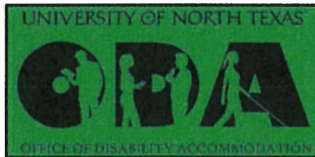


THE ODA CONNECTION



University of North Texas

Phone: 940-565-4323
 Fax: 940-369-7969
 1155 Union Circle
 # 310770
 Denton, TX 76203-5017

ODA Walk-in Hours:
 Monday—Friday 2-3 PM
 Or by appointment
 Monday—Friday 9-4

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Keeping AT Computers Healthy for Fall

It is important to maintain a healthy computer so that it will run smoothly. If you are using assistive technology (AT) programs on your computer such as Kurzweil, keeping software up to date is vital to succeeding academically.

There is a complete guide to student computing services at UNT available to all students: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/studenttour/>

Read through their tips to be sure you are getting optimum performance and practicing safe computer use. Additionally be sure to install spyware prevention software, make sure to back up your computer on a

regular basis, only install software that you trust, make sure you have anti-virus software installed, and keep your software updates current.

If you have a Microsoft Windows computer, run your Disk Cleanup and Disk Defragmenter often to keep your computer running quickly and smoothly.

Should you need more support, the UNT Computing and Information Technology Center (CITC) Helpdesk is your primary source for assistance for all your student computing issues and needs. The UNT CITC Helpdesk is open Monday-Thursday 8:00

am – midnight, Friday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Sunday 1:00 pm – midnight. You can call them at (940) 565 2324 or email helpdesk@unt.edu. They welcome walk-ins in the Information Sciences Building (ISB) room 119. You can find their website at helpdesk.unt.edu

The UNT CITC offers Software Support, tutorials, assistance with internet accounts, assistance with EagleConnect, and assistance with Blackboard Vista. The Helpdesk does NOT provide hardware repair but can advise you on repair shops in the area.

Have a great fall semester!

WRP Sets Stage for Students with Disabilities

The Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities (WRP) is a recruitment and referral program that connects public and private sector employers nationwide with highly motivated postsecondary students and recent graduates with disabilities who are eager to prove their abilities in the workplace through summer or permanent jobs.

The WRP provides students with disabilities in all fields of study the opportunity to market their abilities to a wide variety of potential employers across the United States, sharpen their interviewing skills during a required one-on-one meeting with a WRP recruiter, and

gain valuable skills, experience, and contacts on the job.

Applicants for the program must:

have a disability AND be a U.S. citizen AND be enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education on a substantially full-time basis (unless the severity of the disability precludes the student from taking a substantially full-time load) to seek a degree OR be enrolled in such an institution as a degree-seeking student taking less than a substantially full-time load in the enrollment period immediately prior to graduation OR have graduated from such an institution within the past year. The WRP is run on an annual basis and requires student



applicants to have an interview with a recruiter during an on-campus recruitment visit. The interviews take place during the fall semester of each year. The WRP at UNT is coordinated by the ODA and Career Services. Currently, over 200 colleges and universities participate in the program and additional campuses are added each year.

To view the recruitment schedule, please visit the Resources section of the WRP website at: <https://wrp.gov/PublicViewDocumentList-Pre.do>. Other details of the program can be found at www.wrp.gov.

Notes from the Director

Dear Students,

This July marked my sixth year as the director of the ODA and it has truly been a remarkable time. I can't help but look back at where our office was and how far we've come in such a short period. Some of you may still remember the days when we had but a single office, then two split offices and now finally our greatly improved suite of offices/testing center in the University Union.

We've also come a long way especially in regards to our staff. We've added specialists to work with the coordination of accommodated testing, creation of digital texts and adap-

tive technologies. Further, our full time staff members have expanded their roles and knowledge base to better serve students.

It's wonderful to look back on all the improvements, but the future is even more exciting. We've embarked on the process of digitizing all our records so that service providers will be able to quickly and easily access your key documentation in order to better provide and communicate accommodation needs. We're planning a renovation of our current space, which did face some delays over the last year but now it is rescheduled for the upcoming holiday break. This will result in a

more comfortable atmosphere designed to foster connections with students and provide more individual testing space.

Lastly, we will continue the charge of our new division of Undergraduate Studies which is to enhance progression and retention for students. Our freshman retention plan will be part of this as well as daily office hours, between 2-3pm you will be able to just drop in and see an ODA counselor without an appointment. We are excited to be able to offer these and other enhancements in the coming semester. In closing, we want you all to know that you are the reason we are here, and we want to contribute towards your suc-

cess and help our campus to become as accessible as possible.

Thank you for choosing UNT and the ODA!

Sincerely,

Ron Venable, M.A.
Director, Office of Disability
Accommodation
ronv@unt.edu



Ron Venable,
ODA Director



Student Services

Your guide to assistance on campus



Student Services offered by the University of North Texas are available for you to ensure your success while pursuing your academic goals. These services are covered in the student fees you pay each semester; therefore you are encouraged to use them.

Student Money Management (Chestnut Hall 3rd floor)- will help you create a budget and stay on it as well as providing information for emergency loans and scholarships.

Counseling and Testing (Chestnut Hall 3rd floor) – provides counseling for various situations from personal to academic including counseling for test anxiety. Testing services are for the GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT and any other standardized test you are interested in taking.

Career Center (Chestnut Hall 1st Floor) – Assistance in finding employment on or off campus, full or part time. They can also help you refine your resume along with preparing you for future job interviews and full time employment after you graduate.

Psychology Clinic (Terrell Hall) – Provides Therapy/counseling services to students at a reduced rate. They also provide educational evaluations to determine Learning Disabilities. This service can have a waiting list so get your name on it early if you're interested in having a new evaluation done.

Student Legal Services (University Union 3rd floor) – Provides legal counsel for students of UNT from help with apartment leases to insurance as well as any legal questions students might have.

The Learning Center (University Union 3rd floor) – This office provides tutoring in most courses, as well as providing a Reading and Study Skills Lab (RASSL) that will help you improve your performance as a student and will provide you with skills to take into different areas of your life in the future.

Office of Disability Accommodation (University Union 3rd floor) – Students registered with ODA are given accommodations to give them equal footing with the rest of the students in each of their classes. Accommodations are determined on a case by case basis and each student is accommodated based on individual need.

TRIO Discovery program (Wooten Hall 3rd floor) – A program provided to qualifying students that provides one on one services such as tutoring and academic and career counseling.

Staff Spotlight

Student Services Coordinator, **Randi Johnson**



How long have you worked for the UNT ODA?

I have worked for ODA for 9 years

How long have you worked in the disability-related field?

I have worked in the disability related field for 13 years.

Prior to UNT, what jobs have you held?

Employment Specialist at non profit agency serving deaf people.

What are your favorite pastimes?

Sewing, cooking, triathlon training, gardening

Who is your role model?

My mom, a single parent who runs a camp and learning center for the deaf community.

Also, my husband for holding to what he believes and challenging others to do the same.

What is your favorite thing about working with Deaf students?

Deaf students are not afraid to be honest and say what they're really thinking...I really appreciate that.

What is your favorite thing about working with students with disabilities?

The fact they most of our stu-

dents have been living with a disability for most or all of their lives but treat it as part of a regular day is very motivating to me.

What is your favorite aspect about working at UNT?

The friends I've made and the different people I've encountered.

What advice would you give to students with disabilities at UNT?

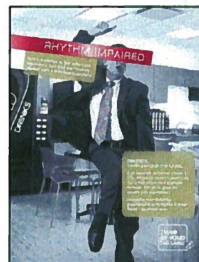
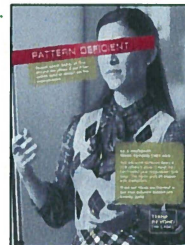
Use your accommodations and get tutoring before you're failing a class (the beginning of the semester is a good idea).

Campaign targets candidates with disabilities

An ad campaign started earlier this year by employment agencies in 30 states beckons employers with a stigma about hiring people with disabilities to change their minds. The campaign utilizes humor to show employers how silly labels can be when they keep good people out of the workforce. One ad pictures a young man doing a cheesy victory dance labeled, "rhythm impaired." The caption reads, "Just because someone moves a little differently doesn't mean they can't help move your business forward." Another features a young girl

dressed in plaid, stripes, and diamonds labeled, "pattern deficient." The accompanying caption reads, "Just because someone looks a little different doesn't mean they can't make your organization look great." The ad's website, thinkbeyondthelabel.com offers resources for employers to identify qualified individuals with disabilities by state, send silly ecards depicting humorous labels for everyone in the office, a page of mythbusters regarding hiring people with disabilities, and a forum for people to share their positive experiences working with people with disabilities.

The campaign aims to raise a \$10 million budget for the year, at least in part by donations via their website.



2010 Top 10 Employers for People with Disabilities

Diversity Inc just announced its **2010 Top 10 Employers for People with Disabilities.**

Here's the list:

1. IBM Corporation
2. Ernst & Young

3. Procter & Gamble
4. Aetna
5. KPMG
6. Cisco Systems
7. SC Johnson

8. Eli Lilly & Co
9. Merck & Co
10. Sodexo

You can read in more detail on the DiversityInc website.

The North Central Texas Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is a one-stop shop for social services for individuals with disabilities. The North Texas ADRC in Denton county can be accessed at 1-877-229-9084.

September 2010 Events

Schedule of Events

- Sept. 6—the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary of Denton Co meets the first Monday of every month at 7. 909 Sunset Drive, Denton (VFW)
- September 8—UNT begins its fall Campus Deaf Chat at Green Mountain Coffee on the 2nd floor of the Union. Meets every Wednesday at 11am.
- Sept. 9—Town Hall Meeting to discuss educational services for the deaf. Meets at Education Service Center—Region XI, 2001 North Freeway, Fort Worth
- Sept. 16—Veteran Opportunity Expo at the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington in the Diamond Club. 1090 Ballpark Way, Arlington
- Sept. 18—Laps for Little Ones 2010 is an event celebrating the milestones reached by young people with disabilities. The event will start at 8:30 am at Fouts Field on the UNT campus and is organized by The Little Lighthouse.
- Sept. 22—Carol Gray Workshop: Social Stories/Solving the Social Equation in Autism Spectrum Disorder. Sockwell Center, 6301 Chapel Hill Blvd., Plano

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 7p Disabled American Veterans, Denton	7	8 11a-12p UNT Deaf Chat, Denton	9 6-9p meeting for deaf education, Fort Worth	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 11a-3p Veterans' Job Expo, Arlington	17	18 8:30a Laps for Little Ones, Denton
19	20	21	22 8a-4p Autism Workshop, Plano	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

A Note from the Dean

Undergraduate Studies is all about student success and the Office of Disability Accommodation plays a huge role in making sure that students have the tools they need to maximize their potential for success at UNT. We believe that **empowered** students are the most **successful** students. Becoming empowered means being able to use the available resources to their best effect. ODA is expert at supporting students as they become aware of and begin using the multiple resources available for UNT students with disabilities. Early contact with ODA is an important first step for students seeking accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Dale R. Tampke, Ph.D.
 Dean, Undergraduate Studies
 University of North Texas
 Denton

Faculty Recognized by ODA

Ron Venable, Director of the ODA presented two faculty members with Outstanding Contributions Plaques during an ADA Advisory Committee meeting in April 2010. Dr. Smita Mehta, Associate Professor of Special Education and Ms. Sophie Morton, Lecturer for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures received plaques in recognition of their efforts to assist students with disabilities in their classes.

Both professors worked beyond what was required of them to arrange extraordinary and beneficial learning approaches for students who had unique limitations. They also went the extra mile to coordinate services with the ODA. Rebecca Cagle, Assistive Tech-

nology Coordinator, says Sophie Morton "...really gets it when it comes to applying accommodations and has met with several of the language faculty to educate them. Sophie is very encouraging to her students and works at trying to ensure full inclusion whenever possible..." Randy Batiste, Associate Director, chimed in for Dr. Mehta as a strong educational advocate for her students experiencing challenges that cannot be addressed by academic accommodations. "She provides unique learning approaches to meet the needs of all of her students." Congratulations to both of these faculty members who have gone the extra mile!



MobileASL Opens Cell Phone Lines for Deaf

Deaf and hard of hearing people who have always wanted to chat on their cell phones instead of relying on texting are about to get their chance. MobileASL, a new device currently being tested by the engineers that designed it at the University of Washington will offer video cell phone chat technology over cellular networks. While the iPhone 4 and HTC already offer video chat

capabilities, complaints that it kills the battery fast, uses a lot of bandwidth and therefore costs more has kept many deaf consumers out of the picture. MobileASL is able to boast that it uses about a tenth of the bandwidth of the iPhone 4's FaceTime feature. Plus, the new technology is equipped with a motion detection system that recognizes when a person is using Sign Language,

and optimizes the quality of picture around the face and hands, and when they are not moving, it powers down, saving the battery during the conversation.

MobileASL is compatible with any mobile phone with a video camera and a screen, and is still undergoing field tests to make the picture crisper. The project plans to expand its field testing this winter.

2009-2010 Student Academic Accolades

It takes a variety of skills and supports for academic success in higher education. Some of those skills include: time management, individualized study skills and personal motivation. Three students who used academic accommodations during the 2009-2010 academic year exemplified these traits, and were recognized for academic honors.

Mark Graunke (Spring 2010) graduated from the College of Business Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Decision Sciences. He also received the highly-esteemed

Undergraduate Decision Science Scholar Award from the Department of Information Management and Decision Sciences. Mr. Graunke is now pursuing professional employment in the DFW Metroplex.

Sean Guthrie (Spring 2010) graduated from the Honor's College with a Bachelor's degree in Physics. He received the Outstanding Senior Physics Major Award from the Physics Department, as well as the distinguished David B Kesterson Award for Outstanding Honors College student from the Honors College. Mr. Guth-

rie is now pursuing a Phd in Applied Physics at Rice University (Houston, TX).

Samuel Muwanguzi, a Doctoral student in the Library and Information Science program at UNT, received the Outstanding International Graduate Student Award. He was also selected as Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Alternate for the 2010-11 academic year. Mr. Muwanguzi is continuing his studies at UNT, after which he plans to work as a university professor and contribute to the growth and development of opportunities for people to pursue a college education in Uganda.

"People...shouldn't let a disability get in the way. I want to raise awareness. I want to turn my disability into ability."
- Susan Boyle

Student Employee Spotlight

Hillary Dias

How long have you worked for the ODA?

I've worked in the ODA for almost 2 years.

What is your classification at UNT, and your major?

I'm a junior in the Honors College, majoring in Secondary Education Social Sciences.

Why did you chose to work at the ODA?

I've been considering going into



ODA Student Employee, Hillary Dias

special education, and that's why I wanted to work in the ODA.

Where is your hometown?

I'm from Glen Rose, Texas.

What do you want to do when you finish school?

I want to travel the world and teach.

Who is your hero?

My hero is my grandma because she's amazing. She's strong, smart, creative and independent.



I am an Assistant Professor with the Department of Rehabilitation, Social Work and Addictions in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (PACS). I teach in our undergraduate rehabilitation studies and addiction program and graduate rehabilitation counseling program.

The National Council on Disability (2005) estimated the number of students with disabilities (SWD) matriculating at postsecondary institutions to be as high as 10% of all enrolled students nationwide. Recent data released from a nationally representative sample of college students suggested that students with disabilities accounted for 11.3% of all students enrolled in postsecondary education (National Center for Education Statistics, 2005). In response to the growth of the population of students with disabilities, the majority of higher education institutions now offer a centralized office or department dedicated to assisting and serving students with disabilities. The University of North Texas is an inclusive center of higher education in our geographic region. Inclusivity requires diversity. Here at UNT that means students of all backgrounds can pursue their education, dreams and goals with an equal opportunity. Students with disabilities are part of an important national and

university demographic. The Office of Disability Accommodations (ODA) is one of the many ways the university supports and enhances SWD's matriculation and retention.

Personally I have always found the ODA staff to be invaluable not only providing support and guidance to students but also to myself and other faculty members. When I have a question they have an answer.

Each semester at the start of a new course, I present my syllabus to my class and we have a discussion. I have a section that details the process of requesting disability accommodations for students. I emphasize that legitimate disability accommodation requests are made by the student by presenting me with official documentation from the ODA. I rely on the ODA to verify the presence and severity of a disabling condition, recommend academic accommodations and modifications, and provide the necessary services I am unable to perform. These functions are, complex and mostly, outside of my role as a faculty member.

During the past three years I have had students with disabilities in nearly all of my classes; however the types of disabilities and requested accommodations were quite diverse. The most common types of accom-

modations requested included a distraction-reduced environment or additional time for exams, and a volunteer note taker. I have also relied on the ODA to procure or produce reading materials in alternate format for students with visual impairments or reading difficulties or provide interpreter services to students with hearing impairments. In each of these scenarios the ODA had the expertise and resources to assist me in enhancing my pedagogy to be more inclusive.

In summary the ODA staff is a useful and convenient resource to students and faculty. They help me meet the unique needs of my students and equal the playing field for SWD. As a faculty member it excites me to know that our university has put together a great program, consisting of knowledgeable professionals, like the ODA.



Zach Sneed, Ph.D., CRC
Assistant Professor
Rehabilitation and Addictions
University of North Texas
Denton, TX

A Note from a Student

Mr. Venable,

I just wanted to touch base with you regarding my experience with the ODA. I have attended UNT since the fall semester of 2007. I did not get connected with the ODA until the middle of the fall semester in 2008. My experience with your office has been amazing! I was a struggling student who was lucky to make a C. I worked hard in my classes. However, my low test scores did not prove this. I was put on academic probation and then eventually suspended. This was such a hard time for me in my life. I was so close to giving up. My parents saw my frustration and began to encourage me to get accommodations. I regret not talking to the ODA sooner. The problem was that I was embarrassed and wanted to do it on my own without help. I wanted to be like the rest of the students in my classroom. Your staff was very helpful, and professors were good about keeping the information private. Eventually, I became comfortable and accepted the fact that having a disability was okay and didn't make me different from any other student. My first semester back from being suspended, with the help of the ODA, my grades continued to get better. The ODA was able to provide me with extended testing time in a quiet room. I began to have more confidence and enjoyed my classes. I believe this was because I was no longer intimidated by taking exams, and knew that I would have just enough time to finish them. I started to strive for A's and not C's anymore. It was such a joy to hear my parents excited and surprised when I showed them my new grades. All my hard work started to really pay off. I am now graduating this Saturday and cannot believe I made it this far. It has been a long five year journey. It was important to me that I write you to say thank you for providing me with the accommodations I needed to get through school, and for having such a wonderful staff. I could not have done it without the ODA. This program has been a true blessing in my life.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Easterling

Please visit our website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda/>