



COMMUNIQUE

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Carlos Taylor: 2012 Harris-Rose Outstanding Alumnus Award

Carlos Taylor, Ball State's Adaptive Technology Specialist, was awarded the 2012 Harris-Rose Outstanding Alumnus Award. Carlos has earned two degrees from Ball State: a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Information Technology in 2002 and a Master of Science degree in Information and Communication Sciences in 2005.

The award is named in honor of Richard Harris, the Director Emeritus of Disabled Student Development, and Bruce Rose, a former student who worked closely with Harris to help create a campus that is accessible for students with disabilities. Harris presented the award to Carlos at the annual Disabled Student Development awards program on April 10th.

As a Ball State student, Carlos was very involved throughout the campus. He was a member of the hall council, nominated by his residence hall as homecoming king, nominated as president of the hall council, and was a student employee in the Adaptive Computer Technology Lab. Carlos has been the recipient of several other DSD awards including the BIC Award (now the Fehribach Award) and the Max Adamson Award. He was also recognized by Ball State with a GOLD award (outstanding graduate of the previous decade).

In his current role as Ball State's Adaptive Technology Specialist, Carlos keeps abreast with the newest technology and has shared his knowledge and skills with the Ball State community. Carlos is widely regarded as an expert in his field and has served as president of the Indiana Association on Disability and Higher Education. Harris summarized Carlos' work by stating: "What has Carlos done in those years in the adaptive computer lab: he has taught,



Director Emeritus Richard Harris presenting the Harris-Rose Outstanding Alumnus Award to Carlos Taylor

he has assisted, he has encouraged, he has modeled, he has empowered, and he has integrated Ball State's effort."

Upon receiving the Harris-Rose Outstanding Alumnus award, Carlos stated, "I just do what I can to try to help students and faculty because my role here on campus is to help students, and also faculty and staff, to try to make things as accessible as possible." Carlos' efforts have extended beyond the Adaptive Computer Technology lab. With a desire to make campus even more accessible for students with disabilities, he has worked hard to make adaptive technology a campus wide resource and has been very successful in doing so.

ACCESS Awards

Kelly Kirkwood, Assistant Director of Study Abroad in the Rinker Center for International Programs, has worked closely with Disabled Student Development (DSD) through promoting study abroad opportunities to students with disabilities. This year, she has worked with host schools overseas and BSU to coordinate study abroad trips for two visually impaired students. One student studied during the fall semester in Austria and the other student has spent the entire year at a university in England. Kelly has helped to ensure that these two students have had successful and rewarding experiences abroad.

John Knox, Student Employment Coordinator in the Career Center, has been essential in assisting DSD in all aspects of the process for hiring students to assist students with disabilities. Each year over 300 student employees are hired to take notes and be readers for students with disabilities. With the change on campus this year to a new system to hire and pay student employees, John has been most helpful in ensuring that the students are paid in a prompt manner.

Sarah Mezo, Senior Financial Aid Advisor, and **Ginger Veach**, Financial Aid Advisor, have been very helpful with assisting students with disabilities with their financial aid. Navigating the complexities of financial aid can be very difficult, and Sarah and Ginger have been terrific allies for DSD when students have questions or concerns about their aid.

Katie Slabaugh is the Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs/Ombudsperson. In this role, Katie handles all student withdrawals and always goes the extra mile when assisting students with this process. Many students need to withdraw from classes for medical reasons, and Katie is especially helpful in assisting students with the paperwork they need and in advising students as to the possible implications of withdrawing for the semester.



Access Award Recipients: (left to right) Chris Taylor, Kelly Kirkwood, Katie Slabaugh, Sarah Mezo, Ginger Veach, Phillip Keck, Becca Schafer (not pictured: John Knox)

Chris Taylor is an Instructor of Telecommunications and is responsible for coordinating Sports Link, a nationally recognized immersive learning program that incorporates students in all aspects of sports media production. This past year Brandon Scott, a student with a physical disability, participated in Sports Link. Chris took the lead in making sure Brandon had access to all facets of the program including the trucks used for production.

Phillip Keck, Ph.D. student in the Counseling Psychology program, and **Becca Schafer**, a senior Psychology major, are the coaches for the Ball State power soccer team. With the change in leadership for the team this past year, there were concerns about who would be able to take the lead as coach. Despite their busy academic schedules, Phillip and Becca have been able to lead the team to a successful season. The team has a great record and has participated in several tournaments this year as well.

Ball State's Celebration of Indiana's Disability Awareness Month

Every March, the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities celebrates disability, promotes awareness, and invites the community to get involved in Disability Awareness Month activities. Disabled Student Development (DSD) and Disabled Students in Action (DSIA) partnered with members of the campus community to promote awareness and understanding. The first event was a month long scavenger hunt using the app SCVNGR®. Participants

were able to check in at different locales on campus to learn about a variety of disabilities.

March 1st was a screening of *Lives Worth Living*, a documentary film about the history of the disability rights movement in America. After Spring Break, DSIA hosted Awareness Tables at the Student Tally. The members of the group spoke to passing students about disabilities and the month of

events. On March 15th, Ball State graduate and national disability access expert Greg Fehribach discussed the impact that people with disabilities will have on our nation's economy in the coming years. A large group of students attended to hear his presentation about people with disabilities in the workforce.

DSD partnered with the power soccer team to host the first Ball State Invitational. The power soccer team played two matches on Saturday, March 17. DSIA also partnered with the Adapted Physical Education Club to host a Wheelchair Slalom at the Student Wellness and Recreation Center. Students were able to use sport wheelchairs to compete in an

obstacle course designed specifically for wheelchairs.

DSD and DSIA concluded the month by sponsoring one final event for Women's Week. Our keynote speakers for Disability Awareness Month were Alexis Ostrander and Amber Marcy. Alexis directed the film, *Defining Beauty*, starring Miss Wheelchair Michigan 2009, Amber Marcy. The two women discussed disability and the film after a viewing at Pruis Hall. The Multicultural Center and the College of Communication, Information, and Media co-sponsored this well-attended event for the conclusion of Disability Awareness Month.

Fehribach Awards

For several years, Ball State's office of Disabled Student Development (DSD) has recognized outstanding students with disabilities with awards named in honor of Greg and Mary Beth Fehribach, longtime supporters of DSD. In selecting students to receive the Fehribach awards, students are chosen 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. In addition to receiving a nice plaque, they also receive a cash award. The Fehribach's presented awards to six students this year.

Allen Caldwell is a senior from Fishers majoring in Telecommunications. Allen was a founding member of the Ball State power soccer team, competing with the team in the national championships twice. Allen is involved in residence hall activities and has served as a mentor to several new students with disabilities.

Jacob Caudill is a sophomore from Cambridge City majoring in Business. In addition to being a terrific student (3.6 grade point average), Jacob is busy in co-curricular activities. He is the vice president of Disabled Students in Action and is a senator in the Student Government Association.

Sydney Comer is a junior from Scottsburg majoring in Journalism. Syd is the current president of Disabled Students in Action, and under her leadership the organization has grown this year to include many new students. In her role as president, Syd assisted DSD staff in creating and promoting events and programs for Disability Awareness Month in March.

Seth Johnson is a senior from Indianapolis majoring in Journalism. A member of the Honors College, Seth has a grade point average over 3.4. Seth participates in many Journalism-related endeavors, including writing for the



Fehribach Awards Recipients: (back row, left to right) Mary Beth Fehribach, Jacob Caudill, Seth Johnson, Patricia Kupchik (front row, left to right) Laura Walter, Allen Caldwell, Greg Fehribach, Sydney Comer

Ball State Daily News, the News Scholars program, and for a music blog in his spare time.

Patricia Kupchik is a senior from Crown Point majoring in Special Education. Patti, who plans to student teach in the fall, has been involved with many organizations on campus including Disabled Students in Action, the Student Council for Exceptional Children, and the Faculty Mentorship Program.

Laura Walter is a senior from Seymour majoring in Political Science. Laura has done well academically (3.5 grade point average) and has been very involved in on and off-campus activities. She is currently a resident assistant in Howick Hall and a member of the Oxfam Club and Navigators College Ministry. Laura has traveled extensively, including trips to Bahrain and Honduras, and looks to intern this summer in Washington, D.C.

Quinlin Hanson: 2012 Max Adamson Award Recipient

Quinlin Hanson arrived at Ball State as a transfer student in fall 2009. Three years later, he is preparing to graduate and move on to pursue his Ph.D. For his hard work and commitment both inside and outside of the classroom, Quinlin has been awarded the 2012 Max Adamson Award. Upon receiving the award, Quinlin stated, "I was greatly honored to receive this award. All of the faculty and staff at Ball State have been very understanding and accommodating during my time here. I think the support I received from them made it possible for me to do well in school and encouraged me to promote access for other students through my work at the Learning Center. I think anytime a person succeeds, it's because they had a great group of people supporting them."

The Max Adamson Award is named in honor of an exemplary student who worked hard to ensure Ball State has the level of access for students with disabilities that it has today. Adamson, a student at Ball State from 1976-1985, was also very active on campus. Although he died several years ago, the memory of Max Adamson continues to thrive through this award and in those who knew him. The award is given to a senior who demonstrates the characteristics of an excellent student, is active on campus, and serves as an example for other students with disabilities.

Quinlin is a senior Chemistry major. He has a 3.8 grade point average and spends much of his time conducting research with faculty members in the chemistry department. He is also a member of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society.

In addition to being active within the chemistry department, Quinlin has also been a tutor and proctor at the Learning Center for three years where he has been very influential. He has tutored students on topics ranging from chemistry, biology, research methods, and nursing, to how to prepare for the PPST and the GRE. He has also worked as a tutor in the studies strategies area, as well as



Dr. Jackie Harris, Coordinator of Study Strategies and Writing at the Learning Center, presenting the Max Adamson Award to Quinlin Hanson

co-organized and executed an in-service training for tutors on universal design of instruction.

When presenting Quinlin the award, Dr. Jackie Harris, Coordinator of Study Strategies and Writing at the Learning Center, stated, "He is very professional with the students, staff, and professors. He has always contributed ideas and serves to help them and help the Learning Center run smoothly."

Quinlin has been admitted to several graduate schools, and has decided to pursue his Ph.D. in Biochemistry at Iowa State University. In addition to being admitted into the program, Quinlin was also awarded one of the highest fellowships awarded to Iowa State students. While reflecting on her experiences with Quinlin, Dr. Harris said, "If we could have found a way to hold onto Quin, I would have done it."

Partner with DSD

If you would like to partner with Disabled Student Development to assist students with disabilities at Ball State, you can make a gift to the Ball State University Foundation's Richard Harris Disabled Student Development Fund. This account, named for DSD Director Emeritus Richard Har-

ris, allows DSD to provide scholarships, help sponsor the power soccer club, and provide additional technology and support for students with disabilities. More information about giving to DSD can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Accessible Teacher Award

Each year Disabled Student Development encourages students to nominate teachers who have gone above and beyond to make their classes accessible for students with disabilities. In soliciting students to nominate faculty members for the Accessible Teacher Award, DSD makes it clear that being accessible does not mean being easy. Instead, these are faculty members who have used creative approaches in teaching to ensure that students with disabilities are able to fully participate in the class.

Dr. Karen Thatcher, an Assistant Professor in the Speech Pathology and Audiology department, was the recipient of the 2012 Accessible Teacher Award. Dr. Thatcher, a former graduate assistant in the DSD office, has been a member of the Faculty Mentorship Program for students with disabilities for several years and was awarded the Excellence in Teaching award in 2009. As a recipient of this prestigious award, Dr. Thatcher was able to teach a “dream course” on incorporating universal design in the K-12 curriculum.

In nominating Dr. Thatcher for the Accessible Teacher award, junior Megan Geoppinger said, “I nominated her because I believe she has truly gone above and beyond all of the other teachers on campus to make sure I personally have been able to learn to the best of my ability.” Megan added that within the three classes she has taken from Dr. Thatcher that she always had the PowerPoint presentations ahead of classes and was always able to approach Dr. Thatcher for questions and further explanations.



Dr. Karen Thatcher accepting the Accessible Teacher Award from Megan Geoppinger

Upon accepting the award, Dr. Thatcher stated, “I enjoy teaching creatively so that all students can access material discussed in class. I learned from the ‘best’ when I worked with Richard Harris as a student secretary and a graduate assistant. I experienced the concept of accessibility when many universities did not realize the need. I believe Ball State University has a long history of accessibility.”

Gilbert Award

Sifat Baig and Dustin Gilmer are the recipients of the 2012-2013 Adrienne Paige Gilbert scholarship. This scholarship was established by Jeff and Kay Gilbert in memory of their daughter, Adrienne Paige. Adrienne was born with a genetic bone disease called Osteogenesis Imperfecta. While she only lived four months, her life touched everyone who knew her. In honor of their daughter, it is the hope of the Gilberts that this scholarship will allow students with disabilities to further their college development.



Pictured are the 2012 recipients of the Gilbert Scholarship, Dustin Gilmer and Sifat Baig

COMMUNIQUE



**Don't forget BSU's
Disabled Student
Development 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 DSD Communique is published once a semester by the Office of Disabled Student Development for the students, faculty, alumni, staff, and friends of Ball State University.

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If you are a BSU/DSD 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.

Disabled Student Development

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