Changes in DRS:
Beginning in July 2017, DRS began reporting to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Dr. Justin Lawhead. Dr. Lawhead is currently serving as Interim Director for DRS, and we thank him as we work to continue providing exceptional service to our students. Welcome, Dr. Lawhead!

Back To Our Regular Programming:
The start of the Fall Semester has been a rush of excitement and change in DRS. It has been a blur for most of us as we have worked to register new students and help those of you returning to the UofM. And we are so glad to see you all!

Tests are keeping us hopping! Seems like midterms started a bit early for many of you this semester. Remember that Test Forms to take tests in DRS are still due two business days before each exam.

We are continuing to offer academic strategies and writing support in addition to hosting our Math Lab. If you’re registered with DRS, set some time to come in and meet Steve Shaver and Nelda Scruggs and check out the amazing academic resources they offer.

Searching for your first, paid employment experience? DRS may be able to assist. First HIRES (Helping Individuals Recognize Employment Skills) is a jobs program for students with disabilities who have never held a paying job. Developed in collaboration with Residence Life, the First HIRES program not only provides our students with disabilities with strong transferable skills and enhances their resumes, but also helps them get better connected to the UofM. Students in the First HIRES Program work as desk assistants in our on-campus residence halls. If you are interested in participating in First HIRES for the Spring 2018 semester, schedule an appointment with Amanda Rodino by contacting the DRS front desk at 901-678-2880.

If you’re looking for help with finding internships and jobs, the Workforce Recruitment Program is geared to help students with disabilities find internships in the Federal sector. There are various types of internships all over the country to help students and recent graduates find the opportunity that is
There is also a study for veterans that is happening right here at the University. The study, Project BRAVE, is looking for veterans of any conflicts after 9/11 who are experiencing symptoms of PTSD. Project BRAVE is being conducted by Dr. Meghan McDevitt-Murphy in the Psychology Department and her team. You do not have to have a formal diagnosis of PTSD to participate. The study involves three assessment visits as well as a three-week period of self-monitoring during which you would use a mobile device to provide updates on your daily activities in real time. **Participants who complete the full study can earn up to $380.00.** If you want to find out whether or not you are eligible for the study, you can take the online questionnaire at [memphisveterans.org](http://memphisveterans.org), call Project BRAVE staff at (901) 678-5966, or email us at tcrg.lab@gmail.com

This semester, we are trying out new programs to assist students with lecture notes and are working to make your Semester Plans more efficient. Keep up with our [Announcements Page](http://memphisveterans.org) for additional information in the coming months.

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

**Advising For Spring 2018**
If you have not yet met with your academic advisor regarding Spring 2018 registration, you should do so right away. Priority registration for students registered with DRS begins November 13. Remember your DRS Coordinator and our staff are happy to look over your schedule and make recommendations or offer advice related to your schedule and academic accommodations.

**Semester Plan Meetings**
By the time you see this notice, you should have already completed your Semester Plan meeting with your Coordinator. **If you have not yet had your Semester Plan meeting for Fall 2017, schedule one today!** The purpose of the Semester Plan Meeting is to review your academic progress and determine appropriate disability-related accommodations for the semester. For those who do not need accommodations, there are many additional areas DRS Coordinators cover with DRS students, such as planning for career and/or graduate school, study techniques, involvement on campus, etc.

**Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 IMPORTANT DATES:**
Fall Break: October 14-17
Last Day to Drop Fall 2017 Classes: October 20, 2017
Final Exam Forms (to take exams in DRS) are due November 14-21, 2017
Thanksgiving Holidays: November 22-26 (UofM will be open November 22)
Last Day of Fall 2017 Classes: Wednesday, December 6, 2017
Study Day for Fall 2017: Thursday, December 7, 2017
Final Exams: December 8-14, 2017
First Day of Spring 2018 Classes: January 16, 2018

OTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS:

Counseling Center:
The UofM Counseling Center continues to offer The Relaxation Zone for students at the UofM. The Zone is located in 302 Brister from 9am-4pm, Monday through Friday. The Zone hosts 5, new, state of the art Relaxation Chairs.
The Counseling Center continues to see students for walk-in appointments Monday through Friday from 10am-3pm.

Student Leadership & Involvement:
If you’re looking to get more involved at the UofM, look no further than Student Leadership & Involvement!
Through Student Engagement, you can get involved through Registered Student Organization, Greek Life, Student Activities Council, Tiger Zone, and various student events.
Through Leadership & Service, you can attend leadership conferences and workshops, engage in the Emerging Leaders Program, Leader to Leader, Civic Engagement, Alternative Break Trips, and Service on Saturday programs.
Through SLI’s Community Engagement and Campus Partnerships, you can be involved with Frosh Camp and Frosh Fusion, Sophomore Initiatives, Social Justice Programs, Adult Commuter and Off Campus Students, Tiger Spirit Initiatives, and Professional Development Programs.
This year’s LEAD Conference will take place on October 21 from 8:30am-2:30pm in the University Center. The theme for this year’s conference is “Creating Change” and will focus on developing students’ ability to act as change agents in their organization and communities. This year’s keynote speaker is Luke Pruett, Recruiting Director for City Leadership, the parent entity behind Choose901.

Many thanks to Drs. Jane Clement and Robert Maichrowicz in the Counseling Center and Sally Parish, Michael Marino, and MK Tyler in Student Leadership and Involvement for their contributions to our Announcements this month ~JLM