

**Name:** Dhariana De La Cruz

**Degree:** Psychology/ Bachelors Degree/ Expected Fall 2010

**Current Job:**

Family Services Specialist (FSS), Young Adult Institute (YAI)

**How did you decide on your undergraduate major?**

Honestly, I am not sure what I want to do yet for a career. But I do know that I want to do something where I am providing a service to people. I chose Psychology because I feel that the field is very broad and I have many career opportunities to choose from.

**What is your experience like at Hunter?**

My experience at Hunter is going well. I encourage joining clubs because that is where I have met most of my friends. It also allows you to become involved in student activities. Also as a member of the Hunter College Senate, I am able to become more informed about what is going on in the college and have my voice heard by voting on issues. As for my experience with the Career Services Department, it has been great. Janelle, the secretary is very welcoming. I have only seen two counselors so far, Paula and Keith, and they are very helpful. Keith looked over my resume and gave me great tips while Paula helped in my search for the perfect internship. Both of them are very welcoming and if they see you in the hallway, they will say hi to you, which I think is nice. Also, their website is useful in looking at available internships. I used it when I went to the Career Fair to look up the employers that were coming and the website gave me good information about the employers and the positions they had available. It is very

easy to use, as well.

**Briefly describe how you got your current job, what you do, and any other comments about your work.**

I learned about the Young Adult Institute, (YAI) through a Google search when I was looking for a job. I looked at the website and saw they had a section for college students that were interested in working with the agency. I saw some positions that I was interested in and I wanted to email them my resume so I went to Keith to help me update my resume. When I told him where I was applying, he sent me the email of one the people who is in charge of hiring and is also a Hunter alumnus. Thanks to that, I emailed my updated resume and received a phone call for an interview after a week.

My position in the agency is Family Services Specialist. I work one on one with a client who has a disability and work on the goals that the family or the client has chosen. I am in charge of making sure those goals are met through positive reinforcement. I am there to help the person reach their goals, whether it be learning to tie their shoes or learning how to take public transportation. I take down notes in order to record their progress and see what should be done differently if something is not working. I am there to do my best to help the person become as independent as possible.

**What are your future aspirations?**

My future aspirations are to graduate from Hunter, of course. But I also want to travel a little bit before I go to Graduate school. Two key places are Paris and Australia. I plan to continue my volunteer work with New York Cares and to grow with my job at YAI and possibly obtain a higher position.

**Do you have any advice for students thinking about pursuing this career?**

I highly encourage it. But I do feel that it is not for everyone. I feel that in order to pursue a career like this, you must have a genuine love for it. That is the only way that you will be able to do your best and get the best out of the clients that you serve. If you truly care about helping people reach their goals, then I say, "Go for it!"