The Universal College Campus – Accessible Technology for ALL

Brad Held
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Student Accessibility Services
Who is the University of Central Florida?

63,017 Students

2nd Largest University in the Nation

UCF
Stands For Opportunity

Class sizes up to 400
Who is the University of Central Florida?

190 University Buildings

Stretching over a vast 1,415 acres

12,078 Faculty and Staff

Offering over 200 degree programs
Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

- 2022 Student with Disabilities
- 30 Staff members

*Name change – Student Accessibility Services (May 2015)
Spread Your Net Wide

- National Center for Education Statistics
  - 11% of undergraduates in 2011–12 reported having a disability.
  - $1800 \neq 6930$ (2.8%)
- How can we reach the students that don’t connected with our offices or self-disclosed…or the students that are undiagnosed and overlooked.

In 2004, me and my wife were driving back from Miami, where we had been visiting her parents. To pass the time, I read aloud from The Order of the Phoenix—the fifth book in J.K. Rowling’s beloved Harry Potter series—while she drove.

Occasionally, she asked me to repeat or clarify something I read. She had noticed patterns: I omitted words like “the” or “with” and used incorrect pronouns, referring to Harry as “she,” for example.

My mother had made a suggestion to get tested for a learning disability after my first academic dismissal from college. The test was too expensive, so I never made the appointment. It wasn’t until two additional dismissal that my wife applied for a grant for me to get psychological testing.

When I was diagnosed, a few months later, with multiple learning disorders that included dyslexia, it was a life-changing experience for me.

“Knowing that there was something holding me back and now I could do something about it was a tremendous relief,” I shared with my friends, “It was a huge burden off my shoulders. I wish I would haven’t gotten help sooner.”

I was readmitted to UGA on academic probation, and registered with UGA’s Disability Resource Center. With the accommodations and assistive technology provided (including a portable copy of Read & Write Gold), I earned good grades and was taken off probation within one semester. In December 2006—11 years after I originally enrolled in college—I received a degree in applied biotechnology.
I Was FINALLY a College Graduate!
Mainstream Technology

- Motion Activation
  - Xbox Kinect
- Word Prediction
  - Text Messages
- Speech to Text
  - Siri
- Digital books
  - Kindle
Welcome all to UCF

- **Language Shift: Focus on more welcoming terms**
  - Inclusive, Access, Awareness, Barriers, Collaborative, Accessible, Connected, Reasonable, Partnership

- **Perspective**

- **Disability or Environment**

- **Other student populations**
  - First Generations College Students
  - English as a Second Language
  - Struggling First Year Writers
  - Graduate Students
  - Athletes
  - Students with unidentified Learning Disabilities
  - Online Students
5 Challenges for Students

- Reading
- Notetaking
- Research
- Writing
- Studying

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Mainstream Technology and Language

- Instead of Assistive Technology
  - Literacy Suite

- Instead of Assistive Technology
  - Notetaking Technology
Read & Write

- Universal Design Tool – Cross Platform
- Floating Toolbar that Integrates with Mainstream Applications
- **Improves** Reading Fluency and Comprehension
- **Facilitates** Research, Writing, Studying, and Test Taking
- **Encourages** Independence and Inclusion
- **Prepares** Students for Success in College and Careers

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Literacy Suite
Academic Access Areas

- Reading
- Writing
- Research

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Hi, my name is Australian Karen. I am the latest Text to Speech Voice in Read & Write Gold. To help students understand what is being read, I can change the rate of my voice. I can speak very fast for good established readers, or I can talk very slow for readers with a print disability.

In the next few slides, Brad will be describing how academic success is being reached at the University of Central Florida with the help of some of the latest Assistive Technology.
Reading Supports
Text to Speech (TTS)

- Easily readable floating toolbar that locks on the open application. Can be set to move around the screen.
- Makes the PC speak with a human sounding voice.
- Speed of speech can be adjusted to learning style.
- Font and color changing
- Online help and videos

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Writing Supports

Proofing Tools

• Word Prediction
• Word Wizard
  • Resource for those times when you are at a loss for a word. Increases vocabulary, understanding, and efficiency.
• Verb Checker
  • Determine the correct verb conjugation for past, present, or future tense.
• Sounds Like and Confusable Words Checker
  • Identifies words that sound the same, but are spelled differently such as "eye" and "I“.
• Phonetic Spell Checker
  • Analyzes spelling and returns suggestions with definitions.
• Text to Speech
  • Student hears the mistake.
Fact Mapper

- Visual representation of facts and ideas on screen - a visual mind map
- Tool for brainstorming, drafting, mapping out ideas, and creating outlines for essays and revising work.
- Export outline to Word
Sonocent Audio Notetaker

- Uses your laptop built-in microphone or Apps for your smartphone and tablets
- Splits your recording up into individual phrases and displays them on screen as a bar.
- Organize these bars by color coding great sections and removing not so great sections.
The Project Tab

1. Recorded or imported audio is visualized phrase-by-phrase as colored chunks, which you can quickly navigate, edit and organize.

2. Color highlight chunks instead of writing things down. Use color to extract audio, images and text into new projects.

3. Add notes, summaries and transcriptions.

4. Import images, slides and PDF documents.

5. Export your project as text documents, music files or videos.
Now the Environment

- Faculty Advisor Board
Now the Environment

- Student Advisory Board

WHAT!??!
How to make it WORK!

Partnerships

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Involvement

Learning Tools Stakeholders (My List)

- Student Academic Resource Center
- University Writing Center
- Library
- Multicultural Studies
- Veteran Academic Resource Center
- Technology Commons (Study Labs)
- Student Disability Services
- Academic Services for Student-Athletes
- Regional Campus
- Center for Distributed Learning (WebCourses)
- Marketing
- Office of Instructional Resources

**Because UCF has a Decentralized Information Technology Services, IT Manager for each area was included.**
Involvement

- **Stakeholders → Players**
- **Pilot Sites**
  - ‘Player’ locations had end-users (students and faculty) with benefits to offering manageable support.
    - Technical Support
    - Training
    - Data collection
    - Anticipation
  - **Examples of pilot site**
    - **Center for Distributed Learning (Web Courses)**
      - Test tool with instructional designers
      - Advantages of e-text in your course
    - **University Writing Center**
      - Train tutors to use the software before and during sessions with students
    - **Academic Services for Student-Athletes**
      - Set up training for athletes to convert required reading to MP3 for road games
    - **Center for Multilingual Multicultural Studies**
      - All labs has access to the toolbar with the translator
Review Suggestions to Implementation

- Do Research
- Rename as Learning Tools and Notetaking Technology
- Find Stakeholders (Partnerships)
- Use Pilot Sites
- Discover Cost Sharing
- Don’t give up, great things take time!
Next Steps for UCF Campus Release

- **Landing Pages:** Read & Write Sonocent
- **Mass Marketing and Advertising**
  - School Newspaper/Website
  - Digital Signage
  - First Year Advising
  - Orientation
  - Faculty Newsletters
- **More Partnerships**
  - Bookstore
    - E-text Stickers
    - Audio Recorder Stickers
  - Community Colleges AT Specialist
    - Technology Transition

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Any Questions
Thank You

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