Even with the interesting start of this Fall 2008 Semester (starting early, closing during the DNC, finishing renovations in our office), we have opened the Fall Semester with our highest ever number of students seeking accommodations. In Fall 2003, when the university opened its first independent Office of Disability Resources & Services, we served 98 students. As of Fall 2008, we are now serving approximately 230 students.

As October is Disability-Awareness Month, it seemed appropriate to introduce our new office to the university community through an open house on October 16th. In addition, we have worked with MSCD and CCD to develop and provide numerous opportunities to attend social and educational disability-related activities (see page 2 for a comprehensive listing). We hope you will take the time to attend and/or participate in some of these activities. Many of these activities are tri-institutional and you’ll have the opportunity to meet and talk with students from both MSCD and CCD.

At our Open House, we’ll work to help the faculty, staff and student communities learn more about disability-related accommodations and how the provision of equal access to an education is critical for all students. As always, let us know if you need any assistance and we look forward to seeing you at some of this month’s events.
OCTOBER 2008
Disability Awareness Month

Disability Awareness Festival
October 1st   Tivoli – Outside by the Stage   10:00am – 2:00pm
Be sure to attend one of the largest events held at the Auraria Campus. Over 30 vendors
will be present to talk with you, live entertainment (music and speakers) will be provided
along with a free lunch for the first 700 attendees (burgers, etc).

Special Note: Ms. Ritter, Colorado’s First Lady will speak at 12:30pm

Art Ability at Auraria
October 2nd   Tivoli – Multicultural Lounge   2:00pm – 4:00pm
October 2nd   Auraria Library Gallery   4:00pm – 6:00pm
Fourth Annual ‘Exhibition of Art by Auraria Students, Faculty and Staff Living with
Disabilities’. Meet the artists, view their work and enjoy the free refreshments.

Assistive Technology Week
Governor Bill Ritter declared the week of October 12th-18th Assistive Technology Week.
The purpose of this week includes the recognition of AT devices that are used to increase,
maintain or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

White Cane Safety Day
October 15th   Community College of Denver SO 134   11:00 am
Students, who are blind or visually impaired, attend classes on the Auraria campus and
use a white cane, are invited to gather at the South Classroom Building (west door
entrance) at 11:00 am. From there, we will walk through the campus. Our goal is to
raise awareness of the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired and
draw attention to the important symbol of blindness and tool of independence – the white
cane.

Jonathan Mooney Presents!
October 23rd   Tivoli Turnhalle   11:30 am
Jonathan, co-author of Learning Outside the Lines, is Dyslexic and didn’t know how to
read until he was 12 y/o. He was considered an academic failure who managed to
graduate from Brown University at the top of his class. He demonstrated the ability of
students to individualize their education and attain academic success by enhancing
academic skills in three primary areas. Attend this presentation - you will never feel the
same again about your chances for success.

Open Houses
The Disability Offices of CCD, MSCD and UCD are all holding open houses during
Disability Awareness Month.
October 16th   University of Colorado Denver: NC 2514   10am – 2pm
October 24th   Community College of Denver: SO 134   TBA
October 29th   MSCD Access Center: Library, 1st floor   11am – 1pm
Thanks to UCD Student Government

Last year, UCD’s student government awarded our office $30,000 in student fee monies. We used those monies for the purchase Assistive Technology (AT) which we have used and will use for the provision of accommodations. The AT includes: Video Remote Interpreting System, Assistive Listening Devices, Large Print Calculators and Talking Calculators, Scanners (produce books in alternate format), Reading Pens and language masters.

Be sure to attend our Open House on the 16th and try out this new technology.

Congrats to Grads!

The DRS staff would like to take a moment to congratulate the eight students registered with our office who recently graduated from UCD. While a university setting is challenging for many, students with disabilities often face additional challenges. The students who worked with Disability Resources & Services throughout their time at UCD demonstrated that academic success can be achieved especially when you use the resources available to you. Please remember throughout your time at the university, many resources are available for your use (see Page 4) and DRS is one of those resources.

Again, congratulations to our graduates and we look forward to working with our current students to assist you with achieving your academic goals.

Disaboom

live forward, is an online organization whose goal is to develop best-practice guidelines and provide information concerning college choices/support and post-college employment for people with disabilities. Disaboom has started an initiative to connect graduating students with employers who are actively seeking to hire graduates with disabilities. Check out www.disaboomjobs.com to find out what companies are listed, post your resume or read the articles posted on topics from veterans at college, how to return to the workplace after becoming newly disabled and some very interesting data on how people with disabilities perform athletically and in the workplace.

Quiz Corner (Answers on page 4)

Included in every issue of Inspiration is the opportunity to see how familiar you are with disability-related issues. Check out the questions below and see how well you do!

True or False

_____ 1. Disability Resources & Services supports math and foreign language waivers.

_____ 2. Disability Resources & Services provides alternative testing accommodations which may include extended time, a quiet room, a reader and/or a scribe.

_____ 3. A student may request accommodations at any time during the semester.
The University Consolidation Process – THE LATEST 411

Our official name:  University of Colorado Denver
Our two campuses: Downtown Campus & Anschutz Medical Center
Our school colors:  Blue and gold

Quiz Corner Answers

1. **FALSE**: Disability Resources & Services does not support waivers of graduation requirements. Per disability-related law, the University offers foreign language & mathematics substitutions for students who have a thoroughly documented language-related and/or mathematics disorder.

2. **TRUE**: Extended time, a quiet room, a reader and/or a scribe are among the testing accommodations provided. The purpose of these accommodations (modify the standardized testing environment) is to insure that your abilities are measured – not the disability.

3. **TRUE**: A student may come to DRS and request accommodations at any time throughout his/her university career.

Campus Resources

2. American Indian Student Services  303 556-4721  12. Library  303-556-2805
5. Career Center  303 556-2250  15. Registrar  303 556-2389
7. Counseling Center  303 556-4372  17. Student ID  303 556-8385
10. Hispanic Student Services  303 556-2777  20. Writing Cntr.  303 556-4845

Volunteers Needed for 10/16 Open House

During our open house, we need volunteers to assist between 9am – 3p. There are a variety of activities available for you to assist and the included: meet and greet visitors, walk them the office and testing rooms, explain and demonstrate some of the new assistive technology (Tischi will train you), operate the popcorn machine, serve popcorn, etc.

If you would volunteer for a 1-2 hour shift (or the whole time if you want), that would be great. Please contact our office at 303.556.3450 or email DisabilityResources@ucdenver.edu if you are interested.