

COMMUNIQUE

L.A. Pittenger Student Center Rm. 116 • Ball State University • 2020-2021, #2

Wrapping up another year in Disability Services

Navigating through yet another semester in a global pandemic, the Office of Disability Services continues to support approximately 1,427 registered students. Alongside that number, Disability Services also saw record numbers of students beginning the process of getting registered. It was a challenge to serve that many students, but the staff in the DS office persevered.

Director Courtney Jarrett and Assistant Director James Marconi took a moment to reflect on this semester. Dr. Jarrett reflected on how proud she is of the students we work with. “Not only were our students working through a pandemic but academically these students have shown time and time again the grit they have.” Jarrett said. “Through collaboration, our office was able to create best practices on how to support our rising student population. We were able to conquer some pretty significant challenges by ourselves, so I am really proud of everyone who has worked in the office this year.” James Marconi took a moment to reflect on how the pandemic highlighted areas of improvement campus wide. “The pandemic exposed areas of need. This monumental moment provided the university a unique opportunity to make bright and positive changes going forward!”

The Office of Disability Services was fortunate enough to have two amazing practicum students during this spring semester. London Blocker and Huy Huynh joined the office staff from the Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education Master’s (SAAHE) program. With their additional assistance, DS was able to provide rapid support despite the increase in student population. Creating new ways to stay virtually connected, London revamped our social media channels and created a guide for our office going forward. Because of London, our social media interaction has gone up by 300%!

Huy completed a lengthy external review of our office policies, protocols, and procedures. He used the CAS standards and guidelines from AHEAD, our national organization to conduct this research. This report was presented to T.J. Brecciaroli, BSU Dean of Students, to share our office’s strengths and areas of opportunity for the future.



Staff from the DS office enjoying a celebratory lunch at the end of Finals Week in May.

Graduate Assistant Victoria Bartunek took a moment to reflect on this past year after navigating a global pandemic, civil unrest, and balancing graduate school. After taking three years off, Victoria was ready to reenter academia and pursue her masters. “Working with student with disabilities in undergrad and in K-12 schools as a substitute teacher in California, I knew SAAHE and this assistantship would blend flawlessly. I felt excited to take on this new role and I gained so many skills from the Office of Disability Services. I know wherever the wind takes me next I will be successful in the work I do.”

This semester, Administrative Coordinator Sharon Harper celebrated her 17th year working for the Office of Disability Services. Sharon was nominated and then selected as the winner of the 2021 Meritorious Service Award for the Ball State University Division of Student Affairs. Sharon’s impactful dedication to serving BSU does not go unnoticed, both in the office and on campus.

We take pride in the work we do and owe much of our success to the constant support from our community. In annual tradition, Disability Services staff were able to host our yearly award show, albeit in a virtual fashion for the first time ever. Over 100 attendees joined the ceremony on Zoom and the celebration was filled with laughter and love. Details about this year’s awardees can be found in the following stories.

Access Awards

Everyone on campus, not just the Disability Services office, is responsible for providing access and services for students with disabilities. When DS staff meet with students on pre-admission visits, the students are made aware that disability access is a priority here and that faculty and staff members work diligently to accommodate students with disabilities. Each year DS staff present Access Awards to members of the Ball State community who go above and beyond in providing access.



T.J. Brecciaroli is the Dean of Students at BSU. He is a key component of the work of our office. As he often deals with students in crisis in his role, he is consistently referring students to our office, among others. He is also always making sure other entities understand our role on campus & advocates for our office whenever necessary.

and instrumental in bringing a new process to reward faculty for accessibility.



Shannon Dieringer is the Department Chair of Special Education. Students with disabilities often take Special Education classes at BSU and want to give back by working in special education as a career. Shannon is hands-on, making sure the classes and faculty operate smoothly. She also assists with the logistics of the Center for Autism which is very helpful for our office and autistic students on campus.



Mark Sanders is the Digital Assets Technician and is super helpful when it comes to all things video at BSU. Many faculty needed films shown in class to be converted to an online format this year. When those requests came through, Mark was quick to look for captions and work with faculty to have those appear if they already existed. He is always checking in with us and offering to assist with anything needed related to video production.



Sue Husted is an Instructional Consultant in the Division of Online and Strategic Learning. She is instrumental when it comes to accessibility for online courses at BSU. We greatly appreciate the time and energy Sue puts forth with DS office staff and faculty who need assistance with accommodations in Canvas. She has been super creative with solutions this year



Shantanu Suman is Assistant Professor of Art. He teaches Visual Communication and Graphic Design, including a course about accessibility. He invites experts to come and speak to his class about accessibility and then has students create projects about universal design. His students have worked with both DOMA & the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse, and go on to do work and graduate education specific to universal design.

Alliance for Disability Awareness (ADA) Concluding Note

Despite the challenges, our student group, Alliance for Disability Awareness (ADA) was able to pull off yet another successful semester. President Savannah Bassett will be concluding their time at BSU and wanted to take a moment and thank the ADA community. Savannah had this to share: “This semester truly challenged us when it came to developing ideas that would work in a remote environment, but we’d like to think that we succeeded. From meetings about mental health to Disability Awareness Month/Week to hosting a movie

night, we had as much of a blast planning as we did hosting. Having the opportunity to host a discussion panel on the film “Piss on Pity: We Will Ride” with the director/producer Peter Grosz and ADAPT photographer Thomas Olin was absolutely the highlight of the year.” As the 2021-22 executive board takes over, Disability Services staff would like to thank the past leaders who made a lasting impression and did everything they could to advocate and educate the BSU community on disability awareness.

Accessible Teacher Award

Disability Services solicits feedback from students each year about teachers who they believe have gone above and beyond to make their classes accessible. The faculty members who have won this award are some of Ball State's best and toughest. They don't make their classes easy for students; they make their classes accessible for students. Based on a nomination from Elizabeth Love, we have selected Carolyn Malone from History as the winner of the Accessible Teacher award. Here's an excerpt from Elizabeth's nomination:

Dr. Malone was always amazing with accommodations. At the beginning of the semester, I told her about my accommodations, and I never once had to remind her about my accommodations. If she was unsure of how to best meet an accommodation, she would talk to me personally to understand how she could best meet my needs. Although all of my professors have met my accommodations, I appreciate her efforts because she continued to check in with me throughout the semester to make sure that she was doing everything she could to help me succeed. Although I am fully



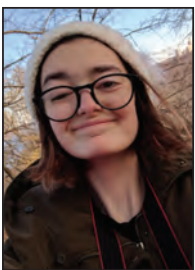
Carolyn Malone

capable of advocating for myself, it was always nice knowing that she remembered what I needed and continued to make an effort to check in and see what she could do to help. It baffles me that she somehow managed to teach hundreds of students a day back when I had her, and yet she made a consistent effort to help everyone succeed. She is one of the best professors I've ever had!

Dr. Malone had this to say about her nomination: "It is truly an honor to receive [the Accessible Teacher Award] today, it really really does mean a lot to me. I've been teaching here at Ball State for more years than I want to reveal because then you'd know how old I am, but I have to say, receiving this award is a real high point in a long teaching career."

Laura J. Kraska Awards

Disability Services once again has the honor of presenting the Laura J. Kraska awards. The Kraska family has provided a generous gift to Ball State in memory of Laura Kraska. Laura received her Bachelor's degree from Ball State in 1990 and her Master's degree in 1993 in Information & Communication Sciences. Laura had low vision and benefited greatly from the services provided by Disability Services. Each year students with visual impairments receive Kraska Awards. Students who have done well in the classroom and who have been active members of the Ball State community are selected.



Kayla Bethke is a junior from Watertown, WI. She has a 3.1 GPA and is majoring in Art. Her focus is Photography with a minor in Art History. This spring, Kayla was working on a long-term project about blind photography, learning how fully blind artists work in her field.



Lauren Woodrum is a senior from Indianapolis, IN. 2.9 GPA. She is an Elementary Education major and a Psychology minor. She has been a member of both Cru & Chi Alpha and also very involved in Housing & Residence Life on campus.



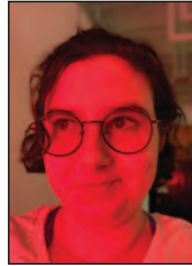
Erin Steitz is a senior from Greenwood, IN. She has a 3.7 GPA. Erin is a Speech Pathology & Audiology major with Business and French minors. She has helped foreign students wanting to improve their English by providing free lessons through English Enhancement Club and also volunteered through Student Voluntary Services.

Greg and Mary Beth Fehribach Awards

This is the 13th year that we will recognize students with awards named in recognition of BSU alum Greg Fehribach & his wife Mary Beth. They both are longtime supporters of DS both financially & in giving time to students. Greg is a prominent Indianapolis attorney whose expertise is accessibility issues. He serves as a Distinguished Fellow in the Office of Inclusive Excellence and was a key stakeholder in starting the internship program at Eskenazi Health. In selecting students to receive the Fehribach awards, we look for students who have done well in the classroom and who have furthered the cause of access and opportunity either through direct action and/or through their example. Five students received the award this year.



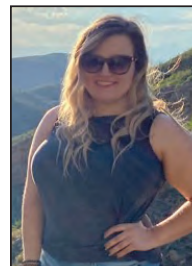
Bandith Carr is a sophomore from Carmel, IN. He is a Psychology major with a 4.0 GPA. He has served as an SGA representative since his freshman year and also worked as an entertainment news anchor for WCRD. Bandith is also involved in several student groups.



Anne Satre is a Senior from Batavia, IL. She has a 3.6 GPA and is an Art major, with specific focuses in Art History & Studio Art. In 2020, Anne took a class about art crime from Sotheby's. She has also previously worked as an instrument technician.



Elizabeth Love is a sophomore from Carmel, IN. She is a Public Relations major with a 3.68 GPA. Elizabeth has interned at Eskenazi Health and served as the secretary and social media coordinator for ADA. She also is a wheelchair basketball enthusiast.



Stephanie Winkleman is a Senior from Greenfield, IN. She is an Actuarial Science major with a 2.8 GPA. Stephanie has been active on campus with Phi Mu, Rho Lambda, Gamma Iota Sigma, Excellence in Leadership, Creative Minds, and Women in Business, just to name a few. She also completed her senior thesis, which was the 2021 SOA Student Research Case Study.



Tailer Forrest is a senior from Mishawaka, IN. She has a 3.59 GPA and is majoring in Social Work, with minors in Women's & Gender Studies, Multicultural Education, & Psychology. Tailer has volunteered with Cardinal Kitchen, NAMI, and A Better Way during her time at BSU.

Savannah Bassett: 2021 Gilmer-Adamson Award Recipient

Each year, the top student award given is the Max Adamson Award. The award is named after Max Adamson, a student who attended Ball State from 1976-1985 who was key in helping Ball State achieve the level of accessibility it has today. Although he passed years ago, his memory thrives in those who knew him. We are adding Dustin Gilmer's name to this award, because, like Max Adamson, Dustin worked tirelessly for accessibility. And while Dustin was known by many, he was also loved by all.

The Max Adamson Award is given annually to a student with a disability who excels academically, is involved on campus, and believes in creating access and opportunity for others. This year's award was presented to **Savannah Bassett**, a senior from Fort Wayne, IN. She is a Finance major with minors in Financial Planning & Leadership Studies.



Savannah is a member of Alpha Psi Omega and served as the 2020-2021 President of Alliance for Disability Awareness. She passionately served as an SGA representative and was chosen as an Emens Award Finalist, which is the top senior award for all of BSU. She had this to say when accepting her award: "I've very honored to get this award and I hope that I can live up to Dusty and Max, and be able to continue my fight for equality and opportunities I deserve and to advocate for people."

Savannah's future is so bright and she looks forward to her recently secured position at Charles Schwab.

Dustin Gilmer: Harris-Rose Outstanding Alumnus Recipient

Each year, Disability Services recognizes a Ball state alum with a disability who has been successful in their post Ball State endeavors by presenting them with the Outstanding Alumnus Award. The Harris-Rose award is named after Director Emeritus Richard Harris and former student Bruce Rose.

Originally, DS office staff asked the 2020 nominee to wait to be recognized until 2021 because we thought we could host something in person by this time. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. And tragically, our nominee lost his life in a car accident in August 2020. In spite of all these challenges, we posthumously recognize **Dustin Gilmer** as the Harris-Rose Outstanding Alumnus for 2021.

Dusty was a 2015 graduate of BSU with a degree in Journalism and Telecommunications. He was very involved in student media and the BSU Power Soccer club. He was a proud member of the 2018 BSU Power Soccer National Championship team. He was one of the first interns at Eskenazi Health which then led to him working at the Office of Disability Affairs for the City of Indianapolis.



Dustin Gilmer and his service dog, Carver

We wish he had been able to get the recognition in person, but we know he & Carver (his beloved service dog) are looking down on us and celebrating, as we did this spring. We were so pleased that some of his family could join us for the award presentation.

And, in order to keep Dusty's legacy going for years to come, the staff in the Office of Disability Services decided to rename our annual top senior award in his memory along with the original namesake Max Adamson.

Gilbert Award

The Adrienne Paige Gilbert Scholarship is given annually by Jeff and Kay Gilbert in memory of their daughter Adrienne Paige. Adrienne was born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta. In the four months she lived, her life touched all who knew her. The Gilberts offer the scholarship hoping that it will allow others with disabilities to further their education in honor of Adrienne. The winner for this award was **Caleb Posey**.



Caleb is a senior with a 2.8 GPA. He is majoring in Creative Writing with a minor in Screenwriting. Caleb has served in every executive board position for ADA, including Vice President this year. He is a previous Fehribach award winner and intern at Eskenazi Health.

Markle Award

This is the 3rd year that we will present a student with an award named in recognition of BSU alum and former director, Larry Markle, along with his family - wife Shana & son Quentin. Larry is still a tremendous supporter of Disability Services. He is now the director of the Fehribach Center at Eskenazi Health which provides paid internships for college students with physical disabilities.

In selecting a student to receive the Markle award, we look for a student who has done well in the classroom, supported



access in the BSU community and who has completed an internship through the IEEI program. The recipient of this award was **Emily Earle**.

Emily is a senior from Indianapolis, IN. She is an Elementary Education major with a 3.5 GPA. Emily has interned at the Fehribach Center at Eskenazi Health for several summers now. She also has volunteered with College Mentors for Kids.

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**Don't forget BSU's
Disability Services in your
giving plans.**

**Funds donated are used
for resources and
equipment to enhance
campus accessibility.**

**All Indiana taxpayers'
donations to BSU
Foundation - 8603
are a 50 percent tax credit
(a \$100 gift costs only \$50)!**

The DS Communique is published once a semester by the Office of Disability Services for the students, faculty, alumni, staff, and friends of Ball State University.

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If you are a BSU/DS alumni and have news you would like to share with the readers of this newsletter, please drop us a line or two about anything you'd like us to know, such as accomplishments, events, or milestones. Please notify us about a change in address as well.

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