



CORNELL
UNIVERSITY

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

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IMPORTANT DATES	

January 14, 2008
Residence Halls Open

January 21, 2008
Classes begin. Online request for faculty notification letters opens.

February 11, 2008
Last day to add courses

March 10, 2008
Last day to drop courses

March 15-23, 2008
Spring Break

May 7, 2008
Final exams begin

May 25, 2008
Commencement

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year and welcome back to campus!

The staff of Student Disability Services met during the fall semester to discuss what measures we could take to ensure that our office is inclusive in our language and practices. We determined that any steps taken to improve a climate of inclusiveness must include a component of continuing education among ourselves about the experiences of persons who differ from us by race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or culture, disability, religion and class. We now meet regularly to study and discuss diversity issues.

The SDS staff also created a diversity statement that reflects our genuine commitment to make certain that all students feel welcome and respected at SDS. Diversity statements alone cannot change the world. Yet, the process of writing this statement helped strengthen our group's commitment to work actively to build a community that values diversity. We strive to ensure that our office is a safe environment for all, allowing difficult discussions to take place in an atmosphere of respect.

Wishing you a great spring semester.

Kappy Fahey



A view from SDS Window

SDS Diversity Statement

The staff of Student Disability Services strives to create and sustain a welcoming, accessible, and supportive environment. We believe that diversity strengthens our institution and envision a community free of bigotry, expressions of hatred or prejudice, and behaviors that infringe upon the freedom and respect that every individual deserves. We are committed to expanding our understanding of the complex issues surrounding identity in order to advance the notion, "Any person ... any study."

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 two days after submitting request form.
5. Meet privately with instructors (or designated representative), give them the Faculty Notification Letters and discuss the specific arrangements for your classroom accommodations. Faculty must have two weeks notice of accommodation needs. Notice for final exam accommodations must be provided two weeks before the final day of class.

Please contact SDS immediately if you have concerns about the accommodation process.

PAID INTERNSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

The Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) is a recruitment and referral program that connects public and private sector employers committed to hiring college students and recent graduates with disabilities. The WRP is co-sponsored by the US Department of Labor, the Department of Defense and participating organizations throughout the United States. The WRP gives students in all fields of study the opportunity to market their abilities to a wide variety of potential employers across the United States. The program is a great way to gain valuable skills and experience.

A WRP recruiter will be conducting interviews on campus on **Friday, February 15, 2008** at the SDS office. The recruiter will gather information about your interests, work background and future goals. This information and your resume will be entered into a student WRP database. WRP affiliated employers choose interviewees for internships from this database. Beginning in March 2008, participating organizations will contact students with specific job offers. Students will be responsible for finding housing and transportation.

This is our third year of participation with the WRP. All the students who participated the previous year said they thought the opportunity to interview was worthwhile. Several students were offered paid internships over the summer with invitations to apply for permanent positions upon completing college.

Even if you are unsure if you are interested in a position this summer or in the near future, this is an excellent opportunity to practice preparing for and having an interview. Contact Student Disability Services to schedule an interview.

To Start the Process:

1. Enter your basic contact information at:
<https://wrp.gov/StudentRegisterInstructionPre.do>

Required for the Interview:

1. Completed application, packet available from Student Disability Services at <http://www.clt.cornell.edu/campus/sds/wrp.html>
2. Resume or completed federal application form (resume is preferred)
3. Official or unofficial transcript (one or two pages)
4. Completed supplemental information form
5. Signed WRP referral form

Optional Materials for Interview:

1. Cover letter
2. Letters of recommendation
3. Other supporting materials

You are Eligible for the Workforce Recruitment Program if:

1. You have a disability
2. You are a current full-time student
3. OR you are currently enrolled or have graduated since May 2007

To Schedule an Interview:

Contact Lindsey Dusti at 254-4545 by **February 13, 2008** to arrange for an interview. Any accommodation that might be needed for the interview should be requested at this time. Time slots for interviews may fill quickly so schedule your interview early!

Other Preparation for the Interview:

Visit the Career Services Office in your college or in Barnes Hall for assistance in preparing a resume, practicing interview skills, and professionalism. Career Services Website: <http://www.career.cornell.edu/>

For more information about WRP, please visit their website at:
<http://www.dol.gov/odep/programs/workforce.htm>.

MORE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WASHINGTON CENTER FOR INTERNSHIPS AND ACADEMIC SEMINARS

The Washington Center, a nonprofit organization, grants college students from all over the country the wonderful and advantageous opportunity to work and learn in Washington, D.C. Not only does the Washington Center provide the occasion for such an experience, accepted students will also receive academic credit for their time spent working and learning in D.C.

The Washington Center presents interested and qualified students with the opportunity to intern for thousands of organizations and groups in government, business, and the non-profit sector.

Applications for the Spring 2008 semester, as well as post-graduate 2008 are still being accepted on a space available basis, and the deadline for the Spring 2008 semester is January 15, 2008. For more information about the program, as well as the application for the Spring 2008 semester, please visit the Washington Center's website at <http://www.twc.edu/default.shtml>.

EMERGING LEADERS SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Emerging Leaders summer internship program matches exceptional college students with disabilities to paid internships in a wide variety of global corporations. After initial rounds of interviews with students with disabilities who meet GPA and residency requirements, this unique program refers selected students to companies who are committed to hiring and supporting qualified individuals with a disability. Started in 2001, the program is now managed by the National Business and Disability Council, and in 2007 a total of 25 students won internships at leading corporations. In addition to facilitating opportunities, the program offers to all participants a three-day conference addressing career development and the unique

Ahmed Salem '08, a Cornell student who participated in 2007, says of the program, "[i]f you are looking for an internship that will challenge you, push you to achieve your potential, and introduce you to the private sector then [this] internship program is the best. Not everything will be easy nor smooth; but it will allow a person to develop a strong competitive edge in the job market like no other."

challenges that they may face in the course of their careers. More information on the Emerging Leaders program is available through Student Disability Services at 420 Communications and Computing Center, or online, at: <http://www.emerging-leaders.com/>

C-PRINT AT CORNELL



Have you ever wondered how people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing understand what is happening in the classroom? One method of communication access is real-time captioning, a technology that is relatively new in the university setting. (Although stenographers have been doing something similar in the court system for decades!) Essentially, a captionist listens to what is being said in a classroom or meeting and types a meaning-for-meaning transcription that the student reads at the same time, on a separate laptop.

Cornell University Student Disability Services uses C-Print, a captioning system based on the phonetic abbreviation of English. The captionist types the main sounds of a word which then expand into a comprehensible English word. For example, the letters *xlnt* expand into the word *excellent*. By relying on abbreviation, the captionist is able to type at much higher speeds than can be achieved with traditional typing.

Captioning is one way that Cornell can meet its responsibility to provide equal access to education for persons with disabilities. Before the technological developments that allowed portable computers and wireless connection, students who knew sign language would rely on American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters in the classroom. However, not all people who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing know sign language. Moreover, since there is not a single universal sign language, an international student could know the sign language of their native language but not ASL.

What this means is that the development of real-time captioning allows many more students who are Deaf or hard of hearing to access a Cornell Education. As Korean native Hasang Cheon '09 writes, *"As a hearing impaired student, there had been limitations in my communication with others, but I didn't have to worry about my disability since I was supported by Cornell Student Disability Services. With the help of my captionists, I was able to listen to not only the lectures, but also various voices of the world."*

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.

SDS recently acquired a multi-user license for the Premier assistive technology suite. Starting this semester, nearly every computer in designated labs will be equipped with the assistive technology suite including the PDF equalizer, E-Text Reader, Universal Reader and more.

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

TRAVELERS PHOTO CONTEST

We are looking for people with disabilities to submit photos from their overseas study, volunteer, teaching, internship or research experiences. Please share the following information with those who may be interested in participating in this photo contest with a chance to win prizes. The deadline is March 31, 2008.

More information can be found online at: <http://www.miusa.org/ncde/spotlight/photocontest08>.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SPRING 2008



Students with disabilities who plan to live on campus during the 2008-9 school year and received a housing accommodation this year must meet with their SDS Counselor by February 8, 2008 to request a housing accommodation for next year. SDS will gather the requests of all students who need housing accommodations and recommend placements to the Housing Office by the type of disability and the severity of the condition. Please call SDS (607-254-4545) to make an appointment with Michele or Kappy to discuss your housing needs. Disability documentation must be on file with SDS and may need to be updated before we will confirm your housing needs with the Housing office.

Don't wait....make an appointment soon by calling 254-4545 (8 am-4 pm, M-F).

INCLEMENT WEATHER PLANS FOR CORNELL



The winter weather has arrived in full force. Planning ahead will make it easier to address the challenges of winter and get where you need to go. Here are some ideas to address winter travel.

- Plan more time to travel to your destination.
- Utilize the following websites for closing and cancellation information.

Operating Status: displays the official university and campus status announcements

CUInfo: lists university closings, special events that impact traffic and parking, and links to other resources, such as current weather information.

- Subscribe to Univ-Closing-L, an electronic mailing list that will allow you to receive announcements of road closings, school cancellations, or transit delays.

AWARD FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN IN INSTRUCTION

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 curb cut is a great example. Curb cuts 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 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 accepting nominations from January through March 31, 2008. The nomination guidelines can be found on the SDS website at <http://clt.cornell.edu/campus/sds/news.html>

Please submit nominations the professors who are exemplars of universal design in instruction and participate in the award process.



To sign up to receive automatic notifications, send an e-mail message to Univ-Closing-L-request@cornell.edu and put only the word 'join' in the body of the message

If snow and ice will be a significant barrier as you travel around campus, fill out the [Voluntary Inclement Weather Form](#). SDS will report your path of travel to Facilities Management and Grounds and Building Care will make every effort to remove snow and ice in areas you travel on campus.

CULift will operate if the university remains open. Rides may be delayed if conditions are hazardous. It is best to plan more time to travel when submitting your schedule. If canceling rides, please let SDS know as soon as possible. Additional rides will not be accepted when conditions are hazardous. If the CULift must cancel a ride because of hazardous driving conditions, we will send an email message and make every attempt to reach you by phone.



Rainbow over Beebe Lake

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

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