

# Disability Awareness Day

## "Did you know?"

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Hosted by the Owls Supporting Diversity club



Join Us!

Thursday, October 23rd

FAU Boca campus, Free Speech Lawn from 10 -2

There will be games, giveaways, and important  
information about various disabilities.

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# Conference WORKBOOK



Guiding Youth  
Toward A  
Brighter Future

*For students with disabilities,  
their families and support providers.*

Saturday, February 7, 2009 • John I. Leonard High School

## The S.T.A.R.S. CONFERENCE 2009

### Workshops

*Students are encouraged to attend any workshop, unless otherwise noted.*

**SESSION 1...9:40a.m. – 10:40a.m.....**

#### Pathways to Public Transportation

**Gloria Galloway, Palm Tran Connection**

Complete information on available transportation options, and to assist potential new riders with services ranging from travel training for users of fixed bus routes to completing the eligibility application process.

**24 MAX**

#### Work Works - Pam Heyer, Jose Pinto, The ARC of Palm Beach County

This presentation focuses on the value of employment for students transitioning from high school. Various employment options will be discussed including competitive employment, customized employment and self employment. Our micro-enterprise program will be highlighted.

**24 MAX**

#### Transitioning to Post-Secondary Education

**Lynn Gill, Michelle Shaw**

**Florida Atlantic University, Office for Students with Disabilities**

Provides information on transition to a college setting. Discusses legal differences between service provision in high school and college, available services, and the process for obtaining services. SAT/ACT accommodations and strategies for ensuring a smooth transition will also be discussed.

**30 MAX**

#### A PATH to the Future

**Marilyn A. Schiavo**

**The School District of Palm Beach County Department of Exceptional Student Education**

A visual means to developing post-secondary goals for students with disabilities and their families.

**24 MAX**

#### SSI/SSDI Work Incentives – Understanding Your Benefits and Planning for Work

**Angie Hoffman**

**Brevard Achievement Center**

Gain a better understanding of Social Security Disability benefits and the work incentives available. Find out what impact working will have on SSDI/Medicare and SSI/Medicaid benefits.

**24 MAX**

#### Legal Aspects of Turning 18

**Genevieve Cousminer, Esq., CIO**

Includes issues such as guardianship, financial planning, special needs trusts, eligibility for adult service agencies (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Social Security, etc.) and other issues to consider when youth transition from childhood to adulthood.

**30 MAX**

#### Writing Effective Transition Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)

**Gerald M. Evans, Jennifer Lesh**

**The School District of Palm Beach County Department of Exceptional Student Education**

IEPs should contain a statement of the student's desired post-school outcome, transition services needs and instruction in the area of self determination. This workshop will include technical assistance on developing appropriate and effective IEPs.

**30 MAX**

February 20, 2009

Michelle Shaw  
Florida Atlantic University

Dear Ms. Shaw,

Thank you for presenting the workshop entitled, "Transitioning to Post-Secondary Education". Enclosed is a certificate of appreciation.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual S.T.A.R.S. (Start Transition And Realize Success) Conference was great success. Over 350 students, families and professionals attended the conference. Your participation was a big part of making this year's conferences a success. The conference featured over 30 workshops. These workshops were informative and important to students, families and professionals involved in transition planning. Students, families and professional in Palm Beach County are now better informed and prepared to plan for transition and achieve their dreams.

We appreciate your participation in the S.T.A.R.S. Conference.

Sincerely,



Al Flores  
Youth Transition Coordinator

**Florida Atlantic University**  
**Owls Supporting Diversity (OSD) Club**  
**2008- 2009 Overview**

**Mission of the Owls Supporting Diversity (OSD) Club:** To transform the public perception of people with disabilities, to show that all students have an impact on campus and community issues, and to promote equality for all individuals. The **mission of the OSD Club** will be fulfilled by planning social events, service projects, and fund raisers. The club meetings are every other week. The OSD Club has been active since Fall 2007 and continues to grow in membership and program participation.

Club activities this year include:

- August 6, 2008 - Provided FAU tour for students from Miami Lighthouse for the Blind
- August 27, 2008 - Breezeway event for Visual Impairments awareness featuring "Peggy" the service puppy in training Southeast Guide Dog.
- September 10, 2008 - Breezeway event for Deaf/Hard of Hearing awareness.
- September 27, 2008 - Club members raised funds and walked in FAU Heart Walk
- October 23, 2008 - Participated in National Disability Awareness Day event
- November 5, 2008 - Breezeway event for Epilepsy awareness
- November 6, 2008 - Decorated golf cart and participated in Homecoming Parade
- December 8, 2008 - Held "Food for Finals" Pizza Social
- January 14, 2009 - Participated in Spring semester Club Fest
- January 31, 2009 - Club members raised funds and walked in Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Walk
- February 4, 2009 - Participated in Black History Month activities with Breezeway event "Disability Does Not Discriminate"
- February 25, 2009 - Fund raising Book Sale on Breezeway
- March 5, 2009 - Members attended a Boca Raton Advisory Board for People with Disabilities (the Board advises City of Boca Raton mayor and city council) meeting and provided information to the Board about the OSD club
- March 18, 2009 - Hosted presentation by AmeriCorps "Opportunities for People with Disabilities"
- March 21, 2009 - Attended Boca Raton Advisory Board for People with Disabilities' Boating & Beach Bash Extravaganza, social outing for club and showed support for the Board's initiative
- March 24, 2009 - Participated FAU Women's History Month activities with Breezeway event "Helen Keller and Harriet Tubman - Influential woman in history with disabilities"
- March 25, 2009 - Participated in FAU Carnival of Majors to promote club membership
- March 27, 2009 - Club members raised funds and walked in FAU Relay For Life cancer walk
- April 2, 2009 - Presented at "Let's Get Engaged" civic engagement event and provided Autism Awareness
- April 6-10, 2009 - Collaborated with Volunteer Florida & Boca Helping Hands for Project Impact Food Drive
- April 14, 2009 - Sponsored FAU OSD Volunteer Banquet and members volunteered time to help prepare for the banquet
- April 22, 2009 - Earth Day Book Sale fund raiser
- April 27, 2009- SDA Leadership Banquet
  - Award for most spirited student organization

- April 29, 2009 - Sponsoring "Food for Finals" social event
- May 1, 2009- Bowling social event

### Outreach at Jupiter Campus March 16, 2009

On March 16, 2009, Boca OSD staff collaborated with the Assistant Director of Diversity Student Services at the Jupiter campus to provide a presentation to the consultants of the University Center for Excellence in Writing (UCEW). Participants included upper division Honors College students serving as writing consultants for the UCEW. The presentation included a discussion of strategies for working with students with various types of disabilities. Each participant was provided with a packet that included OSD brochures for each type of disability, a sample Letter of Notification, and a tip sheet for working with students with disabilities. Following the presentation, the writing consultants received a demonstration of Assistive Technology by the AT coordinator, and a tour of the OSD testing facilities at the Jupiter campus.



Career Development Services and Diversity Student Services cordially invite you to

De-stress, Relax, Unwind, & Find Calm  
at our Stress Release Workshop

Wednesday, April 15, 3 p.m.-4 p.m.  
SR 108

For more information, contact Dr. Jackie Kern, [jkern@fau.edu](mailto:jkern@fau.edu) or 6-8585



# Faculty Senate Presentation

Friday, November 7, 2008

**Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**

**Student Support Service Building (SU) Room 133**

**(561) 297-3880    <http://osd.fau.edu>**

**Presenters: Nicole Rokos – Director, Lynn Gil – Assistant Director, and  
Stuart Buckley – Coordinator of Assistive Technology**

## **OSD**

### Boca OSD Information

- Previously located in Library
- New location as of March 2004 in SU building
- 5 testing rooms, small conference room, and Assistive Technology (AT) lab
- Office hours Monday-Thursday 8 to 6 and Friday 8 to 5

### Other OSD Offices

- Offices also on Davie and Jupiter campuses
- OSD services available on all campuses

### Mission of OSD

- Provide equal access to education, NOT unfair advantage
- Ensure accommodations are provided
- Eliminate barriers to physical accessibility on all FAU campuses

### Services Provided by OSD

- Provide guidance to students regarding disability issues, we are not academic advisors
- Obtain documentation from students who want to register with OSD
- Evaluate documentation and determine appropriate accommodations
- Provide secure exam environment - all testing rooms are monitored by recorded closed circuit video system and students are not permitted to bring additional items into testing rooms (e.g., purses, backpacks, cell phones, papers, books)

### Types of Disabilities

- Asperger's Syndrome/High Functioning Autism
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing
- Learning Disabilities
- Medical Disabilities
- Physical Impairments
- Psychological Disabilities
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairments

## **Faculty**

### **How Faculty Assist in the Accommodation Process**

- Receive official notification of eligibility in an OSD Letter of Notification (LON) presented by the student
- Return signed LON to OSD or give to student to return to OSD
- Provide accommodations (e.g., lecture notes, exam adaptations)
- Professors are asked to provide specific students with class lecture notes by one of the following means:
  1. Solicit volunteer notetaker from the class by reading the announcement included with the Letter of Notification OR
  2. Appoint a student in the class to serve as a notetaker OR
  3. Provide a copy of own lecture notes
- Can provide own exam accommodation but must ensure the test environment is distraction reduced – no ringing phones, no people talking in the background; and allow the student to stay in same room for the entire test
- Can utilize OSD testing center
  1. Students complete Sections A and B on OSD Testing Accommodations Form (TAF)
  2. OSD staff will deliver TAF to professor's department
  3. Professor should complete Sections C and D on TAF and return it along with the exam to OSD
  4. Professor indicates on TAF if he/she will pick up exam or would like OSD to return it
- OSD relies on contact information provided by professors on signed LONs and completed TAFs
- Include suggested statement on course syllabus  
"In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca - SU 133 (561.297.3880), in Davie - MOD I (954.236.1222), in Jupiter - SR 117 (561.799.8585), or at Treasure Coast - CO 128 (772.873.3305), and follow all OSD procedures."
- Refer students to OSD

### **Faculty Resources**

- OSD Faculty Guide brochure
- OSD brochures for specific disabilities
- Consult with OSD counselors
- OSD staff available for presentations to departments and/or classes

### **Faculty Responsibility**

- Require same academic standards
- Provide only those accommodations approved by OSD unless available for all students

## **Assistive Technology**

### **Assistive Technology (AT) Lab Available for Students**

- Accessible hardware and software to meet students' educational needs
- Environment conducive to learning
- Conversion of printed course materials into alternative text for students with visual impairments, blindness, dyslexia, visual processing deficits, and other cognitive impairments
- Other audio solutions – Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic and electronic versions of textbooks from publishers
- Speech recognition software that produces written text from dictated speech for students with dysgraphia and motor impairments
- Braille embossing and tactile graphics for blind students

### **Training**

- Personalized training available to students with disabilities in all areas of assistive technology
- AT Lab demonstrations available to departments and/or classes
- Learning strategy training available to help students optimize their organizational and study skills to aid academic success

# **University Diversity Committee Presentation**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2009**

**Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) - Division of Student Affairs**

**Student Support Service Building (SU) Room 133**

**(561) 297-3880    <http://osd.fau.edu>**

**Presenters: Nicole Rokos – Director and  
Stuart Buckley – Coordinator of Assistive Technology**

## **OSD Information**

- Previously located in Library - new location as of March 2004 in SU building
- Individual testing rooms, Accessible Kitchen, and Assistive Technology (AT) lab
- Offices on Davie and Jupiter campuses; OSD services available on all campuses

## **Mission of OSD**

- Provide equal access to education, NOT unfair advantage
- Ensure accommodations are provided
- Eliminate barriers to physical accessibility on all FAU campuses
- Provide consultative services to faculty and staff
- Foster student self advocacy and development of independent learning skills

## **Initiating OSD Services**

- Registration with OSD is not automatic
- Student must submit OSD application and documentation
- Student and OSD counselor collaborate to determine appropriate accommodations

## **Types of Disabilities**

- Asperger's Syndrome/High Functioning Autism
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing
- Learning Disabilities e.g., dyslexia (reading), dysgraphia (writing), dyscalculia (math)
- Medical Disabilities e.g., cancer, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, sickle cell
- Physical Impairments e.g., spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, carpal tunnel
- Psychological Disabilities e.g., depression, anxiety, bipolar, PTSD, schizophrenia
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairments e.g., reduced visual field, low vision, blindness

## **Types of Accommodations**

- Advocacy
- Professor notification
- Notetakers
- Exam adaptations
- Sign language interpreters / Real-time captionists
- Assistive Technology
- Textbooks in audio format
- Study strategy instruction
- CLAST waivers / Substitutions for Foreign Language and Math requirements

### **Assistive Technology (AT) Lab**

- Accessible hardware and software to meet students' educational needs and prepare them for future independence
- JAWS - Software that provides verbal feedback allowing user to operate the computer and listen to text on the screen
- Zoomtext - Software that enlarges elements on the screen
- CCTV - Allows a user to enlarge printed materials and objects
- Kurzweil – Software that converts printed materials/books into audio files
- Dragon Naturally Speaking - Speech recognition software that produces written text from dictated speech
- Braille embosser that produces tactile graphics
- Personalized training available to students with disabilities in all areas of AT
- AT Lab demonstrations available to departments and/or classes

### **Demographics of OSD students**

- 565 students currently enrolled with OSD
- Range in age from 17 to 72
- 67% are age 20 to 29, n=379
- 43% have Learning Disability or Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, n=243
- 32% have medical or psychological disability, n=32
- 16% have physical impairments, n=92
- 6% have visual impairments, n=32
- 3% are deaf or hard of hearing, n=17
- Academic status ranges from freshman to graduate student
- 52% are juniors or seniors
- Majors distributed among all colleges
- Elementary Education, Psychology, Communications are most prevalent majors
- 6 year graduation rate = 53%
- 110+ students graduate yearly

### **Concerns of OSD students**

- FAU website inaccessible
- FAU general computer labs inaccessible
- Campus climate is accepting, but often no consideration in event planning
- Construction dumpster placed on disabled parking spaces
- Accessible restroom stalls are frequented by non-disabled
- Skateboards and golf carts are moving vehicle hazards
- Sidewalk hazards
- Course formats that are inaccessible
- Professors' reluctance to provide accommodations
- Wheelchair accessible desks in classrooms used as podiums by professors
- Elimination of trays in Marketplace cafeteria

### **Open Discussion**

- Questions & Answers

## OSD Conference 2008 - Session Schedule

0815 - 0900 hrs Registration SU 132

0930 - 1030 hrs Conference Welcome and Ice Breaker SU 132  
Lunch 132

1030 - 1130 hrs Registration SU 132

1130 - 1230 hrs Lunch SU 132

1230 - 1330 hrs Lunch SU 132

1330 - 1430 hrs Lunch SU 132

1430 - 1530 hrs Lunch SU 132

1530 - 1630 hrs Lunch SU 132

1630 - 1730 hrs Lunch SU 132

**Multiple  
University  
Crossroads**  
OSD 2008

**July 18, 2008  
Boca Raton, Florida, USA  
The Student Support Services  
Building**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> OSD Annual Conference**  
**Program of Events**

## OSD Conference 2008 – Session Schedule

8:45 – 9:00 am	<b>Registration</b>	SU 132
9:00 – 9:30 am	<b>Conference Welcome and Ice Breaker</b> <i>Famous Pairs</i>	SU 132
9:35 – 10:00 am	<b>Presentation:</b> Jamie <i>Creating Inclusive Learning Environments for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students through Universal Design</i>	SU 113
10:00 – 10:25 am	<b>Presentation:</b> Stuart <i>Introduction to Web Accessibility</i>	SU 113
10:30 – 10:45 am	<b>Break:</b> Snacks, Coffee and Tea	SU 132
10:45 – 11:00 am	<b>Disability Awareness Game:</b> TTY	SU 132
11:00 – 11:25 am	<b>Presentation:</b> Lynn, Jim and Jackie <i>OSD files and confidentiality as it relates to FERPA</i>	SU 132
11:30 – 12:10 am	<b>Vendor Presentation</b> <i>Florida Reading and Vision Technology</i>	SU 113
12:15 – 2:00 pm	<b>Lunch and a movie</b> <i>Autism: The Musical</i>	Majestic Palm Room A
2:05 – 2:30 pm	<b>Presentation:</b> Michelle and Jill <i>Are you in your "right" mind?</i>	SU 113
2:30 – 3:00 pm	<b>Disability Awareness Game:</b> Disability Bingo	SU 113
3:05 – 3:30 pm	<b>Presentation:</b> Barbara <i>Asperger's Syndrome unraveled: Applied strategies for successful integration into campus life</i>	SU 132
3:30 – 3:55 pm	<b>Presentation:</b> Amy <i>Assisting the Emotionally troubled Student</i>	SU 132
3:55 – 4:00 pm	<b>Complete Evaluations</b>	SU 132

## OSD Conference 2008 – Attendee Roster

**Ahumada, Sharon**

Program Assistant, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Davie Campus  
[sahaumada@fau.edu](mailto:sahaumada@fau.edu)

**Aranda, Jamie**

Coordinator of Interpreting Services, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[jaranda4@fau.edu](mailto:jaranda4@fau.edu)

**Bazinsky, Barbara**

Coordinator, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[bbazinsk@fau.edu](mailto:bbazinsk@fau.edu)

**Brondolo, Jill**

Learning Specialist, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[jbrondol@fau.edu](mailto:jbrondol@fau.edu)

**Brown, Charles**

Vice President, Student Affairs  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[clbrown@fau.edu](mailto:clbrown@fau.edu)

**Buckley, Stuart**

Assistive Technology Specialist, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[sbuckle@fau.edu](mailto:sbuckle@fau.edu)

**Chase, AJ**

Assistant Dean, Student Affairs  
Florida Atlantic University, Treasure Coast Campus  
[achase@fau.edu](mailto:achase@fau.edu)

**Contreras, Raquel**

Graduate Assistant, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Davie Campus

**Gil, Lynn**

Assistant Director, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[lgil@fau.edu](mailto:lgil@fau.edu)



**Hevenor, Melissa**

Practicum Student, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[mhevenor@fau.edu](mailto:mhevenor@fau.edu)

**Hicks, Dawn**

Director of Development, Stand Among Friends  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[dhicks@standamongfriends.org](mailto:dhicks@standamongfriends.org)

**Howard, Dawn**

Assistant Director of Career Development, Student Placement  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[Dhowar10@fau.edu](mailto:Dhowar10@fau.edu)

**Kern, Jacqueline (Jackie)**

Assistant Director, Diversity Student Services  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[jkern@fau.edu](mailto:jkern@fau.edu)

**Lyew, Glennis**

Office Administrator, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[glyew@fau.edu](mailto:glyew@fau.edu)

**Parker, Amy Schwartz**

Assistant Director, Davie Student Services  
Florida Atlantic University, Davie Campus  
[aschwart@fau.edu](mailto:aschwart@fau.edu)

**Patterson, Frando**

Director, Testing and Evaluation  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[fpatter2@fau.edu](mailto:fpatter2@fau.edu)

**Rokos, Nicole**

Director, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[nrokos@fau.edu](mailto:nrokos@fau.edu)

**Rowe, Edward (Ed)**

Assistant Director, Equal Opportunities Program  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[erowe@fau.edu](mailto:erowe@fau.edu)

**Shaw, Michelle**

Coordinator of Notetaking Services, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[mshaw@fau.edu](mailto:mshaw@fau.edu)

**Singer, Patricia (Patty)**

University Ombudsman, President's Office  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[patty@fau.edu](mailto:patty@fau.edu)

**Walborn, James (Jim)**

Communication Specialist, Office for Students with Disabilities  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Campus  
[jwalborn@fau.edu](mailto:jwalborn@fau.edu)