

SSD Insider

Services for Students with Disabilities

Department of Diversity and Community Engagement

Our Semester Newsletter

Spring 2009

Letter from Director

For returning students, welcome back to UT Austin! We hope you had a wonderful winter break! Welcome as well to those of you who are new to campus and to SSD.

We hope you find the 10th edition of our newsletter, the *Insider*, useful and informative. Included are: important dates and deadlines, note-taking tips, workshop and group information, scholarship opportunities, updates on the ADA, career placement assistance, and more!

Be sure to join us for the 200th birthday of Lois Braille on Thursday, January 29th from 1-4 PM in the Quadrangle room at the Union. This will be an open gathering with displays and informative sessions regarding Braille and other services that are available to people with visual impairments. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

Krista Schutz-Hampton, M.A.

Director, Services for Students with Disabilities

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Scholarship Opportunities for Students registered with SSD

In conjunction with UT Student Financial Services, SSD co-sponsors several scholarships for students with disabilities. Descriptions of the scholarships are below. See <http://www.texasscholarships.org/types/osfs/index.html> for more information regarding scholarship opportunities offered by UT Student Financial Services.

Lois Ford La Bauve and Louise Saxon Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship is given in memory of Lois Ford La Bauve and in honor of Ms. La Bauve's daughter, Louise Saxon. Ms. La Bauve was a Texas schoolteacher for many years and always displayed a passion for learning. From 1961-1972 La Bauve was the Director of Services for the Blind and Disabled at the Texas State Library. During her tenure with the library system, La Bauve founded the Texas Talking Book program.

In later life, La Bauve lost most of her sight and thus had personal experience with visual disabilities. In 2002, when La Bauve created the endowment, Louise Saxon, La Bauve's daughter stated, "My mother would like for the endowment to help educate more people who overcome visual disabilities and exhibit real potential for making a difference in the world."

At least one scholarship for a minimum of \$200 will be awarded in 2009. If funding is available, additional scholarships and/or scholarships of a larger monetary value will be awarded. Further information about scholarship qualifications and applications for the Lois Ford La Bauve and Louise Saxon Endowed Scholarship may be picked up in the Services for Students with Disabilities Office. Applications must be submitted by 5 PM on Friday, March 6, 2009.

Carole L. Patterson Endowed Scholarship

The Carole L. Patterson Endowed Scholarship is awarded to a limited number of qualified students registered at The University of Texas at Austin. This scholarship is intended for physically disabled students enrolled in at least six hours at UT Austin, with preference given to mobility impaired students. Applicants must have at least a minimum 2.5 UT GPA. Financial need may be used to distinguish among applicants. To apply:

Financial need may be used to distinguish among applicants. To apply:

1. Continuing and Transfer students must complete the ***UT Austin Continuing & Transfer Scholarship Application*** by April 1 to be considered.
2. All applicants must demonstrate financial need by applying for need-based financial aid by March 1 using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
3. All applicants must complete and return the [Documentation for Carole L. Patterson Endowed Scholarship](#) (PDF) form. The completed form is required and must be received in our office no later than April 1.

(scholarship info continued)

Mail completed form to:

Attention: Carole L. Patterson Endowed Scholarship Committee Office of Student Financial Services, Scholarship Section
The University of Texas at Austin
P.O. Box 7758, UT Station
Austin, TX 78713-7758

Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship

The Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a limited number of qualified students registered at The University of Texas at Austin. This scholarship is intended for disabled students or non-disabled students studying to work with disabled individuals, especially disabled children. "Disabled" in this context shall refer to students who have a physical or non-physical disability, including mental and spiritual hardships and obstacles caused by the environment and lack of opportunity. Financial need may be used to distinguish among applicants. To apply:

1. Continuing and Transfer students must complete the UT Austin Continuing & Transfer Scholarship Application by April 1 to be considered.
2. All applicants must demonstrate financial need by applying for need-based financial aid by March 1 using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
3. All applicants must complete and return the [Documentation for Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship](#) (PDF) form. The completed form is required and must be received in our office no later than January 15 for Entering Freshman students and April 1 for Continuing and Transfer students.

Mail completed form to:

Attention: Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship Committee
Office of Student Financial Services, Scholarship Section
The University of Texas at Austin
P.O. Box 7758, UT Station
Austin, TX 78713-7758

Dates to Remember

January 12–13 (Monday–Tuesday) Add/drop for the spring semester for students who have registered and paid their tuition and fees.

January 14 (Wednesday) Registration for the spring semester for new and readmitted students who have not yet registered. To complete registration, undergraduate students must pay tuition and fees by 5:00 pm on January 16; graduate and law students must pay tuition and fees by 5:00 pm on January 23.

January 15 (Thursday) Registration for the spring semester for continuing students who have not yet registered. To complete registration, undergraduate students must pay tuition and fees by 5:00 pm on January 16; graduate and law students must pay tuition and fees by 5:00 pm on January 23. University Health Services benefits become available to registered students.

January 16 (Friday) Add/drop for the spring semester for students who registered and paid their tuition and fees by January 8.

Registration for the spring semester for new, readmitted, and continuing students who have not yet registered. To complete registration, undergraduate students must pay tuition and fees by 5:00 pm on January 16; graduate and law students must pay tuition and fees by 5:00 pm on January 23.

January 19 (Monday) Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.

January 20 (Tuesday) Classes begin.

January 23 (Friday) 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. Last day undergraduate students may register and pay tuition and fees without the approval of the registrar. Last day graduate students may register and pay tuition and fees without the approval of the graduate dean. Last day law students may register and pay tuition and fees without the approval of the dean.

February 4 (Wednesday) Twelfth class day; this is the date the official enrollment count is taken. Last day to drop a class for a possible refund- **any drop after this date will require university approval, be considered a late drop and marked as a "Q"** on a student's transcript. Last day an undergraduate student may add a class except for rare and extenuating circumstances. Payment for added classes (add bill) due by 5:00 pm. Last day a graduate student or a law student may, with the required approvals, add a class.

February 16 (Monday) Last day to drop a class without a possible academic penalty. (See General Information, chapter 4, for details.)

February 20 (Friday) Priority date for student financial aid applications for the summer session.

March 1 (Sunday) Application deadline for study abroad programs for the summer session and the fall semester.

March 16–21 (Monday–Saturday) Spring break.

March 26 (Thursday) Last day to apply for a graduate degree.

(Dates to Remember cont.)

March 30 (Monday) Last day an undergraduate student may, with the dean's approval, drop a course or withdraw from the University 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. Last day to apply for an undergraduate or a law degree. Last day an undergraduate student or a law student may register in absentia.

April 6 (Monday) Priority date for student financial aid applications for the fall semester.

April 15–17, 20–24 (Wednesday–Friday, Monday–Friday) Academic advising for continuing and readmitted students for the summer session and the fall semester.

April 20 (Monday) Priority registration for students registered with Services for Students with Disabilities. Priority registration begins at 2 PM.

April 24 (Friday) Last day students may turn in completed applications for a course load reduction (CLR) or current semester medical withdrawal (MW).

May 8 (Friday) Last class day (except in the School of Law).
Last day to submit master's report, recital, thesis, doctoral dissertation, or treatise to the graduate dean.

Last day a graduate student may, with the required approvals, drop a class or withdraw from the University.

May 11–12, 17 (Monday–Tuesday, Sunday) No-class days except in the School of Law.

May 13–16, 18–19 (Wednesday–Saturday, Monday–Tuesday) Spring semester final examinations except in the School of Law.

May 20 (Wednesday) University residence halls close at 9:00 am (except for graduating students).

May 21 (Thursday) 5:00 pm: Tuition and fee payment deadline for undergraduate students who registered for the summer session during the spring.

May 21–24 (Thursday–Sunday) Graduation ceremonies in the colleges and schools.

May 22 (Friday) Commissioning of ROTC graduates.

May 23 (Saturday) Commencement (official graduation date).

Upcoming SSD Events

February 10 and February 18: Time Management Workshops

SSD is offering a workshop pertaining to time management on two different days in February. The workshop will cover strategies that have helped past students, time saving tips, creating a personalized daily planner, tips for how to get back on track, and an opportunity to brainstorm with other students and share success stories. The workshop will be offered on Tuesday, February 10 from 3:30 – 5:00 in SSB 3.406 and Wednesday, 2/18 from 3:30 -5:00 in SSB 4.212. Participants are welcome at both sessions, but please note that the workshop will be the same on both days.

February 12: Workforce Development Interviews

Every year, SSD hosts a recruiter from the **Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP)** for college students with disabilities. The purpose of this program is to refer students with disabilities for employment in federal and private worksites throughout the United States.

The WRP is co-sponsored by the Office of Disability Employment Policy, the US Department of Labor, and the US Department of Defense. **Participating organizations have an interest in placing qualified individuals with disabilities in summer and permanent positions.**

SSD will be hosting the recruiter from the WRP on Thursday, February 12, 2008. If you are interested in being interviewed for a possible summer internship on that day, please call the SSD front desk at 471-6259 or email <ssd@uts.cc.utexas.edu>. Interviews will be scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students who call after all the interview slots are filled will be put on a wait list. If you were a student who interviewed for a position last year and would like to be considered again this year you will still need to complete a current interview.

Students eligible for the WRP must meet the following criteria. Please do not call to schedule an interview if you do not meet these guidelines.

- Have a disability (ies)
- Be enrolled in a degree program on a substantially full-time basis OR graduated with a degree in May 2008 or more recently.
- Be a US citizen.

Students who participate in the interviews are encouraged to prepare a resume. It is *strongly recommended* that students create their own resume, however, they can also create a federal resume using the resume builder at <www.usajobs.com>. Students who prefer to use the OF612 form can find it online at <http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/of612.pdf>. **It is necessary to bring a transcript (official or unofficial) to the interview**, as it is an important part of the packet.

Also, for the first time ever students are **REQUIRED** to submit their information online to ensure that it is correctly logged into the database and to maintain stricter security measures. This database can be accessed at <<https://wrp.gov/registerstudent>>

March 6: Deadline for Lois Ford La Bauve and Louise Saxon Endowed Scholarship. (See Lois Ford La Bauve and Louise Saxon Scholarship information in this newsletter.)

March 7: Explore UT

On March 7, 2009 SSD will be participating in Explore UT. Our activities will be located near the main building and will be held within a large DDCE tent. We will be showing visitors of all ages how to use a Braille machine and we are also giving brief sign language lessons every hour. We will be presenting information about our office and the services we provide to visitors which includes children, potential UT students, parents, and other community members. If any current student is interested in volunteering please contact Rachel Tarp at rachel.tarp@austin.utexas.edu or 471-6259

New SSD Staff

Rachel Tarp joined the SSD office this past October as a Disability Services Coordinator. She will work with students with ADHD, Learning Disabilities, and Psychological Disabilities.

She brings experience from early education, school counseling, and government relations. Rachel completed her undergraduate education at the University of California, Davis where she studied Communications. She graduated from the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina with her Master's in Education May of 2008.

Rachel reports that her favorite aspect of working with SSD is helping students, faculty, and staff come together to create learning experiences that allow students to achieve up to their abilities. She resides in Austin with her husband and two dogs.



New SSD Staff

John Yurcina joined the SSD crew September 8th, 2008 as the new ATEC lab manager. He oversees all operations of the ATEC lab as well as alternative text production.

John came to UT from Central Washington University (CWU) in Ellensburg, Washington, where he worked with assistive technology and alternative text. Prior to working for CWU, John completed his undergraduate degree at Central.

When not working at UT, John enjoys mountain biking, hiking, running, and the general outdoors. In addition, he is a licensed commercial pilot with a passion not for sleek, fast airplanes, but for the dirty and noisy craft of the Pacific Northwest.

He invites everyone to stop by the ATEC lab and say hi!



To Drop or Not to Drop – That is the Question

As you begin a new semester, SSD would like to emphasize the importance of noting changes in the procedure for dropping courses. Follow these guidelines for making decisions about when and how to reduce your course load

1. If you are registered with SSD and know prior to the 12th class day that you will be taking fewer hours than full-time status (12 hours undergraduate or 9 hours graduate), notify your SSD administrator that you need a Course Load Reduction letter. Your administrator will need the number of hours you are registered for and the name of your academic college. Note, financial aid often requests course load reduction letters for the semester at the end of the preceding semester so that financial aid awards are processed accurately.
2. If you decide to reduce your course load between the 12th class day and the last day to drop a class without academic penalty (February 16 for the Spring 2009 semester) and through the University's deadline to drop a course (March 30), it is necessary to complete the course load reduction application, and follow the procedures for dropping a course in your particular college. You will be subject to any rules and consequences as determined by your college and financial aid (if applicable). You can find the course load reduction application at: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/crsload_medwithdraw.php
3. The deadline for turning in completed course load reduction applications is April 24 at 5 PM. After this date, students may pursue the option of an incomplete, which is agreed upon by each individual instructor, or apply for a retroactive medical withdrawal.
4. For more information about medical withdrawals and course load reductions, see: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/crsload_medwithdraw.php

Revisions to the ADA

Did you know that 2009 brings new legislation relating to those with disabilities? The ADA Amendments Act of 2008 was passed by congress on September 17 and became law on January 1, 2009. What do the changes mean?

Iowa Senator Tom Harkin summarizes the changes succinctly with the following statement, “This bill [ADA Ammendment] better defines who Congress intends to meet the definition of disabled. It clarifies that mitigating measures such as medication may not be taken into account. It provides guidance as to what is a major life activity. And, most critically it lowers the threshold for how limiting a condition must be, and insists that courts interpret the ADA broadly. For all these reasons, this bill returns the focus of the ADA to where it was meant to be – on whether a person with a disability is being discriminated against” (From <http://harkin.senate.gov/blog>).

For a more in depth discussion of the new ADA Amendments Act, see <http://www.ahead.org/resources/government-relations>.”

Start the New Semester off Right by Enhancing your Note Taking Skills

Whether you take your own notes, record your lectures, use a note taker or utilize a combination of all of these strategies, you can improve your performance this semester by following some simple guides to note taking. SSD suggests:

Attend lectures regularly.

Keep the notes for one class separate from other classes. Best yet, keep each class in a separate binder.

Carry extra pens and pencils for editing and unforeseen obstacles (UFO's).

Keep eye contact when not writing.

If you find your mind wandering, doodle on a separate piece of paper rather than your class notes.

Leave blanks where information is missed or misunderstood. Fill in gaps after lecture or as soon after as possible when the aid of the instructor or classmates.

Mark or separate assignments given in class in a space apart from the lecture notes.

Listen especially at the end of the lecture. If the instructor has not paced his lecture well, he may cram half of the content into the last 5 – 10 minutes.

Get into the five-minute technique and review your notes right after class. At this time you can change, organize, add, delete, summarize, or clarify misunderstands.

(Taken from: <http://sas.calpoly.edu/asc/ssl/notetakingtips.html>)