



News from Disabled Student Development

DSDD COMMUNIQUE

L.A. Pittenger Student Center Rm. 116 • Ball State University • 2012-2013, #1

Emmy Kaiser: 2012 Paralympian

Many dream of representing their country in the highest level of athletic competition. They imagine themselves under the bright lights, proudly displaying their nation's colors. For one Ball State graduate student, this dream became a reality in the summer of 2012.

Emmy Kaiser is the number one ranked wheelchair tennis player in the United States. She has competed internationally for eight years and has played in over fifteen countries. Last summer, her hard work culminated in an invitation to participate in the London Paralympic Games.

"The top twenty-four players qualified, along with eight wildcard bids," she explained. Ranked in the top 20 worldwide, Emmy secured a spot on the U.S. roster. She was then paired with fellow Kentucky-native, Mackenzie Soldan, in the doubles competition.

Emmy was very familiar with her doubles partner; the two of them had won a gold medal together at the Parapan American Games in 2011. This event, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, featured two of the best players from each country in North and South America.

Although Emmy was unable to add to her medal count in London, she did reach the round of 16 in both the singles and doubles bracket. These results have encouraged her to consider returning to the Paralympics for the 2016 Rio Games. "I'd like to, but it all depends on funding," she said. Entry fees and frequent travel can be a heavy burden, especially for someone who is a full-time student.

In a typical high school semester, Emmy missed three or four weeks of class to attend tennis tournaments. She



estimates that she may have missed up to three months of her final year at Thomas More College. "I had to do a lot of catch-up," she noted. The challenge of juggling schoolwork and tennis has helped Emmy develop the time management skills expected of a graduate student.

For now, she is taking a break from tennis and working toward her degree in Sports Psychology. Asked about her immediate tennis goals, she gave no clear answer. "I still have four years of eligibility left," she joked. "So who knows?"

New Student Profile: Alex Gilland

Disabled Student Development is pleased to introduce a new member of the Ball State community. Meet Alex Gilland, a freshman interested in studying History or Telecommunications. Alex is the third sibling in his family to attend Ball State. He believes the positive feedback he received from his brother and sister helped him reach the ultimate decision to come to Muncie.

“I heard good things about BSU and its accessible campus,” he said. So far, his siblings were spot on with their descriptions. “The people here are really nice and have been very helpful.”

Before his arrival at Ball State, Alex attended the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and was heavily involved in extracurricular activities. Along with his studies, Alex participated in track, swimming, goalball, and debate. He was also an active member of the LEO Club, a youth organization committed to volunteer and community outreach opportunities.

While his brother and sister have gone on to find work in Video Production and Special Education, Alex is still deciding what he is going to do following graduation. “I’d like to narrate a documentary or be a sideline reporter at sporting events,” he stated.

These are fitting professions for Alex, who has a knack for impressing people with his voice. In fact, he has a talent for impersonations and can closely mimic the voices of many U.S. Presidents. He even does impressions of Indianapolis Colts’ broadcaster Bob Lamey.

Alex is an avid fan of Colts’ football and follows virtually



every game. In school, he once created a comprehensive report of the team’s history, a project that culminated in a visit to the Colts’ broadcast booth during a 2009 home game. Since then, Alex has envisioned a possible career in sports broadcasting. He knows it is possible to land a job in the industry because his brother currently works for the Chicago Cubs.

“Right now I’m leaning toward Telecommunications,” he said. Alex believes this may be his best option in terms of job outlook. Regardless of his decision, however, Alex plans to value all of his time at Ball State. “Being accepted here was a big achievement,” he said. Clearly, Alex Gilland is a proud member of the Cardinal family.

Sadly Noted

It is with great sadness that DSD reports that Whitney Collins Foote died on November 27, as the result of an auto accident. Whitney was a 2009 Ball State graduate with a degree in Public Relations. She was a very active member of the Ball State community, serving on several committees within Housing and the university’s governance sys-

tem. Her work on campus was recognized in 2008 when she was presented with the Max Adamson award, the top honor given to a Ball State senior with a disability. DSD’s sympathies go to Whitney’s husband Daniel, her parents, and siblings.

Bush Scholarship Recipients

Disabled Student Development would like to acknowledge and congratulate the 2012-2013 recipients of the Myrna Bush Scholarship.

As a 1928 graduate of Ball State, Myrna Bush endowed funds to the university to support students with visual impairments. Recipients of the award were selected based on a combination of their academic achievement and their involvement on campus. This year eight students received the Myrna Bush Scholarship.

Award Recipients:

Jacob Caudill: Senior, Marketing

Brittany Feilen: Junior, Special Education

Seth Johnson: Senior, Journalism

Lauren Kopf: Junior, Public Relations

Andrew Neylon: Senior, English

Amanda Rusk: Sophomore, Criminal Justice

Rochelle Schmitt: Sophomore, General Studies

Michael White: Senior, Biology

Congratulations to each of this year's recipients. For more information on how to apply for this scholarship, please visit the Disabled Student Development website or stop by the office in room 116 of the L.A. Pittenger Student Center.

DSIA Semester Review

It has been a great fall semester for Disabled Students in Action (DSIA). Many of the officers from last year were able to continue in the same positions. The current officers are as follows: Syd Comer, President; Jake Caudill, Vice President/SGA Representative; and Brittany Feilen, Secretary. They started organizing before the semester began and advertised the group at the Activity Fair on August 18th, the Saturday before classes began. The group distributed information and candy to freshmen at the fair and had many students sign up for the group's email list. Since then, they have planned several different events throughout the semester.

The group had an introductory meeting to discuss goals for the year. They also had a bowling party for their meeting at the beginning of November, as a way to have some fun mid-semester. Finally, DSIA created t-shirts this semester. They used the same white logo, but chose black for the t-shirt color. The t-shirts are available in the DSD office for \$5/each.

During March, which is Disability Awareness Month in Indiana, DSIA will partner with DSD and other campus organizations to host events. The DSIA leadership is currently working with Associate Director, Courtney Jarrett, to finalize the activities. They are planning to have some guest speakers, a couple of films, and an Awareness



DSIA president Syd Comer and Nate Deahl share a laugh at the DSIA semester-ending party at Greek's Pizzeria. (photo by Krystal Byers)

Table throughout the month. The main event for Disability Awareness Month will be a wheelchair ballroom dancing workshop led by Frank Epperson, Jr. Please check the DSD website (www.bsu.edu/dsd) in January for the list of scheduled events. We hope to see you there!

Learning Center: A Vital Part of the Disability Services Team

For nearly three decades, the Learning Center has provided a wide range of academic services for Ball State students. Located on the third floor of the North Quad Building, it is the main resource for free tutoring, supplemental instruction, and informational workshops, all of which contribute to success in the classroom. According to Jacqueline Harris, coordinator of study strategies and writing, students who use these services typically earn grades that are one half to one whole letter grade higher than those who do not. “This is an on-going and important message,” she added, explaining the benefits students receive from using the Learning Center.

With over 120 tutors available, students can find help with virtually any class in the core curriculum, along with assistance in writing and math. They can also attend sessions that focus on basic skills, such as time management, note-taking, and reading comprehension. “All of these resources are free and open to all students,” Harris said. “They can either call or stop in to make an appointment.” By offering open-access and convenient hours, the Learning Center serves around 4,000 students each year.

In addition to its tutoring services, the Learning Center also provides an alternative testing space for students with disabilities. Staff members, including a team of graduate assistants, are trained to proctor exams for students who are registered with DSD to receive accommodations. Depending on the type of disability, requests may be made

for a scribe, a reader, or a room to take tests with reduced distractions. In order to receive these accommodations, however, students must first obtain letters from DSD and deliver them to their professors. If the student and professor agree that the test should be administered in the Learning Center, the student would then schedule the exam and the accommodations with the staff at the Learning Center.

In the 2011-2012 academic year alone, the Learning Center staff administered 2,033 tests for approximately 200 students with disabilities. With this many appointments, staff members must work diligently to accommodate each student. Michelle Thomas, a graduate assistant at the study strategies desk, described how the staff operates. “All of the areas of the Learning Center work collaboratively,” she said. “Every one of us is willing to proctor an exam for a student with a disability.”

It is this willingness to help that has given the Learning Center a positive reputation on campus. In fact, 99.7% of students surveyed in 2012 noted that their tutors made them feel welcomed and comfortable. The Learning Center was recognized nationally in 2010, when it received the Frank L. Christ Outstanding Learning Center Award. Explaining what has led to these successes, Jacqueline Harris said, “We take a broad approach to cooperative learning.” Working alongside offices such as DSD, the Learning Center will continue to serve Ball State students for years to come.

Richard Harris (right), director emeritus of DSD, is pictured with Bill Powell, a 1981 graduate of Ball State and the Outstanding DSD Alumnus of 1989. Harris was pleased to watch Bill receive the prestigious Thomas C. Hasbrook award from Bosma Industries for a lifetime of educating the blind and visually impaired. Bill taught at the Indiana School for the Blind, from which he graduated, for twenty-five years. He is now at Bosma teaching computer literacy, including a terrific program called “build a computer.”

Harris has enjoyed keeping up with many of DSD’s alums. He also teaches a course on the Roosevelts, reads, travels, spends time with his three granddaughters, and plays lots of handball. He is a frequent visitor at DSD office functions, particularly if they are food related. He would love to hear from former students - rharris@bsu.edu.



DSD Awards Program

The annual Disabled Student Development and Disabled Students in Action awards program is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, at 3p.m. in Cardinal Hall B of the Student

Center. Please join us as we recognize outstanding students and an alumnus with a disability and express gratitude to faculty and staff for promoting accessibility.

New Book on College Students with Disabilities Features Ball State

A new book describing college options for students who are wheelchair-users has described Ball State as one of “America’s most disability-friendly colleges” and categorizes it as an “ADA-Plus College.” The book, *College Success for Students with Physical Disabilities* by Chris Wise Tiedemann (Prufrock Press, 2012), is written to assist prospective college students with disabilities in

choosing a college that meets their accessibility needs. Tips and suggestions are provided on a variety of important areas including the preparation for college, the college search, and managing personal care. DSD director Larry Markle and Ball State junior Dustin Gilmer are quoted throughout the book.

Ball State Power Soccer

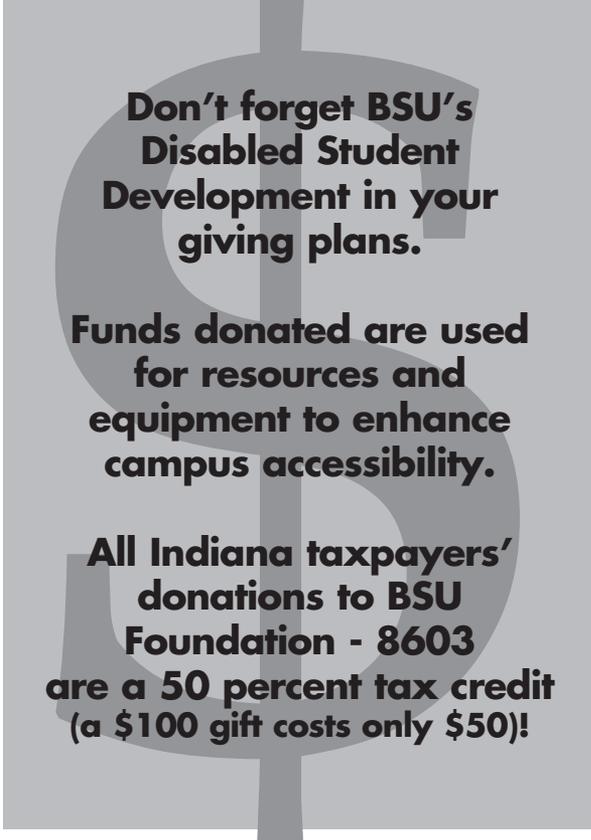


The BSU Power Soccer team is off to a strong start with a 5-2 record. The team will use the spring semester to make a push to compete in the national championships to be played next summer in Fort Wayne. Pictured above during matches at Ball Gymnasium on November 10 are:



(left) Allen Caldwell battling an opponent for possession of the ball; (right) Colin McIntire and Dustin Gilmer discussing strategy during a timeout in the action. (photos by Sharon Harper)

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.

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**THIS PUBLICATION IS AVAILABLE IN ACCESSIBLE
FORMAT ON OUR WEBSITE.**

www.bsu.edu/dsd

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