



# The Office of Accessibility Newsletter

## Make Plans for a Successful Semester!

Welcome to the Fall 2017 semester at The University of Akron.

It's my pleasure to extend a cheerful welcome to you all!

You truly are UA! It is not just a tag line but a way to see and redefine yourself. You are an important and valued member of The University of Akron community. As you take advantage of all the resources UA has to offer, remember to take time to enjoy our beautiful campus. The University of Akron works tirelessly to make your college experience one that you will cherish forever.

The friends you will make here will be your colleagues in the future. Your professors become mentors, and the campus becomes your new home. I challenge each of you to take advantage of all the University of Akron has to offer.

We are excited you chose The University of Akron!

Kindest regards,

Kelly Kulick  
Director  
Office of Accessibility

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## Welcome Back Week at the OA!

The Office of Accessibility is excited to welcome you back! This year, we will be hosting a **Welcome Back Week** for all students registered with the office, **August 28 - September 1, 2017**. The week's events also allow students the chance to win some great prizes!

If you are registered and have already requested accommodation letters before Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m., you will be entered into a raffle for a \$25 gift card. This raffle is **ONLY** for those students who request accommodations early. It pays not to wait! So don't forget to schedule your accommodations letters early! Students who request accommodations early are still encouraged to attend Welcome Back Week to enjoy refreshments and schedule an appointment with their specialist if they desire.

If you attend Welcome Back Week any day between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and request accommodation letters while in the office, you will be entered into a raffle for that day. Winners will be chosen each day (M-F) at 4:30 p.m. There will be three total winners chosen each day: one \$10 gift certificate and two runner-up prizes. There will also be refreshments for you to enjoy.

At the end of the week, all students who have requested accommodation letters either **before the start of the Fall 2017 semester OR in the Office of Accessibility during Welcome Back Week** will be entered into the **BIG** raffle for a **chance to win a \$25 gift card**. One winner will be chosen. The raffle will take place after 4:30 pm on Friday September 1st.

We look forward to seeing you and hope you are ready to start the school year off on a great note!

# Join the 2nd Annual Break the Cycle of Addiction Recovery Walk!

You are invited to join the 2nd Annual Break the Cycle of Addiction Recovery Walk. With your support this free, family-friendly event will raise awareness about the critical need for quality addiction and recovery services in our community.

**What:** 2nd Annual Break the Cycle of Addiction Recovery Walk: 1.5 miles

**When:** Friday, September 29, 2017

5:30 pm kickoff, walk at 6 pm.

**Where:** Stile Athletics Field House, The University of Akron

Register at [commhealthcenter.org/walk](http://commhealthcenter.org/walk). Those who register can make a donation, sign-up for a team and fundraise online! Raise at least \$20 and receive a free T-shirt at the event.



## Other ways to get involved...

### **\$1,000 Community Sponsor**

- Yard sign with company logo posted prominently in activity area
- Verbal recognition during event

### **\$500 walk sponsor**

- Company/individual name will be posted on yard signs along the perimeter of the walk

### **\$250 Step Sponsor**

- Company/individual name will be listed on posters at event

### **\$50 Sole Sponsor**

- Recognize a person/family who has been effected by addiction; all names will be listed

## Traumatic Brain Injury Research Project

Project Career is seeking additional participants. Project Career, is a research project through Kent State University which is funded through a NIDILRR grant, assists undergraduate 2- and 4-year college students who have had a traumatic brain injury through cognitive support technology. There are currently seven (7) spaces available for the academic year and seeking students.

In order to be eligible, participants must:

- Have a documented TBI
- Experience cognitive difficulties because of the brain injury
- Be enrolled in a 2-year or 4-year college/university in an academic program

If chosen to participate, Project Career will:

- Provide participating students an iPad and a customized set of apps designed to support their cognitive functioning.
- Provide assistance in obtaining summer internships and other employment-related opportunities.
- Provide on-campus training, assessment, and support from the project's Technology and Employment Coordinator.
- Assist students with identifying a mentor from their chosen field of study.

This research project has received approval from an Institutional Review Board (an independent ethics committee). Participation in this **free** program is voluntary and confidential. Students may choose to drop out at any time. Participation not only supports the career preparation needs and challenges of the students involved, as a research initiative, it has been designed to also help others. Participants enroll in the program on a first come first, serve basis.

If interested, please contact Deborah Minton by phone at (330) 672-0606 or by email at [dminton@kent.edu](mailto:dminton@kent.edu) for more information.

# 1st Day Checklist for a Successful College Experience!

	Items:	Why Needed:	Information to obtain item/ resource:
1	Current copy of class schedule	Check for changes in room location and times	Log in ZipLine (need UANet ID and Password) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access my Student Center</li> <li>Obtain schedule from dropdown menu</li> </ul>
2	Class syllabus	Instructor will review the syllabus on the 1st day of class	Log in ZipLine (need UANet ID and Password) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access my Springboard</li> <li>Click on course</li> <li>Click on "content" (select syllabus)</li> </ul>
3	Parking Permit – Placed on rear view mirror	Park in designated lots	<a href="http://www.uakron.edu/parking/">http://www.uakron.edu/parking/</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information under Parking Permit</li> </ul>
4	Campus map	Find buildings on campus	<a href="http://www.uakron.edu/parking/">http://www.uakron.edu/parking/</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information under Campus Map</li> </ul>
5	ZipCard (student ID card)	Ride the Roo Shuttle, access your meal plan or workout at the JAR or ONAT	<a href="http://www.uakron.edu/zipcard/">http://www.uakron.edu/zipcard/</a>
6	Computer Help Desk	Forgotten password or computer help	330-972-6888 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://www.uakron.edu/helpdesk/">http://www.uakron.edu/helpdesk/</a></li> </ul>
7	Cell Phone Turned <u>OFF</u> during class	Important contact numbers: UA Info: 330-972-7111 SC Advising: 330-972-7220 UA Police: 330-972-2911 SNOWLINE: 330-972-SNOW	
8	Pencil, pen and paper	Taking notes the 1st day	Campus bookstores
9	Folder, notebook or binder	Hold paper or course information	Campus bookstores
10	Textbooks	Confirm that you have purchased the correct text	Campus bookstores
11	Student email account (ZipLine)	Check DAILY for updates	Log in ZipLine (need UANet ID and Password) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access my Email</li> </ul>
12	Computer Labs	Designated for student use	Polsky Building Location: M158, 305, 333, 335; Auburn Science, Student Union, College or Business Administration, Schrank North (Adult Focus), Residence Halls, College of Arts & Sciences
13	Tutoring Labs	To assist students in various subject areas	<b>College Reading and Study Skills Lab</b> -Bierce Library/ Polsky Building <b>Writing Lab</b> –Bierce Library/ Polsky Bldg. <b>Math Lab</b> – Bierce Library/ Polsky Building

## Need to Drop a Class? New policy:

Students must drop a class within 14 days to receive a refund. Students will receive 100% during first two weeks of the new semester if they need to drop a class. After the first two weeks of the semester are over, no refunds will be given.



# Get Involved: New Roo Weekend!

The kick-off to your Akron experience! August 26 & 27



## Saturday August 26

### NRW Troop Meetings

Kick-off your New Roo Weekend experience by meeting your Troop and participate in some fun activities to help you learn more about all the great things at UA!



### Involvement Breakout Session

Are you interested in learning more about some of the different opportunities that UA has? Check out the entire list by downloading the Guidebook App and reserving your seat in the session of your choice!

### Large group icebreakers

Get to know other Troops as you all come together to have fun and break the ice before we march downtown.

### March Downtown

What better way to get to know your new city and new friends by marching together downtown? We'll close off the streets and march as a group to the historic Akron Civic Theatre!

### First Year Speaker: Jon Vroman

This year's selected First Year Speaker is Jon Vroman! Vroman will talk about living life in the front row and how you can make the most of your college experience.

## Hop to the Lock: Fall in love with Akron

The University of Akron is a community that is part of a larger one: the city of Akron! You will have the opportunity to learn about some of the great things our surrounding community has to offer at one of the best destinations in the city that is in our backyard-Lock 3! Cap off your afternoon by enjoying lunch on us.

## Sunday August 27

### NRW Troop Meetings

Your Leaders are here to answer all your questions and make you feel confident about what's in store for you here at UA!

### Roo Fest

Did you know UA has more than 340 student organizations on campus? Don't miss the chance to meet 120+ of these groups at RooFest.... UA's LARGEST involvement fair! Activities will take place throughout the Student Union; join the Department of Student Life for an afternoon of involvement, freebies, and lots of fun activities!

### Class schedule tours

Where's Kolbe Hall? How about Crouse Hall? One of the biggest parts of attending class on the first day is finding it! Our New Roo Weekend Leaders will be giving class schedule tours on Sunday. Just bring your class schedule and we'll make you a pro on navigating campus!

## Tips for Discovering the Right Major

Here are four ways to help choose a major for a student who may be Undecided:

- 1). **Seek out help:** It's extremely beneficial to you to utilize UA's resources when it comes to choosing a major. You are able to work closely with Career Services to determine your major, taking personality tests and working with advisers. <http://www.uakron.edu/career/>
- 2). **Explore:** Another option is to spend a semester taking one or two entry level courses within a major you're interested in. You may initially think you would love psychology as a major, but after taking a class you may realize that journalism is exactly where you belong. Your perceptions of certain majors may not be entirely accurate, so don't be afraid to get your hands dirty and enroll in a few classes that sound interesting to you.
- 3). **Be introspective:** The most important component of choosing a major is getting to know yourself better. This sounds like a difficult task, but there is no better place to do this than college.
- 4). **Be proactive:** Go to the meetings of a few academically focused clubs you're interested in, such as Student Nursing Organization or Engineering Student Organizations. Attend the events—like speakers or seminars—hosted by your prospective academic departments. Speak with other students who are enrolled in the schools you're considering. Being proactive in your search for a major will be your best asset.

Information retrieved from: <http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/twice-the-college-advice/2011/11/15/10-tips-for-choosing-the-right-major>

## Important Reminders

### Testing in The Office of Accessibility, Counseling & Testing Center and CBA&E:

- ◆ If you have an alternative testing accommodation and are testing in the OA or the Counseling and Testing Center, please remember to schedule your test at least **4 business days** prior to the day you would like to take the test. Tests can be scheduled by the student through the STARS website, <https://andes.accessiblelearning.com/Akron/>, under the Alternative Testing tab. For assistance in scheduling tests, please contact our office.
- ◆ If you are taking a test in the Computer Based Assessment and Evaluation center, you must confirm with the instructor at the beginning of the semester that they will be using their exam accommodations. You will also need to provide CBA&E with a copy of your accommodation letter. Accommodation letters may be printed from STARS.
- ◆ Due to the large volume of testing accommodations, some students may find that their testing location has been. If you are one of the students whose testing location has been moved, you will be notified by your Disability Specialist. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your testing accommodations, please contact your Disability Specialist.

### Request your accommodations:

- ◆ Make sure to request your accommodations at least **1 week prior** to the beginning of classes for the upcoming semester.
- ◆ If you are receiving transcribers or interpreters as an accommodation for next semester, it is recommended that you submit these long term transcriber and interpreter requests at least **six weeks prior** to the beginning of the semester.

### Notetaking accommodations:

- ◆ If you are utilizing notetakers as an accommodation this semester, please remember to only request notetakers for courses in which they will be needed. This does not include out of classroom experiences (labs, online, recitations, etc.). Please contact the Notetaker Coordinator at [msimmons@uakron.edu](mailto:msimmons@uakron.edu) if you need assistance.

### Order your textbooks:

- ◆ Make sure you order your textbooks before classes start so you can be prepared for your first day of classes.

### Important Dates

**August 28, 2017**  
Fall Semester 2017  
classes begin

**September 4, 2017**  
Labor Day Holiday-  
University Closed

**November, 2017**  
Spring 2018  
registration begins

**November 23-26,  
2017**  
Thanksgiving Recess

**December 10, 2017**  
Final Instructional  
Day for Fall 2017  
classes

**December 11-17  
2017**  
Finals Week

**December 15-16  
2017**  
Fall 2017  
Commencement

**December 19, 2017**  
Final Grades Due

## Disabilities Awareness Week 2017

Come join The Office of Accessibility for Disabilities Awareness Week  
Become informed, spread awareness and have some fun!

**October 30th— November 3rd, 2017!**



### Prelude to Disabilities Awareness Week:

A performance by D.J. Demers, a comedian who is hard-of-hearing (in collaboration with Residence Life & Housing) on Wednesday October 25th, 2017!

### Disabilities Awareness Week events will include:

A performance by comedian Matt Glowacki, showing of the documentary "When I Stutter," community outreach opportunities and a visit from the beloved WagTime Therapy Dogs!

Official schedule of events to be announced soon! **Stay tuned!!**

## Meet the OA Staff!

### **Kathleen (Kelly) Kulick, M.Ed.,CRC**

Kelly is the Director for the Office of Accessibility. Kelly has 18 years of experience working with students with disabilities in higher education. Kelly earned both her Undergraduate and Master's degrees from Kent State University and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Kelly has worked extensively with the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation in Akron as well as other community agencies that work with individuals with disabilities. Kelly enjoys being part of The University of Akron family.

### **Jessica DeFago, M.A.**

Jessica is the Associate Director whose area of specialty is working with students with learning disabilities and ADHD. An alumna of The University of Akron, Jessica has a Masters Degree in Higher Education Administration. Jessica is dedicated to helping students learn how to navigate and succeed in higher education through developing study skills and self-advocacy skills. Jessica also works closely with University students, faculty, staff and area high schools through department outreaches and educational opportunities.

### **Ashley Poulos, M.Ed.**

Ashley is a Disability Specialist and Service Coordinator for the Office of Accessibility. She works primarily with students who have physical disabilities, visual impairments, and chronic health disabilities. She received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Kent State University and received her Masters of Education in Community Agency Counseling from Cleveland State University.

### **Melissa Simmons, M.Ed.**

Melissa is a Disability Specialist and the Notetaker Coordinator. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Kent State University and a Masters of Education degree in School Counseling from the University of Cincinnati. Melissa has 6 years of experience working with students with disabilities and feels passionate and dedicated to partner with students in helping them reach academic success.

### **Leigh Sveda**

Leigh is the Adaptive Technology and Service Coordinator for the Office of Accessibility. She graduated from The University of Akron with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She is responsible for the administration and implementation of alternative media for students with disabilities, the supervision of student assistants and administration of STARS. Leigh also oversees the adaptive technology lab housed in the office.

### **Maddie Schulz B.A.**

Maddie is the Graduate Assistant at The Office of Accessibility. She has a Bachelor's of Arts in Interior Design from The University of Akron. After working in the field for a few years, she decided to follow her true passion of helping others. Maddie is currently a graduate student at The University of Akron in the Speech-Language Pathology program. She works in the OA as an advocate for students with disabilities as they pursue their academic goals in higher education.



## Meet the OA Student Assistants!

### Lauren Agra

Lauren is a junior majoring in psychology with a future focus in neuropsychology and behavioral neurosciences. She is a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. In her spare time she loves to color, listen to music and explore new places!

### Cora Bair

Cora has been with the Office of Accessibility for 1 year. She is perusing a degree in Special Education with a focus on Science Education and is involved in Greek Life, CASA, and other student organizations on campus. She loves cats, reading, and helping others.

### Taylor Foster

Taylor has worked at the Office of Accessibility for 2 years. A communication major, she is focusing her studies toward public relations and is pursuing a minor in Professional Writing. She is currently a senior and expects to graduate in Spring 2018.

### Megan Hanft

Megan is in her last year at Akron. She is majoring in public relations with a minor in Spanish. She is involved in her sorority, PRSSA and University Ambassadors. She wishes everyone to have a great school year!

### Laura Hurst

Laura has been with the Office of Accessibility for 1 year. She is a senior pursuing a degree in International Business with a minor in Supply Chain Management. Laura is graduating in Spring 2018 and is looking forward to her study abroad trip to China and South Korea next semester.

### Cierra Simmons

Cierra is new to the Office of Accessibility. She is working toward a Bachelor's in Pre-Physical Therapy and minors in Psychology and Child Development. On campus she is Co-President of The National Society of Leadership and Success, Secretary of CASA, Mortar Board, and Kappa Omicron Nu, and is active in ServeAkron and LeadAkron. She is addicted to coffee, obsessed with elephants, and loves to spend any free time babysitting her cousins and goddaughter.

## Updated OA Student Handbook

The Staff in the Office of Accessibility strives to provide students with the most current information regarding the provision and coordination of academic accommodations. In continuing these efforts, the staff asks that you please take the time to read through the Office of Accessibility's Student Handbook, provided below. After reading the handbook, you will be required to sign the Student Handbook Agreement in STARS before navigating through your account. Once you log into STARS, you will see a pop up box which reminds you to sign the Student Handbook Agreement. Should you have questions regarding the Student Handbook or the Student Handbook Agreement, please contact your Disability Specialist.

Link to the Office of Accessibility's Student Handbook: <http://uakron.edu/dotAsset/743584.pdf>

## Suggestion Box

We want your feedback! Email [ooaga1@uakron.edu](mailto:ooaga1@uakron.edu) with comments about the current newsletter or ideas you would like to see in future newsletters.

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**Fall & Spring Office Hours:**  
**Monday- Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**



Simmons Hall at The University of Akron