

D.S. News

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

Message from the Director

As we progress through the fall semester, the staff of the Disability Services office wants to thank faculty, staff and students for helping to make the campus one that's inclusive and accepting of individual difference. On college and university campuses, the needs of students with disabilities are typically considered the responsibility of the disability services office. Although disability services is the appropriate entity to collect and verify documentation and determine accommodations for these students, all members of the campus community should understand that accommodation, access and inclusion are shared responsibilities. Before adoption of America's antidiscrimination statutes related to disability, most institutions of higher education were conforming participants in a society that, by indifference, prejudice, or structure, excluded individuals with disabilities from nearly every human endeavor. Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 have provided postsecondary education with an opportunity for rewarding self-examination. In my opinion, that process is well underway here at BGSU.

I share the belief that all educators are charged with answering the question that was posed by the Wingspread Group on Higher Education and the Johnson Foundation: "What will we do today to ensure that next year's graduates are individuals of character, are more sensitive to the needs of community, more competent in their ability to contribute to society, and more civil in their habits of thought, speech, and action?" In our work with students with disabilities we can promote these outcomes by being open as they learn to speak about their concerns, and integrate their disabilities into their views of self and the world around them.

We wish you all a successful and rewarding semester.

Rob Cunningham, Ph.D.

Director

Looking For a Way to Get Involved? Check out these student groups!

F.I.G.U.R.E

Finding Intelligent Greatness Uniquely Residing in Everyone or F.I.G.U.R.E works to instruct, inform, and inspire people about disabilities.

Next Meeting: November 19 @ 9:17 pm, Olscamp Hall Room 119



BGSU NAMI

A campus branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, BGSU NAMI works to improve the lives of those affected by mental illness, to raise awareness about mental illness, and to eliminate the stigma of having a mental illness

Next Meeting: November 17 @ 7:30 pm, Psychology Building Room 113

Outstanding Faculty Award Winner – Dr. Jeanne Novak

By Heather Huffman, Graduate Assistant



Congratulations to Dr. Jeanne Novak for winning the Disability Services' Outstanding Faculty Award! Dr. Novak, who is an assistant professor for the School of Intervention Services, has been teaching at Bowling Green for five years. She completed her undergraduate work at Ohio Northern University and received her Ph.D. in special education from Indiana University. At BG, she teaches primarily for the intervention services program, but has also taught classes in rehabilitation counseling and statistics.

Dr. Novak strives to make her courses accessible to students with all types of backgrounds, skills, and learning styles. She utilizes various teaching methods including lecture, small group discussion, collaborative learning assignments, online discussion boards, and service learning experiences to help students become actively engaged with their learning. She also welcomes questions in and out of the classroom and works to tailor her teaching to the characteristics of individual classes.

Dr. Novak's main advice for students with disabilities is to communicate with professors. She encourages students to talk with their professors early in the semester and to be ready to talk about what accommodations have worked best in the past. In her classes, she recognizes the importance of both accommodating students with disabilities so they can fully access a course and holding students with disabilities to the same standards as other students.

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... Psychological Services Center

By Lea Anne Kessler, M.A., Coordinator

Disability Services would like to acknowledge and commend the Psychological Services Center (PSC) for their continued service to BGSU students with disabilities. PSC offers a convenient, affordable option for students who are interested in being evaluated for learning disabilities, ADHD, and psychiatric disabilities. They provide psychological assessments and therapy to current students. PSC office staff are always courteous when answering the phone and scheduling appointments. In addition, many students have shared with us their positive experiences in working with PSC psychologists and trainees. Students have commented that the testing process is very informative and helps increase self-awareness. Congratulations to PSC for being an outstanding resource for the BGSU community.



Tips for Communicating with Individuals who are Deaf

People who are deaf communicate using American Sign Language (ASL); fingerspelling; and a variety of other strategies; including speech, speechreading and writing. Many people use both ASL, which is a fully expressive and complete language with its own grammar, and English. When communicating with people who are deaf, it is important that you:

- Get the person's attention before speaking. A light touch on the arm, a wave, or other visual signal will help.
- Look directly at the person when signing/speaking even when an interpreter is present.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Make sure lighting makes your face and hands clearly visible.

You may sometimes interact with people who are deaf who prefer spoken communication. Below are strategies that may help you communicate more clearly:

- Speak normally and clearly without shouting; don't exaggerate or overemphasize your speech.
- Use natural gestures and facial expressions to supplement your communication.
- Keep your hands away from your face and mouth while speaking.
- If you have problems being understood, try rephrasing a thought using different words. Writing is also a good way to clarify.

Reprinted with permission from:

National Technical Institute for the Deaf. *Let's communicate: Basic signs and tips for communicating with deaf people* [Brochure]. Rochester, NY: Rochester Institute of Technology.

Making Exam Appointments – Important Reminders

Students who are eligible for extra time – Please remember to talk with your professor a week before any test to arrange how and when you will get your extra time.

Students who are eligible for a reader, scribe, separate testing room, or computer – Please remember to call (419-372-8495) or email (dss@bgsu.edu) at least 3 days in advance to make exam appointments. If you do not give the DSS office 3 days notice, we may not have the space or staff available to provide your exam accommodations. Please notify us when making your exam appointment of your specific needs.

Reminders for Students who use Alternative Formatted Texts



Please submit a copy of your spring 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.

Looking for a Good Movie?

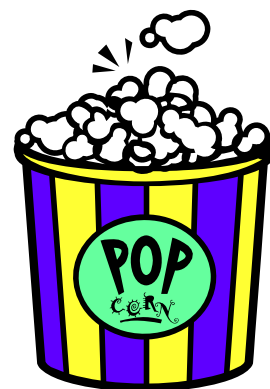
Blindsight – Documentary following the expedition of six blind Tibetan teenagers to climb the 23,000-foot Lhakpa Ri on the north side of Mount Everest.

Canvas - Starring Joe Pantoliana and Marcia Gay Harden, it is the story of one family's struggle to stay together after the mother, played by Harden, is diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Door to Door - Starring William H. Macy and based on a true story, it follows the successes and struggles of door-to-door salesman, Bill Porter, who refuses to be limited by his cerebral palsy.

Mozart and the Whale – Starring Josh Hartnett and Radha Mitchell and also based on a true story, it is the love story of two people with Aspergers's syndrome.

Murderball - Documentary following the fierce and dangerous rivalry between the American and Canadian wheelchair rugby teams at the 2004 Paralympics.



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 Heather Huffman, Graduate Assistant, heatheh@bgsu.edu.