IMPORTANT!!!!

The University of Memphis Disability Resources for Students Office is implementing a new program to make academic accommodation notifications easier to manage and arrange. We are moving to Accommodations Information Management System (AIM) which will assist you in getting your memos ready for your instructors in an easier fashion. We will use this system to notify students about events, as well as connect students in similar fields for more engaging experiences. DRS Staff are still uploading information and will get you trained on the use of this new, super-quick system. Emails with more information will be sent throughout the summer.

We are also making physical changes in DRS. April Huggins and our Testing Room will relocate to the first floor of Clement Hall. We will send out information on that later this summer. The Math Lab will relocate to the soon-to-be former Testing Room next to the Bursar’s Office, while office assignments for Coordinators will shift around.

There are a lot of in-house, on-campus, community, and national resources listed in this month’s Announcements. We hope you find something that fits your interests and goals.

DRS RESOURCES:

We continue to offer academic strategies and writing support in humanities and social science-based courses, in addition to hosting our Math Lab for math classes up to pre-Calculus. If you are registered with DRS, set aside some time to meet with Steve Shaver or Nelda Scruggs and learn more about the assistance they offer. These meetings will be offered throughout the summer. Be sure to connect with them once your schedule is finalized and get on their schedules for academic help.

Once you have registered for classes and know your schedule will not change, be sure to schedule your Summer and Fall 2018 Semester Plans. The purpose of the Semester Plan Meeting is to review your academic progress and determine appropriate disability-related accommodations for the classes you are taking this semester. For those who do not need accommodations, there are other resources Coordinators discuss with students, like study techniques, involvement on campus, and more.

For students considering graduate, law, or medical school, talk to your Coordinator about accommodations on exams like the LSAT, MCAT, and the GRE. There is usually paperwork to list the accommodations you used, and what you will need to use on these exams. Requests are processed by entities like Educational Testing Services, and can take 6-8 weeks to process. If you need DRS to complete forms or write letters for you, please schedule a meeting with your Coordinator.
Searching for your first, paid employment experience? DRS can 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 provides students with strong transferable skills and resume enhancements, and helps them get better connected to the UofM. Students in the First HIRES Program currently work as desk assistants in on-campus residence halls. If you are interested in participating in First HIRES for the Fall 2018 semester, contact Amanda at arodino@memphis.edu as soon as possible.

Verties Sails has gotten a lot of interest in our **International Honor Society for Disabled Students, Delta Alpha Pi**, start-up chapter. He is working with Student Leadership and Involvement in the creation of this chapter and on a registered student organization. If you are interested in taking an active role in either organization, please contact Verties at vsails@memphis.edu He will be scheduling this meeting and others throughout the summer. Be monitoring your email for those dates and times. Please consider attending these meetings and bring lots of suggestions for programming, initiatives, resources, support, and more. We want to focus on issues important to you.

DRS staff know many of our students have exceptional talents across a variety of areas, and we want to **cultivate those talents** where we can. If you are in a program (or have worked in a field) related to marketing, public relations, training, media, etc. reach out to Jennifer at jmurchis@memphis.edu or call 901-678-2880 and schedule an appointment to discuss **redesigning our Orientation board, revamping our website, creating training and informational materials, podcasts, and similar.**

We want to publicize your work, and figure out if we can get you coursework credit in the classes you are taking. We also want to work with you on **public speaking opportunities**: assisting staff members at Campus Visit Days, presenting before faculty and departments, creating workshops with staff, and more.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

Solo: A Star Wars Movie premieres: May 25, 2018  
Memorial Day (UofM closed): May 28, 2018  
Full Summer Session classes: June 4 - August 9, 2018  
1st Summer Session classes end: June 4 - July 2, 2018  
1st Summer Session Final Exams: July 3, 2018  
Independence Day (UofM closed): July 4, 2018  
2nd Summer Session classes start: July 9 - August 9, 2018  
Full and 2nd Summer Session Final Exams: August 10, 2018  
Fall Summer Session classes start: August 27, 2018
CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT:

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Coalition (SAPAC) is a new organization on campus dedicated to programming and peer education to prevent sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. For information about joining, please visit: https://memphis.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/sapac

The Counseling Center continues to meet with students for walk-in appointments Monday through Friday from 10am-3pm. The office has reverted to Summer Hours of Mondays through Fridays, 8am to 4:30pm.

Residence Life Move-in dates are shifting this Fall. Students moving in to residence halls for the Fall semester will be able to start moving in August 20 and 21. The University of Memphis will offer a lot of activities beginning August 20 for the Weeks of Welcome for students. Our hope is that students will get acclimated to campus life and community before classes start. If you haven’t completed your housing application, please visit www.memphis.edu/reslife for deadlines and housing information. Assignments get filled fast, so get your application in now.

Student Leadership & Involvement’s Sophomore Success Series has many opportunities for our second-year students. Programs in this series will introduce students to career development, academic and registration support, and networking opportunities with groups like Young Alumni Council. Sophomores are encouraged to attend as many events as possible. For more information, please contact Jessie Dickert in SLI at jessie.dickert@memphis.edu

Below are some summer recruitment opportunities for students interested in learning more about fraternity & sorority life:

- May 22 & 25 – Ice Cream Socials, UC Alumni Mall Lawn, 12p – 2p
- June 28 – Fraternity & Sorority Picnic, UC Alumni Mall Lawn, 2p – 4p
- July 22 – Memphis Redbirds vs. Colorado Springs, 2:05p (ticket info to follow)
- August 23 – First Year Students’ Picnic, UC Alumni Mall, 11:30a – 1:30p

Except for the Redbirds’ game, all events are free and open to students.

The University of Memphis is working with the on-campus dining contractor, Aramark, to address food insecurities on our campus. Faculty and staff studied the challenges the UofM community faces with eating healthy, or having enough to eat. Students can donate guest meals or funds to the cause through Tigers Fight Hunger. Over 700 meal cards were distributed in the Spring 2018 semester. Students in need are getting help. Help us let others know about the resources available, or how to contribute. Application for assistance and donations can be made through the Dean of Students Office. For more information, visit: http://www.memphis.edu/studentinvolvement/communityengagement/tigers-fight-hunger.php
The Tiger Pantry is open to all students, as well as faculty and staff. Shelf goods, toiletries, and feminine hygiene products are available to the campus community. Follow them on Twitter for more information: @UofMTigerPantry If you would like to donate items to the Tiger Pantry, needed items are listed here:
http://www.memphis.edu/studentaffairs/dos/tigerpantrywishlist.php

If you witness something, let someone know. If you notice a person needs help, but doesn’t know how to request help, let someone know. If you have suggestions on ways to help others, let the Student Accountability and Outreach staff in the Dean of Students Office know. Visit www.memphis.edu/report to Report a Concern about another student, faculty, or staff member or seek assistance yourself.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES:

Our Assistant Director, Jennifer Murchison, will be starting her second year as the Narrative Shorts Programmer for the Oxford Film Festival. As part of an initiative for inclusionary and diverse story-telling, Jennifer is collaborating with OFF’s Executive Director, Melanie Addington, to offer additional opportunities for filmmakers and performers with disabilities. Submissions are already open and will remain open all summer long, into the Fall. Final decisions of selections occur in the Fall, with programmer selections notifications starting in late November.

Interested parties can visit www.oxfordfilmfest.com for more information, as well as discounts for filmmakers and performers with disabilities. The Oxford Film Festival programs shorts and feature length narrative films, documentaries, LGBTQ-influenced media, music videos, experimental films, virtual reality, and other film-related works. OFF also showcases the work of local artists, and programs events throughout the year to raise money for the Festival. For more information, contact Melanie at melanieaddington@oxfordfilmfest.com

The Oxford Film Festival is NOT affiliated with or operated through The University of Memphis. Neither DRS nor the UofM can guarantee acceptance, decisions, nor accessibility of the Oxford Film Festival. This information is provided as an opportunity for filmmakers and performers with disabilities who may be interested in submitting a film. Collaboration on this or anything related to the Oxford Film Festival, is offered outside of Jennifer’s role as an employee of the University of Memphis and offered only as a volunteer programmer for the Oxford Film Festival. The Oxford Film Festival will be hosted in Oxford, MS February 6-9, 2019.
NATIONAL RESOURCES:

The National Center for College Students with Disabilities (NCCSD), established December 1, 2015, is a federally-funded project under the U.S. Department of Education (P116D150005), through the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/fipse/index.html Our home is at the Association on Higher Education And Disability (AHEAD) www.ahead.org Visit the websites www.nccsd.org and www.nccsdclearinghouse.org for more information, community building, and educational resources.

Disabled & Proud 2018: Leading Change, a conference for students with disabilities, is being held October 11-13, 2018 for undergraduate, graduate, and auditing college students with disabilities. Students with any type of disability are welcome. Nondisabled college student allies and prospective college students with disabilities may join, but this is a conference for students and is not for K-12 teachers, professionals, faculty, service providers, or parents. The conference will feature daily online keynotes, small group discussions, presentations, and films.

Students will develop leadership skills and strategies to create campus change while networking with other students from across the U.S. Registration is available beginning June 1, 2018. Additional details are available at https://www.disabledandproud.org/ Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are also available. See website or contact DREAM at DREAM@ahead.org

College Autism Spectrum experts Jane Thierfeld-Brown, Lisa King, and Lorraine Wolff manage the online resource www.collegeautismspectrum.com to provide more support to college students on the Autism Spectrum (and their parents!), as well as college/university professionals working with students. This resources provides a sense of community for students, their parents, and professionals.

“The National Federation for the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.” For more information, please visit their website at: www.nfb.org

“The National Deaf Center (NDC) provides evidence-based strategies to deaf* individuals, family members, and professionals at the local, state, and national levels with the goal of closing education and employment gaps for deaf individuals. (*NDC is using the term deaf in an all-inclusive manner, to include people who may identify as Deaf, deaf, deafblind, deafdisabled, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and hearing impaired. NDC recognizes that for many individuals, identity is fluid and can change over time or with setting. NDC has chosen to use one term, deaf, with the goal of recognizing experiences that are shared by all members of our diverse communities while also honoring all of our differences.)” For more information please visit: www.nationaldeafcenter.org
Wil Wheaton, an actor known for his roles in TV shows “The Big Bang Theory” and “Star Trek: The Next Generation”, as well as the acclaimed movie Stand By Me, wrote an essay about coming to terms with (and getting help for) mental illness. He identifies having these experiences for most of his life and eventually sought assistance as a 30-year-old man. We encourage you to read his essay and learn more about chronic depression and anxiety, and perhaps find kinship with him: http://wilwheaton.net/2018/05/my-name-is-wil-wheaton-i-live-with-chronic-depression-and-i-am-not-ashamed/

Many thanks to the University of Memphis staff and colleagues from across the nation who contributed to this edition of DRS Announcements.

DRS is committed to recognizing local businesses and professionals who promote employment of people with disabilities and provide accessible features to the Memphis community. If you know of a business or professional you would like to spotlight in future iterations of the DRS Announcements page, please let me know at jmurchis@memphs.edu Thank you! – JLM

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