

# The DASS Insider

A newsletter for SMU Faculty

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

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## Welcome to the DASS Insider.

To help us identify topics of interest for faculty, please let us know of questions or issues you would like addressed in this newsletter. Send your suggestions to [dass@smu.edu](mailto:dass@smu.edu).

Please share this newsletter with your TAs and talk with them about questions they have regarding students with disabilities.

You are not expected to be an expert in disabilities. Remember, we are available to talk through any questions or concerns.

The DRC assists UCSC in complying with state and federal laws that mandate equal access to education for people with disabili-

DASS is more than accommodations. The DASS team assists SMU in complying with state and federal laws that mandate equal access to education for people with disabilities. Our team:

- Evaluates student documentation in support of a disability to determine disability status and need for accommodation;

- Determines and authorizes on a case-by-case basis appropriate, reasonable academic accommodations;

- Provides academic coaching and support for DASS students; and,

- Serves as a resource and consultant to faculty and staff.

If you have students with testing accommodations, such as extended testing time or a reduced distraction environment, chances are you have had to come up with creative ways to accommodate them within your department. SMU encourages faculty to manage most accommodations themselves and refer the student to DASS for test proctoring only if you are not able to work out a viable solution in your department.

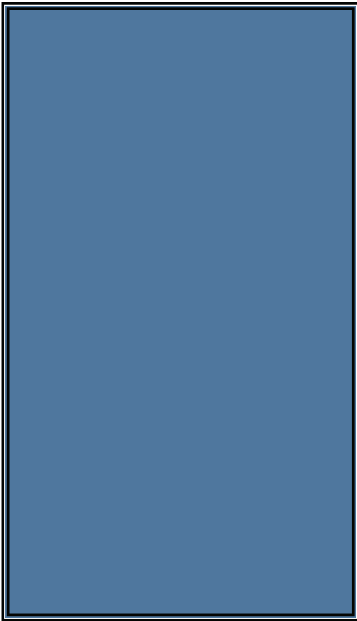
DASS serves as a back-up to faculty, and can proctor exams, quizzes, and the like, when needed. However, there are things to remember! We only proctor M-F, between 9am-5pm, and only with at least 4 days notice from the student. We also are not equipped to manage tests that require a computer and are limited on space, so students and their professors must work out many of the accommodations on their own. Testing

with the professor is often preferable for the students as well, so they receive a similar experience as other students. If a student needs more advanced accommodations such as a reader or a scribe, it is usually best for the instructor or department to provide this. Having a reader/scribe with some knowledge of the content may be necessary for classes like Math, Stat, Foreign Language, Computer Science and Engineering, among others. If you have concerns or limitations, please bring up your issues in a depart-



### *The Extra Mile Award*

SMU annually honors three faculty members who work well with students with learning differences by presenting them Extra Mile Awards at the Awards Extravaganza. Since 2008, fifteen faculty members have been recognized. Students for New Learning (SNL), an organization chartered by Student Senate, helps identify the winners. Funding and support for this award are provided by the President's Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities (PACNPD), reflecting how much it values faculty sensitivity to students with Learning Disabilities or ADHD. Most of the winners would quickly acknowledge that what they do for students with learning differences is the same as what they do for all students: prepare a clear syllabus, be ready to meet with students in o



DASS offers one-on-one academic coaching tailored to students with AD/HD and Learning Disabilities. The DASS coach considers the individual needs of a student, then teaches needed academic skills, such as note taking, textbook reading, and test-taking, as well as time management. The coach and student determine realistic goals and the plans to meet them, then during regular appointments, assess progress, providing structure and a degree of accountability to the student.

Coaching promotes independence; over time, students learn to utilize their natural talents, build self-confidence, recognize and avoid pitfalls on their own, and self-advocate effectively. Ultimately, coaching is a positive, supportive, and

## **Visit us at DASS**

5800 Ownby Drive—Suite 202  
2nd Floor - Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center  
Entrance near Gate 3 of Ford Stadium

