



CORNELL UNIVERSITY

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Cornellians,

I am excited to share some news with you concerning a couple of recent disability-related developments on campus.

This semester ILR will offer the course, Introduction to Disability Studies. The vision and guiding force for this course started with a group of dedicated students in the Cornell Union for Disabilities Awareness (CUDA). CUDA members spent hours contacting faculty members about their willingness to do a lecture, creating a reading list, and researching similar courses offered at other universities. ILR Professors Gold and Bruyère encouraged CUDA members to develop this vision and have brought it to reality by sponsoring the course. This initiative offers the opportunity for students to learn more about disability issues and to have exposure to the breadth of research conducted by Cornell faculty in the area of disability. This is a just one powerful example of how student involvement has the potential to galvanize change on campus.

This activism was preceded by a student group in the early 1990's called Access Alternatives. Access Alternatives worked with the instructors, library, grounds and building care staff, and the Cornell Store to raise awareness about accessibility barriers and practical solutions. In an April 15, 1993 Cornell Chronicle article, Eric Ehrenberg '93, the undergraduate chair of Access Alternatives, described the importance of the group to him, "Working with other people with disabilities lifted my spirits. It was like I've found a cause, something to fight for."

Upon graduating from Cornell, Eric went on to earn a law degree from Georgetown University in 1996 and worked as an attorney specializing in civil rights and union management for the U.S. Department of Labor. Sadly, Eric passed away this past August. In honor of his memory, Eric's parents, ILR Professor Ron and Randy Ehrenberg, have established an endowment to support the important work of disability awareness that Access Alternatives started and CUDA has carried on.

I look forward to the learning opportunities the Introduction to Disability Studies course will afford and the potential it holds for further engagement about access issues on campus.

Best wishes,
Kappy Fahey



View from Cornell During Fall

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IMPORTANT DATES

January 12, 2009
Residence Halls Open

January 13, 2009
Course Add/Drop Begins on [Student Center](#)

January 19, 2009
Classes Begin

February 6, 2009
Last day to add courses without a petition

March 6, 2009
Last day to drop courses without a petition

March 14-22, 2009
Spring Break

May 2, 2009
Last day of classes

May 3-6, 2009
Study period

May 6-15, 2009
Final exam period

May 24, 2009
Commencement

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/or 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 <http://sds.cornell.edu/sdsregistration.php>

4. Pick up your letters from the SDS office at least two days after submitting your 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 last 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 **Tuesday, February 3, 2009** 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 2009, participating organizations will contact students with specific job offers. Students will be responsible for finding housing and transportation.

This is our fourth 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.

Required for the Interview:

1. Completed Application Packet available from Student Disability Services at www.sds.cornell.edu/wrp.html
2. Résumé or completed federal application form (résumé is preferred)
3. Official or unofficial transcript (no more than 2 pages)
4. Completed supplemental information form
5. Signed WRP referral form

You are Eligible for the Workforce Recruitment Program if:

1. You have a disability AND
2. You are a current full-time student OR you graduated in or since May 2008

To Schedule an Interview:

Contact Lindsey Dusti at 254-4545 by **January 30, 2009** to participate in the program. 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, visit their website at:

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/brochures/wrp1.html>



CUDA IS LOOKING FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT

The **Cornell Union for Disabilities Awareness** hosts a student speak each semester. This semester's topic is physical disabilities. **Interested in participating?** Contact Talia Shear, CUDA Event Coordinator, tcs67

ENTRY POINT! INTERNSHIPS

Entry Point! is an internship program offered through the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The program is designed to connect students with disabilities to an array of prominent corporations from throughout the United States.

The application process begins with each student submitting a résumé, cover letter, transcript, and some other basic information to the Entry Point! program. After the student completes a qualifying interview with Entry Point! staff, the program forwards student applications to participating employers. Students then go through additional interviews and, if selected, receive offers directly from employers.

Participating companies ease the transition by being prepared to provide necessary accommodations to their student interns. Travel funds and pointers for finding accessible housing may be provided for students who must relocate for their internship. The companies also offer students competitive stipends for the duration of their internships.

In addition to giving students an amazing opportunity to work as part of a team in top corporations, an incredible 92% of internships lead to future full-time employment, according to Jean Morrell, the American Association for the Advancement of Science Consultant and Field Recruiter.

Several Cornell students participated in this program during the summer of 2008. According to student Michael Boor, who strongly recommends this program to others, Entry Point! "streamline[s] the initial paperwork, and allows you to prove your worth." Noah Nathal adds that, "Last summer, I was ecstatic to receive one offer. This summer, my main problem was selecting from more than five. Entry Point! opened my resume's potential up more than I could ever imagine."

Even though on-campus interviews were held at Cornell in December, opportunities still exist. To find out more about Entry Point! and the application requirements, go to <http://ehrweb.aaas.org/entrypoint/index.htm>.

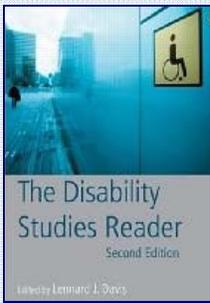
NEW VAN AIDS CULIFT PROGRAM

Just recently, Red Runner, the Cornell Courier service, and SDS have added a brand new van to the CULift program. This van is not only lift equipped to transport one student in a wheelchair, but also can accommodate two to three other students at the same time. With the addition of this new van, the CULift program will now be able to maneuver around campus more easily, allowing the CULift to pick students up at more convenient locations. This will be particularly useful while picking up students in Collegetown, as well as some campus buildings with smaller parking areas and loading docks.



The CULift Vehicles (new van on the right!)

We are very excited to have the new van added to the service and know that this will help the CULift program become more accessible to students in general.



DISABILITIES STUDIES COURSE INITIATED AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

There are just a few spaces left for enrollment into a new course at Cornell University. *Introduction to Disability Studies* is the university's first offering in this academic area. The two-credit class will be organized and led by Professors Michael Gold and Susanne Bruyère, and will be presented primarily by guest lecturers. The survey course will cover topics such as the impact of disability with society, education, healthcare, media, and policy.

Please consider adding this course to your spring semester schedule!

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. 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.

Download the form! http://sds.cornell.edu/Forms/Voluntary_Inclement_Weather_Questionnaire.pdf



ON-CAMPUS HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 2009-2010



Students who plan to live on campus during the 2009-10 school year and need a housing accommodation must meet with their SDS Counselor by February 13, 2009 to discuss their requests. 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 with your SDS counselor today by calling 254-4545.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Service animals are a vital part of the daily lives of some individuals with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) defines a service animal as an animal trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. They accomplish functions and tasks that the individual cannot perform for him/herself. Dogs are used most frequently, but all service animals are specially-trained to do a wide variety of tasks including: assist blind persons to ambulate; alert persons with hearing impairments to sounds; and pull wheelchairs, carry or pick up items for persons with mobility impairments.

Service animals are NOT pets. A service animal is an assistive aid and is similar to other assistive devices, such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, canes, wheelchairs, and other adaptive equipment.

Service animals and their handlers are granted special protection under the ADA, which provides for equal access to all places that the general public is allowed. This includes restaurants, stores, theaters, sports facilities, taxis, aircraft, and other public areas. The ADA also allows handlers to live and stay with their animals in places that "pets" are usually not permitted.

A person with a service animal may not be segregated from other customers. A business owner is allowed to inquire whether a handler is disabled, but may not ask what a person's particular disability is. Additionally, a business owner may ask if the animal is a service animal. If the answer to these questions is "yes", the handler and their animal must be allowed access.

Service animals may be identified by special collars or harnesses, but are not required to be marked. In order to help maintain a safe environment for both the animal and its handler, as well as to be respectful and considerate of both, there are a few very important guidelines about how to interact with service animals. Following these guidelines is way that people can support the animal and their handler while not putting either team member at risk. Please remember – the animal is working and should not be distracted or disturbed so that it can concentrate effectively.



<http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/pubs/Dogs/dogs.shtml>

- DO NOT talk to the animal – talk to the handler.
- DO NOT touch the service animal without asking for, and receiving, permission.
- DO NOT make noises, make excessive eye contact, or call a service animal.
- DO NOT offer food to the animal.
- DO NOT ask personal questions about the handler's disability, or otherwise intrude on his or her privacy.
- DO NOT be offended if the handler does not wish to chat about the service animal.

At Cornell University, service animals are welcome. Although dogs-in-training are not allowed in the residence halls, there are several opportunities in the area available for those who may wish to become involved. First, *Guiding Eyes for the Blind* has a branch in Tompkins County that places selected puppies in homes for about fifteen months, where they learn socialization, house manners and basic obedience. Afterwards these dogs are returned to the organization for specialized training. Students living off-campus could consider becoming part of this well-respected organization, which is on the Internet at <http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp274541.jsp>. Second, *Cornell Companions* volunteers and their pets visit thirteen facilities in Tompkins County, including nursing home, hospital and hospice patients. Volunteers also visit local children with disabilities. This group is sponsored by the College of Veterinary Medicine. Further information can be found at <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/services/companions/>

SDS LENDING LIBRARY

Thanks to the generous gift of Rhonda Carniol '79, given in memory of her mother Diane Carniol, SDS has established a lending library open to all members of the Cornell community. The library, which will be expanded on a regular basis, contains books on a wide variety of topics, including learning disabilities, autism and Asperger's syndrome, ADD/ADHD, physical disabilities and mental health issues. It also features several movies, including the popular films *Murderball* and *Autism: The Musical*. All of the materials have been chosen to disseminate a broad understanding of the role disability plays in the college experience and in our culture.

The SDS lending library is located at 420 CCC in the SDS office and is available for browsing during regular SDS hours. A list of the library contents is available at <http://sds.cornell.edu/library.html>.

MEET SOME OF THE SDS STAFF!

YOU MAY FIND AN SDS STAFFER IN A CLASSROOM CAPTIONING A CLASS, IN THE LIBRARY INSTALLING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY OR IN OUR OFFICE SCHEDULING CULIFT RIDES.



**Cyrus Hamilton,
Document Con-
version Specialist**

Cyrus is the Document Conversion Specialist for Student Disability Services. Whew, long title. Cyrus provides course materials in alternate formats and assists students with adaptive technology. When he is not working, he can be found camping, hiking, or doing just about anything involving the outdoors during the summer months.



**Lindsey Dusti,
Transportation
Coordinator**

Lindsey Dusti has been the Transportation Coordinator and administrative assistant with SDS since August 2007. She enjoys helping students out and getting them around campus safely! When not at work she likes watching movies, going to Wegman's, and waiting by the mailbox for law school acceptance letters.



**Beth Brucie,
Captionist**

Beth Brucie is a CART provider for hearing impaired students with SDS. She has been working with Cornell for over a year and joined the Captioning team for the Fall 2008 semester. Beth has been a court stenographer for 24 years and finds great pleasure using and honing her skills for the students at Cornell.



**Danya Glabau,
Captionist**

Danya Glabau has been with Student Disability Services as a C-Print real-time captionist since September 2007. She enjoys learning lots of neat stuff in the classes she captions, shopping at the Ithaca Farmers Market, and watching marathons of Law and Order: SVU.



Donna Heilweil,

Donna Heilweil has been a C-Print live captionist since the fall of 2007. She finds this to be a perfect combination of doing direct service work, of being surrounded by amazing individuals, and of constant learning. When not working, Donna enjoys ingesting a diet fit for bears, reading voraciously, and watching animé.



**Andrea Dietrich,
Captionist**

Andrea Dietrich is new to the Ithaca area, all the way from Michigan, but she isn't new to C-Print captioning. Before beginning work at Cornell, Andi was an independent contractor, primarily working for Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI (near Grand Rapids). She has been a C-Print Captionist since September, 2006. Working at Cornell has been a fantastic experience so far, and she is thrilled to be here! She and her husband, Chris, are currently living in Cortland with their three cats. Hopefully, they'll be moving to Ithaca sometime in the not-too-distant future!

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

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