



Insider Newsletter

SSD Hires New Executive Director!

After a lengthy search, SSD is excited to announce that Kelli Bradley has been selected to serve as SSD's new executive director. Kelli has worked in SSD as a disability services coordinator for the past two and a half years and transitioned to her new role at the start of September. With a LMSW and an MBA, Kelli is

uniquely prepared to work directly with students, faculty, and staff while also managing the day-to-day operations of SSD. She is familiar with the campus community and has a clear vision that will build and improve upon the work that is already being done in the office while also exploring new opportunities.

Thank you to all of you who were able to assist with interviews and providing feedback about the candidates throughout the search process. Please join us in welcoming Kelli as the executive director of SSD!

*Jennifer W. Maedgen, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Vice
President,
DDCE*

And now our Letter from the Director

For all returning students, welcome back to UT Austin! We hope you had a wonderful 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 19th 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. You will also read about two new staff members that have joined SSD since the spring semester.

If you have not checked out the SSD website lately, it has been recently revamped and looks amazing. 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 also 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/>

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

*Kelli Bradley, LMSW, MBA-
Executive Director, Services
for Students with Disabilities*

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IMPORTANT DATES / DEADLINES for Fall 2013

October 23, Wednesday

Last day a graduate student may change registration in a class to or from the credit/no credit basis.

October 24–25, Thursday–Friday, October 28–30, Monday–Wednesday

Academic advising for continuing and readmitted students for the spring semester.

October 28, Monday (2:00PM–12:00AM)

Priority Registration

October 28–November 8

Daily Registration for the spring semester for continuing and readmitted students.

November 5, Tuesday

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.

November 22, Friday by 5:00PM

Last day students can submit course load reduction application (for time-sensitive or extenuating circumstances), with supporting documentation required.

November 28–30, Thursday–Saturday

Thanksgiving holidays.

December 6, Friday

Medical Withdrawal Deadline

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.

December 7–8, Saturday–Sunday

Fall graduation ceremonies in the colleges and schools.

December 9–10, Monday–Tuesday

December 15, Sunday

No-class days.

December 9–14, Monday–Saturday

December 16–20, Monday–Friday

Fall semester final examinations in the School of Law.

December 11–14, Wednesday–Saturday

December 16–17, Monday–Tuesday

Fall semester final examinations except in the School of Law.

December 21, Saturday

Official graduation date.

Meet Megan Kareithi

Meg Kareithi is the new Assistive Technology Lab Manager and joined the team in March 2013. Meg is from Galveston, TX and grew up in the Houston area. She attended Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX where she received a degree in History with a minor in Spanish. After college, Meg taught English as a Second Language in

Austin before moving to New Orleans for graduate school. At Tulane University, Meg received an MA in history. After Hurricane Katrina, she began working at the Lighthouse for the Blind New Orleans, helping blind youth improve their academic, social and life



skills. Upon moving back to Texas in 2008, Meg taught World History at Southwestern and St. Edward's universities. For the past few years she and her husband have volunteered with Knowbility, a non-profit whose mission is to promote the use of accessible information technology, which enables the independence of people with disabilities. She enjoys cooking, reading, dancing, and going to see live music.

DASC: disABILITY Advocacy Student Coalition

The word “disability” is attached to an endless amount of misconceptions and assumptions. It is a word that typically comes with a large degree of social stigma. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) has increased in the number of registered students exponentially over the past couple of years. The disABILITY Advocacy Student Coalition emerged as a student organization during the academic school year of 2011-2012 with students interested in issues in disability on the UT campus.

The disABILITY Advocacy Student Coalition (DASC) was founded with the pur-

pose of promoting awareness, advocacy and education about disability. The organization’s main goals are to break all misconceptions and educate, while at the same time advocating for different issues involving disability. In the two years this organization has been active different events have been put on. The first year the group participated in tabling events around campus to establish its presence in the UT community. During the past year DASC has taken an active role in Disability Awareness Month by holding a Fashion Show and a Beep Baseball tournament. During the spring DASC held Disability

Awareness Week and organized a Dinner in the Dark. In addition the group has been helping with the Disability Awareness Trainings held by SSD.

DASC has many different events on its agenda for this year and is always looking for new members interested in getting involved.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/116905971748511/>

Listserv: dasc.utexas@utlists.utexas.edu

Email: mmviga@gmail.com

Deaf / Hard of Hearing Resources:

Student Organizations: Facebook Group—SignHorns
UT Deaf/HH Longhorn College Bowl
UT Deaf/HH ListServ: utdeafandhh@utlists.utexas.edu

Meet Laina Hubbard

Laina Hubbard is our newest Disabilities Services Coordinator. Laina is filling a newly created position within SSD that will help SSD meet the growing demand for direct student support and expand outreach efforts across campus.

Laina was raised in western Massachusetts, before attending Oral Roberts University in Tulsa,

Oklahoma. While completing her degree in Psychology, Laina worked as a tutor for students with learning disabilities, and discovered a passion for supporting learners of all kinds. She continued to work as a Special Education tutor and advocate in her hometown in the Berkshires, before join-



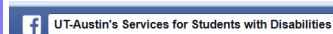
ing an organization that supported college students with learning differences.

Laina enjoys travel, dancing, reading, studying French, and spending time with friends—as well as with her neurotic and highly anxious Chihuahua, Chandler. As a recent transplant from the snowy northeast, Laina is looking forward to Austin’s warm and sunny climate while exploring all that the city has to offer.

CONNECT WITH SSD IN A WHOLE NEW WAY

Over the past several months, SSD has been working on different projects designed to keep you more connected with SSD. Read about these different options and never miss out again!

Please remember that by participating in social media, others may be able to see your activity. Some of these options allow you to retain anonymous, so please do your research before participating.



SSD now has an active Facebook page under the name UT Austin Services for Students with Disabilities. We will be posting SSD news, events and opportunities hosted by other departments on campus, and other disability-related news that we want to share with you

Please like our page!
<https://www.facebook.com/UTAustinServicesForStudentsWithDisabilities>

HORNSLINK Some of you may be familiar with Hornslink, the new online platform hosted by the Dean of Stu-

dents office designed to connect you with student organizations and departments that might be a good fit for your interests and personal/professional/education goals. SSD has a Hornslink page where we will be posting announcements, news, and our upcoming events. Our page is currently by invitation only, although we are working to create an option to allow students to join themselves. If you want to become a member of Hornslink, email your SSD coordinator and we will send you an invitation to join!

<https://utexas.collegiatelink.net/organization/SSD>



As you may have noticed, the SSD website now has a news section to help keep you connected and informed about what is happening at SSD and around campus. The most recent post will be featured on the home page while older posts will be archived and available to view. SSD offers the option to subscribe to our news posts so that you will receive an email when a new post is shared.

You can sign up for the SSD student news which will contain information relevant to students registered with SSD—such as reminders about important dates and deadlines, or announcements about changes to our processes and policies. You can also choose to subscribe to the disABILITY Advocate news which has more general disability awareness information.

The Connect section of the website is also new and provides resources for the campus, community, internships/employment, scholarships, and disability specific advocacy and support. We have included resources that may be of interest or use to students registered with SSD but because most of these resources are not under the control of SSD, we cannot endorse or guarantee the services or information provided by these resources.

There have been updates to some of the other pages of the SSD website as well so take some time to look around and let us know what you think of the changes we have made.

OCTOBER: DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS

National White Cane Day	October 15, 2013
Disability Advocate Training	ALL: October 15, 2013, Faculty: October 23, 2013
Workforce Recruitment	October 22, 2013
Open House—High School Students	October 30, 2013