Life and the consultants in the UWC, with additional tools when working with students who may have a disability.

Michael K. Pomphrey, SSD Disability Services Coordinator, and Nigel Pierce, SSD Graduate Research Assistant, lead the resident assistant training gearing it toward interacting, programming, and the general referral process to SSD.

The UWC presentation, lead by Michael K. Pomphrey and Andrea Saathoff, the Assistant Director of UWC, was specific to the consultants working with students who may have a learning disability.

For a complete list of presentations SSD offers, please refer to our website: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/outreach.php>. In addition, you can always reach us at 512-471-6259 to cater the presentation to your particular need.

Fall 2010
Walk-In Schedule
Hours:
9 am—4 pm

Mondays:

Emily Shyrock

Tuesdays:

Stephani Wolfe

Wednesdays:

Lauren Kinast

Thursdays:

Michael Pomphrey

Fridays:

Rotates among Staff

October is Disability Awareness Month!

Brown Bag : Law and Graduate School *(Location, date, and time TBD)*

SSD and the Law and Graduate Schools together will host a brown bag lunch for SSD students to meet with and ask questions of staff and students who are currently in these programs. During the ADA forums held in Spring 2010, we learned students are dedicated to continuing their education and having an opportunity to meet with key players to ask questions in helping them further this goal. This is one of the many great ideas that came out of the forums. Be watching future *Insiders* for other programs and ideas SSD plans to implement.

Film Screenings – Disability Topics/Discussion

(Location, dates, and times TBD)

SSD will be working with UT campus cable and ResLife to screen movies in the residence halls to address and foster discussion around a variety of disability related issues. Check your campus cable schedule for screening times and contact Michael Pomphrey, mkpomphrey@austin.utexas.edu, if you are interested in more information about programming around these films.

Wednesday, October 20

Disability Mentoring Day *(Locations and times TBD)*

Disability Mentoring Day promotes career development for students and jobseekers with disabilities through job shadowing and hands-on career exploration. With leadership, coordination and resource materials from AAPD, local communities around the country organize their own activities to bring students and employers together for informational sessions about career opportunities and one-on-one mentoring with volunteers at public and private places of employment. For more information please contact SSD at ssd@austin.utexas.edu.

Voices Against Violence Theatre for Dialogue

(Location, dates, and times TBD)

The VAV Theatre for Dialogue program uses trained Peer Theatre Educators to present realistic scenarios demonstrating situations of relationship violence, sexual violence and stalking. This performance will highlight unique dynamics that may be part of relationship violence when an individual has a disability. For more information about VAV Theatre for Dialogue: http://cmhc.utexas.edu/vav_peertheatre.html

A Campus Resource Worth Discovering! *by Craig High*

All UT Austin students should check out the newly opened Sanger Learning and Career Center on campus. Some of the highlighted topics/areas they can help address include:

- *studying more effectively*
- *preparing for grad school*
- *finding a career path you love*
- *choosing your major*
- *getting the results you want in your classes*
- *getting things done*

The list above is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to all of the services that they offer from their area over at Jester Hall. I've been reviewing their website at www.lifelearning.utexas.edu over the past few days and I am convinced they offer several of the most important services on campus to students. They cover everything from tutoring to career counseling.

Tutoring by Appointment

In one-hour sessions, you get to partner with a specially trained, academically qualified tutor. Together, you and your tutor tackle difficult homework problems and review course concepts.

A Campus Resource Worth Discovering! *(continued from page 2)*

Drop-in Tutoring

In the Drop-In Tutoring center, specially-trained tutors are available to answer your questions about Mathematics, Physics, or Chemistry concepts. Tutors interact with students on a question-by-question basis, and students can expect multiple, brief interactions with available tutors. Drop-In Tutoring is a great place to study alone or in groups, and for completing homework assignments.

Career Counseling

Meet privately with a career counselor for a 45-minute appointment to discuss your ideas and concerns regarding your choices about major, internships, career, or graduate school.

Here is a list of examples that might bring a student to career counseling:

- "I have no idea what I want to do with my life."
- "I want to know what careers I might pursue with this major."
- "I'm thinking about the possibility of going to graduate school."
- "I need to an internship or work experience and don't know how to get started."

For hours of operation and to see everything the Sanger Learning and Career Center has to offer, check out their website at www.lifelearning.utexas.edu You can also call (512) 471-1217 or go by Jester A115 to make an appointment. Have a great semester!

Who's New to Our Office? *Michael K. Pomphrey*

Where are you from?

All over. No, not really. I grew up in a military family, which meant moving around a lot. Most of my childhood was spent in Europe, teen years in Utah, and college years were in Colorado. Last couple of years were in Los Angeles and now I'm here in Austin, enjoying what this great city has to offer.

How did you get to UT Austin?

I was in Los Angeles looking for a job and a friend of mine, living here in Austin, suggested moving here. So, I packed up my car and headed out to Austin. As I continued the job search, UT posted the position for a Disability Services Coordinator, which I thought would be great for me to be back in the field of disabilities and working in higher education. It was something I did back in Colorado and truly loved it. And here I am.

What do you like the most about working with college students?

One of the best things about working with college students is watching a student grow over the years. As the student takes interest in his or her education, they learn to advocate for themselves. The true miracle in the process is when that student begins to assist those around them.

What do you do for fun?

One of the things I do for fun is getting together with friends and making short films. During the winter, you'll find me in Colorado, as much as vacation allows for it, snowboarding. When I am not doing those things, I enjoy hanging out with my friends engaging in great conversation over a pint, philosophizing over the next great film or snowboarding adventure.



Important Dates to Remember

- August 22** (Sunday) Add/drop for the fall semester for students who registered and paid their tuition and fees by August 12.
- August 23** (Monday) Registration for the fall semester for continuing students who have not yet registered. To complete registration, undergraduate students must pay tuition by 5:00 pm on August 25; graduate and law students must pay tuition by 5:00 pm on August 31.
- August 24** (Tuesday) Add/drop for the fall semester for students who registered and paid their tuition by August 12.
Deadline for graduate students to be registered in absentia for the fall semester. Tuition bills for undergraduate students who registered after July 17 are due by 5:00 pm.
- August 25** (Wednesday) Classes begin.
- August 30** (Monday) Last day of the official add/drop period; after this date, changes in registration require the approval of the department chair and usually the student's dean. (See General Information, chapter 4, for details.)
- Sept 6** (Monday) Labor Day holiday.
- Sept 10** (Friday) Twelfth class day; this is the date the official enrollment count is taken. Last day an undergraduate student may add a class except for rare and extenuating circumstances.
- Oct 20** (Wednesday) 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 a student may change registration in a class to or from the pass/fail or credit/no credit basis.
- Oct 21-22, 25-27** (Thursday–Friday, Monday–Wednesday) Academic advising for continuing and readmitted students for the spring semester.
- Oct 25** (Monday, 2:00-12:00) Priority registration
- Oct 25 - Nov 5** (Monday–Saturday, Sunday–Friday) Registration for the spring semester for continuing and readmitted students
- Nov 19** (Friday, 5:00PM) Course Load Reduction Deadline
- Nov 25-27** (Thursday–Saturday) Thanksgiving holidays.
- Dec 3** (Friday) Last class day.
Last day a graduate student or a law student may, with the required approvals, drop a class or withdraw from the University.
- Dec 4-5** (Saturday–Sunday) Fall graduation ceremonies in the colleges and schools.
- Dec 6-7, 12** (Monday–Tuesday, Sunday) No-class days except in the School of Law.
- Dec 6-11, & 13-17** (Monday–Saturday, Monday–Friday) Fall semester final examinations in the School of Law.
- Dec 8-11, & 13-14** (Wednesday–Saturday, Monday–Tuesday) Fall semester final examinations except in the School of Law.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



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<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Time Management Workshops

Wednesday, September 15, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Location: SSB 4.212

Tuesday, September 28, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Location: SSB 3.406

Time management strategies and brainstorming with other students to help with areas of difficulty. Share what has worked for you and how to build on those successes. Contact Stephani Wolfe at swolfe@austin.utexas.edu for questions.