

FALL
2015

Insider Newsletter

this issue

- Letter from Director, Students on the Spectrum **P.1**
Peer Academic Coaching, Disabilities Agency Director **P.2**
Who's New to our Office? **P.2**
Important Dates, Disability Advocate Student Coalition **P.3**

Letter from Director:

For all returning students, welcome back to UT Austin! We hope you had an amazing summer and are ready for an exciting year! We also want to welcome those of you who are new to campus and SSD. We have had a very busy summer planning for the upcoming academic year, and we are looking forward to working with you.

We hope that you find the 23rd edition of our newsletter, *The Insider*, useful and informative. Inside this newsletter you will find important dates and deadlines, upcoming events for Disability Awareness Month, the disABILITY Advocate Program schedule, and information from our student group, DASC.

For those of you that are new to UT or to SSD, please check out our website. It includes a lot of helpful information about delivering accommodation letters, talking with professors, and coordinating your accommodations. You can also check out helpful videos, find resources, request your accommodation letters, and download various forms and applications. The home page is a great resource for finding the most up-to-date news from SSD. Be sure to check the site regularly. <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>. In addition, you can check out SSD's Facebook page (UT-Austin's Services for Students with Disabilities) and Twitter feed (@UT_SSDisability) for other important information and updates.

We also want to thank everyone for your patience during the spring in which we went live with a new database. The launch of the database was a success, and our plan is to roll out new features that will further streamline our procedures. Please check your email, the SSD homepage, and social media for the latest updates.

Once again, welcome back and best wishes for a successful semester!
Kelli Bradley, LMSW, MBA
Executive Director, Services for Students with Disabilities

Fall 2015 Walk-In Schedule

Hours:
9 am—4 pm

Mondays:

Emily Shyrock

Tuesdays:

Rotates Among Staff

Wednesdays:

Sarah Vahle

Thursdays:

Heather Kaplan

Fridays:

Lauren Kinast

Students on the Spectrum

Students on the Spectrum, SSD's support group for UT students on the autism spectrum, had their first meeting on September 8th with eight members and SSD staff in attendance. The Longhorn Autism Alliance, a student group dedicated to building community and amplifying the voices of autistic students on the UT campus shared with the group who they are and their purpose. If you were unable to attend or want to know more about Longhorn Autism Alliance, check them out at: <http://autism-alliance.wix.com/ut-austin> or their FaceBook page: Longhorn Autism Alliance. Be on the lookout for future meeting dates and times!

Peer Academic Coaching

This program is open to any student interested in receiving coaching from a trained UT student on how to prepare effectively for UT classes. Peer coaches are trained by learning specialists, and the program is certified by the College Reading and Learning Association.

Participants can expect to learn how to match the ways in which they study to the unique demands of each course. Common topics include note-taking and reading techniques, time management and concentration, and test-taking and test preparation. Potential participants should be open to trying new study techniques and be willing to meet privately once a week for an hour with a peer coach. Students completing participation in the program have commented, "I'm likely to get higher grades in all my classes," and "this help has been invaluable to my learning process now and for the rest of my life."

The cost is covered by the Sanger Learning Center. Participants are admitted to the program on a rolling basis, subject to coach availability.

Students interested in working a coach can apply to the program by completing a short questionnaire located here: <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/ugs/my/pac/interest-form/>.

A Word from our Students with Disabilities Agency Director



My name is Donald Egan and I am the Agency Director for the Disability Inclusion Agency, formerly Students with Disabilities, for the 2015-2016 school year. I am enthusiastic to work closely with SSD and other agencies throughout SG, Senate of College Councils, and the university. The Disability and Inclusion Agency will focus this year on expanding the role of the agency within SG and correcting many of the legislative issues made last session. Throughout the year, I hope to continue projects created by the Students with Disabilities Agency last year such as increased access to RecSports and the establishment of a testing center. I will also begin to work on new projects throughout the semester such as a job fair for students with disabilities and new research opportunities throughout campus. I look forward to a great year and would love to hear any and all feedback. Please reach out to me if you have any ideas, concerns, or want to get involved in the agency!

Donald Egan
Disability and Inclusion Agency Director, UT Student Government
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(832)-398-3709

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Students:
There is a Facebook student group, if you're interested, join: SignHorns

Faculty, Staff, and Students:

Did you know we have a disABILITY Advocate Program which provides training on how to effectively work with people with disabilities?

<http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/advocate/>

Who's New to Our Office?

Morgan Sinnard

...moved to Austin, Texas from Louisville, Kentucky. She is studying Educational Psychology, and is in her second year of the Counselor Education program.

Morgan spends most of her free time outdoors, reading works by James Baldwin, and eating immeasurable quantities of pizza.



Important Dates to Remember

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| Sept 11 | (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. Last day to drop a class for a possible refund. (See <i>General Information</i> , Academic Policies and Procedures, for details.) |
| Oct 22-23, 26-28 | (Thursday–Friday, Monday–Wednesday) Academic advising for continuing and readmitted students for the spring semester. |
| Oct 26 | (Monday, 2:00-12:00) Priority registration |
| Oct 26 - Nov 6 | (Monday–Saturday, Sunday–Friday) Registration for the spring semester for continuing and readmitted students |
| Nov 3 | (Tuesday, 5:00PM) 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. |
| Nov 20 | (Friday, 5:00PM) LATE Course Load Reduction Application deadline. ALL undergraduate and graduate students. Updated / current documentation required with CLR Application submittal. |
| Nov 26-28 | (Thursday–Saturday) Thanksgiving holidays. |
| Dec 4 | (Friday) Last class day. MEDICAL WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE Students must submit MW application and supporting documentation. |
| Dec 5-6 | (Saturday–Sunday) Fall graduation ceremonies in the colleges and schools. |
| Dec 7-8, 13 | (Monday–Tuesday, Sunday) No-class days. |
| Dec 7-12, & 14-18 | (Monday–Saturday, Monday–Friday) Fall semester final examinations in the School of Law. |
| Dec 9-12, & 14-15 | (Wednesday-Saturday, Monday-Tuesday) Fall semester final examinations except in the School of Law. |
| Dec 19 | (Saturday) Official graduation date. (No public exercises.) |



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



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 VP: 512-410-6644
<http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>

TESTING @ SSD?

Testing deadline is October 9, 2015!!! This includes **ALL** exams for semester. You must submit your testing request form to the SSD Office by October 9, 2015.

Disability Advocacy Student Coalition ~ DASC

Have you heard about UT's very own Disability Advocacy Student Coalition (DASC)?!! Join us to learn more about this great student organization. DASC is a great place to find new friends and be yourself! Come learn about some of the exciting events we're planning this semester like Dinner in the Dark, Coffee and Conversation Tech Talk, and more!

Meetings are held the first Monday of every month and snacks are provided! If you can't make it, but would like to learn more or to request accommodations email dascatut@gmail.com. Come Join Us!