## November 2012 Newsletter

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### Important Dates:

- **Nov 9**: Enrollment (registration) opens for Winter 2013
- **Nov 15**: CUNY Leads Career Workshop
- **Nov 15**: Project Open House deadline
- **Nov 16**: Last day to withdraw from FALL 2012 classes
- **Nov 19**: Student Advisory Board Meeting
- **Nov 19–27**: Enrollment (registration) period for Spring 2013
- **Nov 22–25**: Thanksgiving Holiday – CAMPUS CLOSED
- **Nov 29**: DASF Club Meeting

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**SDS WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR!**

Chandrika Surajpal comes to Lehman from Baruch College, where he was a project coordinator at the Computer Center for Visually Impaired People. In that role, he worked on two U.S. Department of Education research projects geared towards providing curricular access to students with disabilities. He also served as the center’s Marketing and Outreach Assistant, conducting outreach to New York City’s low-vision population and managing the center’s braille production service. Chandrika, who grew up in the nearby Norwood section of the Bronx, holds a bachelor’s degree from Fordham University and a Master’s Degree in Higher Education Administration from Baruch College.

Chandrika is honored to be part of the Lehman community and very excited to continue to serve students with disabilities. Being visually impaired, Chandrika states that he understands the many challenges faced by students and he looks forward to helping them to overcome these challenges as they pursue their dreams.

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**CUNY LEADS OBTAINS PERMANENCY!**

*Cont’d on back page*
TRENT LOVE RECEIVES THE PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Trent Love a graduating senior at Lehman College was recognized on November 2 at the University of Southern California for making a difference in the lives of children and families. He received the Lifetime National Volunteers Award which honors those who have provided more than 4000 hours of service over the course of their lifetimes. This recognition was awarded to Fathers & Families Coalition of America (FFCA) Volunteers of which Trent serves as the Chief Technology Officer. FFCA works to enhance a growing relationship between fathers and children and gives strength and encouragement to organizations and peers to reduce the impacts of father absenteeism.

Trent is majoring in Multimedia Journalism Broadcasting. He is a retired United States Army Captain and has earned several medals of honor including the New York State Liberty Medal for Service in WTC’s 9/11 Response and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Trent is the award winning television producer of Vets Chat Show where he addresses the issues concerning members of the United States Armed Forces and their families. His program is a weekly one-hour live interactive internet radio/television broadcast that provides a positive outlet for American veterans to express their views and opinions about different topics. Trent is passionate about bringing to the forefront the issues that are affecting American soldiers, sailors and marines today. On August 24, 2012, the New York City Council awarded Trent a citation for being an outstanding and worthy citizen who gives exemplary service to the City of New York.

Trent is a member of the Differently Able Students and Friends club at Lehman and has graduated from both Track One and Two Leadership Development Program. The Office of Student Disability Services wishes to congratulate Trent on his commendable achievement of being nominated for the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

Learn more about Trent Love on his personal page at www.vetschatshow.com and listen to his weekly broadcast of the Vets Chat Show on YouTube.

THE DASF CLUB IS MOVING IN FULL SWING!

Members of the Differently Able Students and Friends Club have already conducted four meetings since the new semester began. In their second meeting, new elections of officers were held. The executive consists of Lucas Vizeu (President), Venecia Bell (V. President), Claudia Tejada (Secretary) and David Benito (Treasurer).

Lucas is a sophomore and is majoring in Computer Graphics and Imaging. He is also a member of the Dream Team Club. Lucas is very excited about what the future holds for the DASF club. After familiarizing himself with the rules and guidelines specified by Campus Life, Lucas states that he is ready to take on the role as President with the help of his team. Lucas is the Lehman College representative for the CUNY Coalition of Student with Disabilities (CCSD) and he has recently attended a leadership retreat in Westchester County with other members of the Herbert Lehman Leadership Development Program.

The club participated in their first campus event for the Fall on October 22nd by distributing flyers for the SSI Benefits Workshop. On October 25th they hosted a healthy snack sale which was a success due to the tremendous team effort of the club members. In their last meeting held on November 7th, the club discussed plans for their next event which is an accessibility tour of the campus. This will be held on December 5th and students

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ROLANDO MARTINEZ—INTERNSHIP AT MUTUAL OF AMERICA

Last summer, Rolando Martinez was an intern at Mutual of America Life Insurance Company. He obtained the job by applying to the Emerging Leaders Program. This is a highly competitive program that places undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities in fulfilling summer internships and provides them with leadership opportunities. Rolando worked in the Home Office of Marketing Field Administration where his duties included updating participant information by using a software called “Hotline Plus” and handling of various types of client’s request forms.

Rolando said that the employees treated him with dignity and respect and that overall his experience was a blessing. The Emerging Leaders Program hosted an award dinner for all the participants in the summer internship program and Rolando received a certificate and a $1,000.00 scholarship towards his college tuition made possible by the Kellogg’s Corporate Citizenship Fund.

Rolando is a senior at Lehman College and is majoring in Business Administration. He looks forward to completing his education next year and finding a job in the field of banking or insurance. His future goal is to go to Baruch to pursue a Masters in Business Administration.

LEHMAN STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN DISABILITY MENTORING DAY!

Nine Lehman students and alumni participated in this year’s Disability Mentoring Day, which was one of the busiest and most highly attended mentoring days to date. Placements included Bank of America, Healthplus Amerigroup, Federal Reserve Bank, NYC Department of Corrections and the NYU Rusk Institute.

In celebration of the participants, the Office of Student Disability Services held a luncheon on October 25th and at the same time provided information about Disability Mentoring Day for those who may wish to participate in the future. Those who attended discussed stories from their experiences at Disability Mentoring Day with great enthusiasm. One mentee, who is a social work major, was placed at Healthplus Amerigroup. She found the healthcare field to be fascinating and she began to think that perhaps her future lies in this field and not necessarily the social work path she is currently on.

The experience opened up her eyes to different opportunities, which is what Disability Mentoring Day is all about!

Another participant, a graduate of Lehman, talked about her experience at Bank of America, where her mentor worked with her on her resume to show her what Bank of America specifically looks for in a resume. She also met a number of people in the company with whom she has kept in touch as she searches for employment. This is another great example of the networking that takes place as a result of this highly beneficial and unique day. You never know where one connection may lead and we hope all participants utilize the resources now available to them as a result of Disability Mentoring Day.

Congratulations to all our 2012 Lehman Participants!

DASF CLUB cont’d from page 2

will go around campus to identify areas that are not accessible, not working properly or not working at all. The club would also like to volunteer at a soup kitchen in December. (Date TBD)

Their next meeting is scheduled for November 29th, 2012 in the Library Conference Room 214.

Lucas is encouraging other students to join the club and help to create real change!
**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

There are many scholarships available that target individuals with disabilities and we are more than happy to share them with you!

Kim Singh, peer educator in the Office of Student Disabilities Services, has compiled a list of scholarships that have been mailed to all our students. If you have not received this information, please stop by Shuster 238 to receive a copy. In the past, some of our students have been very fortunate to be recipients of the Jackson-Stricks and Donald and Ellen Passantino scholarships which have helped to ease their financial burdens.

Students are encouraged to begin researching these scholarships opportunities soon as the deadlines are quickly approaching.

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**NYC – PROJECT OPEN HOUSE**

Would you like the opportunity to modify your living environment?

The Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities is undergoing a project to help remove architectural barriers in the homes of people with permanent disabilities and increase their independence in the activities of daily living.

To qualify, you must reside with the 5 boroughs, have a permanent disability and meet Section 8 income guidelines. Registration forms can be found at www.nyc.gov/html/mopd/html/poh/application.shtml. Kindly submit the application via the online Registration Form no later than November 15, 2012.

For more information, contact The Mayors Office for People with Disabilities by dialing 311 or through their website at www.nyc.gov/MOPD. Apply now because this program operates a first come, first served basis!

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**DYSLEXIA RESEARCH**

Find out more about dyslexia by participating in a research study with Language researchers at Brooklyn College. This is an ongoing program that will run for the next two semesters—Fall 2012 and Spring 2013. Participants will complete mainly verbal and reading tasks and be asked to commit 2 hours. Participants must be between 18 and 35 and have learned English before age 5.

Individuals will be compensated $20.00 for participating in the research. For more information, you may email Rita at: rel-haddad@gc.cuny.edu or call the number 347-446-7838.

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**CUNY LEADS cont’d from front page**

People with disabilities are underrepresented in the work world. CUNY Leads strives to increase employment opportunities for students with disabilities through academic guidance, career preparation and targeted programming.

**Thanks to everyone who helped to institutionalize this Program!**

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**SDS Staff**

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“ATTITUDES are the real disability”