ADA 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON CAMPUS

The Americans with Disabilities Act celebrates its 25th anniversary this year on July 26, 2015. In honor of this momentous occasion, Wright State University’s Office of the President has dedicated its 2015-16 Presidential Lecture Series to speakers with disabilities and topics related to the evolution of disability rights.

Dr. Temple Grandin will be speaking on campus on Wednesday, September 9, 2015. In 1950, Dr. Grandin was diagnosed with autism and her parents were told she should be institutionalized. Dr. Grandin later developed her talents into a successful career as a livestock-handling equipment designer, one of very few in the world. She is currently Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University, an esteemed author, and speaks world-wide on both autism and cattle handling.

Senator Tom Harkin (Ret.) will be speaking on campus on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Harkin served as a United States Senator from Iowa from 1985 to 2015. Harkin was the chief sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act and introduced the bill to the Senate in 1988. Since the signing of the ADA in July 1990, Harkin also co-sponsored the ADA Amendments Act, which was passed in 2008.

Amy Purdy will be speaking on campus on February 12, 2016, as part of the annual Adventure Summit, sponsored by Wright State Campus Recreation. Purdy is a world-class snowboarder and 2014 Paralympic bronze medalist and co-founder of Adaptive Action Sports.

Maysoon Zayid will be speaking on campus on March 22, 2016, co-sponsored by the University Honors Program. Zayid is an actress, stand-up comedian, disability advocate, and co-founder of the New York Arab American Comedy Festival.

Visit http://www.wright.edu/presidential-lecture-series for updates and details on the 2015-16 lecture series!
Did you know that September is National Service Dog Awareness Month? ODS plans to celebrate by unveiling some recent developments at the Wingerd Service Dog Park.

ODS has launched a commemorative brick donation program to supplement funding for park improvement projects. Wright State students, alumni, family, friends, and advocates are invited to support the mission of the Wingerd Service Dog Park through the donation program. For a gift of $50 or more, donors can memorialize or honor a beloved service animal, emotional support animal, therapy animal, or pet with a custom engraved brick, which will be installed in the park annually.

All proceeds from the sale of bricks will support the maintenance and continued improvement of the park.

For more information and brick ordering instructions, visit www.wright.edu/dogpark. Please help us support the ongoing development of the park!

As part of ODS’s mission to make campus more accessible and inclusive, another exciting new project is scheduled this summer: the installation of automatic gate openers at the entrance of the park. Made possible by a grants from Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust and the Laura J. Niles Foundation, this project was organized by ODS staff member Jean Denney. The new gate openers will allow students with mobility disabilities to access the park independently, either by themselves or with their service dogs.

The gate openers and the first round of brick donations are to be installed in time for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in September 2015 (date to be announced).

**ODS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2015**

On Tuesday, April 14, 2015, ODS awarded 24 students with disabilities a total of nearly $30,000 in scholarships. Congratulations to all our scholars!

- ODS Scholarship: Spencer Martin
- Scholarship for First Year Students: Nick Ramos
- Scholarship for Students with Learning Disabilities: Hannah Regan
- Scholarship for Minority Students: Evelyn Quinn
- Beavercreek Lions Scholarship: Kristy Epperson
- Fairborn Lions Scholarship: Shirlisa Scott & Robert Sabwami
- Fred White Prize: Caelan Buford
- Grabowski Family Scholarship: Alan Berens
- Leber Family Fund: Madison Muskopf
- Thomas C. Faye Scholarship: Ngan Ho & Carl Pickl
- George Vernooy Independence Prize: Matthew Franey
- Jeffrey Vernooy Scholarship: Lakeshia Horton & Kenna Rodriguez
- Ohio Lions Helen Keller Scholarship: Nicholas Engle, Robert Sabwami & Seth Seibert
- Fred White Scholarship: Benjamin Hamilton & Mitchell Schneider
- ACB Ohio Scholarship: Kristy Epperson
- Samantha Laux Scholarship: Catalleya Storm
- Michael Emrick Scholarship: Alan Hieber & Jacob Huff
- Lee R. & Mary Menke Scholarship: Selina Lee & Tyler Murphy
PreFlight is a one-week, residential bridge program for incoming, first-year Wright State students with disabilities. Hosted by the Office of Disability Services, PreFlight gives students the opportunity to experience the Wright State community while participating in programming and activities designed to develop personal and academic survival skills, such as:

- understanding rights and responsibilities as a college student with a disability
- time management
- reading and writing skills
- accessing and utilizing campus resources

The first PreFlight program will be held this summer, from Sunday, August 23, to Thursday, August 27. The cost is $450, which includes on-campus housing for the entire program, meals, and all programming sessions.

The Interdisciplinary Disability and Learning Laboratory (IDaL) is an exciting new facility housed in the recently opened Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration building. The laboratory is dedicated to research and development on enhancing the ability of individuals with all types of disabilities to access and engage in formal and informal education opportunities that are essential for personal independence and growth.

IDaL will focus on research in cognitive and social sciences and in technology and engineering. This research will advance our basic scientific understanding of the ways in which disability can affect access to, and success in, learning and will seek to develop and test enabling technologies and educational interventions to remove or minimize barriers.

The IDaL lab is equipped with accessible computers, visual and audio displays, assistive software and hardware, and measurement tools to support the work of faculty and staff researchers. The lab will also be available for use in relevant graduate and undergraduate projects and as a resource for students interested in trying out available assistive and adaptive devices and software.

Most importantly, people with disabilities will be asked to become key collaborators in the scientific and engineering activities conducted by the IDaL lab. As the ultimate users of the lab’s products, Wright State students with disabilities and members of the region’s disability community will work with researchers to define research needs and to develop and test effective solutions for improving access and success in learning.

IDaL is currently supported by university funds and by a grant from the National Science Foundation focused on assisting students with disabilities who are studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Dr. Clark Shingledecker is the Director of the NSF Ohio’s STEM Ability Alliance (OSAA) project and the IDaL lab.
WSU STUDENT NAMED MS. WHEELCHAIR OHIO

On February 22, 2015, WSU senior Jasmine Spradley was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Ohio in a ceremony at the Wright State Student Union. Originally from Piqua, Ohio, Spradley graduated with her Bachelor’s degree in Psychology in May 2015. She plans to go to graduate school to study marriage and family counseling.

Spradley shared, “With this opportunity, I will represent citizens of Ohio and people with various types of disabilities. My passion for advocacy comes from my own experiences with a disability called Osteogenesis Imperfecta, a genetic bone condition which affects my mobility and physical stature. I have made friends with many people who carry diverse backgrounds and have discovered that despite our differences, we share countless similarities. We share the need for friendship, the desire for acceptance, and the longing for love.”

Spradley is now in the running for the National Ms. Wheelchair America pageant, which will be held from July 27 to August 2, 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa. Spradley is currently seeking donations to aid her journey to the Nationals, for the travel expenses as well as the application fees. Interested donors can visit her Go Fund Me account page at: http://www.gofundme.com/mswheelchairohio.

Photos and information from the 2015 pageant and other past pageants can be viewed at the Ms. Wheelchair Ohio pageant website: http://ohiowheelchair.com/MsWheelchairOhioAmerica.htm

ODS HAS MOVED!

The Office of Disability Services has a new home! Now located in 180 University Hall, the ODS staff offices and central operations were moved as of March 9, 2015. As part of the transition to the new space, new automatic double doors were installed to maximize access to the front lobby. Automatic door openers have also been installed on the restroom doors outside the suite to allow easy access for students and guests with disabilities.

Test Proctoring services currently remain in operation from its original location in 023 Student Union.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EmployAbility Career & Internship Expo
Thursday, October 29
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Apollo Room, Student Union
This event is free and open to all people with disabilities!
www.wright.edu/employability

Breaking Silences: Sex, Sexuality, & Disability Conference
November 4, 5, & 6
Registration opens August 1!
For more information, see the event website:
www.wright.edu/event/sex-disability-conference
or contact Dr. Julie Williams at julie.williams@wright.edu

Find more campus events on the university events calendar:
http://www.wright.edu/calendar

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