



# The Office of Accessibility Newsletter

Saying Goodbye to the Fall 2017 Semester

I hope that your fall 2017 semester was a successful one for you.  
A few quick reminders as we approach Finals Week:

- ◆ Take a deep breath, you can do this!
- ◆ If you are planning to use your testing accommodations for your finals, be sure to put in your test requests into STARS as soon as possible.
- ◆ If you need help putting in your requests, check out the tutorials available on the Office of Accessibility Home Page or you can stop into the Office of Accessibility anytime. The folks at the front desk can assist you in putting in your test requests
- ◆ Before you leave for Winter break be sure to have a schedule for the spring 2018 semester
- ◆ Once you have a schedule for the spring 2018, you can go into your STARS account and set up your Letters of Accommodation for your spring classes. As a reminder, all Letters of Accommodation for the spring 2018 semester will go out one week before the start of spring semester.
- ◆ Take time to enjoy the Season!

The staff in the Office of Accessibility wishes each of you the Best of the Holiday Season.

We are looking forward to continue working with each of you in the spring 2018 semester.

Kindest regards,

Kelly Kulick  
Director  
Office of Accessibility

## Important Dates

**Dec. 10, 2017**  
Final Instructional  
Day for Fall 2017  
classes

**Dec. 11-15, 2017**  
Finals Week

**Dec. 15-16, 2017**  
Fall 2017  
Commencement

**Dec. 25, 2017–  
Jan. 1, 2018**  
OA closed

**Jan. 15, 2018**  
Spring 2018  
classes begin

## Important Reminders:

**It's not too Early to Submit your Final Exam Schedule in STARS!** If you are planning to use your testing accommodations for final exams, make sure to submit your test requests **as soon as possible**. Space is extremely limited; it is critical that you put in your exam requests immediately!

- Remember to schedule any finals to be taken in the Office of Accessibility or the Counseling and Testing Center through STARS at least **4 business days** in advance.

**Don't Forget to Register for Spring 2018 Classes!** Registration for Spring 2018 classes has begun. Don't forget to register for classes if you have not already done so. If you need assistance, schedule a meeting with your Academic Advisor for help and questions about your Spring 2018 schedule.

Once you have scheduled classes for Spring 2018, **don't forget to request your accommodations** online through [STARS!](#)

## Disabilities Awareness Week 2017

October 30st—November 3rd was our annual Disabilities Awareness Week celebration, and it was an amazing success! We had **1654** participants, a record number for the week's events! We appreciate all of your support as we promoted campus-wide access and awareness for students with disabilities.

### Monday- Photo Booth With Zippy

The Photo booth, presented by FaceBooth, was an open booth where participants could come get their pictures taken with various props, and Disabilities Awareness Quotes in the Student Union. Throughout the event, 207 people, including students, faculty, staff and administrators stopped by to get their pictures taken. Anyone who participated went home with a 4-picture photo strip that read "Disabilities Awareness Week" at the bottom and had the opportunities to learn more about the Office of Accessibility. Participants were encouraged to share their photos via social media as well.

### Tuesday- "Web Accessibility " and "Spread the Word to End the Word: R-Word" Campaign

**Web Accessibility-** This event was a presentation by Tammy Stitz (Associate Professor and Applied Science Librarian – University of Akron) and Shelly Blundell (Assistant Professor of Journalism – Youngstown State University). The presentation was geared towards faculty and staff and took place in the Science and Engineering Technology Library. There were **6 participants** and Tammy and Shelly spoke about topics of accessibility in Universal Design, common accessibility PDF programs, evaluating web pages, and more.

**Spread the Word to End the Word: R-Word-** This event is part of a campaign asking people to pledge to discontinue the use of the "R-word" in everyday language. The goal of the campaign is also to promote attitudes of acceptance and use of language that is respectful. Anyone who stopped by the table in the Student Union had the opportunity to sign the pledge banner (which now hangs in the lobby of the OA) and complete an online pledge. A total of 260 people pledged and signed the banner at the event and several more stopped in to the OA to add their names to the banner later.

### Wednesday – Accessibility for the Human/Computer Interface and Comedian: Matt Glowacki

**Accessibility for the Human/Computer Interface-** This event was a presentation by Professor Yingcai Xiao (Computer Science). The presentation was marketed for faculty, staff, and students and there were **8 participants**. The presentation was given in one of the Library Learning students. Tom held a hands- on session that explored the newest technology for accessibility that is appearing in today's world. He did a demonstration of shoes for people who are blind, google accessibility features, and several other accessibility features that are now on most new computers.

#### **Comedian: Matt Glowacki**

In partnership with Residence Life and Housing, Matt Glowacki a comedian from Wisconsin was asked to return to the University of Akron for a show. He has a few shows in years prior and he was such a big hit with students and staff that he was asked to return. There were **221 people** in the audience at the Student Union Movie Theater. Matt's goal is to teach students across college campuses on how to find happiness, develop a better understanding of social justice and diversity, and how to see potential in themselves and overcome personal disabilities and challenges. Matt taught these lessons through using humor and different YouTube clips from sitcoms.

### Thursday – Disability 101 and "When I Stutter," a documentary film

#### **Disability 101**

Melissa Simmons (Disability Specialist and Service Coordinator) from the Office of Accessibility held a presentation marketed towards students/faculty/staff regarding the role of the Office of Accessibility on campus. Melissa touched base on the different disabilities, the law that the office is covered under, the process of students getting registered with the office, and disability etiquette. Overall, there were **12 participants**, and lots of great questions!



### **Thursday - “When I Stutter,” a documentary film** (continued from pg. 2)

WHEN I STUTTER, directed by John Gomez, is a documentary that reveals the humanity that exists within an often mysterious malady. Over the course of 4.5 years, 19 people shared stories about how stuttering has impacted their lives. These stories run the gamut of human emotion... Some are dark, some are funny and others are triumphant. The film also contains some educational scenes to help illuminate some of the mysteries surrounding stuttering. A Q&A session with UA Professor, Dr. Scott Palasic, featured in the film, followed the documentary. 54 people, including students, parents and staff members attended this event.

### **Friday - “Destress with Dogs” a visit from the WagTime Therapy Dogs**

Rounding out the week, the WagTime Therapy Dogs came to campus to help students “destress” and raise awareness about mental health and self-care. WagTime Therapy Dogs are a group of therapy dogs that see patients at Akron City Hospital. They undergo intense training. The event was from 10-2 p.m. Students and other campus constituents had an opportunity to go to Bierce Library to “destress and pet the dogs, while also learning about other “decompressing” techniques. The trainers also gave information to students on the benefits of therapy dogs, the training rituals, and dog business cards. This event was the biggest hit of the week; the OA saw **534 people** participate.



All events provided the opportunity for participants to learn more about the Office of Accessibility and all were welcome to have an “I Stand For Access For All” wristband and/ or OA pen or pencil.

We hope you were able to attend at least one of these events this year!

If you have any ideas for future Disabilities Awareness Week events, please contact our office; we would love to have more student involvement!

## **Prepare for Finals Week**

Here are 6 tips to help you prepare for finals week:

- 1. Verify the details**—Know your exam schedule in advance. To view your exam schedule:
  - Log in to My Akron
  - Click on Student Center
  - In the Academics section, select Exam Schedule from the drop down list and click the forward button. If it is available, it will be displayed. Confirm this schedule with your instructors.
- 2. Get some sleep**—Do not pull an all nighter. Make sure you get a lot of rest while studying and a good night’s sleep the night before an exam.
- 3. Stay active**—Exercise boosts blood flow to the brain, and sitting in one place for an extended period of time can lead to a tired, ill-supplied mind.
- 4. Eat well**—Eat foods that are digested slowly: whole grains, fresh vegetables, and lean proteins. A little planning can go a long way as you head into finals week. Before a final, be sure to eat a meal that is high in protein.
- 5. Experiment with different methods of studying**—One way of studying may not be efficient to retain so much information. Try switching subjects to study, study in groups, do practice exercises, study your notes, etc. Switch it up.

## Important Items to Consider:

### Requesting accommodations:

- ◆ Once you have finalized your class schedule for the spring, make sure to also request your accommodations on STARS.
  1. Log into STARS
  2. Scroll down to “Select Accommodations for Your Class”
  3. Select classes you are requesting accommodations and click “Step 2-Continue to Customize your Accommodations”
  4. Select the accommodations you would like to request for each class and the checkbox to email the accommodation letter to your instructor
  5. Select “Submit your Accommodation Request”
- ◆ Transcribers/CART or interpreter accommodation requests should be submitted at least **six weeks prior** to the beginning of the semester.
- ◆ If you are requesting notetakers, please remember to only request the notetaking accommodation for classes in which you will need notetakers. **This does not include classes like labs, recitations, gym classes, or online classes.** If you have any questions about which classes to request notetakers, please contact your Disability Specialist.

### Testing in the Office of Accessibility and Counseling Center:

- ◆ If you have an alternative testing accommodation, please remember to schedule your test at least **4 business days** prior to the day you would like to take the test. Tests can be scheduled through the STARS website, <https://andes.accessiblelearning.com/Akron/> under the Alternative Testing tab. Bring your Student ID with you for each test. Remember to schedule early due to the high volume of testing requests during finals week!

### Inclement Weather may be fast approaching:

In the event of inclement weather, The University of Akron grounds crew works to clear the necessary paths around campus of snow and ice. While their top priorities are clearing accessible ramps and building entrances, please know that if there is heavy snowfall, it can be difficult to keep up with snow accumulation. In the event that you are not able to access a particular place on campus, please call the UAPD Dispatch line to report the issue at 330-972-7415.



## Suggestion Box

We want your feedback!

Email [ooaga1@uakron.edu](mailto:ooaga1@uakron.edu) with comments about the current newsletter or ideas you would like to see in future newsletters.

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Simmons Hall at The University of Akron