

News for
the USCA
community
from the
Office of
Disability
Services

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USC AIKEN

ABILITY NEWS

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Spotlight on.....Ebony DeLoach

Ebony DeLoach is a Senior Sociology Major from Ridgeland, S.C. Ebony has been attending USC Aiken since January 2004 at which time



she transferred to USCA from USC Beaufort. While attending USC Beaufort, one of her professors suggested that she give USCA a chance as a place to further her education. After visiting here, Ebony made her mind up to come here and "the rest is history." Ebony likes USCA because it is a small campus and she gets "one on one" with the professors. She feels that her decision to come to our campus is "one of the best decisions I have ever made." When she graduates, Ebony hopes to work as a caseworker with people who have disabilities or to own her own business in which she would assist those persons with disabilities and advocate for them.

Ebony says she doesn't really see herself as having a disability. She just feels that she does things "a little different, sometimes." Ebony is quite independent and makes her way around the campus with few obstacles and has even been known to travel off-campus on her own, much to the surprise of those who know her. Just ask her about her trip to the dollar store to prove to herself that she could do it. Ebony has made many friends while attending USCA and she loves to go out to eat with them. Ebony's family lives in Ridgeland and they

visit her on occasion when Ebony is not busy with schoolwork or with her activities here on campus. Ebony lives in Pacer Commons and has two roommates.

Ebony enjoys the same things that other people her age enjoy. She loves to read for pleasure and relaxation. She also enjoys watching T.V., talking on the phone, spending time with family and friends, and shopping. She is the oldest of 4 children. Ebony relates that as a young child growing up her mother expected the same things out of Ebony that she expected of her brothers and sisters. She had chores, such as cleaning the bathroom, and she had to figure out how to "handle it." She is mature enough now to understand that her mother "did her a favor" for treating her the same as her siblings. She is grateful to her parents in all that they have done to make her the person she is today.

Ebony hopes that while she is here at USCA she can inspire others to "be all that they can be" and to "not let anything stop them from reaching their goals." When talking with Ebony it is evident that she has a passion for helping people who need help. She realizes that along the way many have helped her in her time of need so she wants to be able to give back to others. **Ebony DeLoach** is an unforgettable person and one who does exactly as her mission, "inspires others."



Congratulations to Our December Graduates

Disability Services is proud to announce that we had 5 students with disabilities to finish their degrees in December. One of the students was even a cum laude graduate.

We are very proud of the students who accomplished their goal. Also, we pay gratitude to the number of faculty/staff who worked with the students and were a part of the students' success.

Coming Soon: 'TWO THUMBS UP' Awards

Beginning this Fall, the Disability Services Office will recognize those faculty and staff members of USCA who have made a difference in the lives of students with disabilities here at USC Aiken.

Students will nominate those having an impact on their career while attending USCA. A selection committee will be comprised of students with disabilities, faculty and staff members.

Students will be identifying those who: have seized opportunities to change the perceptions of persons with disabilities; have facilitated the development of skills in leadership of students with disabilities; and have advocated for and encouraged student participation by those with disabilities. A reception will be held to honor those who receive this recognition.

Universal Design

What is universal design?

I am sure that most of you have heard of **UD** but there may be a few people who are not real familiar with **UD** concepts. **Universal Design** is the design of products and environments so that they are utilized by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for any special adaptations, modifications and/or special design.

How does UD affect USC Aiken?

For at least 30 years, colleges, universities and other post-secondary facilities have been mandated to remove barriers that students with disabilities often encounter in accessing programs and services. **UD** requires such institutions to explore issues of access and of inclusion so as not to create stigmatism, segregation and additional cost. Today, because of these mandates, most accessibility standards are addressed during the design phase rather than after the fact.

What does UD look like?

UD provides **equitable use**. For example: Physical: Curb cuts benefit wheelchair users, baby strollers, delivery carts and bicycles.

UD also provides **flexibility in use**. An example related to Curricular flexibility: Options for preparing a project individually or working in a group. **UD** is **simple and intuitive in use**. Technological example: Electronic bank tellers that provide the opportunity to select a language preference. **UD** provides **perceptible information**. Example: Curricular: Class presentations that supplement the lecture with Power Point slides to deliver information bi-modally.

ATC Graduate and Student Worker Staff

In the **ATC** we have some fabulous support. **Graduate Assistant, Teresa Smoak**, works with students, adapts texts and often proctors for some of the students. **Assistive technology student workers** are: **Ashley Baker, Lauren Johnson, Mary Rawls, and Ricki Pearson.**

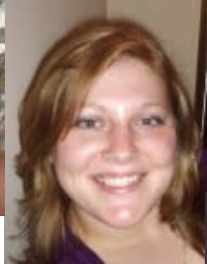
Again, their duties include test proctoring, textbook/tests adaptations and working with the many technology programs that we utilize.

Some of the technologies available in the **ATC** are: Alternate Media Format programs; Media playback equipment, including DAISY CD

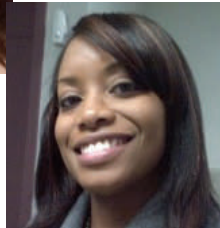
players, scanners, voice-recognition software, used for students who have disabilities in written expression and/or difficulty with fine-motor skills, adaptive keyboards (large-key, ergonomic and Braille), portable magnification devices and adaptive monitors (touch-screen and large-screen).



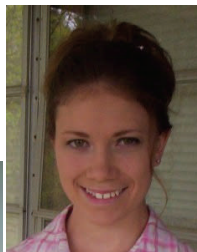
Teresa



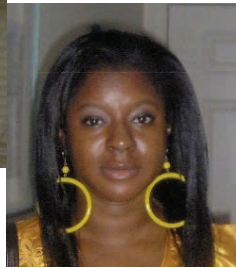
Ashley



Lauren



Mary



Ricki

DID YOU KNOW?

The Assistive Technology Center is open daily from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Students registered with Disability Services may access computers, have a quiet place to study and seek assistance with alternative media. The only time the ATC is not accessible is when test proctoring is in process, however, a sign is placed on the door to alert people of the closure.

THE NEW...Introducing Cathie Justen

“My goal is simply the same as our mission to students with disabilities: to encourage and empower students with disabilities to reach their full potential as they work toward their educational goals.”

It is great to be here at USC Aiken as the new Disability Services Coordinator! As most of you know by now, my predecessor, Barb Riverdahl, left at the end of May last year due to health concerns. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to meet Barb and Sly but I have heard what “big shoes” I have to fill. I certainly do not want to “replace” Barb but I hope to be able to continue providing the quality of support services that all of you have grown accustomed to from the Disability Services Office. My goal is simply the same as our mission to students with disabilities: to encourage and empower students with disabilities to reach their full potential as they work toward their educational goals.

I hope that many of you, faculty, staff and students will stop by the Disability Services Office, at your convenience and introduce yourself to me. I will begin to attend Departmental meetings in hope of getting to know all of the faculty and staff, addressing any concerns/issues that you may have and obtaining your ideas and suggestions for our office.



THE RETURNING...



Sandra Sanders,
Assistive Technology
Center Supervisor,

continues to do a “jam up” job heading up the **ATC**. If you haven’t had an opportunity to stop in the **ATC** for a tour and a perusal of the technology available to students with disabilities, please feel free to stop in. The hours for the center are:

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily. At times the center may not be accessible due to testing, students and/or clients working in the center, however, a sign will be posted on the door, simply asking you to return at another time.