

I Linå'la-ta OUR LIFE

June 30, 2015 • Vol. 9, Issue 3

Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Tri-Agency



What The ADA Means To You? Estorian Lynn Tydingco



President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 1990.

On July 26, 2015, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. This landmark legislation helped to remove barriers and empowered Persons with Disabilities.

The ADA prohibits discrimination against Persons with Disabilities in the following areas:

- Access to facilities serving the public
- Public transportation
- Public services
- Employment
- Telecommunications

The ADA also addresses the right to receive reasonable accommodations.

I have asked several people to share what the ADA means to them. Here is what they had to say:

"After being exposed to Self-Advocacy, I have made it a priority to learn more about my rights, especially the ADA. The ADA affects my family and I in all aspects of our lives. Knowing my rights helps me to make informed choices in transportation, housing, health, and all the other areas. I am passionate about educating my peers so they may know their rights and learn to be independent."

Andrew Tydingco, Self-Advocate / Self-Advocates in Action Guam, Vice President / Self-Advocacy Workshop Facilitator / GDDC Adults Committee Chairperson / GRTA Board of Director / Co-Host of the SuperFriends Radio Show, / PADD Council Member / Mayors Planning Council Member

"The ADA ensures equality for Persons with Disabilities. Since learning about the ADA it is important to me to educate and empower others."

Stephen Madarang, Self-Advocate / Self-Advocates in Action Guam, Board Member-At-Large / Self-Advocacy Workshop Facilitator / Chamorro Cultural Perpetuator & Carver

"My family and I appreciate the education, accommodation, and enforcement of the ADA."

Lou Bascon- Mendiola, Parent of Adult Children with Disabilities / Self-Advocates in Action Guam, Associate Member / GDDC 2nd Vice Chairperson

"The ADA assures Persons with Disabilities with equal rights and freedom."

Roy Rosario, Self-Advocate / Self-Advocates in Action Guam, Board Member-At-Large / GRTA Advisory Council Chairperson / GSAT Advisory Council Member

"The ADA has taught me about accessibility and my rights as a Person with a Disability."

Lisa Ogo, Self-Advocate / Self-Advocates in Action Guam, Board Secretary / GDDC Board Secretary / GSAT Advisory Council Member

"Individuals with Disabilities have every right to work, go to school, and enjoy life. Keep living life by moving forward."

Rudy P. L. Cabana, GRTA Chief Planner

Continued on page 2

What The ADA Means To You? ...continued from page 1

"As a Self-Advocate, Self-Advocacy Facilitator, and Leader in the Disability realm, I appreciate, educate, and empower my peers "to embrace your disability, and do positive things with it."

Lynn Tydingco, Self-Advocate / Self-Advocates in Action Guam, President / UOG CEDDERS Advisory Council Chairperson / GDDC Chairperson / Guam State Rehabilitation Council Member / Self-Advocacy Workshop Facilitator / Co-Host of the SuperFriends Radio Show

Helen Keller wrote: "When one comes to think of it, there are no such things as divine, immutable, or unalienable rights. Rights are things that we get when we are strong enough to make good our claim on them." In other words, rights are not yours until you make good claim on them! Do not take your rights for granted!

Biba ADA!

The ADA: Work In Progress By Alisha Molyneux, J.D.

I remember learning about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in my Employment Discrimination class in law school. My law professor was excited to teach us about the ADA and how it was passed to help eliminate discrimination against individuals with disabilities. However, she was not excited to teach us about how the Supreme Court had been interpreting the ADA, which was in a very restrictive manner; the Court said that a person had to be extremely limited in functioning in his or her life to be protected by the ADA. One shocking example was in *Littleton v. Wal-Mart*, where the 11th Circuit found that Mr. Littleton, who was 29 years old and had an intellectual disability since childhood, was not "disabled" under the ADA because he could read, drive, and comprehend. Wal-Mart had not hired him to be a cart-pusher. 2007 WL 1379986 (11th Circ. 2007).

Thankfully, the ADA was amended in 2008 and Congress specifically stated that the Supreme Court's past holdings were wrong; the ADA is a law that must provide broad protection of persons with disabilities. In our work at Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability

Law Center, we have seen positive examples of landlords, schools, and the government being willing to comply with the ADA and other laws that protect persons with disabilities. Oftentimes, writing an advocacy letter with the client's request and citing the law is all that it takes. We have had the government remove sign posts that blocked the sidewalk. We have also successfully had a landlord withdraw its notice of eviction after a client with a personality disorder had argued with the landlord's grounds keeper.

Unfortunately, we also see examples of clients still facing prejudice based on their disabilities. We have met clients with depression whose co-workers and supervisors teased them for taking medication. Another client was not able to go to a doctor's clinic because the clinic

was on the 2nd floor and there was no elevator. The doctor did not know about the ADA or that his office must comply with it. While the ADA and equality for persons with disabilities have come a long way in the last 25 years, more work needs to be done. We believe that society still needs much more awareness, education, and, most importantly, empathy.

Alisha Molyneux, J.D., is a Staff Attorney at Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center.

**DISABILITY RIGHTS
ARE CIVIL RIGHTS**

Americans with Disabilities Act Helps Make College Dream Reality

By Maria Bontogon



Have a dream of hitting college as your post-secondary goal? No matter who you are, with or without disability, your enthusiasm, matched with self-drive and intrinsic motivation, will get you on your way to accomplish such a feat. Going to college can be overwhelming, especially for students with special needs. Let's thank the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as it significantly impacts the civil rights of persons with disabilities as they pursue post-secondary education in the U.S.

Do you have tons of questions in your head concerning preparation for college transition? Let's discuss some:

1. If I need an academic adjustment, what must I do?

You have a choice not to be identified as a person with a disability. However, you're required to follow reasonable procedures if you ask for accommodations. School publications and web sites provide procedures and contacts for requesting academic adjustment. The earlier you let the school know about your needs, the better, to provide the school enough time to review and provide appropriate services requested.

2. Do I need to prove my disability to obtain academic adjustment?

Documentation to show proof of disability is normally required.

3. What documentation should I submit?

Verified documentation regarding disability diagnosis, date occurred, how it was acquired and how it affects your major life activities including academic performance

are needed by appropriate professionals such as personal medical doctors or other health care providers. After receiving documentation, the school will review it. Interactive processing might occur between the student and the ADA support program personnel to identify services.

4. What academic adjustments does a post-secondary school provide?

Academic adjustment is free of charge. Services are based on individual needs. Accommodation may consist of priority registration, extended test time, sign language interpreters, providing a recording device or computers with screen readers. However, adjustments should not result in undue school financial burdens.

5. What should I do if I believe the school is discriminating against me?

You may contact the school's ADA office. The student handbook or school catalog usually has information to start the grievance process. Documentations supporting your reasons should be prepared.

Consulting with the school's ADA office about accommodations is crucial. With me, I provided letters to my professors explaining adjustments I need. Besides that, I personally email and meet with them before school begins, one by one, to introduce myself, detail how I can participate, and make the most out of the class. As a student, you may have rights but you have responsibilities, too, to perform and succeed in post-secondary education.

Guam Community College (GCC) Office of Accommodative Services

John Payne, Program Specialist

Phone: 735-5597 | 735-5555/6/8

Email: accommsserv.info@guamcc.edu

University of Guam (UOG) EEO/ADA Title IX Office

Elaine Faculo-Gogue, Institutional Compliance Officer

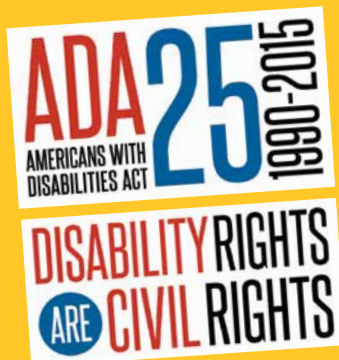
Phone: 735-2244

Email: efgogue@ugam.uog.edu

comedian computer tech self-advocate educator disability
Vice President Tax-payer President rights
 champion BBQ'er **Father** radio talk show host daughter advocate
 husband **Leader** auntie board
parent son disc jockey sister member
 prankster uncle mentor author party animal
joker business owner writer **friend**
 photographer
 advisory council chairperson
 Mayor's council member
 bookkeeper
 singer
voter
 Catholic musician
 shopaholic
 Bingo Baby
 community leader

Organizer

Chamorro rights advocate
 workshop leader
 pokilabot



Andrew Tydingco & Erlinda "Lynn" Tydingco, siblings
 Self-advocates and Individuals with Vision Impairment

More than Our Disability



Funding for this activity is provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Grant No. 90DD0014-01-02, facilitated by the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research & Service. The University of Guam is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Schedule of activities in honor of the 25th AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) Anniversary Celebration

Proclamation Signing with Governor of Guam: "In celebration of the 25th ADA Anniversary"

Coordinator: Ben Servino, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID)

June 29, 2015 (Monday) at 10am at Governor's Cabinet Conference Room, Adelup

Pledging on to the ADA: "Promoting and becoming a part of the nationwide celebration and recommitment of the implementation of the ADA - with a goal of getting 2500 signatures for the 25th ADA Anniversary"

Log onto: <http://adaanniversary.org/> | Encouraging Individuals with Disabilities to Sign the ADA Pledge; and Faith Based, Not for Profit Organizations and Government entities to Sign the ADA Proclamation July 1 - 31, 2015

"Technical Requirements of providing Accessible Parking for People with Disabilities in your facility"

Presenter: Ben Servino, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID)

Workshop on July 6th, 2015 (Monday) from 8:30am-12pm at DISID/DVR Conference room, 6th floor, DNA Bldg

"The Rights of Individuals with Disabilities under the ADA"

Presenter: Harold Parker, Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC)

Workshop on July 9th, 2015 (Thursday) from 2:30-5pm at DISID/DVR Conference room, 6th floor, DNA Bldg

Accessibility Site Assessments and Technical Assistance: "Local Businesses/Hotels/Restaurants"

Facilitated by Ben Servino and Individuals with Disabilities in the Community

July 10th, 17th, 24th, 2015 (Friday) from 9am-12pm

"Effective Communication & Interaction Strategies for People with Disabilities"

Presented by SiñA Organization

Workshop on July 14th, 2015 (Tuesday) from 8:30am-12pm at DISID/DVR Conference room, 6th floor, DNA Bldg

"How to make your PDF Documents Accessible for People with Disabilities"

Presenter: Carla Torres, Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT)

Workshop on July 16th, 2015 (Thursday) from 10am-12pm at DISID/DVR Conference room, 6th floor, DNA Bldg

"Developing ADA Self Evaluation Plans & Transition Plans"

Presenter: Ben Servino, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID)

Workshop on July 20th, 2015 (Monday) from 8:30am-12pm at DISID/DVR Conference room, 6th floor, DNA Bldg

"How To Make Your Websites Accessible For People With Disabilities"

Presenter: Carla Torres, Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT)

Workshop on July 23rd, 2015 (Thursday) from 10am-12pm at DISID/DVR Conference room, 6th floor, DNA Bldg

Disability Simulation Event: "A Day in a Life" Government and Private Sector Leaders shadowed by an Individual with the same Disability

Coordinated by Ben Servino and Carla Torres | July 24th, 2015 (Friday) from 8:30am-12pm at Participant's work site and experiences will be shared during a Luncheon hosted by the Nikko Hotel

Inclusive Recreational Activity: "Integrated Bowling Tournament with Special Olympics Athletes and GovGuam/Military/Private/NPO Sector Entities"

Coordinator: Marlon Molinos and Ben Servino | July 25th, 2015 (Saturday) from 8:30am-12pm at Central lanes Bowling Center, Tamuning

Workshop for Employers: "Providing Reasonable Accommodations for Applicants and Employees with Disabilities"

Presented by Ben Servino, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID)

July 28th, 2015 (Tuesday) from 8:30am-12pm at DISID/DVR Conference room, 6th floor, DNA Bldg

Acknowledgements and Certificates of Appreciation: "CAPE Volunteers and Hotels, Restaurants, and Businesses that have increased access to their goods and services"

Coordinated by Ben Servino, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID)

Low Tech Assistive Technology at Work By Carla Torres



Using scissors and a strip of heavy duty stick on Velcro (left photo), Carla Torres, GSAT's program coordinator, made a handle for Evelyn Duenas' cell phone. With limitations posed by cerebral palsy and a recent injury, Evelyn could not get a good grasp on her cell phone. This made using it difficult, and she missed many calls as a result too. With the addition of the Velcro strap placed on the back of Evelyn's phone, she now has a



nifty handle she slips her hand into (right photo). She can even place the phone on her weaker hand, which she has never been able to do before, and use a stylus with her stronger hand to access the screen (right photo). Evelyn came to GSAT that day for a transit training. A casual conversation with Carla about her cell phone challenges on her way out led to this impromptu fabrication of a low tech assistive technology solution. In Evelyn's words, "Yay! Problem solved!"

The Liftware System By Carla Torres

The Liftware Stabilizing System is an assistive device that is designed to help people with hand tremors. Liftware includes two parts: a stabilizing handle and a utensil attachment which includes a soup spoon attachment, an everyday spoon attachment, and a fork attachment. Liftware automatically turns on the moment both parts are connected. Liftware can be charged by placing the stabilizing handle on the charging cradle. Lift Labs', the developer of the product, uses a camera stabilizing technology to counteract the tremors caused by Parkinson's Disease and allows those who suffer from such tremors to feed themselves more easily. Liftware automatically stabilizes and shakes 70% less than your hand. The Liftware Stabilizing System is available for demonstration at the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT), House 19, University of Guam, Dean's Circle.

If you are interested in trying this product or would like more information, contact GSAT at 735-2490/1 or email gsat@guamcedders.org.



<http://www.liftware.com/how/>









DEAF JAM FIESTA

JULY 11TH

**YPAO BEACH
(BIG PAVILION)**

1:00-4:00PM

FOOD & DRINKS

DEAF ART EXHIBIT

ENTERTAINMENT

KIDS CORNER

VENDORS

Bridging the Gap Between Deaf & Hearing Worlds

Contact Info email Melissa Cayton at empowerguamdeaf@gmail.com

WHY BUY NEW?



The **Guam Recycling & Equipment Exchange Service (GREES)** is a free service of the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) where you can find gently used devices for sale or FREE, place your own want ads for needed devices, or advertise assistive technology devices that you would like to sell.

You can access the **GREES Classifieds** by logging onto: www.gsattedders.org and going to the **Programs & Services** menu and clicking **FIND AT**. There you can view the listings and obtain contact information about the sellers.

For individuals who do not have internet access or who are not skilled users of the web you can also call GSAT at 735-2490 to find out what is available.

GSAT does not accept responsibility for the devices that are listed on the GREES Classifieds.



I Linå'lå-ta is a newsletter published and funded through an Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) Tri-Agency partnership comprised of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (Guam DDC), Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC), and University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, & Service (Guam CEDDERS).

Comments may be sent to:
University of Guam CEDDERS
Office of Graduate Studies, Sponsored Programs, & Research
303 University Drive
UOG Station
Mangilao, Guam 96913
Phone: 735-2480/1 Fax: 734-5709 TTY: 734-6531
Email: terrie.fejarang@guamcedders.org

Guam DDC Executive Director: Rosanne Ada
GLSC-DLC Director: Harold Parker, Esq.
Guam CEDDERS Director: Heidi San Nicolas, Ph.D.
Editors: Ginger Porter, Terrie Fejarang
Layout & Design: Sean Lizama

This issue of **I Linå'lå-ta** was made possible by contributions from the following individuals: Kirsten Bamba, Maria Bontogon, Alisha Molyneux, J.D., Carla Torres, and Erlinda Tydingco.

Alternative formats (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tapes, or electronic file) of **I Linå'lå-ta** will be made available upon request. Please contact Margaret Johnson at 735-2477 (v) or 734-6531 (TTY), or email: margie.johnson@guamcedders.org for more information.

The University of Guam is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Are you an individual who is entitled to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) based on disability or blindness?

Are you interested in returning to work or experiencing a barrier to employment?



The Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) Program

at Guam Legal Services Corporation— Disability Law Center may be able to provide you with advocacy related to accommodations in the workplace, employment discrimination, need for assistive technology, or other services related to securing or regaining employment.



For more information, please contact
**GUAM LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
DISABILITY LAW CENTER (GLSC—DLC)**

at 477-9811/2

or visit our website at www.lawhelp.org



SSA has reviewed this publication for technical accuracy. However, this ad should not be considered an official SSA publication.