

IN THE NEWS..... WITH DSP&S

Fall 2008

A Note From The Coordinator: Beth Viersen

Volume 1, Issue 2

Our last newsletter was such a success that we are continuing our efforts and providing you with a Fall 2008 e-newsletter. Once again our goal is to introduce our staff and services and provide disability awareness to the Cuyamaca Community.

Just some housekeeping notes: DSP&S finally moved to the one-stop, A-113, in June and we are in the planning stages of moving the High Tech Center/Test Proctoring to their new location in the Library in December 2009. Our student population reached an all time high and we have filled most of our vacant contract positions who will be introduced in the following pages.

In this edition, I would like to focus on transitioning students with disabilities from High School to College. The publication *Catching the Wave* was a collaborative effort by the California Community College's Disabled Student Services Staff that gives pertinent information to students, parents, teachers and administrators. The chart below is an overview of the difference between K-12 and College. This publication can be downloaded from our DSP&S website.

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	K-12 IDEA '04	K-12 504 Plan	College 504, ADA and FERPA
1	Student records are accessible to student and parents	Student records are accessible to student and parents	Any enrolled college student's records are only accessible to the student (not the parents)
2	Special consideration for behavior problem	Must follow high school behavior code	Must follow college code of conduct; no special consideration
3	District identifies disability	Parent provides documentation of disability	Student responsibility to provide documentation of disability and need for accommodation
4	Success more of a right	No guarantee for student success	No guarantee; student responsible for own success
5	Special education classes	Regular class curriculum with modification	No special education classes; disability support office's role is to accommodate student in college level classes
6	Free evaluation of disability	Parent responsibility	Student responsibility
7	District develops Individual Education Plan (IEP)	Services determined by Plan	Student initiates requests for accommodation needs
8	District ensures that the IEP is implemented	District/parent/student responsible	Student responsible for own progress
8	Entitled to services identified on IEP	Services determined by Plan	College services not automatic; each college determines eligibility and services
8	Teacher advocate	Parent/student advocate	Student advocates for self

If you have any questions or concerns regarding students with disabilities please contact our main office at ext. 4239. We are here to assist you.

Brian Josephson

Alternate Media-High Tech Center Access Specialist

Brian comes to Cuyamaca College as a highly trained Alternate Media-High Tech Center Access Specialist with more than 20 years experience in management and instruction. In the San Diego area, Brian has worked exclusively with Disabled Students Programs and Services at post-secondary institutions since 2001 and is highly knowledgeable of the vital role, policies, and regulations that govern this population in higher education.

Prior to being hired, Brian was the Interim Alternate Media-High Tech Center Access Specialist at Cuyamaca College and Adjunct Faculty with Disabled Student Services at Southwestern College.

Please feel free to come by and meet Brian. He can be reached at the High Tech Center, Room C-102 in the LRC or by phone, (619) 660-4394.

Brian looks forward to working with the faculty, staff, and students here at Cuyamaca College.

Monica Farris

Student Services Specialist

Monica is the new DSP&S Student Services Specialist. She is currently working towards getting her BA in Accounting and will leave Cuyamaca with an AA in Business Administration and another in General Education. She has worked here at Cuyamaca for the past 15 months gaining knowledge and experience in various office environments. She has been the VTEA Clerical Assistant working with the VTEA Grant. She has also been the interim Division II Administrative Secretary and the interim Student Services Specialist in Counseling.

Monica is the main contact for faculty and staff regarding any questions or concerns they may have. She is also willing, able, and ready to help with any needs students in DSP&S may have. Monica can be reached at the One Stop Center, Building A-113 or by phone, (619) 660-4533.

**Amal Odesh
Specialized Instruction**

Amal has been working at Cuyamaca for almost ten years. She enjoys working with students. All the staff and teachers have been helpful for her when she needs it. She has learned a lot from Cuyamaca College and wants to give her best for the students and campus community.



Cynthia Koether: Specialized Instruction

Cynthia has as a degree in English from SDSU and has worked at Cuyamaca College for the past seven years with both the general population as well as DSP&S students. She is a native San Diegan, married with a daughter and two sons. Her husband is a high school math teacher as well as an adjunct Cuyamaca College instructor. She was recently blessed with a grandson, almost two, and also a brand new granddaughter, three months. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with the students and staff at the community college level and has found it to be a very enriching experience.

**Maritza Pantoja
Counseling Intern**

Maritza is originally from Monterey in northern California and moved to San Diego six years ago. This is her last semester in the Rehabilitation Counseling masters program at SDSU. She has a B.S. in Sociology and Criminal Justice from SDSU. She enjoys working with students, but enjoys working with students that have disabilities even more. She has worked as an intern with individuals that have developmental disabilities at St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center in El Cajon. And she worked with students that have various disabilities for two years as a substitute teacher for San Diego County Juvenile Court and Community Schools.

**Jennifer Quinn
Front Office Assistant**



Jennifer is a San Diego native and proud mother of four children. She comes to us from the banking and finance industry and is exploring a new career path. She is in her second semester at Cuyamaca, majoring in Paralegal Studies. She became part of the DSP&S team this fall. This part of her college experience has become valuable and enjoyable on a daily basis. Each day brings her new learning experiences and new friends.

**Rebecca Schmidt
Assistant Test Proctor**

This is Rebecca’s second year at Cuyamaca College. Her major is Social Work, and she will soon be transferring to SDSU. Rebecca is a single mother of two young children, and enjoys doing “arts and crafts” with her children. She has faced many challenges in her life, but has stayed positive about her education. Rebecca plans to work with families that are being damaged by domestic violence/drug abuse.

DSP&S Thanks Maria Gearhart

By Katie Morris

I recently had the opportunity to meet Senior Multi-Media Technician Maria Gearhart. A former DSP&S student herself, Maria received her Associates degree in Business Office Technology-Administrative Assistant, graduating with Honors. Starting off as a student worker, Maria has worked in the Cuyamaca library for five years, two of which have been full-time.

Maria has a special talent that is an added bonus to her position. Each month, she creates beautiful displays at the entrance of the library, with every month representing a different theme.



Every October, in honor of Disabilities Awareness month, the entrance of the library turns into a display consisting of various books, posters, and brochures focusing on Disabilities Awareness. This year, the DSP&S High Tech Center loaned Maria samples of equipment that are available for students to use/check out to include in the display. The equipment includes: a tape recorder, books on tape, and a talking calculator.

Maria has received numerous letters of recognition from departments, thanking her for her artistic displays. She even received a letter from former Cuyamaca College President, Dr. Perri, congratulating her on an excellent job she did on a Photography Department display.

The faculty and staff of DSP&S thanks Maria for her hard work and dedication in providing informative displays highlighting Disabilities Awareness month, and the impeccable service she gives year round.

Disabilities Awareness Week: October 27-31, 2008

Tuesday, October 28th

DSP&S Open House
One Stop Center A-113
1:00pm-3:00pm

Wednesday, October 29th

11th Annual Wheelchair
Basketball Game
San Diego Xpress
vs.
Cuyamaca College Athletics
Cuyamaca College Gym
12:15-1:15pm

Thursday, October 30th

High Tech Center & Test
Proctoring Open House
LRC, Room C-102
1:00pm-3:00pm

Faculty/Staff Highlight: Mary Asher-Fitzpatrick

By Rachelle Flores

Learning Disabilities Specialist

Like many college students, Mary Asher-Fitzpatrick was uncertain of what career she wanted to pursue. At one point during her undergraduate education, Mary was asked what she wanted to do with her life. Mary responded, "I don't know, but I know I don't want to be a teacher." Destiny clearly had other plans for her. As an undergraduate student at SDSU, Mary got involved with the Operation Share program, a program designed to tutor and mentor underprivileged students. She was paired with a 5-year old kindergarten student named Rodney. Not long after they met, Mary began to influence Rodney in a positive way. Soon Rodney's teacher expressed gratitude to Mary for Rodney's improved classroom behavior and increased motivation in class. She told Mary, "I don't know what you've been doing to help Rodney, but I want you to work here," and offered Mary a job. It was then that Mary realized the power of "nurturing." Since then, Mary has been involved in teaching and education and feels that it has been her "calling" to help students achieve.

Prior to working at Cuyamaca College, Mary worked as a Special Education Teacher at the Grossmont Union High School District for seventeen years. Since 1998, Mary has worked at Cuyamaca College as a Learning Disabilities Specialist in the DSP&S department. As a Learning Disabilities Specialist, Mary conducts assessments to identify and interpret learning strengths and weaknesses to determine eligibility for services under the category of "learning disabilities." Mary also teaches a Personal Development Special Services (PDSS) course entitled *Learning Styles Practicum*, where students with specialized learning needs can learn to implement specific learning strategies to help improve their academic performance. On top of Mary's many duties, she finds time to be the Advisor for Club ABLED, a campus club that supports students with disabilities and any other Cuyamaca or Grossmont College student who wants to join. When I asked Mary what she enjoyed most about her job, she responded with a big smile and said, "the students." Mary went on to explain that the students she works with continue to inspire her through their hard work and perseverance.

Mary wants people to know that she really cares about students and is happy to be a source of support for all students in need. She truly is an asset to Cuyamaca College and a treasure to the faculty, staff, and students who have the pleasure to work with her.

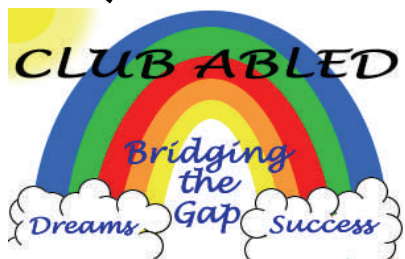
What is Test Proctoring?

By Roberta Gottfried

In simple terms, test proctoring means taking tests with the Test Proctor instead of in class. The Test Proctor for DSP&S is Roberta Gottfried and her office is located in the High Tech Center, Room C-102 in the LRC. All DSP&S students are entitled to test taking facilitations which are described on their Academic Accommodation Forms. The most frequently used accommodations are extra time and distraction reduced setting. These two accommodations are especially helpful if students take longer to test due to memory and concentration difficulties, struggle with ADD or ADHD, or have serious problems with anxiety. Other students, such as those who are auditory learners or have dyslexia, can work with the Test Proctor who reads the test aloud to facilitate comprehension. Some students, due to physical disabilities, cannot write; the Test Proctor acts as a scribe by writing exactly what the student says, grammar mistakes included.

How To Register?

If you are a current student with DSP&S, come to the Test Proctoring office to fill a out a form for each of the classes that will be proctored or call Roberta at (619) 660-4577. This form give us your instructor's approval to administer tests with the same instructions as if you were in the classroom, in a quieter, lower-stress environment. If you are not registered with DSP&S, please call the office at (619) 660-4239 for information.



Club ABLED is a campus club to support our college students with disabilities and any other interested Cuyamaca College students. We would like to make people aware of us and support those who need support.

We are always looking for new students to join.

If you would like to join CLUB ABLED, please contact the Club Advisor:

Mary Asher-Fitzpatrick mary.asher@gcccd.edu

DSP&S at the One-Stop

Beth Viersen
Mary Asher-Fitzpatrick
Margaret Jones
Monica Farris
Rachelle Flores
Katie Morris

DSP&S Coordinator
Learning Disabilities Specialist
Speech & Language Specialist
Student Service Specialist
Counselor, Adjunct
Counselor, Adjunct

High Tech Center

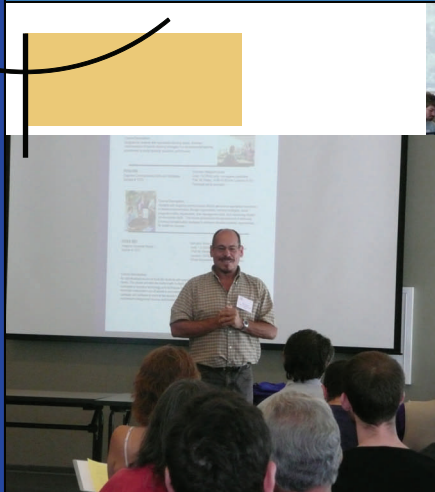
Brian Josephson
Jennifer Moore
Roberta Gottfried

Alternate Media/HTC
Specialist
Learning Assistance
Center Specialist
Test Proctor

DSP&S Orientation

Fall 2008

By Katie Morris



On August 22, 2008 DSP&S hosted its fall Student Orientation Day. The day consisted of two orientations, one for new DSP&S students and another for continuing students.



Over 100 students attended the orientation and participated in the activities presented by the DSP&S faculty and staff.



Raffle prizes were given and pizza was served.

Students left with valuable information about DSP&S services, full stomachs, and new friends!



Need a Little Extra Help???



Amal Odesch and **Cynthia Koether** will offer one-on-one specialized instruction for DSP&S students in the High Tech Center...

Amal will assist students with Math, Business Office Technology and Computer Information Science Questions.

Cynthia will assist students in punctuation, grammar, paper organization, formatting and other English and communication questions.

**Amal is available Monday-Thursday
9:00am-1:00pm**

**Cynthia is available Monday-Thursday
12:00-5:00pm**

DSP&S High Tech Center
Room C102 in the Library
(619) 660-4299

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

October 27-31: Disabilities Awareness Week

November 11: Priority Registration Begins

November 14: Last day to Drop Semester Length Classes

December 12: End of Second 8-week Session

December 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, & 22: Finals



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Cuyamaca College President, Interm: Cristina Chiriboga, Ed.D.

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