

PARA NEWS & VIEWS

Paras at the Fall 2008 Support Meeting



Paraprofessional
Support Network

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Editor: Charlotte Marchant

Front Row Left to Right: Lucia Clarke-Lamont, Gillian Costelloe, Denise Jones, Edna Ward, Sandra Martinez, Selina Yu, Joana Valencia
Back Row Left to Right: Ivelaw Goodridge, Renate Johnson, Diane Coakley-Butler, Alix Julien, Mary Canada, Loraine Boston, Albert Evans

Another Para Graduates Congratulations to Madeleine Humphreys!!



Madeleine Humphreys (far right) poses with her fellow School of Education graduates in May 2008

Madeleine was one of the first Paras to join our program at LIU in 2002.

She is continuing to work as a Para while she attends graduate school here at LIU. See the May 2007 Para News & Views for a profile about Madeleine's history which includes being a circus



Madeleine Humphreys (center) with her sister, son, mother and daughter joining in the celebration!

A Word from the Editor

Welcome to the fourth issue of Para News & Views. The newsletter is published in the Fall and Spring semesters. The Para Support Network meetings are also held in the Fall and Spring semesters. We had a very successful Fall 2008 semester meeting with dinner and a speaker from LIU's Writing Center. (See article on back page about the Writing Center and other academic support at LIU.)

We hope to see you at the Spring 2009 semester Para Support Network meeting.

-Charlotte Marchant

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Becoming a Teacher: The Beginning and End of the Journey

The first course you take when you start the Teaching and Learning (TAL) program is TAL 201 Teaching: Imagine the Possibilities. In the Fall 2008 semester, there were a lot of Paras in the evening TAL 201 course.

The final class you take during student teaching is TAL 452 Critical Issues in Urban Education. The students reflect on all the work they have done throughout their journey here at LIU through the lens of the KEEPS mission statement. These students made a presentation to the TAL 201 evening students and the following is a statement made by Jennifer Graciano, one of the Paras attending TAL 201:

"TAL 201 has impacted me the most during my field observations and the presentation of the TAL 452 class. Throughout this process I'm learning how many opportunities there are for being an educator and every so often I stop to think which way do I want to go and where will I end up as an educator. Will I steer from teaching into becoming a counselor or school psychologist? Observing teachers helped me narrow in on my ideas towards my career path and the grade I want to teach. This has given me the opportunity

to see how different schools function and most importantly, I observed 3 different teachers styles, experience and structure. I have still yet to find my niche and this can be a little overwhelming.

When TAL 452 students came in, I saw myself in their position. One day I will be done and preparing myself to teach in September. They looked confident, proud and eager to go out there and put into practice what they have been learning at LIU's School of Education. I am looking forward to gaining that same confidence and pride as I progress into my TAL courses. It seems all so far to me as I'm just finishing my very first class of the pre-professional phase, but I am more than sure the benefits at the end and the feeling of accomplishment will be very well worth it all."

-Jennifer Graciano, Paraprofessional



The KEEPS Mission — What is it?

Every organization has a mission statement which explains their values and goals. The School of Education has the KEEPS mission statement which is an acronym which stands for:

KNOWLEDGE

ENQUIRY

EMPATHY

PLURALISM

SOcial COMMITMENT

When you go to the School of Education website, you'll learn more about the KEEPS mission in depth. You'll be learning more about KEEPS as you take TAL classes.

Here's a brief description:

KNOWLEDGE and intellectual inquisitiveness about children, schools and the world.

ENQUIRY or the collective discipline of observation, reflection, and non-judgmental description of children and their school work, as well as descriptive inquiry of teaching and professional practice.

EMPATHY that rests on the human uniqueness and capacity to develop, as well as responsiveness to the needs and interests of urban learners and communities.

PLURALISM and attention to differences and to inclusion of all in the learning community of schools and the wider community.

SOCIAL COMMITMENT and the building of a just and democratic society.

Dear Eddy: An Advice Column for Paras

Newspapers and magazines sometimes have advice columns like, "Dear Abby" so we thought we'd have a "Dear Eddy" (short for "Education") column to answer some of your questions about college and how to make it work in your lives. Send in your questions. Here are a couple based on questions we've heard from Paras:

Dear Eddy,

What do I do if I don't understand what the professor is talking about?

-Worried Student

Dear Worried Student,

Every professor has office hours. Take the time to visit with your professor and let them know what you're feeling about the class. Also talk with other students in the class. Try to start a study group with a few other students so you can get support.

-Eddy

Dear Eddy,

I'm so tired from work, school and my family. How can I get some energy?

-Exhausted Student

Dear Exhausted Student,

Ask your family to help out with some of the chores. Make sure to get at least 8 hours of sleep and you'll have more energy. Also take advantage of the gym and pool at LIU which is free for students! Exercise gives you more energy. Try to eat less sugar and more fresh fruit and vegetables!

-Eddy

Director of Academic Services - Martha Rosas

Almost every School of Education student has met Martha Rosas at some point. She is the Director of Academic Services for the School of Education. Her job includes:

- conducting workshops for the Liberal Arts & Science Test (LAST), the Assessment of Teaching Skills-Written (ATS-W) and the written task for the Multi-Subject CST.
- overseeing School of Education writing tutors and the TAL 099 Instructor.
- teaching TAL 088 for graduate students who want to further develop advanced literacy skills.



NEED HELP
PREPARING FOR
NYS TEACHER
CERTIFICATION
EXAMS?
EMAIL ME!

mrosas@liu.edu

Prior to working at Long Island University, she worked as a SEEK counselor, an educational facilitator, an English composition instructor and a first-grade Spanish-English dual language teacher. She is currently working towards an Ed.D. in Language, Literacy and Technology at Teachers College. Her interests include bilingualism/biculturalism, cognition, literacy, orality, development, and written composition.

Need More Help with Writing or Studying? Learn About Tutoring Services Offered at LIU

THE WRITING CENTER

The central purpose of the Writing Center is to provide one-on-one tutoring. Our trained staff works with students regardless of where they are in the writing process, be that understanding an assignment, learning strategies for reading more effectively, developing stronger arguments, or mastering techniques for editing grammar.

Tutoring sessions typically last up to 50 minutes per week per semester and are driven by what students perceive as their needs. In other words, our tutors resist programming sessions around their own imposed assessment of the student's writing issues and instead work to have the student direct the sessions around a mutually agreed upon agenda.

The Writing Center welcomes you. Stop by and see what they have to offer. Regular semester hours are:

Monday - Thursday, 9am - 8pm, Friday, 9am - 5pm and Saturday, 10am - 4pm.

The Writing Center

Humanities Building, Room 218C

718-488-1096

http://www.brooklyn.liu.edu/bbut07/writingc/wc_home.html

ACADEMIC REINFORCEMENT CENTER

Want to better understand what you're studying? Need a study partner? Do you think that you can be a better note-taker or feel that your study skills could be improved? There is a place to go for services at LIU. It is the Academic Reinforcement Center (ARC) at the Brooklyn Campus. The ARC is a learning and resource center that offers quality one-on-one and small-group tutoring across the disciplines to undergraduates. Tutoring at the ARC is very interactive and designed to assist you in doing the work yourself.

The tutors will: 1) assist you in assessing your tutoring needs, strengths and areas for improvement, and setting goals for the semester; 2) keep your personal information confidential; 3) determine, with you, appropriate goals for each session; 4) share techniques to help you develop your study skills, note-taking and 5) be professional and courteous at all times.

The Academic Reinforcement Center welcomes you. Stop by and see what they have to offer. Regular semester hours are Monday - Thursday, 9am - 7pm and Friday, 9am - 5pm.

Academic Reinforcement Center

Pratt Building, Suite 110

(718) 488-1040

www.brooklyn.liu.edu/arc

