

Happy Birthday ADA!

On July 26, 2010, President Obama signed the order to mark the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is on this day, twenty years ago, that the law was first signed by President George Bush. The intent of the law is to give civil right protections to people with disabilities. The law guarantees equal opportunity to access businesses, employment, transportation, telecommunications, and governmental programs.

The changes over the years have led to the physical changes of buildings renovating to include ramps, elevators, curb cuts, and automatic door openers. These are examples of how innovated technology to assist persons with disabilities has a global benefit to the general public.

Kareem Dale, Special Assistant to President Obama on disability policy, states, "it's been a sea of change in 20 years, but we're not done. When the ADA was passed in 1990, the Web wasn't what it is now. The ADA and the law have to pick up..." The government is working to improve governmental website for persons with disabilities.

President Obama thanked members of the administration (past and present) "for their work to advance the goals of the ADA so that it is not just the letter of the law, but the spirit of the law, that's being applied all across the country." A charge has been placed with Attorney General Holder to hire more Americans with disabilities within the federal government. Currently, only 5% of the federal workforce is made up of people with disabilities. To culminate the progress ADA strives for President Obama signed the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Resources:

Unknown. (2010). *Media dis&dat*. In News, commentary, and President Obama's remarks about the ADA 20th anniversary. Retrieved December 7, 2010, from <http://media-dis-dat.blogspot.com/2010/07/news-commentary-and-president-obamas.html>.

Unknown. (2010). *The Washington Post*. In Obama's top disability adviser on ADA's 20th anniversary. Retrieved December 7, 2010, from <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/25/AR2010072502435.html>.

Research: It's Challenges and Rewards

By: April Odom, Senior in Criminal Justice



Research was the foundation that makes our trips abroad successful; Project Access. As a person with a disability, research has always been important when I travel in the United States and more importantly critical to international travel.

The research topics for Project Access are how accessibility laws in other countries compare to those of the United States and how people with disabilities were integrated into that specific country's society. The criteria measure for the research are attitudinal, cultural, and physical access. Attitudinal access is defined by the attitudes held by peoples in the different countries. Cultural access was defined by how people integrated and treated people despite of or because of their disability. Physical access was defined by the physical accommodations available in the hotels and transportation along with physical access to different parts of the country toured.

Last summer, I conducted research specifically on guide dogs because I was taking my dog Havana with me. I realized that it was going to be a long process so I started researching ten months prior to

our trip. It was a good thing that I started early because I soon realized that the process to bring a guide dog into a foreign country was complicated. I had to follow specific steps; if I so much as missed a single step I had to start over. There was a lot of paperwork involved and a lot of "red tape" that had to be dealt with before I could even enjoy the research of our destinations.

After dealing with the paperwork required by the European Union (EU), I thought all bases were covered. I was quite mistaken. When arriving in England the animal patrol came aboard the plane and almost didn't let Havana in to the country. I had followed guidelines according to the EU for my paperwork; unfortunately I was misinformed that it would comply with British policies. I was upset but knew that there was a way to overcome the problem. After going through more red tape, I finally got through England and flew in to Ireland where Havana was passed through customs with flying colors. It was awesome to have Havana with me because I felt completely independent. I actually felt "normal" meaning I was just a person with a dog as my eyes.

Student Connections... By: Jean-Marie Lawrence, Graduate Student in LAS program



This summer, with the support and sponsorship of UTC, I attended the National Disability Policy Summit in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This experience was educational and provided me with networking opportunities I would not otherwise have.



The Summit opened my eyes to how our nation feels about disability rights and what we are doing on a national and global scale to improve the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities. I was able to represent UTC and bring back information regarding international, educational, and emergency preparedness improvements for people with disabilities.



Since 2009, the Office for Students with Disabilities has been running Project Access, a research based study abroad program to better understand how accessibility and



laws in other countries differ from our own for people with disabilities. On a national scale, the United States has also been working to understand other countries. President Obama signed the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Proclamation on July 24, 2009, acknowledging that we can still learn from others. We can still improve and expand the rights of people with disabilities internationally. Judith Heumann, Special Advisor for International Disability Rights, has advocated for people with disabilities since the early start of the Disability Rights Movement. I had the honor to meet her and hear the strides we are taking as a country to improve international rights.

Also, I was able to meet with individuals in education, both from our government and

local agencies to address the severe gap in adjusting from high school to college for students with disabilities. To begin changing this downfall, I, along with the Office for Students with Disabilities and Hamilton County Department of Education, have introduced the ideas for the framework for better transition programs from high school to college.

Since the Disability Summit, I have a better understanding of our position as a nation to improve the rights and accessibility for people with disabilities. I look forward to continue using the knowledge I gained from the Summit.



Diversity Beyond the Classroom

By: Ellis Leago, OSD Video Captionist

On any given day, you can walk onto the campus of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and find a welcoming and diverse campus. Various campus organizations also share these values and strive to make the campus a friendly environment. The Office for Students with Disabilities has joined the campus in focusing on diversity through their programming.

The university's goal is to embrace the differences that make each student, faculty member, and guest unique and essential to UTC's vision. One such event highlighting the importance of diversity was the Taste of Diversity held on October 1, 2010. During this event, Mayor Littlefield and Chancellor Roger Brown officially declared October as Diversity Awareness month. Several campus organizations such as the Office for Students with Disabilities, Multicultural Center, Women's Center, Office of Equity and Diversity, and the Student Civic Engagement and Physical Health Education and Promotion program partnered to raise awareness for the campus community. Students, staff, and faculty enjoyed food from several



cultures. More importantly, the Taste of Diversity had a greater impact for the Chattanooga community. Community organizations such as the Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults, Autism Society of Chattanooga, La-Paz, Tennessee Valley Pride, and Deaf Services.

Another program held in October was the second annual Diversity Dialogue. During this event, the Student Empowerment Association partnered with the Black Student Alliance and Multicultural Center to engage students in a discussion about diversity. Students were able to ask controversial questions regarding people with disabilities. The hope of this activity is that the dialogue can be held every month and different facets of diversity can truly be understood and respected.

Whether diversity is addressed through programming or discussions among students, the Office for Students with Disabilities will continue to aim for respect, understanding, and acceptance of diversity on every level.

Just for Fun

Springtime brings a diverse array of ways to PLAY! The Therapeutic Recreation Division of Chattanooga Parks & Rec has programs for all

Lookout Valley Holiday Parade and Party:

Join in the holiday spirit by attending a festive parade including food, entertainment, and a visit by Santa! The parade begins at Lookout Valley high school at 12:30 and ends at the John A. Patten Rec. Center at 2:00.

Saturday, December 11, 2010

3202 Kelly's Ferry Road

Cal Kristin or Tracy at 825-5955 for more information.

"Dream Night" at the Chattanooga Zoo:

Celebrate the holiday season with us at the 2010 Holiday Ball. Put on your dancing shoes and come prepared to boogie the night away! This evening is in conjunction with the Chattanooga Zoo's Holiday Lights.

Dec. 16th 5:30 PM –8:30 PM at Chattanooga Zoo

Cost: FREE

R.S.V.P. to Elaine Adams at 697-1345, or 697-1322

Adaptive Technology Corner

By: Holly Zuckerman, Speech-to-Text Specialist

Since 2007, UTC's Office for Students with Disabilities has prided itself as having the one of the few video captioning service within an establishment of higher education in Tennessee.



At that time, the university's Chancellor acknowledged a growing need to provide captioned videos for hearing impaired students attending the university, as well as to satisfy goal requirements for universal design, and ADA compliance. The office for students with disabilities was granted funds to purchase video captioning software, and shortly thereafter established a position for a video transcriptionist to handle the duties of captioning videos.

Today, our demand has grown as more students with hearing impairments attend UTC, and as faculty and staff begin to recognize our capability for in-house video captioning. While we educate about the importance of purchasing already compliant, captioned videos, we are also working diligently with professors and with our library to provide captioned copies of any videos and DVDs that are not already captioned, especially for the immediate need of accommodations for students.

UTC Outdoors Recreation

Backpacking— January 15– 17
Spend MLK Holiday with us as we explore the Southeast landscape in the Winter. Mt. Roger's, VA

Redeye Ski Trips— January 29th, February 5th, and February 19th

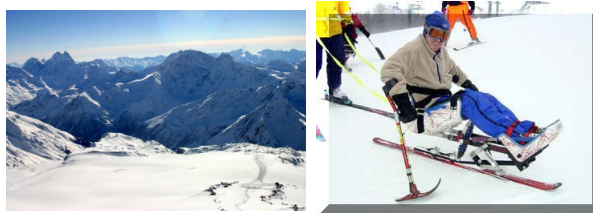
Ride up the slopes of NC and ski or snowboard for the day, then head back to Chattanooga that night.

\$45 lift ticket; plus \$18 for skis, or \$25 for snowboard

Banner Elk, NC

Find out more at:

<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/CampusRecreation/UTCOutdoors.php>



As more faculty and staff understand the need for this type of accommodation, we are proud to hear from them with requests for us to keep up with technology. We are currently researching and exploring ways to enhance our program, and to meet these new demands. Our newest development is the ability to caption and share virtually any type of video file. In the near future, we hope to develop ways to share captioned videos on blackboard, and to attach captioned videos onto websites for easy viewing by students. And as technological advances are being made with video captioning software, we are also exploring new programs to help expedite the video captioning process to make providing captioned videos faster and more convenient.

There is no need to wait for a student with a hearing impairment to enroll in your class to request video captioning. If you have a VHS, DVD or video file that is not currently captioned, call at 425-4006 (V/TTY). And stay tuned for new advancements in our video captioning program.

Walking is Overrated!

By: Holly Zuckerman



Once you get past the initial shock of his completely incorrect jokes, you begin to understand that Matt cracks jokes to show that it's okay, that he has a sense of humor! Not that he endorses making fun of people with disabilities, but as he speaks, he makes it clear that there's no need to walk on egg shells, as long as you are educated and understanding about the backgrounds of diverse cultures.

In his presentation, Matt addresses the touchy subjects of lookism, ableism, and racism; that is, the prejudices and ignorance about how people look, their level of ability (or disability), and the color of a person's skin (just to touch on a few of many issues he could speak on). He explains that political correctness in addressing any of these issues are a crutch for trying to find the most appropriate way to not offend. In fact, it creates fear and more offense by initiating taboos. He uses 'South Park' and 'Family Guy' not only to get the attention of a generation who likes to watch these shows, but also to raise awareness for an appreciation that these shows are not all about stupid humor. Rather, they raise issues about any and every subject to point out some of the ignorance and prejudice about those subjects. And in this way, he provides very useful knowledge about what the issues are and why, and what ways are truly appropriate to address them.

An hour and many hysterical fits of laughter later, students filed out of the auditorium chattering about all of the great information they had just received. Mission accomplished. Questions were raised, answers were given, and a lesson was learned. Matt helped to clear away the fog that was shrouding a few very uncomfortable topics with common misconceptions and society induced biases, focusing on the issues in a way that was both entertaining and mind opening. So in true "Matt NoWalkie" style, I'd like to thank him for getting his foot in the door here at UTC, for giving us all a leg up on some important issues, and for not being afraid to walk on some toes all in the pursuit of education!



 Follow Matt on Twitter: Matt NoWalkie





Disability Aware-

October is known nationally as Disabilities Awareness Month, and to jump start our celebration, UTC and the city of Chattanooga held a collaborative event on the first to reclaim October as Diversity Awareness Month. Chattanooga's Mayor Ron Littlefield joined Chancellor Roger Brown with a proclamation to make it official, and kicked off an afternoon of speakers, organizations sharing information, a buffet of ethnic foods, and birthday cake to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Throughout the month, the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), along with the Student Empowerment Association (SEA), packed in educational events to raise awareness on campus about disabilities. Students with disabilities paired with faculty and staff on campus for a day to share by simulating the impact of disability in our "Adopt a Disability" event. The Disability Fair gave students on campus a chance to simulate certain disabilities, and to learn what resources OSD has to accommodate certain disabilities. SEA's "Permit to Empower" event raised awareness for invisible disabilities (ADHD, BiPolar II, Dyslexia). The organization provided campus members, who may or may not have a disability, with t-shirts that said "THIS IS WHAT A DISABILITY LOOKS LIKE." The event was to highlight the point you never know by the outward appearance of a person has a disability.

This year's Access & Diversity lecture featured Matt Glowacki, a former paralympian, educating the campus about diversity through his lecture entitled "Diversity According to 'South Park' and 'Family Guy'". SEA teamed up with the Multicultural Center and the Black Student Alliance for the Diversity Dialogue, an open conversation on everything you've always wanted to know but were afraid about disabilities. The movie night featured the premier of this year's Project Access:Britannia. Copies are available in the OSD office. Rhett Sewell, a UTC student, spoke to students and faculty about what it's like to live with Tourette Syndrome. Finally, the OSD Halloween Open House gave the staff and student workers a chance to put on their best costumes and bake their favorite ghoulish treats to lure the campus community to visit our offices and greet out staff.

Little People, Big World Star Returns to UTC

**Amy Roloff returns
January 27th
UTC, Fine Arts Center**

Call 425-4006 (V/TTY) for more information or accommodations request. Or visit www.utc.edu/osd




Legal Corner: Closed Captions: Where are they going next?

On October 8th, President Obama signed the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (H.R. 3101). The act ensures that broadcasters add closed captions to all programming available on the internet. ABC, NBC, FOX, CBS, Hulu, Netflix are a few companies that are starting to adhere to the new federal guidelines. Broadcasters will also have to provide closed captions for all previously aired programs. Additionally, the act requires Television and DVD manufacturers to add accessible features to the project menus such as audio descriptions of what is on the screen for persons who are visually impaired. Remotes will include a specific button to access closed captioning quickly rather than burying the function in the options menu.

The act benefits both the consumers and the broadcasting companies.

Consumers who are deaf or hard of hearing are able to equally access the programs that are available on the internet.

Rosaline Crawford, from the National Association of the Deaf, comments that

“Captioning TV programs and video clips shown on the Internet is needed for the same reasons it is needed when shown on TV.” (Lasar, 2008). In addition, the broadcasting companies will see an increase in the number of search hits due to this new feature. The biggest challenge facing the broadcasters is that during the digitizing process to create a file for the internet, the closed caption  files disappear. The government acknowledges this challenge, and therefore, the FCC has an 18 month grace period from the time the bill was signed to bring the media up to standards.



For more information on the law visit:

www.nad.org/issues/civil-rights/communications-act/21st-century-act

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. 12 | SEA Meeting,
Guest Speaker, Dr. Badger “Job Search”
Want to know more about SEA? contact Eamon Hosey at (867) 607- 2541 or Eamon-Hosey@mocs.utc.edu for more information and details about the first meeting!! | May 4-5 | Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion, and Disability Annual Conference,
Columbus, OH |
| Jan. 26 | N-the-Know with Dow: Employers Spotlight Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities (COSD) sponsored webinar
Visit www.cosdonline.org | June 8-22 | Project Access: Disability Access & Culture Research Trip
Italy & Greece |
| Jan. 27 | OSD Lecture,
Guest Speaker, Amy Roloff
UTC, Fine Arts Center | June 2-3 | Tennessee Disability Mega-conference,
Nashville, TN |
| March 12-16 | NASPA Conference,
Philadelphia, PA | July 11-16 | AHEAD Annual Conference,
Seattle, WA |
| March 26-30 | ACPA Conference,
Baltimore, MD | July 17-22 | RID National Conference
Atlanta, GA |

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