



Office for Students with Disabilities

Welcome back to the 2011-2012 school year. This semester has been a busy start for the staff at OSD. We have seen a distinct growth in the number of students receiving accommodations this year. The number of students who are deaf or hard of hearing has drastically tripled over the past year. As the semester progresses you may see more students in the classroom and campus events using caption services. If you have any questions on working with a captionist, please email Leslie-Harms@utc.edu

Moreover, we have also experienced a demand in student requests for books in alternative format. Bryon Kluesner has developed partnerships with several publishing companies in the nation. If you have questions regarding books in audio or electronic format, contact Bryon at Bryon-Kluesner@utc.edu.

As mid-terms are fast approaching, students will continue to use testing accommodations with OSD. Over the years, we find that students appreciate this accommodation because it elevates the pressure of "beating the clock" and allows students to focus more on the test material. If you need to send an exam or quiz to OSD, we have three options. Tests can be dropped off at 109 Frist Hall, email at osdtesting@utc.edu, or courier pick up the day prior to exam.

We will celebrate Disability Awareness Month this coming October. OSD will feature a variety of guest speakers, workshop presentations, and student led programs. Please come out and join OSD in raising awareness on disability movement issues. More details on upcoming activities are included in this issue.

It is important to note that all of the enrollment growth and program

development within OSD are at the hands of the great team we have here. We would also like to acknowledge the UTC community's commitment to our vision. Students and parents recognize this institution is encompassing of students of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

The stereotypes, misconceptions, and attitudes of "we can't" have been changed to "how can we do it." This harks back to our former campaigns of "*Attitudes are the Real Disabilities*". From all of us at OSD, we would like to thank you for helping with this culture change for the UTC campus.



What is M.o.S.A.I.C?

Learn more about the Mocs Students with ASD Integrated Community.

Additional Resources:

- www.collegeautism.com
- Awesome Autism on Facebook
- Greater Chattanooga Aspies at GCAspies@gmail.com

We would like to take a moment to introduce a new and innovative program on the campus of UTC. The MoSAIC Program is one of only 16 nationally recognized programs for college students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. We are very excited to be entering our second year of this program and have already seen some great outcomes. Students successes include an increase in overall G.P.A.s, involvement in campus organizations, searching for employment opportunities, and even traveling internationally with Project Access.

The MoSAIC Program provides a multifaceted academic and social support program for college students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. This holistic curriculum includes weekly social strategy classes, meetings with peer mentors, supervised study sessions, and meetings with individual life coaches. In addition, the learned social strategies will be practiced through monthly social strategy application activities with life coaches, mentors, and groups of college aged peers.

If you would like more information about this program or to inquire about partnerships please contact Michelle-Rigler@utc.edu or Leslie-Harms@utc.edu. As with any growing program on our campus, we can only be successful through lasting professional partnerships. We look forward to working with you on this growing pro-



MoSAIC



Student Connections... By: Amy Rutherford, Psychology major

When we leave home for our first year of college we can only imagine where our lives will go in the years to come. We often think of our college years being full of parties, meeting new people and the founding steps to our careers. Often times students go through their four or sometimes five years never knowing all that their University has to offer. Whether it be the travel programs, departmental scholarships, or the various campus organizations, we tend to ignore those emails and miss out on so much. When I chose the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, I never dreamed I would be given the opportunity -or shall I say opportunities- to travel the globe to learn about how other countries relate to the disability culture. I must admit I never imagined my college experience to be full of all these wonderful travel opportunities and all the hands on learning that I have experienced over the past three years traveling abroad with the Office for Students with Disabilities.

This year in particular, the travel group experienced so many obstacles that words cannot even begin to explain. Being a student that has traveled all three years, I saw this trip to be the most impactful to my life. There were more friendships that developed as well as a lot more class focused studies during our experience. I was very skeptical in the beginning about the class because I thought it would be a waste of time, and as a senior I had more to focus on. But much to the group's surprise, the class was probably one of the only reasons we all didn't go crazy with what we experienced, and why we made such a strong bond early on. So I must admit I was wrong about the class, and honestly if it had not been for it, who knows how the end result would have been for our group leaders.

There also seemed to be such a drive for learning about the cultures and how differently the accessibility laws really were abroad. We faced many challenges with [businesses] claiming their places were accessible and not even being able to accommodate our group. We quickly discovered that while some businesses might have had an elevator, you had to use stairs to access the elevator.

In previous years this is something that we just dealt with and moved on to only do what we could. This year I know for me personally it really made me see what we are actually doing is for a purpose. Now having seen someone that is completely independent and who never complains struggle with something as simple as taking a shower really opened my eyes and will forever impact how I see accessibility issues.

I will close by saying that I ended this trip with one fear. My fear is that these trips will end and our research will stop when we are done with part three. Although we have a ton of supporters across campus, there are many that still don't believe we are making a difference and with the tragedy that occurred on this last trip our group leaders need all the encouragement they can get. Although these trips are filled with intense planning, blood sweat and tears from the group leaders and the students, the knowledge and opportunities that is given to students through this endeavor is something that I believe this university cannot do without. I have to say that over these three trips I have gained knowledge that I will use to power how I do things personally and professionally. The people I have gotten to know around the university through this project will forever be held dear to my heart.





Living the Dream

Rebecca "Brooke" Winslett
1981-2011

If you have had the pleasure of meeting Rebecca Winslett, Brooke to her friends and family, you would understand that Brooke did live the dream. This young woman truly embodied her historical interest and sought to see with her own eyes the history that once was.

Brooke's interest to broaden her horizons and travel abroad was due to the historical aspects of visiting regions of early civilization. Brooke began traveling in the summer of 2010 to Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England. During this trip she toured the British Isles and even kissed the Blarney Stone.

The amazing thing about Brooke is at first it was overwhelming she still managed to find the awe in traveling. She found that in the previous year's travels, she enjoyed learning about access for persons with disabilities within the global view.

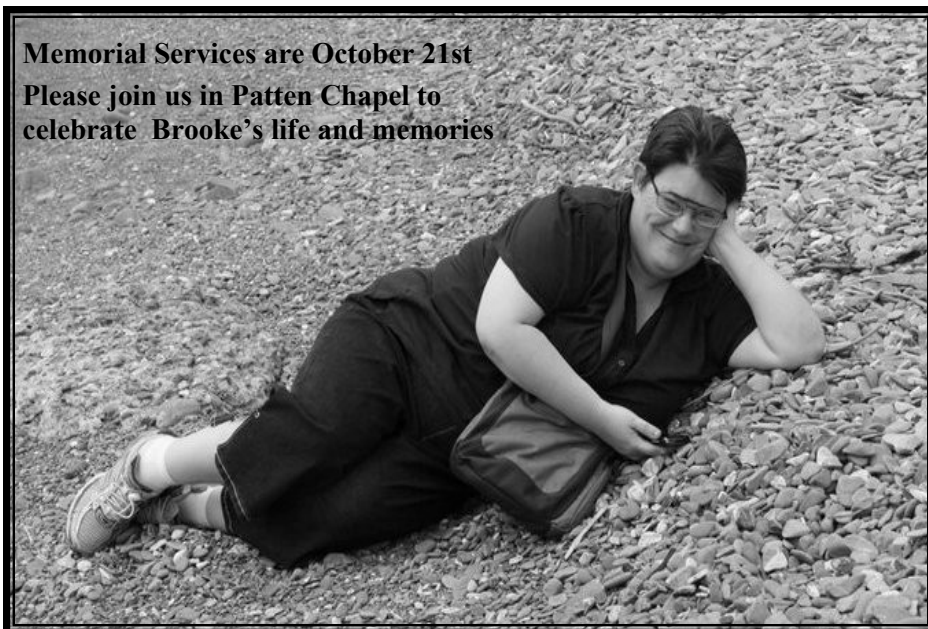
This past June, Brooke, once again embarked for a two week tour of Italy & Greece. Her family recalls Brooke's quick recap of the events with a summation of describing

the picturesque landscape: "Upon arriving in Rome, she said she finally understood why author Augusta Evans compared the view from Lookout Mountain to the view from the hills of Rome."¹

It is statements like these that embodies the passion Brooke held for literature and history. The joy of reiterating British history, especially the current monarch, was a favorite past time of hers. She was quite the tour guide while studying in Europe. In fact, she often would stump all of the tour guides when asking questions.

Brooke's laughter and smiles were infectious for the group; always lifting spirits when days were dank. Even though Brooke has passed, the memories she left us will have a special place in our hearts.

¹Moffett, B. (2011, June 22). *Times Free Press*. Retrieved from www.timesfreepress.com/obituaries/2011/june/22/brooke-winslett



Memorial Services are October 21st
Please join us in Patten Chapel to
celebrate Brooke's life and memories



**It is not length of life,
but depth of life.**

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



Welcome back UTC Alum: James Cartee III

Often as graduates triumphantly cross the stage to accept their diplomas, our interactions change from daily chats to the occasional email or Facebook post. At OSD, we have been fortunate in remaining in contact with a former UTC Student. Over the years, we have heard the ups and downs of his search for employment, strife of obtaining another degree, and success of publishing his first book. James Cartee III, will address the campus community this coming October to speak on behalf of what life is like after graduation. He will include stories of how life can be impacted by the simplest of things; but in turn the most challenging situations can be the most rewarding.

James Cartee III finished his undergraduate degree in Business Marketing at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, a place in his heart he still considers home. He then completed a Masters degree from Auburn University in Communication. Cartee has written poems about pretty girls since the sixth grade, publishing two books of poetry and working on his third work – a co-written memoir with his father about living with the difficulties of a mental illness.

He has backpacked across the country in an Oldsmobile Alero and through mountains in both Europe and South America. American Sign Language is his favorite language, besides English, of course. Cartee's enthusiasm for life is evident in all the things that he pursues. He works in admissions of an online school in Birmingham, Alabama and serves as the Alabama State Coordinator for the Christian Alliance for Orphans. He is an advocate for the disabled and the fatherless, an author, a photographer, an inspirational speaker, an event planner, a professional blogger, an Auburn Tigers and UTC Mocs enthusiast, and more importantly, a passionate believer.



His message is simple: if Cartee can achieve dreams in any form, so can you! Come join us hear about this experience in obtaining his dreams.

October 10, 2011– 4:30-6:00pm
UC Raccoon Mountain Room

If you need accommodations, please contact OSD prior to the event at 425-4006 V/TTY

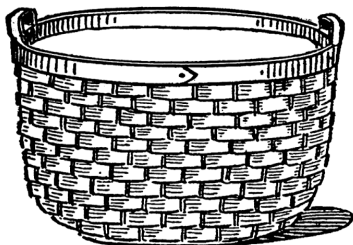
COMING SOON!

OSD BASKET AUCTION

Proceeds this year are donated to OSD's Project Access and M.o.S.A.I.C. programs.

Project Access provides students with life experiences of traveling internationally while conducting research related to the disability field.

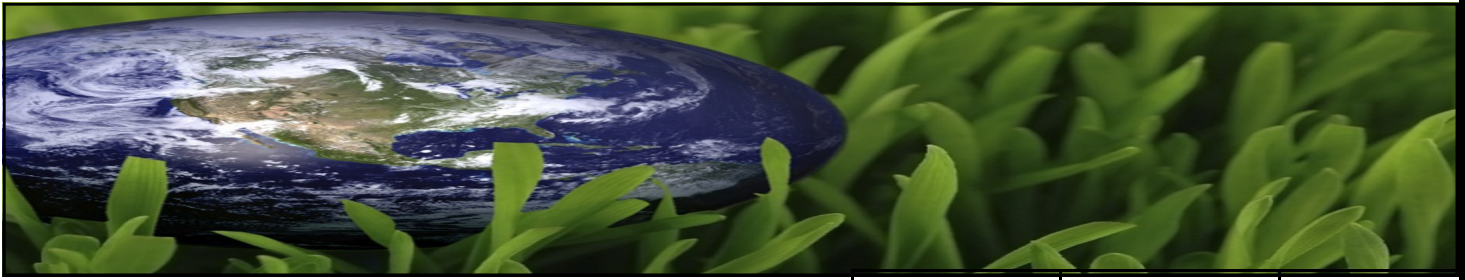
M.o.S.A.I.C. is a program designed for student with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The **Mocs Students with ASD Integrated Community** provides students with additional support systems to address the social and academic perspectives of college life.



Bidding Opens

Nov. 9th ONLINE ONLY & Nov. 10th Online & UC Gallery

- Paradise Package to Hawaii:* one week lodging & more
- Jersey Shore Basket:* Gym, Tan, & Laundry
- Chatt-Town Staycation:* Mayor's Mansion stay & local entertainment
- Student Development Basket:* certificates and UTC swag
- At Your Service Basket:* housecleaning, oil changes, & more
- Pamper Yourself Basket:* spa treatments & goodies galore
- Gatlinburg Getaway:* cabin rental & local attractions
- Many more basket items for auction. Come out & support us.



October 2011:
Disability Awareness Month

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Multicultural Luncheon	Adopt-A-Disability		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Author's Corner: James Cartee III			Permit to Empower		Go FEST!
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Everything You Wanted to Know...		11th Annual Chattanooga Area Disability Awards		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		HCDE Transition Symposium	Movie Night: Temple Grandin	Brown Bag Series & ILL-Abilities		
30	31					
	Open House					

<p>10/5 Multicultural Luncheon Co-Sponsored with OMA Chattanooga Rooms</p> <p>10/6 Adopt-A-Disability Simulation Debriefing UC- Ocoee Room 3-4pm</p> <p>10/10 Author's Corner: Speaker James Cartee III UC- Raccoon Mtn. Room 4-5pm</p> <p>10/13 Permit to Empower Co-Sponsor: Student Empowerment Association Access beyond the parking spot: Informational on types of disabilities, accommodations, FAQs Cardiac Hill 11-2pm</p> <p>10/15 Go Fest! Chattanooga celebrates the 7th annual event for GoFest! Visitors of all abilities will go wild for a free day at Warner Park Zoo 10-2pm</p> <p>10/18 Everything you Wanted to Know BUT Afraid to ASK Co-Sponsor: S.E.A., B..S.A., and OMA Multicultural Office 7-8:30pm</p>	<p>10/26 Movie Night: Temple Grandin Co-Sponsor with Women's Center. Discussion will follow. Multicultural Office 7-8:30pm</p> <p>10/27 Brown Bag Lecture Series: <i>Can you repeat that? Strategies for working with students populations who are deaf</i> UC- Ocoee Room 12-1pm</p> <p>10/27 Access & Diversity Lecture: ILL Abilities This is an international breakdance crew comprised of dancers who may be perceived as having physical limitations in some way.</p> <p>10/31 OSD Open House & Documentary Viewing: Greece& Italy Frist Hall 2-3pm</p> <p>11/10 4th Annual Silent Auction Proceeds given to support study abroad trips and MoSAIC programs UC Gallery 11-5 pm</p>
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****If you need accommodations, please contact OSD prior to the event at 425-4006 V/TTY****

How can OSD be of service?



If you find yourself wondering how OSD can help you, here are some services we offer for the UTC campus community:

- Host workshops on specific disability populations and overview of accommodations. We can attend departmental meetings as well
- Consult on how best to approach accommodations for students
- Provide templates on how to create a course that incorporates Universal Design for Instruction. For more information:
<http://www.washington.edu/doi/Brochures/Academics/instruction.html>
- Identify and report physical barriers on campus that impede travel for students with disabilities. To report a barrier, email michelle-rigler@utc.edu or to learn about barriers follow us on Facebook—UTC OSD.
- Conduct trainings on adaptive technology software (Dragon Naturally Speaking, ZoomText, JAWS, Kurzweil).
- Serve as a liaison to different community agencies such as the Mayor's Council on Disabilities & Partnership: Deaf Services
- Caption media films for your classes including VHS, DVD, and Youtube videos. We also provide training to caption your OWN Videos
- Serve as a resource for current practices and accommodations to best serve the UTC students on campus. Visit www.utc.edu/osd for more resources



We are here to help address your concerns or questions related to disability issues. Contact us at 425-4006 to setup any of the following services.

MOVIE NIGHT:



Golden Globe(R)-winning actress Claire Danes shines in this fact-based story of an autistic woman who became an unlikely hero to America's cattle industry--and to autistic people everywhere.

- **Starring:** Claire Danes, Catherine O'Hara

COME OUT to watch the movie at Women's Center.

We will discuss key points from the film afterwards. If you are interested in learning more on Autism Spectrum Disorders contact us at 425-4006 to learn more about MoSAIC.

Upcoming BROWN BAG SERIES:

Can you repeat that? Strategies for working with Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing?

Have you wondered how to better engage your students who have difficulty hearing? This is the workshop for you. Leslie Harms will present on best practices for teaching students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Have you asked can I show movies? Can the student work in groups? How will I communicate with the student? All of these questions will be answered. Plan to bring your lunch and join us for an hour.

October 27th at 12-1pm in UC– Ocoee Room

Legal Corner: ADAAA, what has changed?



The ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) was enacted on September 25, 2008, and became effective on January 1, 2009. The law made a number of significant changes to the definition of “disability” under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The changes that go along with this law take the country back to what the ADA intended in the beginning which is protecting individual with disabilities from discrimination. The ADAAA re-introduces us to the Spirit of the ADA. A brief introduction to the changes are as follows:

In enacting the ADAAA, Congress made it easier for an individual seeking protection under the ADA to establish that he or she has a disability within the meaning of the statute. It is mandated that the definition of disability be construed broadly:

- **The term “substantially limits” requires a lower degree of functional limitation than the standard previously applied by the courts** . An impairment does not need to prevent or severely or significantly restrict a major life activity to be considered “substantially limiting.” Nonetheless, not every impairment will constitute a disability.
- **The term “substantially limits” is to be construed broadly** in favor of expansive coverage, to the maximum extent permitted by the terms of the ADA.
- The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity shall be made **without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures**, such as medication or hearing aids.
- **An impairment that is episodic or in remission is a disability** if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.
- In keeping with Congress’s direction that the primary focus of the ADA is on whether discrimination occurred, **the determination of disability should not require extensive analysis**.

The regulations also make it easier for individuals to establish coverage under the “regarded as” part of the definition of disability. If you would like further information about the changes to the ADA or how it may impact our college campus, please feel free to contact OSD at 425-4006 or email.

Learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorders

Identifying and Managing Asperger's In and Out of the Classroom

Wednesday, October 12 ~ 3:00-4:30pm EDT
UC Ocoee Room

Contact OSD at 425-4006 for more information.
Webinar is hosted by Innovator Educators

