Welcome back! The Fall semester is in full swing and the Disability Support Services staff members are thrilled to see familiar faces back on campus, and are excited to get to know all of our new students. We enjoyed working with the students who stayed on campus this summer, and we’re glad the rest of you are back! Disability Support Services is looking forward to an exciting semester.

The summer brought many changes for the DSS office. We said goodbye to many wonderful students who graduated and moved on to graduate school and careers. We also welcomed a few new staff members who are bringing fresh ideas on how to best serve our students. While the DSS office has seen its share of changes, one thing remains the same. We are dedicated to ensuring that all students have equal opportunity to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from everything UAB has to offer.

We wish each of you a wonderful Fall semester. As always, our door is open and we are here to help in any way we can. Enjoy this issue of the Semester Report and Go Blazers!

In this Issue

Our Semester Report is designed to keep students registered with DSS informed about the events, policies, and services that are relevant to you. We strive to ensure that the newsletter contains information that is meaningful to students.

In this issue, we will introduce you to the new DSS staff members. Many of you may have already seen Jannette’s smiling face at the front desk, met Brittany for a counseling or coaching appointment, or completed an accommodation conference with Cara. If you haven’t met them already, stop by and say hi! Make sure to read on for more information about these wonderful ladies.

You will also find information about a new campus recreation class, important testing procedures guidelines, highlights about our Faculty and Staff award winners, and a new section entitled Student Spotlight, where you can read about the outstanding accomplishments of your fellow UAB students.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue. Do you have something you’d like to see added to our semester newsletter? Have a suggestion for the DSS office? We’d love your comments and ideas! Contact DSS Graduate Assistant, Cara Blakes, to provide your input.
Disability Support Services is very happy to welcome three new members to the DSS Staff. Many of you may work frequently with our new Office Manager, Jannette Rainey, as she is in charge of test proctoring. Additionally, our new Graduate Assistant, Cara Blakes, and our new Counselor, Brittany Gregg, will be working closely with faculty and students to ensure faculty and students’ needs are met. Below you will find a little information to help you get to know the new staff members.

**Jannette Rainey**  
DSS Office Manager

Jannette began working in the Disability Support Services office in the Summer of 2012, and she has been at UAB for 15 years. Before coming to DSS, Jannette worked in Intramural Sports/Campus Recreation for approximately 14 ½ years. Jannette enjoys learning new things and being part of the DSS team and the important services it offers to students at UAB.

**Cara Blakes**  
DSS Graduate Assistant

Cara recently joined Disability Support Services this August. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Montevallo in History with a minor in Pre-Law. She is currently a graduate student in the Counselor Education Program at UAB. Cara is the Hospitality Chair of UAB's Zeta chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, an international counseling honor society, where she also serves as a new student Mentor.

**Brittany Gregg**  
DSS Counselor

Brittany received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Samford University in 2007. She recently completed her master's degree in Counseling from UAB, and is in the process of becoming an Associate Licensed Counselor. Brittany has experience working with crisis intervention, eating disorders, women's issues, and LGBT clients. She is the current President of the Alabama chapter of the Association for Psychological Type International.

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**Campus Recreation**

The UAB Campus Recreation Center is pleased to announce they will be offering Adaptive Yoga Classes this Fall on the following Tuesdays from 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM: October 16th, 23rd, 30th, and November 6th.

These classes will be adapted to be accessible for all students. We hope to see a great turn out so that more adaptive programs can be planned for the future. If you have any additional questions, please contact Ray Picone at rpicone@uab.edu or Sara Andreski at sandres@uab.edu, or call Campus Recreation at 205-934-8224.
In an attempt to make the test-proctoring process more convenient for students and faculty, DSS has moved to online test proctoring forms. The new process will work as follows:

**DSS Testing Policy currently states the following responsibilities:**

1. **Students:** If a student needs to test in DSS, they are to:
   a. Submit the Electronic Testing Proctoring Form to their instructor
   b. Contact DSS to schedule their test 2 working days in advance
   c. Remind the instructor prior to every test that they will be testing in DSS

2. **Instructor:** If your student will be taking your test in DSS, you are to:
   a. Complete the Electronic Testing Proctoring Form sent to you by the student
   b. Send the test to DSS 2 working days in advance OR notify DSS to let us know when the test will arrive
   c. Ensure your test is submitted to DSS in a timely manner so the student can start his/her exam on time

DSS staff has recently provided reminders and follow-up emails/phone calls to students and faculty to ensure all tests scheduled in our office will start on time. Our staff can no longer provide this additional service as it is taking up time which needs to be directed at providing accommodations.

So, going forward, **the DSS staff will not be providing reminders to students who have tests scheduled in DSS. DSS staff will not contact instructors or departments to “track down” tests or to remind instructors to send tests.** If a student arrives to test in DSS and we have not received the exam, we will then allow the student to contact the instructor or department or we will assist the student with contacting the necessary contact person to locate the test.

If you have any questions about this new procedure, please notify DSS!
**DSS Outstanding Faculty Award**

Each semester we ask DSS students to nominate a faculty member for the Outstanding Faculty Award. This should be a professor they believe promotes an inclusive classroom, values diverse learning styles and abilities, and believes in supporting and challenging all students. This year’s two professors were chosen to receive this award due to the exceptional nomination letters received from students from their behalf. The Spring 2012 Outstanding Faculty Awards go to Dr. Mary Whall and Dr. Christopher Robinson.

Dr. Whall is a professor in the Philosophy Department. Dr. Whall was described by her nominator as a professor who makes students look forward to going to class. She was described as being compassionate towards students and respectful of their privacy. It is no question that Dr. Whall has an enormous impact on the students she teaches. Congratulations Dr. Whall and thank you for your service to DSS students!

Dr. Christopher Robinson, a professor in the Psychology Department, was described by his nominator as having an easy-going and open minded teaching style that allows students to express their thoughts and opinions in a safe environment. Dr. Robinson’s enthusiasm for learning new things is contagious, and his nominator credits him for helping her to believe she can accomplish whatever she wants to do in life, no matter what the obstacle is. We are excited for Dr. Robinson to receive this award. Congratulations!

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**Student Spotlight**

Disability Support Services has added a new reoccurring column to our newsletter. The Student Spotlight article aims to highlight our students for their creativity, excellence, and leadership both in school and their personal lives.

**Katie McGinley** was awarded the Artie Manning Scholarship. Katie is working towards her Ed.S degree in the School of Education at UAB. Her concentration for her program is Autism and she has been teaching special education in Birmingham for 5 years. She hopes to work with families and schools around the state to implement successful strategies for working with children on the Autism Spectrum.

**Lauren McCartney**, a recent UAB graduate with a degree in Psychology, will be attending New York University for graduate school. Lauren will be pursuing a degree in Mental Health Counseling. After receiving offers from several institutions, Lauren chose NYU and is excited about all the opportunities and adventures that await her as she conquers a new city. Lauren hopes that she is able to inspire other students to have the courage to go after their dreams regardless of impairment.

**John Paul Montgomery** is finishing up his senior year at UAB and is on track to graduate with Honors in December. Last year, John Paul was appointed by the President’s cabinet to sit on the UAB ADA Committee. This is a very big honor, and one that comes with a lot of responsibility. John Paul is the student representative, so he is charged with making sure students have a voice that influences decisions made by the ADA Committee. John Paul has taken his responsibility seriously and is a wonderful representation of DSS students.

**Desiree Baird**, a summer 2012 graduate in Art, wrote and directed a short film that will be featured in the *Above The Line* film festival hosted by UAB’s Theatre Department on September 29th. Desiree’s plan after graduation is to become a professional photographer and artist. Some of her photography artwork will be found in the Incubate Gallery in Avondale next month. She is also busy planning for her upcoming December wedding. Another notable accomplishment of Desiree’s is that she is a former Miss Deaf Alabama (2005-2007).

DSS is very proud of each of our students and we are excited to see all the great things they will do as they graduate from UAB and begin their careers. Congratulations to Katie, Lauren, John Paul, and Desiree! Thank you for allowing us to share your accomplishments!