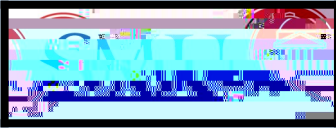


The DASS Insider

A newsletter for SMU Faculty and Staff

Information on disability services and access issues affecting your students and classes



Vol 6 Issue 20

Dyslexia and Creativity:
Tiffany Sunday

Faculty Spotlight: 2018
Extra Mile Awards

Mobility Issues Across
Campus

Final Exams Reminders

May Term Reminders

Technology on Campus:
Firefly and C-Pens

Timelines for Sending Final
Exams to DASS

On April 18, DASS's student organization for students with dyslexia and ADHD, *Students for New Learning*, welcomed internationally known lecturer, author, and SMU alum Tiffany Sunday, for a fireside-style chat.

She began by directing the students, "Look around you. Everything you see in this room started as someone's idea." Tiffany then asked students to identify their "thing," that being what they've always, even as a child, loved to do and have done best. From there, the interactive and lively discussion shifted from developments in assistive technology, to quantum computing, to automation of jobs. Through it all, she returned to a common thread - the central role of creativity and creation to the happiness of those with dyslexia.

Sharing historical and personal stories helped students to see that success is exhilarating, but that failure is how we truly learn. Tiffany also challenged them to focus on their talents, gifts, or strengths, not weaknesses or shortcomings. She drove home the point that those who learn and think differently aren't "broken" and therefore don't need to be "fixed," but instead should be recognized and employed for their unique cognition.

Companies began years ago hiring students on the autism spectrum for their unique traits and talents, but recently, major corporations, especially engineering, tech, marketing, and communication companies have begun to

Construction can be a headache for anyone, but it is especially disruptive for our campus members with mobility impairments. If a student in a wheelchair or scooter has to reroute around a building, only to find sidewalks closed, this could lead to a tardy or even an absence. Equally frustrating, if an elevator is out of order, that same student (or faculty/staff member) might not be able to make it to class. DASS tries to stay informed about upcoming construction projects and we'd like to highlight some upcoming changes for you.

The construction of the Indoor Performance

Visit us online at
www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp

Visit us at DASS

Please include this statement in your syllabus:

Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.