

Lehman

TODAY

SPRING 2009

Back to Pakistan: Lehman Resumes Its Search for a Lost Civilization



A Brownstone Becomes
Lehman's First Residence Hall

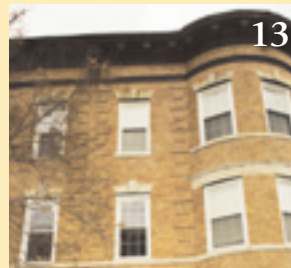
The President's Report, 2008

THE MAGAZINE OF LEHMAN COLLEGE
For Alumni and Friends

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On the Cover: Local Pakistani workmen use trowels to carefully dig in trench #9 at the site known as Ghazi Shah. Led by Lehman Professor Louis Flam of the Anthropology Department (foreground), they are searching for more clues to the lost Indus Civilization, which once existed in what is now Sindh Province. Professor Flam returned to the site last December for the first time since 9/11. See the story on page 34.

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LEHMAN
COLLEGE



A message from

President Ricardo R. Fernández



This issue of *Lehman Today* captures the incredible variety of programs and events under way at the College in 2009, as well as some of the important—often unique—contributions being made by our alumni in the arts, sciences, and other areas. We take great pride in these accomplishments.

Jeffrey Harrison, for instance, earned his master's in teaching music and has written a play to help heal the scars of Uganda's bitter civil war. Elsa Meza received her master's in biology and is now back in Peru, helping to produce medicine from native trees and plants. Phyllis Schieber, a Lehman English major, is a successful novelist; Rolando Torres, Jr., a political science major, has held top positions in state government under the last five New Jersey governors. They and their fellow alumni prove that a Lehman education has value both to regional and global communities.

The local and the global come together, as well, in the series of articles related to the Leonard Lief Library exhibit "When Humanity Fails." This exhibit documented the stories of the victims of the Holocaust and of the soldiers who liberated them. It also brought to light two unusual stories about the ties between Lehman faculty members and their students: one student became inspired to write about her days as a partisan fighter against the Nazis; another was moved by her teacher's experiences at Auschwitz to become a voice of remembrance for her generation.

This issue marks the first time we have distributed our annual President's Report to all alumni. In this section, you'll find other stories that demonstrate Lehman's impact, as an institution, on both our local communities and the larger world. New programs begun last year are helping to support Bronx businesses and to improve math scores in the borough's schools. At the same time, faculty were producing cutting-edge research in fields ranging from cyber security to speech therapy—and working in areas as remote as Pakistan's Sindh province.

I urge you to write to us at lehmantoday@lehman.cuny.edu with your comments on these stories, recollections of your student days, and news about your own careers and families. Get involved in the Alumni Association or visit the campus for a lecture or concert—you'll find a handy listing of many of those events in the center spread. You can count on getting a warm welcome.



campus walk

Artifacts of Gov. Herbert H. Lehman Ferry Preserved in Lehman Library Exhibit

For forty-two years, the Gov. Herbert H. Lehman Ferry plowed the waters between Manhattan and Staten Island before it was retired in 2007. The boat lives on, however, and not just in spirit. This April, members of the Lehman family, as well as College friends and faculty, gathered in the lobby of the Leonard Lief Library as Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández dedicated a striking exhibit that features some of the boat's artifacts, including its steering wheel and a section of a passenger seat.

Providing background on the ferry at the dedication ceremony was Professor Duane Tananbaum (History), whose political biography of Herbert H. Lehman is scheduled for publication later this year by SUNY Press.

"When I first came to Lehman twenty-three years ago," noted Professor Tananbaum, tongue-in-cheek, "a colleague in the History Department confided to me her dream that since the College was located right next to the Jerome Park Reservoir, the History Department—or if not the History Department, then certainly the College—should have a boat. Today, my colleague's wish is almost fulfilled."

Switching to a more serious vein to describe the Governor's legacy, he said that Lehman not only "steered the State through the dark seas of the Great Depression," but he also "guided the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration during the stormy days of World War II, providing sustenance and hope to millions of people liberated from Fascism in Europe and Asia." In the early 1950s, he added, Lehman "was in the forefront of those who fought to keep the American Constitution from running aground on the muddy shoals of McCarthyism."

On several occasions, he pointed out, the ferry that carried his name echoed those causes for which Lehman fought. Believing, for instance, Professor Tananbaum said, that "one had a duty to help one's fellow man," Lehman would have cheered when a 21-year-old college student from Wisconsin, on a trip to New York, dove

into the frigid New York Harbor in 1969 to rescue a passenger who had fallen from its deck as it sailed to Manhattan.

As a patron of the arts, he continued, Lehman would have enjoyed the concert on board in 1975, held as part of the Newport Jazz Festival and featuring Bob Crosby and the Bobcats, a jazz band from the 1930s and early Forties.

He also would have chuckled in 1986, Professor Tananbaum said, when the ferry ran aground on a sandbar as it was being used for a movie chase scene—"stranding actor Billy Dee Williams and other cast members for almost five hours and causing rewrites in the movie script."



Welcome Aboard: The new Library exhibit of artifacts from the Gov. Herbert H. Lehman Ferry Boat (left) features a section of a passenger seat, along with a steering wheel and flotation devices. Helping to dedicate the display (above) were (L-R): several members of the Lehman family, including Mrs. Camilla and Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld and William Bernhard, as well as Captain James DeSimone, chief operating officer of the Ferry Division of the NYC Department of Transportation, and Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández.

But the event that would have pleased the Governor the most, he concluded, was the 1973 boat ride for U.N. diplomats and their families. Seeing hundreds of children, "many dressed in the brightly colored clothing of their home countries," would have delighted the Governor, as they enjoyed the entertainment on board while the ferry sailed up the East River, giving them a waterside view of the U.N. complex where their parents worked.

Making the installation possible were Wendy Lehman Lash, Gov. Lehman's granddaughter, who helped to transfer the artifacts, Captain James C. DeSimone, chief operating officer of the Ferry Division of the City's Department of Transportation, who arranged for the long-term loan of the artifacts to the College, and the staff of the Library and the Buildings and Grounds Department, who designed and created the exhibit.

■ HS of American Studies Again Rated One of Nation's Top 100 High Schools

The High School of American Studies at Lehman College has again made the list of the country's "Top 100 High Schools" compiled by *U.S. News & World Report*. This time, it is ranked as the number one high school in the Bronx, second in both New York City and New York State, and 29th in the nation. This is the second year in a row the school has been included on the list.

Founded in 2002 through a collaboration between Lehman, the City's Department of Education, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the school is located on the Lehman campus and offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum with an emphasis on U.S. history and politics. Students regularly attend lectures and take courses at Lehman.

One of eight specialized high schools in New York City whose students are admitted by competitive exam, the school is currently composed of 343 students reflecting a wide racial and ethnic diversity: 40 percent are white, 25 percent Hispanic, 18 percent African American, and 13 percent Asian. Sixty percent are Bronx residents, and 23 percent are considered disadvantaged.



Best in the Borough: Alessandro Weiss (left), principal of the High School of American Studies, and Assistant Principal Martin Olivieri, outside the school, which was rated #1 in the Bronx.

"We are extremely gratified to be recognized for the accomplishments of our students, teachers, and parents," said Alessandro Weiss, the school's principal. "We know that our partners have been indispensable in helping us to instill in our students a love for learning and intellectual inquiry."

U.S. News & World Report looked at more than 21,000 public high schools in 48 states and based its rankings on the Advanced Placement (A.P.) tests. The High School of American Studies has a 100 percent A.P. participation rate. To see the complete list of rankings, visit <http://www.usnews.com/articles/education/high-schools/2008/12/04/best-high-schools-gold-medal-list.html>

■ Faculty Keep Winning Major Awards

Professor Stuart Chen-Hayes (Counseling, Leadership, Literacy, and Special Education) received the "Trailblazer" Award from the National Center for Transforming School Counseling for his ten years of work in transforming school counseling and counseling education at Lehman and in New York City.

Distinguished Professor of Music John Corigliano

picked up his third Grammy Award for Best Classical Contemporary Composition for *Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan*. Professor Corigliano, winner of an Academy Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Music, is regarded as one of the world's leading composers of orchestral, chamber, operatic, and film music.

Nursing Professor Susan Kleiman received the 2008 Book of the Year Award from the *American Journal of Nursing*, the world's oldest and largest-circulation nursing journal, for her book *Human Centered Nursing: The Foundation of Quality Care*.

Sociology Professor David Lavin and CUNY Graduate Center Professor Paul Attewell received the American Educational Research Association's Book of the Year award for *Passing the Torch: Does Higher Education for the Disadvantaged Pay Off Across the Generations?* They also received the esteemed 2009 Grawemeyer Award in Education, which included a \$200,000 prize.

CUNY-TV's series *Nueva York*, co-hosted by **Professor Patricio Lertzundi** (Journalism, Communication, and Theatre), won an Emmy Award this spring in the Magazine Program category for its episode "Best of Season 3." The half-hour show explores the rich textures of Latino society in New York City.

Professor Victoria Sanford (Anthropology) won the prestigious 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship and will use the award to work on her new book, *The Land of Pale Hands*, which will examine post-conflict violence, social cleansing, and femicide in Guatemala. Another of her books, *Buried Secrets: Truth and Human Rights in Guatemala*, chronicles the journey of Mayan massacre survivors seeking truth, justice, and healing in the aftermath of genocide in that nation. She has researched human rights in various countries for over two decades.

Distinguished Lecturer Marilyn Sokol (Journalism, Communication, and Theatre) received the Award for Lifetime Achievement from New York Artists Limited.

Professor Patricia Thompson (Counseling, Leadership, Literacy, and Special Education) received the "Order of Lomonosov" from the Russian Federation's National Committee of Public Awards. It was presented under her Russian name, Elena Vladimirovina Mayakovskya.

A Slew of Award Winners: from top, Professors Chen-Hayes, Corigliano, Kleiman, Lavin, Lertzundi, Sanford, Sokol, and Thompson.





campus walk

College Wins 'Green' Awards

Lehman's sustainability efforts are winning recognition, including a 2008 Sustainability Award from CUNY.

Lehman was cited for its energy-saving and conservation initiatives, especially for making the most extensive use of a building management system within the University. By replacing boiler equipment in its central heating plant and upgrading both its central cooling and power plants, Lehman estimates it will considerably reduce the College's carbon footprint within the next five years.

For more than a decade, campus-wide conservation efforts have been under way, including the composting of grass clippings, leaves, and other materials. The resulting compost is used not only to enrich the soil on campus but also to either distribute as part of the New York Botanical Garden's annual compost giveaway or to trade for goods and services the College needs. Lehman also has reduced energy requirements by replacing both old window air conditioners and twenty-year-old chillers in its central plant.



Keeping the Neighborhood Clean: What place could be better for Buildings and Grounds staff to display their certificate from the Sanitation Department than the Bedford Park Bridge, which is now litter-free, thanks to their care.

Staff members in Lehman's Buildings and Grounds crew are doing their part for sustainability by helping to keep the Bedford Park Boulevard overpass litter-free. Lehman joined the City Department of Sanitation's (D.S.N.Y.) Adopt-A-Basket Program, a volunteer effort in which a business, organization, or individual agrees to monitor an existing D.S.N.Y. litter basket.

For years, the area between the #4 train station and Paul Avenue was largely neglected due to a dispute between D.S.N.Y. and the Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) over responsibility for cleaning the area. The D.O.T.'s solution of tying clear garbage bags along the bridge's fence was ineffective as well as unsightly.

Now, D.S.N.Y. has set five baskets along the bridge's span and provides bags for the Lehman staff, who collect the trash every day

and prepare it for City collection. Since Lehman's involvement, the area has seen a marked improvement—so much so that D.S.N.Y. presented the Buildings and Grounds team with a certificate recognizing its contributions to keeping area streets clean.

Students Make Learning Japanese Look Easy

Lehman's students of Japanese continue to ace the language proficiency tests. Five students enrolled with Professor Asako Tochika (Languages & Literatures) passed the Level Four exam last semester, and two others continued to surpass themselves by passing the Level Three exam.

Jinnie Lee and Carl Rizzi, who passed the Level Three exam, achieved that milestone even though they had not yet completed their third year of study—and without the benefit of any time spent studying abroad. Both had similarly passed a lower test, Level Four, while still in their second-year class. (The exam has four levels, and the highest is Level One.) Rizzi happens to be from Manhattan College. He's studying the language at Lehman through a consortium agreement between the two colleges.

Another student, Rafael Azcona, is following in their tradition. He, too, passed the Level Four test while still in his second year of study, and with an almost perfect score. The exam is administered by the Japan Foundation and Japan Educational Exchanges and Services to measure and certify Japanese proficiency among non-native speakers. Five of the students who passed the exam traveled to Washington, D.C.—with funding from the Dean of Arts and Humanities Office—when all the seats in the New York City testing site were filled.

"These students did so much extra work to prepare for this test," notes Professor Tochika, who is also a Lehman alumna (B.A., '94, English, and B.A., '04, Multilingual Journalism). "It's rare to have so many students who are willing to work hard for something that



they don't get any grades or credits for, and I hope everyone is as proud of them as I am." Lehman's Japanese program continues to grow. In Spring 2009, about 80 students were enrolled in all levels of the language.

Hard Work Pays Off: Lehman alumna Professor Tochika with a group of her third-year students, who all scored well on the Japanese proficiency exam. L-R are (standing), Veronica Collazo, Wan Xian Lin, Professor Tochika, and Jinnie Lee; and (seated), Kristina Lopez, Carl Rizzi, and Rachel Brown.

Mayor Sees NYC Schools on the Rise

More NYC high school graduates are enrolling in CUNY community and senior colleges prepared to do college work—that was some of the news from Mayor Bloomberg when he held his daily news conference at Lehman on March 18. Before the event, he took questions not from reporters but from a group of Lehman students—all graduates of NYC public high schools—about his position on the pending “Dream Act” and other issues. Among those listening are (L-R, in the row directly behind the Mayor) students Emmanuel Vera, Michael Hintze, and David Santos, NYC Schools

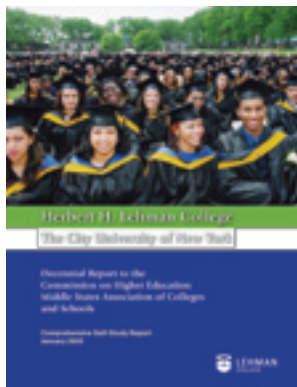


Chancellor Joel Klein, CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson, Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development Dennis Walcott, Deputy Schools Chan-

cancellor for Teaching and Learning Marcia V. Lyles, CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, and Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández.

Lehman Gets ‘Thumbs-Up’ From Middle States Team

Every ten years, Lehman’s accreditation is regularly evaluated by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, a unit of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. To prepare for that review, seven working groups, led by a Steering Committee, took on a rigorous self-study that lasted two years, required many hours of research and writing, and involved the entire College. The effort was worth it. An eight-member team visiting the campus in mid-March gave a preliminary “thumbs-up,” citing the College’s commitment to educating urban non-traditional, first-generation students and to serving the Bronx, which it described as “a model for twenty-first century town-gown relations.” Among other areas commended were the College’s services for students, the design of its new science building, and the high level of faculty involvement in General Education (the core curriculum). “Lehman has the integrity, drive, motivation, and leadership to succeed,” the team concluded.



A Championship (Winter) Season For Lehman Athletics

It was a successful winter for Lehman’s athletic teams as four squads captured championships, including the men’s swimming and diving team, both indoor track and field units, and the men’s basketball team. All of the teams worked diligently and put forth their best efforts when the stakes were highest.

The men’s swimming and diving team, led by Head Coach Peter Kiernan (B.A., '80 and M.S.Ed., '89), won its fifth program championship and fourth in a row by scoring 994 points and outlasting the College of Staten Island (853 points), Baruch (815 points), and York (410 points) to claim the title. With that, seniors Matt De Tiberiis and Johan Lopez concluded their collegiate careers with four championship rings, a rarity at any college, in any sport, and in any division. The historic day culminated in a visit from Mayor Bloomberg. Following the meet, members of the swimming unit posed for photos with the Mayor, serving as a memorable experience for the newly crowned champions.



An historic day for the men’s swimming and diving team.

A little bit over three weeks later, it was Head Coach Lesleigh Hogg’s men’s and women’s indoor track and field teams capturing CUNYAC titles. For the women’s squad, it was the team’s seventh title in the last ten seasons and third in the last four. The men’s team won its second program title, and second in a row. The Lehman women ran away with the championship with 125 points, defeating Medgar Evers (82 points) and CCNY (25 points). The Lightning men scored 118 team points, edging Hunter, which scored 114. CCNY finished third (99 points) and Medgar Evers finished fourth (37 points). On the men’s side, Lehman’s Pete Charles was named Most Valuable Performer of the meet.



Another CUNYAC title for the men’s and women’s indoor track and field team.

Finally, capping off Lehman’s winter championships was the men’s basketball team, as the squad, led by Head Coach Steven Schulman, captured the 2009 ECAC Metro NY/NJ Men’s Basketball Tournament, defeating the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at King’s Point, Montclair State University, and New York University in grabbing the title. In the championship game against N.Y.U., the Lightning got 28 points and 11 rebounds from the game’s Most Outstanding Player, Alen Redzic.



The men’s basketball team becomes 2009 ECAC Metro NY/NJ champs.



Return of Mature Herring Signals Success In Project to Restore the Bronx River

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation announced in April that several mature alewife herring were found in the Bronx River—one of the nation's most urbanized waterways—possibly for the first time since the 1600s. That discovery meant success for Professor Joseph Rachlin (Biological Sciences) and his team from Lehman's LaMER (Laboratory for Marine and Estuarine Research), which helped to reintroduce the species into the river three years ago, in the hope that their offspring would return to the river as a spawning ground. Like salmon, the herring hatch in freshwater and swim out to sea as juveniles, returning to the freshwater as adults to spawn.



Members of Lehman's LaMER team help reintroduce herring to the Bronx River in 2006. L-R: Dr. Tony Pappantoniou (Biological Sciences), Dr. Barbara Warkentine ('79, B.A. and '83, M.A.), and Dr. Joseph Rachlin, director of LaMER.

Lehman is part of the community partnership formed to restore the river, the only remaining free-flowing river within the City's borders. The project has been funded by a grant from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) / WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) that was secured by Congressman José E. Serrano and is known as the Lower Bronx River Partnership Grants Program. The river, which originates in Davis Brook in the Town of Valhalla at the foot of the Kensico Reservoir, flows through Westchester into the Bronx, passing through substantial portions of both the Bronx Zoo and Congressman Serrano's South Bronx district.

"Youth involvement in activities on the river, both educational and recreational, increases their sense of ownership and awareness of the value of the river in the community, and will enable them to take stewardship of the river and keep it clean," says Dr. Rachlin. A herring run not only will encourage recreational fishing by local residents, he adds, but also increase the river's biodiversity and speed the return of a natural river.

Alewife, one of two types of river herring native to New York City waterways, vanished from the Bronx River when dams built by Dutch settlers blocked access to spawning grounds. Alewives are important food items for gamefish, such as striped bass and bluefish, and for herons and ospreys. The next goal of the project is to construct fish ladders on the dams to enable the fish to swim freely upriver to spawn.

Short Takes

Just two years after starting its Community Service/Service-Learning programs, Lehman has been named to the **President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll** for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities. This is the highest Federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. Students were busy this spring raising funds for a trip to Kenya to help in African reforestation.

Two new programs are under way at Lehman: a **bachelor's in exercise science** and a **master's in business**. Exercise science will contribute skilled professionals to the fields of physical fitness and community health education. The graduate business degree offers specializations in finance, marketing, and human resource management. Only one other CUNY college confers the degree.

"**Inside Lehman,**" the half-hour program produced by the Department of Journalism, Communication, and Theatre, has another honor to add to its long list of prizes: nomination for an Emmy Award. The nominated chapter, "Inside Lehman IX," had a global focus. The series is shown on BronxNet and CUNY-TV and carried on the CUNY-TV website.

A Star in the Family: Actress Kerry Washington—best known for her role as the wife of Ray Charles in the 2006 movie about the legendary singer—can turn to Lehman for one of her biggest fans: mom Dr.

Valerie Washington, who directs the Teacher Opportunity Corps in the Department of Early Childhood and Childhood Education. The program helps teachers from underrepresented groups earn their certification and their master's degrees and has "graduated" more than 350 teachers since 1989, with a retention rate of 95 percent. About her famous daughter, Dr. Washington says that "Kerry and I have a loving and wonderful mother/daughter relationship. We especially enjoy spending time together and do so whenever we can, whether on the East or West Coast. We both love museums, the theater, or relaxing, having a spa day. We're very sensitive and respectful of each other's needs and have lots of fun." ■



Dr. Washington and daughter Kerry.



bookshelf

The Blue Tattoo: The Life of Olive Oatman

(University of Nebraska Press, 2009.) Margot Mifflin.

Sometimes, for writers and readers alike, one book leads to another. Professor Margot Mifflin's second work—about a fourteen-year-old pioneer held captive by Indians and ultimately ransomed back to white society—developed along the lecture trail for her first book, *Bodies of Subversion: A Secret History of Women and Tattoo*.



While held by the Mohave, Olive Oatman was tattooed on the chin, a tribal trademark that made her assimilation back into mainstream culture all the more difficult. Learning about Oatman after giving a lecture at the University of Nebraska, Professor Mifflin began digging into her past, sorting out contradictions, and examining her life from her childhood to her later years as a wealthy banker's wife.



"It was beyond radical for a Victorian lady to walk around with her face tattooed," observes Professor Mifflin (Department of English, pictured at top). "And it was symbolically loaded—it marked her as a Mohave for life. I argue in my book that, although she married a white man and adopted a child, she was a Mohave for life. The tattoo became a symbol of the permanence of her adopted identity."

In her research, Professor Mifflin pored through historical records, including letters and diaries of Oatman's friends and family, traveled to key places in her life, from Arizona to Albany, and interviewed descendants as well as experts on Mohave culture and language. The most fascinating sources turned out to be two Mohave elders, who still spoke the tribe's vanishing language, kept alive now by only about sixty people. Their information was critical to the evolution of her theory that Oatman did not want to leave the Mohave when she was ransomed in 1856, and that she did not have a Mohave husband or children.

Although vast differences exist between the lives of American women then and now, Professor Mifflin believes that one theme is still relevant today. "People were fascinated by her largely because of her body," she says. "Her shocking story gave them permission to stare at a woman, and gave her permission to present and even refer to her body in public. Today we're still obsessed with women's bodies in terms of both shape and behavior, whether it's Michelle Obama's arms, Hillary Clinton's age, or Oprah's weight."

According to Professor Mifflin, "Oatman had to be very careful about discussing her tattooed body in public, reinforcing the notion that whatever her physical experiences had been with the Mohave, she was their victim. Today, women are much physically freer, but our culture is equally obsessed with the (now exposed) body and what women do with it." ■

The Sinner's Guide to Confession

(Penguin Group U.S.A., 2008.) Phyllis Schieber.



Phyllis Schieber (B.A., '73, pictured at right) has learned a lot about the modern bookselling business. To begin with, it is, increasingly, a cyberspace activity. And here's the rub: the writers have to do the selling, too.

"I'm on this virtual book tour," said Schieber, from her home in Hastings-on-Hudson. "It's time-consuming and somewhat costly, and you have to do it yourself—unless you're already famous, and the publisher has a budget to promote your work."



Schieber spent January promoting *The Sinner's Guide to Confession*, her second work of adult fiction about three women friends, each of whom has a deep, dark secret. She was back on the bloggers' trail again in March with the new paperback edition of her earlier novel *Willing Spirits* (<http://virtualblogtour.blogspot.com/2009/01/willing-spirits-by-phyllis-schieber.html>), about two old friends trying to understand their roles as daughters, wives, mothers, and lovers. Both were published by Berkley-Putnam, a division of Penguin Books.

The "stops" on Schieber's virtual tours are scheduled by her online booker/publicist and by her assistant. "Every day a different blog site posts a review," Schieber explained. "Some hosts ask me to write a guest post, usually 250-500 words about something relevant to the novel. Other hosts may ask me to answer interview questions."

Her cyberspace conversations do, in fact, generate book sales. Though it's a bit easier to track online selling, the precise numbers are hard to come by. "I prefer people to go into a store and buy it," Schieber said. "I think it's better to keep the books alive in a bookstore."

Schieber sold her first book in 1988—a young adult novel called *Strictly Personal*—and then started writing adult fiction. "It's a tough market, and I hit a brick wall," she said. "Then I got lucky and was taken on by a recognized agent, Harvey Klinger, who has stuck with me and sold both novels."

The literary characters Schieber has created are familiar to women living in a complex and demanding modern world. The author herself was born in the South Bronx to parents who were Holocaust survivors. She graduated from high school at 16 and, after a rebellious phase, "got it together" at Bronx Community College. Then she transferred to Lehman, where she received a B.A. in English and a State license to teach English. Schieber is married to Lehman alumnus Howard Yager ('73), executive director of Hudson Valley Community Services in Putnam County. ■



development news

Lehman Campaign More Than Halfway Toward Its \$40 Million Goal

As part of the CUNY capital campaign effort, Lehman has announced a \$40 million comprehensive campaign to support scholarships and fellowships, faculty development, academic programs, research and equipment needs, and outreach to the community through such programs as the Performing Arts Center, the Lehman College Art Gallery, and the Bronx Institute. To date, more than half that amount—\$24 million—has been raised from these and other funders:

- A \$1.8 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation established, and has continued to support, the Bronx Institute at Lehman College. The Institute is helping young people to become academically successful, graduate from high school, enter college, and engage in rewarding careers as productive citizens.
- Funding of nearly \$4.5 million from Local 1199 of the Drug, Hospital, and Health Care Employees Union has supported a nursing degree program for immigrants as well as development of an academic certificate program in alcohol and substance-abuse counseling.
- A grant of \$1.35 million from New Visions for Public Schools supported Lehman's innovative collaborative education programs with Bronx public high schools.
- Dorothy Brodin, Professor Emerita of Romance Languages, made a generous bequest in her will that totaled nearly \$1.7 million and established the Dorothy and Pierre Brodin Scholarship for students majoring in the humanities.
- Rose and Monroe Lovinger's multi-year pledge of \$400,000 established the Monroe and Rose Lovinger Scholars Fund for students majoring in education, nursing, and health sciences.
- The Wildlife Conservation Society supported the evaluation of local Bronx River ecology and the production of a field guide for researchers with a grant of over \$260,000.
- The LCU Foundation has helped women at Lehman who are in need of emergency housing with grants totaling \$225,000.
- \$100,000 from the PepsiCo Foundation has established a new Business and Liberal Arts Program at Lehman.
- A gift of \$50,000 from the St. George's Society—and a pledge of another \$50,000 for the next academic year—are funding scholarships for high-achieving students of British and British Commonwealth origin.



Above: High-achieving students from many countries and cultures are benefitting from the scholarship funds established by alumni, faculty, staff, and friends.
Left: Rose and Monroe Lovinger contributed \$400,000 to help students majoring in education, nursing, and the health sciences.

When the Phone Rings, It Might Be Lehman Calling

This year's Alumni Phonathon—designed to increase the number of alumni who support their alma mater—is in full swing. The first phase ran from mid-April to mid-May, and the second will take place in October. This time, alumni can make their contributions by means of a commemorative brick. Scores of graduates have already chosen this route either to celebrate a graduation, highlight a special occasion, or remember a parent or loved one. The bricks are \$130 for a standard-sized 4" x 8" brick, and \$250 for a larger 8" x 8" brick. Alumni who contribute \$25 or more receive a gift in return: a set of ten first-class stamps depicting five different campus scenes.



For more information on donors to the campaign, as well as on making a gift, visit www.lehman.edu/lehmancampaign

Almost Thirty Years After Meeting in the Lehman Cafeteria, Louis and Abby Aviles Are Still Both Happy and Successful

Dr. and Mrs. Aviles are among the alumni who have purchased commemorative bricks in the new Alumni Plaza being planned in front of Shuster Hall.

"It was love at first sight," explains Dr. Louis Aviles (B.S., '81). He met his wife, Abby Jimenez, at Lehman in the fall of 1979.



Right: The Aviles then, as they were at graduation in 1981.... And now, enjoying a vacation in Tennessee (top).



"I was standing outside the old cafeteria with the swim team captain, Jonathan Gribbitz, waiting for my friend, Rukija, who was also on the swim team," Mrs. Aviles (B.A., '81) remembers. "We went inside, and Jonathan introduced me to Lou, his co-captain, who had just returned from the Harvard University summer program."

Three months later, while Lou was giving Abby a ride home from a swim team Christmas party, she popped the question: "Are you ever going to ask me for a date?"

"Yes," he replied, "in sixteen weeks. After I take the M.C.A.T." Which is exactly what he did. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Abby got her degree in education and psychology, Louis in biochemistry. They were married. He graduated from Harvard Medical School and completed residencies in internal medicine at Montefiore Medical Center and a fellowship in gastroenterology at the Bronx V.A./Mt. Sinai Hospital Program.

After the arrival of their third child in 1994, the Aviles clan joined a family migration to Florida, where Louis is now in private practice as a gastroenterologist in Clearwater. Abby has managed the practice since 2005, after seventeen wonderful years as a stay-at-home mom.

They embody the American Dream. Their parents came to New York from Puerto Rico, worked long hours, and made sure their kids got a good education. Abby's father owned bodegas, and she worked behind the deli counter. Louis's father was an auto mechanic.

"I was not your typical premed student," Louis said. A vocational high school graduate, he was fixing brakes and doing wheel alignments when a series of encounters raised his sights.

"I visited a friend with asthma in the hospital and got the idea to become an E.M.T.," he said. "Then I started thinking I could be a nurse and took classes in nursing at the Borough of Manhattan Community College."

Louis aced chemistry and biology at BMCC, and a neighbor asked him, "Why don't you think about being a physician?" That brought him to Lehman, where he was wooed by faculty members in mathematics and chemistry.

Professor Reuben Baumgarten won the day for biochem: "He was fantastic. Always receptive to students." Louis joined the Premed Club and ASPIRA, got into a physician shadowing program, and worked part-time at Jahn's famous ice cream parlor on Kingsbridge Road. Together, Abby and Louis took Professor Gary Schwartz's medical terminology class: "We loved it!"

The education Louis received at Lehman made him a competitive candidate in his medical school application process. He applied to eleven programs and was accepted at ten—with Harvard his first choice.

This summer Dr. and Mrs. Aviles will celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary in Europe with their children: Alyssa, 21, Andrew, 19, and Austin, 15. (Alyssa, a senior in hospitality and management at the University of Central Florida, spent six weeks in China last summer learning Mandarin and wants to run her own cafe. Andrew, like his dad, is a biochemistry major at Florida State who'd like to get a Ph.D. And Austin, a high school freshman, enjoys living two miles from the beach.)

"We encourage all Lehman students to dream beyond their imagination," Louis and Abby said. "And the next time you enter the cafeteria, take a good look around. You may meet your soul mate."

— Anne Perryman ('93, M.A.)

See the inside back cover of this issue of 'Lehman Today' for more information on the commemorative bricks.

‘When Humanity Fails’

Documents Experiences of Both Holocaust Survivors and Liberators

Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany established about 20,000 camps that were used as forced-labor camps, transit camps, or extermination camps. Those placed in these camps barely survived or died from starvation, exhaustion, disease, or by execution. The ones who were strong enough hung on to a glimmer of hope that they might live to see their liberation. That day finally came in spring 1945, with the arrival of American, Allied, and Russian forces.

An exhibition at Lehman College last fall—called “The One Soul Exhibition: When Humanity Fails”—used photos, videos, and oral histories to explore the lives and experiences of both survivors and liberators. “These memories illuminate this very dark chapter of human history and honor the bravery of those who fought for good in the face of unimaginable evil,” said Lehman College President Ricardo R. Fernández at the exhibit’s opening reception.

For both Manny Buchman and Alan Moskin—guests at the reception—that horror is a shared experience. Buchman was a young adult when he was taken in 1944, first to a labor camp in Hungary to make concrete by hand. “The Germans took us from one concentration camp to another without food or water,” he said. “We went through a town, and I saw a dog jump in a barrel of garbage. I said to myself ‘How can I become that dog?’”

At the same time, he had hope. At the age of 20, he was placed in Guns kirchen Lager camp, a sub-camp of Mauthausen concentration camp, for about five weeks before he was liberated. Moskin, attached to the 71st Infantry Division, was one of the soldiers who freed him.

Just 18 when he was drafted into the service, Moskin joined the Division’s 66th Infantry Regiment. On May 4, 1945, his unit found an unimaginable sight at Guns kirchen Lager: victims piled on top of one another, some already dead, others in the last throes of death.

“One of my buddies said it was like the devil himself took a vacation on earth,” Moskin remembers. “It left a mark on me right here in my heart and in my soul.”

Today, he hopes that his testimony will help bring an end to the catastrophes that humanity inflicts on itself. “When we’re all gone, and the survivors are all gone, young people are going to have this exhibit, and our recollections, to look back on and hear the truth,” he said.

Dr. Eva Horn also came to contribute testimony, not her own but that of her mother, Dr. Judita Hruza. Interned in Guns kirchen, like Manny Buchman, she was frightened at first by the sudden absence of guards on the day of liberation. “She was just afraid that, if there were no guards, who’s going to give them food, because they were in charge of the food, whatever little there was.”

Walking away from the camp, Dr. Horn explained, her mother was met by a young American soldier, who gave her a Hershey bar. “She took one bite and couldn’t believe the taste, that there was something this sweet and delicious that existed in a different world. Suddenly, she was back in the real world.”

The installation was sponsored by Lehman in cooperation with the Afikim Foundation. ■

Clockwise from left. *Reminding the World:* Among those at the opening reception were, L-R, Martha Brook and her husband, Alex, a survivor of Guns kirchen Lager concentration camp, and Rabbi Israel

Singer, president emeritus of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, and his wife, Evelyn. Rabbi Singer also spoke during the program. *Reunited:* Raymond Epps (left) of the U.S. Army’s 71st Infantry Division and his platoon liberated the victims in Guns kirchen Lager concentration camp, where Manny Buchman (right) and his brother were interned. *Illuminating History:* Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández said that the exhibit honored “the bravery of those who fought for good in the face of unimaginable evil.”



Faculty Member Helps Alumna Write Memoir Of Life as a WWII Partisan Fighter

Essie Shor (B.A., '86) is diminutive and quiet by nature, with a gentle smile and demeanor that offers no evidence of her turbulent life. Now 84, she had not spoken much about what it was like to be a young Jewish girl in Nazi-occupied Poland—until she returned to Lehman and became a student in Professor Andrea Zakin's class. The friendship that then developed between the two has inspired a stirring memoir of courage and hope.

Essie: The True Story of a Teenage Fighter in the Bielski Partisans, co-written with Professor Zakin (Early Childhood and Childhood Education), tells about her experiences in a clandestine fighting unit that resisted the Nazis during World War II. The Bielski Partisans, who saved the lives of over 1,200 Jews, were the subject of the recent Edward Zwick film *Defiance*. They hid in dense forests, moving from place to place to avoid being discovered, raiding local farms for food, and living in bunkers made from logs and branches.

Recreating the design of one such bunker during a class project was what initially caught Professor Zakin's attention. "This is a kind of Jungian project," she explains. "You have wet sand, and you make this little environment that you can project into. I was trying to show that when kids do work like this, it's meaningful to them, just as it is for adults who do it in a different way."

'It was dangerous to stay, and dangerous to go.'

As Professor Zakin watched her student, the project being created by the older woman did not look like a fantasy environment—it looked like something real. It was then that Professor Zakin began to hear Mrs. Shor's exploits as a partisan fighter.

Born in 1925 in Novogrudek, Russia (present-day Belarus), Mrs. Shor saw most of her family and friends killed by the Nazis in a massacre that took the lives of 4,000 people in one day. She and her father were spared, but their lives became increasingly difficult. Sent to live in the ghetto, along with 700 other survivors, they lived in drafty, cramped wooden houses, surrounded by a high, barbed-wire fence and round-the-clock guards. Food was scarce, but Mrs. Shor and her father were able to get by on their small rations.

A brief respite from the gloom came in the form of a job Mrs. Shor secured with the Foltanskis, a Polish couple living nearby. The husband was an engineer for the Germans. Although the domestic work was grueling, Mrs. Shor was at least able to have one decent meal each day in a warm and comfortable home. Mrs. Foltanski took a liking to her young worker and risked her own safety by traveling to the ghetto one day to share



Uncovering the Past: Professor Andrea Zakin (left) and her student, WWII partisan fighter and Lehman alumna Essie Shor.

her knowledge of the existence of the partisans. She urged Mrs. Shor to try to escape in order to save her life.

Mrs. Shor was nervous about leaving her father, the only surviving member of her immediate family, who feared he was too old to try to survive in the forest in the middle of winter. "It was dangerous to stay, and dangerous to go," said Mrs. Shor. "My brothers had died trying to leave, and my mother and sisters had been slaughtered for staying behind."

Finally, though, she found the courage to escape on her own through a hole in the fence, along with a few others. Terrified, they walked fifteen miles in the cold until they reached the Bielski encampment. There Mrs. Shor was reunited with her cousins Asael, Tuvia, and Zus Bielski, the leaders of the group.

"They were trained in the Polish army and knew the forest like the back of their hand," she says. "Tuvia served as mayor, general, judge, diplomat, and friend, under difficult circumstances and in difficult times." There, in the mostly male encampment, Mrs. Shor learned how to clean and fire a rifle, build and live in underground bunkers, and go on dangerous combat missions. On one of her most memorable missions, the partisans faced the German army in open combat.

"The Bielski partisans were joined by the Russian partisans to fight against the regular German army, who were retreating at the time," says Mrs. Shor. "The bottom line was that we had to retreat, but it was very special to me to see the German army running on all sides."

Eventually, the partisan encampment grew from twenty-five people to over 1,200. After two years in the forest, the war came to an end and Mrs. Shor was able to return to Novogrudek. After a one-month courtship, she married Jerry Shor, an officer in the Polish army, and ultimately moved with her husband and two-year-old daughter to New York, where the couple had a second daughter. First working for a major book manufacturer, Mrs. Shor eventually became a public school teacher, retiring at age 80.

Her hope is that the book will inspire young people. "I would like everyone, especially children, to know what happened to the Jews in the war," she says, "but they should also know that the Jews fought back. They should always remember that each person can make a difference."

More information about the book and Mrs. Shor's life is available at www.essieshor.com. ■

— by Keisha-Gaye Anderson

When Humanity Fails

Graduate History Student Yolanda Alvarez Vows To 'Be a Voice' After Holocaust Survivors Are Gone

Being in the right place at the right time, for better or worse, is a pattern in Yolanda Alvarez's life.

Six years ago, she was in a local Bronx garage, having her car repaired, when a young boy with a yarmulke on his head and a look of deep confusion on his face walked in and asked to use the phone. A private investigator by trade, Alvarez was immediately curious and attentive, and she quickly learned that the boy was lost—he had been left behind on his school bus after falling asleep.

As she stood by his side, she watched him call his mother in Westchester and try to explain what had happened to him. Sensing the mother's distress over the phone, Alvarez immediately took charge, calmly explaining to the mother that her son was safe with her and that she would deliver him to his father at a designated location. The experience forged a friendship between the boy's family and Alvarez, who was the honored guest at the boy's recent bar mitzvah.

This story is only one of many lining Alvarez's life. Not one to shy away from complicated matters, big or small, she embraces adversity—her own, as well as others. Her most recent endeavor—to earn her graduate degree at Lehman in history—led her to what she considers one of her strongest friendships and most profound discoveries about herself and the human spirit. It began when she enrolled in Professor Livia Bitton-Jackson's anti-Semitism class last summer.

A Holocaust survivor, Professor Emerita Bitton-Jackson (Languages & Literatures) still returns to teach at Lehman, even after her retirement. In class, she talked to Alvarez and other students about her experience as a young girl in the Auschwitz concentration camp, and how the "Angel of Death," Josef Mengele, had spared her because of her blond hair and blue eyes. Her story of struggle and survival resonated deeply with Alvarez because of her own experience with abuse and neglect. Her relationship with Professor Bitton-Jackson soon changed from student-teacher to friend and mentor.



Devoted to Learning: Graduate history student Yolanda Alvarez traveled to Auschwitz to understand the Holocaust more deeply.

With these stories of the Holocaust resonating in her mind, Alvarez decided to devote herself to learning all that she could on the subject. Last November, she traveled alone to Poland to visit the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps, staying in the city of Krakow, an hour away from the camps. On the morning of her trip, the air was cold and the sky overcast.

Despite the stories she had heard in class and the books she had read, Alvarez says she was not sure what to expect at the camp. What she found, she says, was far more depressing than she imagined—the rows and rows of stable-like structures, where prisoners had been kept, stretched for miles. From the gas chambers to the bathrooms and living quarters, Alvarez was met with overwhelming despair. She was particularly struck when she visited a room where women were forced to shave their heads—her own long hair reflected in a mirror serving to amplify the moment.

Today, Alvarez asks herself if she could have survived. Her own battle with breast cancer in recent years has taught her something about survival, yet she says she's certain that she would not have lived through the camps. "Those who made it out alive did so because of their faith and out of a need to bear witness, and that makes me appreciate their struggle even more," says Alvarez, whose goal is to be a voice when remaining survivors are gone.

A graduate of Fordham University, she earned her graduate degree from Lehman this spring and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Jewish history. In the meantime, inspired by reading her mentor's book, she is writing about her own life experience.

In talking about her student, Professor Bitton-Jackson recalls that, "according to a time-honored Jewish tradition, there are Thirty Six Righteous Persons (or Tzadikim in Hebrew) in the world at all times. It is in their merit that the world endures. The moment one passes on, another one is born, in order to ensure the survival of the entire human family at all times.

"I believe Yolanda Alvarez is one of the 'Thirty Six.' That is the reason she acted as she did with the lost little Jewish boy. That is the reason for her pilgrimage to Auschwitz-Birkenau. That is the reason that my personal experience had resonated so deeply within her.

"I feel very fortunate that God sent Yolanda to my class, so I have had the privilege to impart my knowledge and a bit of my soul to my beloved Yolanda." ■

— by Yeara Milton ('92, B.A.)

According to a time-honored Jewish tradition, there are Thirty Six Righteous Persons... in the world at all times. It is in their merit that the world endures. The moment one passes on, another one is born, in order to ensure the survival of the entire human family at all times. I believe Yolanda Alvarez is one of the 'Thirty Six.'

—Professor Livia Bitton-Jackson

A Brownstone Becomes Lehman's First Residence Hall

A freshly renovated, leased brownstone a few blocks from the Lehman campus has become a home-away-from-home for nineteen students as well as the College's first venture into residential life.

Although their reasons differ for wanting to live close to their classes, all the students agree they made the right choice.

In the middle of his freshman year, SEEK student Andre Bell suddenly faced the death of his mother from breast cancer, the need to spend more time with his two younger siblings, and the lack of a permanent living situation. Bell says that in the residence "I feel I can be focused. I owe the school so much, and I'm so appreciative for everything they have helped me with. I am really thankful."

For Macaulay Honors College freshmen Audrey Lynn Manalang and Diego Molano, commuting from home was either simply not

Free from Commuting: Diego Molano and Audrey Lynn Manalang would need to travel long distances to the College, but with the new housing (at right), they walk a few blocks instead.



possible or posed a real burden. Manalang, originally from the Philippines, moved from California to attend Lehman, but her closest relative lived in New Jersey. "I think if you don't have a dorm and get an apartment, you skip that whole part of being in college," she says.

Molano, a native of Colombia, sees the brownstone as an opportunity to have privacy and at the same time enjoy life as a student. Before the apartments became ready for occupancy early in 2009, he paid \$200 a month to travel more than two hours from his home in Port Chester.

"The commute was killing me," he recalls. "It was so hard to do anything." He laughs and admits that "a year ago I never thought I would be in the Bronx, doing laundry at a residence hall. I'm much happier to be here."

Located on Bedford Park Boulevard just off the Grand Concourse, the three-story building features both single and double rooms, a full kitchen on each floor, laundry machines, a community lounge, a piano, several desktop computers, wireless access, and an enclosed backyard. A sophisticated security system, including strategically placed emergency buttons and video cameras at entrance points, is directly linked to the College's Public Safety command center, which operates around the clock.

"I feel completely safe here. I see they went to great lengths to make sure that everything was alright for us," says Molano.

The commute was also a factor for Lehman senior Mirline Desir. Born in Haiti, Desir moved to Rockland County when she was five. Even though she had to take out a loan to afford the residence hall, she now has a stable and convenient place to concentrate on her academics. "It definitely has made me more focused in terms of my school work," she says. "If I didn't have this, I would be all over the place. And now that I'm closer, I can be involved in more school activities. It's working because I don't have to worry about the commute."

Living close to the campus has decided benefits for athletes as well. Robert ("RJ") LeBlanc transferred from the University of Toledo and plays on Lehman's volleyball team. He was already





Relaxing at Home: Some of the nineteen students in the pilot housing program are, L-R, Diego Molano, Audrey Lynn Manalang, Ahekar Bills, Justin Simmons, Andre Bell, Keren Minto, and Robert "RJ" LeBlanc.

living off-campus, near Fordham, but wanted to experience college life with people his own age. In the residence hall, "you've already got twenty people you know, and you'll probably make friends or associate with them," he points out. Besides that, LeBlanc benefits from living close after practice or games, which often end late at night.

One of the driving forces behind the pilot program was Student Affairs Dean John Holloway, who followed up on an offer by a local landlord to completely renovate the building he owned, according to the College's needs, and then lease it exclusively to Lehman students.

"I had never heard that offer before," Dean Holloway explains. "Most landlords were interested in renting out an apartment here, four apartments there. That doesn't really give you the true dormitory or residence hall feel."

Staffing the residence hall is a live-in residential director, Darnella Valentino, who describes the effort as "history in the making." Working with her to offer support and ongoing residential life programming are two resident assistants, each assigned a particular floor to help keep the building orderly. Residents also must follow a specified code of conduct, such as maintaining a substance-free environment.

What the residence hall offers is far more than a close place to sleep—it's an opportunity for self-discovery and life lessons.

"I believe that colleges and universities have dual responsibilities," says Dean Holloway. "That responsibility doesn't just include raising up scholars. It also means raising up citizens and continuing the job Mom and Dad started when they were at home. The residence hall experience is going to challenge students in many ways."

The pilot housing program was created with the help and approval of the College's Auxiliary Enterprises Board. To be eligible for the housing, applicants must be full-time Lehman students. Undergraduates must be registered for at least twelve credits, and graduate students for a six-credit workload. Current students can apply to become a residential assistant, which carries reduced rate boarding. ■

— by Gabriela Frias

The Future of Student Housing at Lehman

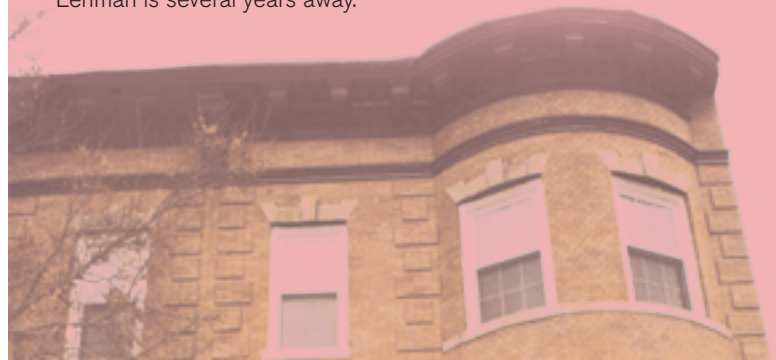
What's the next step in developing student housing at Lehman College?

According to a feasibility study conducted last year by the consulting firm of Brailsford & Dunlavey, Lehman students show a strong interest in campus housing within affordable price ranges. The firm considered a variety of housing possibilities, analyzed the local rental market, and surveyed both neighboring institutions and other senior colleges in the CUNY system (three have already developed student housing or are in the process of developing these facilities).

Three strategies were recommended for Lehman:

- Provide housing in an off-campus facility that could be either acquired or master-leased and converted into a student residence.
- Construct a new, small-scale, apartment-style facility on campus, with either 200-300 beds in single rooms, or 350 beds in semi-suites.
- Construct a new residence hall on campus, with a mix of semi-suites and full suites in predominantly double-occupancy rooms.

Whichever option is selected, the current market for real estate financing makes it likely that additional student housing at Lehman is several years away.



NY Times Managing Editor Delivers 40th Lehman Lecture

*The Newspaper Business Model May Change, She Says,
But the Need for Quality Journalism Will Remain*

Famous politicians, artists, scholars, and activists—from Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Joseph Papp to Barbara Ward and Albert Shanker—have visited Lehman every spring since 1970, when the College inaugurated the Herbert H. Lehman Memorial Lecture to honor its namesake and call attention to his exceptional record of public service. This year's 40th Lehman Lecture marked only the second time a journalist has appeared at the podium—and both were from *The New York Times*. In 1976, it was political reporter and columnist Tom Wicker. This time, managing editor Jill Abramson, the first woman to hold that post at the *Times*, talked about “The Importance of Quality Journalism.” Following are excerpts from her address. To hear it in full, visit www.lehman.edu and click on “Lehman on iTunesU.”



Decades from now, Jill Abramson predicts, the journalism represented by quality newspapers 'will continue to thrive.'

My grandfather arrived here in New York from

Hungary a century ago. He was a milliner. He made the voyage with Adolph Zucker, who started a little nickelodeon business called Famous Players, which later became Paramount Pictures. Mr. Zucker offered my grandfather the chance to be a ground-floor investor in his new, burgeoning medium, but my grandfather turned the opportunity down, after considering it overnight, with these immortal words. He said, 'Surely, these moving pictures are a passing fancy. But ladies will always wear hats!' So, here I stand, hatless, before you.

I often think of this cautionary tale, not only because of a family fortune never earned. It says something about the pace of change in our society: the need for looking around corners, the futility of thinking you know what the future will look like, especially in the arena of technology, and—dare I say it—something about the enduring value of certain national treasures.

The value of the *Times* isn't rooted in any particular platform, but in our readers and in the journalists who produce our news reports each day. We have 830,000 loyal readers who have subscribed to the newspaper for more than two years. That number has increased over the last decade. They like reading the printed

paper and pay a substantial amount for that pleasure. That's not to say that they don't also visit nytimes.com, which has a unique monthly audience of twenty million. Or read our journalism on their mobile devices.

Decades from now, the quality newspapers that are left may not literally be on paper. They may be on portable tablets, or on some other device we haven't even envisioned. But the journalism will continue to thrive. My optimism is based on what something even you liberal arts types, who bluffed your way through economics, may recognize. All economic activity arises from a scarcity of goods and services in comparison to human wants and needs. There is a human want and need for trustworthy information about the world we live in—information that is tested, investigated, sorted, checked again, analyzed, and presented in a cogent form.

Some people want it because it helps them in their work; some, because they regard being well informed as a condition of good citizenship; some, so they can get the jokes on late-night TV. The demand is there, but the supply is scarce. In the age of too much information, that may seem ludicrous, but information is not what people crave. What they want and need is judgment: someone they can trust to ferret out the information, dig behind it, and make sense of it. They want analytic depth, skepticism, context, and a presentation that most of all honors their intelligence. They want stories that are elegantly told and compelling, with the best quality pictures and videos. And they want to be part of the conversation, which makes some of our new blogs so lively and informative. What else besides quality journalism is going to feed this appetite?

Quality journalism is expensive. The *Times* spends millions of dollars to maintain a fully staffed bureau of reporters and photographers in Baghdad, at a time when almost everyone else, including the television networks, are retreating. The numbers are shrinking not because Iraq is no longer a compelling or newsworthy subject. It's the cost.

In a recent article, *The Atlantic* suggested that the Huffington Post or other bloggers could fill the gap if the *Times* went away. There are some fine blogs that do actual digging and reporting, and the Huffington Post has a very interesting array of bloggers and does a

good job of aggregating the news each day. But without the *Times* and original reporting by professional journalists, there would not be enough rich, thoroughly reported material to aggregate or riff about.

Citizen bloggers played an extremely vital role as eyewitnesses during Hurricane Katrina and during the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. Wonderful and original though they are, these are not replacements for the work of professional reporters or photographers. Fun to watch, though they are, partisan cable shows on the left and right would have little to shout about—at—without the daily cannon fodder provided by the *Times*.

On some stories, especially those dealing with intelligence matters or complex business deals, it can take months for the best investigative reporters at the *Times* to convince some sources to talk, to obtain sensitive documents, and to do their difficult reporting. They win the confidence of their sources because of their knowledge, the depth of their reporting, their courage, and their reputation. What we do is costly, labor-intensive, and sometimes extremely dangerous.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, the most pressing foreign policy problems facing the new Obama Administration, few news organizations have full-time reporters. The world relies on the work of *Times* correspondents Carlotta Gall and Jane Perlez, both intrepid and experienced war correspondents, to report on what is really going on.

The complexities and dimension of the financial crisis also demand the resources of quality journalism. Gretchen Morgenson saw the housing bubble and the looming credit crisis years ago and wrote column after column, warning about them, on the *Times's* business pages. She has been one of the diligent reporters working on a series of investigative articles the *Times* has published under the collective rubric, *The Reckoning*, holding financial institutions and the government to account for this crisis. It's very difficult to do this kind of accountability journalism in real time, which is why so many publications prefer to publish after-the-fact autopsies. The *Times* views this work as a civic contribution.

There are not many publications that would let a reporter dig for months, exploring the battered streets of Central Falls, R.I., and the state of the immigrant detention center that had been sold as the city's salvation, where immigrants, our reporter Nina Bernstein found, were routinely denied basic medical attention and some had even died. Bernstein threw the first real spotlight on deaths in detention.

Investigative reporting, because it is so expensive and time consuming, and takes a long time to show a payoff, is one of the things on the chopping block in many of the newsrooms of my competitors. But without investigative reporters, how would the public be informed? Who will be there to write about the next Pentagon Papers, or Watergate? Without professional investigative reporters, like my *Times* colleague Jim Risen, *The Washington Post's* Dana Priest, or *The New Yorker's* Jane Mayer, a member of the extended Lehman family, the public might never have known about the full dimensions of the government's eavesdropping, secret prisons, or torture programs.

While the new Obama Administration has reversed some of these policies, don't assume the sun will shine on all government operations. All politicians these days want to control and even manipulate the news, often bypassing the most aggressive outlets, like the *Times*. At the dawn of a new Administration, it's more important than ever to remind ourselves that a free and unfettered press was the very instrument that our founders believed was vital to self-government and the vehicle for spreading information necessary to hold the government accountable. It's very easy to forget how afraid of centralized authority the men who invented this country were.



Below: Welcoming a Distinguished Guest: Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández (left) and Jill Abramson with Lehman College Foundation Executive Director Bernd Brecher and Foundation Board Member Dr. Sorosh Roshan.

How do we prevent the collective muscle of investigative journalism from being cut? I can assure you that the very best minds at the *Times* are tackling this issue. The *Times* is lucky to be owned by a family, the Sulzbergers, who view the *Times* and quality journalism as a trust. We are especially lucky to have a chairman and publisher, Arthur Sulzberger, Jr., who believes with his heart and in his soul and head that quality journalism is a very good business to be in. He has been unfairly criticized for this. But I can tell you from experience working for him that the survival of great journalism depends on champions like Arthur and his family.

The challenge for my profession is to find a business model that sustains singular journalism. There are promising new experiments, like *ProPublica*, an independent nonprofit that employs dozens of investigative reporters and editors and gives away its fine investigative stories to other news organizations and publications. Recent proposals by Walter Isaacson, formally the editor of *Time Magazine*, and Steven Brill focus on asking readers to make micropayments for the articles they read on the web. Some have proposed foundation models. *The Nation* magazine has called for government subsidies to support journalism. The very best minds are tackling this issue, and approaches for a sustainable business model are being discussed and studied throughout the industry.

I'll end by assuring you that there's plenty of life left in *The New York Times*. For the students out there who are interested in becoming journalists, I absolutely encourage your passion. It's a wonderful profession, a passport to meet the most interesting people in our society. And for you loyal *Times* readers, I want to say 'thank you.' I'll close by quoting my best friend at the *Times*, Maureen Dowd, who often says, 'It's the best time you can have for a buck-fifty.' ■

Jill Abramson was named managing editor in 2003 after serving as Washington bureau chief since December 2000. She joined the *Times* in 1997, moving from *The Wall Street Journal*, where she was Washington deputy bureau chief and an investigative reporter, covering money and politics. A graduate of Harvard College, she is co-author of "Strange Justice: The Selling of Clarence Thomas" and "Where They Are Now: The Story of the Women of Harvard Law, 1974."



How Has the Bronx Changed? Ask Dr. Bill Bosworth

The face of the Bronx continues to change

rapidly. Just from 2000 to 2008, according to the latest census data, the borough's population climbed more than 4.4 percent, from 1,332,650 to an estimated 1,391,903. Growth by itself doesn't tell the whole story, however. Significant racial and ethnic shifts have taken place as well:

- From 2000 to 2007, the population of Dominicans rose from 133,078 to an estimated 213,176, higher than the figure for Manhattan or any other county in the U.S.A.
- Mexicans, too, significantly increased their numbers, from 34,377 to an estimated 68,061.
- Puerto Ricans are still the dominant ethnic group, but their numbers essentially remain unchanged (from 319,240 to an estimated 322,044).
- More West Indians and (black) Africans moved into the borough.
- By contrast, more African Americans and whites left the borough.

Keeping track of all these demographic facts and figures is one of the lifelong passions of Lehman political scientist emerita William ("Bill") Bosworth, an enthusiastic expert who makes sense of the borough's complexity in the Bronx Data Center, which he founded in 1987 and continues to direct.

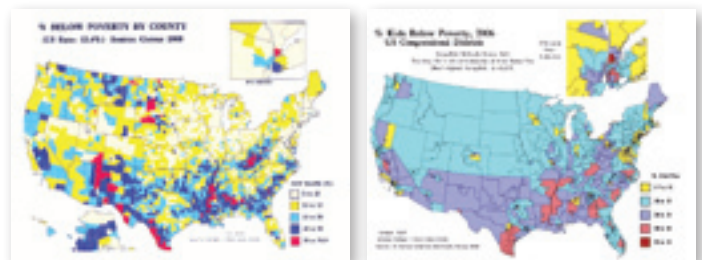
Data from the U.S. Census Bureau forms the basis for his analyses. "There's a lot of gold in it," he says of the census. "You've just got to mine it."

Dr. Bosworth extracts nuggets of information that are prized by academic researchers, elected officials, nonprofit organizations, real estate developers, and members of the media. He cautions, though, that initial data can be subject to later revision by Washington, especially since conclusions are often drawn from limited samples. "Once you get one thing wrong," he notes, "a cascade of difficulties follows."

In his analysis of newly available data, the Bronx continues to contain some of the most poverty-stricken communities in the United States. He cites 2005-2007 data contained in "PUMAs" (Public Use Microdata Samples). These statistical constructs reflect local political realities of small geographic areas containing between 100,000 and 200,000 people.

The Bronx is divided into ten PUMAs in which census figures illuminate some stark realities:

- In the South Bronx, in PUMA 3710, more than half the population (52.2%) is living below the poverty level.
- In fact, in the four PUMAs covering the southern portion of the Bronx, about 230,000 residents live below the poverty line in a concentrated space of twelve square miles.
- In only three of the New York metropolitan area's 229 PUMAs does the poverty rate exceed 40 percent. All three are in the South Bronx.
- For the borough as a whole, almost one-third (33.7%) of Bronx families with children live below the poverty level.



Dr. Bosworth is renowned for creating graphic presentations of data via computer-generated maps, like his striking representation of poverty in Bronx PUMAs, with a vivid red spot clearly representing the area with the highest percentage of individuals living in poverty.

But even when dealing with information that conveys the most serious social trends, he retains his sense of humor. Frequently on the phone with reporters who are often in an anxious, deadline mode, he jokes: "Colleges are not going out of business, newspapers are."

A graduate of Stanford University, Dr. Bosworth earned his Ph.D. at Princeton University in 1960 and has been at Lehman ever since, serving as chair of the Political Science Department at the time of Lehman's founding in 1968. He retired from teaching in 1999 and shifted his attention full-time to the Bronx Data Center.

For a more in-depth look, visit the Center's website ("Discovering The Bronx: Using Census Data to Highlight Social Problems in a Major Urban Area") at <http://www.lehman.edu/deannss/bronx-datactr/discover/bxttext.htm>. ■

— by Ken Handel ('70, B.A.)



It's Time for 'Universal Design'

An Alumna Urges a New Approach to Architecture

With a new administration comes a new beginning and a unique opportunity for policy change. With life expectancy on the rise, the need to make homes and facilities safer and more accessible for our largest demographic—the aging—is critical. And one cutting-edge movement, universal design, is poised to alter the landscape of community architecture, setting us on a track to soften the impact of the geriatric tsunami headed our way.

My name is Marion Somers, a.k.a. "Doctor Marion," and I received my master's in recreational therapy from Lehman in 1980. After college, I thought long and hard about how I wanted to further my education. Working in a nursing facility while attending classes at Lehman helped me to develop a special connection and deep respect for the elderly, and they in turn taught me a priceless lesson—that the most serious job in life is to not take life too seriously! To enable people to live life to the fullest, I believe that facilities must cater to their needs—whether they're three years old, or 103. That's why I'm a big supporter of universal design.

Dr. Marion Somers
(M.S., '80).



This concept evolved from the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and from the Section 508 Amendment to the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. It goes beyond "barrier-free" or "accessible design" and includes

assistive technology. Its supporters come from all walks of life and all professions. They include architects, engineers, researchers, government professionals, builders, interior designers, and everyday people like you and me who want to better understand the human condition. We want to make sure that the environmental needs of all humans, especially those who are physically, mentally, or emotionally handicapped or challenged, are met.

The first step in implementing universal design is changing the current mindset. We don't think about these concerns until we're put in a situation—Grandma now needs a wheelchair to get around, or Grandpa uses a walker—where we have to spend large amounts of money to renovate or retrofit the home. This concept goes beyond the home, to all environments, including our workplaces, educational institutions, hospitals, malls, religious institutions, parks, and community centers. If we are proactive and build with these factors in mind, we will avoid a lot of financial and emotional hardship down the road.

What exactly does universal design entail? Here are some examples:

- Doorways wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs.
- Standardized ramps instead of stairs at all entrances to houses and buildings to accommodate wheelchairs, rolling carts, and baby carriages.
- Garage doors that are a standard eight-feet high to fit special "pop-up" vans for a wheelchair.
- Bathroom mirrors that tilt to accommodate children who cannot see over the counter as well as those in wheelchairs.
- Bright, energy-efficient lighting on all walkways, whether in hallways or outside buildings, for those with diminished eyesight.

Many of these changes are simple and inexpensive and can be done with just a few basic tools. As thousands of us alter our homes and habits to be more "green," we need to make sure our buildings are also senior-friendly. Creating better mobility and communication improves not only quality of life but also independence. And the longer people can function in their homes, the longer they can stay out of the healthcare system and reduce costs in their later years.

As we enter this crucial transition period, now is the perfect time to reevaluate our way of looking at design and construction. Now is the time to begin building facilities that will not just accommodate but actually benefit the community at large.

Sadly, the concept of universal design is not widely accepted at the moment. But I believe that, with awareness, education, time, money, drive, and motivation, anything is possible. As our long-neglected infrastructure is being examined and patched, universal design needs to be at the forefront of planning. That's change we can believe in. ■

Dr. Marion Somers earned her doctorate from the Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, Calif., and has worked with thousands of seniors and their caregivers as a geriatric care manager. To learn more about her book "Elder Care Made Easier," as well as her public appearances, visit www.DoctorMarion.com.



Remember When?

Lehman Baseball in Its Infancy



Back in the Sixties, Lehman students, like their counterparts across the country, were busy doing their own thing, whether protesting for equal rights, putting flowers in their hair, or, like Richard Baranin (B.A., '70), pioneering one of Lehman's first sports teams. Even now, looking at this old photograph (above), Baranin remembers almost everyone who was on that first baseball team and still keeps in touch with some of its members.

One of his most memorable experiences occurred on a fateful evening in spring 1968 that became the date of Dr. Martin L. King's assassination: Lehman (then still Hunter-in-the-Bronx) was playing against New York University and winning. But when N.Y.U. scored a double homerun, that team's coach suddenly decided to end the game on the premise that it was inappropriate to play at such a time. What was more likely, Baranin suspects, was that the coach did not want to risk his Goliath of a team losing to Lehman's David.

Baranin graduated in 1970 and then taught for twenty-seven years, becoming the first male physical education teacher at Walton High School, where he organized the school's first varsity baseball

Above: Lehman's First Baseball Team: L-R—with apologies to Irwin and Anita for not remembering their last names—(back row): Coach Nick Testa, Bob Karouf, Mitch Landrum, Irwin, Barry Marx, Tom Slane, Rich Baranin, George Lingel, and Howie Cohen; (middle row): Rosemary Speronza, scorekeeper, Bob Giuone, Bob Schoner, Sal Chiarello, Phil Braunstein, Glen Backer, and Anita, scorekeeper; (front row): Joe Criscuolo, Carmine Colasanto, and Glen Fleischmann.



Field of Dreams: Lehman's South Field brings back the past to Richard Baranin, a member of Lehman's first baseball team.

team. He often brought his students to Lehman's South Field to run around the track. Since retiring in 2005, Baranin is a mentor to new teachers at Manhattanville College. Married with three daughters, he still lives in the Bronx. ■

— by Lehman sophomore Tasneem Dewji

Do you have any photos and memories you'd like to share with your fellow alumni? Email barbara.smith@lehman.cuny.edu

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 through January 2009.
Reserve seats early for ticketed events—many sell out.

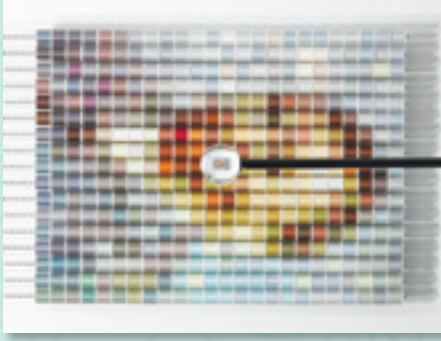
ONGOING

Sept. 10 - Dec. 15

BEYOND APPEARANCES

This broad overview of contemporary portraiture brings together a group of approximately forty artists working in a range of media. The exhibition examines identity issues—among them, social, historical, cultural, political, gender, and transnational sense of self, as well as the loss of individual identity through obsession with celebrity and pervasive mass media images. Curated by Patricia Cazorla and Susan Hoeltzel.

Lehman College Art Gallery,
10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday



Sat., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.

STREET BEAT

The Rhythms. The Moves. The Energy.

Lehman Center: \$35 (orch.), \$25 (mezz.),
\$20 (balc.); children 12 and under,
\$10 any seat

Sun., Nov. 22, 2 p.m.

LEHMAN JAZZ BIG BAND

Studio Theatre: Free



OCTOBER

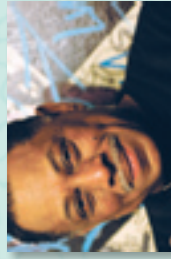
Sat., Oct. 3, 8 p.m.

THE JOE BATAÁN STORY

Featuring Joe Bataán:

A Night to Honor Boogaloo's Legacy

Lehman Center: \$45, \$40, \$35, \$30



Sun., Oct. 4, 2 p.m.

LEHMAN CHAMBER PLAYERS

Recital Hall: Free

Sun., Oct. 11, 4 p.m.

SHAOLIN WARRIORS

Direct from China—Spectacular Masters of Kung Fu

Lehman Center: \$35 (orch.),

\$25 (mezz.), \$20 (balc.);

children 12 and under, \$10 any seat



Sat., Oct. 17, 8 p.m.

EDDIE PALMIERI in Concert

A Sizzling Evening with a Salsa Legend

Invited Guests: Giovanni Hidalgo, David Sanchez,
and Special Guest Artist I.B.A.

Lehman Center: \$55, \$50, \$45, \$40



Sun., Nov. 29, 4 p.m.

THE NUTCRACKER

By The Moscow Classical Ballet

A Holiday Treat for the Entire Family

Lehman Center: \$35 (orch.),
\$25 (mezz.), \$20 (balc.);
children 12 and under,
\$10 any seat

DECEMBER

Sun., Dec. 6, 2:30 p.m.

LEHMAN COLLEGE & COMMUNITY CHORUS

Lehman Center: Free

Sun., Dec. 13, 2 p.m.

LEHMAN JAZZ SMALL ENSEMBLES

Studio Theatre: Free

Sun., Dec 13, 3 p.m.

A BRONX "MESSIAH" (HANDEL)

Special Community Event with the

Bronx Opera Chorus and Orchestra,

Michael Spierman, Conductor

Lehman Center: \$25, \$15, \$10;

children 12 and under, \$10 any seat





Sun., Oct. 25, 3 p.m.

ORQUESTRA DE SÃO PAULO – Only New York City Appearance

Brazil's best-known orchestra, back by popular demand
Kazem Abdullah, conductor;
Dame Evelyn Glennie, percussion

Lehman Center: \$25 (orch.), \$20 (mezz.), \$15 (balc.);

children 12 and under, \$10 any seat



Sun., Oct. 25, 2 p.m.

LEHMAN CONCERT BAND

Lovinger Theatre: Free

A TASTE OF THE BRONX FOOD SHOW AND TASTINGS

A Bronx Tradition...

Celebrating its Third Anniversary

Purchase a ticket to Handel's Messiah for free admission to the food tasting.



Sun., Dec. 20, 2 p.m.

LEHMAN CONCERT BAND

Lovinger Theatre: Free

JANUARY

Sun., Jan. 10, 4 p.m.

ALONZO KING'S LINES BALLE

Elegant and Extraordinary Contemporary Dance Company

Lehman Center: \$35 (orch.), \$25 (mezz.), \$20 (balc.);

children 12 and under, \$10 any seat



NOVEMBER

Sat., Nov. 7, 8 p.m.

GEORGE CLINTON & THE P/FUNK ALL STARS

The Undisputable King of Funk

Lehman Center: \$55, \$50, \$45, \$40



Sun., Nov. 8, 2 p.m.

LEHMAN WOODWIND QUINTET

Recital Hall: Free

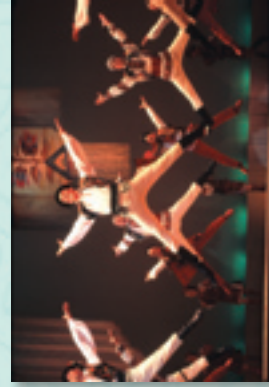
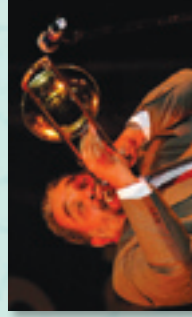
Sat., Nov. 14, 8 p.m.

ASALTO NAVIDEÑO

Featuring Willie Colon, Yomo Toro, and other invited artists

Celebrating the Holiday Season Jíbaro Style

Lehman Center: \$45, \$35, \$25, \$20



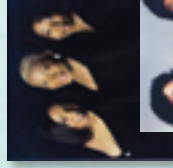
Sun., Nov. 15, 6 p.m.

VIRSKY UKRAINIAN NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY

Captivating and Soaring Spirit of the Ukraine

Lehman Center: \$35 (orch.), \$25 (mezz.), \$20 (balc.);

children 12 and under, \$10 any seat



Sat., Jan. 16, 8 p.m.

DOO WOP IS BACK!

The Drifters, The Chiffons, The Dubs, Earl Lewis and The Channels, Speedo and The Cadillac, and The Crystals

Lehman Center: \$45, \$35, \$25, \$20



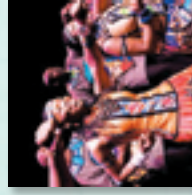
Sun., Jan. 31, 3 p.m.

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

Two-time Grammy-Award Winners and Internationally Acclaimed World Music Sensation: A Non-stop Celebration of Song and Culture

Lehman Center: \$35 (orch.), \$25 (mezz.), \$20 (balc.);

children 12 and under, \$10 any seat



Family Day Set for October 3

The Lehman College Alumni Association will present Family Day at Lehman College on Saturday, October 3. Join fellow alumni for a fun-filled day on campus, featuring swimming, basketball clinics, tennis, use of the fitness center, and arts and crafts, face painting, balloon sculpting, and other activities for the kids. Enjoy a family barbeque at noon on the Quad. Bring the whole family! For more information, call 718-960-8294/8975 or visit www.lehman.edu/lehman/alumni.

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 Gallery) / 718-960-8247 (Music Department).

Order Tickets
Online for Lehman Center
at www.lehmancenter.org



Nine Years and Forty Students Later,

Lehman Program with IBM

Still Going Strong

On-the-job experience from an internship or previous employment is a great way to earn a leg up in the competitive job market. It's even more than a stepping-stone, though—it helps put a prospective career choice under the spotlight.

That's what alumna Deira Pereyra (B.A., '06) discovered while taking part in the IBM-Lehman College Internship Program, which helps Lehman students develop skills in technology-related fields and succeed in graduate school. Pereyra's involvement in the program not only gave her the opportunity to work with new computer technologies but also helped her choose her career.

"I honestly believe an internship and a mentor are essential to the future success of a student," she says.

Forty Lehman students have participated in the program since it began in Spring 2000, and eleven have subsequently found employment with IBM. As interns, the students work in paid, part-time positions alongside employees at IBM's T. J. Watson Research Division in Hawthorne, N.Y. They also receive course credit.

"The program is terrific for the students, who get to work in a first-class environment with lots of support," says Professor Linda Keen (Mathematics & Computer Science), who initiated the program and still directs it. "It opens many doors for them."

During her internship, Pereyra focused on Web technologies as a junior Web developer and junior system administrator. Among those assisting her at the Hawthorne facility were her mentors, Michael Frissora and James Norris.

Blanca Cambi '09

Among the Latest to Benefit from IBM-Lehman Program

Blanca Cambi's interest in computer technology dates back to her junior high school years, when she took computer courses after school. "I wanted to know more about computers, how they work, their structure, what you can do within the computer field! She decided to turn her passion into a prospective career, choosing a double major in computer information systems and computer science, with a minor in economics. And that led to her selection last year as one of nine nationwide winners of the Vanguard Women in Information Technology Scholarship Awards.

A graduate of Queensborough Community College, Cambi took part in internships and training programs that enabled her to stand out, including a leadership and career development program launched by Monster.com and sponsored by forty leading companies.

"All the knowledge I gained during my internship came from these two amazing human beings," Pereyra says. "They were, and still are, role models to me. Their professionalism and commitment have helped me overcome many obstacles."

Frissora, who describes Pereyra as "a real asset to my team," says that he knows a number of the other Lehman students, and "all of them seem to be very conscientious, hard-working young people who are grateful to be working in such a great research facility as we have here at IBM Research." The students Professor Keen is sending to the research lab, he adds, "are making a positive impact here."

After Pereyra completed her internship, she interviewed with five different divisions at IBM—and received five job offers. "Where and what I am right now is because of Lehman, its faculty, and the program," she says. "Without the program, I would never have obtained the experience I needed to start up my technology career."

Looking back, she feels her "number-one advantage" was having the ability to "acquire, apply, and learn" cutting-edge Web technologies. She subsequently began her career as a user interface developer at the IBM Interactive Center in Washington, D.C., and has traveled from one state to another, working with companies from different industries and sectors.



Alumna Deira Pereyra ('06)



Alumna Blanca Cambi ('09)

She also worked at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute as a web developer and for New York City Transit as a security administrator, where she managed the security and confidential information of the transit employees. It was there that she was introduced to information security, an area of computer technology she wants to pursue in depth.

As a senior, Cambi took part in the IBM-Lehman Internship Program at the T.J. Watson Research Division in Hawthorne. She plans to attend graduate school to study management information systems.

Former NYS Legislator and Community Organizer

Francisco Diaz

Wants to Remember 'the Stories of How I Helped People'

The conference room at Tonio Burgos and Associates, Inc. is filled with photos featuring prominent political figures like Rep. Charles Rangel, Mayor Bloomberg, and Sen. Hillary Clinton—all pictured with Lehman alumnus Francisco Diaz, Jr. and his colleagues. Diaz (B.A., '85) takes pride in what he has accomplished, but also remains appreciative for his family and the education that helped him succeed, first in community housing and economic development, as well as public office, and now in business.



Francisco Diaz, Jr. in his office.

More photos fill Diaz's lower Manhattan office, but these are of family, friends, and clients. A card from his thirteen-year-old daughter, Isabel, is pinned on the desk bulletin. A picture of Diaz and his grandmother, the woman who inspired him to be humble and to give more than receive, sits on his desk.

Diaz originally applied to Lehman to pursue a degree in physical education and

business management in order to begin his own business, but ended up graduating with a degree in economics and business management—along with experience drawn from his membership in not-for-profit boards, his time spent playing on the College's basketball team, and his responsibilities as chairman of the student election board. "I learned a lot, and it was a lot of fun," he says.

After graduation, Diaz began a career in public service and community development—as director of housing for the East Harlem Churches and Community Urban Center, where he organized tenants and helped to reform New York's housing policies, and as district manager for Community Board 11 in Manhattan, where he was responsible for the day-to-day delivery of city services to 110,000 residents. He also earned a certificate in community urban planning and economic development from Pratt Institute.

In 1995, when he ran as a Democrat/Liberal in a special election for the 68th Assembly seat in the State Legislature, *The New York Times* endorsed his candidacy, calling him "a hard worker" who "has a proven commitment to helping his community, and a track record of getting things done." Although his tenure was brief—he lost in the regular election the following year—he was able to secure funding for programs impacting children and the elderly, including healthcare facilities and community-based housing organizations.

"You live once in this universe and when you go," he says, "you want to go with stories. I want to be able to remember the stories of how I helped people."

At the same time as he was pursuing his professional goals, Diaz also had a personal goal: renovation of a five-story building in East Harlem, a few blocks from where he grew up, that would allow his family to live under one roof. Determined to realize his grandmother's dream, he recruited family members to help with repairs and, with his knowledge of community development and public policies, succeeded in securing grants and low-interest loans. It took six years to complete the renovation, which consists of eight apartments and a big backyard for the family to share.

"The greatest accomplishment for me, in my life," Diaz says, "was the renovation of this building that we live in, with my family. That's my prize."

Currently, he is the senior vice president of Development and Community Affairs at Tonio Burgos and Associates, Inc., a strategic planning and consulting firm that represents Fortune 100 companies on diverse public and private projects, offering strategic planning and crisis management skills on issues ranging from transportation to financial services.

"I realized that I was very proficient in understanding how the government works," he explains. "I love public policy issues. I understood the technical and bureaucratic aspects of what makes the City run."

When Diaz started working for the company in 2001, it consisted of the president, two secretaries, and Diaz. Now, the firm has thirteen staff members and has expanded to three other offices in Trenton, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

Diaz's first consulting assignment became, he believes, his greatest accomplishment—bringing a Museum for African Art and a housing complex to East Harlem. "It was a challenge to bring a new museum to Fifth Avenue and 110th Street, where I grew up as a youth," he said, explaining how area residents were hesitant about the change, but later accepted it.

Diaz is still active in his community—as a board member of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone and the Lott Community Development Corporation—and offers this advice to current Lehman students: "People who pursue an education—in this instance, who go to Lehman College to get a degree that offers the appropriate academic preparation—need to be mindful to go back to their community, participate in the growth and struggle of their community, and give back to their neighborhood. It's a beautiful experience when you return with the knowledge and skills to do the right thing, whatever that right thing is."

'Stay Open' to New Responsibilities, Advises New York Life VP

Dottie Rodd

The secret to Dorothea Rodd's success in the corporate world is no secret, actually. It's one she will happily share—as she has with her own college-age children. "Find something you will be happy doing," says Rodd (B.S., '81), better known as "Dottie."

"If you can enjoy your work, you can build a career. If you're not happy, it's just a job."

Rodd—known by her maiden name of Mullane during her student days—has built her career with New York Life Insurance Company, which she joined as an auditor trainee fresh out of Lehman with an accounting degree. She advanced steadily to positions of senior auditor, senior accountant, director of accounting, assistant vice president, and corporate vice president. In 1993, she received an M.B.A. from Dowling College, and last fall was named first vice president in New York Life's Human Resources Department. In that new role, she oversees the department's accounting control operations and broad range of services for employees and agents.

"New York Life has given me so many opportunities," she said. "The challenge is to continually stay open to accepting new and different responsibilities that allow you to show your skill set."

Throughout her career, Rodd has played another important role—as the mother of three children, all now in college. She makes her home in Manorville, Long Island, and commutes to Manhattan. "Early in my career, I traveled—and there were some long days. But we managed to have dinner together, take family vacations every year, and I raised three great kids," she said. "You just have to know what takes priority at any point in time. Sometimes you have

to focus on the job. Then there are times when your family has to come first."

Daughter Kathleen, a SUNY Binghamton graduate, will soon join the ranks of high school math teachers now that she has her M.A. from Dowling College. Son Stephen is in the criminal justice program at Suffolk Community College and plans to be a police officer, like his father. Michael, the youngest, is a freshman in engineering at Michigan State.

Rodd was born and raised in the Bronx in a family of first-generation Irish Americans. She attended Catholic schools and worked her way through college. "I was the typical commuter," she said. "Going to classes and running off to a job to pay my tuition." At Lehman, she served as president of the Newman Community, working closely with Sister Madeline Smith, who became a big influence in her life.

These days Rodd enjoys traveling but also staying at home—especially when all three kids are under the same roof, and she can say, "Oh, great. Everybody's here for dinner."



Dottie (Mullane) Rodd

Life in the Wild Is Just a Day's Work for

Annette Sambolin

Red-tailed hawks ride the thermals over Annette Sambolin's New Jersey classroom. Down below, deer gaze warily at her students, and once in while, a lumbering black bear makes an unforgettable guest appearance.

Sambolin, who earned her master's in English from Lehman in 1991, is a program assistant at Montclair State University's New Jersey School of Conservation in Stokes State Forest, a mountainous 15,000-acre expanse of trees, streams, and wildlife in the state's northwestern corner. There, she and other staff members introduce fifth- through eighth-graders from all over the State—as many as 150 a day—to life in the wild.



Annette Sambolin uses a variety of tools to explain life in the wild to her students, including a synthetic model of a beaver's skull and a life-like representation of one of the many beavers that inhabit Stokes Forest. Photo by Randall FitzGerald.

Elsa Meza

Helps Turn Peruvian Plants and Trees into New Medicine



Elsa Meza

Alumna Elsa Meza (M.A., '08), a native of Peru and the daughter of indigenous Andeans, came to Lehman College to realize her dream. But that journey came after fifteen years of working hard in Peru to be able to afford a higher education in the United States.

"My dream had always been to go to college and graduate school in the United States," Meza explains. "When I arrived in the U.S., however, I first gave my only child the opportunity to

attend college in this country. In the end, we both attended school at the same time, she at Yale and me at Lehman."

Meza has turned her childhood interest in nature and ecology into her profession. "I was always fond of nature, and my grandmother was the first person who taught me how to use plants for medicinal purposes," she says.

Before attending Lehman, Meza had extensive training in forestry and ecology at the Universidad Nacional del Centro del Peru, and then at the University of Costa Rica in San Jose. Further study at Barro Colorado Island in Panama and at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago trained her in ecology and botany. In 1985, she defended a thesis based on her research in Peru and was given the title of forest engineer by the Peruvian university.

Among the programs offered at the year-round, all-weather school are orienteering, survival skills, beaver ecology, and woodworking. Most of all, there's the opportunity to introduce kids to a world they might otherwise never encounter.

In a time-machine-journey class called woodworking, for instance, students work with tools common in the eighteenth century, like the froe, a wood-handled bladed tool used to split timber. From that hands-on introduction, they're led to a sophisticated understanding of the twenty-first century lumber industry's impact on forests. As Sambolin points out to them, all the trees in Stokes would provide only enough paper for about two weeks' worth of *The New York Times*. The class ends with recognition of society's need to recycle, particularly paper.

A graduate of the College of New Rochelle and a Bronx native—who still owns what she calls "the doll house" where she grew up in the Pelham Bay Park section—Sambolin came to Stokes in a roundabout way. While working on her graduate degree, she spot-

ted a Student Conservation Association (S.C.A.) ad on a Lehman bulletin board, offering a summer internship at a national park. It turned out to be Abraham Lincoln's home in Springfield, Ill. While working in Springfield, she subscribed to another S.C.A. publication that helped her find the job at Montclair State.

"I was supposed to be there for ten months," she says. Seventeen years later, she hasn't left yet. "I love it," she says. "Where else can you find students who—as a result of the setting—are so fascinated, so super-attentive, and so curious?"

For more information on the New Jersey School of Conservation, visit <http://csam.montclair.edu/njsoc>

As a forest engineer in Peru, Meza was in charge of sustainable tree production and for more than fifteen years worked in the jungle with the Amazonian indigenous people of the area. Introducing them to the international medicinal plant business with an American pharmaceutical company named Napo Pharmaceuticals (formerly Shaman Pharmaceuticals), she helped to produce medicine from native plants and trees.

"Nowadays," she says, "the indigenous people are selling *Croton lechleri* to produce *crofelemer*, a compound under development for four different product indications: CRO-IBS for diarrhea-predominant IBS (DIBS), CRO-HIV for AIDS-related diarrhea, CRO-ID for acute infectious diarrhea, and CRO-PED for pediatric diarrhea."

While at Lehman, Meza continued her research and completed a thesis entitled "Development of *Croton lechleri* Müll. Arg. in Secondary Forest and Grassland in the Pichis Valley of Peru." She took part in programs that allowed her to delve into biology in-depth and led her to appreciate the education she was receiving.

At the moment, Meza is back in Peru, where she has started a small agricultural business and has a part-time position as Consulting Research Scientist of Sustainable Forestry and Government Relations for Napo Pharmaceuticals. But she plans to pursue her doctorate after her daughter has achieved her educational and career goals.





Successful Alumni

Kathy and Howard Karpin

'Found Their Voice' at Lehman's Radio Station

Accomplished alumni couple Kathy and Howard Karpin both found their passion after spending many years in the radio business, starting at the bottom and working their way up. Kathy is a news anchor at WCBS Radio, and Howard is an official scorer for the Mets and the Yankees.

Both graduated from Lehman with bachelor's degrees in mass communications, Howard in 1979 and Kathy in 1982, and began their careers at Lehman's radio station. "My experience at Lehman, particularly at the College radio station, influenced me to go into radio," Kathy says. "I think I can attribute the desire 'to stick with it' as the main factor in my success. There were many years before I got to WCBS when I wasn't making a whole lot of money, but I still had the desire to keep going, because I felt I had the tools to make it, and I love radio."

She started at the bottom, working as a desk assistant for WNEW, then as a disc jockey and reporter at WFAS, a radio station in Westchester. After persistently going after what she wanted, she was given the chance to be a news anchor for WMCA radio. Nine determined years later, Kathy was able to work as a street reporter for WCBS radio, her current employer.

"I knew from the moment I entered the news business, back in 1980, that I wanted to work at WCBS," she writes on the WCBS website. Now an anchor for WCBS and WQXR, she writes the news, decides what is used, and announces it. "I love using my voice. I think you can capture the imagination with words and sound—the ear is an extremely sensitive organ." She is hoping to work as well in health or fitness reporting and possibly get into voice-overs.

Similar to his wife's experience, Howard also began his career through radio. "I guess I grew up a little when I attended Lehman," he says. "Going there also opened up the world of radio as I worked on WHLC, the College radio station. I was able to showcase my talents that included broadcasting and knowledge of sports."

After graduation, Howard became an intern for WMCA and gained media credentials covering several sporting events. He worked at SportsPhone (a service no longer used), which provided sport scores over the phone, and then he became a freelance reporter for other stations, covering all the local sports teams in the New York City area. His lucky break came in 1998.



WCBS Radio News Anchor Kathy Karpin (B.A., '82) and Howard Karpin (B.A., '79) both started their careers at Lehman's radio station. Their son, Danny, is a Lehman freshman.

"Being around baseball as much as I was, I was finally able to get an opportunity to work as an official scorer," he explains. "Major League Baseball had a need for new scorers at that time, and luckily I had enough support from those involved to have a chance to do it."

As an official scorer, he is responsible for the statistics that are collected during a game and for reporting them to the media. At times, scorers are called upon to cite playing rules. "Most fans know the scorer is responsible for making judgment calls on what is either a hit or an error, but the scorer does more than just that. A scoring call can have an effect on a player's contract."

He scores about sixty-five games a year for both the Yankees and Mets, but even when the baseball season ends, his reporting does not. During the winter months, he covers basketball, football, and hockey and works as a statistician at Madison Square Garden for NBA games.

"I realize how fortunate I am," he says, "to be involved in something that I have a great passion for. The most rewarding part of the job is the relationships you build with the athletes and media people that you're around all the time."

New Jersey's First Latino Civil Rights Director

Rolando Torres

Is Grateful to Faculty 'Who Cared About Our Futures'



Rolando Torres, Jr.

Growing up in New York City in the Sixties and Seventies was a time filled with much discrimination, poverty, and discord, but Rolando Torres, Jr. (B.A., '74) was fueled to make a difference and accomplish more than he could have imagined.

"When I look back at the kid that walked on the campus of Lehman College in 1970—if someone had told me that I would achieve as

much as I have in my life, I probably would have doubted that," he says. "But I've always had good family support and a tremendous spirit to want to learn more."

The former high-level New Jersey official, who has served in top positions for the last five governors, graduated from Lehman's first "Open Admissions" class in 1974. The policy allowed high school students who graduated with at least an 80 average or ranked in the top 50 percent of their class to attend a CUNY senior college.

"I have to thank God for dreamers," Torres says, "because they believed that if you opened the door for education and gave people the proper support, they would be able to succeed. I am a living example of that.

"When I first got to Lehman," he says, laughing, "it was the first time I had been to that part of the Bronx." He had grown up in-between the southern and eastern parts of the borough.

"I won't forget that day in September 1970, when I took a subway ride to a world that to me was as strange as somebody going to Germany or France," he says. "I wasn't intimidated when I walked on the campus, but when I walked out four years later, I was a different person."

As a first-generation college student, Torres worked part-time to support his family and pay for his education. In class, his experi-

ence helping his parents and others struggling with issues of discrimination, inadequate housing, and brutality led him to become interested in public policy.

"It's out of the conviction to help others that I got into the line of work I do," he says, also expressing his gratitude to the Lehman faculty. "It's one thing when you hear about people, or read about somebody who has a master's or Ph.D. It's another to sit down and have that person help you and guide you. The doors of those professors were always open. They cared about our futures. That was an important part of Lehman College."

After graduation, Torres earned his law degree from Rutgers and ultimately was tapped for high-level government positions, beginning with Gov. Christine Whitman and continuing up through the present administration of Gov. Jon Corzine. In 1995, he was named as head of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, becoming its first Latino director and the chief enforcement officer for New Jersey's laws against discrimination.

Making a career change in 1999, he worked for a time as vice president and corporate counsel for Prudential Insurance Co., but soon returned to public service, working as deputy chief of management and operations under Gov. James McGreevey and also in the executive cabinet of Acting Gov. Richard

Codey (2004-2006). Most recently, he was commissioner of the State's Department of Personnel in the Corzine Administration.

He currently has his own consulting and legal practice, which focuses on employment law, regulation, and organizational development. "In my career," he says, "there have been people that are smarter than I am, that have more going for them, but in the end the reason why I was able to accomplish things was because I had the persistence."

Jeffrey Harrison

Hopes His Play Will Help in Uganda's Reconciliation Process

During the twenty-year civil war that raged in Uganda, people living in the north of the country suffered greatly at the hands of rebel militia, who tortured, abducted, or killed thousands throughout the region. A teacher and musician, Jeffrey Harrison (M.A.T., '07) has tried to help in a small way to mend the wounds left by that protracted conflict, as peace began returning in 2007.

His musical drama *Why the Birds Sing to Me* was produced last summer at Gulu University, located in a small town in the north. It tells the story of a young girl who was abducted by the rebels, of a young boy who follows her into the world of the Lord's Resistance Army, and of their eventual return to their communities.

While writing the story, Harrison sought advice and guidance from Laury Lawrence Ocen, an influential Ugandan writer. With Ocen's help, the script was also translated into Luo (Dholuo) to reach a particular ethnic group living in eastern Uganda.

Harrison and his wife, Katherine, who live in Gulu, produced the play with only a three-person production company, consisting of themselves and a drama coordinator, Komakech Geoffrey. Along with a lack of staff, Harrison faced a lack of funds. "We tried very

hard to get support from various NGOs" (non-governmental organizations), he says, "but were unsuccessful in bringing any on board."

In the end, though, many residents performed in the musical—some in the cast were former child abductees. "They are a very talented group of young men and women, eager to express themselves through music and acting," Harrison says. "They all worked very hard to put on the initial performances at Gulu University, and the response from those who have seen the show has been very positive." In time, he believes, donor organizations will realize the project's potential, especially in its involvement of young people, and decide to support additional productions. The cast recently performed the work for the Crown Princess of Denmark on her visit to Gulu.

As a result of their experience, several cast members are hoping to form their own music, dance, and drama company. "Our true wish," Harrison says, "is to be able to turn this over and have them become the project coordinators, directors, and writers."

For more information about his musical drama, visit: <http://web.mac.com/jeffreywharrison/Site/Welcome.html>



Jeffrey Harrison

profiles

Alumna Answers 'Five Good Questions' on PBS Blog Series

Jeanette Betancourt (B.A., '78), vice president for Outreach and Educational Practices at Sesame Workshop, was featured this



spring on the PBS Engage blog series "Five Good Questions." The blog spotlights a PBS celebrity or insider and asks visitors to send in questions to be answered the following week.

Dr. Betancourt is responsible for the Workshop's strategic branding and delivery of domestic and international outreach initiatives. Some of the programming she has overseen includes the animated series *Sagwa*, *the Chinese Cat* and *Dragon Tales*. Her latest project was called "Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change." It premiered in April as part of the Workshop's "Talk, Listen, Connect" initiative to help families and children deal with military deployments and combat-related injuries.

She previously directed Project Visiones, a bilingual vocational training program for Latino childcare professionals, at the Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Teachers College, Columbia University. She holds an M.A. from Hofstra University, an M.S. from St. John's University, and an Ed.D. from Teachers College.

Hunter-in-the-Bronx Grad Zev Garber Is a Noted Scholar of Jewish Studies

Dr. Zev Garber, professor emeritus of Jewish Studies and philosophy at Los Angeles Valley College, graduated from Hunter-in-the-Bronx in 1962 with a B.A. in Hebrew, went on to earn graduate degrees from U.C.L.A. and the University of Southern California, and has lived ever since in the Los Angeles area. Dr. Garber established the first Jewish Studies and Hebrew Studies programs in California at a two-year public college and has written more than a dozen books. This spring, though, the tables were reversed: Purdue University Press published *Maven In Blue Jeans: A Festschrift in Honor of Zev Garber*, a 500-page collection of essays written by his friends and colleagues. The contributions are divided into sections that reflect the areas in which Dr. Garber has devoted his teaching and writing: the Holocaust, Jewish-Christian relations, philosophy and theology, history, and biblical interpretation. In addition, Marvin A. Sweeney, who met Dr. Garber at Claremont University in 1983, has dedicated his book, *Reading the Hebrew Bible After the Shoah* (Fortress Press, 2008), to his long-time friend.



Hiram Kasten

Thinks of Himself as an 'Improvisational Jazz Musician'



Hiram Kasten

Whenever he's in New York, Hiram Kasten (B.A., '74) likes to go back to the Bronx and dine in IHOP on Broadway. That's probably because one day in 1987, a waitress he remembered from his Lehman days peered closely at him and asked: "Say, did you play a doctor on TV the other night?"

"Yes," he told her. "I did."

"Hey, Margaret," the waitress yelled to a co-worker. "I told you it was him!"

Back in the Bronx—and getting recognized! For Kasten, a graduate of Lehman's theatre program, it just doesn't get any better than that.

That kind of public recognition doesn't always happen, though. In fact, Kasten refers to himself on his website as "one of show business's most popular entertainers who you think you almost know."

But Kasten—who's really Hiram Kastenbaum—has made a continuous living in show business almost from the day in Lehman's old theatre when he directed his very last play as a student.

"I never had to go to another acting school" after graduation, he says. Soon, he had his first role, in the original cast of Israel Horowitz's long-running *Line* at the 13th Street Playhouse.

He also began trying his hand at standup comedy, working, as he puts it, "in the back of bars in New Jersey for \$75." That paid off, too—with a gig as pal Jerry Seinfeld's opening act and an emcee for five years at the comedy mecca "Dangerfield's."

By 1986, it was time to leave the Bronx. Kasten moved to L.A., where he's been ever since, getting steady work on TV (*Seinfeld*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, and *Without a Trace*, among others), doing standup, appearing in *The Rat Pack Is Back* in Las Vegas (he was the Joey Bishop character), working corporate events and roasts, coaching young actors and directing. "As an actor," he says, "I think of myself as an improvisational jazz musician."

Joel Quall Says Lehman Gave Him 'A Great Start' in His Field of Accounting

Joel Quall (B.S., '75) was elected as director-at-large for the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA) and was inducted into his office last spring. He will serve until 2011.



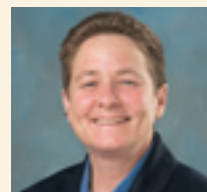
The Society, with 30,000 members, is the largest state accounting organization in the nation. As director and controller of Knight Capital Group Inc. in Jersey City, N.J., he is responsible for the overall operation of the accounting department, as well as for SEC reporting and Treasury functions.

"My education at Lehman shaped my future and success," he says, explaining that he worked part-time, largely attending class in the morning and spending time at his job in the afternoon. "Working while going to school forced me to be very organized and disciplined at time management."

A member of the NYSSCPA since 1985, he serves on the Quality Enhancement Policy and Chief Financial Officers committees and previously was a member of the SEC Practice, Stock Brokerage, Nominating, Cooperation with the Securities Industry, and Community Affairs committees. "Lehman gave me a great start," he adds, "but I believe success comes from hard work, determination, and a little luck."

Alumna and Kinesiologist Wins 'Outstanding Teacher' Award

Dr. Emily Wughalter (B.A., '77), professor of kinesiology in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, received the 2008-09 San José State University Outstanding Professor Award. Since arriving at San José State in 1991, Dr. Wughalter has become known for her ability to create a bond of trust in the classroom that encourages students, even the most introverted, to become willingly engaged, participatory, and interactive. One of her students wrote: "As a student and a working professional, I have a great many sources to acquire knowledge but a limited amount of time. I have found that the hours spent in Dr. Wughalter's classroom have a very high value of return."



Beyond the University, Dr. Wughalter has been president of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Research Consortium—the largest organization in the field of kinesiology—and was selected to give the very prestigious Amy Morris Homans Lecture. She also has served on its Board of Governors.



alumni notes

1973

Paul Eckstein (B.A.) has joined Bergen Community College's faculty as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion.

1976

Ira Pers (B.A.) has retired after more than thirty years of service as a legislative attorney with the New York City Council and a middle school social studies teacher. He lives with his family in Bayside, N.Y.

1978

Mary Ann Benischek (M.S.) is vice president of information technology at the Northrop Grumman Corporation with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.

1979

Thomas J. Chess (B.A.), president of Chess Gaines Group in Greenville, N.C., was selected as an Honored Member of the Biltmore *Who's Who Executive and Professional Registry*. He has been in the real estate finance business since 1983, and organized the Chess Gaines Group, LLC in 2003. He also is president of the Lake Ridge Chapter of Business Network International.

Catherine Wilson (B.S.) was a featured speaker at the first conference held by Senator Hillary Clinton when she dropped out of the 2008 Presidential race. One of the Senator's top priorities was respite care for caregivers of Alzheimer's patients and disabled individuals. Wilson is the full-time caregiver for her mother, who has Alzheimer's. She is also the Northern Westchester Bureau Chief for the Westchester Guardian newspapers and writes about advocacy.

1983

Ana Amaro (Ana Amaro de Ramson, B.S.N.) has worked for St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center since 1979. Newly married and living in New Rochelle, she is assigned as a staff nurse on the 25-bed Medical Unit.

1987

George Colón (M.A.) has just self-published *Confessions of a Rogue Teacher* (iUniverse, 2009), which explores the problems confronting public education today. He worked in various social service programs and then taught high school English for thirty years in New York City schools, mainly in the Bronx, until his retirement last July. From his Lehman days, he remembers in particular Professor Edgar Roberts, former chair of the English Department, Professor Alice Griffin, a Shakespearean scholar, and Education Professor Stanley Banks. His book is available on amazon.com.

1990

Samuel Márquez (B.S.), an assistant professor of anatomy and cell biology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, has been selected to receive the 2009 Basmajian Award for his dedication to teaching and his research. The award is one of the most coveted prizes in the American Association of Anatomists. At SUNY Downstate, Dr. Márquez is co-discipline director of gross anatomy in the College of Medicine, director of gross anatomy in the College of Health Related Professions, and director of the Anatomical Donor Program. Born and raised in the South Bronx, Dr. Márquez is a graduate of Bronx High School of Science. He earned his doctorate in physical anthropology from the CUNY Graduate Center. His research interests are the evolution of the nose and paranasal sinuses.

1991

Sharon Williams (M.A.) earned her degree in 1994 from the SUNY State College of Optometry and launched Primary Vision Care in East Tremont, which has served thousands of community residents in its fifteen years of operation. Many of her patients suffer from eye conditions triggered by high cholesterol, diabetes, and HIV. This January, Davis Vision, which is one of the country's largest eye-care providers, named Dr. Williams its #1 provider nationwide and handed her two tickets to the Super Bowl in Tampa Bay.

1992

Jose Espinal (B.S.) is president & chief executive officer of ET Management & Realty Corp. The company handles construction work throughout NYC and especially the Bronx.

2008

Diana Carey (M.S.) was appointed to a tenure-track position as instructor of physical education at Rockland Community College.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Luna (B.A., '05), a member of the Lehman Alumni Board, died on October 3, 2008. She was the mother of two children, aged 5 and 2.

Professor Stanko Vranich, who taught for many years in the Department of Romance Languages, died on March 11. Born in Yugoslavia, Dr. Vranich lived for some time in Italy after World War II before emigrating to the United States. He received his B.A. in Spanish from Tulane University and his Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures from the University of California at Berkeley and was a very well-known scholar in his field: the Spanish Golden Age. In 1972 he joined the faculty at Lehman, where he continued teaching until his retirement.

Alumni News



Homecoming at Lehman

Surprise fan Michael Bloomberg visited Lehman for Homecoming on February 7 and stayed for the entire men's basketball game. Alumni turned out for a fun-filled (and victorious) day, as Hunter lost on the court to both of Lehman's varsity teams. Alumni showed they still knew how to play the game, as well, in an exciting co-ed game featuring Lehman grads of all ages. After the competitions, the Mayor and Cheryl Kramer presented the Edwin Kramer MVP Award to Alen Redzic. Harvey Perlow, a member of Lehman's first basketball team, the Lancers, also paid tribute to Coach Kramer, and everyone had a chance to mingle and reminisce at the post-game reception.

Shown L-R are Constance Russell, Barbara Smith, Hillary Peart, Mayor Bloomberg, Gladys Velazquez, and Ron Brown.

Calling All Student Journalists

Celebrate forty years of student journalism at Lehman College this October. Reconnect with your classmates and alumni from the *Meridian*, *Bronx Journal*, *Bronxnet*, the Multilingual Journalism program, and the English Department. Take a tour of the College's new multimedia center, sit in on an alumni panel discussion, and learn about some of the new programs aimed at preparing Lehman students for the future of journalism. Call Barbara Smith at 718-960-8975 or e-mail barbara.smith@lehman.cuny.edu.

Volunteers Needed

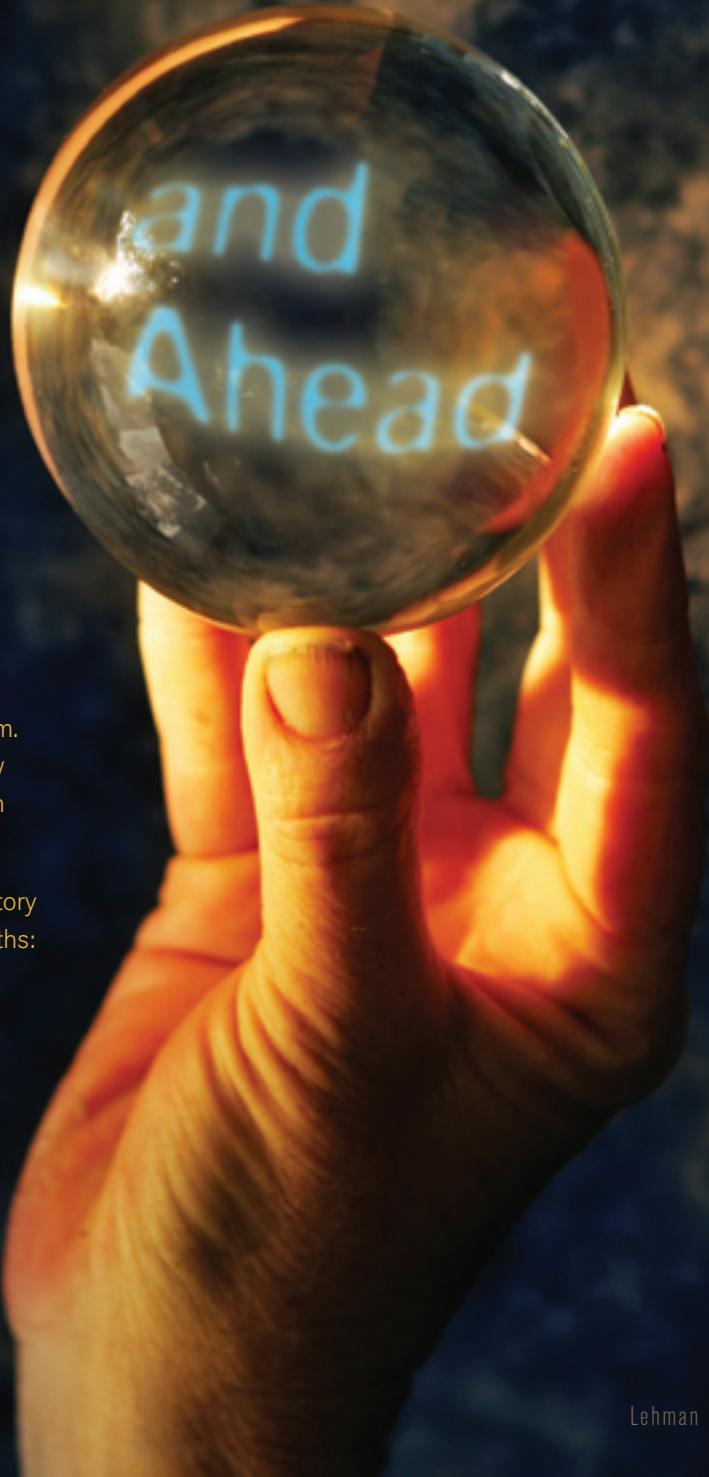
Are you interested in serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors or helping to plan activities for alumni? If so, contact Barbara Smith (above).

2008

A Year for Looking Back...

2008 at Lehman College was a striking time for both remembering and moving forward. On the one hand, the year marked the celebration of Lehman's 40th anniversary and of the milestones achieved over four decades. At the same time, as the calendar pushed ahead, the College moved forward in different ways. One new construction project was completed, and another begun. Enrollment hit new levels, and more programs were added to the curriculum. Institutional partnerships not only grew across the Bronx but also deepened in Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean.

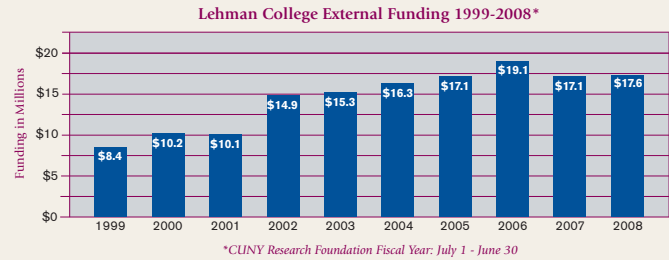
Throughout the year, the College's history and future met along three familiar paths: faculty research, community outreach, and student success. These aspects of institutional life—distinctive pillars of the College's mission since its establishment—produced notable initiatives and outcomes that made 2008, itself, a year to be remembered. The pages that follow illustrate just a few of them.



FACULTY RESEARCH

Faculty Research: Making a Difference in People's Lives

Dozens of Lehman faculty received notable research grants in 2008 to explore a wide range of global issues, from the forces affecting television makers in Syria to the plight of child soldiers in Guatemala and Colombia. They delved into medicinal plants found in the Dominican Republic, pushed the boundaries of our understanding of nanomagnets and complex mathematics, and sought to improve the care of those dying from AIDS in South Africa. The profiles of these researchers illustrate the diversity and depth of this work and its potential to advance both our society and others.



Dr. Abby Cuttriss Came All the Way from New Zealand To Study in Dr. Eleanore Wurtzel's Plant Sciences Lab

Last fall, the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology—an agency of the New Zealand government—awarded three-year postdoctoral fellowships to twelve researchers it praised as some of that nation's brightest.

When the announcement was made, Dr. Abby Cuttriss, one of the twelve honored, was about twenty-four hours away, working in the Bronx lab of Dr. Eleanore Wurtzel (Biological Sciences), her mentor. The lab team, which includes scientists from India, Australia, Israel, and Sweden, is investigating the role of carotenoid pigments in human nutrition.

Carotenoids are a large family of compounds that have roles in photosynthesis and plant protection. Their pigments make the kernels yellow in an ear of corn, and turn the skin of a tomato red. But they do a lot more than add color.

"The pigments are precursors to vitamin A," Dr. Cuttriss explains, "and vitamin A deficiency is a huge problem in developing countries. There are 250 million children worldwide who are vitamin A-deficient, and that has huge health implications. Carotenoid pigments are also critical for plant growth and viability. If we understand how these pigments are made, then perhaps we can help increase crop yield and improve human nutrition."

Born and raised in "the middle of nowhere," as she describes it, Dr. Cuttriss became interested in the sciences primarily for the sense of adventure. "Every day's a discovery of some sort," she says, "not necessarily a new discovery, but we're always exploring something new and coming up with new ideas."



Dr. Abby Cuttriss, shown in the research cornfield growing on the Lehman campus, is working to understand the role carotenoids play in enhancing the tolerance of crops to extreme weather conditions.

She came to New York over a year ago to work as a postdoctoral researcher with Dr. Wurtzel, who helped her apply for her own funding. Out of the twelve recipients, Dr. Cuttriss is one of only two to be awarded the fellowship to conduct research in a lab outside of New Zealand. With this support, she will be able to pursue her

studies at Lehman, and with collaborators at the University of Hawaii, for another three years.

Specifically, she is examining the role carotenoids play in enhancing the tolerance of crops and pasture grasses to extreme weather and other stressful conditions. Environmental change and the increased risk of extreme weather events, such as drought, mean that Dr. Cuttriss's home country of New Zealand needs to develop stress-tolerant crops and pasture grasses to protect food security and maintain sustainable agricultural practices.

Her work in a Bronx lab just might achieve that goal.

January

Lehman's 40th Anniversary Kicks Off at Alliance Bernstein

Alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends gather at the headquarters of Alliance Bernstein on January 10 to celebrate the start of the College's 40th anniversary commemoration. ▼



February

Indoor Track and Field Teams Win CUNYAC Championships

The Lehman men's and women's indoor track and field teams win the 2008 CUNYAC Indoor Track and Field Championships. It is the women's second championship in the last three seasons and the first for the men in the program's existence.

March

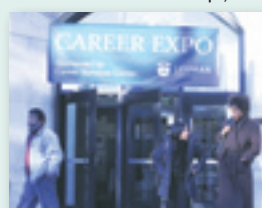
Grad Student Receives Award For Presentation on Asthma

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration presents a cash award and a certificate to Andrew Maroko, a Ph.D. student in the Earth and

Environmental Science program at the CUNY Graduate Center and Lehman College, for his work on the relationship between pollution and disease in the Bronx.

Career Expo Connects Employers With Students and Alumni

Over 500 students and alumni network with employers at Lehman's Career Expo, held on March 5, which introduces attendees to the College's new web-based Alumni Mentoring Network. ◀



April



Expanded Irish-Language Program Launched
Lehman hosts the launch on April 4 of an expanded Fulbright Irish Language Program for 2008-2011, supported by a grant of €660,000 (approximately \$1 million) from the Irish Government to promote the learning and teaching of the Irish language in the U.S. Eamon Ó Cuiv, Ireland's Community, Rural, and Gaeltacht Affairs Minister, visits Lehman to announce the grant.

Laughing Through the Tears: Play Portrays a Cross-Dressing Colonial Governor

Eliot Spitzer? Rod Blagojevich? Neither gentleman has anything on Edward Hyde, third Earl of Clarendon. Hyde—or Lord Cornbury, cousin to Queen Anne of England—was the colonial governor of what is now New York and New Jersey for eight years ending in 1708. He was also, as the story goes, a cross-dresser. His portrait at the New-York Historical Society, which has provoked books and articles as to its authenticity, shows a man with a five o'clock shadow on his round face, wearing a blue gown.

Hyde is the subject of a 1976 play co-written by Lehman College's William M. Hoffman, professor of Journalism, Communications, and Theatre. Fresh from its debut last fall at the Hudson Guild Theater in Manhattan's Chelsea District, the play moved this spring to a production at Lehman's Studio Theatre. "He was a flamboyant, wild man," says Professor Hoffman, "and rumor has it that to emphasize his relationship with Queen Anne, he would dress like her."

Professor Hoffman originally conceived of the play, along with his collaborator, the late actor Anthony Holland, back in 1974, just as the country, in the aftermath of Watergate, was preparing for the American Bicentennial in 1976. "We noticed that there were no plans to celebrate any gay presence in America," he says. "We were furious about it so, as an act of fun and revenge, we wrote our story of a 'great American.'"

He's joking. In reality, Hyde was a corrupt official, often thought to be one of—if not the—worst governor imported from England to rule its then relatively new colony in the New World.

The Networks That Bind

Most people just want their computers to work when they turn them on. Professor Nancy Griffeth wants to know *how* they work—or more accurately, how they communicate with one another.

No, this isn't science fiction, but a true story that Ray Bradbury might be interested in reading. Since arriving at Lehman in 2003, Dr. Griffeth (Mathematics and Computer Science) has received more than \$700,000 in grants from the National Science Foundation and Cisco Systems to better understand the way in which computer networks interact. When not teaching, she works with her doctoral students, trying to uncover how computer networks work; and how—and most importantly, why—they do not.

Computer networks communicate by sending messages to one another. Professor Griffeth wants to map out how messages get sent and are received. The goal is to create a working model of how computer networks essentially tick. "We know how computers work," says Professor Griffeth. "Humans built them. They are human artifacts. What they are doing when they communicate is the problem."

Since computer networks are dependent on the interaction of various types of software, and that software is created by any number of sources, the results can be unpredictable. "Human error is



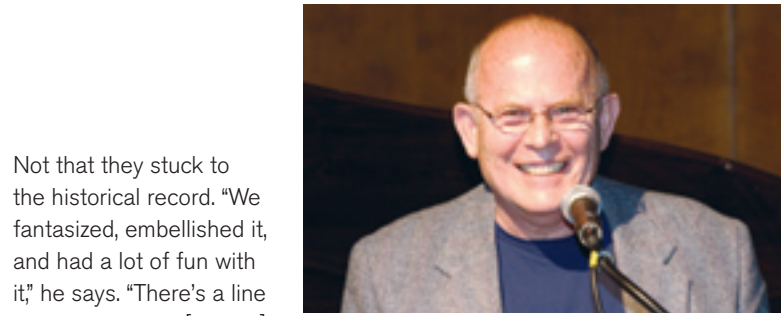
Professor Griffeth at work in the lab. With her is student Samoro Rouse.

Not that they stuck to the historical record. "We fantasized, embellished it, and had a lot of fun with it," he says. "There's a line in the play, when [Hyde's] being led to his death, someone says, 'He was a great American.' That was our feeling about him," says Professor Hoffman with a laugh. "He wasn't a great American. He was a very strange, interesting guy. But we wanted to create an icon."

Still, the play and the historical circumstances that inspired it reveal an important and often-overlooked fact about New York's historically liberal mindset. "New York, at its very inception—or New Amsterdam, the Dutch Colony—was like old Amsterdam, an open place," he says, "which tolerated people like Cornbury and other non-mainstream types."

Professor Hoffman notes that there's always some humor to be found in the most serious of topics. Even his best-known work, the Obie-winning *As Is*, one of the first plays to deal with the AIDS epidemic, has—by his own admission—much humor in it.

"I often combine the two. I like to use comedy to make a point," he says, "and express some very deep feelings. [Humor] disarms the audience into feeling things they might otherwise not want to feel. The laughter opens them up to more serious emotions."



Professor William Hoffman's 1976 play debuted in Manhattan last fall.

the real problem," says Professor Griffeth, who received her doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1978, after doing her undergraduate work in mathematics at Harvard.

Her work is complex, akin to unraveling the very DNA of computer networks, and its implications far-reaching; after all, in this digital age, computers and their networks affect almost every aspect of our lives. But unlike the Human Genome Project—which mapped out how human DNA is sequenced—computers are a lot more predictable.

Or are they? Computers are changing—one might say evolving—far more rapidly than human beings. Professor Griffeth acknowledges that when her model is finally mapped, it will quickly be out-of-date. But that's okay. Her goal is to gain an understanding of computers, so that we can better understand how to use them.

"If we humans were mutating as fast as computer networks are," she says, "we wouldn't be human anymore."

— by Joseph Tirella

Professor Flam Returns to Pakistan to Unearth More About the Indus

Receiving Sudden Permission to Resume His Excavating, The Archeologist Uses His Own Savings to Pay for the Trip

At Ghazi Shah, in the mountainous desert of Pakistan's Sindh province, summer temperatures routinely soar above 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Up until very recently, there was no electricity. The area is desolate, arid, and sparsely populated. There are snakes and scorpions—and, always, the danger of banditry or political violence. But Ghazi Shah is where Lehman Professor Louis Flam has worked for much of the last twenty-four years.

Since 1985, Professor Flam, an archeologist in the Anthropology Department, has been excavating a five-acre mound that sits thirty-five feet over the surrounding flood plain; it is, among other things, a link to the long-vanished Indus Civilization, which flourished more than four thousand years ago, between 2600 and 1900 B.C.E.

"The oldest civilization in the world is in Mesopotamia," says Professor Flam. "The second oldest is Ancient Egypt—and the third oldest is in the Indus River Valley, primarily in Pakistan."

Professor Flam's work was put on hold for security reasons since 9/11, because the government of Pakistan was not able to give him a license, which is needed every year to carry out excavations. "I would go over to visit friends—I have a tremendous number of friendships that I've developed over the thirty-five years I've been working in Pakistan—but I was not able to do any research." Then in October he was delighted to receive a very welcomed surprise: permission to resume his work.

"I was the only archeologist from any foreign mission allowed to work in Pakistan this winter," he says. "We were able to put in seven good weeks of excavation during December and January." But, with only two months' notice, he did not have time to line up funding for the project. "I had to go into my savings to finance the trip," he says. He still needs to find funding to test the radiocarbon samples he brought back in January.

He also may have scratched the surface of a significant find. Eight years ago, he uncovered the corner of a stone building from 4000 B.C.E. This time, digging down below it, he came upon another stone structure—round—and then the digging season ended. He will have to wait until next winter—assuming he gets permission—to find out what's there, and what era it comes from.

Professor Flam, who has been at Lehman for nineteen years, is following in the footsteps of another distinguished archeologist, Nani Gopal Majumdar. "In 1938, he was shot dead while doing fieldwork," says Professor Flam. "Since that time, nobody dared go into that area for further exploration. In 1975, '76, and '77, after I finished my doctoral dissertation at the University of Pennsylvania, I reexamined many of the sites he had discovered. I decided I didn't want to teach at that point, so I went to Pakistan and lived there for six years."

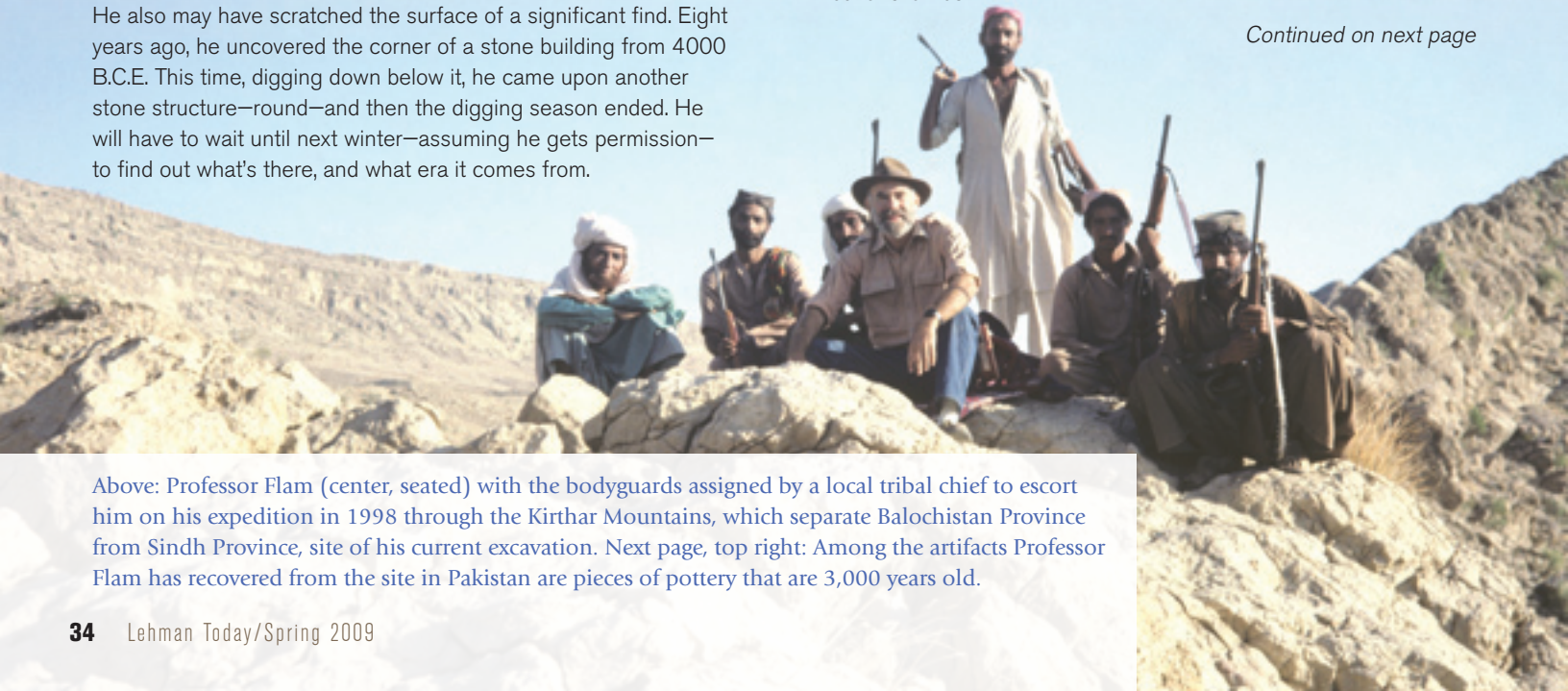
Professor Flam painstakingly retraced Majumdar's scientific footsteps. "In 1985," he says, "I selected the site of Ghazi Shah from all those that he had discovered, as well as sites I had discovered, to excavate."

Ghazi Shah fascinates him because of the clues it may hold to an unimaginably distant past. "The site was continuously occupied—6,000 years ago, 5,000 years ago, 4,000 years ago," he says. "But then it was abandoned before being reoccupied during the Mughal Dynasty, about 500 years ago, between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries.

"Because Ghazi Shah was occupied for such a long time before the beginnings of the Indus Civilization, one of the questions it addresses is the origins of that civilization," he adds. "One of the most important discoveries we've made is that people were living in this area—thriving, doing agriculture, keeping animals for food—going back thousands of years earlier than the Indus Civilization. There's a continuous cultural sequence dating from the Neolithic Revolution."

For Professor Flam, expanding our knowledge of the Indus Civilization is measured in increments: There is likely to be no equivalent to Howard Carter's 1922 discovery of Tutankhamun's burial chamber.

Continued on next page



Above: Professor Flam (center, seated) with the bodyguards assigned by a local tribal chief to escort him on his expedition in 1998 through the Kirthar Mountains, which separate Balochistan Province from Sindh Province, site of his current excavation. Next page, top right: Among the artifacts Professor Flam has recovered from the site in Pakistan are pieces of pottery that are 3,000 years old.

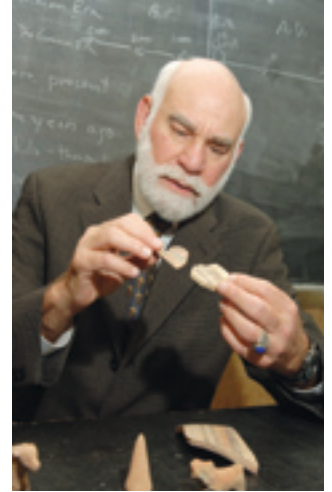
"Lay people like to hear that you're finding spectacular things like gold," he says. "But, scientifically, we've had some tremendous discoveries. We found an entire bead-working kit, including raw materials that came from hundreds of miles away. We're also excavating people's houses at the site. We're finding animal bones, and wheat seeds, barley seeds, and fish bones. So we have the entire array of food they ate."

As he seeks to decode the lives of the people who lived in Sindh in the distant past, Professor Flam has grown closer to the people who live there nowadays. "When I first started to go to Pakistan," he says, "I immediately clicked with the people. I've adapted tremendously well to their cultural mannerisms and values. I dress

like they do. I speak Urdu, one of the languages of Pakistan. And I just love the people and their culture."

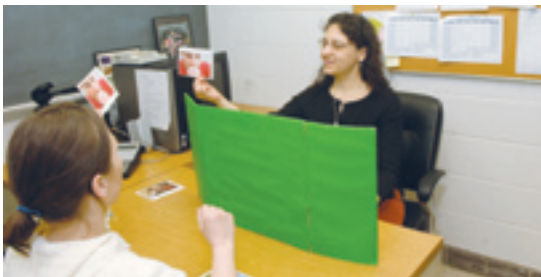
Since he is the only archeologist at Ghazi Shah, he needs the help of many hands to conduct his excavation. He employs as many as thirty helpers from the nearby village, making him the largest employer in a desperately poor region. "I employ everyone who comes to me," he says. And when he's not there, Ghazi Shah lies undisturbed. "The villagers know me," he says, "and no one digs on my site."

— by Michael Neill



How Best to Overcome Aphasia in Bilingual Patients? Professor Mira Goral Is Working to Find the Answers

The elderly New Yorker struggles to find words. A stroke victim, she suffers from aphasia—a heartbreaking condition, caused by trauma to the brain's language centers, that impairs the sufferer's ability to express or comprehend language. She can't communicate either in Spanish, the language of her childhood, or in English, which she uses with her grandchildren.



Professor Goral at work in the Lehman Speech Clinic.

treatment—and how multilingual people respond to treatment in one or more of their languages. Each person undergoes seven to nine hours of treatment a week for three months. According to Professor Goral, among the questions she hopes to answer are: "Which language do we focus on? In which language do we administer treatment? Does one approach or the other offer greater improvement?" And, perhaps most intriguing: "Does treatment of one language cross over to improve the language that isn't treated?"

Professor Goral and her colleagues have completed studying the monolingual subjects and are beginning to work with people who speak more than one language. "So far," she says, "we have enrolled two individuals, one with three languages and one with five languages."

The therapy in the study has been designed to maximize the language needed to fully communicate. One example: "We place a barrier between the participant and the clinician. If the participant is trying to describe a picture, the listener does not know what the speaker is trying to describe, forcing the speaker to use words. We encourage the participants to produce full sentences."

One thing is already clear from the research: Aphasia does not have to amount to a life sentence of silence. "Even years after the stroke or traumatic brain injury that causes the aphasia," Professor Goral says, "there can be steady improvement."

And that's very good news, in any language.

For the speech therapists who work with her, there is a dilemma: Do you try to restore a multilingual patient's original language? Do you focus on the one that was acquired later in life? Do you address both languages?

Professor Mira Goral (Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences) is working to unravel that mystery. She's conducting a four-year study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, on how aphasia affects people who speak more than one language and what may be the best way to treat it.

The single-subject study examines how each of six monolingual people in various stages of aphasia responds to language

April

Joint Program Begins With American University of Antigua

Lehman signs an Articulation Agreement with the American University of Antigua College of Medicine that allows nursing students from Antigua to enter Lehman's one-year R.N. to B.S. in Nursing program. They will spend their first two years working toward the A.S. in Nursing degree in Antigua, with the goal of passing the National Council Licensure Examination, which in turn would grant them entrance into Lehman's B.S. in Nursing program.

May

Outdoor Track and Field Team Wins CUNYAC Championships

Lehman's women's outdoor track and field team takes first place at the 2008 CUNYAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships on May 11.



Largest-Ever Lehman Class Elected to Phi Beta Kappa

Twenty-eight Lehman students, the largest number in the College's history, are elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest undergraduate honor society. Lehman is one of approximately ten percent of the nation's colleges and universities that have been approved for chapters of Phi Beta Kappa.

Lehman Center Receives \$150,000 Grant
The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts receives a \$150,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation. The two-year grant from an anonymous donor is for \$75,000 a year, covering the 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons.

Commencement '08

Antiguan Minister of Education, Sports, and Youth Affairs Bertrand Joseph (B.A. '85, M.A. '91) addresses more than 2,000 graduates in the Class of 2008 at the College's 40th Commencement exercises, held on May 29.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach: Partnering to Help Build a Stronger Bronx

Supported by grants from government agencies as well as private organizations and foundations, Lehman in 2008 was able to extend the reach of its work in the community, adding to the partnerships that are impacting thousands of Bronx schoolchildren and their teachers, as well as businesses, communities, and residents.

Good Neighbors Build Strong Communities

Progress can come in small ways that often go unnoticed, unless you know about the work going on behind the scene.

Josefina Gomez, for instance, works at the Coqui Bakery on West Kingsbridge Road, just off the Concourse, and says the area is becoming "cleaner and healthier," thanks to the Sanitation Initiative of the New York City Clean Streets Program.

Cirilo Roman, owner of a deli and coffee shop on Bainbridge Avenue near the busy commercial district of East 204th Street, is grateful for a free security system that helps protect his investment and his customers.

Both retailers and residents of Bronx Community Boards 7 and 12 are benefiting from the HSIAC (Hispanic Serving Institutions Assisting Communities) Program. Community Board 7 is home to Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge Heights, Norwood, and University Heights. Community Board 12 covers Edenwald, Wakefield, Williamsbridge, Woodlawn, Fish Bay, Eastchester, Olinville, and Baychester.

Behind the program, which provides economic development opportunities and quality-of-life initiatives, is a partnership that connects several different entities at Lehman College with the Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC) and the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center. Supplying the funding is a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which builds on two earlier grants that began eight years ago and totaled \$1 million.

The program's co-directors are Professors Keville Frederickson and Eleanor Lundeen, both long-term members of the College's Department of Nursing. Professor Lundeen also serves on the MPC Board and recently became a member of Community Board 7.



Cirilo Roman in front of his busy deli and coffee shop in the Norwood section.

Although Hispanics constitute the largest ethnic group in the neighborhoods covered by Community Board 7—as well as being a significant presence in Community Board 12—this HUD grant is intended to assist small business owners of every ethnicity.

HSIAC promotes neighborhood economic vitalization through mini-grants to retailers, meetings with local police precincts, improved sanitation services, and an annual summit during Bronx Week. An HSIAC business counselor also promotes commercial opportunities within each neighborhood and helps train workers through a course emphasizing the development of retail skills.

The goal is to promote prosperity on such commercial strips as Bainbridge Avenue at 204th Street, the entire length of Bedford Park Boulevard and Kingsbridge Road, and White Plains Road north of Gunhill Road. First-time retailers can gain valuable expertise, as well as established merchants who are seeking new markets. Guiding the program's activities are the successes achieved by many of the City's Business Improvement Districts.

Continued on next page

June

Lehman College Cited for Academic Success with Latino Students

Lehman College's gains in improving Latino students' access, retention, and academic success in college are recognized in a new national report, released June 17, by a leading higher-education policy group, Excelencia in Education.

July

Student Theatre & Dance Festival Held

A month of theatre and dance opens on campus, celebrating Lehman student directors, choreographers, actors, dancers, and playwrights.

August

Former U.N. Under-Secretary-General Teaches Seminar



Former U.N. Under-Secretary-General Anwarul K. Chowdhury will bring his "Culture of Peace" seminar to Lehman's Macaulay Honors College this fall. The seminar aims to motivate students to take the initiative in creating environments of peace and cultural tolerance.



Art Gallery Receives Prestigious Grant

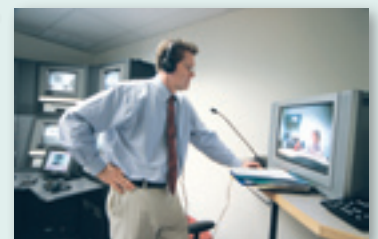
The Lehman College Art Gallery has received a three-year, \$150,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to expand the Gallery's partnerships in education.

Speech and Hearing Center Expands Services

Lehman's Speech and Hearing Center announces it is expanding its aphasia clinic, which serves patients who have suffered a stroke. The Center has provided therapy for members of the community with a communication disorder since 1968.

Classrooms Open in Multimedia Center

The state-of-the-art Multimedia Center begins a phased opening, with classes held on the upper level while construction is completed on the lower level and remaining equipment ordered and installed.





Members of the HSIAC Project Committee include (L-R) standing: HSIAC secretary Sharon Tyler, MPC Contracts Manager Jennifer Mitchell, MPC Director of Economic Development Roberto Garcia, Project Co-Directors Keville Frederickson and Eleanor Lundeen (Nursing), MPC President Dart Westphal, Mirian Zavala (Nursing), MMCC Assistant Director of Youth Programs Lenore Sealey, and Bronx Data Center Director William Bosworth; sitting: HSIAC Business Counselor Kathy Jimenez, SBDC Director Clarence Stanley, Carrie Shockley, director of Health Programs in Lehman's Continuing Education Division, HSIAC intern Lee Payne, and Dr. Mario Gonzalez-Corzo and Dr. Vassilios Gargalas (Economics, Accounting, and Business Administration).

MPC President Dart Westphal believes that HSIAC is a "really good example of an institution serving its community. Retail is a major part of the economy in the Bronx, particularly for entry-level jobs. Anything we can do to help Lehman support local community businesses, we are happy to do."

HSIAC also aids neighborhood children through an after-school program for third- and fourth-graders that teaches life skills. To date, more than 200 children have enhanced their self-esteem and learned how to manage their interpersonal relationships, cope with anxiety and other negative emotions, and avoid the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

Professor Lundeen is pleased that Lehman "has been able to sustain partnerships" with neighborhood organizations since the program began. She is proud of the broad involvement of Lehman faculty members, students, and staff from the Division of Adult and Continuing Education, the Bronx Small Business Development Center, the Bronx Data Center, the Business Administration program in the Department of Economics, Accounting, and Business Administration, the Department of Environmental, Geographic, and Geological Sciences, the Department of Health Sciences, and the Department of Nursing.

"Our goal," she says, "is to be a community partner."

'We Share a Love of Mathematics' A New Partnership Aims to Boost Bronx Scores

It turned out that Saturday, January 10, not surprisingly, was a snowy winter day. But that did not deter thirty-eight teachers who had been accepted into the Mathematics Teacher Transformation Institutes (M.T.T.I.) from gathering at Lehman College.

The program's leadership described in detail the multifaceted, three-year program the teachers had joined, and then they worked together on—what else?—a math problem: Pick's Theorem, which provides a formula for determining the area of any polygon. (A polygon is a multi-sided figure, like a triangle, rectangle, or square.)

Carl Curiale, the program director, was gratified both by the turnout and the enthusiasm of these Bronx teachers: "We all share a love of mathematics," he said, "and a desire to impart our enthusiasm and appreciation of mathematics to our students."

The goal of the Institutes is to empower math teachers to serve students better. Since all courses and extracurricular events are directly relevant to the current New York State curriculum, the improved teaching skills that are developed and improved can be put to use immediately in Bronx classrooms.

The need for better math teaching is clear. Last year, *The Washington Post* reported that "a Presidential panel declared math education in the United States 'broken'...and called on schools to focus on ensuring that children master fundamental skills that provide the underpinnings for success in higher math, and ultimately, in high-tech jobs."

M.T.T.I. is dedicated to certain very specific goals, such as improving student scores on State Regents Examinations and helping

New Dual-Degree Program Authorized

The presidents of Lehman College and Sungshin Women's University of Seoul, South Korea sign an agreement, in a ceremony held August 25, authorizing a new dual-degree program between the two institutions.



September

College Welcomes New Department of Social Work

The Department of Sociology and Social Work is officially recognized as two separate departments—the Department of Sociology and the Department of Social Work.

GEAR UP Program Receives Third Multimillion-Dollar Grant

The Bronx Institute at Lehman College receives a multimillion-dollar Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Education for its GEAR UP program. The grant awards the program \$2 million for each of the next six years, bringing the total of Federal funding received since inception to over \$40 million.



CUNY and Lehman on iTunes U

Lehman in collaboration with CUNY launches a series of podcasts on iTunes U to expand learning across the campuses and promote CUNY's resources.



Counselor Education Graduate Program Receives CACREP Accreditation

Lehman's counselor education graduate program becomes the first CUNY program to receive accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Searching For a Few Good Math and Science Teachers

Lehman announces the launch of an innovative Mathematics and Science Teacher Education Recruitment master's program for undergraduate juniors majoring in mathematics or science.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

teachers to acquire the most useful instructional methods. But it also involves teachers in mathematical and educational research and promotes networking.

The teachers chosen for the new initiative are among the best public education has to offer. Working in Bronx middle and high schools, they each have a minimum of five years of professional experience, a master's degree, and a recommendation from their principals.

Kate Belin, an eleventh- and twelfth-grade teacher at Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School, applied to the Institute "because of the need for quality math education for all students. This is a difficult job, and teachers often feel very isolated. Anything we can do to build community around the idea of strengthening our own content knowledge, while thinking about our practice, will help teachers stay in the profession."

Funded by a \$5 million, five-year grant from the National Science Foundation's Math and Science Partnership Program, the Institutes require a commitment to complete each of three different phases. Initially, the teachers enroll in courses designed to develop their content knowledge of geometry, algebra, and other areas. This summer, they are pursuing an intensive, three-week course in applied mathematics (either technology or music), enriched by guest speakers discussing the importance of math in their occupation.

In the program's second phase, the focus is on the effectiveness of various teaching strategies, learning about data collection and analysis, and improving student math scores. The teachers will take education courses and complete another intensive three-week summer experience, this time exploring theoretical math (topology or number theory).

Finally, in phase three, the teachers will pursue courses focusing on leadership development and share the insights they have gained. Curiale expects this part of the program to yield "results that identify effective practices and good pedagogy."

Throughout the three years, teachers also will improve their leadership skills by heading up problem-solving teams, supervising undergraduate tutors from Lehman at their schools, and learning how to apply for external funding to support in-class and extracurricular activities. Supporting them on-site will be members of the New York City Mathematics Project, also based at Lehman College.



The MTTI Project Team:
L-R, Roger Peach, Serigne Gningue, Jay Gottlieb, Suzanne Libfeld, Marcie Wolfe, Christina Sormani, Anne Campos, Sonia Menendez, and Carl Curiale.

For their participation, the teachers will enjoy significant benefits: free tuition and books, stipends totaling up to \$12,000, twenty-four graduate credits, and a certificate of completion.

Five principal investigators applied for the N.S.F. grant. Four are from Lehman—Professor Serigne Gningue (Middle and High School Education), New York City Mathematics Project Director Suzanne Libfeld, Professor Christina Sormani (Mathematics and Computer Science), and Institute for Literacy Studies Executive Director Marcie Wolfe. One is from the City's Department of Education (D.O.E.): Community School District 10 Superintendent Sonia Menendez.

Each brings different strengths and objectives to the project. Professor Sormani, for example, is concerned with mathematics' nuts and bolts, specifically, geometry. "The program," she says, "improves knowledge of content. What math courses are most useful to these teachers? If a math course they need does not exist, we will create new curricula to match what the teachers deem to be most useful."

Looking at the project from the point of view of a teacher educator, Professor Gningue believes the Institutes are valuable because they "address two components: pedagogical knowledge that teachers need to work more effectively and content knowledge that teachers need to become leaders in the field." In turn, he said, they will have the tools to become better mentors, and thus provide other math teachers with the help they may require to succeed in the classroom.

Libfeld (B.A., '69 and M.S.Ed., '75) says the M.T.I. will "establish teacher leadership in mathematics, which in these times of ever-changing structures in New York City is essential."

The Institutes will accept a total of eighty Bronx math teachers divided into two cohorts. The first group of forty-three—representing twenty high schools and twelve middle schools—began the program this spring.



Lehman Breaks Ground on CUNY's First 'Green' Science Building

Lehman celebrates the groundbreaking of a new Science Building on September 24.

The project is the first new lab building in what has been hailed as "CUNY's Decade of the Sciences" and the first CUNY project to be designed and submitted for LEED® certification.

October "Treats for Troops Drive"

For the second year in a row, the Lehman community donates books, snacks, and toiletries for a "Treats for Troops" drive, which sends "care packages" to soldiers serving in Iraq.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Growing Number of Awards Are One Indication of Student Success

Lehman undergraduates as well as graduate students continued to garner prestigious scholarships and fellowships in 2008, demonstrating their ability to compete both nationally and within their various disciplines. Many are giving back to their community at the same time as they manage academic and family responsibilities.

A Look at Some of Lehman's '08-'09 Bronx CUNY Scholarship Winners



June Debra, Class of '09, accounting

A wife and mother of three, Debra spends most of her time taking care of her family, while pursuing her studies. In the past, she has been involved with youth and women's groups in her community and has volunteered at a food pantry. Her career goal is to become a certified public accountant with one of the "big four" accounting firms. She also hopes to open a facility that offers activities and educational programs to teenagers after school or on weekends.

Stephanie Vasquez, Class of '09, finance

Vasquez hopes to work in a capacity where she can help people make better financial decisions and also would like to work with an organization that helps the less fortunate. Eventually, she hopes to run a small business in a developing country.



Meredith Knight, Class of '09, nursing

After completing a master's degree, Knight hopes to become a midwife or nurse anesthetist. She also would like to open a birthing center that promotes natural childbirth. "Perseverance is the true measure of success to me," she says.

Paulie Tuazon, Class of '11

Born in the Philippines, Tuazon moved to the U.S. when she was two and became interested in the pharmacy field after taking a chemistry class in high school. In addition to being a full-time student and student athlete, she has worked at a Manhattan public relations firm for three years. Tuazon would like to build a career in the pharmacy field and help change the healthcare system so that each person will have access to health care.



Jackie Robinson Scholar Ayesha Lewis ('10) Aims for a Doctorate—and the Supreme Court

"Never think that something is too difficult for you to at least try, especially if it's what you want to do." That's what Ayesha Lewis urges—and her advice has paid off, with the award of a prestigious Jackie Robinson scholarship. The scholarship carries up to \$7,500 a year for her education, plus mentoring and leadership development training.



"I've learned a lot, but it has been challenging. And even though it's difficult, I think it's best to learn how to handle a lot of different things now when I'm young and in college than to have to learn on the job."

Lewis, heading into her senior year in the Macaulay Honors College at Lehman, has already demonstrated her community service and leadership skills with commitments both on and off campus, including an internship in the Office of the Public Advocate and volunteer work at the CUNY Citizenship and Immigration Project. On top of that, she was a research coordinator this past year for Lehman's Student Conference.

The Bronx High School of Science grad is majoring in history, with a minor in political science. Her goal is to earn a doctorate in American legal history and, ultimately, become a Supreme Court Justice. "When I first came to Lehman, it was like a candy store, because there were so many courses that were interesting and that I wanted to take," she says.

Rachel Robinson, the widow of the famous baseball player, founded the Jackie Robinson Foundation in 1973.

Leadership Gala Raises \$500,000

The Lehman Leadership Gala celebrates the 40th anniversary of Lehman College, honors outstanding figures from two different worlds—music and business—and raises \$500,000 in scholarship funds for Lehman students.

'Road to Energy Independence' Leads to Lehman

Lehman hosts The Center for Sustainable Energy's Alternative Vehicle Technology Conference.

November

Urban Social Work Conference Held

Former Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields delivers the keynote address at a conference held Nov. 18 by Lehman's Department of Social Work to celebrate twenty-five years of social work education.

December

Lehman Receives Sustainability Award

CUNY's Task Force on Sustainability recognizes Lehman's long-standing commitment to the environment with a 2008 Sustainability Award.



NYC Council Honors Center for Urban Male Leadership

The New York City Council holds a special ceremony to honor Lehman's Center for Urban Male Leadership with a formal proclamation for its work with black and Latino males.



The Trees of Lehman College: More Added, But One Elm Still the Most Precious

Lehman grew a little greener last year, with the arrival of thirteen trees, courtesy of “MillionTreesNYC,” a public-private program that aims to plant and care for one million new trees across the City over the next decade. Buildings and Grounds staff planted the collection, which included two little leaf Lindens, four red maples, two dogwoods, and a green ash, in three locations.

Already, more than 300 trees grace Lehman’s thirty-seven acres, providing shady spaces for studying and a rich rainbow of colors in both spring and fall. Most are pin oaks or London planes (sycamores).

The oldest and most notable is an elm that stands in front of Shuster Hall, anchoring College Walk with a magnificent towering canopy. It’s approximately 100 years old, judging by its size and growth (no one can tell the age of a tree for sure without slicing the trunk and studying the rings), and is one of the few in the Bronx to have survived Dutch elm disease. Beginning in 1928 in Ohio, the blight spread in waves across much of the country and

eventually destroyed more than 77 million elms, including thousands in New York City.

A former greenhouse manager at Lehman always believed the College’s elm had survived because of the care and protection it had received. Today, the tree is still receiving that special attention because it remains threatened, not by disease, but by a split in its trunk. To help increase its chances of survival, the largest branches have been braced and the tree “air-pruned,” with its branches thinned out, trimmed, and shaped. That way, it should collect less wind—and sway less—when fully in bloom.

Memorable for a different reason are the dogwood trees on the quadrangle. On the United Nations’ fiftieth anniversary in 1995, the College planted a “peace grove” to commemorate its role in the founding of the U.N. and to honor Secretariat staff who worked on the campus during U.N. meetings here in 1946. In 2008, the grove was rededicated and additional dogwoods planted as part of a “homecoming” for those Secretariat staff.



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 in a planned Alumni Plaza—in front of Shuster Hall—where your thoughtful gift will be seen by thousands of students, alumni, and friends throughout the year. Your contribution will support scholarships for the next generation of Lehman College students.

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 only 20 bricks. Standard bricks (4 x 8 inches) are \$130; large bricks (8 x 8 inches) are available for \$250.

Purchase your brick through the Lehman College Office of Institutional Advancement at 718-960-8350 ... or Amy Silber in the Office of Alumni Relations at 718-960-8294 (amy.silber@lehman.cuny.edu) ... or complete this form and return it with your payment in the prepaid envelope inserted in this issue of *Lehman Today*.



I would like to purchase ____ standard brick(s) at \$130 each or ____ large brick(s) at \$250 each. I prefer to pay the total of \$_____ with:

Check payable to Lehman College Foundation

Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE

- If you would like your brick to be next to a friend's, your orders must be placed together. Please complete a form for EACH brick you order.

PURCHASER'S NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

DAYTIME PHONE WITH AREA CODE

This is a surprise gift. **DO NOT** send an acknowledgement letter.

Please send a gift notification to:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

Print the information exactly as you would like it to appear (maximum of 14 characters per line, including spaces). Please note: standard bricks have a maximum of three lines; large bricks have a maximum of six lines.

Sample:

In memory of (In honor of)
John Doe
Class of 1969

Please return this form and payment to:

**Office of Institutional Advancement
LEHMAN COLLEGE
250 Bedford Park Blvd. West
Bronx, NY 10468-1527**

Credit card orders may be faxed to **718-960-8977**.



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.

When Lehman was founded forty years ago, CUNY was a tuition-free institution, but since 1976, with the establishment of tuition requirements, the cost of attending Lehman has consistently risen. Today, New York State funding contributes only about 30 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—which all 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 Bruce Epps, Director of Development, Lehman College, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx, NY 10468. 718-960-8350 / bruce.epps@lehman.cuny.edu*