

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES NEWSLETTER

FALL 2007

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IMPORTANT DATES

August 23, 2007

Classes begin. Online request for faculty notification letters opens.

September 18, 2007

Bailey Hall, 7:45 p.m., free Hamlich Memorial Lecture by **Kay Redfield Jamison**, author of *An Unquiet Mind*

October 6-9, 2007

Fall Break

November 21-25, 2007

Thanksgiving Break

December 5, 2007

Finals begin

December 15, 2007

January Graduation Recognition

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Cornell. It has been a busy summer in the SDS office as we prepare for the upcoming school year.

In July we said goodbye to our Transportation Coordinator, Lindsey Hartjes. For many of our students, Lindsey was a daily CULift connection. She will be greatly missed and we wish her well as she pursues her career as an educator.

Cyrus Hamilton, the SDS Document Conversion Specialist, has been developing workshops on using screen readers and Dragon Naturally Speaking. More information about his workshops can be found on page 3.

The SDS Advisory Board has created a teaching award for instructors who implement universal design strategies in their instruction.

Universal design is a set of principles in which the broadest range of users are considered in the creation of a design. Ideas that come from universal design in architecture have become widely applauded as usable by everyone. The curbcut is a great example. Curbcuts were first installed for persons using wheelchairs but they benefit people with strollers, on bikes, as well as easing the course of travel on a sidewalk.

When the principles of universal design in instruction are applied in curriculum development, the potential variation in individual skills, learning styles and preferences, gender, culture, abilities and disabilities are considered. Instructors maximize learning by developing multiple

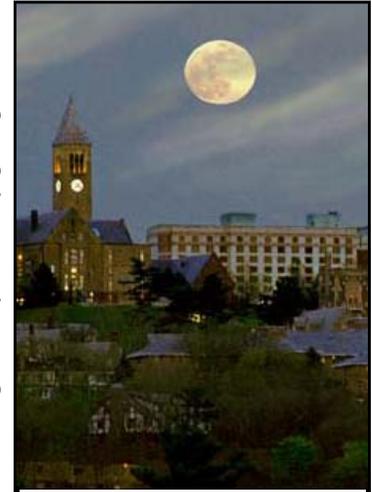


Image courtesy of www.cayugaimages.com

The moon over Cornell Campus

instruction and assessment methods, providing course materials that are usable to all and developing cognitive supports to enhance learning. More information about universal design for instruction is available at: www.washington.edu/doit/

The SDS Advisory Board will be requesting nominations for the *Universal Design in Instruction Teaching Award* this fall. Please begin to consider for nomination the professors who are exemplars of universal design in instruction and participate in the award process. More information will be available on the SDS website throughout the year.

Best wishes for a fulfilling fall semester, Kappy Fahey

FACULTY NOTIFICATION LETTERS FOR CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATIONS

Self-Advocacy is one of the most important aspects of the accommodation process. To ensure that accommodations will be in place throughout the semester, you should meet with your professor within the first two weeks. The following steps outline the process for requesting classroom accommodations.

1. If you are new to Cornell and have not finalized the process to register with SDS, call 607-254-4545 to schedule an appointment to meet with your SDS counselor.
2. Finalize your schedule within the first two weeks of the semester or as soon as possible.

3. Complete a Request for Faculty Notification Letters Form. You can fill out a form in the SDS office or online at www.clt.cornell.edu/campus/sds/sdsregistration.php
 4. Pick up your letters from SDS in 420 Computing & Communications Center.
 5. Meet privately with instructors, give them the Faculty Notification Letters and discuss the specific arrangements for your classroom accommodations. Faculty must have two weeks notice of accommodation needs.
- Please contact SDS immediately if you have concerns about the accommodation process.



CUDA CORNER

Cornell Union for Disabilities Awareness had a spring semester filled with activism, advocacy and education. Our theme was “breaking barriers” with an emphasis on dispelling the stigma of disability on our campus.

To achieve this goal, we had our first “Accessible Places” event; signs were posted across campus to increase awareness of physical inaccessibility on campus and other accessibility issues. The signs asked questions such as, “Is access for all a basic civil right?” The Cornell Daily Sun wrote a front-page article about the event on [May 3, 2007](#).

CUDA tabled several times last semester to increase recruitment and to engage students with the question of what accessibility means. We also joined the Cortland Adapted Swim Team (CAST) to help persons with disabilities aged 4 to 30 learn to swim. Some of the swimmers with CAST go on to compete in the Special Olympics. It was a pleasure to help teach and coach these swimmers this semester.

CUDA continued to have weekly meetings on Monday afternoons with lively discussions about various



CUDA members preparing for their “Accessible Places” event, Spring 2007.

**“The signs asked questions such as,
‘Is access for all a basic civil right?’”**

issues relating to disabilities such as autism, accommodations in high schools, physical accessibility survey and a discussion with the new ADA Facilities Coordinator, accessibility as a civil rights issue, people-first language, outdoor recreation as therapy, and universal design and ethics. In addition to weekly meetings, CUDA worked with the Cornell Disability Task Force to enhance the new disability web page and had a member of CUDA attend Disability Task Force meetings.

CUDA had plans to have two speakers, Professor Michael Schwartz, the director of the Disability Rights Clinic at Syracuse University, and Lisa Franks, Paralympics gold medalist in wheelchair racing. However, due to inclement weather and other circumstances we were unable to host them this semester. We hope to have them present on campus this year.

The Mentoring Program for students with disabilities at Cornell received a huge compliment this semester when another university asked our advice as they plan their own mentoring program.

As we begin the fall semester, we are very excited about the opportunity to welcome new students to Cornell and to continue to break barriers. We are planning a campaign to start a Disabilities Studies Program at Cornell to bring the subject of disability into the academic arena.

Won't you join us?

For more information about CUDA, please visit www.rso.cornell.edu/cuda or contact cuda@cornell.edu.

WORLD-RENOWNED MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE TO GIVE FREE LECTURE AT BAILEY HALL

Kay Redfield Jamison, Ph.D.
author, mental health advocate, professor of psychiatry
at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
will present the
2007 Robert E. Hamlich Memorial Lecture
Tuesday, September 18 at 7:45 p.m.
Cornell's Bailey Hall

Dr. Jamison's presentation, *Personal & Professional Reflections on Mental Illness*, is free and open to the public and no tickets are necessary. A book signing and reception will follow at Martha Van Rensselaer Hall Auditorium.

Dr. Jamison, an international authority and researcher on mood disorders and a recipient of the prestigious MacArthur

Fellowship, has unique insight into the world of mental illness. She has been there herself. She shocked colleagues by going public with her own struggle with manic-depression in a 1995 *Washington Post* article and subsequent book, *An Unquiet Mind*. The book became a *New York Times* bestseller and was cited by several major publications as one of the best of the year.

The event is a co-sponsored by Cornell's College of Human Ecology, Gannet Health Services, and Ithaca's Family & Children's Service of Ithaca along with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Cornell Minds Matter, a student advocacy group.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TODAY

The SDS Document Conversion Center (DCC) is gearing up for another exciting semester!

This fall, DCC is hosting two assistive technology workshops to educate students and the greater Cornell Community on the uses of assistive technologies such as E-Text Reader (most commonly used to read your electronic text), speech recognition software such as Dragon Naturally Speaking, and more. Look for upcoming workshop times and locations on the events section of our website:

www.clt.cornell.edu/campus/sds.

If you are a student who has been granted alternate format materials as an accommodation and wish to receive e-text or other alternate media for the fall semester, please be sure to submit your request to our office as early as possible. You can submit your request online or in person at our office. The web address for submitting a request is:

<http://www.clt.cornell.edu/sdsdocconv/DCCForm.php>.

Please remember that it can take up to 15 business days to complete your request. We are here to assist you - but we rely on you to let us know your needs.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Student Disability Services works with many departments around campus to assist students in the best ways possible. In "Behind the Scenes", we want to introduce students to some of the people who make SDS' work possible.



Terry Rose is one of the primary CULift drivers, and has been working for Cornell for twenty years. Terry drives over 500 miles a week for RedRunner, all of those miles on or very near Cornell campus. This year, Terry gave over 2200 rides to CULift students! We met with Terry this summer to ask him a few questions.

What do you like best about your job?

I like getting a chance to meet different people from around campus.

What do you like to do when you are not at work?

I like to watch my kids play sports—football, baseball, basketball, and wrestling.

What advice would you have for students who use the CULift?

Be on time!

What advice would you have for other people on campus?

Look both ways before you cross the street, especially if you are on your cell phone!

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Figuring out the quickest way from Point A to Point B, in order to make

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

- **E-text: August 30 at 4:30 p.m., G25 Stimson Hall** – Learn how to effectively use screen-reading software.
- **Dragon Naturally Speaking 9: September 12 at 12:00 noon, G27 Stimson Hall** – A hands-on introduction to this powerful voice-recognition software.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY WORKSTATIONS

Student Disability Services, Cornell Information Technologies, CU libraries, and various departmental labs collaborate to provide Assistive Technology (AT) workstations in designated labs across campus.

Using AT workstations students can: listen to the e-text provided by SDS (using Universal Reader, E-Text Reader or Talking Word Processor); convert e-text to MP3 (using Text-to-Audio); scan and convert print materials on their own (using Scan and Read); create study notes (using E-Text Reader); produce text documents with voice-activated software (Dragon Naturally Speaking); print in Braille; and more.

For a list of available locations, check out our website at: www.clt.cornell.edu/campus/sds/Campus_Access.html

sure that I'm on time for every ride.

What are three words that best describe you?

Efficient, friendly, and reliable.

We agree, and are very grateful for all of Terry's hard work with the CULift! If you see Terry around campus, be sure to say "hello."

MEET THE STAFF

SDS has a 5-member office staff. Some of you may work with all of us, and others may meet only one or two. Here is a bit about each of us and what we do.

Kappy Fahey, Director

Kappy is starting to feel at home in the CLT and New York after a year and a half. She feels fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Cornell students, faculty and staff. Kappy is looking forward to a successful season for the Steelers!

Michele Fish, Associate Director

Michele has spent the last seven of her twenty-seven years at Cornell in Student Disability Services. She finds supporting students, faculty and staff, and assisting them as they discover often creative solutions, exciting and rewarding. Michele also has a "techie" side and loves to develop databases and web pages. She is the resident expert on Hard Rock Cafes and CSI.

LEARNING STRATEGIES CENTER

The Learning Strategies Center (LSC) is the central academic support unit for undergraduates at Cornell University.

The LSC offers:

- tutoring for biology, chemistry, economics, genetics, mathematics, nutrition, physics, and statistics
- study skills workshops
- downloadable study guides that will show you how to [manage your time](#), [read](#) effectively, prepare for [exams](#), reduce [stress](#), reduce [procrastination](#), read rapidly and much more.
- a study skills course, "Critical Reading and Thinking" (HE100), that offers a practical, hands-on approach to time management, learning styles, reading, note taking, test preparation and other study skills.
- "00" supplemental courses that are taught in conjunction with the large, introductory level courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics. The "00" courses meet weekly to clarify lecture material, provide tips for effectively learning the material, and prepare for exams.
- writing assistance – contact Darlene Evans at dme27@cornell.edu or the Knight Institute in 174 Rockefeller Hall, or call 255-6349.

Visit the LSC at 420 CCC or call 255-6310 Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday until 4 p.m.

Be sure to visit the LSC web site for complete information!

www.clt.cornell.edu/campus/learn/learn.html.

Cyrus Hamilton, Document Conversion Specialist

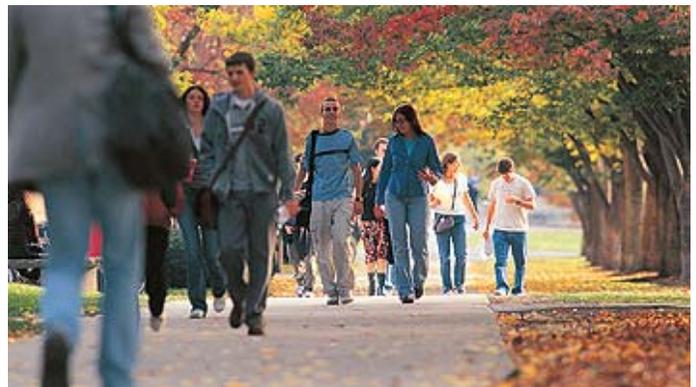
Cyrus has been working with alternative formats for 8 years and enjoys helping students make the most of their academic careers. When he's not busy converting material for students or hosting assistive technology workshops, he can be found walking around Beebe lake or in one of the many Cornell gardens.

Shura Gat, C-Print Captionist

Shura came to town in 2000 and by now happily considers herself an "Ithacan." When not captioning, taking care of her flower gardens, or walking with her partner and their two yellow labs, Shura offers self-defense and confident communication classes through her company, Strong Stance.

Lindsey Dusti, Transportation Coordinator

Student Disability Services welcomes Lindsey Dusti (yes, another Lindsey!) as our new CULift Transportation Coordinator. Lindsey comes to us from sunny Florida by way of D.C. Welcome to our team, Lindsey!



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