



PARA NEWS & VIEWS

Student Teaching Semester Tuition Now Covered in Total by DOE

At a very productive meeting with DOE Career Training Program, they agreed to cover the 12 credits for the final Student Teaching semester.

During the final Student Teaching Semester there are 3 courses totaling 12 credits:

TAL 450	6 credits
TAL 451	2 credits
TAL 452	4 credits

In the past, paras only had 6 credits covered by the DOE's Career Training Program. And the paras had to pay for the remaining 6 credits themselves. Now, with this new agreement, the entire 12 credits will be covered!

We want to thank the staff of the Career Training Program for making this historic agreement. And they are:

- Renee Harper, Director
- Vanessa Sullivan, Coordinator
- Cecil Nugent, Financial Coordinator

From the meeting, LIU's School of Education learned that the CTP staff really have the paras' backs!

Paraprofessional Support Network

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ **Next Para Support Meeting is Wednesday, March 14th at 5p.m. RSVP at 718-246-6496**

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Next Para Support Network Meeting Wednesday, March 14th at 5 P.M.

The next LIU Para Support meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 14th at 5pm** during the LIU Spring Break. You won't have any classes that week so you'll be able to attend! We are very excited to

have Vanessa Sullivan, Coordinator from the DOE as our special guest to meet you and answer any questions you might have. (See her profile on p. 2) **Please make sure to RSVP Charlotte Marchant at**

718-246-6496 so we know how much food to order for the meeting. Please make the effort to attend. Let the DOE know how important this program is to you. This is about your future!

Profile: Vanessa Sullivan, DOE/CTP Coordinator

We have invited Vanessa Sullivan, to attend the next Paraprofessional Support meeting on Wednesday, March 14th at 5 p.m.

We are very excited to have her at the meeting to answer any questions about the transition from paras to teachers.

This is some information she shared with us about her background:

Vanessa Sullivan served in the Division of Human Resources

since 1983, beginning as a Secretary for the Office of Certification and Appointments.



She was promoted to Supervisor of the Work Experience Program in 1985. In 1989 she accepted her present position as Coordinator of the Career Training Program which supports tuition payments for all

eligible UFT and DC 37, Local 372 paraprofessionals.

Join us on Wednesday, March 14th at 5 p.m. to meet with Vanessa Sullivan. If you haven't already met her at the DOE, you're in for a treat. She's a very warm and welcoming person.

**See you at the Para Support Meeting.
Don't forget to RSVP
718-246-6496!**

Profile: Robert Aviles, LIU Student/Paraprofessional

Through this newsletter we have the opportunity to get to know the paras in our program. In this first issue we're starting with Robert Aviles because he was available when the roving photographer and reporter had a chance to interview him at 9 Hanover Place. Watch out, maybe you'll be next!

Robert works at P.S. 15 in the Bronx as a Special Education Para with twelve 5th and 6th grade boys who are emotionally disabled. Sometimes, the teacher allows him to do lessons with the

"I want to give something back to my community"



Robert said even though it's a difficult population to work with, it makes him feel good about himself when he makes a difference in their lives. He loves his job and it sounds like he does a great one too!

Robert was born and raised in the South Bronx by a single mother. He is Puerto Rican from the inner city and very proud of his heritage. He grew up without a father and is able to identify with many of the children he works with because of this. He knows firsthand how important a role model he is for these boys. He said, "I

want to give something back to my community."

He was always a good student and loves to read about history and spirituality. You might wonder why he chose Brooklyn's LIU Campus despite the commute from the Bronx where he lives and works. He says it's because he started out at LIU's C.W. Post Campus for his undergraduate degree before he was a para but never finished. He lived on campus in the dorms, was involved with the student government and a Black and Latino fraternity and loved his experience there. He said, "I like to finish what I start so I returned to LIU through the DOE's Career Training Program for paras and I'm really glad I did." And we're really glad he did too!

School of Education Website — Pay a Visit!

When is the last time you went online and paid a visit to the School of Education website? It is new and improved and is worth a peek.

<http://www.brooklyn.liu.edu/education/home/index.html>

Or just go to www.liu.edu and work your way through the layers until you get to the Brooklyn Campus and the School of Education.

We are going to add a section about the Paraprofessionals and

use your photographs. In fact, we're going to add this newsletter and future one's to the website.

One of the links on the website is called Student Resources. From there you can get to the New York City Department of Education website. You can also go to our Curriculum Materials and get lots of links to other educational websites to help you with lesson plan ideas.

There is a slideshow of children's art work and photographs with

LIU students and children from the FUN Afterschool Program.

Here is an example of the children's art work:



LIU's Wellness Center Opens — Come to the Gym!



The Fitness Center is everything you would want in a modern fitness facility. It is located on the first floor of the WRAC, and open to university students, faculty and staff. The Fitness Center features an aerobics studio, cardiovascular area, strength training area, and men's and women's locker rooms. The facility is also handicapped accessible.

In case you ever wondered what your student activities fee pays for, here's part of the answer. You can use the brand new exercise equipment and swimming pool at the Wellness Center without paying any extra cost.

Just go to the gym with your LIU ID card and sign up.

Hours of operation are:

Monday - Thursday 7a.m.-10p.m.

Fridays 7a.m.-9p.m.

Saturdays 8a.m.-4p.m.

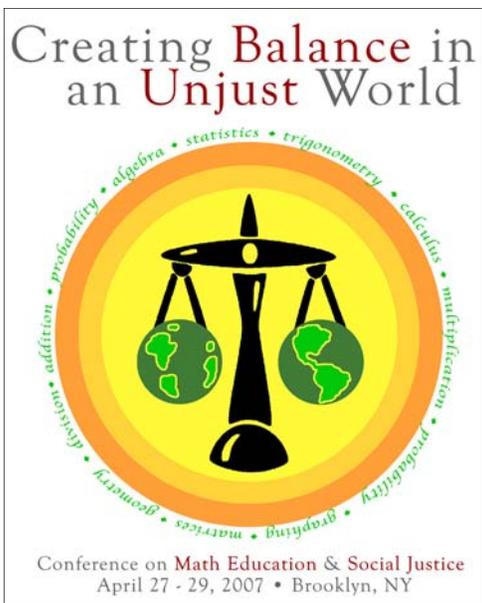
Sundays Closed

They even have swimming lessons and exercise classes. Come take a look at this beautiful new addition to LIU.

Math Conference in April at LIU

Overview

Join educators, parents, students, activists, and community members from around the country for a 3-day conference April 27th-29th to explore the connections between math education and social justice. How has math literacy been a gatekeeper to future educational and financial success? How can math educators ensure equity in the classroom? How can issues of social, political, and economic justice be integrated into math curriculum?



Register online at:
radicalmath.org/conference

TAKING CARE OF YOUR CHILDREN WHILE YOU TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS

Did you know that LIU has a free afterschool program for the children of LIU students?

The Family University (FUN) Afterschool Program meets Monday-Thursday from 3pm-8:30pm for children 6 years old to 12 years old.

FUN provides homework help, creative arts, a healthy snack and dinner with professional and dedicated staff. It is also used as a fieldwork site for some of the School of Education courses.

If you take any classes at 9 Hanover Place on the 3rd Floor, then you've seen FUN in action. When you get off the elevator you walk right through the program as the children are engaged in art activities, homework help or dinner.

Sheryl Byfield, is the FUN Program Director and she shares an office with Charlotte Marchant, the Director of the Learning Center for Educators & Families on the 3rd Floor of 9 Hanover Place.

If you are interested in registering your child in the FUN Afterschool Program, contact Sheryl Byfield at 718-246-6488.

And please let your classmates with children know about the FUN Program. FUN has some openings at this time and would be happy to register additional children.

