

WINTER 2009

U - A C C E S S

A Newsletter about Disability Issues at the University of Chicago

In this issue:
ADA Amendments
'08 and more!

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments of 2008

As of January 1st 2009, the amendments are serving to broaden the definition of a disability and what constitutes as a limit to a major life activity when determining reasonable accommodations. For a summary of the amendments and their implications visit:

<http://www.bakerdonelson.com/Content.aspx?NodeID=200&PublicationID=493>

For information on postsecondary education specifically visit:

<http://www.ahead.org/resources/government-relations>

Staff assisting Students
with Disabilities:

OFFICE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
CAMPUS LIFE AND
DEAN OF STUDENTS
IN THE UNIVERSITY

Kimberly Gardiner
Coordinator for
Disabilities Services

Belinda Cortez Vazquez
Interim Associate
Dean of Students for
Student Affairs

Abby Ostrem
Assistant Coordinator
SSA Master's Program

OFFICE OF THE
PROVOST

Aneesah Ali
Associate Provost &
Affirmative Action Officer

**Student Counseling and Resource Service (SCRS)
ACADEMIC SKILLS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (ASAP)**



We all have our own circadian rhythms and ways of managing the work load. With a focus on individual strengths and struggles, the Academic Skills Assessment Program offers college and graduate students guidance in learning new approaches to dealing with academic/educational problems.

ASAP assists students with a wide range of general study skills including time management, avoiding procrastination, effective reading and reading comprehension, test taking, and note-taking. For all students, including those who learn differently, with ADD/ADHD or other kinds of challenges, ASAP will help you to refine the strategies that have helped you succeed in the past and develop new ones in the face of the increased demand of college or graduate school.

ASAP is located in SCRS—5737 South University Avenue. Individual appointments can be made by calling (773) 702-9800. We are available Monday - Friday: 8:30 am—5:00 pm. For more information visit: <http://counseling.uchicago.edu>. By Anne Brody, Staff Psychologist



The Chicago Lighthouse
for People Who are Blind or Visually Impaired

For additional information about the Chicago Lighthouse Youth Transition Program or upcoming events, contact Kelsey Thompson at (312) 666-1331 ext. 3089 or kelsey.thompson@chicagolighthouse.org.

For volunteer opportunities at the Lighthouse, contact Dick Carlson at (312) 666-1331 ext. 3141 or dick.carlson@chicagolighthouse.org.

Scholarships, job placements, vocational training, counseling, adaptive technology, and more! The Chicago Lighthouse Youth Transition Program offers a variety of services to assist youth who are blind or visually impaired achieve success!

Career Development Events and Programs:

Financial Aid Workshop: Thursday, January 15, 2009 from 3:00—7:00 pm at The Chicago Lighthouse. Receive scholarship applications and information packets for national and local scholarship awards, information about other financial and technical resources for students, and individual assistance completing an online FASFA application.

Career Exploration Day: An opportunity for students to learn and collect information about various careers and build relationships with peers and mentors.

Summer Lighthouse Internship Program (SLIP): A comprehensive six-week program at The Chicago Lighthouse that creates paid jobs for students.

The Chicago Lighthouse Scholarship Program: Awards scholarships to students for education-related expenses, including tuition, technology, readers, books and classroom materials, housing, transportation, and any other educational items. By Brenda Schulze, Senior Communication Specialist

For information on
disability
accommodation at
Chicago visit:
disabilities.uchicago.edu





**Regional
Transportation
Authority**

ADA PARATRANSIT SERVICES

DID YOU KNOW?

Persons with disabilities may be eligible for FREE or reduced fair options for people with disabilities on all CTA, Metra, and Pace transportation! Find out if you qualify and the application requirements.

*Visit: www.rtachicago.com for procedures and how to obtain an RTA (Regional Transit Authority) ID card. Click on "Info Center" at the top center and then click on "Reduced Fair Program".

*Visit: www.transitchicago.com for information on reduced rates for transit cards and passes. Click on the "CTA Store".

*Do you have additional questions? Call 1-800-YOURCTA (1-800-968-7828) and select options directed to "Reduced Fair Program".

Persons with disabilities must be provided equal access to public transportation services. To ensure equal access, the law requires that all new vehicles be accessible to persons with disabilities, among other requirements.

To learn more about ADA Paratransit Service and accessible transportation services in Chicago visit the following website:

www.rtachicago.com/CMS400Min/index.asp?id=57
