Lehman College’s New Science Hall: The Future Begins Now

Bronx Students Inspired By Anne Frank

William Rodríguez: The Music Man
Features

Lehman College’s New Science Hall: 11
The Future Begins Now

Bronx Students Inspired By Anne Frank 16

The Best of the Arts in the Bronx 18

William Rodríguez ('81, '85): The Music Man 20

Spotlight on Alumni 23
Katina Rojas Joy ('94), Daisy Oritz-Berger ('89), Ediberto Román ('85), Doris López-Palazzo ('96), Joe Diomede ('83).

A Farmer’s Market Grows in The Bronx 36

Plus:
Annual Fund Report 30

On the Cover: Lehman College’s new $70 million Science Hall, the first phase of a three-phase plan to transform the College into a hub of scientific research. Photo by Nancy Novick.

Lehman Today is produced by the Lehman College Office of Media Relations and Publications, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx, NY 10468.


Opinions expressed in this publication may not necessarily reflect those of the Lehman College or City University of New York faculty and administration. Email all correspondence to lehmantoday@lehman.cuny.edu.

For more information on Lehman, visit www.lehman.edu. Copyright © 2012.

NOTE: PLACE FSC LOGO HERE, CENTERED BETWEEN CUNY AND TEXT
Every semester here at Lehman College is special and unique in its own way. However, it’s not every semester that we open a new building, and thereby in the process transform our campus. But that’s precisely what happened this October when after years of planning, fund-raising, and building, the College’s new Science Hall—a $70 million state-of-the-art teaching and research facility—was dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by such luminaries as CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz, Jr., among many others (see our cover story on p.11). That ceremony in October was a day none of us will soon forget.

Science Hall, however, is much more than a building. It is the first phase of a three-phase process that will create a “campus-within-a-campus” complex devoted to the sciences. In 2015, the College expects to break ground on Phase II, which will culminate in the creation of another building that will add more wet and dry labs, classrooms, a lecture hall and atrium. When this is complete, Phase III will get underway, which will include the refurbishment of Gillet Hall, one of the College’s original Gothic buildings, completing the transformation of Lehman College—and the North Bronx—into a hub for cutting-edge research that will ultimately impact the lives of New Yorkers, our nation, and beyond.

During this past semester we also saw how Lehman professors continue our proud tradition of impacting the lives of Bronx students. Professor Janet Kremenitzer of Lehman’s Department of Early Childhood and Childhood Education did so by keeping the lessons of history alive and never forgetting the tragedy of the Holocaust. Professor Kremenitzer has worked with the Anne Frank Center USA to create a curriculum based on “emotional intelligence” using *The Diary of Anne Frank* as a key text to help children learn universal lessons (p.16); while Dr. Sondra Perl of the College’s English Department continues to do important work with the Holocaust Educators Network helping teachers at every educational level gain greater insights into the Holocaust to become better educators (p.17).

Also in this issue we celebrate one of our distinguished alumni: Dr. William Rodríguez (B.A. ’81, M.Ed. ’85) who throughout his life and career has used the gift of music as the basis of his success as a musician, as an educator, and as the founder and principal of the Celia Cruz High School of Music with which Lehman College has had a long and proud relationship. It is the commitment of our alumni that continues to make a difference here at the College. Donors to the Annual Fund (p. 30) are helping to make all the above stories—and the hopes and dreams that created them—come true.
**Dr. Anny Morrobel-Sosa, Dean at University of Texas, Named New Provost at Lehman College**

Dr. Anny Morrobel-Sosa, most recently the dean of the College of Science at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), became the new provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Lehman College in August. “I am honored to join Lehman College and the CUNY community in their demonstrated commitment to providing students who live and work in one of the world’s most vibrant and diverse cities with excellent educational opportunities that are both accessible and affordable,” said Dr. Morrobel-Sosa. “The faculty and staff at Lehman have embarked on a vision of excellence for a twenty-first century education that expands on their already proven dedication to helping students achieve their career aspirations. I look forward to contributing to these efforts and to do so back ‘home’ in New York.”

As dean at UTEP for the past five years, Dr. Morrobel-Sosa oversaw departments and programs, three centers and institutes, and more than 160 faculty and staff. She managed a budget of over $11 million and externally funded research expenditures that topped $13 million. During her tenure, the college offered over 30 Bachelor of Science programs, 13 graduate programs, and eight doctoral degrees. UTEP serves almost 23,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

During her career, Dr. Morrobel-Sosa has also published over 25 refereed papers and delivered more than 100 presentations here and abroad, continuing her research in physics, chemistry, and biomaterials. In addition to her senior administrative position at Lehman, she holds a full professorship in the College’s Chemistry Department.

“Dr. Morrobel-Sosa’s range and depth of experience as a scientist, researcher, and faculty member, as well as a collaborative and inspiring academic leader, will advance Lehman’s vision of excellence,” said Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández. “Her arrival coincides with an exciting new phase in Lehman’s history and expands on their already proven dedication to helping students achieve their career aspirations. I look forward to contributing to these efforts and to do so back ‘home’ in New York.”

Dr. Morrobel-Sosa received a B.Sc. in physics and chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico, a M.Sc. in chemistry from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Southern California. She succeeded Dr. Mary A. Papazian, who became the president last February of Southern Connecticut State University.

**Inside Lehman Wins Three Awards**

*Inside Lehman XII*, Lehman College’s student co-produced video news magazine, has won three awards—the Videographer Award of Distinction, the Communicator Award of Distinction, and the Hermes Creative Award (gold). They bring the total number of awards won by the magazine to 25 since 2004.

“The show’s main goal is to provide professional hands-on training for our students and also to produce programs that are informative and entertaining to the general public” said Lynne Van Voorhis, executive producer of *Inside Lehman*. “The awards are evidence that our students are succeeding beyond all expectations, which is exciting to all of our participants and the College. The program’s producer, Tom O’Hanlon, guides the students to aim for excellence in their work and ultimately prepares them for the possibility of a career in the profession.”

The videos typically feature five stories, each ranging between five to seven minutes in length, and focusing on work being conducted by faculty and students, campus initiatives, and issues that impact the surrounding community. The most recent production included a story on asthma in the Bronx and the link between poverty and air quality in certain urban, industrial settings. A segment on noise-induced hearing loss discussed appropriate levels of noise consumption, how to prevent hearing loss, and the consequences of ignoring these recommendations.

The Videographer Awards is an international competition designed to recognize excellence in video productions, television commercials, news, programming, and digital media. The Communicator Awards are judged and overseen by the International Academy of the Visual Arts, and the Hermes Creative Awards is an international competition for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing and design of both traditional materials and programs and emerging technologies. You can watch *Inside Lehman* at www.youtube.com/insidelehman.

**Lehman Receives $3.1 Million Grant to Ease ‘Sophomore Slump’**

Lehman College was recently awarded a five-year, $3.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund a new Sophomore Year Initiative designed to increase retention rates among undergraduates during their critical second year of college. Lehman was one of 19 Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) across the country—and the only CUNY institution—to receive the Title V grant.

“This is a major boost to the College to help students succeed, attain higher GPAs, raise graduation rates, and increase college success on every level,” said Vice President of Student Affairs José Magdaleno. He and Vice President of Enrollment Management Robert Troy are jointly coordinating implementation of the new program.
The grant will benefit all students by setting up an early warning system in which faculty will alert the College to struggling students. “The whole idea is to identify students who are having academic problems earlier in the process so they can get the help they need before it’s too late,” said Dr. Troy.

Although Lehman offers a wide range of academic support services for students, particularly for those experiencing difficulties, many students either do not know about these options or fail to take advantage of them. Under the system that will be implemented, students who are doing poorly will be identified early in the semester and be mandated to seek the help they need before they end up on academic probation.

Educators note that sophomore year might be the toughest in a college student’s academic career—hence the term “sophomore slump” that has confounded academics across the nation. At Lehman, where two-thirds of undergraduates transfer to the College from elsewhere, and most are first-generation college students whose families are often from other countries, students are particularly susceptible to this phenomenon. But just as Lehman’s award-winning Freshman Year Initiative (FYI), enacted more than two decades ago, has increased retention rates for freshmen, hopes are high that this new program will do the same for sophomores, helping them transition into upperclassmen.

Lehman College Goes Tobacco Free

On July 1, 2012 the air at Lehman College got a lot fresher. That was the day the campus went tobacco free, and the smoking or consumption of tobacco in any form was officially banned. This policy was in accordance with new rules adopted by the trustees of the City University of New York in January 2011. All 23 CUNY colleges instituted the same tobacco policy, making CUNY the biggest smoke-free university system in the United States.

CUNY’s new tobacco policy is part of a growing trend among colleges across the country—more than 500 to date have adopted such measures. Officials decided that as the largest urban university system in the nation and with its new School of Public Health, the time for action was now.

CUNY officials said they felt a responsibility to do their part to help smokers—estimated at thirteen percent of the CUNY population—kick their habits. “The more you can remove cues in the environment that are associated with that addiction, the less craving the smoker will feel,” Dr. Alexandra W. Logue, CUNY’s executive vice chancellor and university provost, told The New York Times.

Dr. Deirdre Pettipiece Named New Dean of Lehman School of Arts and Humanities

Dr. Deirdre Pettipiece, a scholar and author was named the new dean of the School of Arts and Humanities in July. She had most recently been the associate dean of arts and sciences at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, where she supported faculty development, external affairs and community development, budget management and strategic planning for the College of Arts and Sciences. She had successfully coauthored applications for over $2.75 million in grants.

As an author, Dr. Pettipiece has written on a wide range of topics, including Sex Theories and the Shaping of Two Moderns: Hemingway and H.D. (Routledge, 2002), which focuses on the infusion of evolutionary reading and language in the works of legendary authors Ernest Hemingway and Hilda Doolittle. A new book will be published later this year, More Than Human: The Evolutionary
Heroes of Robert E. Howard (Edwin Mellen Press), which examines the heroic characters that populate the author’s mythical worlds, as well as a forthcoming textbook, Introduction To Professional Writing.

She received her Ph.D. in English with an emphasis on scientific writing from Arizona State University (ASU). She subsequently joined the faculty at ASU, creating and teaching its first hybrid and online literature courses and co-authoring the handbook Teaching and Learning in the Electronic Classroom.

First Mexican Studies Institute on East Coast Launched at Lehman in May with Conference on Health Issues

The CUNY Mexican Studies Institute—the first center of its kind on the East Coast—opened its doors at Lehman College in May with a major public conference focusing on the health advantages and disadvantages experienced by this rapidly growing population.

“The number of Mexicans and Mexican Americans in New York City, as of 2010, was close to 350,000—and growing,” said Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández, at the conference. The Bronx is the site of the fastest-growing Mexican population in New York City, he noted, and nearly a quarter of all Mexicans in New York City live in the borough. “Lehman College is proud to provide a home for this important CUNY initiative,” he said, “which will focus on both academics and service, providing a hub for research and advocacy projects throughout the University and the region.”

“Mexican immigrants arrive in the United States, on average, in better health than most Americans, and continue to enjoy better outcomes despite their difficulties in accessing healthcare,” said the Institute’s acting director, Dr. Alyshia Gálvez of Lehman’s Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies, who has written extensively about issues affecting Mexican immigrants. “But their children do not fare as well,” she added, noting that first-generation Mexicans begin to experience the same conditions that afflict the U.S. as a whole, such as obesity, heart disease, and diabetes, and by the second generation their health statistics become virtually identical. This phenomenon is known as the Immigrant Paradox and represents a relatively neglected area of research about Mexicans in the metropolitan region.

The conference, entitled “¡Salud! Beyond Deficits and Paradoxes in Mexican Immigration and Health,” brought nationally recognized experts on Mexican immigration and health, such as keynote speaker Dr. David Hayes-Bautista, director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the UCLA School of Medicine. Other experts from the University of Minnesota, the University of California at Berkeley, Rutgers University, SUNY Albany, and the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee joined other faculty from The City University of New York for a variety of panels and discussions.

Lehman College Holds The Festival de la Palabra

This past autumn, Lehman College and Hostos Community College honored Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting the Puerto Rican Festival de la Palabra (or Festival of the Word). Writers, poets, and journalists from across Latin America came to campus to hold readings and discuss the state of Latino literature and its influences in the media, politics, and culture.

A wide-range of internationally prominent authors such as Awilda Cáez, Rosa Beltrán, Mayra Santos-Febres, Julio Ricardo Varela, José Manuel Fajardo, and Hilda García held a fascinating panel discussion on “Writing Across Genres and Oceans: The Evolution of Fiction and Non-Fiction Writing for English and Spanish-Speaking Audiences;” meanwhile at nearby Hostos Community College, writers such as Orlando Ferrand, Angel Antonio Ruiz Laboy, Luis Negrón, Charlie Vázquez, and Ana Lidia Vega Serova discussed “The Role of the Writer in Contemporary Caribbean Society and Its Diaspora.”

Although the Festival was celebrated at venues across New York City, including the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute, Instituto Cervantes de Nueva York, the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at New York University, Baruch College, and the McNally Jackson Bookstore in Manhattan, it was only fitting that the authors celebrated Latino Literature in New York’s northernmost borough. “A festival that began in Puerto Rico has grown to embrace cultures throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, just as the Bronx itself, throughout the administration.”

Lehman Professor Captivates Audiences in Off-Broadway Comedy Show

Last spring, Marilyn Sokol, a Distinguished Lecturer in Lehman’s Journalism, Communication and Theatre department began her star performance in the Off-Broadway hit show, Old Jews Telling Jokes at the Westside Theatre. Using jokes, comic songs, and monologues in which each character reveals a little bit of his or her own story—derived from the lives of the creators—the play is both heartwarming and humorous.

“The people have heard enough about it that they come expecting to have a good time, and they do,” Sokol says. “And those
its history, has welcomed immigrants from many different lands,” noted Lehman President Dr. Ricardo R. Fernández. To learn more about the festival or read excerpts of the authors’ work, please go to www.lehman.edu/academics/fdlp.php.

**Lehman Child Care Center Gets Built—One 18-Ton Module at a Time**

For three days this past September Lehman College was a busy construction site as twenty-two prefabricated modules—each weighing 18 tons—were hoisted into place over Goulden Avenue with a 600-ton crane. All of this heavy lifting, performed by the Long Island-based Axis Construction firm, was part of the process to create the College’s new two-story Child Care Center, one of two new buildings added to the 37-acre campus this semester.

“We have long needed a larger facility to meet the child care needs of our students,” noted Vice President of Student Affairs José Magdaleno. “This beautiful new building will support student success at the College by providing affordable child care to students who need this assistance to pursue their educational goals.” Lehman was one of the first CUNY colleges to open a child care center, back in 1971, which then moved into a larger facility in 1985 that is now being replaced by this new building.

The new center, designed by Brooklyn-based Garrison Architects, is situated between Davis Hall (to the south) and Shuster Hall (to the north). The $6.3 million structure—built with funding from New York State capital funds—will include 12,000 sq. ft. of space. When it opens in 2013, it will accommodate 140 children enrolled in its various all-day and after-school programs, double the capacity of the present center.

“This building is physical evidence of CUNY’s commitment to funding beautiful and sustainable architecture in the twenty-first century,” said Iris Weinshall, CUNY vice chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction, and Management, “that both serves the interest of our students and the communities in which our schools are based.”

The steel-and-concrete modules were built in an enclosed facility in Ephrata, Pa., which kept them largely immune to the weather and normal production delays associated with the traditional construction process. Lehman estimates that, as a result, the interval from groundbreaking to occupancy was cut almost in half, providing a significant savings in time and construction costs.

**Lehman LIFE Goes to South Africa**

A group of Lehman LIFE (Leaders Involved For Everyone) traveled down to South Africa where they ventured into Cape Town, discussed the educational needs of parents, visited a center for children with H.I.V./AIDS, and a home for the elderly. To fund their trip, students worked at least 25 hours of community service and raised 100 percent of the funds for their trips.

who don’t, I think we win them over. I think the reason why the show is so well received is that there is a need for laughter. Every time I turn on the news, whether it’s local, national, or international, human interest or economics, there has been very little to lighten our life.” For ticket and show time information go to westsidetheatre.com.

(From Left to Right: Bill Army, Todd Susman, and Marilyn Sokol. Photo credit: Joan Marcus)
Home Front: The Collection

Martin Kleinman has always loved the Bronx. Even during the 25 years he spent living in Brooklyn’s Park Slope, he remained true to his native borough. He grew up in the University Heights section and after graduating DeWitt Clinton High School, enrolled in Lehman. He quickly fell in love with the school and its green campus. “It just looked like a college,” he recalls, “like this was the way a college was supposed to be.”

Kleinman graduated in 1972 after majoring in economics with a minor in psychology and began a career in public relations, working for corporate clients such as Lockheed Martin and American Express. One of his longtime business clients, Robert F. Brands, the president and founder of Brands & Company, LLC, contacted him about writing a book on innovation.

“We were talking one day, and we were both bemoaning the fact that the first thing that companies do in a tough economic climate is slash their research and development funds,” Kleinman says. “But that’s exactly the wrong thing to do; that’s how businesses grow: by investing in research and development.” The product of their frustration was Robert’s Rules of Innovation: A 10-Step Program for Corporate Survival (John Wiley & Sons, 2010) that they co-wrote.

Over time, he started writing short stories about what he calls “the real New York” that only a native of the Big Apple can truly understand. And he joined a writer’s group, perfecting his stories, and winning accolades from fellow writers. “People kept telling me, ‘that’s a great story’ or ‘that’s so interesting,’” he recalls. “And slowly but surely, I started taking it seriously.” He was inspired by his native city again when in 2010 he and his wife moved back to the Bronx, this time to live in the Riverdale section.

All of this inspired Kleinman to collect his stories for his forthcoming book, Home Front. “It’s hard to think that New York once crashed so hard and how bad it was,” he says. “People who weren’t here wouldn’t believe it.” For a taste of what New York was like in those rough and tumble days, readers can check out his book, which will be available on Amazon.com in early 2013.

---

Songs From My Heart

John D. Pantuso has always viewed singing as more than just a hobby. Even though he majored in accounting at Lehman, and minored in finance, he made sure that singing with a group in three- or four-part harmony was a constant in his life.

Now his first book, Songs From My Heart, compiles the inspirational stories behind some of his musical works that he performs with his current group, the Florida-based quartet called Brotherhood. While living and pursuing his accounting career in NYC, John traveled musically with another band, The Vessels of Praise, whose trusty tour bus racked up thousands of miles throughout the United States and Canada.

“I did not compose these songs—primarily gospel, inspirational, and holiday tunes—with the intention of publishing a book,” he admits. “It became a by-product or extension of my work to encourage others to fully utilize the different gifts we have. Many have told me how they appreciate Songs From My Heart and plan to do something good with their lives no matter how small.”
In a way, his book is his way of sharing his musical passion. "This is an easy-to-read book that can be used over and over again as a reference, a devotional, or in a small group discussion setting," he says. “I wanted to create a character who had confidence in herself as a professional, who was kind, generous, and determined, with strong ties to her son and daughter.”

And voilà: the character, Albion became Albina. "A seemingly small change," he adds, "but I think it strengthened the character and the play."

The book also includes his first original play, One Leg Over the Wrong Wall, about Charlemagne, which was produced by the Royal Court Theatre in London while he was working in New York as an editor.

As a young boy growing up in England during World War II, Professor Bermel was evacuated to many locales—all far from home. That period is the subject of a memoir that he is busy completing, tentatively titled A Boy’s War. Perhaps it was his war-torn childhood that turned Professor Bermel, who graduated from the London School of Economics, and has received a Guggenheim Award for playwriting, into such a lover of farce. He has written a highly regarded history on the subject, Farce: A History from Aristophanes to Woody Allen, which Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush listed as one of his three favorite books.

"The comic impulse that drives me is to escape from the horrors of everyday life," Professor Bermel says, "but realism inevitably creeps in. In my plays, which have been called dark comedies, comedy and farce predominate, but there’s a strong undercurrent of menace."

In a way, his book is his way of sharing his musical passion. "This is an easy-to-read book that can be used over and over again as a reference, a devotional, or in a small group discussion setting," he says.

His hope is that others will read the book, be moved by the lyrics—and their religious inspiration—and perform the songs. “Each chapter includes the entire lyrics to the song and a scripture verse that ‘steers’ the song’s pathway,” For Pantuso, singing and faith are one and the same. “You never know how God will use you,” he believes. “Nothing is impossible.”
Spring Sports In Review

Shantay Beccan was the driving force behind the Lehman women’s outdoor track and field team’s run to its fifth CUNYAC Championship. She was named the CUNYAC/US Army Rookie of the Year, finished first in both the 100- and 400-meter hurdles, second in the high jump, and was also an integral part of the Lightning’s winning 4x100- and 4x400-meter relay teams. Seven others joined her as CUNYAC All-Stars, including Jasmine Springer, who earned All-American status in the triple jump at the NCAA Division III national meet.

Baseball had a miracle season come to an end at MCU Park in Coney Island in the CUNYAC Championships. The Lightning made its first post-season appearance since 2008 behind the strong play of Edwin Marrero, who earned First Team All-CUNYAC. The right-handed hitter pounded opposing pitching, leading the team with a .372 average, which was good for fifth in CUNYAC, and a .543 slugging percentage. He also produced 20 RBIs, 10 doubles, 22 runs, and slammed two home runs. Marrero’s signature game came early on when he went 4-for-6 with two home runs and six RBI’s against SUNY Maritime on March 14. Three others earned Second Team All-Conference in head coach Christian Viggiano’s first year at the helm.

The softball program continued its upward climb in the spring, led by CUNYAC Coach of the Year Claudio Barbieri. On the field, Janet Ortiz led the Lightning in every major offensive category, hitting .490 with 12 doubles, five home runs, 30 RBIs, 16 steals, and 45 runs scored while slugging .786 and getting on base at a .549 clip. She also posted 14 multi-hit games, including two 4-for-4 performances.

Women’s Soccer Finds Success In Inaugural Season

It has been a whirlwind year for Lehman head women’s soccer coach, Amanda Popoli. Back in February, Lehman announced the formation of the school’s 18th varsity sport—women’s soccer—and Popoli was tapped as its first coach.

She began by recruiting student-athletes, both from high schools and from around campus. She brought in an assistant coach, and there was a short spring season, to assess what she had. In August, the team of almost 20 student-athletes donned their uniforms for the first time.

“We wanted to present opportunities to our students that fit who we are,” said Dr. Martin L. Zwiren, Director of Athletics. “Our student population is decidedly female, so adding a women’s soccer team made sense.”

The historical milestones soon followed. The first game was played at home against Yeshiva University on August 31. The first goal in school history happened in that outing, when freshman Juliana Generoso scored just minutes into the contest. Lehman would win that inaugural game, setting a positive tone for the season.

Success has followed the team, including a third place finish in the CUNY Athletic Conference’s regular season. Such an amazing accomplishment has come through sheer determination, hard work, and a little bit of luck.

“This has been a great season so far,” said Popoli. “We’re working hard and getting better every day.”

Road Warriors No More

The men’s volleyball and men’s and women’s basketball teams will return to the APEX this season after a year on the road. Last fall, Hurricane Irene pounded the campus, causing a flood in the APEX that damaged the hardwood floor. But the seasons would go on, with men’s volleyball playing in the auxiliary gym, and both basketball teams hosting ‘home games’ across the tri-state area.

A remodeled hardwood floor is now in place in the APEX, with all three programs poised to represent the Blue and Gold. Other improvements include new logoed chairs on the benches and a new electronic scorer’s table, which features a fully customizable LED display.

Lehman Athletics Hosts Pink Weeks

The Lehman College Athletics Department hosted Pink Weeks this October, promoting awareness of breast cancer and raising funds to fight this terrible disease. Teams wore pink shoelaces and pink ribbons throughout the month, and participated in the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, held at Orchard Beach. In all, over $2,000 was raised and donated to the American Cancer Society on behalf of Lehman Athletics.
Alumni Relations Website

Lots of information is waiting for alumni at the College’s Alumni Relations website (www.lehman.edu/alumni), including an electronic change of address form and photos of alumni at recent events. Please be sure your contact information is up to date. That way, you’ll receive notices about upcoming activities. Let the College know, too, when you earn another degree, earn a promotion, or move on to a new position elsewhere. We ask that you submit biographical and professional information for “Alumni Notes” both at alumni@lehman.cuny.edu and lehmantoday@lehman.cuny.edu. The Notes will be published in the spring issue.

Annual Dinner Looks to the Future While Raising Funds for the Lehman Foundation

The 2012 Lehman College Awards Dinner, held on October 25 at the New York Botanical Garden, was another great success netting nearly $250,000 for scholarships and other academic needs. The evening was devoted to “Visions of the Future” and spotlighted the College’s long-term goals such as the completion of the new Child Care Center; development of a School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing; and working on the next phase of the College’s new Science Hall.

Over the course of the evening, Lehman College President Ricardo R. Fernández honored a number of guests, including: Peter M. Meyer, president of TD Bank’s New York operations, who won a Corporate Leadership Award; Anil Nayyar, president of Nayyarsons Corporation, which operates the cafeteria, received a Community Leadership Award; and John Ulrich, the recording secretary and director of organizing and education for the Teamsters Union, Local 812.

President Fernández gave the Alumni Achievement Award to Michael S. Fassler (B.A., ’74), president and CEO of CenterLight Health System, a Bronx-based healthcare facility, and his wife, Phyllis K. Fassler (B.A., ’76). Myrna M. Rivera, a Lehman alumna and founder and board chair of Consultiva Internacional, Inc., who was elected chair of the Lehman College Foundation’s board of directors earlier this year, attended the event and congratulated the honorees. The host of the annual event was Pei-Sze Cheng, an Emmy Award-winning reporter for WNBC-TV. All funds raised by the dinner will benefit the College’s various student scholarship programs.

Photos by Jason Green
Alumnus Joe Delli Carpini ('76) Speaks to Students about International Trade and the Global Economy

Lehman College students had the chance to learn firsthand about the global economy from Lehman alum Joe Delli Carpini (B.A. '76), the president and CEO of Cargo Tours International, a global freight forwarder, on April 26 at the Performing Arts Center. About 75 students, many of them business majors, listened to the life experiences of a successful entrepreneur, who like them, was raised in the Bronx, after his family emigrated from Italy.

After graduating from Lehman with a degree in political science and history, Delli Carpini spent two years traveling the world. He then went to work at a freight-forwarding company at JFK Airport before working his way up the corporate ladder. In 1998, he founded Cargo Tours International. Although he has traveled the world over—he’s business often takes him all over the U.S., South America, Europe, and Asia—he never stops singing the praises of Lehman College and the education he gained here.

“I am very proud of my public education,” Delli Carpini has said, “and at every occasion that arises anywhere in the world, I proudly speak of the virtues of my alma mater.”

Lehman College Launches A New Website Aimed at Connecting Bronx Communities

In October Lehman College launched a new website, “Lehman Community Connect: Bronx Information Portal,” aimed at providing residents, students, faculty, and researchers a one-stop shop for all things Bronx-related. The site is believed to be the first in the U.S. where a college or university has mapped public “open data” to facilitate community interaction.

“The new website is part of the College’s ongoing mission to actively engage, and above all, serve the community through a variety of resources,” said President Ricardo R. Fernández. “This commitment to service is embodied in our strategic plan, and has become part of the fabric of our campus. We hope this new site facilitates discussion, inquiry and participation, and provides a useful resource for our vibrant community.”

“Visitors to the site have access to information on education, health, sustainability, and other Bronx-related information from a variety of sources including New York’s ‘open data’ portal,” explained Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Ronald Bergmann. “Lehman Community Connect” also maps the College’s commitment to the community through internships, service-learning initiatives, and volunteer activities that directly serve the Bronx and the region. Social Work field placements alone contribute more than 134,000 hours each year to community agencies that provide services to children, adults, and families.

“Guests will be able to explore the data sets behind the maps and charts to conduct personal research, which can then be saved or shared via e-mail, Facebook, Twitter,” added VP Bergmann. The site includes links to video tutorials for conducting such research.

Recently, the site provided important information about available resources and services for those in the region affected by Hurricane Sandy, including an interactive Google map. The site can be accessed from the Lehman College home page at bronx.lehman.cuny.edu.

Lehman’s New Weekend/Online College for Working Professionals

Lehman College has found a new way to continue its forty-year long tradition of serving non-traditional students who have to balance work and family responsibilities with affordable and customized degree programs. Beginning in 2013, the School of Continuing and Professional Studies is launching a new Weekend/Online College program to help such students get the educational training they need to advance in their respective fields, begin new careers, and achieve self-fulfillment in a flexible forum.

The College will offer two weekend/online degree programs; both are designed for those who hold associate degrees and who wish to earn a Baccalaureate in two years with weekend and online classes. The first program is for registered nurses with New York State licenses who want to earn a Bachelor of Science, or B.S.; the other serves students who want a Bachelor in Business Administration, or B.B.A. with a focus on finance.

“This is a great new way for the College to serve the needs of our students and bring new people into the Lehman community,” says Dean Marzie A. Jafari of the Lehman School of Continuing and Professional Studies. “By applying innovative efforts and pedagogically tested models we can help adult learners meet their training and educational needs.”
On October 12, 2012, everything changed at Lehman College. That was the day that after many years, and much Herculean effort on the part of dozens of people, the College dedicated its new $70 million teaching and research building, Science Hall, with a celebratory ceremony attended by more than 200 people, including Bronx Borough President Rubén Diaz, Jr., CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, and many other Lehman, CUNY, State, and City officials.

Lehman College’s New Science Hall:
The Future Begins Now
But as the crowd gathered on Lehman’s pristine campus on that overcast Friday morning, it became readily apparent that the attendees weren’t just there to marvel in amazement at the new four-story building—although what a building it is: high-tech classrooms and laboratories; a rooftop teaching and research greenhouse; an eco-friendly design that’s expected to earn at least a LEED® Gold rating—perhaps even a Platinum rating—from the U.S. Green Building Council for its many sustainable features; they were there to witness history. On that day, Lehman College entered a new phase, one that can potentially transform not only the Bronx and the rest of New York City, but ultimately, the lives of millions.

“Science Hall, and the potential it holds, represent the best of what public higher education can achieve for our society,” Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández told the crowd gathered outside the building’s main entrance. “Inside its classrooms and laboratories, transformative experiences will occur—learning that will change the direction of individual lives and research that will lead to advances in fighting disease, malnutrition, climate change, and other conditions.”

Designed by the New York-based architectural firm of Perkins+Will, Science Hall features an array of environmentally sustainable technologies, such as an elaborate rainwater system to clean, collect, and recirculate water for use in restroom flushing fixtures and rooftop solar panels to heat the building’s water. These are expected to significantly reduce energy costs and make Science Hall CUNY’s “greenest” science building.

“With its integrated mix of advanced-level research labs and active learning environments, the new Science Hall brings the quality of Lehman’s facilities in alignment with the quality of the educational and research experience,” said Tony Alfieri, associate principal of Perkins+Will. The building was constructed with $70 million in funding provided by New York State, through the CUNY Capital Program, and bonded and built by DASNY. Funding for the rooftop greenhouse of $1.464 million was provided by an allocation from the New York City Council.

Although classes in Science Hall will begin in January 2013, everyone who attended the dedication got a chance to see that potential up close, as professors and students offered tours of the building and its many features. Much more than a building of glass, steel, concrete, and cutting-edge design, Science Hall will serve as a STEM “pipeline” to the sciences for both undergraduate and graduate students and will host several new programs to attract and mentor K-12 students in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—those key research areas in which the U.S. is experiencing a growing gap in personnel.

One of the most innovative programs at the College began this summer: Women in Science which invited female high school students from Bronx public schools to take college-level courses and receive crucial mentoring by Lehman professors (see sidebar). This new program is in addition to the College’s already established STEM Scholars, which worked with its first cohort of students from the borough’s two CUNY colleges, Bronx Community College and
Helping Women Achieve Careers in Science

As she sat in a classroom in Davis Hall on a hot August day this past summer, Professor Ayanna Alexander-Street went over prospective abstracts with seven high school students. The students were so dedicated to their education, they were willingly spending part of their summer vacation in school. “Our friends are at the beach,” said Edekira Liberato, a senior at DeWitt Clinton High School, “but we’re here.” It wasn’t a complaint; just a fact.

“They are all talented and dedicated students,” said Professor Alexander-Street. All but one of the students lives in the Bronx and all expressed an interest in making a difference in the lives of others; whether that means finding a cure for cancer or creating new technological products, these students understand that it all comes down to science.

One student was exploring how magnetic waves influence the growth of radishes; another was focusing on an experiment that used nanotechnology to learn more about breast cancer. The students and the day’s class were all part of Lehman’s Women in Science program. Professor Alexander-Street and Dr. Liesl Jones, chair of the Biological Sciences Department, founded the program to help underrepresented students of the Bronx compete in national science competitions.

Under their guidance, seven promising high school students—all seniors from Bronx public high schools—earned college credit by taking a biology class this summer at Lehman with Dr. Jones. When that class ended, they formed into another class to develop science projects with Professor Alexander-Street.

Since returning to their respective high schools, those same students have continued conducting their own research, gaining valuable experience in professional New York laboratories as they develop their own individual science projects. Once their experiments are concluded, their work will be on display at the first annual SciFest, to be hosted next spring in the College’s Science Hall in February. “We want to put science students from the Bronx on the nation’s map,” says Professor Alexander-Street.
Hostos Community College, as well as Saturday and after-school classes offered by the Bronx Institute.

Even as Science Hall seeks to bring new students from underrepresented populations into the worlds of science, it will also serve as a new home to the major research being conducted at the College, particularly in plant science. Although Lehman currently offers more than ten majors in math and science, it serves as CUNY’s Ph.D. subprogram in plant science where doctoral and post-doctoral students are involved in groundbreaking research.

And given the College’s collaborative history with the New York Botanical Garden, Wave Hill, as well as the lush “green” makeup of the North Bronx—including nearby Van Cortland Park—Science Hall can make New York City’s northernmost borough a unique hub of scientific research. “With the opening of this extraordinary Science Hall, Lehman College faculty and students will be uniquely positioned to contribute their substantial talents, dedication, and rigor to both the dissemination and creation of knowledge,” said CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein.

In the New Year, as Science Hall begins holding classes, it will also host the first SciFest, in partnership with Intel, a pilot science fair for high school students in the Bronx. The top ten winners of that competition will go on to the New York City Intel Science and Engineering Fair, giving them a chance to go test tube-to-test tube as it were, with the best science students in New York City.

“Lehman College’s new science building is a great step forward for this wonderful university,” said Borough President Rubén Díaz, an alumnus of the College. “The programs offered within these halls will cultivate new talent, and will help our students become the STEM leaders of tomorrow. Our modern society is built on science and technology, and I congratulate Lehman on this state-of-the-art facility that will serve as a great example of how we can both help our economy grow and help our students prepare for careers of the future.”

By the end of the day, everyone who gathered to celebrate this new phase in the history of Lehman College understood that the future of the College had arrived. That future even had a symbol: a new work of public art with a fitting title—“The Next Generation.” Created by Long Island-based artist Ned Smyth, the artwork is an 800-pound sculpture, made from dense foam, which hangs from the fourth floor of the grand staircase, it was designed to invoke a monolithic rock, it is visible to passers-by through the walls of glass that encase the stairs and floods the lobby with natural light.

For Lehman College, the Bronx, and a new era of scientific research, the future has officially begun. ■

“Some of the great advances which have been made in this country and in other countries have come into being exclusively because of research work and the advancement of scientific knowledge…”

— Herbert H. Lehman, speaking on the floor of the U.S. Senate, October 8, 1951.

Sen. Lehman worked to establish the National Science Foundation and continued to champion the importance of new scientific developments.

(From left) Professor Stephen Redenti of Lehman’s Biological Sciences Department and a student examine 3D imagery on a computer; student Filza Salees conducts an experiment in the laboratory; members of the Stem Scholars program pose with President Ricardo R. Fernández (far left) and the program’s creator, Professor Joseph Rachlin of the Biological Sciences Department (far right).
A Great Day

Many dignitaries attended the dedication of Science Hall on October 12, happy to participate in the joyous occasion. (Clockwise) Dr. Anny Morrobel-Sosa, Lehman’s provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, who served as the Master of Ceremonies, poses with President Ricardo R. Fernández and Bronx Borough President and Lehman alumnus (B.A. ’05) Rubén Díaz, Jr.; Lehman alumnus Dr. David L. Spector (M.A. ’77), director of research at the world-renowned Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, President Fernández, and Dr. Dennis Wm. Stevenson, vice president for Laboratory Research at the New York Botanical Garden. (From left): Dr. Morrobel-Sosa; CUNY Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction, and Management Iris Weinshall; Rene M. Rotolo, assistant vice president for Campus Planning and Facilities at Lehman; Paul T. Williams, Jr., president and CEO of the Dormitory Authority, State of NY; President Fernández; Philip Alfonso Berry, vice chairperson, CUNY Board of Trustees; CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein; and Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz, Jr. cut the ribbon and officially opened the building. At bottom: Chancellor Goldstein addressed the crowd during the ceremony.

Photos by Jason Green

Science Hall photo by Brendan McGibney
At first glance, the fifth graders
of P.S. 43X Jonas Bronck School in the Mott
Haven area of the Bronx resemble any other
elementary-school students. However, they
don’t carry notebooks, instead they carry
personal diaries, and frequently take breaks
during the day to write down their thoughts
or chronicle their feelings about what they
are learning.

These students are part of an innovative
program launched by Professor Janet Pickard
Kremenitzer of Lehman’s Department of
Early Childhood and Childhood Education,
in partnership with the Anne Frank Center
USA, in 2009. Instead of measuring students
via test scores, Professor Kremenitzer’s
approach focuses on “emotional intelligence”
(or E.I.), and students’ abilities to recognize,
understand, label, express, and regulate
emotions. With the help of teaching artists,
the fifth-grade students develop storytelling
skills through art, vignettes, songs, and
dance and are encouraged to express their
feelings through their own diaries.

That’s where Anne Frank comes in. At P.S.
43X, the third through fifth graders begin the
program by reading The Diary of Anne Frank,
written during the last two years of her life,
as she and her family hid from the Nazis
during World War II. The 10-week project
includes class trips to The Anne Frank
Center USA in Manhattan to learn about her famous diary and
meet Holocaust survivors.

“Anne Frank is an excellent teaching tool,” Professor Kremenitzer
said. “Over the two years, you can see in the book that there is a
progression. Anne became more emotionally intelligent.”

While reading the book, many children relate to Anne Frank, who
was about their age before she died. Through her story, they
discussed issues of discrimination and what
she accomplished as a teen by taking action
and writing a diary. “Hitler was the greatest
bully of all,” said Professor Kremenitzer, “and
these children are living in one of the poorest
Congressional districts, where they have
to deal with bullies and gangs all the time.
Many of them live in small quarters, and
Anne Frank had to move into a very tight
apartment when they went into hiding. They
also often get put down, sometimes by
teachers who lack E.I. skills.”

With that in mind, the objectives of this
project are not limited to students. Teachers,
assistant principals, and all the paraprofes-
sionals who interact with the children receive
training in emotional intelligence, tolerance,
anti-bullying, and empathy. In the U.S., 50
percent of teachers are burnt out and leave
the field within the first five years, according
to a National Education Association study.
Professor Kremenitzer believes teachers
need to develop better emotional intelligence
skills to positively impact their students. At
Lehman, she trains future teachers and asks
them to keep a diary on Blackboard. “In my
childhood developmental classes, I introduce
the idea that if teachers have control of their
own emotions, they’re going to be better
teachers in the classroom,” she says.

As part of the program, the fifth graders
visited Lehman College this spring for special sessions on how to
prepare for middle, high school, and ultimately college. The field trip
may have created new ambitions along the way: In the Multimedia
Center’s recording studio, 10-year-old Taofiq Kelda watched in awe
as he learned how to work a mixing board.

“I want to go into a business like this,” said Taofiq’s classmate,
Brendan Johnson, “but there are so many buttons. How do you
know which button to press?”
“That’s why you need to study,” Taofiq replied.

After visiting the Music Building, another student, Liliana Moya, was convinced she was meant to study music and become a singer. Her best friend, Mikhaila Knight, was more interested in the Leonard Lief Library. “It’s the biggest library I’ve ever seen,” she said. “I may need a GPS.”

After touring the school, Dr. Joanna Delucchi, principal of P.S. 43X, lit candles in Carman Hall for Anne Frank, her sister Margot, and her brother Peter—all victims of the Holocaust—as the children sang an original song, “Anne Frank: This Song is for You” written by one of their teachers and the school’s music teacher to commemorate the children’s admiration for Anne Frank.

“The collaboration between the Anne Frank Center, Lehman College, and P.S. 43X has been very rewarding,” said Dr. Delucchi. “The program helped develop emotional intelligence skills in our teachers as a vehicle for helping children develop these skills.”

At the end of the spring field trip, Dr. Harriet Fayne, dean of Lehman’s School of Education, invited the fifth graders to return in seven years when they are applying to college. The school also hopes to extend the Anne Frank partnership to more elementary schools in 2013. “Even if the setting for Anne’s diary was during World War II, a lot of the human situations are similar,” Professor Kremenitzer said. “It’s about issues that are universal.”

Returning to the Scene of The Crime

Last spring, seventeen teachers from middle schools, high schools, and colleges across the United States took part in an educational tour of Poland and Israel, where they visited historical sites that related both to the Holocaust and to contemporary Jewish life. The teachers all specialize in teaching about the Holocaust, other genocides, and social justice.

They also all belong to the Holocaust Educators Network (HEN), a program based at Lehman College and founded by Professor Sondra Perl of the College’s English Department. “At a time when teachers are blamed for so much failure,” notes Professor Perl, author of On Austrian Soil: Teaching Those I Was Taught to Hate, “their work offers a counter-story, one that provides a vision of teachers working for the common good across religious and international borders.”

Led by Professor Perl, faculty from HEN, and several members of the Board of Directors of the Memorial Library—a New York City-based educational center founded by the late Olga Lengyel, a Holocaust survivor, and author of Five Chimneys: A Woman’s True Story of Auschwitz—these educators traveled to Poland where they visited notable sites, including the Warsaw Ghetto, Oskar Schindler’s factory, and the Majdanek concentration camp in Majdanek in Poland.

It was after visiting Majdanek, which had the highest death rate of all the concentration camps, that two teachers from a Catholic high school in Nebraska, wrote: “the somber events of the day spurred us to take action through education; reminding us of the importance to compel our students, and fellow teachers to engage in discussions and actions which will prevent us from climbing the ladder of the pyramid of hate. As survivor Irving Roth often chides us: ‘Be mindful of the signposts on the road to Auschwitz.’”

In Israel, the teachers traveled to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where they were able to tour Yad Vashem: The Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority, and visit Masada, a UNESCO World Heritage Site of critical importance to Jewish history. In both Poland and Israel, the teachers traveled with a Holocaust survivor and a historian, and they met local educators to exchange ideas about the rewards and challenges of teaching about the Holocaust.

To learn more about the Memorial Library, the Holocaust Educators Network, visit www.thememoriallibrary.org.
A Guide to the Best of the Arts in the Bronx

A calendar to pull out and save of some of the cultural events taking place at Lehman through June 2013. Reserve seats early for ticketed events – many sell out.

ONGOING

Feb. 5 – May 15
CONTEMPORARY CARTOGRAPHIES
Curated by Susan Hoeltzel and Yuneikys Villalonga
Thirty contemporary artists who use the language and imagery of maps to communicate identity, politics, and culture in a variety of media, including photography, drawing, painting, sculpture, and video. The artists offer a range of styles, adapting, manipulating, and inventing maps to give them new meanings. Some use fictional narratives and create imaginary cartographies; others conceive a work that updates the new geopolitical order. Still others approach the map aesthetically or as material in itself.
Lehman College Art Gallery – Free
10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday – Saturday

JANUARY

Sat., Jan. 12, 8 p.m.
PAUL RODRIGUEZ AND TERRY HODGES
Star and producer of “The Original Latin Kings of Comedy.”
Lehman Center: $45, $40, $25

Sat., Jan. 19, 8 p.m.
JULIO IGLESIAS WITH GUESTS
Lehman Center: $95, $80, $50

Sat., Jan. 26, 8 p.m.
TIM FREEDMAN
Lehman Center: $45, $40, $25

FEBRUARY

Sat., Feb. 9, 8 p.m.
A CHORUS LINE
Winner of nine Tony awards, including “best musical.”
Lehman Center: $45, $40, $25; children 12 and under, $10 any seat

Wed., Feb. 13, 12:30 p.m.
LEHMAN CHAMBER PLAYERS
Music Building Recital Hall: Free

MARCH

Sat., Mar. 2, 8 p.m.
FOREVER FREESTYLE 7
The fever is back, seventh year in a row!
Lehman Center: $60, $55, $45

Sat., Mar. 16, 7 p.m.
LEHMAN JAZZ BAND
Music Building Hearth Room: Free

APRIL

Sun. Apr. 7, 2 p.m.
LEHMAN JAZZ COMBOS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
Music Building Hearth Room: Free

Sun., Apr. 7, 6 p.m.
DANCEBRAZIL
Infectious Rhythms and Dazzling Artistry
Lehman Center: $40, $35, $25; children 12 and under, $10 any seat

MAY

Sun., May 5, 2:30 p.m.
LEHMAN COLLEGE & COMMUNITY CHORUS, LEHMAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Lehman Center: Free

Sun., Apr. 21, 2 p.m.
LEHMAN WOODWIND QUINTET
Music Building Recital Hall: Free

Sun. Apr. 21, 4 p.m.
STARS OF THE RUSSIAN BALLET
Featuring outstanding dancers from one of the most renowned Russian Ballet companies in the world, performing legendary moments from The Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Giselle, The Dying Swan, and many more!
Lehman Center: $40, $35, $25; children 12 and under, $10 any seat

Sun., Apr. 28, 2 p.m.
LEHMAN JAZZ BAND
Music Building Hearth Room: Free

Sun., May 11, 8 p.m.
PATTI LABELLE
Soul Diva! Belting out classic rhythm and blues renditions, pop standards, and spiritual sonnets.
Lehman Center: $100, $85, $75

Sun., May 19, 2 p.m.
LEHMAN COLLEGE COMMUNITY BAND
Lovinger Theatre: Free
FEBRUARY

Sat., Feb. 9, 8 p.m.
A CHORUS LINE
Winner of nine Tony awards, including “best musical.”
Lehman Center: $45, $40, $25; children 12 and under, $10 any seat

Sat., Feb. 2, 7 p.m.
AFRICAN CHILDREN’S CHOIR
An uplifting evening of music and hope in celebration of black history month.
Lehman Center: $35, $25, $15; children 12 and under, $10 any seat

APRIL

Sat., Mar. 17, 2 p.m.
LEHMAN CHAMBER PLAYERS
Music Building Recital Hall: Free

Sun., Apr. 7, 2 p.m.
LEHMAN JAZZ COMBOS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
Music Building Recital Hall: Free

Sun., Apr. 7, 6 p.m.
DANCEBRAZIL
Infectious Rhythms and Dazzling Artistry
Lehman Center: $40, $35, $25; children 12 and under, $10 any seat

Sat., Apr. 13, 8 p.m.
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
Based on the stories of Sholem Aleichem.
Lehman Center: $45, $40, $25

Sat., Apr. 21, 2 p.m.
STARS OF THE RUSSIAN BALLET
 Thirty contemporary artists who use the language and imagery of maps to communicate identity, politics, and the new geopolitical order. Featuring outstanding dancers from one of the most renowned Russian Ballet companies in the world, performing legendary moments like The Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Giselle, The Dying Swan, and many more! Lehman Center: $40, $35, $25; children 12 and under, $10 any seat

Sat., Apr. 21, 4 p.m.
CONTEMPORARY CARTOGRAPHIES
Curated by Susan Hoeltzel and Yuneikys Villalonga
Programs are subject to change. Visit www.lehman.edu to verify event or call 718-960-8833 (Lehman Center Box Office) 718-960-8731 (Lehman College Art Department) 718-960-8025 (Lovinger Theatre) 718-960-8247 (Music Department).

Order Tickets Online for Lehman Center at www.lehmancenter.org
At the commencement ceremony for the Celia Cruz High School of Music this June, the founder and principal, Dr. William Rodríguez, addressed the graduating class, as he has done each year in the school’s ten-year history. As the Class of 2012 sat in their seats in the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, surrounded by their proud families, Dr. Rodríguez expressed his congratulations to the senior class on its achievement.

Then he shared with them a little advice that his one-time boss, bandleader Frank “Machito” Grillo, gave him as a young pianist: “No one throws rocks at a fruitless tree. When you succeed in your work, when you fulfill a dream, people will throw rocks at you and try to bring you down. Don’t let them.” It was a remarkably honest perspective to share with a group of students—not the standard high school graduation fare, but something that young men and women, especially those who dream of making it in any field, might need to hear.

Like many of his students, Dr. Rodríguez grew up in the Bronx. Raised by a single mom with his two siblings, he started playing piano at a young age, performing at the local Presbyterian church they attended. At 14, after being accepted to the famed High School of Performing Arts, he got the chance to attend a private high school affiliated with his church for free.

The only problem was that it was in Kingsville, Texas. Unsure what to do, his mother told him, “Do what you think is best,” he recalled as he sat in his office on a warm summer day. “I was sure that she wanted me to go. The neighborhood we lived in was starting to change, and I had just become a teenager. I think that was her way of telling me to go.”

And he did. The native New Yorker, who had never traveled far from home before, was suddenly living in a small town in Texas. He poured his energies into studying the piano. Classically trained, Dr. Rodríguez would eventually grow comfortable in any number of genres: classical, Latin, gospel, and pop. When he returned to New York after high school, he continued his musical education and also began playing with groups, travelling, and recording. Even today, he plays the organ at the Fort Washington Heights Presbyterian Church, where he has been the musical director since 1979.

After deciding to pursue music as a career, he enrolled in Brooklyn College, but took off from school to care for his mother when she became ill. He made a vow to her, though, before her death in 1980. “She told me, ‘Promise me you’ll finish college,’” he recalled. “So I did.” Moving back to his mother’s apartment in the Bronx, he walked over to Lehman College and in one day had all his credits transferred; the following year he graduated with a degree in psychology and a minor in music.

Once back in school, he couldn’t stop. After earning his B.A. in 1981, he completed a master’s in education at Lehman in 1985, earned certification in supervisory administration from Queens College in 1990, and later became the assistant principal of the arts at DeWitt Clinton High School. While there, he enrolled in Columbia University’s Teachers College and earned a Doctorate in education in 2002; along the way, he completed his master’s in music.

In addition to his career in education, Dr. Rodríguez has a long and distinguished music career. During the 1970s, he toured with such musical luminaries as Orlando Marin, Pete “El Conde” Rodríguez and the Machito Orchestra, travelling extensively with the orchestra and ultimately performing on its 1982 Grammy-winning Machito and His Salsa Big Band in Utrecht, Holland. He also recorded with Charanga America before joining the Luis “Perico” Ortiz Orchestra in 1981. By the mid-80s he had joined Manny Oquendo’s “Conjunto Libre” and stayed with them for more than a decade before joining the great Latin music legend, Johnny Pacheco. It was while he was with Pacheco that he began performing with the “Queen of Salsa” Celia Cruz (he had first performed with her in the 1970s). In fact, Dr. Rodríguez is one of the pianists on Cruz’s 2002 Grammy-winning album La Negra Tiene Tumbao.

In 2001, he had an unexpected career change. As the movement to reform public education grew stronger in New York City, the call went out to public school educators to create newer, smaller schools with a more concentrated focus. Dr. Rodríguez soon realized that with all the new schools being developed in the Bronx, none focused on music education. Under the umbrella of the Bronx New Century High School Initiative, it was time for the borough to have its own high school of music. Ultimately, he wrote the proposal, which was approved and funded.

As part of the mandate, all new schools needed a community-based organization (CBO) with which to partner. Dr. Rodríguez reached out to Lehman’s Music Department Chair at the time, Dr. Bernard Shockett, who welcomed the idea. “We have a very
strong relationship with Lehman College to this day,” the principal notes. While most new schools have lost their CBO partnerships, Lehman remains an important supporter of the high school: Celia Cruz HS students still hold their music ensemble classes on the Lehman campus.

Since its inception, the school has gone on to win numerous awards. Ensembles and soloists score high on the annual New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) adjudications/evaluations. Every year, Celia Cruz students are selected for the very competitive All-State ensembles, going up against fellow music students from throughout the State for a chance to perform at the annual State Music Conference in Rochester, N.Y. Last year, six students made the All State groups, while no other school in New York could boast more than two winning students.

The school also has performed at venues like Disney World in 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012, and at various city functions. In fact, NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg specifically requested that the Celia Cruz High School of Music perform at his “State of the City” address in 2011. “He could have picked anyone in New York City to play,” says the obviously happy principal. “And he asked us. Which kind of says it all.”

It certainly does. ■

(Top) Dr. Rodríguez with Juanes at the Latin Grammys; (inset) Dr. Rodríguez with NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg.
Katina Rojas Joy (B.A., '94) believes in the power of non-transactional relationships, combined with compassion, and intellectual curiosity. When she enrolled in Lehman in 1990 as a transfer student from SUNY, students were protesting a tuition hike and planned budget cuts not only with rallies and demonstrations but also with takeovers of administrative offices. Although tuition eventually increased, the broader point, she says, was the power of student activism rooted in social justice and fairness.

Today, Rojas Joy sees the world from a different perspective—as an appointee in the Obama Administration. “Government and business affects every aspect of our lives,” she notes.

When she applied for a senior-level position in the administration, Rojas Joy already knew her résumé stood out from the rest because she was armed with degrees from CUNY, had fifteen years of corporate experience, had traveled the world, and was a mom. In the fall of 2011, she was named as deputy director of the Business Liaison Office in the U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of the Secretary.

Rojas Joy’s office serves as the primary point of contact between the Department of Commerce and the business community. In the spring, she completed her first international trade mission that took her to New Delhi, India, where her department encourages economic growth for the U.S. through trade and export promotion. She also works with small business leaders, American entrepreneurs, and inventors to support job creation and believes that her diverse and unusual background made her the perfect candidate for these responsibilities.

Rojas Joy switched her major at Lehman from dance to Puerto Rican studies with a minor in political science and became the vice president of Lehman’s Puerto Rican Association, as well as the student yearbook editor.

“There was no Internet, no Facebook. We had beepers, and we used payphones,” she remembers. “Socially, I flourished, inspired by the diversity of the student activists. We were all studying liberal arts. So who knew how to get a job at the White House? Nobody.”

After earning a master’s degree in public administration from Baruch College in 1997, Rojas Joy worked in the pharmaceutical industry for fourteen years, married, and moved to Maryland. While she was pregnant with her second son, a new presidential candidate brought her back to her activism roots.

In early 2007, rumors were swirling concerning a first-term U.S. senator from Illinois named Barack Obama who planned to run for president.

“There was something about him that I was sort of taken with,” she recalls. In May 2007, she left her seven-month-old and her newborn son with her husband to travel to Chicago to attend Camp Obama, a four-day training program for organizers of his presidential campaign.

Once back home, she co-founded Maryland Latinos for Obama and was elected to serve as a Democratic National Committee delegate serving the Fourth Congressional District from Prince George’s County. When the delegates to the Democratic National Convention were announced from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, Rojas Joy was the only Latina supporting Obama. As a result, she was asked to served as a guest blogger for TheWashingtonPost.com.

After the election, she continued her work in pharmaceuticals but was ready for a change once her boys entered prekindergarten and kindergarten. With the unwavering support of her husband, she confided in her friend and mentor Nancy Santiago Negrón, an appointee in the administration, and asked her for help in identifying a position that spoke to her strengths. Negrón sent her résumé to the Presidential Personnel Office, and shortly afterward, Rojas Joy was hired at the Department of Commerce.

Last June, Rojas Joy returned to Lehman to address CUNY students at a conference on leadership. Although she still believes in community activism, she asked the students to open new doors in fields that still lack diversity.

“What I want of young people instead of being the next community organizer—we have done that already with our president—I want them to create the next Google, Facebook, or iPad. Take science, engineering, and mathematics courses. I wish someone would have said to me ‘Get great grades because good grades won’t be good enough.’

continued on page 26
Daisy Ortiz-Berger ('89)  

Remembered Her Community as She Climbed The Corporate Ladder  

by Sophia Tewa

Daisy Ortiz-Berger (B.S., '89) was 16 when she was first exposed to the gold and silver trading desk at JP Morgan as part of a vocational program at Grace H. Dodge High School in the Bronx. She immediately found her calling. Today, she is a senior vice president and Director of Marketing and Credit Card Acquisitions at Citigroup.

Ortiz-Berger learned the basics of marketing in a class at Lehman, which sparked her interest in the field and kept it in the back of her mind. Three years after her graduation, she received a full graduate management fellowship to attend the University of Texas at Austin and pursue her passion for marketing through an MBA program.

“I had the grades, took the GMAT, but what made me stand out was my unique story,” she says.

At Lehman, Ortiz-Berger volunteered in the Bronx community, feeding the homeless, visiting the elderly, and teaching at a local church. After getting accepted to the Lehman Scholars program, she took French classes and traveled to Europe. These activities set her application apart for graduate school.

In 1995, with an MBA in hand, she took a marketing position at Harrah’s Casino in Las Vegas and was later recruited by the Kmart Corporation and Ford Motor Company to pursue various marketing leadership roles. While living in Michigan, and advancing in her marketing career, she co-founded and became the president of the Detroit Chapter of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs. Ortiz-Berger has been recognized both for her leadership in marketing and her commitment to the Hispanic community as featured in MBA Magazine’s “Next Generation Executive,” Emerging Markets Magazine’s “Leading the Way,” and in Who’s Who in International Business.

“I paid a price when I left my home in the Bronx and my humble beginnings to try to reach the boardroom in corporate America, but all of these experiences to me were priceless,” she says.

Ten years later, she finally came home to New York City as a Senior Vice President, Strategic Marketing Executive, for Bank of America.

Last spring, Ortiz-Berger was invited to return to Lehman to speak at the Honors Convocation for the Class of 2012. She told the audience she had been blessed to work in companies that supported her volunteer activities. Throughout her career, she has continued her community-service projects and integrated them into her corporate setting—mentoring children with Big Brother, Big Sister, helping build houses for low-income families through Habitat for Humanity, and taking part in sponsoring events for the March of Dimes, a nonprofit organization focusing on prenatal health.

“Twenty years later, I’m still doing what I love, marketing and trying to give back to my community,” she said. “I can look back and say that everywhere I lived or worked, I tried to give back in one form or another.”

Everything you do should enhance and reinforce your story.

At Citigroup, Ortiz-Berger directs credit-card programs in developing strategic marketing plans across various channels: retail, mortgage, private bank, direct mail, email, and phones. Her Hispanic heritage and Bronx background gives her an edge, she says, by creating credit card programs that represent the interests of many customers. Her new challenge is to push the boundaries of Internet marketing within her company.

“Word of mouth is still a powerful tool, and social media is the new word of mouth,” she told the graduating students. “So how would you promote yourself?”

Her advice: “Be different, do unique things, stay ahead of trends, find something you love to do, and go for it. Everything you do should enhance and reinforce your story.”
Ediberto Román, a long-time immigration legal educator and immigration scholar, didn’t choose the legal profession until he was a senior at Lehman. The year was 1985, and Román had been dreaming of transferring to Fordham University to play football, but found a home at Lehman instead. He studied economics while working two jobs as a doorman and at an antique gallery. His two prelaw advisers, Political Science Professor Jim Kraus and Economics Professor Paul Cantor—both of whom have since retired—inspired him to enter the field of law.

“They were encouraging, yet they were tough,” Román says. “They demanded excellence in their writing and had a sense of commitment and professionalism. They taught us that, no matter where you are from, you could be outstanding. I wanted to continue my education and felt that I had more potential at Lehman. I loved my experience here and did without football—track and field and volleyball more than kept me busy.”

Román spent his last semester working, studying, and intensely preparing for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Since few law schools interviewed candidates, he found an unconventional way to impress admissions recruiters. To boost his chances, he invited representatives of a dozen law schools to Lehman for a law school forum. Over 200 students attended the event. “We had students willing to really push the envelope,” he recalls. “I wanted to encourage all students, particularly coming to a school like Lehman, to be resilient and hard-headed; and not let others define them and their prospects.”

Román applied to nine law schools and was admitted to all of them, including Fordham University and Brooklyn Law School. But he decided to attend the University of Wisconsin, which offered him a full scholarship. For a decade, he worked as a Wall Street lawyer in securities and antitrust litigation before specializing in immigration law. He went on to teach law at St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami, Florida, from 1995 to 2002 and left for Florida International University in 2003. He has published numerous law review articles on the constitutionality of immigration issues, has written several books, and is a public intellectual regularly writing for the Huffington Post, among other news agencies, with many of his essays focusing on racial discrimination and immigration policy.

“What I do now is something that relates to all people, especially people of color; and is something that I was aware and conscious about as a Lehman student. Lehman was a welcoming and nurturing environment, particularly in terms of the diversity of its student body. Most institutions, including my own, have a long way to go in terms of having their professoriate match the diversity of their student bodies” he says.


Since the subject is at the center of political discussions around the country, Román’s forthcoming book, due out this fall is sure to spark reflection on both sides of the debate. Those Damn Immigrants: America’s Hysteria Over Immigration (NYU Press) analyzes how the intensification of anti-immigrant rhetoric stirs attacks on immigrant communities.

Román was the keynote speaker at a special conference held at Lehman last spring on the rights of migrants in the Americas. For him, it was also the perfect occasion to revisit his alma mater for the first time in nearly thirty years.

“I walked around, looked at the gymnasium, expecting to see the same professors, but I knew that was not going to be the case,” he says. “I also fondly gazed at the library, which was my home away from home.”

Román also met young immigration activists, including members of the Lehman College Dream Team, who spoke about the future of the immigrant rights movement. Many of these students are actively lobbying their legislators to promote the Dream Act, legislation that could improve educational opportunities for undocumented youth.
Doris López-Palazzo (‘96)

Recognized as a ‘Woman of Distinction’

Back in 1992, Doris López-Palazzo (B.S., ’96) had reached a crossroads in her life. Recently divorced, the single mother of two young girls was working as a manager in a medical office when she realized she wasn’t making enough money to support her family. “I decided right there and then to go back to school,” she says.

That’s how she found herself at Lehman College, studying for her degree in healthcare administration in the Division of Adult and Continuing Education (now the School of Continuing and Professional Studies). Her years of working gave her fifteen life-experience credits—“which was totally amazing,” she remembers happily.

While at Lehman, she studied at the College’s (now-defunct) campus in Hiroshima, Japan for a summer session in 1994. Although admittedly out of her element, the native New Yorker—born and raised in Astoria, Queens—lived for six weeks on a mountain overlooking farms, and loved it. “Studying in Hiroshima was such an amazing experience,” she recalls. “In my wildest dreams, I never would have thought that I would have ended up there.”

Her experience at Lehman and the work opportunities that her degree created left her wanting even more education. “My experience at Lehman just made me fall in love with school,” she says.

After Lehman, she worked at the NYC Medical Center in Manhattan, which allowed her to go for her master’s in healthcare administration at New York University for half the price. When she switched jobs, however, she once again returned to CUNY, this time transferring her credits over to Brooklyn College, where she earned her master’s in 2000.

A quick scan of her résumé reveals that López-Palazzo has regularly made important careers moves, each time moving up a rung on the career ladder. Asked about all the various transitions on her résumé, she recalls that “this CEO I knew once told me that ‘if you’re going to move from job to job that’s fine; just make sure you’re moving up and not moving laterally,’” she says. “I’ve always taken that to heart.”

In 2005, she landed her current position as administrator of Emergency Medicine at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center and works at the organization’s Brooklyn Heights campus. Now a full-time Brooklynite, she is lucky enough to work near her favorite place in her adopted borough: the Brooklyn Promenade. And her love affair with the borough is mutual—she was recently named one of the twenty-five Women of Distinction of Brooklyn. She accepted her award at a ceremony at the New York Aquarium, where she brought her 88-year-old mother, Ana Marie López. “It was wonderful to be honored like that,” she says.

López-Palazzo still maintains a close connection with Lehman as an adjunct lecturer in the Health Sciences Department. In fact, she is currently assisting the School of the Continuing and Professional Studies to revamp its Medical Assistant certificate program. In Fall 2012 she taught Introduction to Healthcare and Managing A Healthcare Organization. “I love teaching,” she says. “It’s a wonderful experience.”

Katina Rojas Joy, continued from page 23

She urges young people, particularly those from rural and inner-city areas and poor families, to “think big—relocate to Silicon Valley and start your own company.” She wants to “see young people on the cover of Fortune, Forbes, and Fast Company, who are American innovators.”

She also has a message for other parents of young children: “Encourage your children to love math, science, and engineering even if you don’t. Twenty years ago, it was a competitive advantage to speak Spanish. Today Spanish has taken a back seat to Mandarin, Portuguese, German, and Hindi. We must be citizens of the world and think beyond our community borders.”

Ediberto Román, continued from page 25

“I was very impressed by their knowledge of the issues. It spoke well of the college community and this generation,” he says.

“It’s the civil rights movement of this generation. It is one that eventually will succeed—whether it’s through the Dream Act or something else—because logic, morality, and economic-related arguments are on their side. In addition, basic and foundational notions of human rights and civil rights are on their side. It takes courageous young people, as well as academic scholars like myself, to continue this type of struggle. But the struggle is rarely quick and is never easy.”
Lehman alumnus Joe Diomede (B.A., '83) has traveled from his home in France to Sierra Leone on the West African coast, a nation still recovering from a brutal decade-long civil war that ended in 2002. An avid cyclist, Diomede is working for the next three months with an organization called the Village Bicycle Project (villagebicycleproject.org) to repair and refurbish bicycles, a means of transportation that can dramatically improve both the lives and economic futures of those residing in villages far from the city center. He used most of his baggage allowance on the plane ride there to bring along tires and bicycle parts he collected from various shops in the U.S., U.K., and France. From time to time, he will share his experiences in a blog with the Lehman community. Please follow his adventures at (wp.lehman.edu/lehman-today/2012/09/alumnus-joe-diomede-volunteering-in-sierra-leone).

We have all grown up surrounded by the cycle of life and death. Be it the seasons, pets, friends, or family members dying, we have all encountered this ongoing cycle that is as old as the world itself. We have tried fooling ourselves with high fences, modern luxuries, and busy lives that we are somehow detached from that reality. In a place like Sierra Leone, where the reality of death is right outside the door, you may think people fear death, but I am finding it to be much the contrary. Death in Sierra Leone is never too far away, and the reality of it is not covered up or pushed to one side. But more importantly, it is not overdramatized.

My first encounter with this attitude toward death was after being here about four days. We were setting off to do our first workshop in a small village when we came to a huge part of washed away road and were stuck. As we waited a man came running past us saying something about a riot in a nearby village. A man was killed, and as we were deciding what to do, a motorcycle with three people plus the driver—one man’s face badly bloodied—passed by bumping along the edge of the road. My instructor called the organizer of the workshop from his mobile phone and asked if we should come or turnaround. Although the riot wasn’t in the village we were going to, we were responsible for two locals on our team and our own safety, so we did decided to pull the plug.

My next encounter was with our security guard’s 15-year-old niece who was bitten by a deadly snake and died that day. He came to work and told us what happened, but stayed most of his shift until we finally asked him to go to his sister’s house and help out. He was back the next day, and although arrangements were being made for the girl’s burial, he carried his sadness well, and also got on with living.

Not long after we were at another workshop when a man got the message his brother died. We assumed he would leave then and there, but only a few more hours to go and he would have a bike to make his life easier, so he stayed on and learned about bike maintenance. Yes, he looked distracted, but the reality again was death is never far away, and a cheap bicycle could be a huge benefit to his family. Not long after, a teacher in a school we work with lost his 4-year-old daughter to fever. His colleague accompanied him on the long journey back to the village where his only child now lay lifeless. The community always pulled together in these instances and would be there long afterward, not just for a week or a few days.

These incidents don’t mean to say that in Sierra Leone death is taken lightly, but the difference I feel is that it is taken naturally. That is, they embrace death as a reality and a part of life. And that is a healthier attitude that lets people live life in a more fulfilling way. We in the West face all those same realities but somehow keep them further at bay.

Are there lessons to learn from others living so differently from us? I believe there is. We can focus on the negative, but I prefer trying to learn from the positive. I remember years ago, while in India, reading the Bhagavad Gita and came across the passage that basically says: “Do not work only for the money, but work for the love of what you are doing, if we succeed in working from the heart, the money will take care of itself.” Many times I have realized that all I needed to do in order to work “from the heart” was to lower the bar of my material needs, and indeed the rewards did come. I am learning once again, in Sierra Leone, that if we lower the bar on material goods and also raise the bar on internal happiness, we’ll be better off. When we work from the heart, we live from the heart, when we do that death doesn’t scare us as much because we feel fulfilled, and are not just looking for something or someone else to fill that need.
Pinstripe Glory
On May 8, members of the Alumni Association took in a Yankee game, as the beloved Bronx Bombers beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-3 at Yankee Stadium.

Alumni Association Board members Aravind Mallipudi and Yini Rodriguez pose at Yankee Stadium.

Honoring Their (Soon-to-Be) Alma Mater
In May, Lehman held its annual Graduating Seniors Brunch, sponsored by the Alumni Office. The event, which included presentations and a raffle, was held in the Faculty Dining Room. After being toasted by members of the Alumni Association, the graduating students posed with Lehman College President Ricardo R. Fernández.

A Sunny Day At Sea
For the second year in a row, Lehman alumni enjoyed a brunch cruise on the World Yacht Duchess, on a glorious sunny August day.
Celebrating Culture

On September 22, Lehman alumni visited The Hispanic Society of America in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. After a detailed and enlightening tour of the collections, the group enjoyed lunch at the nearby Mi Tierra Restaurant.

Alumni received a guided tour of the artistic treasures found at the Hispanic Society’s Museum located in Manhattan.

Good Times with Old Friends

The Alumni Association organized a wine tasting and tour of Rhode Island’s famous Newport Vineyards, followed by an afternoon at Foxwoods Resort and Casino, on October 13.

At left: Alumni get a lesson in the fine art of wine-making; at right: Alumni Association Board Members (left to right) Constance Russell, Oneida Cabaleiro (Secretary), and Yini Rodriguez.

Network with us!

Join the “Lehman College Alumni” group on LinkedIn and Facebook (www.facebook.com/LehmanCollegeAlumni). Share your stories on the Lehman College Blog, go to blog.lehman.edu/ and let us know about you and your Lehman experience.
This report covers the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 and includes all donors to the Lehman College Annual Fund and Foundation. We thank all our donors.

President’s Circle
($10,000 and above)

Provost’s Circle
($5,000 - $9,999)

Millennium Club
($1,000 - $4,999)

Dean’s Circle
($500 - $999)

Lehman College Benefactor
($250 - $499)

Donor Recognition Levels:
President’s Circle………………………………..10,000.00
Provost's Circle…………………………………5,000.00
Millennium Club………………………………1,000.00
Dean’s Circle……………………………………500.00
Lehman College Benefactor…………………250.00
Century Club……………………………………100.00
Lehman Patron……………………………………50.00
Friends of the Library……………………………All GIFT LEVELS

Century Club
($100 - $249)
Robert A. Aaronson ’68 Haydee Acevedo ’02 AGC Thermo Electric Inc. Tony Alfieri Wayne Anderson ’76 George Apire ’68 Yolanda A. Arias-Brownell ’99 Wilma A. Bailey ’79 J. Michael M. Baker ’77 Catherine E. Bambrick ’02 William T. Barnes Reuben L. Baumgarten Rosanna V. Bazjanjan ’73 Carol E. Bellot ’04* Reginald Bender ’91 Joanne M. Billot ’89 Bookkeeper Plus* Patricia A. Bowie ’04 Matthew Bray
Beth Lief, Executive Director, The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation

“We have a security emergency fund at all the four-year CUNY colleges. We believe that it’s important for students who go to Lehman to succeed and graduate. Students have emergencies sometimes, and a small amount of money can make a difference. We feel satisfied that these grants enable students to continue their college career.”

Andrew V. Craig ’05
Amah J. D’Almeida
Josephine Depace ’85
Donald J. Devaney ’85
Faith Deveaux
Nancy J. Dougherty ’81
Veronica B. Dougherty
Lloyd G. Douglas ’00
Ahnavah Dove ’74
Napoleon T. Encalada ’80
Faite Care Corporation
Preston M. Faro ’73
Eileen F. Farrell ’78
Eric L. Feit ’73
Agnes T. Fitzpatrick ’88
David C. Fletcher
Eileen N. Forbes-Watkins ’69
Scott Fowler ’07
Philip L. Freedman
Jay M. Friend ’73
Alan Fuentes
Thomas E. Gallagher ’74
Beverly L. Henry ’93
Rosalie L. Henry ’07
Glenn D. Hill ’99
Anne W. Hiotyak
Wendy R. Hollander ’77
Joseph M. Hughes
Hughes Motors Corp.
Thomas W. Idle
Rosemary Infantino ’73
Iona College
The Irish Repertory Theatre Co. Inc.
Davey Irizary ’05
Rita Z. Iuliano ’77
Gregory Jeffries ’10
Ethel Jiles ’88
Anne and James R. Johnson
Mabel E. Johnson ’73
Christopher Jones ’01
Anne C. Jordan ’72
Hilary J. Jordan Wilson ’85
Edward J. Kenny
Leonard H. Klein ’84
Sandra S. Kolodny ’77
Alexander Konstantinou
Philip L. Kramer ’76
Virginia Laws
Barbara M. Lazarus ’07
Marc S. Lazarus
Jean O. Lee ’76
Penny Lehman
Jane L. Lima ’10
Joseph A. Lipari ’76
Andrew Loebelson ’06
Barbara L. Luftglass-Moreau ’83
David Lusk
Evelyn V. Maben-Hall ’06
Adam S. Macek ’78
William R. Maher ’66
Janet M. Mahoney ’75
Gary Makulka ’81
Patricia A. Manuel ’80
Nancy Nardozzi ’72
Leonora Nelson
Lars Nordstroem
Caritas Nzejymana ’05
O’Haherty
Carlos G. Ortiz
Consuelo G. Ortiz ’79
Rona L. and Steven A. Ostrow
John Pacia
Michele A. Panossian ’79
Michael P. Panzarino ’80
Lourdes Perez ’89
Lorraine Pettaway ’97
Angela M. Phillips ’78
Norma Phillips
Victoria Piontek
Barbara A. Pivarnik ’69
Jennifer Poggiali
Gaoqin Qian
Peter A. Quinn
Kathleen O. Quinn-Miller
Victor M. Quintana ’82
Rambling House Inc.
Christine E. Reitman ’02
Sarah Reyes ’93
Adele Richter
Hector A. Rivera ’70
Maria R. Rivera ’74
Mildred M. Rivers ’76
Canute R. Robinson ’94
Regina K. Robinson
Helena W. Robles ’95
Maria A. Rocchi ’97
Peter D. Roos
Donet M. Rose ’95
Joan E. Rose ’89
Carole S. Rothman ’69
Joan E. Rose ’89
Donet M. Rose ’96
Peter D. Roos
Joan E. Rose ’89
Carole S. Rothman ’69
Gayle Rowell ’93
Linda Rucker
Constance Russell ’06
M. Joanne Strauss ’70
Jack M. Styrker ’79
Clarence R. Sullivan ’76
Joan Taielli-Caputo ’71
Gloria E. Taylor ’87
Stephen Tepkian ’79
John P. Toalé
Arthur R. Tobiason ’73
Nicholas T. Torrens ’70
Synthia A. Tuohy ’78
Bushra Umbrein ’10
Milan Valuch ’69
Inez B. Vanable ’72
Luz D. Velazquez ’11
Verizon Foundation
Margaret M. Vescovi ’78
Anna Viruet ’85
David Vogel ’74
Michael J. Warren ’69
Jacqueline K. Weidner ’71
Frank D. Weiss ’70
Etta M. White ’06

Mabel Johnson (B.S., ’73)

Mabel Johnson graduated from Lehman with a degree in family and consumer science and then taught home economics in Africa. At Lehman, she went through the SEEK program and found the overall college experience to be enlightening and helpful in exposing her to things both educational and cultural. It inspired her to aim high and showed her the different possibilities available to her. “It was an entry into the door of wherever you wanted to go.” She has established a Charitable Gift Annuity, which will go toward scholarships for Lehman students.
Michael Spencer (B.A., ’77),
Relationship Manager,
JPMorgan Chase

After earning his degree in economics from Lehman, Michael Spencer began working with Beneficial Financials as a result of a job fair at Lehman. He says he remembers Lehman for its diversity and convivial social atmosphere. A manager at Chase for the past nine years, he handles business accounts for Bronx businesses and currently has a portfolio of clients totaling $50 million. He chose to channel funds to Lehman’s Performing Arts Center because he has enjoyed various shows there and wanted to contribute to the tradition of great programming not just for himself, but for the community at large.

“As the economy evolves more and more into a global one, I think it’s more important than ever that people learn to value and appreciate the different cultures around them,” he says. “I find that the programming at Lehman’s Performing Arts Center to be diverse and that is a great benefit to the community.”
**Tom Sullivan** made a significant donation to help establish the Patricia A. Cockram Endowment for the English Department. He teaches seventh- and eighth-grade English at CIS 303, a Leadership and Service Academy located at 1700 Macombs Road in the Bronx.

"Patricia was a close friend of mine," he says. "She was very dedicated to Lehman and its mission. She really believed in Lehman students and was very dedicated to working with students, whether graduate or undergraduate. I made the donation to honor her work, and I think Patricia would have wanted it that way."

Above: Suely Riordan (left) and Lisa Marie Blanco (center) with Professor Paula Loscocco of the English Department. Both Riordan and Blanco received the Cockram Portfolio Prize—Riordan in 2011 and Blanco in 2012.
The St. George’s Society established its scholarship program at Lehman in 2008 with funding from Mark C. Pigott, chairman and CEO of PACCAR Inc. Since then, 125 scholarships have been awarded to students who have a connection to Britain or the Commonwealth, whether by birth or heritage, and who have completed three years of academic coursework.

Last year, in partnership with the Society, the Mountbatten Institute announced that it would accept one
St. George’s Scholar annually for an internship in London that includes work experience and study.

“Our goal with this scholarship is to assist academically successful students who are struggling financially in the final year of their degree program,” says Robert Titley, the vice president of the St. George’s Society. “We want to ensure that they complete their studies, earn their degrees, and start a career. We’re delighted to help them attain their aspirations.”

Jolyon A. Williams ’07
Joyce F. Williams-Green ’76
Beatrice Wilson ’79
Kevin G. Wilson ’80
Sean O. Wilson ’03
Joy Winnik ’04
Blossom Wittlin ’76
Caryn S. Wolchuck ’77
Bruce Young ’69
Katherene E. Young ’84
Sandra Young ’07
Elda Zappi
Wei Guang Zhu ’02
Denise C. Zinna ’73
Laurie Zolos ’09
John S. Zolfo ’68

Friends of the Library
Sharon Balog ’76
James M. Baumann
Rosann V. Bazirjian ’73
Ronald M. Bergmann*
Antoinette Blum
Charles A. Casale ’74
Marianne A. Cocchini ’71
Frances A. DellaCava
Faith Deveaux
Elizabeth Diaz ’03
David C. Fletcher
The Free Library of Philadelphia Fund
Philip I. Freedman
Iván González
Jay Greaves
Michael A. Greer
Murray Hausknecht
Jim Hawkins
Napoleon Imarhiagbe
Monique Jarvis
Irene N. Judd ’70
NY Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency
Valentine Ngufor
Shelley Olson
Rona L. Ostrow
Hyeong J. Park

* Brick campaign donor

Lehman Today/Fall 2012 – Winter 2013 35
This past summer Lehman College invited the community to take part in a new program that brought New York State’s fresh seasonal produce to the campus for sale, thanks to Rene Rotolo, assistant vice president for Campus Planning and Facilities and Vincent M. Clark, vice president of Administration and Finance. The Summer Farm Share began in June, and provided fruits and vegetables from Corbin Hill Farm at a reduced price. Every week since, staff, faculty, and members of the local Bronx community have been visiting the Concert Hall Plaza, near Gate 10 on Paul Avenue, to choose from the farm’s most recent harvest—all sustainably grown in Schoharie County, N.Y. and other parts of the State.

“We want to bring fresh produce to those who don’t have it,” says Sabrina Wilensky, general manager of Corbin Hill Farm. “We’ve wanted to work with Lehman for a while, just given its role in the community. Universities are a great place to create a food movement.” Corbin Hill Farm has also partnered with Bronx Community College and the New School, among other New York City-based organizations.

More than 90 percent of Americans say equal access to fresh produce is very or somewhat important, according to a recent poll commissioned by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. More than 80 percent of those surveyed agreed that Washington, D.C., should support local fruit and vegetable farmers, and 90 percent said they would pay more for produce if that money was spent in the community.

“The location can’t be beat,” Wilensky says. “Produce is coming right to campus, and many supermarkets don’t carry everything that we provide. We also hope that the farm share will increase the sense of community between farmers and city residents.”

For more information, contact Corbin Hills Farms at info@corbinhillfarm.com or 718-578-3610.

Members pick their produce at the farmer’s market (1, 5). The fruits and vegetables for sale included swiss chard (2), tomatoes (3), cantaloupes (4), and fresh onions (6).
Become a Part of History.

Celebrate a graduation, highlight a special occasion, or remember a parent or loved one with a truly distinctive gift: a commemorative brick.

Lehman College has set aside space along a new Alumni & Friends Walkway—in front of Shuster Hall—where your thoughtful gift will be seen throughout the year. Your contribution will support scholarships for the next generation of Lehman students, as well as College needs.

A commemorative brick is the perfect way to celebrate the members of your class, club, or sports team. The College will set aside a special area for your group when you submit a minimum order for twenty bricks. Standard bricks (4 x 8 inches) are $130; large bricks (8 x 8 inches) are available for $250.

Create a Legacy.

Ever wonder how the wealthy make a charitable gift?

Lehman College has a new gift opportunity for alumni 65 and over. It makes fixed, steady payments for a lifetime, and what remains is a gift to Lehman.

It’s a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA).

Your CGA can make its lifetime payments to one or two people who are 65 or over. You can create one for:

- Yourself
- You and your spouse
- Children
- Parents
- Siblings

Help our College, our students, and our departments.

Help your loved ones. Help yourself.

For a brochure on the brick program, or a simple, one-page description of the Charitable Gift Annuity, contact Sol Margulies in the Lehman College Foundation at 718-960-6908 / sol.margulies@lehman.cuny.edu.
past, present, future

Lehman Today Creates Lehman Tomorrow

Our college, its campus, programs, faculty, students—in essence, its future, is a guaranteed success as long we help keep the vision alive.

Today, New York State funding contributes only about thirty percent of the College’s annual operating budget. Tuition, external grants for research, and sponsored programs, and gifts from alumni and friends make up the difference. These gifts expand Lehman’s academic programs, establish endowed chairs and professorships, and upgrade facilities, instrumentation, and equipment—all of which increase the value of a Lehman education as well as a Lehman degree. Most important, these private dollars make scholarship support available for many students who otherwise could not afford to attend Lehman. Please consider making a gift to help Lehman College fulfill its mission and build both its future and that of its students. Contact Sol Margulies in the Lehman College Foundation, 318 Shuster Hall, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx, NY 10468 / 718-960-6908 / sol.margulies@lehman.cuny.edu.

Help build a strong network of Lehman alumni. Visit www.facebook.com/LehmanCollegeAlumni and become a “friend.” Connect on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com and find “Lehman College Alumni” under “Groups.”