REGISTER NOW FOR SPRING SEMESTER!

The Registration period for Spring 2013 runs from November 19th through to January 27th. We highly recommend that student register early for the best course selection. It is imperative that students with a “hold” on their account rectify this situation with the appropriate office as a “hold” will delay the registration process.

In addition, students who wish to advance their studies can register now for the winter session. Registration is ongoing and runs through the start of classes on January 2nd. Classes will end January 22nd.

Once you have registered for classes, kindly complete the registration process with the Bursar’s Office in Shuster Room 031. Students receiving classroom accommodations should bring their spring schedules to the Office of SDS as soon as they are finalized. Classes for spring begin January 28th!

SDS CONGRATULATES SHARON!

Sharon Lowe was selected by the faculty of the Social Work Department to be the recipient of the Emita B. Hill Scholarship for academic year 2012-2013. This scholarship is new and it represents Dr. Hill’s commitment to the education of Lehman College students and her interest in the work of the social work profession.

As the inaugural recipient of this departmental award, Sharon expressed how humbled and privileged she is. She also stated that she will be using the award check of $500.00 to pay for accessibility technology to assist her with her vision impairment. Sharon has a condition known as keratoconus which is a thinning and distortion of the cornea that rendered her legally blind for many years. However, with the aid of hard contact lenses and medication, Sharon has been able to function at a more competitive level and continues to strive to do her best in all her endeavors.

Sharon is a senior and will graduate in May 2013 with her Bachelor’s in Social Work. Her future goal is to continue on a path that is propelled by a thirst to learn more about the social work profession. Sharon feels that she owes it to herself and the lives that she will touch to be as competent as possible. She looks forward to start the MSW program upon completion of her BSW.

Important dates:
Nov 19—Jan 27: Enrollment (registration) period for Spring 2013
Dec 12: Last day of Fall 2012 classes
Dec 14—20: Final Exams
Dec 24—25: Christmas Holiday—Campus Closed
Dec 31—Jan 1: New Year’s Holiday—Campus Closed
Jan 2—22: Winter 2013 Session
Jan 21: Martin Luther King Holiday—Campus Closed
Jan 28: Spring 2013 Classes begin
GOLDEN KEY RECOGNIZES NEW MEMBERS—FALL 2012

On November 13, 2012, five students registered with the Office of Student Disability Services were rewarded for their academic excellence by the Golden Key International Honor Society. They are Precious Feliciano, Denise Maldonado, Verine Morris, Peace Omede and Yudelca Vargas. These students were recognized as new members for being in the top 15% of their class.

Golden Key was founded over 30 years ago and is the world’s largest honor society, with a focus on academics, leadership, and service. The main purpose of the Golden Key International Honor Society is to unlock the potential in each of its members. It recognizes and encourages scholastic achievement and excellence in all undergraduate fields of study and awards both undergraduate and graduate scholarships to outstanding members.

The Office of Student Disabilities extends congratulations to all the students on their high achieving performance and their commitment to academics. We would also like to encourage other students to become involved in Golden Key and take advantage of the opportunities for individual growth and career development available to members.

A NOTE-TAKER’S EXPERIENCE

Latoria Irvis is one of the longest serving note takers with the Office of SDS. Note-taking assistance is provided as an accommodation to students whose disabilities interfere with their ability to take notes. Latoria started taking notes for students with disabilities in the summer of 2010 and continues to do so even though she is no longer a student. She graduated in May 2012 with her Bachelor’s in Sociology and minor in Early-childhood Education and is currently working part-time as a college assistant in the Bursar’s Office.

Latoria describes her experience of note-taking as one that is very rewarding. Serving as note-taker opened her eyes to the challenges that students face and assisting them makes her feel that she is doing something worthwhile. She admits that she has learned a lot over the past years. “It’s like taking a course but not getting credit for it,” she joked. She said that some students have specific requirements for their notes which was challenging at first, but she has learned to accommodate each student’s request. Latoria’s experience has given her the opportunity to appreciate and better understand students with disabilities. She recalled how just recently a student expressed her gratitude for her notes. Latoria says this brought a smile to her face.

Every semester students are recruited as Peer and Staff note-takers. Peer Note-takers volunteer to provide copies of their notes to their fellow classmates and are awarded a $100 stipend at the end of the semester. Staff Note-takers are hired to take notes for students in a variety of classes. Note-takers are expected to commit to the position for the entire semester. Both Peer and Staff note-takers can reapply for the position in any given semester as long as they meet the qualifications.
CUNY CENTRAL OFFICE MEETS WITH LEHMAN HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS

On December 3, 2012, Howard Hines, Director of Deaf and Hard of Hearing from CUNY Central, conducted a focus group discussion on issues for students who are dealing with a gradual or permanent hearing loss. In attendance were three of our students: Eutris Williams, Marlene Velazquez and Kirk Parara. Members of staff from the Office of SDS were also present.

Hines’ aim was to gain a better understanding of how students who are hard of hearing function in a college setting. He asked each student questions related to their hearing loss history, communication and socialization skills, academics and career planning. Specific questions asked included “Do you interact with other students?”, “Are you a member of a club?”, “Are you able to hear your professor clearly?”, and “Do you ask questions in class?”

Students were very interested and spoke about their individual challenges. They thought that the session was very valuable to them. From the information gathered, Hines hopes to inform these students of all the assistance available to them along with steps they can take to reach their future career goals. A follow-up session will take place next semester and we are hoping that more interested students will attend.

LEHMAN STUDENTS INTERVIEW FOR FEDERAL JOBS AND INTERNSHIP

Eight Lehman students were interviewed by a recruiter from the Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) on November 27th. These interviews were initially slated for November 1st but were postponed due to Hurricane Sandy. The WRP is a recruitment and referral program that connects federal and private sector employers nationwide with highly motivated college students and recent graduates with disabilities who are eager to prove their abilities in the workplace through summer or permanent jobs.

Successful applicants are hired for paid internships which sometimes turn into permanent positions. Also, if a candidate makes it into the candidate pool, once interviewed by the recruiter, he/she may be contacted by an employer in another location. Often, successful candidates must step out of their comfort zone by relocating to a new city which is a great opportunity for individuals to gain exposure and valuable work experience.

Participants in this program were engaged in multi-step preparation. Students’ resumes were approved by a counselor in the Career Services Office. They attended an interview workshop and also participated in a MOCK interview.

Although this exercise was geared towards developing set skills, the general feedback from the participants was that the interview was too long. A number of the interviewees commented that it was not a typical interview because they were not asked questions for one particular position; they were asked more general questions. One student said he had a hard time answering the questions initially but eventually he became comfortable and feels very hopeful. Another student felt very grateful because the recruiter referred her to websites that she could use to look for jobs in case she is not successful with the WRP.

We wish all the applicants best of luck!
Our students look forward to this time of the year when they can take a break from classes and visit families and friends or do whatever they wish. We at the Office of Student Disability Services would like to wish everyone all the pleasures of the Holidays-filled with warmth, joy and peace!

**VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROJECT**

Are you a veteran in need of help with your application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits?

The City Bar Justice Center will host several Free Legal Clinics on December 5, January 16 and February 12 from 2 – 4 pm. Volunteer lawyers will be present at these clinics to meet with low-income veterans and assist them with their claims for service-connected disability benefits.

These events will be held at the New York City Bar Association – 42 West 44th St (btw 5th and 6th Avenues). You are required to make an appointment by calling (212) 382-4722 or email dalamia@nycbar.org.

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!**

The Council of Citizens with Low Vision International (CCLVI) will award three (3) scholarships in the amount of $3,000 each to full-time entering freshmen, undergraduate and graduate students who are low vision, maintain a strong GPA and are involved in their school/local communities.

The application will be made available on January 1, 2013. You may visit the web site [http://www.cclvi.org](http://www.cclvi.org) and click on the “CCLVI Scholarships’ link for more information.

**DASF—ONGOING ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT**

The Differently Able Students and Friends Club is currently working on an accessibility survey of the entire campus. The members are going from building to building taking notes of areas that are not accessible or need improvement. This project will continue into next semester. If you are interested in participating please contact Lauren McCarthy, the club advisor in the Office of Student Disability Services, Shuster 238, or by e-mail: Lauren.McCarthy@lehman.cuny.edu.