There’s a quote hanging in my office from a publication in the 1980s which was called the Disability Rag (it’s now called the Ragged Edge). The magazine was founded by, and for the disability community, and was a major influence in the civil rights movement seeking equality for individuals with disabilities. Remember, the 80s were before laws like the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) existed, and individuals with disabilities were fighting for equality like other groups.

The quote reads — “Every disabled person has the choice of crying the blues about their disability every day of their life, or realistically acknowledging what they have to do in order to have a successful productive life.”

We’ve come a long way from the 80s as a society in addressing equality and access for all, including individuals with disabilities, and we now have laws like the ADA and Section 504 that help ensure every student is given an equal opportunity to succeed in college, and as the Disability Rag stressed — “have a successful productive life.” The Disability Rag quote above could certainly reflect anyone’s life if we change the word “disability” to “situation”, since we all have the opportunity to choose to take positive actions to change our “situation” in, our lives and our futures for the better. Taking positive action is what students are choosing to do when they come to UNCG. Here at UNCG the campus provides a supportive network of services for students that includes the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (known fondly as OARS). OARS provides accommodations and support, and helps students with disabilities develop personal success skills that will benefit them in college, and for life.

So as the Disability Rag quote encourages us all — acknowledge what you have to do in order to have a successful productive life, and utilize the resources of OARS and the university as a whole to make your life all you want it to be! Here at OARS we look forward to working with you to make that happen.

Bruce Pomeroy, OARS Director

LOOK WHO’S ROWING IN OARS!

Interpreting Services that OARS Offer

What does OARS have to offer Deaf and Hard of Hearing students? Glad you have asked! OARS have many interpreting services to offer. In the office Shane Byerley the assistant director of interpreting, who coordinates all services offered to Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. The coordinator puts services together to meet the needs of each individual student. These services include, but not limited to, Sign Language Interpreters; CART Services: Real Time Captioning/Remote Captioning; FM Systems.
LOOK WHO’S ROWING IN OARS!  (CONTINUED)

Sign Language Interpreters
This service is coordinated through OARS, and works with local agencies to pair interpreters with students based on course selection, time, and availability. Depending on the number of hours each course is, would determine the number of interpreters.

CART Services
Communication Access Real-time or CART is used by Hard of Hearing or Deaf people who use English as their first language and/or their language of instruction. CART is often used to understand what others are saying. A captioner (CART provider) uses a court reporting stenography machine, a computer and software to display everything that is being said, word for word. Remote captioning is also utilized where the captioner is offsite and the text appears on the computer or screen at your location.

FM Systems
FM Systems are wireless assistive hearing devices that enhance the use of hearing aid(s), cochlear implants and assist people who are Hard of Hearing but do not wear hearing aids, in particular over distance and in noisy environments. FM systems enable sound to be picked up closer to a speaker, sound source or connected directly to the sound source and transmitted to the individual providing greater clarity of speech/sound and a reduction in background noise.

These services are available to students registered with OARS and are free of charge. If you would like additional information about Interpreting Services or just general information check us out at oars.uncg.edu.

STUDENT CORNER-TIPS FOR SUCCESS

STOP BEFORE YOU DROP! A Glance at the Students First Office

Undergraduate students who began at UNCG in fall 2014 or later will be limited to withdrawing from a maximum of 16 semester hours throughout their degree. This limitation does not include the following:

- Course withdrawals that take place during the schedule adjustment period each term (within the first five days in fall and spring terms and within the first two days in summer sessions)
- Total withdrawal from all courses prior to the term’s last day to withdraw without incurring a WF grade (withdrawal failing)
- Approved Course Withdrawal Requests

WITHDRAWING FROM COURSES WITH EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES
If you encounter unexpected and extenuating circumstances that occur after the schedule adjustment period or
after you have already withdrawn from the maximum 16 semester hours allotted in your undergraduate degree, you may want to consider submitting a Course Withdrawal Request through the Students First Office.

If approved, withdrawal hours assigned through the Course Withdrawal process will:

- Be exempt from the 16 semester hour limit
- Result in a WE grade on your transcript
- Not be included in your GPA calculation

Students can initiate a withdrawal from a course or courses in UNCGenie until the last day to withdraw from classes without incurring a WF grade (withdrawal failing). While this date is typically the Friday of the 8th week of classes in the fall and spring semesters, students should refer to the current Academic Calendar for specific dates.

To learn more about the withdrawal policies please check with the Students First Office here on campus.

**FYI! FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**Qualities of Excellent Note-Takers**

Notetaking is an essential learning skill in college and in the workplace. Memory can take in and hold information only until new information comes along to replace it. This means that meaningful, long term learning doesn’t occur in classes, but after and between classes as you study. Carefully organized notes give you a lasting record of a class and the opportunity to understand and learn what you have heard. Below you will find helpful tips of excellent note-takers.

- Set yourself up for success: sit at the front of the class and use a pen (rather than in pencil) unless you are taking notes on a computer
- Skip lines to allow you the ability to add additional information later, if needed
- Avoid doodles, drawings, notes in the margins, or other material that is not relevant to the course
- Provide the class name, date, and title of the lecture on each page
- Use correct spelling as much as possible or put a question mark (?) or SP next to words that might be misspelled
- Identify important information with asterisks, boxes, stars, or other indicators
- Note any classroom changes, test changes, or other relevant class changes in a conspicuous place

These are a few note-taking skills that will get you off to taking great notes! Should you need more tips check on campus for note-taking workshops that are offered, or stop by OARS and pick up some helpful information!