

Fall 2013

Dear Student,

A National Science Foundation funded project, *AccessComputing* serves to increase the participation of people with disabilities in computing fields. We apply evidence-based practices to help students with disabilities successfully pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees and careers in computing fields.

On page two of this letter, you'll find a **profile of Shaun**, an *AccessComputing* student team member, and information about how to **become an *AccessComputing* team member**.

Page three talks about **attending conferences as a student**, a **scholarship website**, and how to get involved with **undergraduate research**.

Page four highlights a student organization called **Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities**, new *AccessComputing* resources, the **Business Leadership Network**, an interesting **video**, and **information about DO-IT**.

The insert lists information about a variety of **exciting internship and scholarship programs**.

We sincerely wish you a successful and enjoyable college experience. To request this newsletter in an alternate format, contact Brianna Blaser, *AccessComputing* Coordinator/Counselor, at 206-685-3648 (V/TTY) or blaser@uw.edu.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Ladner".

Richard Ladner
Principal Investigator, *AccessComputing*
Professor, Computer Science and Eng.
University of Washington

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheryl Burgstahler".

Sheryl Burgstahler
Co-PI, *AccessComputing*
Director, DO-IT
University of Washington

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brianna Blaser".

Brianna Blaser
Coordinator/Counselor
AccessComputing
University of Washington

AccessComputing Team

Member Profile: Shaun



My name is Shaun. I'm an assistant professor at the University of Maryland Baltimore County where I teach classes, mentor students, and conduct research. I earned my bachelor's and master's

degrees in computer science at the University of Massachusetts, and then earned my Ph.D. in information science at the University of Washington. I started working on research as an undergrad—my first research project was using computer image processing techniques to create a searchable index of George Washington's handwritten letters. I also worked on projects related to computer animation, video games, and technology for the classroom.

Outside of school, I've held a number of computing-related jobs and internships. I designed websites for a web design firm, hunted for software bugs at Microsoft, and developed new mobile device technologies at Intel.

I have a physical disability that affects my limbs and made me rather short in stature. I type with one hand and use Sticky Keys to help me type. I also use adaptive driving equipment and keep a lot of step stools around the house. Luckily, I can still use a computer quite well with my disability.

If you're thinking about a career in computing, you should learn about the different types of work that computer scientists do. Learn about programming and the different types of programming tools. There are some great online resources for learning about programming, such as Codecademy, Khan Academy, and

Udacity. However, computing isn't just about programming. You might find yourself interested in computer-based art, 3D modeling and design, or computer music. See what's out there, and you might find something that really interests you.

A lot of young people aren't sure what they want to do in their career. It's important to keep an open mind, to try new things, and find something that you really enjoy. When learning about computing, it's important to be patient and not give up too early. Learning to write computer programs is like learning a new language or a new way of thinking. It takes time and patience, but you can do it.

These days, many people use computers to read websites, listen to music, watch videos, and talk with people online. But computers are also powerful tools for being creative. Using your computer and free or inexpensive software, you can write stories, create art, make music, record and edit movies, and write apps or video games. Don't just think of the computer as another TV—you can use it to make something!

AccessComputing Seeks Students in Computing Fields

AccessComputing is recruiting students with disabilities for a project funded by the National Science Foundation. *AccessComputing* provides opportunities for students to locate internships and other work experiences, participate in events, conduct labor market research, develop disability disclosure and accommodation strategies, and network with peers and mentors.

The *AccessComputing* project is recruiting high school, community college, undergraduate, and graduate students pursuing computing careers. The *AccessComputing* student team member application is available online at: www.uw.edu/accesscomputing/team_app.html. For more information, contact Brianna Blaser at 206-685-3648 (V/TTY) or blaser@uw.edu.

Attending Conferences as a Student

Finding and going to conferences as a student can be a great way to build a network, learn important professional development skills, be exposed to new fields and job opportunities, or present about your own research.

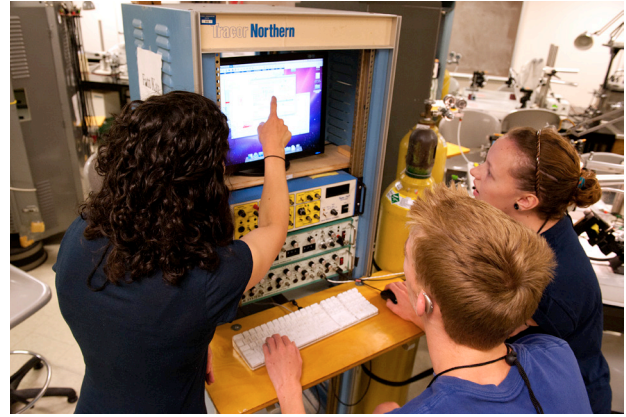
What conferences should you think about going to? *AccessComputing* students have attended a variety of conferences, including:

- Local computing or diversity related conferences
- Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing (www.tapiaconference.org)
- Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing (www.gracehopper.org)
- Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities Full Access Student Summit (www.cosdonline.org)
- ACM Special Interest Group in Computer Science Education (SIGCSE) (www.sigcse.org/events/symposia)
- ASSETS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (www.sigaccess.org/assets13)
- The International Conference on Assistive Technology and Persons with Disabilities (www.csun.edu/cod/conference)

Interested in attending a conference? *AccessComputing* has limited funds to support Student Team Members who are interested in attending conferences. For more information, contact Brianna Blaser at 206-685-3648 (V/TTY) or blaser@uw.edu.

Scholarship Web Page

Check out the exciting new page that contains scholarships for all types of students, disabilities, and interests. Using an interactive sorting tool, you can filter scholarships by disability or other criteria. Information includes scholarship name, deadline, description, eligibility, and links to individual sponsors. To see this page in action, visit www.uw.edu/doit/Student/scholarships.html.



How can I get involved with undergraduate research?

Research internships present opportunities for undergraduates to gain an exposure to research and consider whether they are interested in research careers and graduate school. There are several programs that allow computing undergraduates with disabilities to become involved in research.

- The **REU for Increasing Diversity** (www.pratt.duke.edu/reu/absher) at Duke University offers research internships in engineering fields, including computer engineering, with an emphasis on including groups that are underrepresented, including students with disabilities.
- **Distributed Research Experiences for Undergraduates** (www.parasol.tamu.edu/dreu/) matches women and students from underrepresented groups, including students with disabilities, with a computer science or engineering faculty mentor for summer research experiences at the mentor's home institution.
- There are many **National Science Foundation sponsored sites** for research experiences for undergraduates. Search for a site at www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.jsp.
- Subject to funding availability, **AccessComputing** funds research internships for students with disabilities. To learn more, contact Brianna Blaser, at 206-685-3648 (V/TTY) or blaser@uw.edu.



Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities

COSD is a unique consortium composed of large and small universities, national employers, and US Government agencies focused on the career employment of college graduates with disabilities. For more information, visit www.cosdonline.org.

New AccessComputing Resources

AccessComputing has just launched a redesigned website with a new look and feel as well as new navigation, search capability, content, and features. The new Choose Computing (www.uw.edu/accesscomputing/get-informed/why-choose-computing) area encourages high school students with disabilities to pursue computing and IT careers. There you'll find profiles of successful computing students and professionals who happen to have disabilities, resources to learn more about careers in computing, and examples of computing projects.

With the new website, we've also launched our *AccessComputing* Replication Packages (www.uw.edu/accesscomputing/get-involved/educators-employers/replication-packages). These publications provide everything that educators or professionals need to replicate activities that have been successful at working towards *AccessComputing's* goals of increasing the participation of individuals with disabilities. In addition, there is new improved searching capability in the Knowledge Base (www.uw.edu/accesscomputing/search-accesscomputing-knowledge-base). Take a look at www.uw.edu/accesscomputing now to check it all out.

The National Business Leadership Network

The purpose of the Business Leadership Network (BLN) is to help employers understand the value of hiring and promoting people with disabilities. There is a national organization and local affiliates. For more information about networking through the BLN, visit www.usbln.org.

Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, Technology

Based at the University of Washington, DO-IT serves to increase the participation of individuals with disabilities in challenging academic programs and careers. It promotes the use of computing and networking technologies to increase independence, productivity, and participation in education and employment. Check out this great video produced by DO-IT:

- **IT Accessibility: What Campus Leaders Have to Say**—University presidents, chief information officers, and other information technology (IT) leaders discuss the importance of IT accessibility on college campuses. Available at www.uw.edu/doit/Video/index.php?vid=55.

About this Publication

This publication is published by *AccessComputing*. Its purpose is to inform students with disabilities in computing about some of the many opportunities available to them. It is printed periodically. Submit content suggestions to Brianna Blaser at 206-685-3648 (V/TTY) or blaser@uw.edu. This publication was developed with funding from the National Science Foundation (#CNS-1042260). The contents do not necessarily represent the policies of the US federal government, and you should not assume their endorsement.

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Exciting Internships and Scholarships!

AccessComputing Internships for Students with Disabilities in Computing Fields

AccessComputing projects provide opportunities for students with disabilities to locate work experiences and paid internships, participate in career preparation events, conduct labor market research, develop disability disclosure and accommodation strategies, and network with mentors and business professionals. For more information, contact AccessComputing Coordinator/Counselor Brianna Blaser at 206-685-3648 (V/TTY) or blaser@uw.edu.

AAPD's Congressional Internship Program in Washington DC



The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation and the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) are proud to offer a congressional internship program for undergraduate students with disabilities. The program provides an opportunity for students with disabilities to work on Capitol Hill for eight weeks and acquire valuable work experience to enrich their academic studies. As congressional interns, participants gain insight into congressional office operations, public policy development, and constituents' roles in the legislative and political processes. For more information and an application, visit www.aapd.com/what-we-do/employment/internship-program/.

College Funding Strategies for Students with Disabilities

Financial aid is available to help students pay for educational expenses. Common forms of financial aid include grants, loans, work study, and scholarships. Students with disabilities may also be eligible for disability-related federal and state programs that offer financial support. Many students use a combination of these financial aid resources. To learn more about strategies for funding your education, check out *College Funding Strategies for Students with Disabilities* at www.uw.edu/doi/Brochures/Academics/financial-aid.html.

Emerging Leaders Internships for Graduates and Undergrads with Disabilities



The Viscardi Center's Emerging Leaders internship program matches undergraduate and graduate level college students with disabilities with paid summer internships at prominent corporations. Visit www.viscardicenter.org/services/nbdc/emerging-leaders/students.html for program details and qualifications. Applications are evaluated as received. Students are strongly encouraged to apply early, because early applicants have the greatest opportunity for placement in an internship. The final deadline for consideration is December 31, 2013.

This publication is meant only as a guide. Information should be verified with the sponsor and is subject to change.

Exciting Internships and Scholarships!

Workforce Recruitment Program



The Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) connects public and private sector employers with highly motivated postsecondary students with disabilities who are eager to apply their abilities in the workforce. Employers seek to fill both temporary and permanent positions in a variety of fields, using WRP applicants. During fall, personal interviews are conducted on campuses. By late March, a database of student information is made available to employers. Interested employers make direct contact

with students about job offers. The database remains active for one year. Ask your school's disability services or career services coordinator if WRP will be visiting your campus soon.

Microsoft College Internship Program



Microsoft

As an intern at Microsoft, you'll have real responsibility, real work, and real opportunities to jumpstart your career. (You'll get paid, too!) It's an experience you'll never find in a classroom.

You'll be given manageable assignments that you can complete while you're here, and your efforts will likely take shape in Microsoft products—or be used by Microsoft teams—long after you return to school. You could help create a web application, a marketing plan, a prototype, a user guide—the possibilities are endless. For more information, visit www.careers.microsoft.com/careers/en/us/internships.aspx.

ENTRY POINT! Summer Internship Opportunities



ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY

ENTRY POINT! offers outstanding internship opportunities for students with disabilities in science, engineering, mathematics, computer science, and some fields of business.

Students with disabilities can apply their skills in a real-world setting in competitive summer internships. For more information and an application, visit www.entrypoint.org.

Google Lime Scholarship



Google is committed to helping the innovators of the future make the most of their talents by providing scholarships and networking retreats for computer science students with disabilities. Recipients of the 2014 Google Lime Scholarship will each receive a \$10,000

scholarship for the 2014–2015 school year. Selected students will also be invited to attend the annual Google Scholars' Retreat at the Googleplex in Mountain View, California in 2014. Scholarships will be awarded based on the strength of candidates' academic background and demonstrated passion for computer science. For more information, visit www.limeconnect.com/opportunities/page/google-lime-scholarship-program.

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