FALL 2016 Student Newsletter

Access For All

The NY Times began a series on disability in late August with the first installment titled “Becoming Disabled”.

This article made quite an impact at DSS and brought up an important point, “where is our pride movement?”

The CDC estimates that 1 in 5 adults in the US are living with a disability. While people with a disability are the largest minority group, we often do not recognize ourselves or others as being a part of this group. There is a lack of consensus on how to discuss disability and specifically what vocabulary to use. We encourage you to read the article by clicking the link below and to consider how you discuss. This school year, students will begin to see stickers and buttons that proudly state “Access For All”. We invite you to pick up one of these items and display it where you feel is best! We look forward to another great year!

Becoming Disabled
New York Times

New Staff

Ashleigh Johnson is the new Office Manager for DSS and will be working with students through the application process as well as responding to any general needs. Ashleigh is coming from the Transfer Center where she recruited and oriented students to UAB. She brings great knowledge and positive outlook to DSS. Contact Ashleigh at asjohnso@uab.edu.

Allie Messier is the new Testing Coordinator for the Disability Support Services Office. Allie will be working with faculty and students to ensure that students receive testing accommodations. Allie will be your contact to schedule an exam, answering questions about testing questions, etc. Contact Allie at amessier@uab.edu.
Managing assignments and staying organized is a significant challenge for many college students. Using technology can help take the work out of staying on top of your demanding schedule. Studious is an app (available for Android and iOS) that focuses on helping you organize each course and the individuals demands of each. Some of the key features:

- Scan and print documents directly from the app
- Organizes assignments and exams by due date and send notifications to keep you on track
- Quickly shake your device to add homework assignments during lecture
- The easy to navigate dashboard provides a quick overview of assignments that are coming up soon!
Peer Support For Students with Disabilities at UAB

A new group, temporarily called the DSS Student Group, is being created at UAB. The purpose of the group is to offer peer support between all students at UAB with disabilities and raise awareness of DSS on the UAB campus. The group is entirely run by students with disabilities and everyone is welcome to participate, regardless of their registration status with DSS.

The group has already begun meeting this semester. The group is in the development stages and will be building a mission statement and brainstorm a permanent name so this new student group can officially be a recognized at UAB.

For more information, please follow our Facebook page; www.facebook.com/StudentGroupDSS or contact the group leader, Tammy Blue at DSS.UABStudentGroup@gmail.com, for meeting minutes.

Changes Coming To DSS

We are excited to announce two big changes coming to DSS over the coming months!

We will be relocating to the Hill Student Center 4th Floor. Our office space is currently under construction and we anticipate moving later in the fall.

We also are implementing a new online portal that will improve communication, testing, and overall management of our students and their accommodations.

We will notify the UAB community about both of these changes.

Quick Stats

- Over 530 students are registered with DSS
- In a recent survey, 6.3% of the UAB student population stated they have a disability
- ADHD remains the most common disability served at UAB

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