

# The Voice

## UNCG Office of Disability Services

### Student Spotlight-Daniel Nasrallah

My name is Daniel Nasrallah. I am a junior majoring in chemistry with a concentration in research and I am registered with the Office of Disability Services at UNCG. I was diagnosed with dyslexia as a second grader when my mother realized I was not learning to read and write. I have struggled with dyslexia throughout school and now in college.

This struggle has challenged me to be the best student I possibly can be. During freshman year, I got involved in chemistry doing chemistry research. This is where I ex-

cel. Chemistry research in the lab gave me the opportunity to practice the things I was learning in the classroom and ultimately understand the things I was learning even better.

Last semester, I presented the research I had conducted over the past year and a half at the American Chemical Society 243<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Meeting in San Diego, CA. and a number of other conferences and symposia. I also applied for and was awarded the Barry M. Goldwater and Excellence in

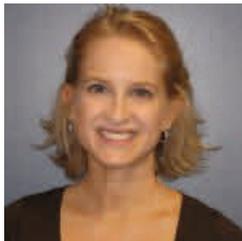
Education Program Scholarship (a \$15,000 cash award) for my promise to a career in the field of science. Most recently, I returned from a seven-week international study abroad trip to the University of Bristol in the UK where I was conducting research.

All of these opportunities were only possible because of all the support I received at UNCG from my professors, my lab, other students, and the Office of Disability Services.



Daniel Nasrallah

### ODS Welcomes Two New Interim Assistant Directors



**Carrie McLain** received her MS degree in Counseling from UNCG in May 2012. She worked as a clinical counseling intern at UNCG's Vacc Counseling & Consulting Clinic and her focus of study was on College Counseling and Student Development. Carrie is a National Certified Counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor Associate in North Carolina.

When Carrie is not involved with counseling-related activities, she enjoys performing music, running, dancing, hik-

ing, and spending time with friends and family.

If you would like to meet with Carrie, please come by or call ODS and schedule an appointment. She can also be contacted directly at [cemclain@uncg.edu](mailto:cemclain@uncg.edu).



**Kawana Neufville**, former ODS intern featured in the Spring 2012 newsletter, also joined the office as an interim assistant director. Kawana completed her MS

degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from NC A&T in August 2012. In addition to interning with ODS, Kawana also worked with UNCG's Beyond Academics Program. She is currently a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and is pursuing licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor Associate in North Carolina.

When she is not involved with counseling-related activities, Kawana enjoys spending time with family, reading, and shopping.

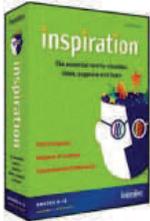
If you would like to meet with Kawana, please come by or call ODS and schedule an appointment. She can also be contacted directly at [kcneufv2@uncg.edu](mailto:kcneufv2@uncg.edu).

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# STUDENT CORNER

## Inspiration is here!!!



Do you have a big term paper to write? Are you having difficulty organizing your thoughts? Well, *Inspiration* may be the software for you!

Inspiration gives users the ability to create visual maps and outlines to plan papers and presentations. The software can also be used to take notes on class readings. There are over 100 graphic organizer templates for you to use to create projects quickly. Additionally, there are over 1 million images that

can be used as symbols in the maps (or you can upload your own)! These templates can be used for a wide variety of subjects, ranging from liberal arts to science.

If visual maps are not for you, use *Inspiration* in the Outline View to help organize your essays. You can also transform the visual maps into outlines effortlessly.

There are many reasons why you should try *Inspiration*. If

you are interested in learning more about how you can use *Inspiration* to enhance your schoolwork, please stop by ODS and schedule AT training to learn about this and other useful software.

**The Fall 2012 AT lab hours are Tuesdays through Thursdays from 5:00-8:00 pm. Computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis.**

## Making the Transition

Once you graduate from high school the responsibility for managing your educational and accommodation needs rests upon your shoulders. Here are some tips to make your transition to college more successful.



- Discuss “practical” survival needs beforehand (medical, banking, transportation, etc.).
- Know your educational rights and responsibilities at the college level. Check the ODS website for more information if needed.
- Be able to provide current and appropriate documentation of your disability.
- You must self-identify and request reasonable accommodations. It is best to contact and

register with ODS as soon as possible.

- Gain an understanding of the academic impact of your disability as well as your strengths and challenges.
- Think about and be able to express current and future needs, concerns, and preferences.
- Practice self-advocacy skills, assertiveness skills, and interpersonal skills if needed.
- Think and plan ahead.
- Sign up for trainings (assistive technology and software, disability management).
- Take advantage of ser-

vices available on campus, such as the Writing Center, Speaking Center, Student Success Center, Career Services Center, and the Counseling & Testing Center. These services exist to help you succeed!

- Stay in contact with ODS for the remainder of your college career.

## Important Contact Information



**Student Success Center**  
334-3878, Mclver 104

**Dean of Students Office**  
334-5514, EUC 210

**Writing Center**  
334-3125, MHRA 3211

**Speaking Center**  
256-1346, MHRA 3211

**Counseling & Testing Center**  
334-5874, Gove 2nd floor

**Career Services Center**  
334-5454, EUC 001



## College STAR Program-An Update

The College STAR Project (Supporting Transition, Access, and Retention), funded by the Oak Foundation and other generous donors, continues to provide additional support to a number of UNCG students with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD). Students in the project participate in a 10-week cognitive-behavioral therapy group program with other UNCG students that have AD/HD and also receive weekly

one-on-one mentoring sessions. Students learn more about AD/HD to help them manage their symptoms more effectively, learn skills and strategies to promote academic and personal success, and learn how to challenge maladaptive thinking patterns. Students also learn more about the many resources on the UNCG campus that help to promote student success. After their first semester in the

program, students receive three additional semesters of mentoring and “booster” group sessions. The College STAR project provided services to seven students in a pilot program during the fall 2011 semester and 11 students in the spring of 2012. Outcome data suggested that students benefited from the program in many different ways, and all students who participated stated that they (Continued p. 4)

## ODS Director Named Chair of Mayor’s Committee

Bruce Pomeroy, the Director of the Office of Disability Services at UNCG has accepted the office of Chairperson of the **Greensboro Mayor’s Committee For Persons With Disabilities**, and will begin his term of office in December. Bruce is an active member of the committee which is comprised of area agencies, businesses, governmental and educational representatives, and dedicated individuals all working together to increase the supportive efforts and resources for individuals with disabilities.

The committee supports a number of annual events such as: a scholarship program for students with disabilities going to college, a ramp-a-thon event that provides ramps for access to homes, a veterans’ outreach initiative

to increase the hiring of returning wounded veterans and a shopper’s day at the Four Season Mall that provides assistance to hundreds of individuals with disabilities. These are just a few of the efforts and events sponsored by the committee.

Many community and UNCG campus members volunteer their time and efforts in these wonderful activities, and we’re always looking for more folks with talents and dedication. If you would like to find out more about the committee, or become involved in some of the activities, please contact Bruce at [bepomero@uncg.edu](mailto:bepomero@uncg.edu), or call [336-334-5913](tel:336-334-5913).

Everyone is welcome. This is truly reflective of the spirit of UNCG when

we say- **Do Something Bigger Altogether!**



Michael Murray, '07

## Alumni Update-Michael Murray

Michael Murray is the Diversity Program Manager in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Washington DC. In his role, Murray serves as the principal advisor to the Director of ODI on OPM’s Government-wide disability programs. He works closely with senior level officials throughout the Federal Government to implement President Obama’s Executive Order on *Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities*. Murray, who has had a disability since childhood, has a proven

track record of increasing the inclusion of people with disabilities at the federal, state and local levels. As a leader in disability employment, he has been highly successful in promoting and overseeing workforce equality efforts with large and small organizations.

Before joining OPM, Murray was the Director of Programs at the American Association of People with Disabilities, leading large national disability initiatives. On the state level, Michael was the Executive Director of the North

Carolina (N.C.) Disability Action Network where he conveyed the concerns of North Carolinians to members of the N.C. General Assembly. Michael also worked for N.C.’s State Protection and Advocacy Agency - Disability Rights N.C., a local Center for Independent Living and at Beyond Academics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG).

Murray graduated with his BS degree in Special Education from UNCG in 2007.



## Workforce Recruitment Program: Apply Now!

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy is sponsoring the annual **Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP)** for college students with disabilities. This program aims to provide PAID summer internships, and in some cases, full-time employment, for college students with disabilities.

across the U.S.

- Open to all students and recent graduates
- Interviews will take place on **October 23-24 at UNCG**
- Career coaching and interview preparation is available through the UNCG Career Services Center

Learn more about the WRP!

Visit the Career Services Center, #1 EUC or contact:

Leigh Marquess at

lmarqu@uncg.edu or call 336-334-5157

### Important Facts about WRP:

- PAID full-time summer internships for students with disabilities
- Most majors and career interests can be matched with positions



## Syllabus 101: ADA/504

It is important for members of the UNCG community to communicate that they understand some students might have challenges related to a disability, and that they are willing to accommodate these students’ unique academic and co-curricular needs. One way faculty members and staff can do this is to include a statement in their syllabus that encourages students to register with ODS. Similarly, staff and students responsible for developing programs and services on campus can indicate that they support all students’ needs by including a statement in their promotional materials. These statements do not have to be long. Here are some examples:

### For Individual Classes:

“UNCG seeks to comply fully with The Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students requiring accommodations in this course based on a documented disability must be registered with the Office of Disability Services in 215 Elliott University Center, 334-5440, ods.uncg.edu”

like to request specific accommodations based on documented disability should contact **[program sponsor]** as soon as possible. Please note that services or equipment considered to be of a personal nature are the responsibility of the guest. Please contact **[sponsor contact info.]** with questions.

### For Programs or Organizations:

UNCG seeks to comply fully with The Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Participants who have questions regarding accessibility or who would



## College STAR Program-An Update (continued from p. 3)

would recommend the program to other students with AD/HD. This fall, the program has welcomed 20 new students! If you would like more information, please contact Kristen King, Ph.D., Assistant Director of Student Support for the College STAR Project, at [336-346-3196, ext. 301](tel:336-346-3196) or [kaking@uncg.edu](mailto:kaking@uncg.edu).



## Faculty & Staff Corner

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215 Elliott University Center  
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Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

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Fax: (336) 334-4412  
E-mail: [ods@uncg.edu](mailto:ods@uncg.edu)



**UNCG**  
*Inspire. Change.*

**WE'RE ON THE WEB:**

**[ODS.UNCG.EDU](http://ods.uncg.edu)**

The Office of Disability Services works with departments across UNCG to ensure that educational programs and campus facilities are accessible to individuals with disabilities. In order to qualify for services, students with disabilities must provide our office with current, comprehensive documentation. Once qualified, students meet with ODS staff to identify reasonable accommodations which are then drafted into a Letter of Accommodation (also known as faculty letters).

It is the *student's* responsibility to provide their instructor with this letter in order to receive accommodations. Although accommodations are determined by the Disability Services' staff, the application of these accommodations can vary in the classroom depending upon the faculty's teaching pedagogy. Our office encourages a collaborative relationship when discussing accommodations. If a student requests additional accommodations that are not indicated on their letter of accommodation, please consult ODS. Faculty are invited to contact ODS whenever there is a question about a student with a disability or their accommodations.

## ODS Test Accommodations: A Review of Policies and Procedures

At the beginning for the 2011-2012 school year, the Office of Disability Services introduced the Online Testing Accommodations Form. This form replaced the original paper version of the form and was designed to ease the testing accommodations request procedure.

Before any student can take their test with accommodations, they must be registered with ODS and meet with a staff person. In this meeting, students and staff will co-create faculty letters outlining their approved accommodations for the semester. Students will then give those letters to the instructors of classes for which they require accommodations.

ODS strongly encourages students to work closely with faculty to determine if the instructor is able to proctor the test. This is beneficial to the students because they are able to ask questions, if needed. Faculty also benefit from proctoring the exam as it reduces the amount of time required to communicate with ODS regarding the test.

If a faculty member cannot proctor a test, then ODS is prepared to proctor a student's test. ODS is available to proctor tests Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please note that some students may have to schedule their test earlier or later in the day, depending on their class

schedule, to accommodate their needs for extended test time.

In order to maintain the integrity of the testing process, it is very important that faculty confirm their students' online test requests. If faculty do not complete each request, then we are unable to determine if the testing situations have changed. For example, a student may be allowed to use notes for one test, but may not be allowed for the following test. Without a completed online testing form, ODS will not know how to proceed with proctoring the test for the student.

Please call ODS at 334-5440 if you have any questions.