

D.S. News

Disability Services * Division of Student Affairs * Bowling Green State University * Spring 2008

Outstanding Faculty Award Winner –

By Heather Huffman, Graduate Assistant

Congratulations to Jeffrey Schmidt for winning the Disability Services' Outstanding Faculty Award! Mr. Schmidt, who is a part-time instructor for the School of Leadership and Policy Studies, is in his seventh year teaching at BGSU. A falcon, through and through, Mr. Schmidt graduated from BG with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1976 and with a Master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision in 1981.



According to Mr. Schmidt, his top priority as a teacher is to get to know his students as individuals. This allows him to better strive to meet their needs as learners. He works to build trust with his students so they feel comfortable sharing their problems and ambitions with him. His methods must be working because the student who nominated him said, "He does not just care about the students in regards to completing the course. But rather, he takes the time to get involved in the student's life and what he/she has going on."

Mr. Schmidt's advice for students with disabilities is to communicate. He encourages students to make sure professors know of their needs and remind them often. He explains that most professors do not mean to offend or neglect. They just do not know how to meet the student's needs. The student should give advice on how best to be accommodated and keep professors informed of what is or is not working.

The Disability Services' Outstanding Faculty Award is given once a semester to a faculty member who is committed to providing equal access and opportunity to students with disabilities. Students who are registered with Disability Services are encouraged to nominate professors who promote an inclusive classroom, value diverse learning styles and abilities, challenge and support students with disabilities, and believe in and enjoy working with all students.



“Friends of DS” Award Goes to... University Bookstore

*By Peggy Dennis, M.R.C., Associate Director, Lea Anne Kessler, M.A.,
Coordinator, & Tammy Thurman, Adaptive Materials Specialist*

Disability Services would like to acknowledge extraordinary efforts of collaboration exhibited by the University Bookstore. In recent years they have been a tremendous asset providing exemplary service to our office. They have been instrumental in providing textbook materials to our office in a timely manner, allowing us to provide alternative formatted materials to students with visual impairments and learning disabilities. Bookstore staff members have always responded quickly to our requests with a cheerful and positive attitude. It is for these reasons, among others, that we have chosen the University Bookstore as this semester's recipient of the "Friends of DS" award.

Reframing the Disability Services Perspective

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

Most disability services offices at institutions of higher education started in response to forces external to higher education, including social movements and government legislation. In addition, today's disability service delivery is aligned with meeting the mandates of laws such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, both of which individualized disability in their definitions. While these laws establish minimums, they do not define maximums. This open ended mandate has allowed service providers to construct new approaches that seek to balance individual accommodations, with efforts on inclusion, recognition, and social change.

The problem with individualized accommodations/adjustments is that they reinforce the medical notion that disability resides within the individual, ignoring the premise that society may well be an accomplice to disabled people's marginalization. In other words, it's important to understand that in many situations complying with required minimums promotes segregation, limited participation, and unequal access for students with disabilities.

As a community, it's important that we seek to ensure that students with disabilities are included instead of just being accommodated. Examples of this can be observed in the planning, construction, and implementation of new physical structures, including laboratories and distance learning programs. There is a movement toward universally designed environments where all involved value the diversity that persons with disabilities bring, and acknowledge that different individuals, disabled and non-disabled, benefit from environments that maximize potential while being usable by the most people possible.

My staff and I appreciate the efforts of our colleagues in working to achieve social change for and with persons with disabilities here at BGSU.



F.I.G.U.R.E. It Out

By Heather Huffman, Graduate Assistant

Finding Intelligent Greatness Uniquely Residing in Everyone is both a mouthful to say and an enormous task. However, for the student organization F.I.G.U.R.E, it is just business as usual. F.I.G.U.R.E works to fulfill its mission to instruct, inform, and inspire people about disabilities. Besides regular Silent Dinners and volunteering, this year, F.I.G.U.R.E. brought Kathy Buckley, a deaf comedienne, to speak on campus and organized a viewing of the movie "I Am Sam."

The group is already looking for ways it can improve awareness on campus next year and is currently planning on bringing in speaker Gary Broadbent in the fall. If you would like more information about the organization, their website is <http://www.bgsu.edu/studentlife/organizations/figure/> or contact Rob Cunningham or Heather Huffman at the Office of Disability Services.

Making Exam Appointments – Important Reminders

Students – Please remember to call (419-372-8495) or email (dss@bgsu.edu) us at least 3 days in advance to make exam appointments. If you do not give us 3 days notice, we may not have a room available for you to take your exam.

If you are eligible for a reader, scribe, separate testing room, or computer, please notify us when making your exam appointment.

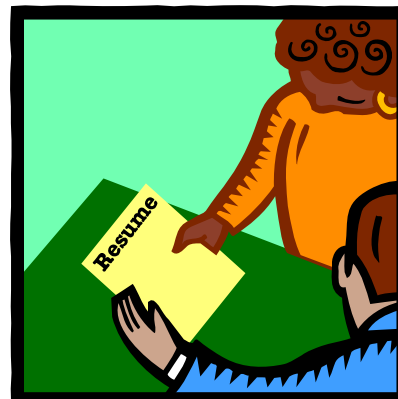
Got Resume?

By Tina Christopher, M.S., Project Specialist

Sunshine, chirping birds, flip-flops, coeds playing corn hole and Frisbee . . . spring has arrived at BGSU. Excitement and anticipation fill the air as seniors prepare for graduation. For those of you who have a post-graduation plan, congratulations! For those of you who don't, this article is for you.

I urge you to make an appointment with an advisor at the Career Center. The advisors are an invaluable resource who can help you navigate through all of the aspects of career planning. If you just can't possibly squeeze in one more appointment, then, if nothing else, visit its website www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/career.

Click on professional employment. Here you will find an abundance of very useful information for resumes, cover letters, job search, career possibilities, interviewing, etc. Invest in yourself and your future; take an hour to explore. This will be time well spent.



No graduating senior should leave BGSU without an **error-free** resume. Emphasis on error-free. Your resume is a reflection of you. According to Richard Nelson Bolles, author of *What Color Is Your Parachute? A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers 2008*, when an employer is sorting through a pile of resumes, he/she spends about eight seconds on each one (61). If your resume has a misspelling or a grammatical error or inconsistent formatting, in all likelihood, it will go in the NO pile, and you will be out of the running before you even get to the starting line. I know this sounds harsh, but it is true.

Career Center
322 Conklin North
419.372.2356
resume critique drop-in hours
Tuesday – Thursday
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. and
2:00 – 4:00 p.m

Let us help you! The Career Center website has many templates for resume writing. Study them and draft your own resume. Then meet with someone to review and critique it. The Career Center has drop-in hours (see below). I would be very happy to meet with you, as well. As a former English teacher, I'm pretty good at spotting and eliminating errors. ☺

I am in the Disability Services Office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. If I can be of assistance, please call 419.372.8495 for an appointment.

Bolles, Richard Nelson. *The 2008 What Color Is Your Parachute? A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers*. Berkeley, California: Ten Speed Press, 2008.

Reminders for Students who use Alternative Formatted Texts



Please submit a copy of your summer and fall class schedule to our office as soon as possible. Remember that it takes several weeks for your book requests to be processed. Do not forget to check the Bookstore (<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/bookstore/>) or online (ex. www.amazon.com) to see if the book is already available in e-format or audio-format. Please contact Tammy Thurman (tammyt@bgsu.edu), Adaptive Materials Specialist, with any questions.

Student Feature – Robert Campbell

Hello! My name is Robert Campbell, and I am a junior here at Bowling Green State University. My major is Political Science. I will admit coming to college was a difficult decision. The reason is before coming to college I was told a multitude of times that I cannot make it in college because of my disability. People used to tell me that I am too blind to succeed in college. People used to tell me that I was too blind to survive the college life. Unfortunately, I believed that I was too blind to do anything. I had low self-esteem. As a result of these remarks, I isolated myself from everyone, and I believed I was too blind to do anything. There came a time in my life when I was tired of people telling me what I can and cannot do. I wanted to prove to myself and others that I can make it in college.

I decided to come to college and coming to college definitely enhanced my self-esteem. I realized that I can see a lot of things. I can see my hope. I can see my potential. I can see myself saving lives. I can see myself motivating people, inspiring people, and helping people. I can see a lot of things, and I am not just a person who is blind. So, I am going to let people talk because I am not about to stop loving myself. I have dreams to fulfill and I am on the right path. Therefore, I am going to be myself regardless of what people say and you should be yourself as well.

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. Please direct questions or comments about the newsletter to Lea Anne Kessler, Coordinator, lkessle@bgsu.edu.



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