

AccessAbility

DASS Newsletter
Disability Accommodations and Success Strategies

September 2026
Volume 19 Issue 2



Congratulations!

2026 EXTRA MILE AWARDS

Students for New Learning, an organization chartered by the Student Senate provides support and networking opportunities for neurodivergent students, identified three deserving faculty members to receive this award at the 2026 Teaching Effectiveness Symposium.



Dr. Nils Van den Steen,
Clinical Professor of
Information
Technology and
Operations
Management at Cox
School of Business



Dr. Ginger Alford
Professor of
Computer Science
at Lyle School of
Engineering



Dr. Seth Orsborn
Management, Strategy,
and Entrepreneurship
Department in the Cox
School of Business and
Co-Executive Director of
the Hart Institute for
Technology Innovation
and Entrepreneurship
(HITIE)

Students for New Learning

Build a LEGO Sea Otter

Take a break from classes and join us for a chill hour of LEGO building!
We'll be putting together the LEGO Sea Otter inspired by Ozzie, the
Disability Accommodations and Success Strategies office's mascot.

Come relax, build, and hang out with us!
Snacks provided!

Thursday
October 8
5 - 6 PM

Laura Lee Blanton
RM 303

Register here:



Ozzie Reminders



Testing Season Is NOW! Get familiar with the UTC's testing policies and deadlines.



Talk to your professor at LEAST one week before your test date. Plan ahead! Seats at the UTC fill quickly.



It's not too early to book that appointment with your advisor to discuss your spring schedule

Empowering Connections: **How STAP** **Can Help You Stay in Touch**



Communication is a vital part of everyday life. For individuals with disabilities that make using a standard telephone challenging, the Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program (STAP) offers a powerful solution.

STAP provides financial assistance to help eligible individuals purchase basic specialized assistive equipment or services, using visual alerts, amplified sound, or speech-assisted technology. In most cases, the program typically covers the full cost of phones within our approved voucher categories.

The DASS Team ~ 214-768-1470
dass@smu.edu

DASS Link Student Log-In: <https://shibboleth-smu-accommodate.symplicity.com/sso/>



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Vol 9 Issue 1

Welcome back and
Welcome new students!

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August 2026

Disability Accommodations and Success Strategies

DASS HAS MOVED



We are located in
Laura Lee Blanton 3rd floor

DASS-A-PALOOZA

SEPTEMBER 1

4:30-5:30 PM

BLANTON RM 303

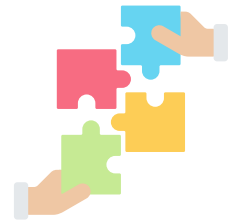
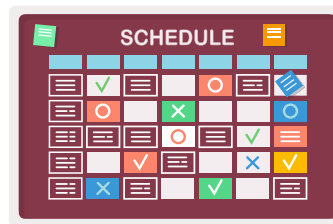
Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies is hosting its 3rd annual open house.

Meet our DASS staff and students and join in the fun with food and a raffle!



Fall Semester Requests

Submit your Semester request for Fall classes NOW! If you plan on changing classes, WAIT to submit your semester request AFTER the changes. And allow a day or two so the changes can be finalized in the system.



There are 2 new dining stations available to our allergy sensitive students!

True Balance at Arnold Dining Commons & True at Umphrey Lee Food Hall

Both offer meals free from the nine major allergens. And each offer a different dining experience but with the safety of being free of the nine major allergens.

These additions will provide students with greater flexibility, variety, and peace of mind when dining on campus.

Students with specific concerns or severe allergies are encouraged to connect with Erika Kertz, Director of Health & Wellness, at dietitian@smu.edu to discuss individualized support.



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