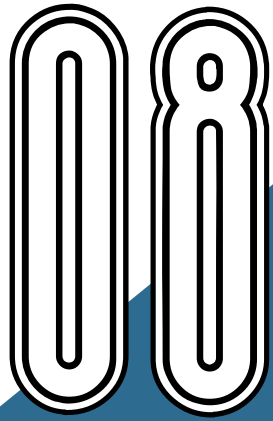


A the Advocate

The Disability Resource Center Newsletter
Cal Poly • San Luis Obispo

fall 2008



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 "Updates"

A WALK IN SPACE

Read about an
accessible visit to Mars
on pages 7 and 8!

DIRECTOR'S JABBER



“As always, students need to communicate clearly with faculty regarding their accommodation needs; however, the process is now much more fluid and streamlined.”

Welcome and/or welcome back. We hope summer was a time for rejuvenating your soul, maybe even your pocket book. The DRC recently made a couple of significant changes that all students should know. First, as of the Fall 2008 quarter, requests for alternative testing accommodations are made on-line via the mycalpoly.edu portal. There are no more paper forms. As always, students need to communicate clearly with faculty regarding their accommodation needs; however, the process is now much more fluid and streamlined. See page 3 for detailed information or check our website: http://www.drc.calpoly.edu/services/test_accommodations.htm

Second, as we move closer to automating note-taking services, the process now includes having the names and contact information of prospective note-takers sent directly to DRC students who have note-taking as an accommodation. DRC students can choose either from the name/s provided or, as often the case, select a fellow classmate on their own. See page 3 for more information, or visit our website at: http://www.drc.calpoly.edu/services/note_taking.htm

Since Spring we've said farewell to Ellen Calcagno, who took a position in the College of Agriculture, and welcomed Cheryl Westfall, the new DRC Department Coordinator (see page 5.)

Another recent development is our close partnership with the Testing Services program. Testing Services occupies the offices immediately adjacent to the DRC. Testing Services specializes in administering tests and the predominant accommodation administered by the

DRC is accommodated exams. As such, our partnership is a natural development that benefits both of our programs. We removed a wall separating our offices on the first floor and now the two programs are actually physically connected. While still an independent department, Testing Services will work closely with the DRC and likely share human, technical and physical resources. We look forward to learning more about the nuances of psychometrics and as well as becoming more familiar with our colleagues, Dorothy Tomilson and Justin Robillard.

Cal Poly and the DRC are not exempt from the state's economic woes. For the first time in several years, we have had a budget reduction. While the percentage was small, it was not insignificant (4.31%). Conscientious financial stewardship and belt tightening are in order for the near future.

We continue to pursue vigorously the objectives in the CSU's Accessible Technology Initiative. Our goal is to have all electronic and information technology available, usable and accessible to every student, staff and faculty member. For detailed plans, please visit: <http://www.accessibility.calpoly.edu/>

Summer was fun but it's time to set aside our swimming gear, sleeping bags and guitars and hit the library. There's so much to learn, and in the quarter system.....so little time. *May you know only "A's", and perhaps an occasional "B".*

Trey Duffy, Director

SERVICE UPDATES

Note Taking & Testing

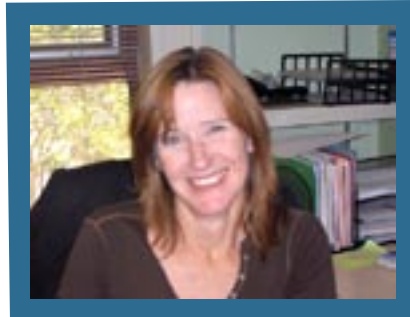
Note Taking

For those of you who are new to Cal Poly, Note-Taking will be easy if you follow the following six steps. For those of you who are continuing at Cal Poly, the Note-Taking process has changed to give students more of an active role in selecting a Note-Taker of your choice. The steps are as follows:

Step 1: Complete and turn in Note-Taking Quarterly Request Form.

Step 2: Regularly view DRC e-mails for a generated list of prospective Note-Takers. The DRC will send an e-mail to students in your class, with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, asking if they are interested in being a Note-Taker. The DRC then sends the interested students names and contact information to you.

Step 3: Select a Note-Taker from the list provided by the DRC, OR someone you have selected on your own. Instruct your Note-Taker to go to the DRC (Bldg. 124, Room



Cheryl Westfall,
Department Coordinator

119) to complete Human Resource paperwork necessary for employment.

Step 4: Inform the other students on the list that you have already chosen someone, and thank them for offering to be a Note-Taker.

Step 5: Contact the Note-Taker you've selected to make arrangements for acquisition of notes.

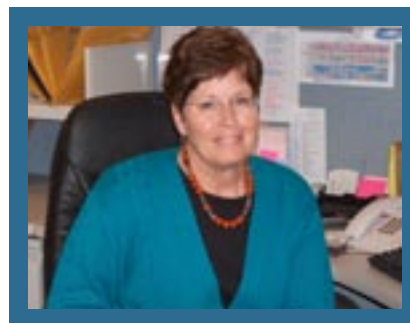
Step 6: Express needs & concerns to your Note-Taker. If ongoing problems, persist contact your Access Specialist.

For comprehensive information regarding the Disability Resource Center and Note-Taking, go to http://www.drc.calpoly.edu/services/note_taking.htm.

Feel free to call us at (805) 756-1395 or email to drcnotes@calpoly.edu should you have any questions.

New! Accommodated Testing Procedures - ONLINE!

Students using Testing Accommodations will find the process to be quick and simple this fall! It is all done online, takes about 30 seconds per exam request, and students need only plan ahead. Requests must be made a full seven (7) days prior to the exam, but with syllabus in hand, all exams may be requested for the entire quarter during



Barbara Burnett,
Testing Coordinator

the first week of classes! The Campus-Necessities tab on your portal will bring up Disability Services. Go to Accommodated Testing and proceed from there! Emails have gone out with instructions, and similar information is available on the DRC website. Please feel free to contact Barbara Burnett with questions at 756-5797. Have a great Fall!

Adaptive Technology Center



Contact Debie McArdle,
Alt. Media Coordinator
with questions at 756-5796.

In collaboration with the Cal Poly Kennedy Library, DRC offers access to an Adaptive Technology Center (ATC), located in Room 216 H and J of the Kennedy Library. The ATC is available for authorized students' use during regular library hours on a first-come, first-serve basis. Be sure to bring your own CD or flash drive when you come to the lab.

The following equipment is available for use by eligible students:

- Dragon Dictate* (voice activated computer system)
- JAWS* (screenreading program)
- Zoomtext* (screen enlarging program)
- Kurzweil 1000* & 3000* (reading technology)
- Closed Circuit T.V. (print enlarger)
- A Self-Serve Station
 - o scanner and computer with the following software:
 - Abby (character recognition)
 - TextAloud (text to audio conversion)
 - Roxio (burns audio to disc in wav or mp3 formats)

Tutorials are available for each software application.

Each computer in the ATC is linked to the nearest Library printer, located near the 2nd floor Help Desk. To print, type your name in the pop-up window for reference, swipe your student ID in the card slot located on the printer computer, select your document and print. The cost to print is 10 cents per page, 50 cents per colored page.

Alternative Media Center



Sivadas Menon
Assistant Coordinator, AMC
altmedia@calpoly.edu

The DRC Alt Media Center sincerely thanks all students who took the satisfaction survey last spring to inform us which aspects of our program are working, as well as identify the areas to improve. Our goal is to continue to provide outstanding service to all our students.

We learned from the survey that the greatest issue to address is the vocabulary being distorted on the converted audio material; we understand that mispronounced words can make listening to books very difficult.

Each quarter, we seek to successfully complete all the requests in a timely manner while maintaining the highest level of quality possible. Generally, we process between 150-200 projects for 45-55 students per quarter. To improve, we plan this fall to alter our procedure in order to first, increase the quality of converted material, and second, continue to fulfill 100% of the requests that we receive. One alteration will be assigning some of our crew to "quality control duty." It will be their responsibility to double-check the converted material by listening to large sections of it to make sure that it is as error-free as possible. We hope that by separating the duties, each technician can focus more on a specific job, and the work orders will then be processed more efficiently.

Please remember that if you have any other comments or concerns about Alt Media, feel free to stop by, call, or send us an email anytime. Our door is always open, and we are here for you.

NEW STAFF

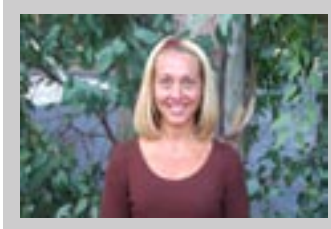
Introducing New DRC Staff!



Cheryl Westfall,
Department Coordinator

The DRC welcomes our newest staff member Cheryl Westfall, a native of San Luis Obispo, as Department Coordinator. Although she has not lived here all her life, she is happy to be home. Cheryl just received her Associates Degree in Business, proving it is never too late to go back to school. She plans to go further getting her Bachelors Degree, but right now is taking a break to learn her new job.

Cheryl loves to travel with her family, husband Chris and twin daughters Jesse and Dillon (15). This summer they spent two weeks in Puerto Rico where they zip-lined, hiked, and rappelled down an 80 foot waterfall. Cheryl's family is rounded off by three dogs, Joe Willie, a German Shepherd, Milo, a Black Lab, and Daisy, a Pit Bull. Daisy was a rescue from the Animal Shelter; she is the sweetest dog known to man.



Carrie Anderson,
Realtime Captioner

We are also pleased that Carrie Anderson, Realtime Captioner, will be joining us to provide services for deaf and hard of hearing students. She is a native Minnesotan, but has resided in the Golden State for the majority of her life. She is a true Californian at heart and absolutely loves San Luis Obispo. She was fortunate to attend Mission College Preparatory, where she learned about the court reporting profession and decided to pursue it.

After graduating, she moved to San Jose, California to attend West Valley College and spent several years in the court reporting program studying to become an official deposition reporter. She is looking forward to transferring those skills to the realtime captioning field, and is working with one of our current interpreter/transcribers, Sarah Levanway, to learn the intricacies of working in a university environment. (By the way, you can see a beautiful photo of Sarah with her new baby on the front page of this newsletter!)

Carrie enjoys spending time with her family and friends, eating delicious food, hiking long trails, the sound of ocean waves, running, swimming, bear hugs and smiles.

Check the “Campus Necessities” tab on your My Cal Poly Web Portal to find your Access Specialist contact info.

Access Specialists Announce:



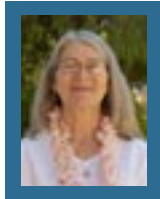
Jennifer Allen-Barker:
Kennedy Library “Zooms”
in on Print Accessibility

Beginning the first day of Fall 2008 quarter classes, ZoomText, a screen enlarging and screen reading software program, is expected to be available on 300 public work stations at the Kennedy Library. Dale Kohler, the Director of Library Information Technology, reports that the LCD flat panel monitors being used with the ZoomText range in size from 19” - 22”.



Brittany Ianneo:
Visit the Academic Skills Center

For those new students who have not had time to visit Kennedy Library I encourage you to make the trip. Of interest, on the first floor of Kennedy Library is the home of the Academic Skills Center. The Academic Skills Center offers 50 minute study skill seminars FREE of charge for Cal Poly students. Please take time to download the Academic Skills Center’s Study Skill Seminar Fall Schedule by using this web link: <http://www.sas.calpoly.edu/asc/sss.html> We hope you can get some value from this terrific free of cost resource.



Sarah Clark:
Apply for the Honorarium

Every year, Cal Poly’s Students with Disabilities Committee gives awards of at least \$500 to students with disabilities. Please note: this year the application deadline is earlier than usual—Friday, November 7th. Factors taken into consideration by the SDAC Committee include financial need, disability-related needs, academic profile, and participation in campus and community activities. This is a great opportunity for you to get some assistance with your academic expenses, and you can learn more about the application process on page 11 of this issue. Talk to your Access Specialist if you have any questions.



Chris Parker-Kennedy:
Are you taking the WPE?

WPE (Writing Proficiency Exam) Date:
Saturday, October 4th

Students with disabilities who have been authorized to receive alternate testing accommodations through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) may also request accommodations for the WPE. These students should pay the \$25 exam fee at the University Cashier’s Office, then take a copy of their VISA (Verified Instructional Services and Accommodations) to the WPE Office (Bldg 10-Room 130) to submit the accommodation(s) request. Request deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1st.

MARS WITHIN REACH



Global Mosaic of Mars Centered on Valles Marineris

Arctic Melodies and Science from the Red Planet

Exhibition Dates: Mars Within Reach
Friday November 7, 2008 - Friday January 12, 2009
Robert E. Kennedy Library,
tLearning Commons 2nd floor

Opening Reception

Friday, November 14, 2008 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Workshop

“A Walk in Space”
Saturday, November 15th, 2008
Kennedy Library - Julian’s Cafe, 2nd floor

Scheduled interaction times:

Persons with visual impairments, mentors,
and educators: 10am - 1pm
General audience: 2pm - 4pm

About

Mars Within Reach is an interdisciplinary exhibition that will allow visitors to touch, hear, and interact with data from several recent Mars missions. The exhibition blends planetary science, engineering, and music to demonstrate scholarship related to the exploration of the Martian Arctic, with special attention to making the content accessible to persons with visual impairments. Visitors will explore Martian volcanoes, valleys, and craters using tactile models, and will be able to touch rock samples that have been drilled into by a Rock Abrasion Tool identical to that carried on the arm of Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity. In addition, Mars Within Reach features a musical composition created by coding data from the Mars Odyssey spacecraft regarding water ice and dry ice in the arctic regions of the planet. Known as a Sonification, this interactive display allows visitors to hear data from Mars. Also featured will be scale models of the Phoenix Mars Lander, high-resolution images of Mars, and materials from Mars in pop culture such as original copies of books by authors Edgar Rice Burroughs and Ray Bradbury.

Workshop

The exhibition will also include a special one-day workshop, “A Walk in Space” hosted by the composer Marty Quinn and planetary scientist John Keller who created the Mars Sonification described above. The workshop will be presented to an audience of persons with visual impairments, mentors, educators, and the general public with an interest in the topic. In the workshop, participants will explore “images” of the Sun, Mars, and other planets by moving their bodies through a virtual reality space and listening to music corresponding to various features on these Solar System objects. The workshop is designed to increase accessibility and provide new ways to explore and interact with scientific data.

PHOTOS OF MARS



Artist's concept drawings of Mars Odyssey, Rover, and Phoenix Lander Missions, confirming evidence of past liquid water and current water ice on Mars.

Mars Within Reach is in collaboration with Cal Poly physics professor Dr. John Keller, composer Marty Quinn, the NASA Mars Exploration Program at JPL, the NASA Phoenix Mars Lander Mission at the University of Arizona; and the Disability Resource Center and Robert E. Kennedy Library at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Contact:

John Keller
jmkeller@calpoly.edu

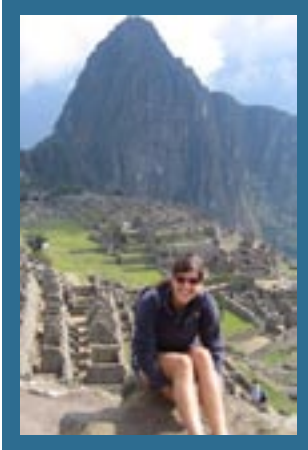
Catherine Trujillo
ctrujill@calpoly.edu
Tel. (805) 756-2305

More information:

<http://lib.calpoly.edu/>

Image Credits: JPL/NASA Phoenix Mars Lander Mission at the University of Arizona

Meet our Student Program Coordinators

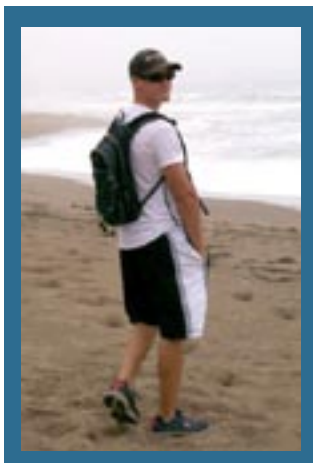
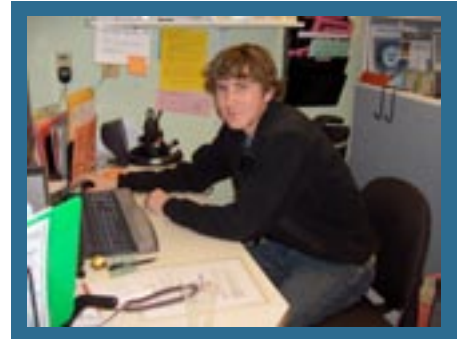


Note Taking: EMILY PALMER

Hello! I am beginning my second year here at Poly, working on my undergraduate degree as a kinesiology student. My summer was fabulous as I traveled to both Mexico and Peru. I was fortunate enough to lie on the beaches of Cabo San Lucas, work with young children at a Peruvian orphanage, and hike the five day Salkantay Mountain trek to Machu Picchu! Along with traveling I love to play sports, kayak, and cook. I look forward to working with all of the students here at the DRC and know that it will be a great year!

Test Taking: JOE CALCAGNO

I am a fourth year student at Cal Poly and recently transferred to Biomedical Engineering from Mechanical Engineering. I have worked for the DRC for over three years, so with that experience, I hope to help improve the Alternative Testing department and make the transfer to the new testing system as smooth and painless as possible. This summer, as well as the past eight summers, I have worked on Catalina Island at a Boy Scout Camp, helping to teach boys between the ages of eleven to eighteen. It is an amazing experience to watch boys grow up into young men in just a week.



Transportation: MATT MANGES

This will be my fourth but not final year here at Cal Poly as a Materials engineer. To add to the fun I have had during my college career, I have worked here at the DRC for nearly 3 years. As Transportation coordinator, I would like to improve the efficiency of our Transportation department. This summer I spent much of my time here at the DRC office building, moving furniture and creating the PA schedule for the fall quarter. But my entire summer wasn't spent cooped up in the office; I also took two classes and went on trips to Mexico, Las Vegas, Tahoe, and the Mendocino coast. Along with and sometimes included in my travels, I enjoy snowboarding, wakeboarding, scuba diving, and many other things that may eventually qualify me for transportation services.

SDAC HONORARIUM PROGRAM

2008 Honorarium Opportunity

Dear DRC Students:

This year, Cal Poly's Students with Disabilities Advisory Committee will grant multiple awards of at least \$500 to students with disabilities. The funds to support this program have been very generously donated by corporate sponsors, composed primarily of employers who recruit at Cal Poly, and volunteer readers from the Disability Resource Center. Since the program's inception twenty years ago, over \$119,000 has been awarded to 324 students.

To apply, please carefully complete the application, which you may download from the Disability Resource Center website at www.drc.calpoly.edu. Finalists will be selected for an interview based on information provided in your application and personal statement. Financial need, disability-related needs, academic profile, and participation in campus and community activities will be among the criteria considered. In your application, be sure to include all pertinent facts and information that

you think might be helpful to the committee in making a decision.

Please return your completed application to the Disability Resource Center office, Building 124 - Room 119, by 5:00 pm on **Friday, November 7, 2008** (late applications will not be accepted, so please plan accordingly). After all applications have been reviewed, finalists will be contacted by email for a personal interview. If you do not have email access, be sure to indicate that on your application.

If you have any questions regarding the awards, contact the Disability Resource Center office at (805) 756-1395.

Sincerely,

Amie Hammond, Chair
Honorarium Committee
Students with Disabilities Advisory Committee

NOTE: If you have not already done so, we encourage you to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which may help you to receive additional forms of financial aid. You can find out how to apply on the Cal Poly Financial Aid website at www.ess.calpoly.edu/_finaid. And, it's not too late to apply for the 2008-09 academic year.

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

2008 DRC Student Satisfaction Survey Results

Thanks to those of you who responded to our annual DRC Student Satisfaction Survey last May. We received a total of 202 (30 %) completed surveys, providing us with valuable information about how our programs are meeting the needs of students with disabilities. Congratulations to our iPOD winner (wishing to remain anonymous) whose name was selected from a drawing of students returning surveys.

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. See below for satisfaction ratings in each service area, with last year's rating in parentheses:

Office Reception Area and Staff: 5.39 (5.44)

Academic and Personal Advising: 5.21 (5.19)

Alternative Media: 4.90 (4.71)

Note taker Services: 4.96 (4.92)

Accommodated Testing: 5.21 (5.22)

On-Campus Tram Service: 4.93 (5.08)

Adaptive Equipment: 5.42 (4.78)

Respondents overwhelmingly (5.38) agreed that they would recommend DRC services to a friend.

As a staff, we met this summer to review your responses and to discuss ways that we can incorporate responses to your comments. Regarding:

- Emailing test accommodation forms: **Now you can! See page 4.**
- The distracting nature of mispronounced words on alt media files: **See Das's response on page 5.**

- Problems with finding good note-takers: **We have changed our Note-Taking process to allow DRC students to have a greater role in the selection of note-takers. Read about the updated process on page 4.**

As can be common with surveys, we noted with interest that there are often differing viewpoints on certain issues. For example, one student mentioned the importance of self-advocacy and good communication with professors, and said this has made him/her a "highly effective person", while another felt that "learning to do it on your own because it will prepare you for the real world is the most illogical thing that I have ever witness(ed)..."

So....while it is helpful to get your input at any time, we want to encourage you to discuss your concerns with us as they occur, so we can help resolve problems as quickly as possible. A good place to start is with your Access Specialist. Access Specialists are available by appointment, phone and email, and they all make a commitment to get back to you within 48 hours. If, in unusual cases, your AS is not available and you have an urgent question, come to one of our daily drop in hours, which are updated each quarter and posted on our website: http://www.drc.calpoly.edu/services/disability_management.htm

By responding to our survey, you have helped us in our efforts to provide quality services that support your academic and personal success. 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.

Best wishes for 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*
Sarah Clark – *Access Specialist*
Brittany Ianneo – *Access Specialist*
Debie McArdle – *Alternative Media Specialist*
Chris Parker-Kennedy – *Access Specialist*
Cheryl Westfall – *Department Coordinator*

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Kathy Hannula
Sarah Levanway
Laurie Walcott

TYPEWELL TRANSCRIBERS

Sarah Levanway
Laurie Walcott
Carrie Anderson

TRAM DRIVERS

Matt Manges – *Assistant Tram/
Temporary Services Coordinator*
Anthony Bedegi
Eric Gasper
Michael Ginther
Nick Hageman
Michael Kelly
Karl Rapp
Daniel Jeffcoach
Patrick McClay
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Kristen Johnston
Carmen Leung
Annie Patterson
Anu Menon
Brittany Roach
Jennifer Titcomb
Robert Stewart
Hanna McKnight