Welcome back to the Spring Semester 2010! Whether a returning student, new student and/or a transfer student, we encourage you to contact our office soon and coordinate any accommodations for the spring semester.

We've had one staffing change over the winter recess, Tischi, our alternative text technician has graduated with his Master's Degree and left the university to join the U.S. Army. We wish him well with his future endeavors.

This semester we'll be ordering new furniture for our testing rooms. For example, we'll probably order some of the L-shaped computer tables and new desk chairs. Would you also want white boards to write on, comfortable chairs, etc.? Use the email address above and give me your feedback by 2/1/10.

As always, let us know if you need any assistance. We look forward to working with you and best wishes for a successful spring semester.
The Phoenix Center at Auraria

The Phoenix Center at Auraria is a Free and Confidential service providing information, support and awareness for sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking for all students, faculty and staff on the Auraria Campus. They opened their doors in October, 2009 and offer 4 services: 1) the Hotline - a 24/7 avenue of support, 2) in-person advocacy, 3) education and awareness activities across campus and 4) the development of policies and protocols to streamline response to survivors of interpersonal violence on this tri-institutional campus.

Call 303-556-2255, their 24/7 Hotline number, to talk safely about concerns you may have about stalking, sexual assault, or domestic and dating violence and 303-556-6011 to schedule an appointment for an in-person consultation.

The Phoenix Center employs two professional counselors and has trained students in violence prevention to provide sessions for classes and orientations for all three institutions on the Auraria campus. The professional trainers have presented approximately 80 outreach activities so far this academic year. Their next step is to begin the process of establishing a men’s program to supplement currently available support systems.

Please feel free to visit The Phoenix Center and discuss any concerns you may have around personal violence. The counselors provide a knowledgeable, safe and confidential haven for all who study and work on the Auraria Campus. They are familiar with criminal justice as well as internal procedures and can assist you in making informed decisions. FREE and Confidential help is always just a phone call away.

- 303-556-2255 24/7 Hotline number
- 303-556-6011 To schedule in-person advocacy
- Tivoli Center Room 250

Quiz Corner

True or False

1. Students need to contact Disability Resources and Services each semester and request their faculty notification letters.

2. Online students need to provide the DRS coordinator their instructor’s email addresses when they request their faculty notification letters.

3. Testing accommodations are never provided.
Meet Jenny Chavez who always thought she was just a “bad test taker” before learning she is one of about 10% of the college population that have a disability. After being approved for accommodations, she began to take her exams with a reader and a scribe in Disability Resources. Now her grades better reflect her abilities and not her disability.

Ms Chavez said she did not receive learning assistance in high school but since taking courses at UCD, completing her LD evaluation and finding that she isn’t a “bad test taker,” her self-confidence has greatly improved. She said she is now better able to communicate to her instructors what she can contribute to their classes. She said she feels much more confident in her ability to provide a realistic representation of her understanding of what her instructors are testing. Jenny said she has connected to many amazing instructors while studying at UCDenver.

Jenny is a native of Colorado who “works with kids and loves it a lot!” She does yoga and in her spare time, has completed an apprenticeship to learn to create holistic medicine. She is involved with making “teas, tinctures and lotions” from plants and herbs. Jenny said she really enjoys her physics classes, especially quantum physics, and stated she might teach physics someday as she really enjoys her work teaching at a local Montessori school.

When asked what she would say to other students who struggle with coursework and think they may have a disability, Ms Chavez said if at all possible, get evaluated before the semester starts as it is really difficult to study and complete the evaluation simultaneously. Call Disability Resources and Services and start the registration process as soon as possible. Take advantage of the accommodations because using them takes a lot of stress out of coursework. She said the more she utilizes her accommodations the more she can focus on studying.

Jenny, a dual-degree seeking student, is enrolled as a junior in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and plans to graduate with both a BS in Physic and an Individually Structured BA. She said feels she will enter the world of work with a good understanding of how to be patient with herself as she works with others who do not understand people with invisible disabilities.
The Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities (WRP) is a recruitment and referral program that connects public and private sector employers nationwide with highly motivated postsecondary students and recent graduates with disabilities who are eager to prove their abilities in the workplace through summer or permanent jobs.

The WRP provides students with disabilities in all fields of study the opportunity to market their abilities to a wide variety of potential employers across the United States, polish their resumes, sharpen their interviewing skills during a required one-on-one meeting with a WRP recruiter, and gain valuable skills, experience, and contacts on the job.

Applicants for the program must:

- have a disability AND
- be a U.S. citizen AND
- be enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education on a substantially full-time basis (unless the severity of the disability precludes the student from taking a substantially full-time load) to seek a degree OR
- be enrolled in such an institution as a degree-seeking student taking less than a substantially full-time load in the enrollment period immediately prior to graduation OR
- have graduated from such an institution within the past year.

This is a great opportunity for you to have a professional review your resume, to practice your interviewing techniques and to possibly obtain a paid internship for the summer. Some students who have gone through this process in the past are now working for the federal government. I hope many of you will avail yourselves of this program.

Quiz Corner Answers

1. TRUE: DRS provides faculty notification letters only when students request them and then only to the student. Remember to request your FNLs, pick them up from DRS and present them to your instructors early in the semester.

2. TRUE: The faculty notification of accommodations can be emailed to online instructors but DRS needs to know the name and call number of the course as well as the faculty’s email address.

3. FALSE: Testing accommodations are provided for those students who are determined eligible, based on their functional limitations. The purpose of testing accommodations is to ensure a student’s abilities are measured-not their disability.