

PARA NEWS & VIEWS

Paras at the Fall 2007 Support Meeting



Paraprofessional
Support Network

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Editor: Charlotte Marchant

Top row: Leslie Wrong, Carol Redway, Raquel Wellington, Lucia Clarke-Lamont, Renate Johnson, Murray Copeland, Lakisha Moore, Ivelaw Goodridge
Bottom row: Dawn Stennett, Mary Canada, Jacquith Loney, Richard Johnston, Ava Henton

Time Management Workshop

A time management workshop was held for the Paras at the Oct. 19th Para Support Network meeting. It was facilitated by Lewis Payton who is the Education Program Specialist at the 1199 Training and Employment Fund.



Lewis Payton speaking with
LIU student/Para Renate Johnson.

Lewis gave everyone a workbook to help students figure out how they use

their time and how they might find more efficient ways to use their time.

It was a lively workshop and everyone learned a little more about their use of time.

And like most things in life, there just wasn't enough time!



A Word from the Editor

Welcome to the third issue of Para News & Views. The newsletter is published in the Fall and Spring semesters. A special thanks to Jolli Brown for the ARC and Writing Center information, to Evelyn Castro for letting me know about Maria de los Barreto and to Susan Zinar for advising Eddy!

The Para Support Network meetings are also held in the Fall and Spring semesters. We had a very successful Fall semester meeting with dinner and a time management workshop. (See front page article and pictures.)

There were only two things missing: take-out containers for the left-over food and those Paras who were unable to attend! We hope to see you at the Spring 2008 Para Support Network meeting! Notices will be sent and please remember to RSVP!

-Charlotte Marchant

Challenges Faced by Paras

When some Paras were asked to share challenges they face on their job, they said:

- "To build independence in the young Pre-K students."
- "Too much cursing. Too much disrespect from the children."
- "Working with the administration."
- "Teaching Black history in a white world."
- "The behavior of the special education children is particularly challenging."
- "Children not reaching their potential."
- "Balancing work and study."

As a result of hearing these challenges, two topics that come to mind for future workshops are:

Multicultural Curriculum Development

Keeping the Peace: Classroom Management

What ideas do you have for future Para workshops? Let the editor know!



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Pride in a Job Well Done

When some Paras were asked to name one thing they were proud of having done at their job, they said:

- "Opening up special education students to learning."
- "Creating a STEPS cheerleading team."
- "Being the bulletin board queen."
- "Infusing art into the curriculum."
- "Being able to help out in a positive way."
- "Helping the children understand math."
- "Getting through to learning disabled children to make a difference in their education."
- "Helping students pass their state-wide tests."
- "Making a difference."
- "Feeling worthwhile."

Profile: Maria de los Barreto, Her Journey from Para to Principal

Maria de los Barreto began her journey as a bilingual paraprofessional and is now the principal of I.S. 296. She was a Para from 1981 to 1986 and attended Brooklyn College where she received her undergraduate degree.



Her principal was so impressed by her work as a Para, that he hired her as a teacher when she got her license. She taught for six years then became

an education administrator coordinating programs and doing professional development at the District and Central Offices. She found herself longing for "one place to call home," rather than running from school to school working with other teachers and children. She became an assistant principal for four years then became the principal at I.S. 296.

Her advice to Paras today is to take advantage of their college education and put it into practice as a Para. She said, "Paras should learn from the teachers mentoring them because once they become teachers they will know exactly what to do."

She wanted to become a teacher forever and decided that by becoming a Para first, she could learn from the teachers mentoring her in the classroom. She said, "I love children and wanted to give back to the community by reaching out to others. What better way than to touch their hearts and minds through teaching."



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 have to turn in a paper late?

-Worried Student

Dear Worried Student,

Talk to your professor now, before the paper is due. Explain the circumstances that may interfere with your getting it in on time. See if you can make an agreement on when you will hand it in, then **STICK TO THAT DATE**. Many professors do subtract from a grade because of lateness, but their overall impression of you (which can make a big difference in the long run) will be better if you show them that you are really trying to deal with your work in a responsible way. Then try to figure out what caused the delay this time, and see if you can do better next time. Put into practice some of the ideas you learned at the time management workshop.

-Eddy

Dear Eddy,

What do I do if I don't have the money to buy those expensive textbooks?

-Broke Student

Dear Broke Student,

There are a few things you can do:

1. Have the professor reserve it for you in the library and study there.
2. Share a copy with a group of students to cut down on the cost.
3. Check out Amazon.com or Barnes & Nobles for a used copy.
4. Buy a used copy from a student.

I hope that helps. If anyone reading this has some other suggestions, please let me know.

- Eddy

Profile: Martha Rosas, School of Education's Director of Academic Services

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) and the Assessment of Teaching Skills-Written (ATS-W).
- 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 the LAST or ATS-W? 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/writingc>

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
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