



The Insider Newsletter

From the Executive Director's Desk ...

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. After some atypical winter weather and two official snow days, I think

we are all ready for spring to arrive! We hope you find the 20th edition of our newsletter, the *Insider*, useful and informative. In this newsletter you will discover: important dates and deadlines, a spotlight on our new Disabilities Services

Coordinator, an update from Disability Advocate Student Coalition, and more. 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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SSD Student Forums

SSD will host two student forums during the Spring 2014 semester. These forums allow students to directly connect with those responsible for accommodating students and keeping the University in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This is an opportunity for students to ask questions, share ideas, and provide constructive criticisms to those organizational bodies designed to accommodate students with disabilities.

The student forums will take place:

Tuesday, February, 25th from 6:00–7:00pm in the SSD office, SSB 4.206
Wednesday, March 5th from 1:00–2:00pm, SSB G1.106

Pizza will be provided. Come join us for some free food and discussion!

SSD Walk-In Hours

**9:00am to 4:00pm,
Monday - Friday:**

- **Mondays:**
Emily Shryock
- **Tuesdays:**
Laina Hubbard
- **Wednesdays:**
Cathleen Collins
- **Thursdays:**
Heather Kaplan
- **Fridays:**
Lauren Kinast

Assistive Technology Open House

The disABILITY Student Advocacy Coalition assistive technology in conjunction with the SSD office is exploring the idea of having 'open sessions' for those wanting to learn more about assistive technology available. Students can come and talk about what assistive technology is working for

them: wayfinding apps, magnification devices, tricks in Kurzweil, etc. We'll have coffee, tea, and light snacks in the SSD alcove and demonstrations of assistive technology in the ATEC lab. This event will be open to

all students, not just those registered with SSD. Check our website and Facebook page for dates and times announcing future sessions.

Any questions, contact Megan Kareithi:
mkareithi@austin.utexas.edu



IMPORTANT DATES / DEADLINES for Spring 2014

March 10-15

Spring Break

March 31, 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 9–11, Wednesday–Friday

14-18, Monday–Friday

Academic advising for continuing and readmitted students for the summer and fall semester.

April 14–25, Daily

Registration for the summer session and fall semester for continuing and readmitted students.

April 18th, Friday

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

April 28, Monday

Last class day in the School of Law.

April 30–May 3, Wednesday–Saturday, May 5–10, Monday–Saturday, May 12–13 Monday–Tuesday

Spring semester final examinations in the School of Law.

May 2, Friday

Last class day except in the 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 5-6 & 11, Monday–Tuesday, Sunday

No-class days.

May 7–10, Wednesday–Saturday

May 12–13, Monday–Tuesday

Spring semester final examinations except in the School of Law.

May 16–17, Friday–Saturday

Graduation ceremonies in the colleges & schools.

May 16, Friday

Commissioning of ROTC graduates.

May 17, Saturday

Commencement (official graduation date).

Introducing Heather Kaplan as SSD's new Disabilities Services Coordinator



Services for Students with Disabilities is excited to announce that Heather Kaplan has been selected as a Disabilities Services Coordinator at SSD. Many UT students and staff will recognize Heather because of her four years working and co-running the front office as an Administrative Associate with SSD. Heather considers her time managing the many responsibilities of SSD's front desk position invaluable and is grateful for the vast knowledge and skills that have given her a solid foundation in the workings of SSD. We are very excited for Heather to build upon these relationships in her new role and take on new challenges as a coordinator for students with disabilities.

Heather has worked with students of all ages –from preschoolers all the way through Graduate-level degree seekers who have disabilities or, as she prefers to phrase it, “alternative learning styles”. She appreciates the challenges students face and sees this new position as an opportunity to help students and professors create and maintain that level playing field that all UT students deserve in the classroom. Heather enjoys utilizing her American Sign Language skills whenever possible. She loves live music, swing dancing to the traditional jazz bands around Austin, the outdoors (especially when mountains and snow are involved) and traveling. Heather also volunteers with a local search and rescue organization. Please join us in welcoming Heather in her new role at SSD!

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 number of students registered with Services for Students with Disabilities has increased exponentially over the past two years. The disABILITY Advocacy Student Coalition emerged as a student organization during the academic school year of 2011-2012 .

The disABILITY Advocacy Student Coalition (DASC) was founded with the purpose of promoting awareness, advocacy and education about disability.

The organization’s main goals are to break 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 organized. 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 Advocate Program trainings provided 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

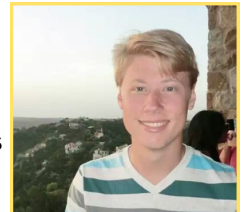
Student Government’s Students with Disabilities Agency

Student Government’s Students with Disabilities Agency has worked hard to provide a stronger relationship between students and the SSD this year. We have worked with the SSD to help it better represent its students and achieve its goals through initiatives such as making the Financial Services Office more accessible to deaf and hard of hearing students, working to provide more information about

the SSD in summer orientation, improving the quality of the extended time and reduced distraction testing accommodations and providing Student Government resources for SSD events.

This semester and forward, the Agency is restructuring and increasing in size so that it can better serve the SSD and students with disabilities in future years. It

is also working to ensure that accessible resources are provided in the classroom as technology use expands and that students with disabilities continually have the opportunity to be in community and have their voices heard in a strong student organization.



Will Schweinfurth,
Student Government — Director,
Students with Disabilities Agency

Sean Forbes, Deaf Hip-Hop Artist Comes to Austin!

Sean Forbes, a deaf hip-hop artist from Detroit, MI, is coming to UT on April 18th and performing at Burdine Hall Auditorium. Sean is signed to the record label that discovered Eminem and has been featured on XXL, VIBE, CNN, Parade, ABC News, FOX News, BBC, and more. With millions of views collectively on his YouTube music videos, you do not

want to miss this one of a kind performance that can be enjoyed by everyone. Doors open at 7:00pm. The performance starts at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$10.00 per person; a portion of the proceeds will go towards the UT Deaf/HH College Bowl Team. For more information about Sean Forbes, www.deafandloud.com



Scholarships! Scholarships! Scholarships!

Are you looking for additional funding for your education or living expenses? If so, you may want to check out the SSD scholarship page on our website: <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/scholarships/> . We have a comprehensive list of funding opportunities for students with disabilities and are continually updating the page when we learn about new funding sources. You can search for scholarships based on your diagnosis or type of disability or look for scholarships that are open to any student with a disability. There are also three scholarships available specifically for students with disabilities at UT.

A little time spent researching your scholarship options could really pay off!