

D.S. News

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



Message from the Director

By Rob Cunningham, Ph.D., Director/ADA Compliance Manager

Every year increasing numbers of students, both disabled and nondisabled, are coming to college from primary and secondary schools where mainstreamed classrooms are common. Some of these students may have also been part of inclusive classrooms, where not only a few high-performing physically disabled children but a spectrum of students with significant cognitive, emotional, physical and sensory disabilities will all be a part of the central, core culture of the school.

While an instant transformation will probably not occur, it's safe to assume that disabled and nondisabled students will be used to one another, and used to working together in ways that those of us in higher education may have never experienced.

Students with disabilities are the most recent marginalized group to move toward equal opportunity in education. They are following in the path of low-income persons, racial and ethnic minorities, and women. The worlds of elementary, secondary, and higher education are fundamentally different with respect to educating students with disabilities. Where elementary and secondary education is compulsory and no student with a disability may be rejected, higher education is voluntary and rejects many aspirants. Higher education also routinely terminates students with disabilities for substandard academic performance in contrast to the principle of "no cessation of services" in K-12 education.

Those who see the connection between disability law and federal civil rights laws will find the path to understanding disability law a great deal easier to follow. We desegregate our schools to remove the stigma that comes from enforced separation and to bring to all students the advantages of diversity in the classroom.

In our work with students who happen to have disabilities here at BGSU, we believe the philosophy of providing access and opportunities is complemented by the collaborative nature in which planning and implementation occur. Our faculty, staff, and students are allies in this endeavor and are much appreciated.

We at the Disability Services Office welcome your input, suggestions, and support as we work to remove physical and attitudinal barriers which preclude the full inclusion of persons with disabilities.

New Computer Workstation at Jerome Library

By Peggy Dennis, Associate Director

The Jerome Library has a new and improved computer workstation specifically designed to assist library patrons with disabilities. The workstation replaces the reading edge machine, which will be donated to the Ability Center of Toledo. This new station consists of a computer with a large, arm-mounted, flexible monitor and a scanner with OpenBook software. This software will allow patrons to scan in material, convert it to text, then listen with headphones as the computer reads aloud. This workstation is located on the first floor behind the reference librarian desk.





Transportation Options in Bowling Green

By Stacy Patnode, Post-Graduate Intern

Students at BGSU are accustomed to seeing the shuttle busses constantly whizzing around campus, but there are additional transportation options as well.

2-ride is another shuttle option provided by the university. The 2-ride van will take students to places on campus that aren't on the shuttle route, as well as places off campus if the student is going to the destination for an educational purpose. 2-ride is open from 3:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. This is a free transportation option. The number is (419) 372-7433. It is recommended that the ride be scheduled a half-hour in advance to ensure the driver can reach the destination on time.

BG Transit is a cab service that will take a passenger to any destination within the Bowling Green city limits for a flat rate of \$2.50 or \$1.25 if the passenger has a transit card. BG Transit is open from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Saturday. BG Transit is closed on Sundays and all major holidays. It is important to know that BG Transit may arrive 15 minutes before or after the scheduled time, so it's important to plan ahead to ensure a potential wait of half an hour. It is recommended that rides be scheduled a day in advance. BG Transit: 1-800-579-4299

Another option is Super Cab. Super Cab is open from 8:00 P.M. to 3:00 A.M. There is a flat rate of \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 if the passenger needs to stop at an ATM. Super Cab will go anywhere within the BG city limits. Super Cab: (419) 707-2525

Hopefully, this offers some additional transportation options that can be utilized as cooler weather approaches.

DS Office Welcomes...

By Stacy Patnode, Post-Graduate Intern

Curtis Smith is a graduate assistant at Disability Services and has been working in the office since August. His cheerful outgoing personality is a nice addition to the office. Curtis grew up in Toledo with his 11 siblings. He graduated from Whitmer high school where he especially enjoyed music and football. His love of music earned him a recording contract and he is still producing rap, R&B and gospel. Curtis attended BGSU as an undergrad, majoring in ethnic studies with a minor in history. Curtis' three children keep him busy and he balances his graduate classes with his obligations as a high school football coach. Curtis is currently working toward a masters in Rehabilitation Counseling and hopes to work in a disability services office or student support services.

By Curtis D. Smith, Jr., Graduate Assistant

Stacy Patnode, Post-Graduate Intern, graduated from BGSU in August 2005 with a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. "My bachelor's in IPC has laid a solid foundation in Rehabilitation Counseling," she said. Stacy is full of energy and loves working with the students and assisting the staff with her insight and expertise. She sums up her work in Disability Services as a good experience. Stacy is the oldest of three siblings including her twin, Sara, which she holds seniority by three minutes. Her brother Alex attends OU, and her parents reside in Waterville, Ohio. Two of Stacy's hobbies are drinking gingerbread latte from Starbucks and reading romance novels. Last winter break she went on a Harry Potter binge and read all six books in eleven days! She also enjoys horse back riding and walking with her guide dog Kaylee.

Students – Don't forget to make your exam appointments at least 3 days in advance.

Student Feature

Hi, my name is Amber Ricker. I am a junior Deaf Education major here at Bowling Green State University. I transferred here from a private Christian school in Indiana. I chose to transfer to B.G.S.U. for two main reasons. First I would receive more state funding and secondly because of the disability services offered. I came from a school whose services were lacking which in turn made it challenging to do schoolwork, let alone be involved in many extracurricular activities. B.G.S.U.'s disability services stands out far from the rest.

Not only am I able to be involved with various organizations – such as H2O church, Dance Marathon, and Silent Solidarity – but, I am the President of a new student organization (called “F.I.G.U.R.E.”). This amazing outlet brings together individuals who have various special abilities or are interested in working with those who have special abilities to create more awareness on campus. Although it is just now in its beginning stages, it is encouraging to know that I have the support of disability services.

One does not know at first glance why I am different, which is how it should be. When I walk into disability services to take a test or just to catch up with someone about how my classes are going, I am not “hearing impaired Amber.” Rather, I am *just* Amber. Not classified by my special ability, but simply just for who I am.



Amber (right) performing the National Anthem in sign language at a major league baseball game.



Student Organizations

By Irene S. Scott, Graduate Assistant

While FIGURE and NAMI have their own individual missions, both organizations strive to create awareness, provide an outlet for students to voice their concerns, and are proactive in building an inclusive community for individuals with and without a disability.

Finding Intelligent Greatness Uniquely Residing in Everyone focuses on issues surrounding hidden and visible disabilities. Through programs, community service, student panels, and presentations, the organization strives to inform, instruct, and inspire the community. In celebration of National Disability Awareness Month, FIGURE organized a Silent Dinner. “For those who don’t know how to sign, such as myself, it was an opportunity to interact with others and to learn,” said Allison Darr, FIGURE Treasurer. Furthermore, FIGURE and University Activities Organization co-sponsored the movie, “The Ringer” (2005). Through this humorous, light-hearted film, the sponsors strove to banish stereotypes, preconceived notions and labeling regarding individuals with mental impairments, said Amber Ricker, FIGURE President.

National Alliance on Mental Illness strives to create awareness about mental health through education, support, and advocacy. In celebration of Mental Health Awareness Week, NAMI sponsored a two-day conference. During the two days, approximately 20 people attended the conference. NAMI President Megan Ginter said the event went well. The conference addressed issues surrounding suicide and resources available in the community for individuals and concerned families and peers of individuals with mental illnesses.



There are still opportunities for supportive students and community members to get involved. Please contact Amber Ricker at aricker@bgsu.edu for more info about FIGURE and Megan Ginter at mginter@bgsu.edu for more info about NAMI.

Reminders for Students who use Alternative Formatted Texts

By Tammy Thurman, Adaptive Materials Specialist



- Many books are available in e-format from the Bookstore (<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/bookstore/>) or online (ex. www.amazon.com)
- Let me know which books you will be needing in alternative format
- Send course syllabi as soon as possible
- Keep in mind that it can take 2-3 weeks to complete your requests
- Keep in contact (tammyt@bgsu.edu) if you have any questions

Priority Registration

By Lea Anne Kessler, Coordinator

Most students registered with the Disability Services Office are eligible to receive priority registration for classes. This means that students will have an earlier class registration date than other students in their same class standing. Only undergraduate students who have picked up professor letters or made contact with a counselor in our office since the previous semester will be eligible for priority registration. The best way to ensure that you will receive priority registration each semester is to read the email messages from our office and keep in regular contact with your DS counselor.

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format (e.g. large print, cassette, or in Braille) please contact Disability Services at (419) 372-8495, TTY (419) 372-9455, or dss@bgsu.edu.



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