

10-2011

## Student Disability Services Campus Newsletter, October 2011

University of Northern Iowa. Office of Student Disability Services.

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## University of Northern Iowa Campus Newsletter

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2011

### Welcome!

Welcome back to the start of another exciting semester here at UNI! I hope you all had a relaxing summer and have been enjoying your first month back on campus.

This semester should prove to provide both challenges and opportunities for Student Disability Services. I am sad to announce that Joseph Bishop, Disability Specialist, resigned his position with our office in August and is now working at Davenport University as an academic advisor. We all wish him the best of luck in his current position.

In response to this change, we now have three new graduate assistants in our office to assist with our various services. Jackie McAndrew and Amy Dillard are both graduate students in the

Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs program while Jayden Wiersma is currently a graduate student in Social Work. Jackie, Amy and Jayden will be assisting with the Weekly Mentoring Program in addition to creating articles for our newsletters and assisting with outreach programs. You can learn more about our graduate assistants on page two of this newsletter.

Besides our new staff, I am also excited to announce that UNI has purchased Read&Write Gold 10. This technology is currently available in all Student Computer Centers run by ITS. I am hopeful that this new assistive technology will help not only students with disabilities, but all students at UNI be more successful in their coursework.

Finally, SDS will continue to work with the student organization, Awareness for Individuals with Disabilities (AID) to provide a variety of events for this year's Disability Awareness Week – October 17 through the 21. More information regarding these activities will be released through UNI Online and My UNIverse in the next few weeks.

I wish you the best of luck in the upcoming semester and hope to see you around campus or at one of our educational events!

Ashley Brickley  
Coordinator, Student Disability Services

### Getting to Know Accommodations: Note-taking

#### What is note-taking assistance?

Students who are eligible receive a copy of either another student's notes or a copy of the instructor's notes to augment their own. This service may also include copies of instructor overheads and/or Power Point slides.

#### Why is this accommodation provided?

Note-taking may be a necessity for a student who may have a documented disability that interferes with their ability to take notes in class.

#### How can an instructor help with this accommodation?

An instructor can provide lecture notes and Power Point presentations to assist the student. It is also possible for the instructor to help in finding a peer note-taker for the student. A classmate would be responsible for taking notes in class and providing a copy to the student.



# New Faces in the SDS Office



Jackie

## Jackie McAndrew

Hello! I'm one of the new graduate assistants in the Student Disability Services office. I'm excited to have the chance to work with some amazing students!

I am currently finishing up my last year in the Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs Masters program here at UNI. As part of the program, I will also be co-teaching the Live Like a Student class as a part of my practicum in Financial Aid this fall.

Most of my duties in the SDS office will revolve around the Weekly Mentoring program, collaboration and coordination of various SDS events, including the 'In My Shoes' program, the open house in October, and getting the opportunity work with the Awareness for Individuals with Disabilities (AID) student organization.



Amy

## Amy Dillard

Hi, I'm Amy Dillard and I'm so happy to have the opportunity to work with students on such a one-on-one, personal basis.

I am in my last semester in the Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs program and served as the Communication Assistant for the Vice President for Student Affairs during the 2010 – 2011 school year. I am a mother of four and just recently married.

I look forward to all the new people I will meet in the office and hope I will be able to serve my clients well.



Jayden

## Jayden Wiersma

Hello, my name is Jayden Wiersma and I'm the Social Work Intern at the UNI Counseling Center. I will be participating in the Weekly Mentoring Program as a part of my internship with the Student Disability Services. I look forward to helping students achieve their goals and get the most out of their UNI experience.

I grew up in a small town in northwest Iowa called George, IA (yes, just like the man's name).

I first came to UNI in the fall of 2003 and graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor's in Social Work. I decided to come back to UNI for my masters because I had such a great experience the first time around.

I am thankful for the SDS Office for giving me this opportunity to better serve our campus.

## Awareness for Individuals with Disabilities (AID) Student Organization

The mission of AID is to promote and advocate awareness of disabilities on the University of Northern Iowa campus as well as to provide educational opportunities and social support to individuals with disabilities. This is done through advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities on campus, promoting awareness of the various disabilities that exist, educating the UNI campus and general public about resources available through the teaching of general knowledge and etiquette and also supporting individuals by providing an open, social atmosphere for students.

AID hosts events such as the "In My Shoes" workshops where individuals have an opportunity to experience what its like to have a disability, listen to sponsored guest speakers on disability topics and panel discussions regarding personal experiences along with additional activities.

Membership is open to ANY University of Northern Iowa student, regardless of whether or not that individual has a disability.

At the first AID meeting on Monday, August 29, details about the "In My Shoes" event were discussed, as well as several possible collaborated events with various organizations, and movie nights.

Meetings will be held every other Monday at 3:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 10th in Maucker Union in the lower level Elm Room.

For more information, please contact :

Ashley Brickley, AID Advisor  
Student Disability Services  
103 Student Health Center  
Cedar Falls, IA 506-0385  
Phone: 319-273-2677  
For deaf or hard of hearing, use Relay 711  
Email: ashley.brickley@uni.edu

### AID Officers

**President: Brian Werts**

**Vice President: Caleb**

**Borden**



## Assistive Technology: Rod Library Room 281

The Rod Library has assistive technology available for your use:



### **JAWS for Windows**

Screen reading software on a microcomputer with 23" color monitor connected to the Library network and Internet.

### **OpenBook reader**

Scans and vocalizes written text. Includes low vision options for customizing how the document appears on the screen. Output may be recorded.

### **Merlin CCTV system**

A camera system which magnifies text and other visual material for viewing on the Merlin monitor.

This assistive technology had been located in Rod Library room 280 and in July was moved one room to the left (north) to the larger room 281. Among other assistive technology in the Library is a **ZoomText** workstation (screen enlargement with speech) located in the Electronic Resource Area near the main floor Reference Desk.

For additional information see the Services to Library Users with Disabilities document at <http://www.library.uni.edu/sites/default/files/policies/dispolpub.pdf>.

—Barb Weeg, Rod Library

## Student Disability Services

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Division of Student Affairs

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Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0385

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For deaf and hard of hearing, use Relay  
711

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**Website:** [www.uni.edu/sds](http://www.uni.edu/sds)



### SDS Philosophy and Mission

Student Disability Services is a university resource that provides specialized services to enhance the overall academic career and personal development of each person with a disability.

Therefore it is our philosophy and mission to provide services and promote an accessible environment which allows people with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in educational and other campus activities.

SDS is committed to providing opportunities and accommodations in higher education to all academically qualified students with disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to seek available assistance at the university and make his or her individual needs known.

SDS affirms that no qualified person shall by reason of disability be denied access to participation in, or the benefits of, any program, activity, or service operated by the University of Northern Iowa. Each qualified person shall receive appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to educational opportunities, programs, activities and services in an integrated setting.

## Student Disability Services Staff

### Ashley Brickley, B.S.

Coordinator

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### Amy Dillard, B.A.

Graduate Assistant

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### Jackie McAndrew, B.A.

Graduate Assistant

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Alternative Texts Coordinator

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