Welcome back to campus and to the start of another busy Spring semester! The DSS staff is looking forward to meeting our new students and catching up with those returning. We are excited to present the latest edition of our newsletter! Please pay careful attention to this issue, as we have some important reminders and updates to share!

DSS Director, Allison Solomon, will be on maternity leave a portion of this semester. Although Allison will be unavailable to meet with students for a few months, the other staff members at DSS are always available for support so do not hesitate to contact any one of us! Since DSS will be one staff member short for a while, remember that timeliness will be critical this semester. You will need to get your requests in early to make sure they are fulfilled.

Make sure you are utilizing all of the resources available to you, including accommodations, counseling, academic coaching and the countless resources across campus to help you maximize your success. It is our priority to make sure your experience at UAB is as best at it can be, and these support services are available to ensure just that. Contact our office for more information on these great services!

Academic Coaching and Counseling

DSS is once again pleased to offer Academic Coaching and Counseling as a service to all of our students.

Whether you’re a stressed student, want enrichment opportunities, or you just need tips for organizing your work, DSS can help! Through academic coaching, we can help you find success in your learning activities. Each week, an Academic Coach can help students to establish and maintain a daily schedule, break down large assignments into manageable steps, follow through with deadlines, improve note taking, test preparation, and reduce stress and test anxiety, and much more!

Questions, choices, concerns, and changes are all a part of the college experience. While college can be an amazing experience, it can also be challenging. Counseling can provide students with help and support during their years at UAB. The counselors at DSS can provide a safe, neutral, confidential setting to explore concerns and move toward making choices and changes to improve your college experience.

Please call DSS to make an appointment for Academic Coaching or Counseling!
Online Test Proctoring Forms

In 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:

1.) The student will turn in an Accommodation Letter and meet with the course instructor to review accommodations, including testing accommodations, if applicable.

2.) If the instructor decides to have the test(s) proctored at DSS, the student will log in to the DSS website and submit a Test Proctoring Approval Request form to the instructor. You will do this by going to www.uab.edu/dss and clicking on “Test Proctoring” from the left-side. Remember, you will only submit this after the instructor has agreed for your test(s) to be proctored at DSS.

3.) The course instructor will receive an e-mail, informing them of the pending proctoring form approval request. The e-mail will contain instructions for how to log in and fill out and submit this form. This form is valid for the entire semester.

4.) The student will receive a confirmation e-mail stating that the professor has submitted the Proctor Approval Form. If you do not get this confirmation, it is up to you to follow up with the professor and/or DSS to ensure the form is submitted.

If you have any questions about this new procedure, please notify DSS!

Link to Proctor Approval Request Form: Proctor Approval Request Form

Important Calendar Reminders

January 9: Classes begin

January 16: Martin Luther King Holiday

January 17: Last day to Drop/Add (without paying full tuition and fees)

January 17: Last day to submit undergraduate Application for Degree

January 18: Early Alert begins

March 18-24: Spring Break (DSS office open)

March 22: Early Alert ends

March 29: Last day to withdraw

April 30: Last day of class

May 1-2: Weather make-up days

May 3-9: Final Exams

May 12: Commencement

May 13: Grades available online
DSS Participating in UAB Community Week 2012

DSS is pleased to announce we will be hosting an event for UAB Community Week 2012. Community week celebrates UAB’s unique student body and workforce by encouraging unity, dialogue and learning. DSS will be showing the movie “Laughing at our Differences”, a stand-up comedy movie about diversity and disability awareness. Josh Sundquist, the comedian starring in the movie, is very involved in research on disability in the higher education setting, making this movie especially relevant for college students and faculty.

After the movie, several DSS students will be sharing their experiences about being a student at UAB with a disability. This portion of the event will be especially touching and helpful for all students, with or without a disability. This is a great chance to hear how other students deal with and succeed in college with a disability.

The DSS Community Week event will be held on January 26th from 2:30 to 3:30. Please make plans to attend and encourage your friends to do the same! Free pizza and sodas will be provided, so come hungry!

DSS Student Named Governor’s Committee Student of the Year

Disability Support Services is thrilled to congratulate Lauren McCartney on being selected as Student of the Year by the Alabama Governor’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. This award is presented annually to a student with a disability who has demonstrated exemplary efforts in pursuit of their education and in overcoming limitations related to their disability in doing so. It is safe to say, Lauren has not only overcome limitations, but truly excelled in her studies and extracurricular activities at UAB.

Lauren is a senior in the Department of Psychology. She not only shines in her classes, but in her extracurricular activities as well. Lauren is an intern at UAB’s Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation. She is also a rape-response advocate at the Birmingham Crisis Center and works in UAB’s Youth Safety Laboratory. In addition to all that, Lauren was chosen to present her research on undergraduates’ cell phone use while driving at the annual American Psychological Association convention in Washington, D.C.

Lauren was initially selected as the local Student of the Year by the Birmingham Area Governor’s Committee. Each local winner across the state was automatically nominated for the same award at the state level. Lauren was chosen as the statewide winner of the Student of the Year award. This is truly an accomplishment. Whatever path Lauren takes after graduation, DSS is certain she will continue to overcome any obstacles in her path and stand out as a professional in her chosen field.