

# THE ODA CONNECTION

## ODA Moving to Sage Hall

Find us in room 167 starting December 17, 2012



### University of North Texas

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ODA Walk-in Hours:

Monday—Friday 2-3 PM

Or by appointment

Monday—Friday 9-4

We're pleased to announce that our office will be relocating to Sage Hall Room 167 right after final exams are completed this coming December. Many of you know that this move has been planned since our office is now a part of the newly created Division of Undergraduate Studies. Sage Hall is the home for this new campus student support unit, so we'll be housed under the same roof as our partners in Undergraduate Studies. In addition to this improvement, the move offers several other substantial benefits to the ODA and students we serve.

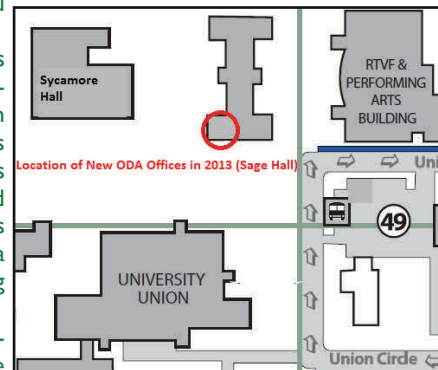
Our office suite is now on the first floor! No more tedious rides on the slow Union elevator. The door is very close to the South entrance to Sage. These doors will have power

openers.

Total office space has been increased more than 1500 sq. feet! This allows for ODA staff to have larger offices, more space for programs, and rooms for students to use the adaptive software and hardware on ODA computers. Accommodated testing capacity has doubled. This should make scheduling your exams

easier when you test at the ODA. Our office suite is designed with maximum accessibility in mind, doorways were widened, halls are spacious, sound dampening systems will keep noise to a minimum for testing rooms.

The Sage Hall commons area will be directly adjacent to our front doors. This space has been designed for students to meet and work together on group projects, study, or simply relax before or after taking a test at the ODA. Sage Hall is conveniently located near the Sycamore Hall Adaptive Computing Lab, the RTVF building and the University Union.



## Marvel Comics Creates Deaf Super Hero

Move over Batman. There's a new act in town, and his name is The Blue Ear.

It all started with a four-year-old hard of hearing boy named Anthony and his resourceful mother.

Anthony refused to wear his blue hearing aid, nicknamed his "blue ear," when he realized, "superheroes don't wear blue ears." His mother emailed Marvel Comics for some assistance and the response was swift.

The comic moguls in New York sent a copy of a Marvel cover featuring Hawkeye, a superhero that became deaf

after using a sonic arrow to escape from the villain, Crossfire.

A little later a sketch came in the mail of a cover with Hawkeye and his understudy, The Blue Ear, a boy a little older than Anthony sporting spandex, cape and a bright blue hearing aid.

Empowered by his new alter ego, Anthony took the comic book to his preschool where other hard of hearing and deaf children fell in love with the superhero. A later issue featured a full grown superhero named The Blue Ear fighting crime

utilizing his conspicuously large blue hearing aid.

The Blue Ear wears blue and white spandex, is half masked, and has a large B emblazoned across his chest. He perches atop buildings and says things like, "Thanks to my listening device, I hear someone in trouble." Criminals don't stand a chance against The Blue Ear. He is muscular and fit and always listening. When danger makes a sound, The Blue Ear answers the call.

With a superhero to call his own, Anthony is never without his blue ear now. Thanks to Marvel Comics, his blue ear is his indispensable crime fighting device.



Anthony Smith as

The Blue Ear

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## ODA Hosts Student Support Workshops

### Workshops Enhance Student Performance In and Out of the Classroom

The Office of Disability Accommodation is offering workshops to students each month for the Fall 2012 Semester. These workshops will be given by ODA staff, and will include topics ranging from how to become a super computer user to test taking strategies. Student Success Work-



shops are designed to assist students with campus engagement as well as provide information and skills that can be used beyond graduation from UNT. Look for announcements regarding time and location throughout the Fall 2012 Semester. Also, stay tuned for upcoming workshops next spring.

#### Student Success Workshops in Fall 2012

September 19 – Becoming a Super Computer User

October 17 – PIRATES test taking strategy

November 14 – A Brief Introduction to Learning Disabilities

### How Do I register with the ODA to get accommodations?

Submit any documentation of a disability to [applyoda@unt.edu](mailto:applyoda@unt.edu) along with an application for services. Our team of accessibility experts will evaluate your paperwork and contact you to meet with a counselor to discuss possible classroom accommodations. Students must be registered with our office to receive classroom accommodations.

### Looking for a Job?

Gettinghired.com is an internet based portal that connects job seekers with disabilities to committed employers, advocacy organizations and service providers.

## Keep Good Battery Health for AT Devices

Are you befuddled about batteries and charging your devices? You should be, they aren't cheap.

Lithium-ion batteries are different from older, nickel-based batteries. Charging Lithium-ion batteries incorrectly can decrease their lifespan. They should last a few years, but improper care can decrease that lifespan, meaning that your battery will be unable to hold a charge—or unable to hold as big a charge as it used to—quicker.

Here's how to extend your battery's health.

Perform shallow discharges.

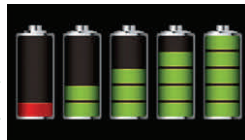
Don't discharge to 0%. Lithium-ion batteries do best when you discharge them for a little bit, then charge them for a little bit.

Don't leave it fully charged.

Lithium-ion batteries don't need to be charged all the way to 100%. In fact, they'd prefer not to be—so the 40%-80% rule you heard is a good guideline. When possible, keep it in that range to prolong its life as long as you can.

If you do charge it to 100%, don't leave it plugged in. This degrades your battery's health.

Fully discharge it once a month.



Most modern batteries are "smart batteries", and tell you how long you have until your battery dies (e.g. "2 hours, 15 minutes remaining"). This feature *can* get miscalibrated after a lot of shallow discharges. So, manufacturers recommend fully discharging your battery once a month to make sure this stays accurate.

Keep it cool. Excess heat is not only bad for your processor (and your lap), but your battery as well. A hot battery will degrade in health much quicker than a cool one.

-article adapted from Lifehacker By Whitson Gordon

# PIRATES Test Taking Strategy

Successful persons have developed a strategy to accomplish each of their goals. This strategy is usually a set of behaviors or thought processes that they have evaluated and decided best fit their specific set of life circumstances, habits, gifts and limitations. Successful students often have a strategy for how they approach their academic coursework and exams. Many times, the strategy used in college is different than the strategy used in high school due to the increased amount of independent reading and research activities in college courses. It may take a little while for a college student to discover the best academic strategy to use in their courses. They may also discover

that their strategy for one class must be tweaked or even significantly changed from course to course. If a student is not performing academically at the level they desire, then the student should consider reevaluating their academic strategies.

One test taking strategy that was developed with middle and high school students has been shown to be effective with college students having a diagnosis of a Learning Disability<sup>1</sup>. The strategy is called “**PIRATES**.” **PIRATES** is an acronym of the first letter for each part of the test taking strategy. The acronym stands for: 1) **P**repare to succeed, 2) **I**nspect the instruction, 3) **R**ead, remember, reduce (*the question and answers*), 4)

**A**nswer or abandon (*the question*), 5) **T**urn back (*return to skipped questions*), 6) **E**stimate (*strategically guess answers*), 7) **S**urvey (*confirm all questions are answered*). There is a wealth of information available online about the PIRATES test taking strategy. For more information use your favorite internet search engine for the words “PIRATES test taking strategy.”

<sup>1</sup>Mary LaFrance Holzer, Joseph W Madaus, Melissa A. Bray, and Thomas J. Kehle, “The Test-Taking Strategy Intervention for College Students with Learning Disabilities,” *Learning Disabilities Research & Practice* (February 2009): 44-56.

## Meet Dena Bilbrew, Career Advisor for ODA Students

Q. How long have you worked at the Career Center.

A. Since July 2011.

Q. What is your current role as a member of the Career Center Team?

A. I am a Career Advisor assigned to assisting Students with a Disability. I also advise the College of Merchandising, Hospitality & Tourism majors as well as Marketing majors in the College of Business.

Q. In what subjects are your college degrees?

A. My bachelor’s degree is in Computer Science. My master’s degree is in Business Administration.

Q. What is one of your recent

accomplishments?

A. I coordinate and serve as host of the Career Center’s Etiquette Dinner every October and March. The Etiquette Dinner features an etiquette consultant teaching students behaviors and conversations appropriate for a professional or business meal. Tables are sponsored by businesses and possibly UNT alumni. Students have the opportunity to network with potential employers, alumni and each other.

Q. What is one of your future goals?

A. I plan to pursue a certification in event management.



Dena Bilbrew, Career Center Advisor for students with disabilities

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.

# October 2012 Events

Schedule of Events:

- **October 1**—The Dallas Mayor’s Committee for the Employment of People with Disabilities will host a Disability Hiring Expo 2012 at the Cityplace Conference & Event Center, 2711 N. Haskell Ave. 75204.
- **Tuesdays and Thursdays**—UNT’s Deaf Chat meets at Zera’s Coffee House at 420 E. McKinney St., Suite 106 Denton, TX 76209 from 3:30-5:30 pm. All sign skill levels are welcome.
- **October 5**—The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities Film Festival will be held at 1120 S Lamar Blvd, 78704. More info at [ctdfilmfest.org](http://ctdfilmfest.org).
- **October 8**—Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary’s (DAVA) monthly meeting at 909 Sunset St., Denton, TX 76201. DAVA is a non profit group that assists families, widows, and orphans of disabled Vets and the Vets themselves.
- **October 10-11**—The Council for Learning Disabilities will hold their 34th International conference in Austin. More info at [cldinternational.org](http://cldinternational.org).
- **October 12**—Second Fridays of the month, Easter Seals North Texas hosts an Autism workshop at 1424 Hemphill Street, Fort Worth, TX 76104. A \$25 registration is required. Contact Shana Wiggins 817-759-7970 or [swiggins@ntx.easterseals.com](mailto:swiggins@ntx.easterseals.com) for more info.
- **October 20**—Walk Now for Autism Speaks will begin at 10am at the Fort Worth Central Library at 500 W. Third St., 76102. More info at [walknowforautismspeaks.org](http://walknowforautismspeaks.org).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Disability Hiring Expo, Dallas, 10a-2p	2 Deaf Chat, Denton, 3:30-5:30p	3	4 Deaf Chat, Denton, 3:30-5:30p	5 Disability Film Festival, Austin, 7p	6
7	8 Disabled American Veterans, Denton, 7-8p	9 Deaf Chat, Denton, 3:30-5:30p	10 CLD Conference, Austin	11 CLD Conference, Austin	12 Autism Workshop, Fort Worth, 9a-1p	13
14	15	16 Deaf Chat, Denton, 3:30-5:30p	17	18 Deaf Chat, Denton, 3:30-5:30p	19	20 Walk for Autism, Fort Worth, 10a-12p
21	22	23 Deaf Chat, Denton, 3:30-5:30p	24	25 Deaf Chat, Denton, 3:30-5:30p	26	27
28	29	30 Deaf Chat, Denton, 3:30-5:30p	31			

## Self advocacy Proves Tough for ODA Students

In a recent study conducted at Ferris State University, faculty rated how well ODA students were able to request accommodations and work with the faculty and the ODA office to ensure the student received the accommodations they needed to be successful. The professors rated students’ lowest in self-identification, meaning students had difficulty conveying their accommodation needs to professors because they didn’t understand what their own needs were or could not convey those needs to their professors.

The study also found low ratings for students’ skills in naming their functional limitations and how they were related to the accommodation request process. Fortunately, there are resources available to students that can better equip them for the accommodation request process. A student who understands and can express their learning style in a clear coherent manner to their professors will greatly enhance their ODA experience and of course their overall college experience. The “Student Lounge” is

a terrific resource that will teach students about different types of disabilities, how-to-techniques, and websites that students can refer their professors to that will enable them to learn more about disabilities and accommodations. The “Faculty Room” provides resources for professors to make classes accessible.

The Student Lounge:

[Washington.edu/doit/student](http://Washington.edu/doit/student)

The Faculty Room:

[Washington.edu/doit/faculty](http://Washington.edu/doit/faculty)

# People with Disabilities Wow at London Games

From the very beginning, the London Games brought people with disabilities to center stage. The Opening Ceremony featured countless examples of diversity, from the Deaf drummer to the wheelchair created peace symbol. Then again, what else could be expected from the country that created the first Paralympic Games sixty-four years ago?

The Opening ceremony was kept on beat by deaf percussionist, Evelyn Glennie, and the British National Anthem was sung by a deaf and hearing children's choir. Additionally, one of the dances featured wheelchair users mixed among able-bodied dancers.

The athletes with disabilities shined just as brightly.

Im Dong-hyun, a registered blind South Korean, broke the World Record in Men's Individual Archery. He actually set two new world records. Think that's impressive? He did it in the rain with only the ability to see blurred colors from seventy-six yards away.

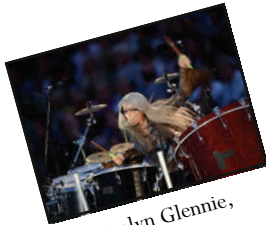
Oscar Pistorius, a runner from South Africa, made Olympics history as the first double amputee to compete in the Men's 400-Meter Semifinals. After years of controversy, he was finally allowed to compete with two prosthetic legs.

Natalia Partyka, a one-armed table tennis player from Poland, competed in her second Olympics in London.

Even the journeys of those that just fell short of making it to the

Olympics changed how the games are played.

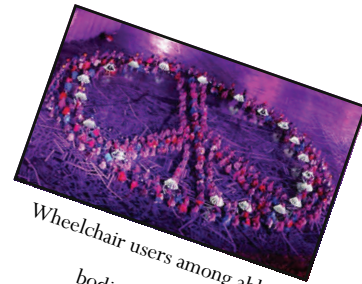
Marcus Titus, a Deaf American swimmer, fought the good fight at the Olympic trials regarding hand signals. When USA Swimming said they wouldn't allow hand signals for "set" and "go," he found a rule in their book instructing referees to use strobe lights or arm signals to start the race for deaf or hard of hearing swimmers. Titus missed his chance at the Olympics by .79 of a second. He retired his swimming career that night, but he removed walls for future deaf and hard of hearing swimmers with Olympic aspirations. The London Games were truly breathtaking and an important piece of history for people with disabilities.



Evelyn Glennie,  
World Renowned  
Professional Percussionist



A diverse children's choir sings  
Britain's National Anthem



Wheelchair users among able-  
bodied dancers



Marcus Titus,  
American Swimmer



Im Dong-hyun,  
Olympic Archer



Oscar Pistorius,  
Olympic Runner



Natalia Partyka,  
Olympic Table Tennis Player

Interested in learning about scholarships tailored to people with disabilities?  
Visit <https://unt.academicworks.com/> and search for keyword "disability"  
Or visit [disaboom.com](http://disaboom.com) and search for keyword, "scholarships"

# Around the Country

## A glance at Disability-related stories across the US

Disability claims have risen among veterans returning from war. Almost one out of every two veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan have now filed disability claims for service-related injuries—more than double the rate of previous wars.

-NPR

A New York dance company called Gimp employs four dancers with undeveloped or ampu-

tated limbs along with four able-bodied dancers for a choreographed performance that will “honor each person’s really specific way of moving...”

-NPR

The Justice Department has extended the deadline for public pool owners to install chairs for people with disabilities to get in and out of the water for the second time. The new provision is part of the recently amended

Americans with Disabilities Act. The new deadline is January 2013.

-NPR

A new report by a Wall Street analyst argues the Social Security disability system is experiencing more claims in today’s rough economy despite workplace safety improvements, suggesting fraud in the system.

-LA Times

## Delta Alpha Pi Needs YOU!

Members of DAPI display pride in their academic accomplishments as honor students who happen to have a disability. Delta Alpha Pi members strive to change the negative perception that students with disabilities cannot achieve academically. Through public recognition, leadership and visible participation in educational activities, Honor Society members counteract such prejudice.

Students who meet the criteria must present with a documented disability and work with one of the faculty or staff in the university’s Office of Disability Accommodation, and they must demonstrate an interest in disability issues. Undergraduate students must have completed a minimum of 24 credits and attained a cumulative grade point average of 3.10.

Graduate students must have completed a minimum of 18 credits and earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.30.

Current DAPI Officers at UNT are:

President, Samuel Muwanguzi -

SamuelMuwanguzi@my.unt.edu

VicePresident/President elect, Devin Axtman

- DevinAxtman@my.unt.edu

Secretary, Joy Eaton – stitch4joy@gmail.com

or 972-563-1066 or 903-372-1998

Advisor, Richard Mabry—Richard.Mabry@unt.edu

Please contact any of us, YOU do make a difference!



## Our Mission

The Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) exists to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability as mandated by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended. This is accomplished by determining eligibility for qualified students by reviewing disability-related medical and psychological documentation along with the student’s individual experiences, to determine appropriate, reasonable accommodations which are recommended to the campus. As part of this process, our office strives to facilitate the development of students through independence and autonomy. UNT is a student centered research institution; our office compliments this mission by providing leadership in the areas of equal access and advocacy for students with disabilities. In turn, our campus diversity will be richer and UNT will be more accessible to everyone.

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