We hope you enjoyed time off during the holiday break and are ready to begin a new semester! If this is your first semester at UAB, or your first semester as a student registered with DSS, we welcome any questions or feedback you may have.

This edition of the Semester Report includes:

- reminders about setting up your accommodations
- DSS events during Community Week and Inclusive Rec Week!
- 1 hour workshop offered on Windows accessibility features
- DSS staff additions
- faculty, staff, and student awards
- Important calendar reminders

If you have any suggestions of information you would like added to the Semester Report, or anything you would like to contribute, please contact Brittany Gregg (bmgregg@uab.edu).

**HOW TO CONTACT DSS**

**Director:**
Allison Solomon

**Assistant Director:**
Valerie DuBose

**Assistive Technology Specialist:**
Carter Naftel

**Counseling & Services Coordinator:**
Brittany Gregg

**Office Manager:**
Rachel King

**Phone:** 934-4205
**Email:** dss@uab.edu
**Website:** uab.edu/dss

**MISSION**

Disability Support Services is committed to making UAB programs and services accessible to students with disabilities. To prevent discrimination based on disability in all UAB student programs and services, the primary goal of DSS is to ensure an accessible university environment by working with students, faculty, staff, and community agencies to provide appropriate accommodations.

**WELCOME BACK!!**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your accommodations. We are here to help!
DSS has partnered with UAB Campus Recreation and Lakeshore Foundation to sponsor a wheelchair flag football game as part of UAB Community Week!

**WHEELCHAIR FLAG FOOTBALL GAME**

**Monday January 27th ~ 6 PM ~**

Campus Recreation Center, Court 4

Watch UAB students, faculty, and staff take on Lakeshore Foundation’s Wheelchair Flag Football Team

Game starts at 6pm, with activities and contests taking place before, during, and after the game

To request disability-related accommodations for attending this event, please contact DSS (dss@uab.edu or 934-4205).

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**INCLUSIVE REC WEEK:**

In conjunction with Community Week, UAB Campus Recreation is partnering with Disability Support Services to provide the following inclusive recreation activities, in which all UAB students are invited to participate:

- **Monday, January 27th**: Lakeshore’s Flag Football Tournament / Court 4 / 5:30-11pm
- **Tuesday, January 28th**: Adventure Recreation’s Assisted Climbing / Climbing Wall / 12-4pm
- **Wednesday, January 29th**: Fitness & Wellness’ Blindfolded Yoga / Studio 1 / 5:30-6:30pm
- **Thursday, January 30th**: Aquatics’ Angelfish Adaptive Swim Lessons / Aquatics Center / 5:30-7:30pm*
  *registration required and open until 1/28/14
- **Friday, January 31st**: Competitive Sports’ Wallyball Event / Racquetball Court / 6-8pm

Contact rholub1@uab.edu or vdubose@uab.edu for more info.

www.uab.edu/campusrec
ADDITIONS TO THE DSS STAFF:

RACHEL KING, OFFICE MANAGER

DSS would like to introduce you to Rachel King, our new Office Manager. Rachel recently joined our staff in December 2013. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a concentration in Social Psychology from UAB, and plans to continue her education and obtain a Master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. Rachel can assist you with questions regarding the registration process, scheduling and coordinating your exams to be proctored at DSS, and general questions about accommodations and DSS policies. Rachel can be reached via phone (934-4205) or email (rking060@uab.edu).

BRITTANY GREGG, COUNSELING & SERVICES COORDINATOR

DSS has a brand new position of Counseling & Services Coordinator, which has been filled by Brittany Gregg. Brittany joined the DSS staff in September 2012 and transitioned into this new position in December 2013. Brittany earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Samford University (2007), her Master’s degree in Counseling from UAB (2012), and is an Associate Licensed Counselor (ALC). Brittany can answer questions about accommodations, assist with coordinating accommodations and university services, and also provides counseling and Academic Coaching to students registered with DSS. Students can contact Brittany via phone (934-4205) or email (bmgregg@uab.edu).
Each semester, we ask students who are registered with DSS to nominate a faculty member for the Outstanding Faculty Award. This individual should promote an inclusive classroom, value diverse learning styles and abilities, and believe in supporting and challenging all students.

The Fall 2013 Outstanding Faculty Award is presented to Dr. Anne Cusic. Dr. Cusic is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology, and was described by the nominator as kind and supportive, well-versed in DSS policies and procedures, and treated students with courtesy and respect. Her nominator credits her for going out of her way to assist with providing accommodations. Congratulations to Dr. Cusic for receiving the Fall 2013 Outstanding Faculty Award!

Each semester, DSS 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. This is the first time that this award has been bestowed to an office on campus.

The Fall 2013 Outstanding Staff Award is presented to UAB Campus Recreation for continuously striving to create an accessible recreational facility and programs for patrons of all abilities. Their proactive and innovative approach to creating an inclusive environment and programming that reaches everyone has continued to impress the DSS staff which is why they have been chosen for the Outstanding Staff Award. Campus Recreation staff consult with DSS staff on a regular basis, value feedback from their patrons regarding the accessibility and usability of the facility for individuals with disabilities, and strive to make the already outstanding facility even better. It is efforts such as these that make the UAB Campus Recreation staff deserving of the DSS Outstanding Staff award. Congratulations to UAB Campus Recreation!

Disability Support Services is thrilled to congratulate Hilarion Arong on being selected as Student of the Year by the Birmingham Area 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.

Hilarion is an undergraduate at UAB double majoring in Computer / Information Science and Mechanical Engineering. As one can imagine, these programs are considered to be very rigorous and demanding, yet Hilarion continues to maintain a strong overall GPA. His nominators describe him as very helpful to others, often helping classmates figure out a problem they are working on. Hilarion is also described as having exceptional attendance, being dedicated to his studies, and consistently demonstrating exemplary efforts in pursuit of his education. Congratulations, Hilarion!
# ACADEMIC CALENDAR REMINDERS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Last day to drop/add (without paying full tuition and fees)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>University Closed for MLK Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 24–28</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 31</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Apr 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Priority registration begins</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 18</td>
<td>Last day of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 21–25</td>
<td>Final exams</td>
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**DSS HOPES YOU HAVE A GREAT SPRING SEMESTER!**