Welcome back!

DSS welcomes you to the beginning of a new semester! If you have not already sent electronic accommodation notices to your instructors, please do so NOW! It’s important to send accommodation notices at the **beginning of each semester** so you can access your accommodations. Please also remember to schedule a meeting with your instructors to discuss your accommodations— instructors are waiting to hear from you! You can access the DSS Student Portal via the direct link (https://sa.uab.edu/dss/) or the DSS website (www.uab.edu/dss).

We welcome any suggestions you have about topics you would like to see covered in the newsletter, or requests for additional resources. You may contact our newsletter Editor, Brittany Gregg, at bmgregg@uab.edu with any comments, suggestions, or requests. We wish you a wonderful semester. Go Blazers!

Announcements

DSS WOULD LIKE TO CONNECT WITH YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Students can now access news, events, important updates, and resources through DSS’ new social media profiles. Search for us on:

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)  [Google+](https://plus.google.com)  [Twitter](https://twitter.com)

**Disclaimer:** DSS has created social media profiles in an effort to better connect with the UAB community, but we also want students to be aware that privacy is never guaranteed when using social media. If you have any questions about DSS social media accounts, please contact us.
If you have an accommodation of “**Peer Notetaker**”:

- The Peer Notetaker Announcement is now available online to students who have been approved for this accommodation. When you log in to the DSS Student Portal, you will be able to access this announcement to print and share with your notetaker or instructor as you are arranging for your notetaker.

- When arranging for your notetaker, pay special attention to whether or not your class has an SI, or Supplemental Instruction, leader. If so, please note that the SI leader will serve as your notetaker for that class. Talk to your SI leader about your accommodation of peer notetaker and arrange how you will receive the notes.

- The Peer Notetaker Announcement indicates to your notetaker that he or she should register with DSS as your notetaker in order to receive a scholarship in exchange for serving as your notetaker. The Peer Notetaker Application is now available on the DSS website — www.uab.edu/dss, click on “Forms.”

If you have an accommodation of “**Books in Alternative Format**,” please note that the Alternative Format Request Form is now available on the DSS website — www.uab.edu/dss, click on “Forms.” When you complete this form, DSS Assistive Technology Specialist, Carter Naftel, will be in contact with you regarding the status of your book request. You may contact Carter via phone (934-4205) or email (naftecg@uab.edu).

### Accessibility Considerations

You may have noticed all of the construction taking place on campus this semester! In an effort to keep students updated on accessibility considerations, such as ADA parking spaces, ADA campus routes, sidewalk closures, etc., we want you to be aware of how to access UAB’s ADA Campus Accessibility Map. An example of the map is shown below, and an up-to-date, searchable version of the map can be found on the DSS website: www.uab.edu/dss, click on the “ADA Campus Accessibility Map” link on the right side of the page.
Focus on Service and Assistance Animals

UAB welcomes students who are utilizing service and assistance animals. The UAB Guidelines for Students Utilizing Service and Assistance Animals can be found on the DSS website (www.uab.edu/dss). Please be mindful of the following etiquette as you encounter service and assistance animals on our campus:

- Do not inquire for details about the student’s disability or diagnosis; this is a private matter and students are entitled to confidentiality of their disability
- Do not pet or feed a service or assistance animal
- Do not deliberately startle, tease, or taunt a service or assistance animal
- Do not separate or attempt to separate a person from their service or assistance animal
- If you have questions about the presence of an animal on campus, please contact DSS

Join us for a Disability Awareness Event!

Disability Awareness Event
September 9th
10am — 2pm
Campus Green South
(in front of Blazer Hall)

Disability Support Services, in collaboration with Iota Nu Miss Black and Gold 2014

Join us for snow cones, give aways, and more!
DSS Spring 2014 Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awards

Each semester, we ask students who are registered with DSS to nominate a faculty member who promotes an inclusive classroom, values diverse learning styles and abilities, and believes in supporting and challenging all students. The DSS Spring 2014 Outstanding Faculty Award is presented to Dr. Donald Burke, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Congratulations to Dr. Burke!

Each semester, DSS also recognizes a faculty or staff member who has exceeded all requirements and expectations in helping students remove any barriers which would prevent them from being successful at UAB. The DSS Summer 2014 Outstanding Staff Award is presented to Christopher Edmonds in the Department of Accounting and Finance. Congratulations, and thank you for all you do to make courses accessible for students!

Spring 2014 DSS Student Survey

In April, DSS conducted a survey seeking the input of students currently registered with DSS regarding their impression of services provided to students with disabilities at UAB. The survey assessed students’ level of satisfaction regarding: experiences with DSS and UAB faculty, accessibility of facilities and programs, delivery of accommodations, and additional DSS services. Below is a summary of results from the survey.

Students were also given the option to provide feedback about their experiences. A synopsis of the feedback, along with DSS’ response, is outlined below:

- expressed appreciation for DSS; specifically, that DSS made the college experience more enjoyable and that the DSS staff is friendly and helpful → We appreciate your feedback! You may complete our anonymous survey at any time through our website (www.uab.edu/dss).
- concerns regarding difficulty finding peer notetakers → DSS has partnered with the University Academic Success Center to pilot a notetaker program in which the Supplemental Instruction (SI) leader will serve as the notetaker for that class. For all other classes, we encourage you to contact us immediately if you experience difficulty finding a notetaker.
- concerns regarding instructors not wanting to provide extended time → DSS will continue to offer faculty and staff training and education opportunities, and we have also developed an online training for faculty and staff. We strongly encourage you to contact DSS immediately if you have concerns about receiving accommodations.
- suggestion to increase awareness of DSS among the student body → DSS will continue to attend student orientation sessions so that all in-coming students are aware of the presence of DSS. We also encourage all faculty and staff to include an accommodations statement in the syllabus for each course they teach. We are also planning a few awareness-raising events this year, the first of which will be September 9th (see p. 3 for more information).

DSS is encouraged by the results of this survey. Overall, it appears that the students who responded are satisfied with the services and facilities available to students with disabilities at UAB. DSS would like to thank the students who participated – we value your feedback!