



The Office of Accessibility Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3, Spring 2013

Welcome Back!

As we begin 2013, the Office of Accessibility would like to extend our best wishes to you for a happy, healthy and successful new year.

With the beginning of each new semester of classes comes a sense of renewal. Take the time to look at what went well last semester, and what kept you from achieving your academic goals. Keep hold of what worked and find a way to leave the negative influences behind in 2012.

The staff in the Office of Accessibility is looking forward to working with you as you begin the spring 2013 semester. If you have any questions or concerns about your classes, your academic accommodations or ways to leave the negative influences behind in 2012; come see us.

Allow the Office of Accessibility to show you how to develop a path for success, whether you need the services of another office on campus, or someone to discuss issues of disability. We are here to walk with you as you continue your academic journey at the University of Akron.

Best of luck in your spring 2013 classes,

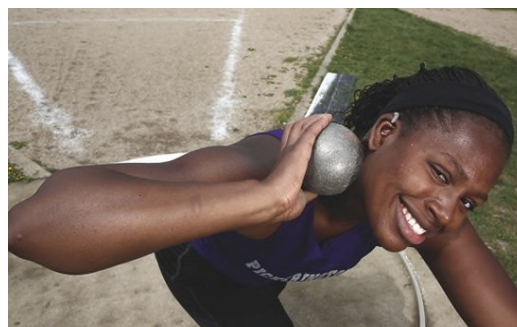
Kelly Kulick
Director
Office of Accessibility

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UA Student Selected for Summer 2013 Deaflympics

The Office of Accessibility is happy to announce that one of our students, Jasmine Simmons, has been selected to be on the USA Summer Deaflympics Team that will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria this summer. We are so excited for her to participate in this awesome opportunity. Please see Jasmine's letter below to hear more about her exciting journey to the Deaflympics.



My name is Jasmine Simmons. I am a freshman here at the University of Akron. About 2 months ago I found out that I get to represent team USA Track and Field for Deaflympics for the summer of 2013 in Sofia, Bulgaria. Deaflympics is from July 26 until August 3rd of 2013. I have been throwing ever since seventh grade and I fell in love with the sport instantly. It is a big dream of mine to have the opportunity to represent my country as a part of Team USA Track and Field in the Deaflympics. Deaf athletes from all over the world will come to compete with the dream of taking home a medal. The challenge is the fundraising part, unfortunately. Unlike the Olympics, Deaflympics does not receive government funding. I will need some support to be able to accomplish my dream. Each athlete must raise \$3900 by the end of May 31st in order to participate. I realize that this is a big goal in a short period of time however whatever support I can get from family, friends and supporters will put me that much close to my goal. Thank you for your contribution. For more information regarding my trip to the Summer 2013 Deaflympics, please visit <http://www.razoo.com/story/jasminesimmons>.

New Group Aims to “Connect U!”

Are you interested in meeting new students on campus? Would you like to participate in more campus activities? Or, would you like to help another student feel more comfortable on campus? If so, please join us for **Connect U!**

Connect U is a group for students registered with the Office of Accessibility that are interested in connecting with one another and becoming more active on campus. The group will meet in Simmons Hall 105 every Wednesday from 5-6 PM and participate in fun, monthly activities. Activities will range from sporting and leadership events, to bowling, to just grabbing a drink at Starbucks together. We are also open to ideas if you have a fun activity that you would like to suggest!



The first meeting will be Wednesday, February 6th at 5:00 PM. Please contact Meredith Sodik by calling 330-972-7928 or emailing MLL38@uakron.edu to sign up.

Looking for new ways to be a successful student?

Join Peer Assistance and Support for Success (PASS)

The Office of Accessibility is interested in YOUR success and wants to help you achieve your academic goals. Please sign up for the Peer Assistance and Support for Success (PASS) program today! With PASS, you will receive:

- ◆ A one-on-one relationship with a peer mentor from the Office of Accessibility
- ◆ Ongoing support and meetings throughout the semester
- ◆ Tips for learning, organizing, and studying
- ◆ Help with accessing campus resources

Please contact Meredith Sodik with questions or to sign up for the PASS program. She can be reached by phone at (330) 972-7928, by email MLL38@uakron.edu, or in person in Simmons 105.

Check out resources provided by UA’s Counseling Center

The Counseling Center at The University of Akron can provide many beneficial resources and programs to students. These include:

College Success Programming

- ◆ College Survival Kit- <http://www.uakron.edu/dotAsset/0180ecff-a312-4f5b-b506-6ee2f65be8b5.pdf>
- ◆ Study Skills Interactive Video- <http://www.uakron.edu/counseling/success/studyvid.dot>
- ◆ Test Anxiety- <http://www.uakron.edu/counseling/stress/testanx.dot>
- ◆ Web based learning skills programs- [Study Guide Zone](#) and Studytips.org

Stress-reduction programs

- ◆ stress information video, relaxation MP3’s, relaxation techniques
<http://www.uakron.edu/counseling/stress/index.dot>

Counseling services to students

- ◆ <http://www.uakron.edu/counseling/counseling/>

For further information, please visit the Counseling Center’s website <http://www.uakron.edu/counseling/> or contact them directly by phone, 330-972-7082, or stopping in their office on the third floor of Simmons Hall.

Reminders

Schedule Changes:

- ◆ If you make any changes to your schedule throughout the semester, make sure to **update your class schedule in STARS!** It is very important that we have your most updated schedule in STARS to best serve your accommodation needs. If you need assistance in updating your schedule, please call our office at 330-972-7928 or stop in to see us in Simmons Hall Room 105.

Testing in The Office of Accessibility:

- ◆ If you have an alternative testing accommodation and are testing in the OA, please remember to schedule your test at least **4 business days** prior to the day you would like to take the test. Tests can be scheduled by the student through the STARS website, <https://gunadiframework.com/Akron/>, under the Alternative Testing tab. For assistance in scheduling tests, please contact our office.

Communicate with your Disability Specialist and The Office of Accessibility:

- ◆ If you have any questions or concerns regarding your accommodations throughout the semester, please contact the OA or your Disability Specialist.

Speak with your instructors about your accommodations:

- ◆ If you have not already done so, the OA would like to encourage you to speak to your instructors regarding your accommodations. Be honest and be concise when speaking with them.

Important Dates

January 14, 2012
Spring 2013 classes begin

January 21, 2012
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—University closed

February 19, 2013
President's Day—classes cancelled (Law School classes held)

February 2013
Summer 2013
Registration begins

March 25-31, 2013
Spring recess

March 2013
Fall 2013 Registration begins

May 6-12, 2013
Final Exams Week

May 10-12, 2013
Spring 2013
Commencement

The OA Helps Students Achieve Success!

The Office of Accessibility is happy to be a part of your journey to success as a student at The University of Akron. We can help you identify and take advantage of the necessary resources that our campus and our office has to offer! One of our students describes below his experiences with The University of Akron and The Office of Accessibility.

Having been through the Chemical Engineering undergraduate program here at The University of Akron, I have learned how much The Office of Accessibility contributed to my success. The Office of Accessibility helped me to recognize the value of communication with fellow students and professors to achieve the goals I set for myself. In working with the faculty and staff, I was able to better express myself as a competent student with unconventional learning skills. In using alternative text, quiet test environments, and extension of time for tests, I was better able to proof my work and present the best that I could be. Each method used to help facilitate accessibility, better honed my learning skills and communication skills. Accessibility had to be a mindset and not a crutch for me. I had to be diligent to keep professors informed as to my needs and how they could help me to achieve my goals. In engineering, test taking was a challenge because of the nature of the tests being given, being both math heavy and scientifically difficult. This posed a greater strain on the faculty of the Department of Chemical Engineering. But with the Office of Accessibility's help, a support plan was developed so test taking could satisfy both the degree requirements and accessibility.

Any student entering college with concerns for their disabilities should take the time to hear what The Office of Accessibility has to offer. Your success as a student and as a career professional may rely on it. Dream Big. Being a Chemical Engineer has been a lifelong goal and the Office of Accessibility helped to make that a reality.

Jonathan, Chemical Engineering Student

Campus Involvement

Are you interested in getting involved on campus? Being active and involved in activities outside of the classroom can be very beneficial to the overall college experience! Participation in extracurricular activities can not only provide you with opportunities for meeting other students and making new friends, but can also help you develop valuable skills, build your resume, and make professional connections.

There are many ways to be involved in your campus community:

Join a Student Organization

The Student Organization Resource Center (SOuRCe) can be a great resource when looking to join one of UA's more than 260 student groups on campus.

<http://www.uakron.edu/studentlife/source/index.dot>

Volunteer

Civic Engagement Programs within the Department of Student Life has a variety of events and opportunities to give back to the surrounding Akron community.

<http://www.uakron.edu/studentlife/serve/>

Attend Student Events on Campus

The Zips Programming Network is a major student organization at The University of Akron that plans regularly - scheduled events stimulating, educating, and entertaining the students, faculty and staff at the University of Akron and the surrounding community.

<http://www.uakron.edu/studentlife/zpn/index.dot>

Visit the Student Union and Center for Service and Leadership for more information about getting involved!



Winter Weather at UA



The winter weather has arrived on campus! In addition to taking extra precautions while driving and walking around campus, students should also be aware of possible class cancellations due to inclement weather. The decision to close will be made as early as possible. News of closing will be disseminated several ways:

- ◆ **Radio and TV:** Closing information will be provided to major radio and television stations in Akron, Canton and Cleveland. A list of the stations is below.
- ◆ **On the Web:** Closing information will be posted on [the University's home page](#).
- ◆ **E-mail:** A message will be sent to students' and employees' University mailboxes.
- ◆ **Text messaging:** Alerts will be sent via the University's Z-Alert text messaging service. [Learn more and subscribe](#). We also will use [Z-Alert on Twitter](#).
- ◆ **By phone:** The University's emergency information phone line is updated around the clock as conditions warrant. The number is **330-972-SNOW (7669)** or 330-972-6238 (TDD/Voice).

Suggestion Box

We want your feedback!

Email ooaga1@uakron.edu with comments about the current newsletter or ideas you would like to see in future newsletters.

Office of Accessibility Phone: 330-972-7928
Simmons Hall 105 TDD: 330-972-5764
The University of Akron Fax: 330-972-5422
Akron, Ohio 44325-6213 E-mail: access@uakron.edu

Fall & Spring Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.



Simmons Hall at The University of Akron