

Disability Awareness Week, April 27 to May 1

BRENT BOYER

Guest Contributor

The concept of disability is oftentimes overlooked when speaking about diversity. With this in mind, the Disability Services for Students office will be sponsoring "Disability Awareness Week" April 27-May 1.

We will be holding a Brown Bag Lunch Series open to the campus, which will include informative presentations on the following topics:

- April 27 – Asperger's Syndrome: Lorna Catford, Ph.D. MFT

- April 28 – Being a Saturday Sidekick!: Elaine McHugh, Ph.D., APE and the sisters of Lambda Sigma Gamma Sorority, Inc.

- April 29 – Audiology – Deaf/Hard of Hearing: Peter Marincovich, Ph.D., CCC-A

- April 30 – Students with Disabilities Transitioning to Work: CA State Department of Rehabilitation

- May 1 – History of Disability Services at SSU: Anthony Tusler, MRA

All presentations will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in Salazar 2014. Please notify the DSS office one week prior to

the event if you will need accommodations by emailing disability.services@sonoma.edu or calling (707) 664-2677.

The Disability Services for Students office is also pleased to announce that we have established the Alpha Theta Chapter of Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society on the Sonoma State University campus.

Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society was established* in 2004 at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania to recognize the academic accomplishments of students with disabilities. There are often negative stereotypes associated with disability, which can make it difficult to identify oneself publicly as a person with a disability. Delta (~ Delta for disability) Alpha (~ Alpha for achievement) Pi (~ Pi for pride) provides an opportunity to change that perception by recognizing the academic achievement of students with disabilities.

In addition, the honor society will help facilitate development of leadership, advocacy, and education for student participants. The initiation date for new members of Delta Alpha Pi is May 1 and will conclude a week of Disability Awareness activities beginning on April

27.

On May 1, the DSS office will also be presenting the Janis Parks Spirit Award during the Disability Awareness Awards Banquet. Janis was a student and eventually an employee of SSU in the Disability Services for Students Office. Parks' commitment & perseverance and her pragmatic approach to dealing with multiple physical, financial, academic & social challenges made her an inspiration to everyone.

The Janis Parks 2009 Spirit Award is intended to provide a scholarship award of up to \$1500 to a(n) undergraduate student(s) registered with Disability Services for Students (DSS) who demonstrates perseverance in his/her quest for education, has overcome adversity, and has demonstrated social, campus and community involvement committed to advocating for humanitarian causes.

The DSS office is located in Salazar 1049, and can be reached at (707) 664-2677 or disability.services@sonoma.edu. Our hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Boyer is the Associate Director of DSS.