

A the Advocate

The Disability Resource Center Newsletter
Cal Poly • San Luis Obispo

fall 2007

07

WELCOME:

It is the mission of the Disability Resource Center to provide information and supportive services to Cal Poly students with permanent and temporary disabilities.

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DIRECTOR'S JABBER

Trey Duffy, Director
of the Disability
Resource Center, on
"Change"

STUDENT SURVEY

Find out the results on
page 11!

DIRECTOR'S JABBER



“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

-John F. Kennedy

Change is all around us as we enter another academic year. Whether you are new or old to Cal Poly, you can see the significant change and growth occurring throughout campus. For complete information on current and proposed building projects see:

http://www.facilities.calpoly.edu/campusprojects/campus_proj.htm

Our goal is to facilitate and emphasize the importance of universal design in all new building projects.

The DRC is not immune to change either. In fact, one might say we thrive on it. At present, we are aggressively engaged in redesigning the processes for requesting services. Currently, paper processes dominate our system. Paper forms are picked up, filled out and physically returned to the DRC office. We are working on transitioning to the 21st century and hope to initiate a web-based service request system **SOON**. We anticipate a little turmoil, hopefully not mayhem, as we move toward electronic, web-based processes. Ultimately, a 24/7, electronic request system should make your lives easier. No more pounding on the door at 5:01; no more hoping for a parking space in front of the office; no long journeys down toward California Blvd. to pick up a form. We request (beg?) for your patience and understanding as we make these changes.

Some changes are better than others are. Losing two of our much-loved and valued staff has caused us

more than a little ache and anguish. Steve Kane, Assistant Director and Learning Disability Specialist, accepted a faculty position with Cal Poly's College of Education. Chrissy Alvarez, Testing and Transportation Services Coordinator, accepted a position with the Santa Maria Police Department in order to be closer to home -- and thus traded 90 minutes of commuting for a 10-minute stroll. We wish them both great successes with their new opportunities.

However, as idealists we console ourselves for the loss of something old with the ability to regard something new. We are pleased to welcome Jennifer Allen Barker and Barbara Burnett, who have joined the DRC as Access Specialists. Additionally, we are actively recruiting to fill the Learning Disability Specialist position and hope to introduce in the next Advocate Newsletter our newest staff member.

Meanwhile, our work on implementing the objectives of the CSU's Accessible Technology Initiative continues to dominate our time and energy. Please look at <http://www.accessibility.calpoly.edu/> for up-to-date information.

Best of luck to you, and may 2007-08 be filled with A+'s, charitable scholarships, kind and forgiving roommates and generous parents.

Stay tuned,

Trey Duffy, Director

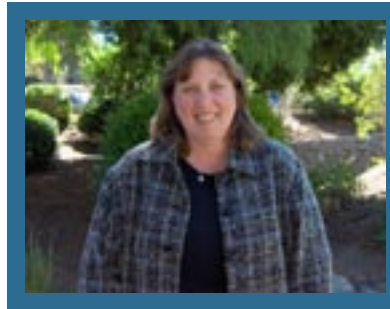
Note Taking Changes

Great news! After a year of working out the kinks in the note taking services process, we are happy to announce that the process for requesting note takers will NOT change (*much*)** this quarter. Remember what you did last spring?

- Submit a Note taking Request Form to request note taker(s)

[DRC will send an email to eligible students registered in the requested courses directing potential note takers to the DRC]

- Check your email to obtain names and contact info of your note takers



- Agree with your note takers on a method of exchanging notes
- Let us know if there are problems

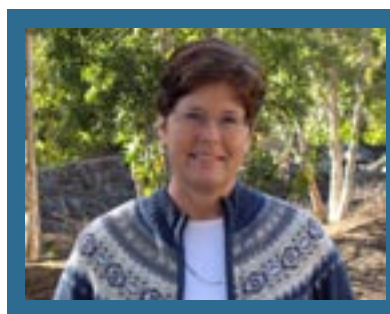
(You are **encouraged** to select your own note takers, either in consultation with instructors or by asking classmates.)

****OK... one small change.** The Note taking Request Form is only for note taking. You do not need to fill it out for alternate testing arrangements. That's another story. See below.

Testing Update

In July we said a sad farewell to Chrissy Alvarez, our former Testing Services Coordinator, who is now working with the Santa Maria Police Dept. While we hope to make your testing requests available online soon, currently procedures remain the same and will be coordinated by Access Specialist Barbara Burnett. Completed Test Authorization forms must be submitted no later than 72 hours (three weekdays) prior to the exam. Students will still be granted one excused late form per quarter ("freebie"), but subsequent late requests will be denied.

TIP: Several students have said that Outlook "pop-up" reminders are helpful.

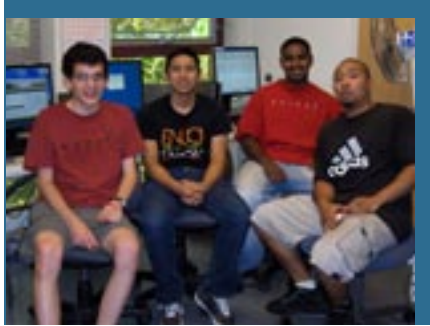


One Authorization form may be used at the beginning of each quarter for all exams scheduled on the course syllabus.

Testing Services involves the coordination and cooperation of faculty, proctors, tram drivers, DRC staff and students. Maintaining security and the confidence of instructors requires our most conscientious and efficient effort. Thank you for doing your part.

PLEASE NOTE: Fall quarter final exams will be held in a new place - UU-220! We feel sure you will find the seating,

lighting, and climate control much more comfortable!



AMC Program Assistants:
Dana Goyette,
Phil Calacsan,
Das Menon and
Reggie Estoesta.

This summer Derek Seibel, one of our AMC Program Assistants, created a great new website for AMC students. Here you will be able to find out the latest software and hardware tools available to you, and you can contact us to receive answers to any questions you have about the service. Check it out:

www.altmedia.calpoly.edu

Another cool tool we added to the AMC this summer is a tape digitizer. This will allow us to take the tapes our wonderful hardworking Volunteer Readers create and convert them to a CD in wav or mp3 for the students who prefer our Readers to the electronic voice.

Kurzweil 3000 is here! This exciting tool provides multi-sensory learning and allows you to:

- Hear and see breaks in syllables, words, sentences, phrases or paragraphs as you read;
- Have opportunities for repetition, and for customizing settings to match your current and target reading and learning levels;
- Improve self-correction skills. Kurzweil 3000 reads back what's typed, and provides easy-to-use reference and correction tools while you read, write, study and take tests;
- Improve comprehension. Study skills tools make it easy to produce many types of notes and summaries for review, and create outlines for composing writing assignments.

Kennedy Library DRC Adaptive Lab

Please note these additions to the DRC Adaptive Lab, located on the second floor of Kennedy Library, rooms 216 H & J.

- Two new computers
- ZoomText 9.1 (a magnifier and reader for word processing, reading email and the Internet) – now available through the campus Keyserver in any computer lab on campus (Contact Debie McArdle at the DRC for installation directions.)
- Dragon Naturally Speaking 8.1 – speech recognition to help you create documents, email, and spreadsheets
- JAWS 8.0 – screenreader that works with your PC to provide access to today's software applications and the Internet
- CCTV Closed Circuit Television – allows users with low vision to place materials (such as books, worksheets, handouts, and magazines) under the camera to be magnified and projected on to a screen

There is also a printer and scanner for your use. Check with your DRC Access Specialist if you are interested in utilizing these resources.

COME IN AND LET US
SHOW YOU HOW IT WILL
WORK FOR YOU!

ACCESS SPECIALISTS



Sarah Clark, Barbara Burnett,
Chris Parker-Kennedy, Jennifer Allen-Barker

Access Specialist Defined

Based on feedback from our annual student satisfaction survey (see page 11), we realized that some students are not clear who their Access Specialist is, and what to expect from that relationship. So here we are!

What do we do?

Access Specialists provide individual disability management advising related to the impact of disability on students' academic and personal needs. We can:

- help with the coordination of academic support services
- advocate for student requests for reasonable accommodations made throughout the campus
- assist in developing skills such as managing stress, planning & prioritizing, negotiating with instructors, developing healthy routines, learning positive habits, and improving time management.

How can you meet with your Access Specialist?

If you don't know your assigned Access Specialist, call our front office to find out who she is. We can meet by appointment or you are welcome to come to one of our posted drop in hours.

Drop In Hours:

<i>Jennifer Allen-Barker</i>	<i>Mon, 10-11:00 am</i>	<i>Thurs, 10-11:00 am</i>
<i>Barbara Burnett</i>	<i>Mon, 1-2:00 pm</i>	<i>Wed, 8-9:00 am</i>
<i>Sarah Clark</i>	<i>Wed, 2:30-3:30 pm</i>	<i>Thurs, 2:30-3:30 pm</i>
<i>Chris Parker-Kennedy</i>	<i>Tues, 11-12:00 pm</i>	<i>Fri, 10-11:00 am</i>



To read the full text of Nicole's article, please visit:

drc.calpoly.edu/enrolled/nicole.html

As a sophomore who has struggled with learning difficulties as well as Attention Deficit Disorder, I have learned some strategies that have helped me succeed during my freshman year at Cal Poly. Organization and time management helped me manage stress so I could be more successful in college academics, and I hope that they can do the same for you.

First, get organized by taking good notes and by using a planner, a calendar, and a whiteboard. For notes, I observed a peer in my chemistry class first quarter. She took a ruler, placed it to the side of the left margin, and traced a line. Next, she put all topics and illustrations on the left and all the definitions on the right. She was an "A" student so I decided to give it a try. It wound up working because I was able to find things in my notes quickly with the topics neatly on the left margin.

Next, use a planner. A friend taught me to put everything on all of my class syllabi into a planner and to color code by classes. From this, you can start a things-to-do list on a wall calendar - I fill in the calendar with my planner dates (double check to make sure they are on the right day).

Finally, I use a whiteboard to prepare my daily to do lists for the next day, which gives me a game plan, even if I don't accomplish everything on the lists. From my experience, I still accomplish a lot more than if I blindly go about trying to figure out what I need to do. And this is where time management comes in.

My first quarter of college, I was tricked into thinking that I had all the time in the world. It took me until second quarter to realize how this extra time was to be managed -- you need to plan and prioritize.

Know your limitations and think of how much you can potentially do in a given day, as well as a given week. Organize your syllabi, then plan out chunks of time for reading as well as for studying and writing papers. Estimate how much time you think it will take you to do the daily tasks on your to do list. Have a clock/stop watch nearby and time yourself at your task. After each half hour take a five to ten minute break and then continue reading.

To prioritize effectively, make sure that you do assignments in order of deadlines. Do everything that is due first. Read ahead and start papers ahead of time. This will help reduce stress because you will not only be on top of your schoolwork, but you will also be ahead of the game. You will find it much easier to relax when you have no huge assignment due the next day.

Organization and time management are only two of the strategies that I have used for academic success. Observe your peers who do not have ADD/ADHD and other learning disabilities because they have a couple of academic tricks up their sleeves. Remember that everyone learns differently, so try different strategies until you find ones that work for you!

-Nicole Granowitz, PSY Major

FACULTY RECEIVES AWARD

Poly Faculty Receives Community Award



This summer, Dr. Roya Javadpour, Cal Poly faculty member in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, was recognized through the Paul Wolff Accessibility Advocacy Award, a donor endowment held by the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation, for her exemplary contributions of time, energy and talents toward the creation of a barrier-free community for people with disabilities.

Dr. Javadpour started and directs the innovative home modification service project Poly House. The purpose of PolyHouse is to allow students an opportunity to learn project planning and management skills while exposing them to the benefits of community service. Each spring quarter she oversees a group of Cal Poly students in the renovation of the home of a local citizen who is typically of lower income and disabled or frail. For more information, see: <http://www.polyhouse.org>

We appreciate Dr. Javadpour's efforts on behalf of our community and extend our congratulations to her for this well-deserved award.

Enlarged Maps Available!



Jennifer Allen-Barker,
Access Specialist

Finding your way around campus has never been easier! Now available to campus community members and visitors who struggle with reading our standard (8 1/2" x 11") campus map, is a high contrast black and white map in a 2' x 3' format. The 'high contrast base map' shows up-to-date building and roadway layout, including building names and numbers, and street names. It is printed on sturdy paper, which can be rolled or folded for portability, or laminated and hung on your wall.

Additionally, a 'campus accessible routes' map will soon be available (Oct 1st). This map will identify all current DRC van/tram stops and accessible path-of-travel for persons who want to avoid stairs and curbs while traveling on campus grounds.

Maps are available at the following locations: DRC front desk, UU Information desk, Campus Police reception desk, from your DRC Access Specialist, and at the Campus Information kiosk on Grand Avenue.

These maps have been developed and made available through the cooperation of the Disability Resource Center, Facilities Services, DACC Physical Access sub-committee, Campus Police, and ASI, to make campus navigation easier for all.

STUDENT EMPLOYEES

Program Assistants
& Tram Drivers

Program Assistants



Annie, Julie and Kirsten are delightful examples of our front desk Program Assistants. Their duties are many, including processing paperwork, data entry, answering phones and making files. The students we hire must be able to work in a busy setting with a high degree of accuracy, maintain consistency and demonstrate friendliness and compassion for our students, their parents, Cal Poly faculty and the DRC staff. Program Assistants are well trained to handle student information with confidentiality and diplomacy, and we depend on them to help our office function smoothly. Watch for their friendly smiles, and ask questions of them when you need to.



Tram Drivers



Our Tram drivers must be master multi-taskers! Primary duties include maintaining the DRC tram schedule, transporting students with temporary or permanent mobility needs, picking up and returning exams administered through the DRC, processing test authorization and security paperwork, providing customer service in the DRC and academic offices. Both testing proctors and tram drivers must be meticulous in processing testing materials, positive and courteous with students and instructors, absolutely and always punctual.



2007-2008 Honorarium Program

This year is the 19th consecutive year in which honoraria will be awarded to DRC students who have excelled academically, been actively involved in campus and community activities, and are in need of financial assistance. The Students with Disabilities Advisory Committee, in partnership with corporate sponsors - composed primarily of employers who recruit at Cal Poly - coordinates this program, designed to provide funds to deserving students.

Last year, because of the generosity of our donors, we were able to provide 14 students with \$500 each. In early November, you will be notified of the application process by email. If you are interested in being considered for an honorarium, fill out the application and return it to the DRC office by Friday, January 12, 2007. If you would like additional information about the program or want to make a donation, contact Trey Duffy at (805) 756-1395.

SUMMER CONFERENCES

DRC Staff – Lifelong Learners



San José State
UNIVERSITY

*“The Future of CSU Assistive Technology and Alternate Media Service Delivery”
Debie McArdle - June 28-29 at San Jose State University*

Participants discussed and shared best practices and techniques for effectively providing Assistive Technology and Alternate Media services for students on all CSU campuses.

*“CSU Summer Accessibility Institute”
Chris Parker-Kennedy - July 9-12 at
San Jose State University*



The institute provided accessibility-related training, tools, resources, and support to faculty and staff interested in the creation of accessible instructional materials, as part of the implementation of the CSU Accessible Technology Initiative.



*“Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) National Conference”
Trey Duffy - July 17-21 in Charlotte, NC*

Highlights:

- King Jordan, President Emeritus, Gallaudet University, recalled the historic events of 1988 when Deaf students at Gallaudet protested the selection of a non-Deaf president. At age 43, I. King Jordan became leader of the only liberal arts college in the world for students who are Deaf.
- Dr. Michael Stein, Professor of Law, The College of William and Mary, School of Law; and Professor in Residence, Harvard Law School spoke eloquently on the General Assembly of the United Nations who adopted by consensus the Convention (i.e. treaty) on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Over 100 countries have signed the treaty; however, **for reasons that still seem unfathomable, the US refuses to sign it.**

*“Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf National Conference” Laurie Walcott, Kathy Hannula,
Sarah Levanway - August 6-8 in San Francisco, CA*



Interpreters from all over the world took advantage of a variety of continuing education workshops, such as: Deaf/Blind Interpreting, Interpreting in Medical Settings, Transliterating in the Educational Setting, Interpreting in the Legal Setting, Team Interpreting, Working in Mental Illness Settings and many more

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

2007 DRC Student Satisfaction Survey Results



Congratulations to Megan Holm, iPod Winner!

Our thanks to those of you who participated in the annual DRC Student Satisfaction Survey held this past June. We received a record 243 (45.6% !!) completed surveys, providing us with valuable information about how our programs are meeting the needs of students with disabilities.

We are pleased to report that DRC services again received high marks from our students. Seven key service areas were assessed by respondents on a scale from zero to six, with six reflecting complete satisfaction. “Benchmark” satisfaction ratings have been established for each service area and were as follows for our latest survey:

Office Reception Area and Staff: 5.44

Academic and Personal Advising: 5.19

Alternative Media: 4.71

Note taker Services: 4.92

Accommodated Testing: 5.22

On-Campus Tram Service: 5.08

Adaptive Equipment: 4.78

When asked whether or not they would recommend DRC services to a friend, respondents overwhelmingly (5.52) agreed that they would.

DRC again included questions designed to assess how responsive the campus is to students with disabilities: How willing were your instructors to provide requested

accommodations? Score: 4.92, with 6.0 representing complete satisfaction. And, Overall, how responsive is the campus to students with disabilities? Score: 4.67.

As a staff, we met this summer to review your responses to determine where we can improve. Here are some of our *responses* to a few of your comments:

“I wish there was a place I could go and study where I know it will be quiet.....” **Sarah Clark compiled a list of quiet places to study on campus which you can get from your Access Specialist.**

“On the campus in general...access sensitivity has slipped.” **Specific problems were shared with Cal Poly Access Sub-Committee.**

“I am not totally sure what my access specialist is or who they are....” **See page 6.**

“I wish there was another option for finals week. The testing area is not comfortable and it is distracting.” **See page 5.**

“It would be nice to have a way to print some of the forms from home.” Online forms are coming! **See pg. 2.**

By responding to our surveys, you have helped us in our efforts to provide quality services that support your academic and personal success. While the annual survey is one method of gathering feedback from you, please know that you are welcome to give comments, opinions, suggestions, and/or criticisms at any time through any methods that work for you. We are interested in continuous improvement and your feedback is our best guide.

We hope this fall is the beginning of a successful and productive year for all of you!

DRC STAFF & EMPLOYEES

DRC STAFF

Trey Duffy – *DRC Director*

Jennifer Allen-Barker – *Access Specialist*

Barbara Burnett – *Access Specialist / Testing & Tram Coordinator*

Ellen Calcagno – *Business Manager / Note Taking Coordinator*

Sarah Clark – *Access Specialist*

Debie McArdle – *Alternative Media Specialist*

Chris Parker-Kennedy – *Access Specialist*

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Kathy Hannula

Sarah Levanway

Laurie Walcott

TYPEWELL TRANSCRIBERS

Sarah Levanway

Claire Miller

Laurie Walcott

TRAM DRIVERS

Kyle Anderson

Anthony Bedegi

Joe Calcagno

John Hatfield

Michael Kelly

Matt Manges

Karl Rapp

Steven Symer

Brandon Weipert

ALTERNATIVE MEDIA ASSISTANTS

Robin Carmichael

Phil Calacsan

Reggie Estoesta

Dana Goyette

Caitlin Marolf

Sivadas Menon

Shivang Patel

Derek Seibel

Scott Seims

Kevin Stewart

TEST PROCTORS

Clint Auttapibarn

Jenna Barker

Julie Huber-Rockow

FRONT DESK ASSISTANTS

Nicole Acosta

Alicia Baratta

Laura Bimson

Nicole Medina

Carly Nagel

Annie Patterson

Jenna Swenson

Kirsten Svaren

Angela Ward

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Jenna Bartron