

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Mary Ellen Brigham Endowment Fund created for students with disabilities**
- **Continuation of the CSD Get Your Learn On**
- **New Administrative Coordinator, Carrol Waite**

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Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD)

2010-2011 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Mary Ellen Brigham Endowment Fund created for students with disabilities at the University of Connecticut

A generous gift from Neil T. Brigham to his wife Mary Ellen will become a scholarship available to students in the near future.

The Brighams created the Mary Ellen Brigham Endowment Fund to help support students with learning disabilities at the Center.

Mary Ellen has been an advocate for students with disabilities for many years. Her three children were all diagnosed with learning disabilities. Her eldest daughter, Kathryn who attended UConn was an employee within the Center for many years.

Upon Katie's acceptance to UConn, Brigham and Katie immediately contacted our

Center in order to start the process of receiving accommodations at the college level.

Katie's involvement within the Center as a student receiving



accommodations as well as a student employee, brought a fresh perspective to the work completed within the Center. She was able to provide feedback as a student and employee, which undoubtedly

changed many of our processes.

The Brighams created the Mary Ellen Brigham Endowment Fund for students in the Center. A match from Neil Brigham's company, KPMG LLP, will help to build the endowment more quickly.

The Center is excited about the opportunity to provide scholarships to students participating in the Beyond Access programs. The Beyond Access programs are fee funded services that provide individualized instruction to students which go above and beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Source:
<http://www.foundation.uconn.edu/stories-of-giving/2011-03-brigham.html>

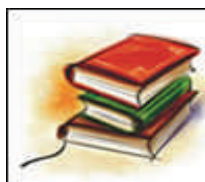
CSD Get Your Learn On

The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) will be hosting "Get Your Learn On..." (think Lunch and Learns). There will be three seminars during the Fall 2011 semester on various hot topics pertaining to students with disabilities.

These seminars will be held at the CSD and will be limited to the first

20 people who RSVP.

Please RSVP via email to Bryanna Anderson at bryanna.anderson@uconn.edu with the date of



the "Get Your Learn On..." you would like to attend.

We hope that you will join us for what promises to be some very timely and relevant discussions.

The Fall semester dates are:

- Tuesday October 4, 2011
- Wednesday November 9, 2011
- Thursday December 8, 2011

New Member of the CSD Staff: Carrol Waite



CSD Front Desk.

Carrol Waite joined the CSD team in April, 2011 as the new Administrative Coordinator for the Center. Previously she spent 26 years with Center on Postsecondary Education and Disability, Department of Educational Psychology, Neag School of Education, and has been at the University since 1977.

You can reach Carrol at (860) 486-2020; email: carrol.waite@uconn.edu

“Sessions were held throughout the day which focused on transition planning, self-advocacy, identifying strengths, and academic strategies.”

UCPREP Summer Transition Program

The Center held its first UCPREP Summer Transition Program for high school students interested in attending a two or four year university or college.

The program ran for six days in August and focused on academic and personal skills. Sessions were held throughout the day which focused on transition planning, self-advocacy, identifying strengths, and academic strategies.

Students lived within the residence halls and participated fully as a college student living. Students enjoyed living, learning and socializing on UConn's campus.

The UCPREP program is designed for rising high school juniors or seniors with disabilities planning to attend college. All applicants must have a high school GPA of at least 2.5.

Participants acquired a broader knowledge of college life, expectations and responsibilities and a better understanding of their academic and personal strengths and needs.

Our staff assisted the students in creating an individualized college transition plan that will assist with planning, preparation and adjustment to college. Participants learned the skills they needed to become an effective self-advocate and gained an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as a student with a disability.

Program Activities Included:

- Participating in a college lecture;
- Learning about campus resources and support services;
- Acquiring new study and organizational skills;
- Touring the University

Library and being introduced to research strategies;

- Discovering more about personal strengths and learning styles;
- Reinforcing self-advocacy skills;
- Living in a college residence hall and dining on campus; and
- Socializing with other students and enjoying off campus outings with peers.

The Center is looking forward to expanding and developing the program further in the upcoming year. For more information please look on our website at:

http://csd.uconn.edu/uc_prep.html



Universal Design for Instruction - Online Grant

The UDI Online Project is a unique collaboration between the Center for Students with Disabilities and the Center on Postsecondary Education and Disability in the Neag School of Education. Prior work in Universal Design for Instruction (UDI) is expanded through this project by applying the nine Principles of UDI© to online and technology blended learning environments at the postsecondary level. The UDI program will be coming to an end this year.

UDI is an approach to teaching that consists of a proactive design and use of inclusive instructional strategies that benefit a broad range of learners, including students with disabilities. The nine Principles of UDI© provide a



framework for college faculty to use when designing or revising instruction to be responsive to diverse student learners and to minimize the need for accommodations and retrofitted changes to the learning environment. UDI operates on the premise that the planning and delivery of instruction, as well as the evaluation of learning can incorporate inclusive attributes that

embrace diversity in learners without compromising academic standards.

The UDI Online Project focuses on the concept of "faculty as designer" and targets electronic teaching "e-tools" that faculty can implement in their courses without requiring the support of an instructional or web design team. The UDI e-Toolbox contains a range of e-tools and instructional modules that faculty can use in the planning, delivery, and assessment of student learning in online and technology blended courses. The UDI e-Toolbox can be accessed at the Project web site, www.udi.uconn.edu. The UDI Online Project is funded through the U.S. Department of Education, PR/Award #P333A080053.

"Learning and assistive technologies that help students to study effectively..."

Assistive and Learning Technologies

Learning and assistive technologies that help students study effectively and meet technology competency requirements (e.g., use of Excel) are offered through a Lab-in-A-Bag concept. In collaboration with HuskyTech and the UConn Co-op, the CSD has introduced a portable bundle of accessible tools that students can carry in their backpacks and be connected with accessible tools any place, any time. Through

this program, students receive individual laptop customization and training on recommended software, demonstrations of an array of tech tools, short term technology loans, as well as training in strategies that are enhanced through technology.

As part of the technology initiative, an FYE course—Contemporary Learning Strategies, Digital Study Tools and Social Networking for College Success—is offered to all

freshmen and sophomores at UConn. This course is an introduction to innovative evidence-based learning practices, technology mediated study tools, and communication networking for college success. Students learn ways to adapt traditional approaches of reading, writing, problem-solving, and organizational skills for learning in the digital age of the Internet, blended courses and social media.

Events, Classes, and Transition Initiatives

The Center has been working hard to create and enhance events, classes and transition services offered to prospective and current students of the University of Connecticut.

The Center offered Contemporary Learning Strategies, Digital Study Tools and Social Networking for College Success as an INTD/FYE course in the fall of 2010 and will

continue the course in the fall 2011. The course focused on innovative learning practices and technology based study tools for college success.

Several classes and events continued this year, including classes regarding the portrayal of people with disabilities in the media, a social thinking class for students on the autism spectrum and events such as

"Snacks on the Table" and social outings.

The continuation of the "Snacks on the Table" program brought excitement to the Center this spring. Snacks on the Table provided students with a space to study, as well as the opportunity to work with Strategy Instructors on last minute study tips.



College students

Student Support Services - Beyond Access

The Beyond Access programs continue to be an enhanced service offered to students looking for individualized one-on-one instruction.

The four programs offered are :

BOLD: Open to students with LD/ADHD

FAST: Open to all University students

SEAD: Open to students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Tutoring Plus: Tutoring for all University students

The programs provide enhanced services for students with disabilities and are individually designed for each student based on his/her strengths and challenges. Students work one-on-one with a trained Strategy Instructor to enhance their opportunities for college success.

The BOLD program focuses on addressing the unique needs of students with learning disabilities by

providing a supportive learning environment which develops a students awareness of study skills and learning strategies. The FAST program is available to all students at the University. It is designed to focus on learning strategies that help students read, write, problem-solve, manage time and present college-level work. The SEAD program is designed for students on the Autism Spectrum. SEAD works to assist a student in their transition to college as well as focuses on social and interpersonal skills. Tutoring Plus provides content specific tutoring.

Our Beyond Access programs continue to gain awareness and members. In the 2010-2011 academic year we had 62 students participating in our programs with many more prospects for the upcoming year.

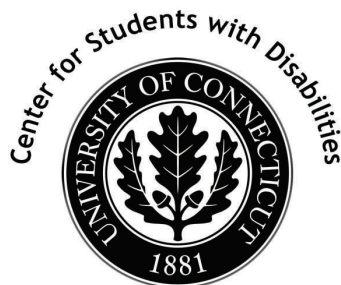
The Center continues to work on a Beyond Access program which will offer a continuum of transition

services that are individualized to a students needs. The program will be designed to help students explore their strengths and interests as a student with a disability. Program components will focus on self knowledge, educational and occupational exploration and career planning. The Center hopes to have this program running by Fall 2012.

To learn more about the student support services offered by the Center please visit:

http://csd.uconn.edu/beyond_access.html

Please feel free to call or visit our office to learn more. Our office can be reach at (860) 486-2020 and is located Wilbur Cross Building, Room 204.



Division of Student Affairs
One Division. Multiple Services. Students First.

University of Connecticut

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Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) Mission Statement

Through the integration of teaching, research, and service, it is the mission of the University of Connecticut to provide an outstanding educational experience for each student. The mission of the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) is to enhance this experience for students with disabilities. Our goal is to ensure a comprehensively accessible University experience where individuals with disabilities have the same access to programs, opportunities and activities as all others. The Center is also committed to promoting access and awareness as a resource to all members of the community.

While complying with the letter of the law, the CSD also embraces its spirit by providing services to all students with permanent or temporary disabilities to ensure that all University programs and activities are accessible. The Center can assist students to maximize their potential while helping them develop and maintain independence. Our philosophy is one that promotes self-awareness, self-determination, and self-advocacy in a comprehensively accessible environment.

