

# D.S. News

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Disability Services \* Division of Student Affairs \* Bowling Green State University \* Spring 2006

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## University Updating Accessibility Self-Evaluation

*by Rob Cunningham, Ph.D., Director/ADA Compliance Manager*

In a continuing effort to ensure equal access for individuals with disabilities, the University is currently planning for an update of its facilities. Federal law requires that no qualified individual with a disability be 1) excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of, programs or activities; or 2) be otherwise subjected to discrimination because an institution's facilities are inaccessible.

In collaboration with staff from the Ability Center of Toledo, a working document will be created which is both compliant with regulations and sensitive to the nuances of the campus environment. Suggested improvements will be prioritized and input from individuals with disabilities will be actively sought throughout the process.



Comments or suggestions should be directed to Rob Cunningham, Director/ADA Compliance Manager.

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## eBooks Now Available for Select BGSU Courses

*by Lea Anne Kessler, Coordinator*

Digital textbooks are now available for many courses at BGSU. To find out if your courses have digital textbooks available go to <http://direct.mbsbooks.com/bgsu.htm>. Some of the book offerings include specific sections of accounting, biology, economics, ethnic studies, geology, interpersonal communications, marketing, philosophy, sociology, telecommunications, and women's studies.

Students who may be interested in purchasing eBooks are students with visual impairments, students with learning disabilities in reading, or anyone who is interested in getting their textbooks in an innovative way. Benefits of purchasing eBooks include:



- 40% cheaper than print textbooks
- Accessible immediately
- Use free reader software
- Environmentally friendly
- Highlight and take notes
- Search by keyword(s)
- Print important selections
- Laptop portable

If you are registered with Disability Services and qualify for the alternative formatted book program (books on audiotape or books in electronic format) we strongly encourage you to take advantage of this new program. It will save you money and help you obtain your textbooks in a useable format immediately. Please visit the BGSU Bookstore website <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/bookstore/> for more information on the eBook program.

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## DS Office Welcomes New Secretary – Beth Lashaway

*by Lea Anne Kessler, Coordinator*

Many of you may have had the pleasure of interacting with our new office secretary, Beth Lashaway. Beth joined our office in October 2005 and is no stranger to the University. She has worked at BGSU for the last 26 years, with experience in Career Services, Human Resources, Arts and Sciences, and most recently in the Graduate Student Senate office.

Beth indicated that it has been challenging to learn a new position in a different office but that she really enjoys the kindness of the students and staff members. She enjoys helping students and parents and strives to provide them with accurate information about office and University procedures. She has also enjoyed learning how to interact appropriately with students with different types of disabilities.

Beth and her family have many connections to higher education. Her husband Steve is employed at BGSU as an electrician. Her daughter Morgan is a junior at BGSU majoring in physical education. Her son Drew is on a wrestling scholarship at Kent State University. He is a sophomore majoring in technology. In her free time, Beth is a member of the Five Point Steam Threshers and also enjoys gardening and motorcycling.

Beth is a wonderful asset to our office and we look forward to her continued service to students, parents, and employees.

### Message from the Director

As we approach the end of another academic year I want to take this opportunity to thank our faculty, staff, and students for making the campus community one of inclusion and acceptance to a great degree. It's become clear that in many instances we need only provide persons with disabilities an opportunity to participate, and they will teach us ways we never envisioned to accomplish their academic and professional goals.

An area of particular significance in this regard is adaptive technology. Recent advancements in adaptive computing technology, increased reliance on computers in general, and increased employment specialization have resulted in career opportunities once considered unattainable by persons with disabilities. While the number of students with disabilities enrolling in institutions of higher education has increased during the recent past, they are still underrepresented in certain academic and career areas. Federal mandates require us to provide reasonable academic adjustments to ensure that otherwise qualified students with disabilities have educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers.

Our efforts in providing this have been greatly enhanced by the understanding and collaborative relationships we enjoy with many of our campus colleagues. Studies have shown that faculty and staff who have interacted with students with disabilities generally have positive attitudes regarding working with these students. In addition, those who are familiar with accommodation practices are better prepared to make arrangements that ensure equal opportunity and participation.

The staff of the Disability Services Office encourages you to contact us with questions, concerns, or suggestions, and we thank you again for your assistance and interest.

Sincerely,  
Rob Cunningham, Ph.D.

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## Disability Services is Looking for a Few Good Typists

by Peggy Dennis, Associate Director

Do you (or someone you know) type extremely well? Are they looking for an excellent training opportunity where they could potentially earn around \$20/hour? The information below is taken directly from [www.typewell.org](http://www.typewell.org), a transcription training system. BGSU and other area agencies use transcribers to caption classes for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. BGSU is collaborating with other area agencies and universities to host a training session this summer. TypeWell is used in secondary and post-secondary schools across the country.

How It Works: A hearing transcriber uses a notebook computer with abbreviation software to transcribe meaning-for-meaning what is said in class lectures and discussions. The students read the transcription in real-time from a second computer. Students can also type questions and comments to the transcriber during class, and even take their own notes on the reader computer.

Communication access in class: TypeWell transcribers provide students with information "as it happens", about both class content and social interaction. The transcriber captures the meaning of what is said, as well as how it is expressed. This exposure to both content and everyday conversation styles gives the students true access to the multi-faceted communication of mainstreamed classes.

Meaning-for-Meaning vs. Word-for-Word: The TypeWell transcription system is a meaning-for-meaning system. This means the transcriber usually does not type every word that is said, but rather may condense the language used while maintaining the full meaning intended by the speaker. Many TypeWell transcribers do get close to verbatim transcription, but they are trained to omit false starts, repetitions and other non-meaningful speech. TypeWell transcribers are trained to capture all spoken content in class communication access, including jokes, off-the-point comments, behavioral control, etc.

Please see the website [www.typewell.org](http://www.typewell.org) for information and contact Peggy Dennis in the Office of Disability Services for more information regarding Typewell at BGSU.

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## Congratulations, Tim Olt DS Outstanding Faculty Award Recipient

By Irene Scott, Graduate Assistant

The Office of Disability Services would like to congratulate Tim Olt, Visiting Assistant Professor in the College of Musical Arts Performance Studies area, as recipient of DS Outstanding Faculty Award. A native of Kettering, Ohio, Mr. Olt joined Bowling Green State University in Fall 2003. He received his bachelor of music education from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, his masters in tuba performance from Miami University, and has completed one year of doctoral work in musical performance at Florida State University. This semester he teaches 14 students enrolled in applied euphonium and tuba lessons and conducts the BGSU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble.

Olt's approach to teaching depends on the individual needs of the students. He seeks to help students find their own level and stimulate them to reach their own goals. Some students are visual learners, while others are auditory or kinesthetic learners. He recognizes the different learning styles. "I take everyone on their own face value as they come," he said.

This honor is given to a deserving faculty member each academic year. Students who are registered with the DS are encouraged to nominate professors who have illustrated a commitment to inclusiveness, equal access and equal opportunity in the classroom. Out of eight nominees, the staff believes Olt is deserving of this honor for his dedication to his students, ability to effectively work with students with disabilities and to rise to the challenge of meeting different needs of his students.

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As winner, **Tim Olt** received a \$25 gift certificate to the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Bookstore, a framed certificate, and a coffee mug. Other nominees include; **Brian Campbell**, Assistant Professor in School of Human Movement, Sport, and Leisure Studies; **Donald Boren**, Professor in Legal Studies and International Business; **Peterann Siehl**, Associate Professor in Education/Division of Intervention Services; **Daniel Pavuk**, Lecturer for Biological Science; **David Guay**, Instructor for Center for Environmental Programs; **Judy VandenBroek**, Lecturer in Education/Division of Intervention Services; **James Hanlon**, Instructor for Geography Department.

*DS Staff Members:*

Rob Cunningham, Ph.D. – Director/ADA Compliance Manager  
Peggy Dennis, M.R.C. – Associate Director  
Lea Anne Kessler, M.A. – Coordinator  
Tammy Thurman – Alternative Materials Specialist  
Irene Scott – Graduate Assistant  
Beth L. Lashaway – Secretary

Do you have a question for our office? Please email us at  
[dss@bgsu.edu](mailto:dss@bgsu.edu)

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[www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/disability](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/disability)

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