



Freeflight

Disabled Student Services

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2014

DSS STAFF

Patricia Ann Wells
Director

Deborah Parham
Associate Director

William Hoanzel
Learning Specialist

JuLinda Holmes-
Tolbert
*Disability Management
Advisor*

Mace F. Porotesano
*Disability Management
Advisor*

Tiffany R. Bolling
*Disability Management
Advisor*

Sandra Rollins
Testing Facilitator

Karah Cunningham
*Assistive Technology
Facilitator*

Andre Green
Student Assistant/Intern

Words from our Director

Welcome to the fall semester!

The start of fall semester is always exciting and extremely busy for us. We have been working hard to prepare for the new semester and look forward to working with each of you. It is our goal to provide the best services possible.



There have been a few changes in the office since our last newsletter. We have hired a new counselor, Tiffany Bolling. Tiffany comes to Disabled Student Services by way of the CSUDH University Advisement Center. She has worked here at CSUDH for the last 10 years and is a welcomed addition to our DSS staff.

Over the summer we revamped our DSS website, DSS Student Handbook and streamlined many of our procedures for requesting services. Now that we have three full-time DSS counselors to assist you in receiving reasonable accommodations the process of providing support services has been enhanced. We strive to provide prompt, efficient, quality services to all students with disabilities based upon the individual nature of their disability.

If you are a new DSS student, please schedule an appointment to meet with a DSS counselor to discuss your accommodation needs and determine which services are available to you. If you continuing as a DSS student, welcome back and please be sure to come in and secure your accommodations for the semester. We look forward to working with each of you as you persist towards graduation.

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





Helping Students with Disabilities Obtain Success

Imagine living each day of your life with a disability that impedes your daily routines.

To some people this seems unimaginable, while some who have lived many years with debilitating illnesses and diseases and others who have become disabled in the recent years of their life, this may now be their new norm. I believe that because there are so many disabled people in our society nowadays, we fail to realize the impact these disabilities have on the lives of the disabled.

When we deal with people with a disability, we are not only dealing with a physical or mental health issue, we are dealing with a culture in society that need to be seen in a different light. People with disabilities need to be supported by the many services that have become available to help them, allowing them to become valuable and contributing members of society. We continue to maintain the same levels of poverty because we have not equipped and em-

powered the citizens in this society to participate and focus on projects that generate income. Education and training are key steps to embracing the needs of people with disabilities.

According to data collected the World Health Organization (WHO), 750 million people in the world are disabled, but only 2-3 % of the disabled in poor countries are able to attend school. For this reason, I am so very thankful to be a part of the Disabled Student Services (DSS) here at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). DSS has been in existence for over forty years now, as evidenced by our celebration in April 2014. This office is able to provide many of the requests for reasonable accommodations needed by our students in order for them to maintain their independence and integrity as they moving forward in achieving academic success. Our goal is to provide our students with the tools, service, and equipment they will need while attending CSUDH.

The success of our students is contingent upon DSS continuance of providing excellent service to our student with disabilities. As these students move on, they are more equipped to meet society head on as they have demonstrated that they are capable of overcoming tremendous obstacles. Our students are hardworking and dedicated to their own success and when they are able to reach their individual goals, nothing is more gratifying to witness. Many of our students are very grateful for the services we provide at DSS and thank us daily. Some even return after leaving to express their feelings about the services they received while attending CSUDH. Although we welcome and appreciate the kind words, our mission is to provide all students with disabilities an equal opportunity at receiving a quality education. We have a dedicated staff willing to go above and beyond to assist the students with disabilities at CSUDH. We are led by our devoted and caring Director, Ms. Patricia Wells and her team to include Associate Director, Deborah Parham, Disability Management Counselors, JuLinda Holmes, Tiffany Bolling and Mace Porotesano, and Learning Specialist William Hoanzl. Other office staff include Karrah Cunningham, Andre Green and myself, Sandra Rollins.

We are happy to provide the services because we care about the students at CSUDH and our hope is that we are depositing into the lives of the people we encounter daily. If the students that cross our paths are able to return to their communities and become productive and contributing members of society, then our work here has been worth it all. Just remember as you go about your daily routine and your path cross any person that may be in need of our services, or if you feel that our services will assist you in your journey, don't hesitate to contact our office. We are located in Welch Hall D-180 and we are open daily Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00 pm.

- Sandra Rollins , Testing Facilitator



Reminder: Test Accommodations Policy & Procedure

Greetings!

On behalf of the DSS staff, welcome back & we hope your Fall semester is off to a great start! We are sending out a message on the policies and procedures addressing common DSS testing accommodations.

For **final exams**, the deadline to turn in test accommodation sheet(s) is **November 21, 2014** for the Fall 2014 semester. Regardless of your final exam date, all test accommodation sheets must be turned in by **Friday, November 21, 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 semester, 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 or 310-243-3660. **Go Toros!**

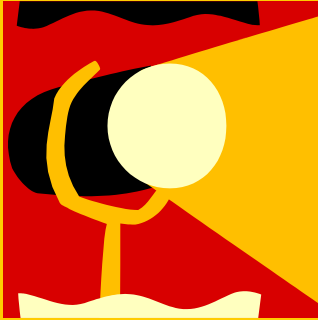
Disabled Student Services' Mission

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
- Disabled Parking
- Alternate Media (Audio & Electronic)
- Disabled Parking
- Smart Pen (Ask us about it!)

Student Spotlight!!!



Family and Friends Congratulations are in Order for the Sorianos

The four year journey for Alejandra Soriano, a registered student of the California State University, Dominguez Hills was finalized when she took her last class here at CSUDH, Writing Adjunct IDS 398. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Administration of Criminal Justice on Friday, May 16, 2014 at 5:30 pm. She is the oldest of her 5 siblings. In well Soriano order, her second sister, Elizabeth acquired her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from University of Southern California on Friday, May 16, 2014 at 10:00 am. So although Alejandra is the oldest, her younger sister was the first to obtain a Bachelor's degree in the family, since she is being awarded her degree earlier on the same day. Originally her third sister, Susana was anticipated to receive her Confirmation Sacrament in Catholicism on Friday, May 16, 2014. But to the parent's relief her Confirmation date was postponed until May 30, 2014.

However, the 3rd Sister Susana, and 5th Sister Sandra, graduated this year also. One from Compton High School and the other from Dickerson Elementary School.

Needless to say, Alejandra's Brother Reynaldo her 4th sibling, graduated ahead of his sisters last year from Middle School. The parents can take a big sigh of relief.

Alejandra Soriano plans is to pursue a career in the area of law enforcement.

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

Famous People with Disabilities

Alexander Graham Bell, Ludwig Van Beethoven, Francisco de Goya, and Franklin D. Roosevelt were all famous people with disabilities.

Ludwig Van Beethoven – became deaf after composing his 9th symphony

Alexander Graham Bell – had a learning disability and suffered from Dyslexia

Francisco de Goya – a Spanish painter who developed an illness at the age of 46 which left him deaf.

Franklin D. Roosevelt – stricken with polio and paralyzed in 1921, became Governor of New York in 1928 and in 1933 was sworn in as the 32nd President of the United States.

We understand assignments, exams, & finals are coming up. Here are some tips and strategies for you to be successful!

Checklist for Student Success Strategies

- _____ In the morning, wake up with a positive attitude and statements for example, "I want to be optimistic, and enjoy my classes. "I make study activities creative and enjoyable."
- _____ Attend all lectures on time and sit in front of the class.
- _____ Ask questions for clarification of presented information and assignments to insure understanding.
- _____ Come to class prepared. Bring course materials turn off your cell phone and leave it in your backpack/purse.
- _____ Establish a clear goal for each study session. Plan for a good study environment and study strategies to increase your learning.
- _____ If you're having trouble getting started, set a small goal that is achievable. For example, "I will spend 10 minutes to preview chapter 5" , "I will read the assignment and identify what I need to do to complete it."
- _____ Make information you need to learn understandable by using words and examples that make sense. Use a variety of learning strategies; color code, underline, highlight, rewrite or type notes. Recite information out loud. Ask questions and explain information to a study partner.
- _____ Plan rewards. Effective stress relievers may include listening to music, exercising, spending quality time with friends or family.

Assistive Technology Improving Student Success at CSUDH

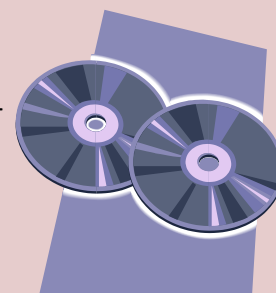
There are a number of students attending CSUDH that find the use of assistive technology beneficial to their academic success. Therefore, we are excited about some of the new assistive technology and equipment that is now available to our students here at CSUDH through Disabled Student Services. Thanks to the wonderful support that we have from ASI in granting funds, we have been able to acquire some new and innovative equipment to support our students that need assistance. The new equipment along with other devices and software currently being used will help us to be able to continue providing accommodations to our students.



DSS currently has special technology to assist students that are visually impaired or blind. For example, JAWS 15 and Dragon Naturally Speaking software is available on some campus computers as well as in our own computer lab. Other technology and equipment available through DSS are Simon Readers, the Pearl, CC-TV, and Zoom text, which can be utilized by the visually impaired or any students that need assistance in reading. We also have available digital recorders to aid in note taking. We are also very excited about our new shipment of the LiveScribe Pens, the latest technology in recording devices to help our students with note taking and a more efficient way to review when studying for quizzes and exams.



All of these assistive devices are useful in helping our students work independently achieving the same or similar results as students with no disability. So if you are a student at CSUDH and feel that you have some challenges that infringe on your ability to perform satisfactorily, we encourage you to visit the DSS office and speak to one of the counselors. By doing so, they will be able to determine whether you will benefit from the use of assistive technology.



- Karrah Cunningham

Hello Toros! My name is Andre Green. I'd like to welcome you all back to the Fall 2014 semester and a special welcome to our new students on campus. I will be working in the Disable Student service office again this semester, as a student worker. I will also be around campus delivering inter office mail. If I may assist you in any way please feel free to ask me and I will do my best to help you. Good luck to all of our new and returning students. Charge on TOROS!

Who is a Feyonce?

On May 19, 2014, Mace Porotesano entered the Disabled Student Services (DSS) and stated, 'Guess who is a Feyonce?' With an extended arm and a beautiful Marquise Platinum Diamond Engagement Ring on her Left ring finger the entire DSS office knew who became a Feyonce. Feyonce is a new term used with the combination of the word Fiancé and Beyoncé. Why Beyoncé? Because of Beyoncé's famous song, 'If you like it, you should have put a ring on it.' Well needless to say Amos Mikaele liked it – so he put a ring on it and made Mace a 'Feyonce'.



So how did it all begin and when is the big day? I have been given the privilege to tell you the 411.

It all began with a dare in a High School. Pina Tuisamoa, a common friend, of both Mace and Amos dared them to meet each other after school. In spite of Mace being busy with volleyball practice and Amos focused on football, the two took the challenge and met. Although they had seen each other numerous times before in school, they never saw the other in the way Pina did. They exchanged numbers and the romance began. However, Pastor and First Lady Porotesano were not allowing Mace to date. From there they began talking on the phone, texting and were only allowed to see each other at school. Amos being persistent, asked Mace to the Homecoming Dance their junior year and this time the parents said yes. For their second date Senior Year Homecoming

After Graduation in 2007, both went their separate ways. Mace went to University of Riverside to take up Political Science and Amos furthered his education at Southern Oregon to take up Psychology. Needless to say miles can't keep true love apart. Throughout college they kept in touch and would see each other during summer and Winter breaks. As the years past, and each graduated from their respective schools, Mace being over achiever, chose to pursue her education at University of Southern California and Amos chose to begin saving for his future family. During Mace's last year in graduate school, the two began sharing their dreams of being as one in Holy Matrimony. Mace's attention at the time was on graduating and Amos focus was on the ring. In addition, he had to worry about asking Pastor and first lady Porotesano for Mace's hand in marriage. Amos knew the parents were leaving for their annual trip home to Malua, Samoa and he wanted to receive their blessing before they left. His future in-laws said yes. His next step was to devise a romantic manner in which to propose. He chose her birthday weekend, on May 17, 2014(although her actual birthday is May 18). In an effort to surprise her for the big event, Amos took her to dinner and brought her home to a dark house. Mace was guided in, with a Big Birthday Surprise Party. She was greeted with a loud, 'SURPRISE,' of people that consisted of her life-long friends that live miles away and her only sister who lives in Hawaii. Amos brought her to the center of the room, where on a projector screen Pastor and First Lady Porotesano gave their blessing of the two to be married. When they finished Amos dropped to one knee and pledged his love to her and to be dedicated and a committed Husband that God intended him to be. Mace cried like a baby.

You can see the entire proposal on YOUTUBE... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TR1In8_IP3Q

-JuLinda Holmes

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 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.

