



(a nonprofit organization, founded in 1978)
<http://stemd.org>

Foundation for Science and Disability Newsletter

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?wall&gid=360413492800>

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4116054&trk=hb_side_g

President's Corner

-Erica Penn

Happy Holidays, everyone!

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the new President of the Foundation for Science and Disability. As a prelingually, profoundly deaf adult, my passion for the sciences has never been held back due to my disability. By using various support services through undergraduate studies at the University of Miami and then for my graduate studies at the Johns Hopkins University, I was able to pursue my interests in molecular microbiology and immunology.

My goals for this next interim year of FSD is to expand our visibility among fellow organizations and

disability groups nationwide. In addition, the wonderful scholarship program that we provide to exceptional disabled students will continue, and follow-ups with previous FSD scholarships winners will showcase their successes in the sciences.

As always, FSD will host their annual meeting at the AAAS General Meeting, next held in Vancouver, British Columbia from February 16-20, 2012. A wonderful synopsis of this meeting is provided via the following link: <http://www.aaas.org/meetings/2012/program/president/president.shtml>. This provides an excellent opportunity for our fellow disabled

scientists and students to interact and exchange ideas on several various themes, ranging from support services to job opportunities.

With the advent of modern technology and improvements in accessibility for the disabled in the classroom and the workplace, it is imperative that we participate as a community in order to provide resources and knowledge for incoming students and scientists with disabilities. I encourage you to contribute ideas and share suggestions for promoting FSD via our Facebook page, and also to give feedback via email at: ericalyne@aol.com.

December 2011

Inside this issue:

President's Corner	1
Notes from Students	1
Lisa Dunning	1
Past Student Awards	2
Annual Mtg. Minutes	3
Treasurer Report	5
Editor Notes	5
Member Appl. / Ren.	6

It is imperative that students with disabilities learn the communication skills needed to become good scientists. The essence of science is being able to think creatively, and sometimes the most creative insights come from those who think about the world differently—Carla Romney

Notes from Student Awardees

Lisa Dunning

My thesis topic at the University of Oklahoma was to investigate the effectiveness of psycho-educational group approaches for reducing cognitive decline. Researchers have found that the brain has the capacity to maintain and repair neuronal networks despite age and pathology. This evidence suggests that neuronal networks continue to grow throughout life and that synapse growth is stimulus-dependent. To carry out the study, I observed thirteen residents in four assisted-living facilities and investigated if their participation in the facilities' activities related with cognitive function. A grant from the Foundation for Science and

The impact of assisted living facility's activities on cognitive decline

Disability helped provide the transportation to and from each facility for the investigations.

The results indicated no significant difference in study participants' outcomes for any tests. The descriptive analysis however confirmed earlier studies results and provided indicators in residents' activity participation levels. The majority of participants engaged in social activity while less than half participated in physical activities to the recommended level. Only a few participants engaged in mental stimulation. Fewer yet engaged in a combination of all three activities, which would provide the greatest opportunity for neuronal regeneration.



At this time, I am working to complete the study to investigate the effectiveness of a group approach that will encourage the necessary lifestyle to reduce cognitive decline associated with aging. A facility administrator involved in the observational study has expressed interest to continue the study at her facility. Letters of support and commitments of professionals to work as a research team have been obtained, pending future funding.

Student Grant Awardees since 1990

1990	Wendy Pava, Birgit Wolz, Elaine Hall	2001	Cassandra Quave
1991	Kevin Wilkins, Shan Ming Lee	2002	My Lien Nguyen
1992	Meghal Antani, Lynn Hanninen, Mara Frohlinger	2003	Mark Woods
1993	David Fass, William Hylton	2004	Jessica Mahood
1995	Chris Tromborg	2005	Cheryl Fogle
1996	Anne-Michelle Singleton	2007	Melodi King
1997	Leslie Harper	2008	Ryan McKindles
1998	Maura O'Modhrain	2009	Emma Sacks
1999	Joseph Barbera, Byunggyoo Kim	2010	Shaun Kane
2000	Jennifer Last	2011	Lisa Dunning

Minutes of the
FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISABILITY
Annual Meeting

11:30 AM-1:30 PM, Friday, February 18, 2011

Salon F, Washington Convention Center

801 Mount Vernon, PI, NW

Washington, DC 20001

Call to Order/Introduction:

Attending were: Erica Penn, Promita Chakraborty, Yoshiko Miwa, Leticia Velazquez, Kathy McCreedy, Catherine Will, Betty Kain, Jean Morrell, Virginia Stern, Winnie Rodriguez, and Richard Mankin, who presided and took notes on the meeting activities.

The attendees introduced themselves. For the new attendees, there was a discussion of the history and mission of the Foundation for Science and Disability. There was discussion of the workshop "Perspectives on Employment for or from Persons with Disabilities," held earlier in the day at the AAAS annual meeting, and the Problem Solvers Workshop for Engineers with Disabilities held in 2010

Minutes:

The minutes of last year's annual meeting in San Diego were discussed and approved. It was noted that a copy of the 2010 Annual Meeting minutes is posted at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/sp2UserFiles/person/3559/annmeetminute10.html>.

Treasurer report:

The treasurer report was discussed in part. However, because Angela Foreman, Treasurer was unable to attend, the full report is not yet ready.

Note: (7/13/11): the treasurer report is now attached below.

Student Science Grant Committee report-2011:

The committee reviewed 8 completed applications. Six other individuals applied but did not fulfill all requirements. Lisa Newhouse Dunning, a graduate student in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Oklahoma, Tulsa, was awarded a \$1000 grant for work on her thesis, entitled "The impact of assisted living facility's activities on cognitive decline". Her work involves development and assessment of interventions to reduce cognitive decline in residents of assisted living facilities.

Old and New Business:

Previous year activities were discussed, including the new FaceBook page, additions to the Foundation for Science and Disability web site (stemd.org), and the annual newsletter. Promita has volunteered to assist Erica in further development of the Foundation's FaceBook page. Richard volunteered to look into the possibility of developing a LinkedIn page.

There was discussion of the possibilities of expanding the activities of the Foundation or of merging with other organizations that might be developed. This led to a more general conversation, not only of Foundation for Science and Disability activities, but also of EntryPoint and other organizations of relevance to students or scientists with

disabilities. The conversation continued after the meeting ended, and several topics were suggested by Kathy McCreedy and others for possible follow-up, including:

1. Most of the information about the EntryPoint program is written from the perspective of the potential intern. However, recruiters and businesses would benefit from increased availability of marketing materials to better describe the EntryPoint internship program within a business context. The costs of participation and the costs per intern should be clearly specified in these materials.
2. Consider approaches to position the Resource Directory of Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities and the EntryPoint database to increase employment and networking opportunities beyond internships. Many will be looking for better careers throughout their lives.
3. A Professional Association of Scientists with Disabilities – This seems a critical need, particularly because there are so few current opportunities for scientists to interact and network. If a grant is funded to develop a professional association of scientists with disabilities, it would be quite valuable to include benchmarking of how a similar organization, Society Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), has organized its efforts to achieve its goals.
4. There is potential to increase the collaboration between AccessSTEM and recruiters of students and graduates with disabilities for internships and full-time employment. Given the relatively small numbers of candidates with disabilities in STEM fields, a collaborative approach will maximize the use of existing resources and result in better outcomes for all.

A few upcoming opportunities to discuss with others include:

1. AHEAD Meeting (Association of Higher Education and Disabilities) - July 11-16, Seattle – Kathy McCreedy is the co-chair of the Career SIG and this topic could be a focus of the SIG meeting, especially with promotion prior to the meeting to increase participation.
2. US Business Leadership Network (US BLN) - Oct. 17-19, Louisville KY. The BLN conference brings corporate, government, disability-owned businesses and BLN affiliates together to create workplaces, marketplaces, and supply chains where people with disabilities are fully included as professionals, customers and entrepreneurs.

We anticipate there will be further discussions about these possibilities during the next year.

The presidential gavel was passed to Erica Penn.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Submitted by Richard Mankin, March 6, 2011.

**The next annual meeting of FSD is 10:00 AM-12:00 PM,
Friday, February 17, 2012 at the AAAS conference in
Vancouver, BC**

2011 Foundation for Science and Disability Treasurer Report

Angela Lee Foreman Treasurer

This covers the period from February 18, 2011 to December 14, 2011

Post-February 18, 2011 Report:

Assets

Cash on Hand	\$8,856.03
Total Assets	\$8,856.03

Income:

	Dues	Contribution	Date	Total
Total Income	\$300.00	\$305.01		\$605.01

Expenses

Student Awards		3/29/2011	\$1,000.00
Bank Charge		3/31/2011	\$1.34

Total Expenses

\$1,001.34

Net Income:

(\$396.33)

Net Balance:

\$8,459.70

Newsletter Editor Notes:

The Foundation for Science and Disability has groups on LinkedIn
(http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4116054&trk=hb_side_g)

and Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?wall&gid=360413492800>

Some interesting articles about careers and disability that have appeared in Science and Nature recently. We have posted copies of two articles on <http://stemd.org>. To find them click on the Archives/Annual meeting minutes link.

ScienceCareers.org also has some useful career information at:
<http://scjobs.sciencemag.org/JobSeekerX/NewAccountForm.asp>

Foundation for Science
and Disability

<http://stemd.org>

503 NW 89 St
Gainesville, FL 32607

Return Service Requested

Phone: 352-374-5774

E-mail: mankin1@aim.com



The Foundation for Science and Disability (<http://stemd.org>) was founded in 1978 to promote the integration of persons with disabilities into the mainstream of the scientific community. A major focus of FSD has been the removal of barriers that restrict opportunities to develop careers and conduct scientific research. The Foundation also provides grants to students with disabilities who are conducting research in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics.

President: Erica Penn (ericalyne@aol.com)

Treasurer: Angela Lee Foreman (angelaleeforeman@yahoo.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?wall&gid=360413492800>

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4116054&trk=hb_side_q

Foundation for Science and Disability 2012 Dues Notice Membership Application / Renewal Form

Dues Schedule:

Student \$5.00

Regular \$25.00

Contribution _____

Total _____

Please make checks out to:

Foundation for Science and Disability

and mail to:

Angela Lee Foreman

Foundation for Science and Disability

P. O. Box 3384

San Leandro, CA 94578

Please list a change of address, if any, and / or list any comments for the Board of Directors below. Also, please forward us your email address if you have not already done so.