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Save the Date
• March 23 - Career Expo
• March 23 - Independence Care Systems Presentation
• March 30 - Last day to withdraw
• April 2-10 - Spring Recess
• April 17 - Housing Forum
• April 27 — Deadline to make up an “INC” from Fall 2006

Lehman College To Host Forum on Accessible Housing

In a city where the cost of shelter continues to rise, securing accessible and affordable housing is a challenge. What’s more, some persons with disabilities have a dual problem, locating housing that is not only affordable but also accessible.

In order to address this issue, the office of Disability Services will be hosting a Housing Forum. The event will take place on April 17th at 2:00pm in the East Dinning Room. Invited panelists will discuss a range of topics including legislation, building code regulation, the section 8 voucher programs, eviction practices, etc. The discussion is meant to be interactive so that guests can get an opportunity to pose questions and get to know about services they offer.

Panelists include but are not limited to Alexander Wood from Disability Network NYC, Ted Finkelstein from NYC Commission on Human Rights, Paula Wolff, a housing specialist from Center for Independence of the Disabled New York (CIDNY) and Roberto Ortiz form the Bronx Independent Living Center. All members of the Lehman Community are invited.

Change in Access-A-Ride Procedures

As of March 5th there will be a new Access-A-Ride (AAR) application process that will affect both current and new applicants. AAR provides a transportation service for persons with disabilities who cannot use public transportation. The new process requires applicants to visit an assessment center, located in the borough the applicant resides for a face-to-face interview. Based on the meeting, certifiers will assign an appropriate eligibility status. For more information contact: 1 (877) 337-2017.

Reminder!

All Class withdrawal requests must be received in the Registrar’s Office, SH 114, no later than 5pm on Friday, March 30, 2007. Please note that this a change in policy. The registrar will no longer accept mailed withdrawal requests postmarked by March 30.
LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER DAY

Stephanie Jefferson’s life was very gratifying. She had built a happy home and a thriving day care center at her residence. She had a rental property and two automobiles to choose from when running her errands. She had a fulfilling life until she suffered a brain aneurism in 1999. The years to follow were difficult for Ms. Jefferson who lost her cars, houses, business, marriage and even her eye sight. In 2002 she moved into a shelter which she described as “dark, light came from [an opening in] the ceiling.” She entered the shelter system with the hopes of obtaining public housing. Within a year, she was accepted into transitional housing.

With her life in flux, Ms. Jefferson began receiving training from the Jewish Guild for the Blind where she learned brail and took courses that prepared her for college and learned how to travel independently. After a turbulent three years, Ms. Jefferson’s life was improving. After she completed her training, the Commission for the Blind presented her with equipment and a scholarship to attend a 4 year college.

The period in which she began college was a challenging for Ms. Jefferson. She chose to attend Lehman College, over Hunter College, because of it’s spacious outdoor environment which “made it felt more like a campus.”

As she began her voyage toward higher education, she felt disoriented and was ready to quit. She says she received two signs that deterred her from dropping out. The first sign occurred when she was approached by a person from her past who convinced her to seek help. Ms. Jefferson expressed her anguish and the familiar stranger convinced her seek help. The next sign appeared as she was walking toward our office (the Office of Disability Services) to seek assistance. Just then a student approaches her and said “don’t worry, everything will be alright.” as if the unfamiliar person knew about all her troubles.

Since entering Lehman College, Ms. Jefferson has had much success in her academic career. She has a 3.4 GPA and was recently inducted into the Golden Key National Honour Society.

She says that since being disabled she learned to be considerate of other’s time and compassion for others and especially for herself. Ms. Jefferson is majoring in Social Work, expects to graduate with a BA in May 2007. She plans to enroll in Lehman’s Master program in Social Work. Upon graduation she hopes to work with seniors and eventually have her own center for adolescent teens.

SWIM CHAMP RECEIVES RECOGNITION

On February 3rd the Lehman College Swim team was declared the CUNYAC Swimming and Diving Champions for the second consecutive year. Jordan Kalus, a senior majoring in English, help lead the team to victory. He was recently named the CUNYAC Scholar athlete because of his ability to maintain a 3.5 GPA while performing on the swim team.

What makes this victory for Jordan even sweeter is that this is the first time that he has been eligible to swim competitively since a major accident several years ago left him seriously injured. Through the long rehab process he was not sure weather he would even swim again or return to college.

This soon to be graduate wishes to become an English teacher. He wants help “enable
INDEPENDENCE CARE SYSTEM

Independence Care System, a non-profit organization based out of Manhattan provides a range of services for adults who are physically disabled. Service provided range from wheelchair ordering and repair, and a physical and occupational therapy (on staff). To qualify customers should be Medicaid eligible and live in the Bronx, Brooklyn or Manhattan.

To learn more about what ICS has to offer please join us on March 28th at 2:00pm in the Library room 215. Refreshments will be served. You may visit their website at www.icsny.org.

WOMEN’S CENTER TO HOST CONFERENCE

The Women’s Center at Premier HealthCare will host a full day conference “women with Disabilities: Claiming our bodies” on Monday April 30, 2007, from 9:15am-4pm at the Crowne Plaza Manhattan Hotel, 1605 Broadway, in NYC.

“Few women love and appreciate their bodies just the way they are,” said Harily Rousso, Co-director of the Women’s Center conference. “For women with disabilities, the barriers to feeling good about their bodies are compounded by their physical differences as well as limitations in function.”

For more information call 212-273-6193.

CAREER FAIR TARGETS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The New York Career Expo will be held on Friday March 23, 2007 from 10am to 3pm in the New Yorker Hotel, 2nd floor, 481 8th Avenue. The Expo is specifically designed to connect individuals with disabilities with business and governmental agencies looking for new talent. Some of the companies that will be recruiting at the Expo are: The Home Depot, PSEG, Department of Army Civilian, National Credit Union, US Department of Energy, Social Security Administration, Bloomberg, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Life, IRS, Time Warner Cable, US Department of Health & Human Services, the Federal Reserve Bank, McGraw Hill Companies, HSBC, News Corporation, PepsiCo, Inc.

To attend the Career Expo you must pre-register at www.eop.comexporegistration.html. You will be prompted to attach your resume which will be saved to a disk and distributed to recruiters. Its also advisable to bring extra copies of your resume with you.

The Office of Disability Services will provide round trip transportation from the Lehman campus for anyone interested in attending the Expo. A van is scheduled to leave the campus on Friday, March 23 at 9:30A.M. And will return to the campus around 3:30 in the afternoon. If you are interested in attending please call to reserve your space.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The National Council of Jewish Women, an organization dedicated to community service, education and advocacy, is sponsoring the Jackson–Stricks Scholarship an award given to students who are physically challenged. A supplementary scholarship of no more than $3,000 is awarded to students who meet the specified criteria. For more information please drop by the office (SH-238) or you may visit their website at www.nycjwny.org and click on community services to be directed to the application. The deadline is April 20, 2007 then recipients will be notified in May.
PBS To Air Film on Deaf Culture

“Through Deaf Eyes,” a two-hour documentary exploring nearly 200 years of Deaf Life in America, will air on PBS channel 13 on Wednesday, March 21 at 9p.m. E.T. The film presents the shared experiences of American history—family life, education, work, and community connections—from the perspective of deaf citizens. Interviews include community leaders, historians, and deaf Americans with diverse views of on language use, technology and identity.

The film features works by deaf media artists who draw on their own lives and experiences. The film remains the larger story of Deaf life in America—a story of conflicts, prejudice and affirmation that reaches the heart of what it means to be human. The film was inspired by the exhibition, “History Through Deaf Eyes” curated by Jack R. Gannon of Gallaudet University.

Swim Champ . . . Continued from page 2

young people to really learn and not just be socially promoted.”

Jordan was one of seven Lehman students chosen to participate in the Metropolitan Swimming Championship at Rutgers University on February 16th—18th. Out of three events, Jordan swam a personal best at the 500 yard freestyle, 100 yard backstroke and the 1650 (mile) freestyle. The team came in 12th out of 17 men’s team overall. “The competition was amazing” he said smiling.

It’s Not Too Late

Since the start of this semester, the office of Student Disability Services has requested 45 (and counting) alternative formatted books. Formats include RFB&D (audio books on CD’s) and E-Textbooks (electronic books in word or PDF format or CD’s). If you have difficulty reading because of a print disability (visual impairment, learning or physical disability) you may be eligible for alternative formatted texts. It’s not too late to submit your request.

Office of Students
Disability Services

“Full Participation, Access and Opportunity”

MEET THE STAFF

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