

A Message from the 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 9th edition of our newsletter, the *Insider*, useful and informative. Included you will discover: important dates and deadlines, strategies in talking with your instructors, workshop and group information, career placement assistance, and more!

SSD continues to focus our attention on creating fun and exciting activities during October, Disability Awareness Month, which include participation in Campus Fusion, disability awareness night with women's volleyball and more! Be sure to check our Web site or your e-mail for details.

Be sure to join us Friday, September 5, for our Fall Kick-Off/Ice Cream Social. The event will be catered by Amy's Ice Cream and include give away prizes from places along the drag, including a \$100 gift card from the University Co-op. You'll also have the opportunity to meet active student organizations and the SSD staff. 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

SSD Workshops Fall 2008

SSD has a number of great opportunities for you this fall. Visit the SSD Web site or call 512-471-6259 for more information.

www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd

TIME MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

This workshop will discuss time management strategies that have proven to be helpful for other students. Participants will also brainstorm ideas to help with difficulties that students are experiencing during the semester, and share ideas regarding what has worked for students in the past and how to build on those successes. Similar topics will be covered at each workshop.

- Wednesday, September 17, 10:30–Noon, SSB 4.212
- Thursday, October 9, 3–4:30, SSB 3.406

ASPERGER'S GROUP: NAVIGATING UT AUSTIN

This group is designed to help students with Asperger's and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) connect with one another and have a place to come and discuss their experiences on UT Austin's campus. This is a new group, and as such will evolve as the group members share and discuss what would make the group meaningful to them. This group is being facilitated by SSD administrator Stephani Wolfe. If you are interested in participating in this group, please e-mail her at stephani.wolfe@mail.utexas.edu. Beginning September 24, the group will consist of 5 sessions every other Wednesday, 11 a.m.–Noon.

- Wednesday, September 24, 11–Noon, SSB 4.212
- Wednesday, October 8, 11–Noon, SSB 4.212
- Wednesday, October 22, 11–Noon, SSB 4.212
- Wednesday, November 5, 11–Noon, SSB 4.212
- Wednesday, November 19, 11–Noon, SSB 3.406

SSD Celebrates Disability Awareness Month in October

October is Disability awareness month. Services for Students with Disabilities has a number of events planned to promote disability awareness. Join us for one of the events below and be sure to check the SSD website for even more events including SSD's annual film screening and discussion

CAMPUS FUSION – October 15

Campus Fusion is a week-long series of events designed to highlight diversity and dialogue on campus. Campus Fusion begins October 13 and lasts through October 17. On October 15, SSD is proud to participate in Campus Fusion with a variety of hands-on activities designed to promote ability and further awareness of disability issues. Join us from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. on the Gregory plaza. Students will be able to learn about ADHD, experience some adaptive technology, meet community representatives and explore disability etiquette.

SSD NIGHT AT THE VOLLEYBALL GAME – October 17

Join SSD for a tailgate party and disability awareness night at the women's volleyball game on October 17. UT Austin plays Missouri. Game time is 6:30 p.m. A deaf student will sign the national anthem and SSD will highlight famous athletes with disabilities before the game.

SSD Partners with ABLE, SADA and Student Government to Host **Fall Kick-Off Celebration**

In association with three student organizations—ABLE, SADA and Student Government, Services for Students with Disabilities will be hosting an ice cream social on Friday, September 5, 2008, 3:30–5:30 p.m. in the Glenn Maloney Room on the ground floor of the Student Services Building. The event will be catered by Amy's Ice Cream!

The September 5 kickoff will feature several hundred dollars worth of great prizes, short presentations by all of the involved organizations, as well as a Student Panel on "Dating with Disabilities." The panelists will be students with varying disabilities who will share the wisdom they

have gained from good and bad dating experiences and answer questions about issues such as dating someone with or without a disability, when to disclose information, etc.

At the end of the event, a drawing will be held for the grand prize and the winner must be present! Gift certificates that have been graciously donated by many local businesses including Einstein Bros. Bagels, Madam Mam's and many other conveniently located businesses will be given away throughout the event. If you are interested in getting involved in this event or have questions of any kind, please e-mail Craig High at cehigh@mail.utexas.edu. ✨

Dates and Deadlines Fall Semester

- August 21–22** (Thursday–Friday) Registration for the fall semester for new and readmitted students who have not yet registered. To complete registration, undergraduate students must pay tuition and fees by 5 p.m. on August 26; graduate and law students must pay tuition and fees by 5 p.m. on September 2.
- August 24** (Sunday) Add/drop for the fall semester for students who registered and paid their tuition and fees by August 13.
- August 25** (Monday) Registration for the fall semester for continuing students who have not yet registered. University Health Services benefits become available to registered students.
- August 26** (Tuesday) Add/drop for the fall semester begins
- August 27** (Wednesday) Classes begin.
- September 1** (Monday) Labor Day holiday.
- September 2** (Tuesday) 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. 5 p.m.: Tuition and fee payment deadline for graduate and law students. Tuition and fees may be paid in full or in installments.
- September 12** (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. Payment for added classes (add bill) due by 5 p.m. Last day to drop a class for a possible refund. (See General Information carpet, chapter 4, for details.)
- Last day a graduate student or a law student may, with the required approvals, add a class.
- September 24** (Wednesday) Last day to drop a class without a possible academic penalty.
- September 29** (Monday) Application deadline for study abroad programs for the spring semester. Application deadline for International Education Fee Scholarship (IEFS) for study abroad programs.
- September 30** (Tuesday) Priority date for student financial aid applications for the spring semester.
- October 13** (Monday) Last day to apply for a graduate degree.
- October 22** (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. Last day to apply for an undergraduate or a law degree. Last day an undergraduate student or a law student may register in absentia.
- October 23–24, 27–29** (Thursday–Friday, Monday–Wednesday) Academic advising for continuing and readmitted students for the spring semester.
- October 27** (Monday) Priority registration for the spring semester for students registered with Services for Students with Disabilities. Priority registration is from 12 p.m. to midnight.
- November 27–29** (Thursday–Saturday) Thanksgiving holidays.
- December 5** (Friday) Last class day. Last day to submit master’s report, recital, thesis, doctoral dissertation, or treatise to the graduate dean. Last day a graduate student or a law student may, with the required approvals, drop a class or withdraw from the University.
- December 6–7** (Saturday–Sunday) Fall graduation ceremonies in the colleges and schools.
- December 10–13, 15–16** (Wednesday–Saturday, Monday–Tuesday) Fall semester final examinations except in the School of Law.



Olympic Hopefuls

By now, most of the 2008 Summer Olympic athletes have returned home. Did you know that for international athletes with disabilities, the competition is just beginning? The 2008 Paralympic games begin in Beijing, China on September 6. Paralympic sports include: archery, athletics, boccia, cycling, equestrian, football (5-a-Side), football 7-a-side, goal ball, judo, power lifting, rowing, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, volleyball sitting, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis. The Paralympics began in 1848. Read more paralympic history below.

In 1948, Sir Ludwig Guttmann organized a sports competition involving World War II veterans with a spinal cord injury in Stoke Mandeville, England. Four years later, competitors from the Netherlands joined the games and an international movement was born. Olympic style games for athletes with a disability were organized for the first time in Rome in 1960, now called Paralympics. In Toronto in 1976, other disability groups were added and the idea of merging together different disability groups for international sport competitions was born. In the same year, the first Paralympic Winter Games took place in Sweden.



Today, the Paralympics are elite sport events for athletes from six different disability groups. They emphasize, however, the participants' athletic achievements rather than their disability. The movement has grown dramatically since its first days. The number of athletes participating in Summer Paralympic Games has increased from 400 athletes from 23 countries in Rome in 1960 to 3806 athletes from 136 countries in Athens in 2004.

The Paralympic Games have always been held in the same year as the Olympic Games. Since the Seoul 1988 Paralympic Games and the Albertville 1992 Winter Paralympic Games they have also taken place at the same venues as the Olympics. On 19 June 2001, an agreement was signed between IOC and IPC securing this practice for the future. From the 2012 bid process onwards, the host city chosen to host the Olympic Games will be obliged to also host the Paralympics.

The Chinese city of Beijing will host the 2008 Paralympic Games, whereas the Winter Paralympics 2010 will be in Vancouver, Canada. London will host the Paralympics in 2012.

Taken from en.paralympic.beijing2008.cn/spirit/index.shtml.

Career Connections

for Students with Disabilities

As the number of people with disabilities continues to grow, more and more companies are interested in hiring people with disabilities. This fall, SSD is partnering with two different organizations committed to bringing employment opportunities to students with Disabilities. On September 11, 2008, 6–8 p.m. in the Texas Union's Santa Rita Room, Lime Connect returns for a second year of recruiting UT Austin students. Founded by a former trader for Merrill Lynch, Lime Connect helps students with disabilities connect with partner organizations

such as Goldman Sachs, Pepsi Co. and Google. Visit www.limeconnect.com to find out more.

While Lime focuses on professional employment after earning a college degree, Entry Point focuses on connecting students with disabilities to summer internship opportunities. Specifically, Entry Point targets students in Science, Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics. For more information, visit chrweb.aas.org/entrypoint. ✨

STRATEGIES FOR TALKING TO YOUR PROFESSORS

As you gear up for a new semester, give some thought to how you want to communicate with your instructors. Some proactive planning and networking can mean successful interactions for you. Keep these tips in mind when talking with professors:

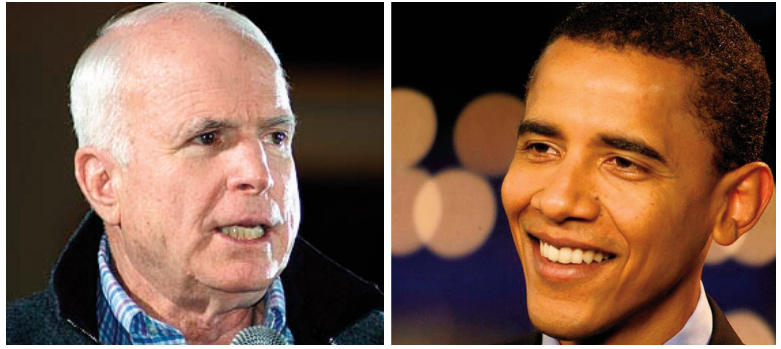
- 1 Your professors are people too!** Professors feel overwhelmed, anxious, and excited about the beginning of the semester just like students do.
- 2 Find a common interest or experience that you share with your professor.** Whether it's UT Austin athletics, a favorite restaurant or discussions about summer travels, many people find it more comfortable to have conversations that begin on common ground.
- 3 Don't wait!** Many students wait until there is a problem or a poor grade to talk to a professor. Establishing a working relationship early in the semester allows both you and your professor more time to work together effectively.
- 4 Be honest about your needs.** Usually, a professor is willing to make reasonable accommodations for a student with a disability, but it is up to you as the student to explain what you need or how an instructor can best help you.
- 5 Choose your location carefully.** While it may seem convenient to catch a professor immediately before or after class, you may have better results if you can set aside time during office hours or at another mutually agreeable time. Setting aside time for a more private conversation ensures that you and your professor will be able to focus on each other and maintain a comfortable level of confidentiality.
- 6 Be professional and courteous.** No matter how well you know your instructor, it's always a good idea to use courteous and professional language. By sending well constructed e-mails and speaking well, you communicate a level of commitment to your instructor. ✨

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the famous song, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game!" And, if you follow baseball, you'll know that October is also the time for division championships, league series, and the one and only World Series. But, did you know that the following major league ball players all played with a disability?

- A. Jim Abbott (birth defect - missing hand)
- B. Jeremy Bonderman (dyslexia)
- C. Mordecai Brown (severed fingers)
- D. Roy Campanella (paralysis)
- E. Jim Eisenreich (Tourette's syndrome)
- F. Bob Gibson (asthma)
- G. Pete Gray (missing limb)
- H. William Hoy (deaf)
- I. Curtis Pride (deaf)
- J. Jackie Robinson (diabetes)
- K. Ron Santo (diabetes)
- L. Burt Shepard (prosthesis)

To learn more about MLB players with disabilities, check out education.baseballhalloffame.org/experience/thematic_units/sp_abilities.html#i.



Disability and the Presidential Election

As the 2008 U.S. Presidential election draws closer, disability is one of many topics gathering attention from candidates and voters alike. If you would like to learn more about how you candidate may address disability issues, it makes sense to investigate a candidate's stance on the ADA, special education, Medicare and Medicaid, social security disability and spending for social programs in general. In addition, the following Web sites are well-known and respected within the disability activist community:

- › jfactivist.typepad.com/jfactivist/2008_election/
- › www.disaboom.com/Living/election08/National-Forum-on-Disability-Issues-Webcasted-Live-on-Disaboom.com-July-26.aspx
- › www.aapd-dc.org/index.php