

“We Can Be Awesome, Too”: A Closer Look Inside Delta Alpha Pi By Zach Smith



Delta Alpha Pi Secretary Maddi Dube '19.

Worcester State University is home to more than a dozen honor societies for students of many academic disciplines and special interests. One particular interest honor society that stands out and has special meaning to some students is Delta Alpha Pi.

Delta Alpha Pi (also known as DAPi) is an international honor society that recognizes students with disabilities for their academic accomplishments. Looking closer at the name, Delta represents disability and strength, Alpha stands for achievement, and Pi for pride in accomplishments students make in their university community.

In addition to academic accomplishments, DAPi facilitates developing skills in leadership, advocacy and education for its participating students.

“I love DAPi because of everything it stands for,” says Maddi Dube, secretary of the honor society. “It’s a way for students with disabilities to have their voice in the Worcester State community by saying ‘we can be awesome, too.’”

Dube joined DAPi in her sophomore year after being told she met all the criteria to be a part of the honor society and felt it was a great way to make new friends. Her good friend from

high school, Danielle Tremblay, was already the honor society's president, so she felt comfortable knowing someone she knew as part of DAPi.

“Knowing Danielle allowed me to transition well into DAPi,” Dube said. “I also loved everything it stood for, and DAPi made me grow personally and became less shy around a group of people.”

For Dube, her favorite event to participate in is the DAPi Awareness Week held every March. During the festivities, members hand out colored ribbons to students. All of the ribbons in the event had colors representing neurological disabilities, including blue for autism and purple for attention deficit disorder (ADD).

“The ribbon handout gives everyone in DAPi a sense of power,” according to Dube. “It’s a way of showing the Worcester State community that we can be like everyone else by organizing our events just like any other organization.”

As the official secretary of DAPi, Dube does enjoy her time with the honor society, but it can be stressful for her. She has to continually check and send emails regarding events about DAPi, and create online signup sheets for all of the events.

“Being in DAPi means not just being a good student; you have to be a good person, too,” Dube says. “DAPi members can showcase their strengths through all of the events and excel in school, just like everyone else.

“It’s essential to give time; you get to show Worcester State how proud you are of yourself. It’s a great organization to participate in, and students not in DAPi don’t know what they’re missing.”

To join DAPi, along with being documented with a disability, undergraduate students must complete a minimum of 24 credits and have a minimum GPA of 3.1. For graduate students, they have to complete 18 credits, and their GPA must not fall below 3.3.

I would like to send a thank-you to Maddi Dube for her contribution to this assignment.