



# Freeflight

## Disabled Student Services

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*Learning Specialist*

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*Disability Management Advisor*

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*Disability Management Advisor*

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*Testing Facilitator*

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*Assistive Technology Facilitator*

Andre Green  
*Student Assistant/Intern*

### Words from our Director

Welcome to the first issue of our spring 2014 Disabled Student Services – Freeflight Newsletter. The spring semester is always exciting and extremely busy for us.

There have been a few changes in the office since our last newsletter. We have hired two new counselors, JuLinda Holmes and Mace Porotesano and are in the process of hiring a third counselor. Instead of the previous one full-time counselor, we are happy to report that when the final hiring process is complete, Disabled Student Services (DSS) will consist of five full-time staff (Director, Associate Director, and three Disability Management Advisors). This is an all-time high for us in DSS. Thanks to our campus President, Dr. Willie Hagan, our Enrollment Management & Student Affairs Vice President, Dr. Sue Borrego and Dr. Sonja Daniels, our Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs and Dean of Students, DSS has nearly tripled its' previous full-time staff.

The addition of three new DSS Disability Management Advisors will allow DSS to provide more one-on-one, person-to-person assistance and accommodations to our students with disabilities. It is a very exciting time for us in DSS and we have already put our new staff to work on making sure that all of the university's educational, cultural, social and physical facilities and programs are available to students with disabilities.

On another note, we are celebrating our 40th Year Anniversary here at CSUDH. For the last 40 years, DSS has served as a centralized source of information for students with disabilities and those who work with disabilities. We will be celebrating this significant anniversary on April 16, 2014, from 3:00pm – 5:00pm in the Loker Student Union, Ballroom. In addition, during our 40th Year Celebration, we will honor our DSS students who will be graduating May of this year, as well as honoring those professors who have been nominated by our students with disabilities as being... Outstanding Professors, having gone above and beyond in providing reasonable accommodations to our students with disabilities. Please plan to attend. And, if you are graduating and plan to participate in our DSS graduation portion of the 40th Year Celebration and/or would like to nominate an Outstanding Professor, please contact Mace



Porotesano at (310) 243-3660 or mporotesano@csudh.edu.

Again, welcome to our latest issue of Freeflight our Disabled Student Services Newsletter.

Patricia Ann Wells  
Director, Disabled Student Services  
California State University, Dominguez Hills

**Disabled Student Services 40th Year Celebration!!!**



**April 16, 2014  
3:00-5:00pm  
Loker Student Union**  
(more on pg. 2)



## Has It Been 40 Years?

While looking back over the years, Disabled Student Services (DSS) Department can't help but consider, 'Has it been 40 years?' Coming this April 16, 2014, DSS will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary of existence at the California State University, Dominguez Hills.



When the DSS Department was being founded, by Larry Gray in 1974, the Cost of a gallon of Gasoline was 55 cents, the average cost for a new car was \$3,750; the average annual income per year was \$13,900 and the average monthly rent was \$185.00. Needless to say, the cost of daily necessities has increased, in some cases quadrupled.

When the DSS office opened in 1974, there were only 10 students registered with the DSS. Today the DSS Department services over 680 students with disabilities, both undergraduates and graduates.

Technology in 1974 included electric typewriters, manual brailing machines, large hearing aids, large table top recording devices and magnifying classes. Now assistive technology includes: Digital Voice Recorders, capable of recording 4000 hours, with 72+ hours long battery life, MP3 recording and playback, and compatibility with "Dragon Naturally Speaking" speech recognition software. Instructional Materials are now available in alternate formats (audio & electronic - Kurzweil), sign language interpreters and captioning for the hearing impaired, and testing psycho-educational assessments for learning disabilities is now provided as well.

Back in 1974, DSS consisted of one staff person and two student assistants. Currently there are 10 DSS employees: Director, Associate Director, Learning Disability Specialist, three Disability Management Advisors, two part-time staff sign language interpreters and one staff testing facilitator and one assistive technology facilitator. We also employ student assistants and utilize the services of student interns.

To answer the question, has it been 40 years, yes and things have progressed and evolved in the DSS office. Under the leadership of our Director Patricia Ann Wells, we have emerged into an office that specializes in accommodating students with mobility, visual, hearing, learning, psychological, medical and/or physical disabilities. As delineated in the our Mission Statement, the mission of the Disabled Student Services program is to make all of the University's educational, cultural, social and physical facilities and programs available to students with disabilities, through the provisions of reasonable accommodations. The program serves as a centralized source of information for students with disabilities and those who work with disabilities in the enhancement of their academic, career and personal development.



Please join us as we celebrate 40 years of services to our CSUDH Toros, honor and recognize our students with disabilities who are graduating this spring 2014 and those outstanding faculty who have gone above and beyond in providing reasonable accommodations to our students with disabilities. Please join us as we roll out the "Red Carpet" on Tuesday, April 16, 2014 from 3:00-5:00pm in the Loker Student Union Ballroom A & B.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gala. If additional information is required, DSS is located in Welch Hall 180D; telephone is: (310) 243-3660.

-JuLinda Holmes-Tolbert, Disability Management Advisor

## Spring 2014: Policy Changes for Test Accommodations

### Greetings!

On behalf of the DSS staff, welcome back & we hope you enjoyed your winter break. We are sending out a message on the policies and procedures addressing common DSS testing accommodations effective Spring 2014 semester.

For **final exams**, the deadline to turn in test accommodation sheet(s) is **Friday, April 25, 2014** for the Spring 2014 semester. Regardless of your final exam date, all test ac-

commodation sheets must be turned in by **Friday, April 25th, 2014.**



DSS will need reasonable time to prepare and arrange for finals thus it is important to note that test accommodation forms or "blue forms" cannot be accepted after this deadline. As a reminder, for all other course exams during the se-

mester, if you need accommodations such as extra time, alternate site, reader, writer etc., the test accommodation sheets must be submitted to DSS **one week (five working days) prior to the exam date.** There will be no exceptions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time at [dss@csudh.edu](mailto:dss@csudh.edu) or 310-243-3660. **Go Toros!**

### Disabled Student Services' Mission

The mission of Disabled Student Services is to make all of the University's educational, cultural, social and physical facilities and programs available to students with disabilities, through the provision of reasonable accommodations. The program serves as a centralized source of information for students with disabilities and those who work with disabilities in the enhancement of their academic, career and personal development.

### Examples of DSS Accommodations:

- Disability Management Advising
- Admissions Assistance
- Priority Registration
- Assistive Technology
- Alternate Test Site & Test Proctoring
- Readers/writers for Exams
- Faculty Liaison
- Disabled Parking
- Alternate Media (Audio & Electronic)
- Disabled Parking

## DSS Volunteer

### *You Made the Difference!*

As we look towards the end of spring semester, 2014, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Andre Green, our student intern who gave his time and service to our students with disabilities for the last 18 months. Your willingness to assist fellow students and your unselfish service within the DSS office has had a profound impact on our ability to provide needed services to our students. Thanks for your support and contribution and congratulations on completing your BA in Human Services.

Patricia Ann Wells, Director - DSS

### **ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!**

#### **Calling All DSS Graduating Students**



If you are graduating this spring 2014 and would like to participate in the DSS Graduation Celebration on

April 16, 2014, during

our 40th Year Celebration, please submit your name and contact information to Mace Porotesano, Disability Management Advisor in DSS, at [mporotesano@csudh.edu](mailto:mporotesano@csudh.edu) We look forward to hearing from you and honoring your accomplishment. Congratulations on your upcoming graduation.

#### **Disabled Student Services Outstanding Professor Awards**

Have you experienced having a professor go above and beyond in providing reasonable accommodations? Would you like to have that professor recognized during our 40th Year Celebration? If so, please contact Mace Porotesano, Disability Management Advisor, [mporotesano@csudh.edu](mailto:mporotesano@csudh.edu).

### **Debunking the Myths**

“Myth: If you cannot see the disability it does not exist.

Fact: Hidden disabilities such as ADHD/ADD, learning disabilities (LD), and psychological disabilities, can create significant limitations or difficulties just as someone who is blind or in a wheelchair.”

“Myth: All persons who are deaf or have hearing impairments can read lips.

Fact: Lip-reading skills vary greatly among individuals and is never totally reliable.”

“Myth: Providing accommodations to persons' with disabilities gives them an unfair advantage over individuals without disabilities.

Fact: Accommodations are not intended to give individuals with disabilities an unfair advantage, but rather to help level the playing field for all individuals regardless of their disability.”

“Myth: Mental illness is the same as mental retardation.

Fact: These are different disorders. Mental retardation is characterized by limitations in intellectual functioning. Mental illnesses are health conditions.”

“Myth...: People with Learning Disability and ADHD/ADD are not very smart.

Fact Intelligence has nothing to do with LD and ADHD./ADD In fact, people with LD and ADHD/ADD have average to above average intelligence. Studies indicate that as many as 33% of students with LD are gifted.”

“Myth...: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) does not really exist. It is simply the latest excuse for parents who do not discipline their children.

Fact: Scientific research tells us ADHD is a biologically-based disorder that includes distractibility, impulsiveness, and sometimes hyperactivity. While the causes of ADHD are not fully understood, recent research suggests that ADHD can be inherited and may be due to an imbalance of neurotransmitters chemicals used to control behavior in the brain.”

“For some people with LD and ADHD, the effort required to get through a day can be exhausting in and of itself. The motivation required to do what others take for granted is enormous.”

Cited from: <http://disability.lsu.edu/myths>

### ***From the desk of Deborah Parham, Associate Director Disabled Student Services***

CSUDH Disabled Student Services is a unique department. Our program serves as a centralized source of information for students with disabilities. We are committed to helping students with disabilities by arranging academic accommodations, disability management /counseling and support. Disabled Student Services strive to serve the broader University community by raising awareness of the needs and rights of persons with disabilities. Services are critical to a student's success; therefore needs are assessed on an individual basis. This highly personalized approach has enabled Disabled Student Services to successfully help thousands of students achieve their chosen academic goals.

## **Meet our new DSS Professional Staff!**



JuLinda Holmes-Tolbert, is the newest member of the Disabled Student Services Team. She was hired as the Disability Management Advisor. She holds a Juris Doctorate from West Los Angeles Law School, awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Administration of Criminal Justice at the California State University of Los Angeles and received an Associate of Arts Degree in History from West Los Angeles College. Mrs. Holmes-Tolbert's prior academic administration experience was gained as she served as the Director of Union Institute & University for 6 years on the El Camino-Compton Campus. In addition, she was employed at the South Central Los Angeles Regional Center. Throughout her career she has found time to serve the community. Mrs. Holmes-Tolbert has served on the Board of Directors with the Center for Community and Family Services Inc., a non-profit California corporation serving low income families and children. She is the recipient of numerous awards for community service including a commendation from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. She credits Delta Sigma Theta for their support in its' Grand Sisterhood, and thankful for having walked our 'Burning Sands, in Spring 1991'. JuLinda recently married Jessie L. Tolbert, Jr. Her favorite adage is "Nothing is Impossible with the Lord!"

**Interesting fact:** *"I am the oldest 'Angelino' I know. Both of my parents were born in the city of Los Angeles."*

**Favorite Book:** "Suck Your Stomach In & Put Some Color On" by Shellie Rushing-Tomlinson

**Strengths:** Motivate, Mobilize and Personable



Mace Fuataina Porotesano joined Disabled Student Services (DSS) as a Disability Management Advisor in 2013. Prior to working at CSUDH, Mace earned her Master's in Education degree from University of Southern California (USC) in Post-Secondary Administration and Student Affairs in May 2013. While pursuing her Master's degree, she worked as a Disability Counselor for Disability Services and Programs, a Learning Assistant for student athletes, and a Program Coordinator for the Pacific Islander initiative known as PULE in the Asian Pacific American Student Services office. Before leaving USC, she received the Student Recognition Award for outstanding leadership, volunteerism, and commitment to the campus and the community. Mace also received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science/International Affairs from the University of California Riverside (UCR).

**Role Model:** Jesus Christ

**Favorite Food:** Hmm my favorite food of all time would be mangos, water melon, Mexican candy and cheeseburgers

**Interesting fact:** Born in LA, but grew up in the Fiji Islands and San Diego, CA.

**Hobbies:** Swimming, traveling, crossfit, hanging out with my family and loved ones, watching movies & football, and eating food

## DSS Learning Disability Component

A learning disability can interfere with a student's ability to process information in several ways. The purpose of the learning disability component is to provide students, who do not have current documentation of a learning disability, an assessment that is designed to establish eligibility for services and determine educational functional limitations and services available. Services are designed to assist the student in attaining their educational goal.

Possible challenges can exist in one or more of the basic skill achievement in: reading, writing, and/or math. Common problems may be in academic fluency in reading for example not having adequate time to complete exams in the classroom. Another consideration is a history of underachievement in one or more of the basic skill areas such as problems in successfully completing math courses especially algebra. Poor spelling and correctly expressing written ideas in an organized way may also indicate a learning disability.

If a student has concerns that may indicate a learning disability they are encouraged to visit the Disabled Student Services office and request to schedule an appointment with the learning disabilities specialist, William Hoanzl, at (310) 243-3660.

### Things to Remember:

Accommodation memos are only sent to instructors if the student signs the release at the bottom of our DSS Student Class Schedule form.

Test Accommodations forms must be turned in 5 working days prior to the student's scheduled exam.

Students must complete section one of the Test Accommodations form and the instructor completes the framed portion of the form. It is the student's responsibility to turn the form in at the DSS office.

Students utilizing alternate media (audio & electronic) must provide their own textbooks and flash drives.

Note taking services are on a volunteer basis only. DSS will provide the student with dual-note taking paper at no charge.

## Did you know that Disabled Student Services provides?

- Disability Management Advising
- Admissions Assistance
- Priority Registration
- Assistive Technology
- Alternate Test Site & Test Proctoring
- Readers/writers for exams
- Faculty Liaison
- Disabled Parking
- Alternate Media (Audio & Electronic)

### Definition of Disability

Persons covered by Section 504 and ADA have a physical, medical, or psychological impairment that affects one or more major life activity: walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, or learning. Have a history of such impairment or are regarded as having such impairment.

**DSS Office Hours & Location**  
**Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm**  
**Saturdays 8:00am – 12:00pm by Appointment Only**

## What is the Best Way for You to Share Your Thoughts Regarding the Services You Receive Through DSS?

If you would like to share your thoughts regarding the Disabled Student Services office, please feel to contact our Director, Patricia Ann Wells. She is always willing to meet with students and address your concerns.

If you are not able to schedule a meeting due to your hectic class schedule, please feel free to email Ms. Wells at [pwells@csudh.edu](mailto:pwells@csudh.edu) or drop a note in our Suggestion Box. Ms. Wells is the only one who has access to it and will certainly respond to your concerns.

Please note that we not only want to hear your concerns, we are anxious to hear the good things you have to share with us as well. We need your input and we welcome it.

