NY DISABILITIES FILM FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!

Partnering with ReelAbilities.Org., Lehman’s Office of Student Disability Services, hosted two screenings of the first NY Disability Film Festival on March 11 and 12 in the East Dining Room. The two day event was dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories and artistic expressions of people with different abilities. The festival featured cutting edge films challenging the way people with disabilities, who are America’s largest minority group, are often perceived.

Over the two evenings nine films; three features and six shorts from across the spectrum of disabilities and covering a wide range of topics, were shown. Following each film there was a discussion and Q & A. The program drew interest from faculty, staff and students as well as members of the community.

Several of the filmmakers were present to discuss their work. Steven Wampler whose story is depicted in Wampler’s Descent, captivated the audience as he described the experience of his five day climb up the famous El Capitan Mountain. Mr. Wampler, who was born with Cerebral Palsy, has use of only one arm. When asked what was most memorable to him about making the film, Wampler’s answer was, “when I open my emails and read how my climb meant so much to children with disabilities”. Spanish film maker Roberto Perez Toledo, director of Six Points of Emma traveled to NY from Spain, to talk about the challenges he encountered while making his film in the Canary Islands. David Block whose, documentary, Dancing Outside the Box, a film about wheelchair ballroom dancing charmed the audience. Mr. Block, who is visually impaired, was accompanied by his lead actor, Ray Leight. When asked by an audience member about techniques used to teach wheelchair ballroom dancing, actor Leight, a wheelchair user, invited the audience member to join him in a spontaneous demonstration.

“We received a tremendous response to the film festival,” said Merrill Parra, Director of Student Disability Services. She added, “That the prospect of making this an annual event is very high because film is seen as a way of changing people’s attitudes.” Lehman is the only CUNY College to serve as a venue partner and was the first college in the Bronx to host the event.

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**Save the Date:**

- **Apr 8:** Deadline to order caps & gowns
- **Apr 10:** Registration for Summer 1 & 2 Sessions
- **Apr 10:** Sex & Disability Panel Discussion
- **Apr 12:** Deadline to withdraw with a Grade “W”
- **Apr 15:** Print Disability Workshop
- **Apr 17:** An International Perspective
- **Apr 17:** Jackson-Stricks Scholarship deadline
- **Apr 18:** SGA Awards deadline
- **Apr 22:** Registration for Fall 2013
- **Apr 24:** Take Back the Night

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Steve Wampler responding to questions from the audience (1). Top Row from L to R - Dean Holloway and Merrill Parra. Bottom Row from L to R - Actor Ray Leight, Filmmaker David Block and Actress Mary Archebold (2). Section of the audience (3)
THE OFFICE OF STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES PRESENTS:

AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON DISABILITY AND HIGHER EDUCATION

EDMUND SNAGS A SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN WASHINGTON DC!

Edmund Asiedu woke up at 4:30 am on Sunday, March 17th to race in the NYC half marathon. There were a few moments of doubt when he stepped outside into the freezing temperatures but he pressed on to the starting line. In the end, despite his freezing feet, Edmund was able to cut 17 minutes off his previous race time and placed 3rd in his age category! This is just one example of the hard work and dedication Edmund puts into everything he does, which leads to positive, well earned results.

Edmund is one of those students who makes it a point to inquire about available opportunities and then acts on those opportunities. As a result of much effort, Edmund has currently landed a summer internship in Washington D.C. with the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). Edmund applied for the internship in December of 2012, was selected for a phone interview, and as a result became a finalist. On March 14, he received the exciting news that he was selected as a 2013 AAPD summer intern.

The AAPD internship program offers an opportunity to engage in a professional work environment in Washington D.C., to serve as a self-advocate and as an advocate for the disability community. Edmund will also serve as an ambassador for his local community. This is an 11 week paid internship experience with transportation and lodging paid for!

The phrase “he is so lucky” does not apply here. Edmund absolutely earned this opportunity! As a future human rights lawyer, this experience with the AAPD will have a lasting effect on Edmund’s outlook for his future. I am certain that he will leave his mark in Washington. The staff of the Office of Student Disability Services extends its heartiest congratulations to Edmund on this wonderful achievement.

TAKING A LEAP! STUDY ABROAD!

“It was so much fun that I did not want to come back to America!” That was how Lucas Vizeu described his three weeks study abroad experience in Chennai India. During the Fall Semester, Lucas kept checking the CUNY Study Abroad Program Directory for possible courses that relate to his major. Finally he saw the opportunity to study Documentary Production and Cultural Studies and he went for it. Lucas travelled to India during the winter break with sixteen other CUNY students. He was the only student from Lehman on the trip.

Lucas spent his time abroad engaging in a combination of class lectures, documenting the history of a Sanskrit professor, field trips and sightseeing. Sanskrit is the ancient language of India. Lucas visited many places of interest and was fortunate to witness the Pongal festival. This is a very special celebration of thanksgiving in India which lasts for about four days. Lucas said that the experience of a different culture, religion, food and history broadened his knowledge and taught him to think differently about how other people live. He said the food was very tasty and he had a lot of it. Lucas made many friends and took countless pictures.

Lucas would like to encourage other students to explore these benefits of studying.

Cont’d on back page
SGA DISTINCTION AWARDS ARE HERE AGAIN!

There are 10 awards to choose from including Lehman Students with Disabilities!

The Student Government Association recognizes its commitment to the Lehman College student body. One of their many concerns is to aid students with the opportunity to excel academically and reach future goals.

The SGA Distinction Award for students with disabilities will be awarded to one (1) student, receiving an award of $300.

For eligibility, process, & applications please contact the Office of Student Disabilities Services at Shuster Hall 238 or visit the Office of the Lehman College Student Government—Distinction Award Committee located in the Old Gym Building Room 007. All requested information must be submitted to the SGA Office in a sealed envelope.

Deadline: Thursday April 18th, 2013—no later than 7pm. Please note that incomplete or late applications will NOT be considered.

For more information, email the SGA at: lehmanstudentgovernment@gmail.com or call 718-960-4960.

PRINT DISABILITY WORKSHOP

Having difficulty holding books?
A slow reader?
Sight impaired?

Join the staff of Student Disability Services for a workshop on Alternate Formatted Textbooks. The workshop is designed to assist students who find it challenging to read their textbooks to explore alternate options. Come and learn more about how you can change printed texts into available files such as MS Word, PDF or Audio Format that would work better for your needs.

Agenda:
• Eligibility
• Different Formats
• Application process
• Q & A

The workshop will be held on April, 15th, 2013 in the Library (Access and Technology Center) Room 215 from 3:30 — 5:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Joshua Karpiloff at: (718) 960-8441 or email: joshua.karpiloff@lc.cuny.edu

Light refreshments will be served!

How Do You See Yourself?

Lehman College will be hosting a panel discussion to explore the issues of sexual empowerment and disability. We are inviting everyone to come with an open mind to share in this educational and informative encounter. Join us on:

Wednesday, April 10, 2013 from 3 - 5 PM East Dining Room

GET READY TO TAKE BACK THE NIGHT!

Sexual violence against women and men with disabilities is unacceptable!

Let’s break the silence!
It is our responsibility to end the violence!

Join us on:
April 24, 2013
Resource Round Tables from 2 - 5PM
Program and Community March from 5 - 9PM

For more information, contact Nicole Madonna-Rosario ext 8761
OFF-BROADWAY SHOW

Theater Breaking Through Barriers (formerly Theater by the Blind) will be presenting the New York City premiere of According to Goldman, a play by Bruce Graham, opening Off-Broadway on April 6th and continuing through May 5th. This “savvy and insightful” play will be shown in the Only Off-Broadway theater that is dedicated to advancing the careers of actors and writers with disabilities and changing the image of people with disabilities from dependence to independence.

To read more about this exciting play, go to: http://www.nyc.gov/html/mopd/downloads/pdf/theater_breaking_through_barriers_flyer.pdf

To purchase tickets, go to: http://www.telecharge.com/Off-Broadway/According-to-Goldman/Overview

ORDER YOUR CAPS AND GOWNS TODAY!

Many students who are graduating have not yet ordered their caps and gowns. Please go to: www.herffjones.com/college/graduation.

THE WEBSITE CLOSES APRIL 8th.

The process is very simple but if you need help, contact the Lehman Bookstore at 718-960-8144.

STUDY ABROAD cont'd from page 2

abroad. It is an opportunity that he will never forget and he looks forward to making similar trips in the future. Lucas is grateful for the money he received from the CUNY Macaulay Honors College that made his trip possible. He obtained a B+ for the course.

Develop your Career Skills with your LEADS Advisor!

Are you a Senior about to graduate?
Do you need assistance with your resume, cover letter or your job search? Or are you a Junior who should be starting your career preparation now?

If you answered YES to any of the above, please contact Lauren McCarthy, the LEADS Advisor in Student Disability Services: (718) 960-1980 or e-mail her at: lauren.mccarthy@lehman.cuny.edu

Lauren works with students on resume and cover letter development, job search strategies, interview practice skills, communication practice for the workplace, resources for internships and much more!

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDERS...MUST ACT NOW!

The deadline for the USS Donald and Mary Ellen Passantino Student with Disabilities Scholarship is due in VP Magdelano’s Office on March 30th. The Jackson-Stricks Scholarship application deadline is also fast approaching. The deadline is April 17th. These scholarships are well known to the Lehman community because many of our students have been recipients of them in the past.

You can pick up an application form at the office of Student Disability Services, Shuster Hall, Room 238. Visit us as soon as possible and take advantage of these scholarships to win money and advance your career opportunities.

Meet the Staff

Merrill D. Parra—Director
Chandrika Surajpal—Assistant Director
Lauren McCarthy—CUNY LEADS Counselor
Doreen Patrick—College Office Assistant
Michael Rymer—Writing Specialist
Glendaly Rodriguez—Notetaker Coordinator
Magdalena Wojeik—College Assistant
Kim Singh—Peer Educator, Newsletter Editor
Joshua Karpiloff—CUNY Cap
Lashay Bentley—Peer Educator

Office of Student Disability Services
Shuster Hall 238
718-960-8441

“ATTITUDES are the real disability”