

The Insider

The University of Texas at Austin



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Special points of interest:

- Faculty: Are your videos / media clips you show in class accessible?
- Get involved with DASC!
- Meet Luke Johnson



A group of people in wheelchairs gathers in front of a Greyhound bus with signs that read "All Aboard," "We will ride," and "Lifts on Hounds."

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Letter from the Director

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. We hope you find the 22nd edition of our newsletter, the *Insider*, useful and informative. In this newsletter you will discover: important dates and deadlines, information from our student organization:

Disability Advocate Student Coalition (DASC), upcoming events, and more. We also want to remind everyone that SSD has gone live with a new database this spring, and many processes and services in SSD will become more streamlined. We appreciate everyone's patience during this transitional period, and we want to remind everyone to continually



check their emails and our homepage for the latest updates about any changes in policies and procedures.

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

Kelli Bradley,
LMSW, MBA
Executive Director

Autism Spectrum Group Meetings Monthly

On February 10, SSD hosted the first Spring semester meeting of Students on the Spectrum. This group provides an opportunity for students with Asperger's Syndrome and other autism-spectrum diagnoses to come together and share their experiences, concerns, and ideas – as well as socialize and eat pizza! Since this group began in Fall 2014, we have had over a dozen students attend our monthly meetings, and we are still growing. Students have found great friends and helpful ideas and resources through these meetings, and we are

excited about our growth. Students on the Spectrum is open to any UT student with Asperger's Syndrome or other autism-spectrum diagnosis. Future meetings are scheduled for March 10 and April 7 from 5:30-6:30pm, in the SSD office. Please email laina.hubbard@austin.utexas.edu with questions or to RSVP for any of these meetings.



Students with Disabilities Survey and Forums

UT Student Government: Students with Disabilities Agency Director, *Erin Gleim*

Please take a few minutes to participate in our Students with Disabilities Survey:

https://utexas.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0ljGDP2vQDXMlxz for the opportunity to win one of our \$10 Starbucks gift cards! The survey results will be used to create a short presentation for the upcoming Students with Disabilities Forum to show common concerns students have and to outline what steps are being taken to address those concerns. All students with disabilities are encouraged to attend to let their voices be heard and to see what progress is being made to make the Forty Acres more accessible and inclusive.



The Students with Disabilities Forums are designed for students to share their concerns and suggestions about campus and student life accessibility and provide feedback on their experiences as a student with a disability at UT. The campus ADA Coordinator and SSD staff will be in attendance and food will be provided by Student Government's Disabilities Inclusion Agency.

The next forum to provide opportunities for students to participate as their schedules allow: **Thursday March 5 @ 5:00p.m.** in PHR 2-108 (Pharmacy building, south of the SSB) Being rescheduled due to Winter Weather Closure, new date TBD.

Testing, Testing, Oh Wait, We don't have a Testing Center.

How to arrange Test Accommodations ... <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/using-testing-accommodations/>

Questions? Contact Craig High, Coordinator of Assistive Technology and Testing Programs: cehigh@austin.utexas.edu

Important

DATES!

March 16-21	Spring Break	May 4, Monday	Last class day in the School of Law.
April 6, 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.	May 6-9, 11-16, 18-19	Law School—Final Exams Spring semester final examinations in the School of Law.
April 15-17 & April 20-24	Academic Advising: 2015 Summer & Fall Academic advising for continuing and readmitted students	May 8, Friday	Last class day except 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.
April 20, Monday	PRIORITY REGISTRATION	May 11-12 & May 17	No-class days
April 20—May 1, Daily	2015 Summer & Fall Registration Registration for the summer session and fall semester for continuing and readmitted students.	May 13-16 & May 18-19	2015 Spring Semester Final Exams Spring semester final examinations except in the School of Law.
April 24, Friday	Late Course Load Reduction Deadline Last day students can submit course load reduction application (for time-sensitive or extenuating circumstances), with supporting documentation required.	May 22-23	Graduation—College Ceremonies
		May 22, Friday	Commissioning of ROTC graduates.
		May 23, Saturday	Commencement (official grad date).

Meet Our Graduate Intern Staff Member:

Luke Johnson



Where are you from?

Evergreen, Colorado

How did you get to UT Austin?

I applied to Graduate School at UT because we have the #1 school of education in the country!

What do you do for fun?

I enjoy hanging out with friends and doing anything outdoors!

DASC: Disability Advocacy Student Coalition

DASC is a student run advocacy group for people to learn and grow into responsible leaders in the world of disability advocacy. We are always accepting new members and love to incorporate anything you might have in mind. If you'd like to attend our next meeting or learn more about us, contact us at dascatut@gmail.com

DASC presents

Dinner in the Dark

Tuesday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m.

SSB G1.106

3 course meal for only \$2.00

Limited space so please RSVP dascatut@gmail.com



Accessible Media: *Is your video captioned or subtitled for everyone to access?*

More and more classrooms today are utilizing online videos, whether they are short YouTube clips, a 5-minute segment from a PBS program, or home-made videos. Quite often these pieces of media are not accessible to everyone due to not having captions (open or closed) or English subtitles.

Often times it is assumed for those who are Deaf / Hard of Hearing can rely on the sign language interpreter(s) or live captioning services to access the videos shown in the classroom. This is the least effective option to consider, likely half of the information will be missed as the individual has their eyes fixated on the interpreter or on the computer screen to read the captions, they miss out

on the full video, there is a lag with receiving an interpreted or captioned message which will not align with the video at that moment, this is a very frustrating situation to be put in.

However, for more obvious reasons, captions/subtitles actually benefit many others in the classroom and not just the Deaf /Hard of Hearing individuals. This is an example of Universal Design, an accessible classroom for all. Using YouTube's automatic captioning feature is NOT effective, and in fact the video still remains inaccessible.

The University must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act by ensuring all classroom related materials are accessible to every student enrolled in the

course. A Captioning Unit was established in 2014 to work with departments and faculty members to ensure their media is accessible. A recent lawsuit on this very matter with Harvard and M.I.T. (http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/13/education/harvard-and-mit-sued-over-failing-to-caption-online-courses.html?_r=0) also



addresses online courses, podcasts, and other educational materials with auditory information presented.

If you are showing a video for class/meeting/event and you're not sure whether it is

accessible, or you know it is not accessible, check our FAQ page on our website:

<http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/captioning-videos/>

And the Captioning & Transcription Services Department here at UT; <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/captioning-and-transcription>

Additional information and resources regarding captioning your materials:

PEPNet Tipsheet— <http://www.pepnet.org/sites/default/files/61PEPNet%20Tipsheet%20-%20Captioning.pdf>

The Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) has a list of YouTube ready captioning vendors: <http://youtubeready.dcmp.org/>