ODS NEWSLETTER

Hello! Welcome to the first ever newsletter from the Office of Disability Services (ODS), brought to you by the Student Accessibility Advocates (SAA’s). Inside you will find information on a few of the SAAs, Pass/No Pass, announcement of the 2015-16 SAA application, and our crowdfunding platform. Enjoy!

Rebecca Klein

Hello! My name is Rebecca Klein and I’m a second year double-degree student from New York. I study Guitar Performance in the conservatory and Creative Writing in the college. Before becoming a Student Accessibility Advocate, I did advocacy work for a non-profit organization called SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young. My main focus is communication disorders, and I would love to talk with anyone who is interested in them (email me at rklein@oberlin.edu). In addition to being a SAA, I also like to read, write, hike and play music.

Liam Oznowich

Hi! My name is Liam Oznowich. I am a second year from Cleveland, Ohio. I am a double major in Cinema Studies and Creative Writing, and I am considering a minor in French. I am very interested in screenwriting. Besides working for the Office of Disabilities as a SAA, I work for Admissions as a tour guide. I also used to be on the swim team! I decided to come to Oberlin not only because of the outstanding academic reputation and because I was looking for a Division III athletic experience, but because of the student body. I was (and still am) so impressed by how welcoming, accepting and passionate Obies are. I have not regretted coming here once! If you have any questions, email me at loznowic@oberlin.edu.
Questions with the SAAs!

Why did you choose to become a SAA?

Rebecca: I chose to become a SAA because I wanted to help create more of a dialogue on disabilities around campus.

Liam: I chose to become a SAA because I have life-threatening food allergies and I thought I could help other students at Oberlin dealing with similar challenges.

What’s the best piece of study advice you’ve gotten?

R: The best piece of study advice I have ever gotten is to not spend more than an hour on one topic. Take a break, do other work for a bit, and then go back to it.

L: The best study advice I have gotten is that if you need to use a resource for an assignment, don’t wait until the last minute to do so.

What’s a fun fact about you?

R: A fun fact about me that not many people know is that I have an identical twin sister.

L: A fun fact about me is that my right eye is near-sighted and my left eye is far-sighted, so it’s pretty weird to see out of my eyes!

What You Need To Know About PASS/NO PASS!

Disclaimer: This is peer to peer advice. For, formal academic advising seek out your advisor, the Dean of Studies, or your Class Dean.

Have you ever wanted to take a class, but was worried that you wouldn’t do well in it? Then Pass/No Pass may be the best option for you. With Pass/No Pass, you can take a class and instead of receiving a grade for it, you only receive a Pass/No Pass distinction on your final report card.

Now, what does Pass/No Pass mean? A common misconception is that you can still pass the class with a grade as low as a D, however this isn’t true. In order to pass a class, you must receive a C- or higher. Anything lower than that is a No Pass distinction. Because Pass/No Pass isn’t an actual letter grade, it is not included in the calculation of your GPA.

How can one Pass/No Pass a class? Simply go to the registrar and they will register you for Pass/No Pass. This spring semester, Pass/No Pass must be declared by Monday, April 6. After that deadline, you can no longer Pass/No Pass a course. Another important point of which to be aware: it’s not advised to declare Pass/No Pass for a course that is in your major. If you must, however, speak with your major advisor to determine if it is possible to declare Pass/No Pass for that class. Hope that clarifies Pass/No Pass! If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to your SAA or academic advisor.

Do you want to become a SAA?

Did someone help you navigate college with a disability? Do you wish there would have been someone? You can be this person for an incoming student!

The Student Accessibility Advocates (SAA) Peer Mentoring Program is hiring for the 2015-16 academic year! We are looking for upperclass students who’ve “been there, done that” and are thriving at Oberlin. 2015-16 SAA’s must be available during Fall Orientation and the last week of Winter Term 2016. The application deadline is Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 11:55pm. The application is attached separately and will be available here on Monday, April 6, 2015.
Greetings from ODS!

Top (From L-R):
Isabella Moreno ‘94 (Associate Director and SAA Program Coordinator),
Laura Krupelak (Administrative Assistant)

Bottom (From L-R):
Annessa Wyman (Administrative Assistant),
Jane Boomer (Director),
Petersen Njamunge ‘14 (Adaptive Technology Coordinator)

Greetings from the SAAs!

Top (From L-R):
Charlie Martin (‘16), Althea Levine (‘17), Jasmine Lomax (‘16), Eric Estes (Vice President and Dean of Student Life), Anais Stewart (‘15), Liam Oznowich (‘17)

Bottom (From L-R):
Isabella Moreno, Mengchen (Sue) Xue (‘16), Rebecca Klein (‘17)

SAA Crowdfunding!
Did you know that the SAA program had a crowdfunding platform? It’s not too late to donate! Help the program grow and pass this link onto others:
https://crowdfund.oberlin.edu/campaign/detail/3647