

Lehman

TODAY

FALL 2010 - WINTER 2011

Lehman Center Turns Thirty

Where in the USA Are
Lehman Alumni?

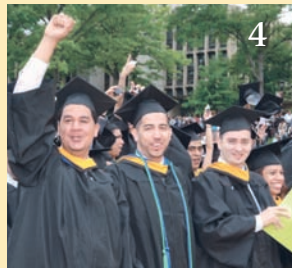
Four Alumni Win
Fulbrights

THE MAGAZINE OF LEHMAN COLLEGE
For Alumni and Friends

Contents

Features

Commencement 2010: A Grand Day for Celebrating Four Alumni Win Fulbrights	4 10
Lehman Center Turns Thirty	12
Photographing Woodlawn	16
Where in the USA Are Lehman Alumni?	20
Dr. Lesco Rogers ('84): Alumni 'Linked by Our Lehman Educational DNA'	24
Alumni Mentors/Arts and Humanities Alumni Reception	26
New Alumni Director and Board Officers	30
Spotlight on Alumni	27-29
Dennis Goode ('72), Estrella Rivera Jacobowitz ('72), Patricia M. Smith ('74), Theodore Swetz ('76), David Willinger ('72, '75)	
Plus:	
Spring Events Calendar	18-19
Annual Fund Report, 2010	31-35



Departments

2	Campus Walk
6	Sports News
7	Development News
8	Bookshelf
36	Remember When?

On the Cover: A trumpeter sounds the majestic notes of Handel's *Messiah*, one of many popular and classical performances that take place in Lehman Center for the Performing Arts. *Cover photos by Adi Talwar.*

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A message from

President Ricardo R. Fernández



This issue of *Lehman Today* is filled with stories of accomplishment. These stories are created by alumni who are winning prestigious Fulbright Awards, writing books, and achieving their dreams ... by faculty who are making new discoveries and leading us along new intellectual journeys ... and by our current students, who are winning recognition for their academics, competing hard in varsity sports, and serving our campus and community in dozens of different ways.

Lehman College, as well, has an accomplishment to celebrate: a ranking by *US News & World Report* as both a Tier 1 institution and one of the Northeast's Top 50 Public Colleges.

We applaud this news. The excellence of Lehman College, and of the exceptional learning that takes place across our programs, is becoming less of a "best-kept secret." The record carved by you, our alumni, in dozens of careers and professions is one reason the larger world is hearing more about Lehman. We continue to be proud of the work you do—and surprised by all the many different places that are now your home. The map on page 21 says it all: Lehman alumni are living coast to coast, in all fifty states, as well as Puerto Rico. Wherever you settle, however far from the Bronx, I urge you to stay in touch with Lehman's Alumni Office, which offers many ways for you to connect with your fellow graduates, as well as opportunities to become involved with today's students.

If you are still part of the New York metropolitan area or if you travel back here for a visit, I encourage you to stop by the College and see again both the old, familiar places as well as the new facilities recently opened or under way. Enjoy a lecture or recital or one of the other events listed on pages 18-19. In particular, take note of the remarkable series of concerts and performances scheduled this spring at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts. The Center, which is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary, is attracting ever-wider critical recognition and capacity audiences.

My special thanks go to the 1,456 alumni and friends who contributed more than \$924,000 to the College's Annual Fund and whose name appears in the report contained in this issue. Your support of the education Lehman offers and of the students we serve is vital to the College's mission and enables the men and women of another generation to continue writing their own stories of accomplishment.



campus walk

Lehman Ranked as a Tier 1 College

US News & World Report's 2011 rankings of colleges and universities placed Lehman in Tier 1 for Regional Universities in the Northeast and also as one of the Top 50 Public Colleges in this area of the country. The ratings were the highest scored by Lehman to date.

New Vice Presidents and Dean Named

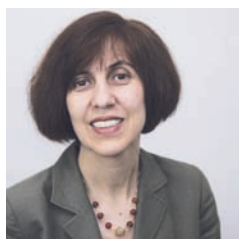


VP Ronald M. Bergmann

Lehman added three new senior administrators in July: Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer **Ronald M. Bergmann**, who was previously first deputy commissioner of New York City's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications; Vice President of Administration and Finance **Vincent W. Clark**, who had been the New York City Department of Education's senior chief executive for field services, as well as chief executive officer for its Community Learning Support Organization; and **Dr. Marzie Jafari**, dean of the Division of Adult and Continuing Education, who had previously been the Division's associate dean.



VP Vincent W. Clark



Dean Marzie Jafari

Lehman Welcomes Visit by US Supreme Court Justice

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor paid a return visit to Lehman in August, this time as the guest of honor for a day-long program sponsored by the Bronx Children's Museum. The event, which concluded the Museum's "Dream Big" initiative, began with five literacy-based art classes for six-to-ten-year-olds from two Bronx community programs, who had the opportunity to share their artistic creations with Justice Sotomayor. Their work focused on her life and journey, as well as their own experiences. The Justice's last visit to Lehman was in 1999, when she delivered the Commencement address and received an honorary doctorate.



Justice Sotomayor reads a story to a group of children during the Bronx Museum's "Dream Big" program at Lehman.

A Rock Star? No, a Writer Draws Hundreds of Students

Every one of the 500 seats in the Lovinger Theatre was taken—as well as another hundred in an overflow room—for the visit on October 4 of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Junot Díaz, acclaimed for his short story collection, *Dream*, and novel, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. Both works are read in many classes on campus, including FYI courses for freshmen. Díaz fielded questions from a group of twenty-five majors representing African and African American Studies, English, and Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies and then read from one of his short stories to the packed crowd in the Lovinger. More than 300 students lined up afterward for a book-signing.



Students wait for author Junot Díaz to sign their books.

Campus Tennis Courts Renovated With DecoTurf

College officials cut a ceremonial blue ribbon on September 23 for Lehman's five refurbished tennis courts—the latest in a number of improvements and upgrades taking place on the campus. The courts, resurfaced with DecoTurf, will be instantly recognizable to tennis fans as the same surface used at the U.S. Open's Arthur Ashe Stadium and in the building of facilities for the Summer Olympic Games in Beijing and Athens. "Nothing is too good for our athletes, and we want you to play on a surface that is really commensurate with the kind of effort you put in year-in and year-out," said President Ricardo R. Fernández at the ceremony.



Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández (center), other College administrators, and the varsity tennis coach and teams help cut the ribbon on the newly resurfaced tennis courts.

■ New Student Service Group Established

The first members of the new President's Service Corps were inducted into the group last spring by President Ricardo R. Fernández. The Corps—an elite group of seven students—is responsible for increasing student engagement through service across the campus and within the community. Each is giving classroom presentations, speaking at major campus events, and representing Lehman in the community.



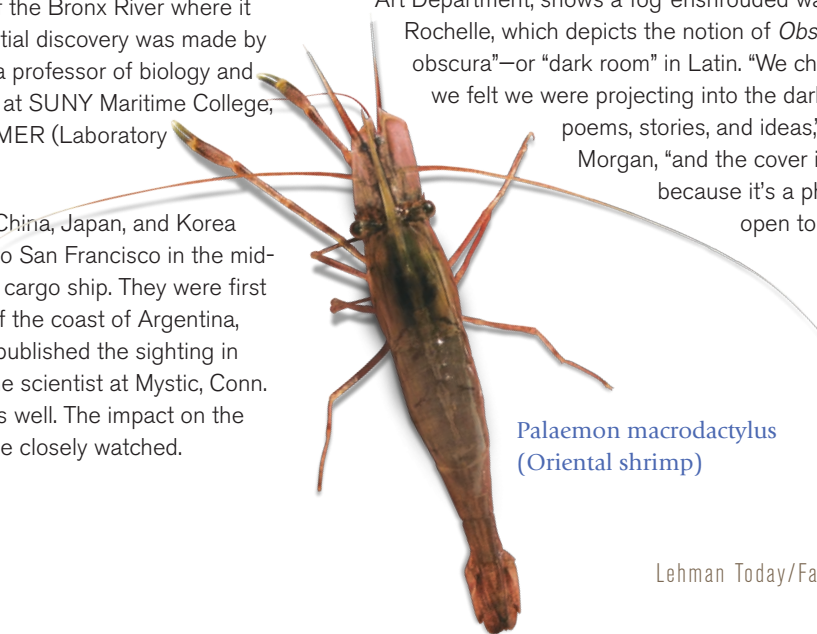
President Fernández inducted seven students into the President's Service Corps. In the back row, from left, are Erika Sevall, President Fernández, Olu Onemola, and Brion Moss. In the front row, from left, are Tihela Feit, Estefania Moreno, Gertrudis Centeno, and Rolando Martinez.

■ Oriental Shrimp Found in Bronx River

There's a new inhabitant of the Bronx River, all the way from Asia.

Palaemon macrodactylus (Oriental shrimp)—especially tasty in stir-fry dishes and noodle soup—have been sighted for the first time off the East Coast, at the mouth of the Bronx River where it empties into Long Island Sound. The initial discovery was made by Drs. Barbara E. Warkentine (M.A., '82), a professor of biology and SUNY Distinguished Service Professor at SUNY Maritime College, and Joseph W. Rachlin of Lehman's LaMER (Laboratory for Marine and Estuarine Research).

The shrimp are native to the waters of China, Japan, and Korea and made their way across the Pacific to San Francisco in the mid-1950s, probably in ballast water from a cargo ship. They were first spotted in the southwestern Atlantic, off the coast of Argentina, in 2006. After *Northeastern Naturalist* published the sighting in New York's own coastal waters, a marine scientist at Mystic, Conn. observed the species in those waters as well. The impact on the local ecosystem is not known and will be closely watched.



Palaemon macrodactylus
(Oriental shrimp)

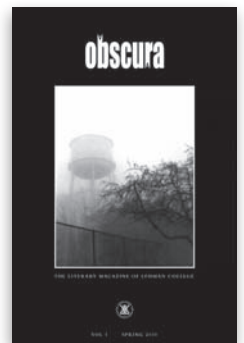
■ Lehman Launches New Literary Magazine *Obscura*

After eight months of hard work, Lehman's new literary magazine, *Obscura*, made its debut last spring—the first literary magazine at Lehman in almost twenty years. The 100-plus-page first issue—completely written, edited, and produced by Lehman students—featured short fiction, poetry, photography, and artwork.

"We had a great group of students, many of them creative writing majors, who were all very excited and motivated to work on it," said Professor Terrence Cheng, chair of the English Department, who initiated the project. "They gave up their time to get submissions,



The student staff of Lehman's new literary magazine.



read them, and go through the editing and the production process. And no one was compensated—it was all on a volunteer basis."

Entries offered a rich diversity of stories, including the lives of an Indian immigrant, a Bronx mom on Pelham Parkway, a fan at a Brazilian soccer match, a young girl learning English who receives a diary as a birthday gift, another young girl who struggles to be loved by her father, and a widow who creates a mechanical husband to replace the one she lost.

The black-and-white cover photo, taken by a student in the Art Department, shows a fog-enshrouded water tower in New Rochelle, which depicts the notion of *Obscura*, as in "camera obscura"—or "dark room" in Latin. "We chose the name because we felt we were projecting into the darkness with these poems, stories, and ideas," said editor Brian Morgan, "and the cover image was perfect because it's a photo that's a little more open to interpretation." ■



Commencement 2010: A Grand Day for

A few raindrops here and there could not deter the spirit of the Lehman Class of 2010 during Commencement ceremonies last spring. More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students were represented in the class, which heard Dr. Elena V. Ríos, president and CEO of the National Hispanic Medical Association, give the main address.

Speaking for the students was Giselle Rodríguez, a native of the Dominican Republic who graduated with a B.A. in mass communication. She works full-time as an executive assistant and plans to pursue both a master's degree and eventually a doctorate, with the goal of becoming an English professor.

Receiving honorary degrees were Dr. Ríos, Mark Pigott, chairman and CEO of PACCAR Inc, and Nina Sundell, founding director of the Lehman College Art Gallery. Richard Rakowski (B.A., '73), a successful entrepreneur in healthcare and other fields, received the Alumni Achievement Award.

Numerous students earned awards and recognition in the days leading up to Commencement, as well as during the event itself. Here are five examples of their achievement.

Daniel Aronoff: Undeterred by Disability

Daniel Aronoff has never let his blindness stop him from achieving his goals. When he wanted to become a small business owner, he quit school and trained as a manager. After running his own business for a year, he realized he wanted something more.

"I decided to go back to school to get a degree in a field where I could help others," says the social work major. "I discovered that my best option was social work, and I have been pursuing this new career ever since."

Despite the obvious challenges—Aronoff had to learn to navigate his way around campus—he made the most of his time at Lehman. "I

enjoyed participating in Lehman's clubs and have been a part of events that emphasize not only socialization but that also focus on community service and charity," he says.

Aronoff began an advanced one-year Master's of Social Work program at Lehman over the summer session. He plans to work in the field and help people with disabilities.

Letricia Brown: Discovering Her Leadership Talents

Letricia Brown, who describes herself as "timid" when first enrolling at Lehman, graduated as a confident campus leader and accomplished scholar who's now enrolled in New York University's graduate program in occupational therapy.

The psychology major found her academic focus during freshman year on a trip to Tijuana with Lehman LIFE (Leaders Involved for Everyone). There, she saw "a world greater than my own and the needs of those who continue to be ignored," as well as "the fact that people like me can make a difference in the lives of others if we choose to."

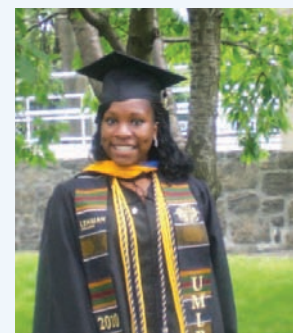
Her interest in the helping professions led to the Urban Male Leadership Program, where she spoke with high school students about the importance of higher education, and with Student Disability Services, where she worked as a peer educator and as a mentor to students with autism. As co-vice president of the Lehman chapter of Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychology, she led campus workshops and community service projects. She also traveled with Lehman LIFE to New Orleans to help in the rebuilding effort after Hurricane Katrina and to Cincinnati to help that city's homeless population.

Brown's burgeoning confidence and leadership abilities were tested when her mother fell ill and needed to be hospitalized for several months. "When she was released from the hospital, I had new demands placed on me," she says. "I had to figure out how to juggle helping my mother readjust to life, given her current state of health, as well as working, church, campus life, and my schoolwork."

Brown was able not only to manage but also to excel under this pressure. She was chosen for the competitive Occupational Therapy Research Internship at Washington University in St. Louis, which she completed in 2009. As an occupational therapist, she hopes to help people with disabilities discover how to become more productive and independent.

Emanuel Hickson's Advice: 'All you have to do is take the first step and the rest will follow'

Emanuel Hickson is no stranger to adversity. Born with a genetic condition that rendered him legally blind and required heart surgery, he thought of higher education as a daunting course. But with courage and perseverance, he not only earned a bachelor's degree but also saved the homes of thousands of people as a tenant advocate.



Celebrating

"I always say that being disabled is a club that anyone can join at any time," says Hickson, a sociology major who was born in England to Montserratian parents and raised in the Bronx. He hopes his achievements demonstrate to his fellow students that "if anything should happen to you, you can still pursue your dreams."

Hickson did not always think that way. He dropped out of high school and went to work at New York Hospital as a dietetic aide, preparing menus for people with special diets. He stayed there until his retirement in 1992, but was never truly fulfilled. "I didn't have a means to express myself," he says. "I used to pass Hunter College every day, and it was a constant reminder that I wanted to go back to school."

While recovering in the hospital from one of his numerous eye surgeries, Hickson met a social worker who suggested he visit the Lighthouse, an organization providing vocational training for the visually impaired. There, he obtained his GED and college preparation training. Afterward, he earned an associate's degree in business administration from BMCC and wanted to continue his education.

Friends had told Hickson that Lehman was a great school, with nice open spaces. When he visited the campus, he immediately felt at home. "I came here, and I liked the atmosphere," says Hickson. "You never really know what to expect when you go back to school after all those years."



Hickson's involvement with the tenant advocacy group Tenants and Neighbors came along quite unexpectedly. "I lived in a subsidized housing complex, and the owner walked away from the building," he explains. Through the advocacy group, he worked to ensure that the building was preserved as affordable housing.

Hickson, who is now vice president of Tenants and Neighbors, went on to assist with the acquisition of four affordable housing buildings in the South Bronx that were facing foreclosure. "I didn't know that this was going to be the beginning of something new for me," he says. Hickson was one of ten tenant leaders across the nation invited to Washington in 2010 by the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide input on pending legislation regarding Section 8 and low-income housing.

Hickson currently lives with his three grandchildren, whom he has cared for since birth, as well as his ninety-one-year-old mother. "It really bothers me when people have a dream, and they don't think it's possible, and they just let years drift by and don't act on it," says Hickson. "All you have to do is take the first step and the rest will follow. I did, and it worked for me."

John Molina: Giving Back to the Community

John Molina knows all too well the impact that health disparities have on poor urban neighborhoods. At Lehman, the health services administration major found the tools that will help him contribute to tackling that issue.

"I attended elementary school in a community where asthma rates are among the top twenty nationwide," says the Bronx resident. "I remember being terrified as I witnessed a classmate fighting for her next breath while we helplessly waited for an ambulance. Thirty years later, the look in her eyes still haunts me, as does the fact that this scenario is still a common occurrence."



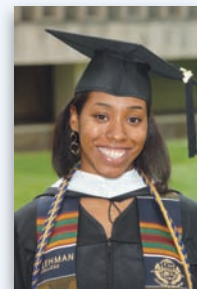
Molina returned to school after more than twenty years, entering through Lehman's Adult Degree Program. After taking a course with Health Sciences Professor Jane Levitt, he discovered his true calling.

"I am passionate about making a positive impact on the overall health care outcomes for the vulnerable populations that languish in underserved communities," says Molina, who has two members of his family battling life-threatening diseases.

In Fall 2010, he enrolled in the graduate program in healthcare administration at New York University's Wagner School. "Lehman has been instrumental in aiding me to fulfill my potential and has prepared me to achieve my dreams," he says.

Evauna Neville: A Student-Athlete With Big Dreams

When Evauna Neville was deciding where to go to college, Lehman was high on her list. For starters, it was close to her Yonkers home, affordable, and, more importantly to Neville, accepted the fifteen International Baccalaureate credits she had accumulated in high school. That allowed her to take courses in a number of different areas before deciding on a major.



Neville ultimately decided on a major in African and African American Studies. "I was interested in learning more about my culture and history," she says. "I became especially interested because of the way I was raised. My parents provided a great foundation for me, and as a whole, not a lot of black families get to experience what I did."

Neville found that getting involved made her collegiate experience even richer. Not only was she the captain of the women's tennis team for four years, she volunteered as a peer educator and worked with both the Urban Male Leadership and LIFE (Leaders Involved for Everyone) programs.

In Fall 2010, she enrolled in Teachers College at Columbia University to pursue her master's degree in education, with a concentration in teaching young students with disabilities and special needs. In the not-so-distant future, she wants to pursue her Ph.D. in hopes of becoming a professor of African American Studies. ■



Year Marked by Post-Season CUNYAC Awards

2010 was an exciting year for Lehman College Athletics. Beginning in the spring, Lehman was recognized several times with post-season awards given by the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC).

Baseball and Softball. On the baseball diamond, freshman shortstop Jhon Comas Disla was named Rookie of the Year for a stellar inaugural campaign in which he batted .400 with 10 doubles, three homeruns, twenty-eight runs scored, twenty-two runs batted in, and eleven steals without being caught. Brian Cubero (3.72 ERA, 4-3 record, 59 Ks in 49 IP) and Amadoernesto Guzman (.427 BA, 4 HRs, 32 RBIs) were named CUNYAC First Team All-Stars, while Miguel Sanchez and Jeremy Lopez garnered Second Team recognition.

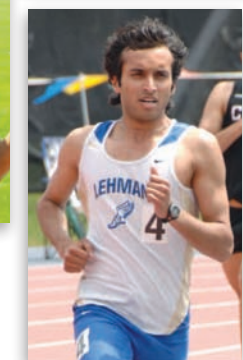
Shining for the women on the softball field was senior Kelsey Ash, who was named as a Second Team All-Star. Ash hit .333 for the year with three homeruns and thirty runs batted in.

Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field. Moving from the diamond to the track, Lehman was represented well by both the men and women in the CUNYAC Championships. Juniors Irfan Anwar and Oscar Kamalu grabbed second-place finishes in the 800 meters, 1,500 meters, and 400-meter dash respectively. First-place finishes were captured by seniors Dorothy Jean-Pierre (800-meter, 1,500-meter, and mile events) and Janina Browne (hammer throw) and sophomore Michaelle Garcon (5,000 meters).

Facilities Improvements. Although athletic competition took a hiatus over the summer, Lehman Athletics was still hard at work improving the student-athlete experience. Over at the APEX, the architecturally renowned athletic center, the men's and women's varsity locker rooms were given a makeover to add to the building's first-class feel. Night games are now being incorporated into the baseball, softball, and soccer schedules, thanks to lights added in the South Field. The tennis courts, meanwhile, were refurbished with DecoTurf, the same surface used at the U.S. Open's Arthur Ashe Stadium in Queens.

Fall 2010 Sports. Feeding off the excitement generated by the new upgrades, Lehman's fall sports teams all were in the hunt to make noise when the schedule turned to the CUNYAC Championships. Men's soccer coach Joe Andre headed a team in only its third full season of varsity existence, following a long hiatus, but already showing flashes of brilliance. Head women's volleyball coach Wolfgang Lucena and his team had the entire CUNYAC taking notice of its gritty play and will to win. Track guru Lesleigh Hogg leaned on his returning star runners Irfan Anwar, Oscar Kamalu, and Michaelle Garcon to show the way in the cross country season, while women's tennis coach Zack Davis looked to build on an impressive 12-7 record from last season. ■

— Andrew Pearson, Sports Information Director



Pictured from top row: Jhon Comas Disla (left) and Amadoernesto Guzman (center) are at bat, while Brian Cubero pitches. Middle row, from left: Miguel Sanchez gets ready for a hit, while Jeremy Lopez swings, and softball star Kelsey Ash catches a grounder. Bottom row: Star runners, from left: Michaelle Garcon, Dorothy Jean-Pierre, and Irfan Anwar.

Varsity Donors Club. With the creation of a Varsity Donors Club, Lightning alumni and boosters can get in on the action and show their pride in the program. In return for their support, donors will receive exclusive privileges, such as basketball season tickets, invitations to special athletics dinners, and various APEX Fitness Center membership offers. For more information, visit lehmanathletics.com and click on the link at the left or contact Director of Athletics Dr. Martin Zwiren at 718-960-1117 or martin.zwiren@lehman.cuny.edu.



development news

Awards Dinner Recognizes Educational, Corporate, and Community Leaders

A surprise awaited Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández at this fall's annual Leadership Dinner to raise scholarship funds for Lehman students. Instead of just the plaque he expected, honoring his twenty years of service as the College's president, he was presented with a portrait that will hang in the Music Building, alongside those of Gov. Herbert H. Lehman and the College's founding president, Dr. Leonard Lief. The portrait was created by Lehman M.F.A. student Andres Ortega and shows him seated behind his desk.



Held at the New York Botanical Garden and sponsored by the Lehman College Foundation, the event attracted a large crowd of alumni, friends, public officials, business leaders, and members of the CUNY family, who came to join in the recognition of President Fernández and two other distinguished members of the Bronx community. JP Morgan Chase Senior Vice President and District Manager Eileen Conroy, who manages a network of Chase branches in the Bronx, was recognized with the Corporate Leadership Award, and Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz, Jr. (B.A., '05) received both the Community Leadership Award and the Alumni Achievement Award.



Honorees at this year's dinner were Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández (top), Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz, Jr. (B.A., '05), and JP Morgan Chase Senior Vice President and District Manager Eileen Conroy.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Professor Miguel Pérez, an award-winning journalist and nationally syndicated columnist who chairs Lehman's Journalism, Communication, and Theatre Department. Music was provided by the Lehman Latin Jazz Ensemble.

During the past twenty years, President Fernández has transformed the College into an integral part of the borough's economic, cultural, and educational life. New degrees have been added, ranging from business to public health, as well as new facilities. These include a \$15 million Information Technology Center, a \$17 million campus-wide security/communications system, and a \$16 million Multimedia Center. In 2012, a \$70 million science facility will open—the first phase of what eventually will be a \$236 million "campus within a campus" devoted to the sciences. In addition, a wide-ranging program of community outreach has impacted the borough's schoolchildren, its economic development, and its cultural offerings.

Professor Emerita Pledges \$100,000 For Graduate Fellowships in English



Lehman Professor Emerita of English Dr. Alice Griffin has pledged \$100,000 to establish an endowment for graduate fellowships in the Department of English at Lehman. The award will be given to high-performing graduate students who have already completed fifteen credits in the program.

"I thought this would be a good thing for the students," said Dr. Griffin, who joined the English faculty of Hunter-in-the-Bronx in 1949 and taught at Lehman continuously until her retirement in 1991. "It will help students who have already proven their worth to go on and complete the graduate program. Hopefully, they will then go on to teach college."

When Lehman became an independent college of CUNY in 1968, Dr. Griffin was instrumental in founding the College's graduate program in English, which she directed until she retired. She also helped to formulate a core curriculum in the humanities that exposed students to a wide range of traditional disciplines. An expert on modern drama and Shakespeare, Dr. Griffin has authored ten books on Shakespeare and American theater.

"The Alice Griffin Fellowship will serve as both inspiration and motivation for our graduate students, and make it possible for so many to achieve their goals in higher education and in their chosen professions," said Professor Terrence Cheng, chair of the English Department. "This comes at the perfect time, as we assess and make improvements to the program."

Celebrating a Multicultural Heritage With Dance

The Ethiopian-Israeli Beta Dance Troupe dazzled the Lehman community with its stellar performance, including the traditional art of *eskesta* (Ethiopian shoulder dancing), at the Lovinger Theatre on October 12. The event was jointly sponsored by Lehman and the Israeli Consulate.





bookshelf

Nonsense on Stilts: How to Tell Science from Bunk

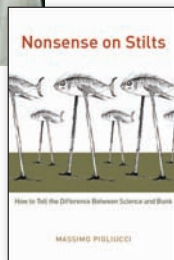
(University of Chicago Press, 2010). Massimo Pigliucci.

Massimo Pigliucci isn't your typical professor. For starters, the chair of Lehman's Philosophy Department has three doctorates—no, that's not a typo; he has three doctorates. He began his professional career as a scientist and earned his first pair of Ph.D.s in genetics and evolutionary biology.

Well into his career as a biologist, after he had already attained tenure at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, his work led him down the path of theoretical biology. It was then that his interest in philosophy, nurtured since his high school days in his native Italy, came to the forefront. "The leap from theoretical biology to philosophy is surprisingly brief," he says.

Fast-forward a few years: Dr. Pigliucci earns his third Ph.D., this one in philosophy, at the University of Tennessee and embarks on a new career, eventually moving in 2009 from SUNY at Stony Brook to his current position at Lehman.

His work—and the subject of his latest book—seem to be influenced by the theory that British scientist and novelist C.P. Snow discussed in his 1959 essay "The Two Cultures." Well versed in both the sciences and the humanities, Snow decried the fact that so many of his peers on both sides of the academic fence did not share his allegiance to the two disciplines. According to Snow, the fact that literary intellectuals likely know little about science, and



that just as many scientists may never read Shakespeare, created a barrier of "two cultures."

"Each group doesn't seem to think that knowledge of the other side, at least superficial knowledge, ought to be a part of anyone's intellectual education," says Dr. Pigliucci. "I find that strange."

Nonsense on Stilts tries to bridge that gap. As the book's opening pages point out, some, including scientists like Thomas Henry Huxley, believe that "we have a moral duty to distinguish sense from nonsense." In *Nonsense on Stilts* and with remarkable clarity and precise—often-entertaining—prose, Dr. Pigliucci cites

the danger of pseudoscientific ideas and theories that have captivated so much of the general public.

"I agree with Huxley, and that's a major reason why I wrote this book. Pseudoscience is not just an intellectual curiosity, it has ethical consequences. Literally, pseudoscience kills."

While Dr. Pigliucci takes on some less-harmful examples of pseudoscience, such as astrology—"It doesn't work; we know it doesn't work; it really is bunk," he says—his main concerns are the dangerous impact of non-scientific beliefs, such as the far-too-prevalent concept of what he calls "AIDS Denialism."

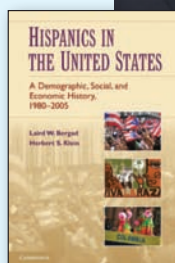
"Some African countries, including some African governments, have bought into this idea that AIDS is not caused by H.I.V.," he says, "and that it is a Western conspiracy of pharmaceutical companies and the C.I.A. It's fairly popular in the United States as well. The result is that many people in these countries are not taking the drugs, and they're dying."

Hispanics in the United States: A Demographic, Social, and Economic History, 1980 - 2005

(Cambridge University Press, 2010). Laird W. Bergad.

Hispanics in the United States have made significant progress over the last twenty-five years in their range of careers and levels of education and income, according to Lehman Distinguished Professor Laird W. Bergad, who has just completed the first extensive study of this population since 1987.

"Latinos are not much different from other immigrant groups that came to the U.S. in the past in many ways," says Dr. Bergad. "Although they lag behind other race/ethnic groups in many social indicators, what we see is an impressive record of improvement." He cites an increasing number of college graduates as one example—from eight percent of all adults in 1980 to fourteen percent in 2008—as well as rising household



income. Still, Latinos continue to have very high rates of poverty. A quarter of all Hispanics continue to live below the poverty line, about the same as in 1980.

Dr. Bergad and his co-author, Professor Emeritus Herbert S. Klein of Columbia University, analyzed U.S. Census and other statistical data, emphasizing changes that have taken place within the Latino population over time. Their new book, *Hispanics in the United States: A Demographic, Social, and Economic History, 1980 - 2005*, examines the basic patterns that led to the formation of this complex minority group, which is projected to comprise one-third of the total U.S. population by 2050.

One of Dr. Pigliucci's gifts as a writer is his willingness to take a strong stand. He doesn't shy away from controversial topics like the "debates" over global warming and Intelligent Design or the role of supposedly impartial "think tanks" and their cozy relationship with the media. *Nonsense on Stilts* is a book that will force you to think and rethink. And then think again. ■

The Circulatory Story

(Charlesbridge Publishing, 2010). Mary K. Corcoran.

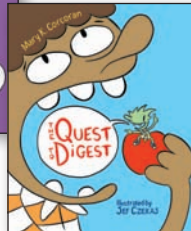
When Mary K. Corcoran (B.A., '86) was an undergraduate at Lehman, she had no idea that she would become an author someday. Although she loved to write, she wasn't an English or literature major. "I wrote a little bit in elementary school," she says, "but I never thought about a writing career *per se*."

In fact, despite an early focus on music—while in high school, she sang in plays and performed summer stock in Westchester—and education, Corcoran eventually earned her degree in biology. "I actually started out as an environmental science major, then switched to music, and then finally to biology," says the writer from her home in Redding, Conn.

After graduation, she moved to Colorado, where she had volunteered during her undergrad years as a National Park Service Ranger giving summer tours. For the next seven years, she lived in Colorado Springs and taught earth science in middle school, while also enjoying the beauty of the Rockies and the natural grandeur of the State's notable parks.

"While other similar studies have presented static portraits of particular measures, we looked at how indicators like education, marriage patterns, wealth, and poverty have changed since 1980," explains Dr. Bergad. The book provides an extensive database for researchers.

Dr. Bergad, the founding director of the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, was named a Distinguished Professor of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies in 2009, making him the seventh current member of the Lehman faculty to hold this rank. He has received numerous awards, including Guggenheim, Fulbright, and National Endowment for the Humanity fellowships. ■



Her love of teaching combined with her passion for biology, which she witnessed first-hand in the great outdoors of Colorado, and soon sparked a long-dormant interest in writing. "It all just kind of evolved," she says. Soon she was freelancing for children's magazines like *Boys' Quest* and *Hopscotch*, penning poems and nature pieces geared at an audience as young as her own students.

"I thought I would write a book of science-themed poetry for kids," she remembers, but her publisher had different ideas. "I sent a poem to Charlesbridge Publishing, and they contacted me. They didn't like the poem I wrote, but the editor asked me if I had anything else."

The result was *The Quest to Digest*, her first book published by Charlesbridge in 2006. Her idea was to make the biological processes of the human digestive system—not the easiest scientific topic to discuss with children—a little more, well, palatable. "I take them on an adventure," says Corcoran, "and try to make it fun."

She was so happy with the results—and her collaboration with illustrator Jeff Czekaj—that the pair teamed up again for a second work, *The Circulatory Story*, in which she explores the inner workings of the heart and circulatory system.

Now, Corcoran, who no longer teaches full-time, has launched her own business that combines all her passions: science, teaching, and writing. She gives talks and presentations to grade-school kids and makes author's visits. "It's all about making science fun and interesting for children," she says.

Learn more at www.tree-mendousscience.com. ■

Attention, Lehman Alumni— Your Opinion Matters!

Please help the Alumni Association and Alumni Office design events and activities based on your preferences. We invite you to participate in the 2010 Alumni Survey. Visit www.lehman.edu and click on "Alumni & Friends" on the upper right-hand side. You will find the link **Alumni Survey 2010** in the listing. You can also type this link www.lehman.edu/alumni/alumni-survey.php directly into the address (URL) bar at the top of your browser. Your participation in this quick survey will enter you in a raffle for various prizes, including gift cards to iTunes and Starbucks, with the top prize of a \$100 VISA Gift Card. The Alumni Office also has a new easy-to-remember e-mail address for alumni: alumni@lehman.cuny.edu.

Four Alumni Win Fulbright Fellowships

2010 proved to be a banner year for Lehman alumni competing for prestigious Fulbright Awards for post-graduate study, teaching, and research abroad. Three recent alumnae, as well as an alumnus from the Class

of 1975, are now in Latin America, the Mideast, and the Far East, pursuing a variety of scholarly interests, from Rastafarian craftsmanship to Tibetan end-of-life care. They join Lehman faculty in numerous departments, as well as fellow graduates, who are previous Fulbright recipients.

The program, which operates in 155 countries, is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

Mikaela Chase, Class of 2009: Studying End-of-Life Care in Tibet

When **Mikaela Chase** went to Nepal for six months during her junior year at Lehman, she did not realize it would change her life. While volunteering in a Nepalese hospital, she saw a little girl, no more than six years old, dying. By the child's side were her mother and grandmother.

"In Nepal, there is no one to care for the dying," says Chase. "Family are expected to do the work that professional nurses would do here—changing bedpans, wiping brows. There are no trained nurses."

That's when Chase, an anthropology major, found her calling. A 2009 graduate of the Macaulay Honors College at Lehman, as well as a Watson Fellow, she won a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship in 2010 to travel to Nepal to study Tibetan Buddhism and end-of-life care. She previously studied abroad not only in Nepal but also in Mexico. Her final Watson summer internship was completed at Harvard.

"The Dalai Lama has said that Buddhism is not only a religion but also a science and a philosophy," says Chase, who is spending a year documenting the responses of Tibetan doctors trained in both Western and traditional medicines. Her hope is that by studying non-Western medical practices, end-of-life care policy in the U.S.—where the topic is still somewhat taboo—can be improved.

"Sixty percent of Americans die in hospitals," she says. "In order to improve policy and care-giving practices related to death within the healthcare system, we need to understand the various ethical-moral frameworks that reflect the common human experience of approaching death."

Adds Chase: "Death shouldn't be a topic we're afraid to discuss."

When she returns to the U.S., she plans on pursuing her Ph.D. in medical anthropology.



Jasmine Fryer, Class of 2010: Teaching and Studying in Jordan

Jasmine Fryer discovered her calling in her eighth-grade Social Studies class. At a young age, she developed a passion for travel and knew that she wanted to see the world. "Our teacher taught us that history was alive and that we were very much a part of it," she recalls. "I wanted to see distant lands and meet diverse people."

She's now getting her chance. Fryer, who graduated from Lehman in 2010 with a master's in secondary social studies education, is working at Al-Ahliyya Amman University, in Amman, Jordan, as a Fulbright Scholar throughout the 2010-11 academic year as part of an English Teaching Assistantship. Besides teaching, she is studying Arabic.

It's not the first step on Fryer's world tour: Since 2006, the Cleveland native has taught English in Thailand, studied at the School for International Training in Morocco, and worked as a business manager for a Chinese export firm in Beijing. "I want to travel around the world, in part to better understand the global issues that we all face," she says, "and see how diverse people tackle these issues."

She traces her inspiring accomplishments back to her time at Lehman. "My Lehman professors inspired me to challenge myself academically, professionally, and personally to be the best I can be for myself and those around me," she says. "If I needed anything, they were willing to help me complete assignments, write recommendations, offer advice, or help make professional or academic contacts." In particular, she singles out Lynne Van Voorhis, assistant dean of Undergraduate Studies and Study Abroad. "She supported me from the beginning and urged me to apply. She helped me network with professors who had studied in the region or had participated in the Fulbright program."

When she returns from Jordan at the end of the academic year, Fryer intends on applying to law school and eventually work in international law and sustainable economic development. Her goal is to "empower individuals and meet global challenges that transcend borders, disciplines, and sectors."

Dr. Jose Guevara-Escudero, Class of 1975: Teaching History in Honduras

Historian **Jose Guevara-Escudero, Ph.D.** begins a new chapter in his life when he returns to Honduras in January as a Fulbright Scholar. He'll lecture on nineteenth-century Honduran economic history at Pedagogica Nacional University and continue his archival research on the socioeconomic history of modern Honduras.

"I always knew I'd be a historian," he said. "As a young boy, I took my job as class historian very seriously. My mother gave me great books to read, like *1001 Arabian Nights* and *The Last of the Mohicans*. They opened up the world for me."

Near his grandmother's house in Nicaragua, he discovered a secret garden. "I was called 'el niño del jardín,'" he said. "I would read and listen quietly to people outside the garden talking about their lives and loves. It was magical."

Born in Honduras, Jose moved at age fifteen with his Brazilian mother to the Bronx, where he attended Theodore Roosevelt High School on Fordham Road. Then he joined the U.S. Navy, serving two tours of duty during the Vietnam War. Afterward, he enrolled at Lehman and graduated with honors in 1975.

Professor Margaret E. Crahan was his academic adviser and a great help in his career as a historian. Professors Eric Wolf and Fausto Esteves were hugely influential.

"Fausto had a Continental air," said Dr. Guevara-Escudero. "He talked to us about his travels, about music, poetry, people and places I'd never heard of before. And Professor Wolf was just about the best human being I have ever met. Maybe it was his Jewish-socialist-Viennese background that made him so inclusive of all people—but I'll always remember Eric saying that everyone needs to be educated. Everyone needs to go to college. If you're going to be carpenter, it will make you a better carpenter."

"I say those same words to my students. I tell them to read and to get a degree—they'll be better at anything they do. I encourage them to travel and get out of their comfort zones."

After graduation, he won a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship for graduate work in Latin American history at Johns Hopkins University, completed his doctorate at New York University, and now is assistant professor of history at Pace University.

In the 1980s, when teaching jobs for historians were hard to come by, Dr. Guevara-Escudero became a Certified Financial Planner and set up a company, Interamerican Economic Services, working with private and institutional clients while teaching financial planning on the side.

He's delighted to be returning to his passion for archival research with the new Fulbright. "It's never a lonely pursuit," he said. "I may be in a dusty archive that no one else in the world has seen. But I'm there with the people I'm learning about, and they are giving me their most personal, private information."



One of his areas of specialization is the study of immigration—a hot topic in U.S. politics today. "As a historian, I was trained to look at the past to explain the present—and the past tells us that immigration can go both ways," he said.

"Americans are getting older, and we don't have a good system of caring for older people. I think we'll see more and more of them moving south to countries like Nicaragua, where there's a culture of caring and very little violence," he said. "You can do better with retirement money and a Social Security check. There's good, free socialized medicine delivered by the health professionals who have been well trained in Cuba."

Dr. Guevara-Escudero met his wife, Catherine Barbara Kaplan (Political Science and Russian, '74) at Lehman. Now divorced, they are good friends who enjoy the company of their two grown children and infant grandson.

For fun and fitness, Dr. Guevara-Escudero dances the tango. "You have to feel the music," he said. "It took me a while to get up the nerve, but now I can visit *milongas* in New York City and around the world."

His advice to New Yorkers: "Get to know your Latino and Latina neighbors and coworkers better. There are twenty-two countries south of the border. Go out to dinner with friends, and don't just eat Mexican food—there are many fine cuisines from Latin America right here in our city."

Nicole JeanBaptiste, Class of 2009: Studying Rastafarian Craftsmanship in Jamaica

When **Nicole JeanBaptiste** opened the email she received one day last March, she wasn't sure what she would find. A Lehman graduate of the Class of 2009, she had applied to a highly competitive African Studies graduate program. But the email did not contain good news: she had been rejected. "I was disappointed," she recalls, "but, to be honest, I handled it better than I thought I would."

JeanBaptiste, a graduate of the Macaulay Honors College at Lehman, closed her computer and went to get the old-fashioned kind of mail. Inside the mailbox was a package from the Institute of International Education, the organization that sponsors Fulbright Scholarships. "I could tell by the size of the envelope—it was large—that I got accepted." She immediately contacted her Lehman professors, like Professor Anne Rice of the Department of African and African American Studies, who wrote letters of recommendation for her application.

The Fulbright Fellowship is funding JeanBaptiste's research this year at Jamaica's University of the West Indies, where she's exploring the history and development of Rastafarian craftsmanship.

"By winning this Fulbright, Nicole has shown how innovative and important her project is," says Professor Rice. "She's a really bright, ambitious, and determined student." ■

Lehman Center Turns

By Tom Stoelker ('09, B.A.)



There are moments when the limestone façade of Lehman Center reflects the late afternoon sun, while catching shadows of gothic finials cast by the Music Building. From across the quad, the building looks like a Modernist church. But the Center, celebrating its thirtieth anniversary season this year, is perhaps more akin to a cathedral. For her part, Eva Bornstein, its executive director, speaks of the Center in religious metaphors.

"On one night you have to capture twenty-three-hundred souls," she said of her mission.

In a borough often eclipsed by Manhattan's well-endowed art scene, Bornstein and her predecessors strove to fill the Center's twenty-three hundred seats in boom times and bust. For years, the calendar lineup attempted to attract audiences from nearby Riverdale with mostly highbrow performances, but a programming shift in the 1990s sought to draw crowds from throughout the borough and beyond.

Today, Lehman Center is running longer, fuller seasons, offering more than thirty shows with a mix of both popular and classical artists. Despite the difficult economy, it attracts often-record audiences, including a growing number of both families and returning visitors. As beleaguered arts centers across the country have struggled to stay afloat, Lehman Center has managed to stay on an even keel, financially as well as artistically, drawing on a

Photo by Jason Green



Executive Director
Eva Bornstein.

"There's an earthiness, an ease. It's not a staid audience, and the performers love that."

small but dedicated staff, a valued group of corporate sponsors, and an aggressive marketing campaign that features discounted ticket packages.

Investments in upgraded and expanded facilities promise future audiences an even more rewarding cultural experience. With a new \$450,000 sound system already in place, thanks to an allocation from Assemblyman Jose Rivera, the Center looks forward to a new lighting system, audiovisual equipment, and other improvements made possible by a recent \$850,000 allocation from Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz, Jr. A timeline will be established shortly for a much-needed two-story addition, funded earlier through a \$3.2 million allocation from the previous borough president, Adolfo Carrión, Jr., and City Council members Annabel Palma and James Vacca.

Striving for Artistic Excellence Despite Financial Challenges

The ongoing search for funding is nothing new in the Center's history.

A performing arts center was always considered integral to the College's master plan. As far back as 1927, even before the campus was built for Hunter-in-the-Bronx, architects Pope and Baum proposed a theater and arts complex for \$15 million (the equivalent of more than \$188 million today). The Depression put a stop to that element of the building project.



Photo by
Adi Talwar

A packed house greeted *Ain't Misbehavin'* at Lehman Center in 2009.

Lehman Center also began in fits and false starts and faced financial challenges. Construction began in 1973 and continued for two years until the City's fiscal crisis in 1975 brought it to a halt. For two years, the building sat unfinished until the State Dormitory Authority issued bonds through several local banks, and it was completed in 1980 for \$50 million (in today's dollars, about \$132 million).

The first audience arrived on September 28, 1980, and opening night set the standard for the rest of that decade. Zubin Mehta conducted the New York Philharmonic in pieces by Lehman professors Ulysses Kay and John Corigliano. Later that season, the New York City Opera took the stage, followed by jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald, renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman, the lilting voices of the Vienna Boys Choir, and the dramatic presence of opera tenor Franco Corelli.

One year after the opening, the trade journal *Architectural Record* praised architects David Todd and Jan Pokorny's new building, which was just one component of a major campus-wide renovation.

"Architects Todd/Pokorny have accomplished the difficult feat of reorganizing an outmoded, classical campus plan with sensitivity," stated the magazine. "The enormous 2,300-seat concert hall is notable not only for its unusual size but for its fine acoustics—despite an unconventional flared plan which brings a sense of intimate contact with the stage from the farthest seats."

Considering the Center's location right next to the day-and-night rumbles of the #4 elevated train, achieving such "fine acoustics" was not only miraculous but also a tribute to Lehman President Leonard Lief, who was determined to "get it right" in selecting the building's design and materials.

Dr. Valerie Washington, vice president of Lehman Center's Board of Directors, agrees with the reviewers. For her, watching a ballet at the Center easily trumps other venues.

"I was so close, as opposed to Lincoln Center, where you're so far from the stage," said Dr. Washington. "I don't think there's a bad seat in the house."

Diversifying Programming to Reach a Wider Audience

From the start, the Center's unofficial mission was not so subtle: provide a counterbalance to the reputation of a borough on fire.

In an article assessing the one-year-old theater's effect on the neighborhood, a frustrated President Lief told *The New York Times*, "It still amazes me. This is a borough of 1.4 million people—it's bigger than many states—and people just throw up their hands and say it's finished."

It's no surprise then that the first decade's programming set out to attract residents from the region's tonier zip codes, like Westchester and Riverdale, and the *Times* highlighted the theater's locale as being "40 minutes from Broadway."

By 1985, Jack Globenfelt signed on as executive director and shaped the image of the Center for nearly twenty years.

"He managed to bring in all the important artists of the time: Nureyev, Ray Charles, Celia Cruz, Tito Puente, Marcel Marceau," said Bornstein. "That stage had the giants of culture."

But by the mid-nineties, Globenfelt said, attendance numbers began to drop off.

"The audience was diminishing. People were either dying or moving to Florida," he said. Then, while vacationing in Montauk, he got a call that changed everything: Rubén Bládes, a major figure in Latin music, was available.

"He sold out right away," Globenfelt said. "It was then that the 'eureka' phenomenon occurred."

"Jack recognized that the Bronx was beginning to become a more diversified place," said Father Richard Gorman, chair of the Board of Directors. "Eva has diversified [the programming] even more, reaching out to our Asian friends and the Caribbean."

Bornstein grew up in a "very grey and grim" communist Poland where she found solace in Cracow's theaters. "My mother took me to this fantasy land," she said. "Every day we would go. And it was cheap! I fell in love with it and wanted to be in this enlightened world."

Andrew Grossman of Columbia Artist Management calls Bornstein "one of the greatest producers in the industry and a true champion of the classical and popular performing arts."

"Let's be honest, it's a different demographic from what I was used to," she said of her Bronx audience, whose taste doesn't always jibe with her own. "But as a programmer this is not my living room; this is the Bronx's living room."

Though the groundwork for diversity had been laid well before her 2005 arrival, Bornstein said that the audience remained segre-



It was a complete sell-out for "Salsa Palooza" night with Tito Rojas, Jerry Rivera (shown here), and Eddie Santiago (below).

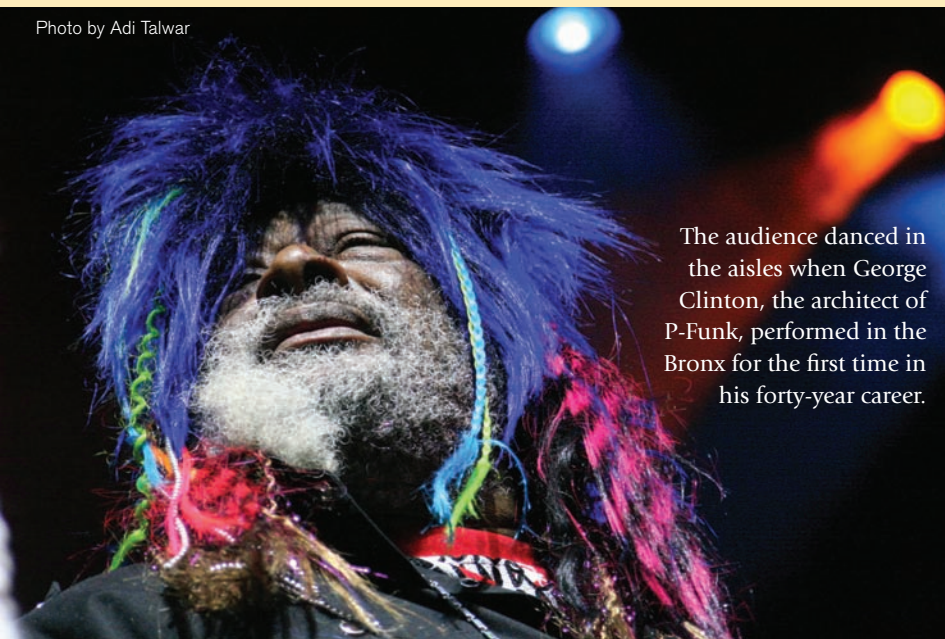
Photo by Jason Green

Photo by Jason Green



gated culturally and generationally. She aimed to integrate the audience along with the programming. For the most part, it's worked. After a performance of the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble a few years back, several young men improvised a hip-hop version of the boot slap dancing they saw on stage. And at this season's opening night concert, grandmothers, teens, and one State assemblywoman vied for the attentions of salsa star Victor Manuelle.

Photo by Adi Talwar



The audience danced in the aisles when George Clinton, the architect of P-Funk, performed in the Bronx for the first time in his forty-year career.

With encouragement from the Board of Directors, Bornstein provides a face for the Center. Before each show she introduces herself, that evening's performance, and upcoming events. A typical intro to a *merengue* concert will likely include a pitch for *Swan Lake* – and vice versa.

Continuing to Reach out to the Community

The outreach has garnered praise on- and off-campus.

"Lehman Center has proven its sensitivity and interest in programming to all members of the community, and this is the reason for its continued unparalleled success," noted Columbia Artists' Grossman.

"The Performing Arts Center has brought an amazing array of major international artists and local emerging talent," said Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández. "These performances have entertained us, educated us about world cultures, and nurtured an appreciation for both traditional and contemporary art forms."

The Center receives continuous support from a variety of sponsors, particularly from JP Morgan Chase Foundation as well as *The Daily News*, which provides extensive coverage. On opening night this September, Bronx Borough President Díaz called the Center "our little Madison Square Garden."

Of her many duties, Associate Director Andrea Rockower said that the most important is "de facto chief fundraiser." Rockower graduated from Hunter's last graduating class in the Bronx and later returned to earn her master's after the College became

Lehman. The glitter of Manhattan, where she worked at Meet the Composer and Roundabout Theater Company, did not keep her away. She came back to work at the Center in 1985 and managed the Young People's Series, which brought together schoolchildren with major talent—for free.

In 2008, after running for twenty-five years, the programming budget lost nearly \$300,000 in support from the City's Department of Cultural Affairs, which effectively closed the series down the following year. It's a cut that still stings Rockower and irritates Father Gorman.

"Some of the changes that were made in the Department of Cultural Affairs were devastating to these kinds of programs," he said. "I don't think looking for new blood was necessarily a bad idea, but don't tinker with success—and they did in this case."

Yet, the show, as they say, must go on. This season's programming continues to blur lines and cross boundaries.

"We'll have some favorites from the past, like Johnny Mathis," said Bornstein.

In dance, audiences can choose from the tap of Savion Glover, tangos from Buenos Aires, or the *avant-garde* movements of the Aluminum Show. The music program will mix Viennese waltzes with Venetian baroque, Motown with 1980s Freestyle, and *bolero* with *salsa*.

Over the past thirty seasons, the directors of Lehman Center have booked hundreds of performances that helped cultivate an audience unique to the Bronx.

"There's an earthiness, an ease. It's not a staid audience, and the performers love that," said Rockower.

Nailing down a single favorite among the hundreds of performances is a difficult task for those associated with the Center, but when pressed they admit to favorites.

Rockower said, "Little Richard. He is the king. He's the only performer I wanted to have my picture taken with."

Jack Globenfelt said Cab Calloway. Both he and Rockower remember an elderly Calloway nodding off back stage.

"Cab came in, and I was like, 'Is he going to be able to move,'" he recalled.

"But when Cab put on that white suit," Rockower added, "and went out on stage to sing 'Minnie the Moocher,' it was as though he was a young man of twenty-five again."

For Father Gorman, it's the Soweto Gospel Choir.

"If that's what heaven sounds like, I hope I go there," he said.

Bornstein diplomatically refused to choose.

"I love all my children equally," she said. ■

Photographing Woodlawn

Photographing Woodlawn, which ran in the Lehman College Art Gallery during the Fall 2010 semester, featured the work of twenty-six artists whose photographs explore the sylvan landscapes and Gilded Age mausoleums of one of America's most important cemeteries. Located on 400 acres in the northern Bronx, Woodlawn incorporates the work of some of the country's most accomplished architects, landscape designers, and artists. In this exhibition, the photographers recorded the grounds and monuments using a range of techniques and styles, offering panoramic views, documentary images in high definition, sepia-toned landscapes, and performance-based photography. Along with the exhibit, a series of Gallery Talks at Lehman and walking tours at Woodlawn brought new attention to this historic and serene stretch of the borough's landscape.

Be Still My Love by Christopher Smith

Be Still My Love illustrates the transient nature of life. The stone monument represents death, yet the stone itself is eternal. It is juxtaposed against the greenery of nature, which represents life, but will one day wither and die.

'I found that a cemetery is a place about life rather than death.'



For One Ordinary Headstone

by Ayakoh Furukawa

I took this picture with a small ordinary digital camera, and I did not use [a] complicated process. I want to show the image/headstone as it is. My work is rather a documentation of people and attempts to capture spiritual presence there. Arthur's headstone is one of them that I feel something spiritual. Photographing the Woodlawn Cemetery made me contemplate life. I see that impersonal headstones are like people. Family members, couples, parents, and newborn babies with no names are united by death once again and stay close in this heavenly garden now. Memories of loving and being loved are engraved on tombstones. Many tombstones and headstones manifest how the deceased lived. I found that a cemetery is a place about life rather than death.

My selected work is the headstone of Arthur who lived until 1894 and is part of a big tree now. The tree was small or did not exist there when he was buried, but it will soon cover Arthur's headstone and take over his remains underneath. Other forms of life, such as trees and birds, are cheerfully alive in the cemetery. My work shows that humans are a part of the greater lifecycle on earth. Indeed the cemetery is full of life both visible and invisible.



Transcendental

by Ira Merritt (M.S.Ed., '77)

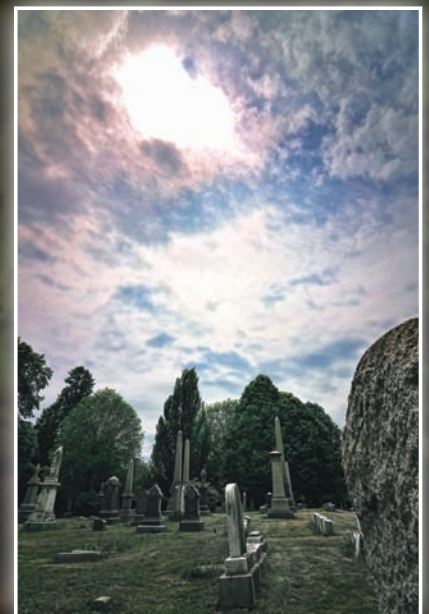
Transcendental represents for me the experience beyond the physical in which the souls and possibly the actual bodies of the buried are nourishing the tree that envelopes them. We see the limbs of the tree intertwined with the gravestones like arteries bringing the souls of the buried into the branches and leaves.

The tree sprouts in all directions; very much alive. I chose to make this a black-and-white image because ... it felt more spiritual, less corporal, and I wanted to enhance the similarity between the gravestones and the tree making ... as if it was one unit. It was important to me when photographing this image that the gravestones were large enough

and not totally overpowered by the tree, and it was important to see the limbs of the tree (sinews) in detail, and as a result the top of the tree was sacrificed in the shot. The shadow created by the tree separates the gravestones that are part of this family from the rest of the cemetery, which is in light. The leaves on the edges are blowing in the wind, exuding oxygen that completes the cycle of life.

The Call, 2010

by Ray Santiago



A Guide to the Best of the Arts in the Bronx

A calendar to pull out and save of some of the cultural events taking place at Lehman through July. Events are free unless noted. Reserve seats early for ticketed events—many sell out. Alumni receive a \$5 discount on each pair of tickets at Lehman Center (Alumni Association membership required).

ONGOING

Feb. 8 – May 10

NEW YORK FIBER IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

A focus on artists in or near New York City who create primarily in fiber and textile materials or modes, including quilt-making, tapestry, weaving, felt making, rug hooking, embroidery, needlepoint, basketry, book arts, and metal work. Curated by Sandra Sider.

Lehman College Art Gallery: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.,
Tuesday through Saturday.

JANUARY

Sat., Jan. 15, 8 p.m.

DOO WOP FOREVER

Richard Nader's Doo Wop Show returns to Lehman's Stage for another night of oldies and fun.

Lehman Center: \$50, \$45, \$40, \$35.



Sat., Jan. 22, 8 p.m.

SALSA DURA Y CALLEJERA

Featuring Roberto Torres and his Afro-Cuban All Stars.
Old School Salsa at its best.

Lehman Center:
\$50, \$45, \$40, \$35.



Sun., Mar. 6, 4 p.m.

SAVION GLOVER: SOLO IN TIME

Using tap as sound and sound as dance is a continuation of the HoopercLuB tradition of attributing music through tap dancing's percussiveness.

Lehman Center: \$35, \$30, \$25;
children 12 and under, \$10 any seat.



Sun., Mar. 13, 6 p.m.

COMPLEXIONS CONTEMPORARY BALLET

Founders Desmond Richardson and Dwight Rhoden bring their 20 classical and contemporary dance artists to Lehman for an evening of thrilling dance.

Lehman Center: \$35, \$30, \$25; children 12 and under, \$10 any seat.



Sat., Mar. 19, 8 p.m.

FOREVER FREESTYLE 5

The freestyle phenomenon of the late 80s, featuring the artists that made this genre a worldwide sensation.

Lehman Center:
\$60, \$55, \$50, \$45.

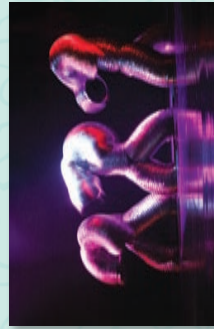


Sun., Jan. 30, 12:30 p.m.

LEHMAN CHAMBER PLAYERS

Alexander Meshibovsky, violin; Alan Hollander, oboe; Diana Mittler-Battipaglia, piano. Works for violin and piano, including Beethoven's "Kreutzer" Sonata. Works for oboe and piano, including Mozart's "Quartette" Sonata.

Music Building Recital Hall.



FEBRUARY

Sun., Feb. 6, 4 p.m.

THE ALUMINIUM SHOW: VISUAL THEATRE WITH AMAZING EFFECTS

With a company of thirty-five dancers and a large corps de ballet, the Russian National Ballet Theatre has upheld the grand tradition of major Russian ballet works.



MAY

Sun., May 1, 2:30 p.m.

LEHMAN COLLEGE & COMMUNITY CHORUS and LEHMAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Diana Mittler-Battipaglia, Director.

Brahms – Nème and excerpts from Requiem; shorter works by Dvorak, Copland, and a medley from "South Pacific."

Lehman Center.

Sat., May 7, 8 p.m.

CUARTETO LOS HISPANOS: AN EVENING OF BOLEROS!

Celebrate Mother's Day with this intimate and romantic concert featuring the songs that defined an era.

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



Sun., May 15, 2 p.m.

LEHMAN COLLEGE COMMUNITY BAND COLLAGES: AN ECLECTIC COLLECTION

A mix of popular selections celebrating the season. Music by Macarteny, Porter, Gershwin, Camptouse, and Sousa, plus the winner of the 2011 Jerome Sala Memorial Competition.

Lovinger Theatre.



Sun., May 15, 4 p.m.

CIRQUE LE MASQUE

This European-style circus, complete with lavish costumes and props, music, and special effects, has performed to sold-out audiences worldwide.

Lehman Center: \$35, \$30, \$25;
children 12 and under, \$10 any seat.

Sat., May 21, 2 p.m.

ORIGINAL MUSICAL

The Lehman College Department of Music's annual original musical theater production, directed by Professor Penny Prince.

Music Building Recital Hall.

Sat., May 21, 8 p.m.



Be the first to experience Aluminum, a unique new convergence of movement, dance, and visual theater.

Lehman Center: \$35, \$30, \$25; children 12 and under, \$10 any seat.

Sun., Feb. 13, 4 p.m.

**SWAN LAKE
BY THE STATE BALLET THEATRE OF RUSSIA**

The State Ballet Theatre of Russia brings the world's most beloved ballet gloriously to life with Tchaikovsky's classic score.

Lehman Center: \$35, \$30, \$25; children 12 and under, \$10 any seat.

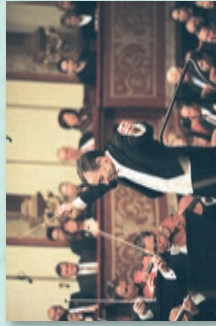


Sun., Feb. 20, 4 p.m.

**OPOLE PHILHARMONIC OF POLAND:
VIENNA WALTZ GALA**

In its first transcontinental tour of the United States, Opole Philharmonic of Poland offers its popular Vienna Gala program.

Lehman Center: \$25, \$20, \$15; children 12 and under, \$10 any seat.



Sun., Feb. 27, 4 p.m.

TANGO BUENOS AIRES

Experience Argentina's dramatic dance form. Argentina's great cultural expert, Tango Buenos Aires fires up the passion with its rapid and languid dance.

Lehman Center: \$35, \$30, \$25; children 12 and under, \$10 any seat.



MARCH

Wed., Mar. 2 – Sun., Mar. 6

HAIRSPRAY

The Spring 2011 theatre season opens with Hairspray, the beloved musical adaptation of the film by John Waters.

Lovinger Theatre: \$12, general admission; \$10 for non-Lehman students and seniors.



Sun., Apr. 17, 3 p.m.

VENICE BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1997, the Venice Baroque Orchestra is recognized as one of Europe's premier ensembles devoted to period instrument performance.

Lehman Center: \$25, \$20, \$15; children 12 and under, \$10 any seat.

Lehman Center: \$35, \$30, \$25; children 12 and under, \$10 any seat.

APRIL

Sun., Apr. 3, 2 p.m.

LEHMAN JAZZ COMBOS

The Lehman College Jazz Combos perform contemporary arrangements for small to mid-sized ensembles in a variety of jazz styles.

Music Building Hearth Room.

Sat., Apr. 9, 8 p.m.

**DENNIS EDWARDS AND THE
TEMPTATIONS REVIEW WITH
THE MARVALETTES**

The legendary Motown quintet The Temptations brings unforgettable hit after hit to Lehman Center.

Lehman Center: \$50, \$45, \$40, \$35.



Sun., Apr. 10, 2 p.m.

LEHMAN WOODWIND QUINTET:

LIGHT BREEZE FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Alan Hollander, Director. Music by Hindemith, Francaix, Barber, and others.

Music Building Recital Hall.

JUNE

JOHNNY MATHIS CONCERT

Johnny Mathis celebrates Lehman Center's thirtieth anniversary season with a return performance accompanied by a full orchestra.

Lehman Center: \$85, \$75, \$65, \$55.



Sat., June 11, 8 p.m.

EL GRAN COMBO

Back by overwhelming demand! El Gran Combo is undoubtedly one of the most popular salsa bands in the entire world.

Lehman Center: \$60, \$55, \$50, \$45.

Sat., June 25, 8 p.m.

KING MICHAEL JACKSON

Come and see a spectacular, multi-media, live performance honoring the greatest entertainer of all time on this very special second anniversary.

Lehman Center: \$45, \$35, \$25, \$20; children 12 and under, \$10 any seat.



JULY

Sat., July 9, 8 p.m.

SALSATÓN

Featuring Andy Montañez and Vico C, El Godfather de la Salsa and The Philosopher, one night, one stage.

Lehman Center: \$60, \$55, \$50, \$45.



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) / 718-960-7830 (Lovinger Theatre).



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

In 1995, the Lehman alumni network had grown to twenty-two states as well as Puerto Rico. Fifteen years later, Lehman alumni are living coast-to-coast, in every state in the nation. Two-thirds are still in New York (45,286), but another one-third can be found everywhere else, with large contingents in New Jersey (3,582) and Florida (3,220) and even some in remote regions out west, like Alaska (6), Montana (6), and Wyoming (4). We invited some of them to tell us about their lives far from the Bronx.



Michael Weinberg
Dorchester, Mass.

Attorney and Partner,
LeClairRyan
M.A., 1973

In 1973, I received my master's degree in mathematics from Lehman College. I was teaching full time at the Bronx High School of Science while working toward my degree. After teaching for seven years, I decided to go to law school. In 1977, I started to work toward my degree at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, and then I secured a job in Boston and stayed. I now work at a law firm, LeClairRyan, as a litigation attorney.

I don't see enough of my New York friends. Many of them still live in or around the City. But for me the transition was not too difficult. I came to a new environment, made friends at the law school, in my community, and at other law firms. In many ways I brought New York with me. When anybody asks me where I come from, I say the Bronx. They can hear it in my accent—which remains. Also, I brought my street sense from the City to the town of Boston.



When anybody asks me where I come from, I say the Bronx. They can hear it in my accent—which remains.

The math program at Lehman was a difficult and challenging one. That intensity helped me a lot in terms of meeting the rigors of law school. I have warm memories of the professors. On the lighter side, one summer I took a golf course at Lehman as a gym requirement. I never had an opportunity to play golf before, and I just remember having a good time practicing golf at Lehman. I've never played golf since then. It was an opportunity to learn a country-club type sport in the middle of the City.

Austin Frye, Esq.
Miami Beach, Fla.

CEO, Frye Financial Center
B.A., 1975

I always visited Miami during my Lehman College spring breaks and loved it, so shortly after graduation I came on down. It was very difficult to leave my family and friends, but in a vacation town like Miami, friends and family frequently visit. I think bringing down my New York City street smarts helped me be successful in business here. I currently own a financial planning firm and a law firm.



I miss most the edginess of New York City and Manhattan and the down-home earthiness and honesty of the people of the Bronx.

A good liberal arts education from Lehman along with a mathematics degree gave me a great foundation to launch my career. I remain in contact with a few Lehman graduates in New York and in California, none in Miami. I am embarrassed to say that I haven't been on campus since I graduated in 1975. I miss most the edginess of New York City and Manhattan and the down-home earthiness and honesty of the people of the Bronx. I loved the promise of spring, when anything seemed possible, and footballs and Frisbees flying overhead on the Lehman campus.



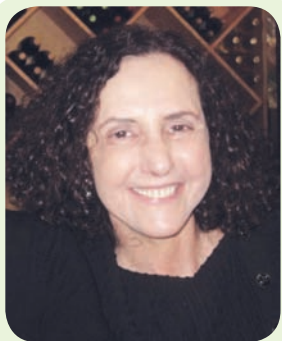
Where in the USA are Lehman Alumni?



Evie Fass

San Francisco, Calif.

Senior Business Solutions
Consultant, The PMI Group, Inc.
B.A., 1975



Many of my peers had business degrees, but it was my liberal arts training that set me apart and allowed me to be very successful in my career.

I was living in the West Village with a friend from California. She was accepted to a law school in San Francisco and asked if I wanted to go with her. I was not seriously employed (I was an ice cream scooper at the Haagen Dazs on Christopher Street and working at being a poet). So we packed our small possessions and our epileptic cat into my Chevy Vega and drove across the country to California. I really missed my mom and sister and my friend Victoria. It was hard to leave them. I also ran out

of money in Reno, Nevada, so I did a stint as a “Change Girl” in a casino. I knew I was in a very different place when I asked them to call me a Change Woman, and they didn’t laugh.

I majored in English Literature, which taught me how to be a critical and holistic thinker. This became very useful when I built a career in marketing. Many of my peers had business degrees, but it was my liberal arts training that set me apart and allowed me to be very successful in my career.

I miss the energy of the campus. I was there at the height of the Vietnam War protest, and I was very idealistic about peace and

women's rights. I wish there was the same level of commitment about the Afghanistan War. Where is the outrage? I am in touch with Victoria Lightman—we were the dynamic duo at Lehman, and we have maintained our friendship over the years. I really miss the time that Victoria and I spent together. We were both writing poetry, and she was my muse. (See the profile below of Victoria Lightman.)

Victoria Lightman

Houston, Tex.

Owner, Looking At Art B.A., 1975

My husband, Marshal, works for Gilbane Building Company. We've been here in Houston since 1985. Marshal had to drag me kicking and screaming all the way. Now, it's home, and we love our lives here. Culture shock! Hurricanes, giant roaches, heat, and humidity. There is a city campaign here called "Houston, it's worth it" that lists all of our worst features. And yet, we do love it.

I had great teachers at Lehman, and I believe that a good education in the liberal arts will serve you quite well in life. The only Lehman alum that I am in contact with is my very best friend, Evie Fass, who lives in San Francisco. My favorite memories about Lehman have to do with meeting my friend Evie and the film history classes we took together. Also, registering to vote. I turned eighteen during my freshman year, and at the same time the voting age was lowered from twenty-one to eighteen. The first thing I did on my birthday was to register to vote, which I did on campus. Back in those days there were women's *consciousness raising* groups and that is what I gravitated toward during my first years on campus. I haven't visited the campus in thirty years. I miss the energy of New York City. The city vibrates.



There is a city campaign here called "Houston, it's worth it" that lists all of our worst features. And yet, we do love it.

I was also a student in the CUNY/AMNH doctoral program. I finished my Ph.D. at the University of Illinois—Chicago. The transition was extremely hard at first. As a New Yorker, I just assumed that I would live there forever. I left my family and friends and started completely anew. Chicago winters are long and cold! I brought a cat and my New York tenacity.

I had a great education at Lehman. As an undergraduate and a master's biology student, I studied in the Rachlin lab, which set the early foundation for what I am doing now. I am always grateful for that. I still keep in contact with a few friends. At the very least I keep informed about the fish research that is going on in the Biology Department.

I miss New York's electricity, Lincoln Center, City Island, and the ocean. I have so many memories, but the one that comes to mind is running the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot around the reservoir with the Rachlin lab.

Steven Springer

Silver Spring, Md.

Managing Editor, Central News, Voice of America B.A., 1970

I took a new job as a managing editor for Voice of America in September 2008. Voice of America is based in Washington, D.C., and I wanted my family to live close enough to D.C., but to be outside



Even being away from New York City for nearly thirty years, I miss the 24/7 quality of the city.

the district itself. Silver Spring is a very diverse area, and it's been great living here. But even being away from New York City for nearly thirty years, I miss the 24/7 quality of the city. When I lived on the Upper West Side, I knew I could walk out at any time of the day and grab a newspaper

or something to eat! Specifically about the Bronx, I miss having friends living just around the corner, and having shopping, movies, and restaurants at walking distance from my apartment building.

Working on WHLC from 1972 to 1974, and serving as the news and sports director in the '72-'73 school year, was major preparation for my career in journalism. Coupled with my courses in the basics of broadcast journalism, it was just what I needed before heading out into the world. My time working on WHLC is easily my favorite memory. It is where I learned my craft; I still dabble in music editing to this day because of WHLC. I have my music rundowns and some newscast scripts all these years because it was so much fun. The attitude was "Hey kids, let's put on a show," but we understood how important it was to learn and develop. I wouldn't trade those three years for anything!

I visited the campus in February 2010. It was rather shocking to see all the new construction; I felt a little disoriented trying to make my way around.



Terry Grande

Chicago, Ill.

Professor and Graduate Program Director, Department of Biology, Loyola University M.A., 1981

My husband, a CUNY and American Museum of Natural History doctoral student, was hired as a curator in the Geology Department at the Field Museum of Natural History. At the time,

Chicago winters are long and cold! I brought a cat and my New York tenacity.

Lehman alumni are living coast-to-coast, in every state in the nation.

Julia Grubiak

Tacoma, Wash.

Principal/Hedden Elementary,
Fife School District #417
B.A., 1971

I moved to Tacoma in 1969 after I married my high school sweetheart. Michael was in Air Force ROTC and was stationed at McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma. It was very difficult being 3,000 miles away from family and friends. The military families became our surrogate families very quickly. We were all in the same boat—newlyweds and far from family. We shared and created new holiday traditions together. The hardest parts of the change were the absence of “New York” food. At that time we couldn’t get Thomas’ English muffins, a decent bagel, or any real deli food, not to mention Italian-style veal cutlets. The other huge issue was the weather. Overcast skies and lots of rain keep Washington the Evergreen State, but make for a very bleak and somewhat depressing winter. But we brought our sense of adventure, joy of travel, and met new people. The rolling hills of the Hudson Valley are nothing compared to the grandeur of Mt. Rainier. We have so much at our fingertips and have grown to love the Northwest as our second home.

At Lehman College, I loved being close to home and having quick access to the campus. Our instructors and colleagues were top notch. They challenged you to be better than you thought you could be. My undergraduate work served me well, as I went on to further my education and become an elementary school principal.

Vito Maggiolo

Washington, D.C.

Assignment editor, CNN
B.A., 1975

A job with a broadcast news organization brought me to Washington, D.C., in 1978. I was familiar with D.C. because I had lived with an aunt and uncle there during high school, so the transition was easy. I brought with me my love for living in a city.

Lehman was part of my Bronx experience, and my Bronx experience prepared me for the adventures I would face in broadcast news. There are several Lehman alumni living close by, including some I mentored while I was an editor of *The Meridian*. Working on *The Meridian* is my favorite memory. I wandered through Lehman College earlier this year. I was amazed at the growth and sophistication of the campus.



Lehman was part of my Bronx experience, and my Bronx experience prepared me for the adventures I would face in broadcast news.

Michael Klausner

Bradford, Penn.

Professor of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
B.A., 1969



I love the energy, diversity, and excitement of New York City but also enjoy aspects of living in a small town.

I began attending Lehman as a part-time student who worked full time. I enjoyed Lehman’s academic experience so much that I decided to matriculate full-time after two years. My parents were very supportive of my decision. Inspiring professors and a good liberal arts education that I received at Lehman prepared me very well for

my teaching career at the University of Pittsburgh—Bradford.

I spend my summers in the Bronx, where I still maintain an apartment not too far from Lehman. In the summer I go to Lehman several times a week, using the Library, the Computer Center, and the APEX. I love the ambiance of the campus and the facilities.

I’m a firm believer in the adage “*Bloom where you are planted.*” I love the energy, diversity, and excitement of New York City but also enjoy aspects of living in a small town. I have many fond memories of Lehman, most of them regarding what my professors said in class that really “stuck” with me and had a positive influence on my intellectual development. One time, I asked Professor Glen Nygreen, who was Lehman’s Dean of Students and a sociology professor, what he thought was the most important characteristic of a “good teacher.” He replied, “to really care about students.” I have always kept that in mind during my teaching career and endeavor to treat students accordingly. ■

Are you one of Lehman’s many alumni living far from New York City? Email us your story at lehmantoday@lehman.cuny.edu. The contributions will become a regular feature of *Lehman Today*.

Dr. Lesco Rogers, M.D. ('84):

Dr. Lesco Rogers, M.D., was a member of the Lehman Class of 1984 and the Lehman Scholars Program. He went on to graduate from Dartmouth College Medical School in 1990 and is currently a pain management physician at Duke University Medical Center, as well as vice president and chief scientific officer for Scion Neuro-Stim, LLC, in Raleigh, N.C.. Below are excerpts from his keynote address at Lehman's Honors Convocation for the Class of 2010.

.... I'm really privileged to be with you today celebrating this honors convocation. In the weeks prior to this ceremony, I thought, "What could I possibly share with all of you on this special day?" I even bought a few books on public speaking, turned to the sections on graduation. Opening paragraph. Rule number one: Do not speak about yourself. It's their day. I believe my personal experiences of relevance in this setting, so I'll follow the standard medical dictum: Deviations from the standard of care are acceptable as long as supporting documentation is provided.

...I'll review three important periods of my life, beginning when I started Lehman to the present time. I have to share with you salient life experiences and conclude how we are connected, despite the time divide and my career evolution. I call these chapters "Intellectual Curiosity 101," "Finding What You Love," and "Mentor-Innovator Relationships."

Intellectual Curiosity 101. I'd arrived from England with my sister six months prior to starting at Lehman. I enrolled at DeWitt Clinton High School for several months to pass the time. I was so grateful that summer when I received an honors high school diploma. I didn't know such a thing existed. I began exploring colleges. The first time I saw the Lehman campus I was in awe. This was a serious place, with a hustle and bustle of students rushing to classes and professors providing curbside advice, as we say in medicine. I have a feeling one could acquire knowledge via the process of osmosis just by sitting on the central quadrangle. The gothic architecture and aesthetic order of the campus layout was reminiscent of British institutions of higher education.

Despite being thousands of miles from home, I'd found a warm substitute. This would be my home away from home for the next several years. My time at Lehman was marvelous. I quickly established friendships with a group of individuals who were also premed. We were competitive, but completely committed to succeeding as a group. I spent my freshman year taking classes that satisfied some of the basic premed requirements. I was on track.

During my sophomore year, I was accepted into the Lehman Scholars Program (LSP). The level of course intensity ramped up rapidly. Concurrently, it ran into the premed slayer: organic chemistry. Until the LSP courses, I'd been cruising along in the residual benefits of a solid U.K. education. My future medical school roommate would come to refer to this level of intellectual output as the BIM, otherwise known as the "bare irreducible minimum." This was mid-curve cruising, the possibility of moving up at a whim.

The LSP course offerings and tutorial style were very much in line with the British educational system, and thus had a familiar feel. These courses were not designed for creature comforts.... I began to suspect the primary mission of the courses was to force the envelope of individual intellectual exploration, while creating the inertia to shift one out of the desired comfort zone. Exploration seemed to be the rule of the day.

.... The undergraduate years passed quickly, and soon I was applying to medical school without a clue where I wanted to attend. I decided I would only submit applications to a few schools. My first interview letter arrived from Dartmouth. The school seemed unfamiliar. I had accidentally checked the wrong box. After reviewing where Dartmouth was located on a map, I decided I would decline the interview. Fortunately, while I was attempting to call [Dartmouth] from the premed office, Professor Dougherty, premed advisor at the time, hung up the phone and insisted I go to the interview. "We'll talk when you get back," he insisted in a stern tone.

I arrived at Dartmouth one February evening. I stepped off the Greyhound bus feeling vindicated. My original thoughts to cancel seemed correct. It was cold, snowing, and dark. I knew this was a bad choice. I interviewed the following day. The structure of interrogation was going quite smoothly, and I was asked the question that every prospective candidate had prepared for except me: "So what are your plans if you don't get into medical school?"

My response was, "Huh?" The question was repeated, but I was obviously dazed. The interviewer seemed puzzled. "Everyone has an answer to that question," he grunted. I pulled myself together and finally gave the standard required response: "I'd go to grad school." I received an acceptance letter from Dartmouth several weeks later. Everyone was delighted at the Ivy League acceptance but me.

With maternal prodding and the supporting cast consisting of Professor Dougherty and Dr. Henry Spotnitz, a Columbia Presbyterian surgeon, I relented and accepted the offer. In retrospect, I was almost a victim of the erratic behavior associated with an evolving prefrontal cortex, a core region of decision making that requires time to mature. Those of you with children, younger family members, or friends are probably familiar with this type of "act first, ask later" decision process.

Finding What You Love. Dartmouth was an interesting place, voted one of the most beautiful college campuses in the U.S. But for all the beauty, it lacked the cultural diversity I had taken for granted at Lehman. Let me put it bluntly: I was experiencing culture shock. At Lehman I was just another member of the multicultural environment. At Dartmouth, I became a member of the minority group, an administrative term with obvious negative connotations.

One memorable experience consisted of a classmate telling a racial joke in my presence. Upon becoming aware of my proximity, he chimed, "Of course, it's not directed to you." The same [British] accent that had provided a means for social engagement in college now seemed to facilitate a cloak of ethnic invisibility.

Alumni Are 'Linked by Our Lehman Educational DNA'



Despite these shortcomings, Dartmouth had many redeeming qualities. The professors were academically gifted, warm, and engaging. My class seemed to be an assembly of the best and brightest. Most of us began to accept our new anticipated position as a result of academic restratification. After all, there could only be one at the top of the class. Medical school, like college, was a blur. I was fortunate to find a research mentor who shaped my interests.

I had planned first to do an internship in internal medicine and a residency in anesthesia, followed by a pain management fellowship. The goal was to become a well-rounded pain doc. But after a sobering internship, less was probably better. At the conclusion of my internship, I decided to take a year off and work in a free clinic. This led to my being recruited by Phoenix House in Manhattan—at the time, one of the largest drug rehabilitation facilities in the U.S. I was employed as an internist with only one year of training, just like the old days.

It was a challenging role. I acquired on-the-job diagnostic and therapeutic skills that were usually developed in a structured three-year residency program. On a daily basis, I was forced to match wits with clients who outclassed me in their knowledge of human behavior and playing chess. I learned all the tricks, such as if a client demanded he was sick and needed bed rest, give him a few extra days and suspend smoking to expedite recovery. The end result was a cure for many maladies: no one showed up.

I believe it was Clint Eastwood who said a man's got to know his limitations. Well, one afternoon I was asked to see a young woman with new onset abdominal pain. It started in the right lower quadrant and settled into the area around the belly button. "Ah," I said to myself as I pressed her abdomen, and she squirmed: "appendicitis," and had her sent to a local hospital.

Within the hour, an emergency doc called. I could tell from his tone he had this sheepish grin on his face. He began rapid-fire questions. How long had I known this client? Did she have any known medical problems? Et cetera. I asked why. He laughed. "Your patient's in labor." There had been weight gain, but with baggy clothes the pregnancy was hidden. I thought to myself it was time to return to formal training.

At Phoenix House, I saw first-hand the ravages of crack and other addictions. This was a democratic treatment program. The wealthy, middle class, and poor were all afflicted to the same degree. My primary role was to address medical problems, while passively serving as a source of inspiration. The hope was that my presence would refute the naysayer client who felt race was too much of an impediment to attempt climbing the ladder of success.

The experience at Phoenix House was great. I was doing what I loved and getting paid. I returned to residency to complete anesthesia training, with a substantial pay cut, and subsequently completed a pain fellowship. I worked in a private practice setting. Life was okay, but boring.

Mentor-Innovator Relationships. After several years in private practice, I decided I wanted to—needed to—design medical devices. I had been a consultant to a medical device company that suggested Duke as the ideal setting. During the transition from private practice to academia, I created a non-invasive medical device concept essentially on the back of a napkin, sent soliciting e-mails to several companies, and Siemens Corporation responded. They eventually paid for a patent, and discussions began to fund a startup in California. I had just started at Duke.

This was an incredible turn of events from private practice to academia to Silicon Valley. Unfortunately, the requirements for relocation and other issues suggested the opportunity was less than my ideal. The course of events, though, sparked a process of more consistent designing across many fields of medicine. I was developing a talent, but without direction.

A senior member of the Duke faculty introduced me to my current mentor, the most innovative thinker I know. He was a graduate of Duke Law, a former CEO and chairman of Wachovia Bank, and developer of medical technologies, Lanty Smith. He asked that I bring a portfolio of my designs, and over dinner he reviewed them. As he glanced at the designs, he said, "Bright, but undisciplined." We met again to discuss my designs, and we decided to form a company. We called the company Scion Medical. It was to reflect new technologies that would reduce the cost of health care hopefully in the future.

My relationship with Lanty has been dictated by several guiding principles. Do what you say you'll do. Underpromise and overdeliver. Treat others as you'd like to be treated. Details, details, details; let it sit; then extract more details. The early days were exacting. He was a task master with attention to detail on par with the Hubble Telescope. I'd always left the details to others, while I focused on the big picture. That was easiest for me, and my forte. He insisted on both.

The intense push and workload he extracted made me feel like I would crack. Each solution to a technical problem would lead to the insistence, "There must be more." He repeated this process skillfully and deliberately over the next twelve months, until I noticed a change. The student now was evolving into the teacher. I was learning the process of innovation and the ability to solve problems.

Today, as you sit here in anticipation of the well-deserved degrees earned and the promise of a bright future that many may feel seems uncertain in this country, historically financial crisis has led to innovative thinking. Innovation arises from the ashes of economic destruction to provide direction, hope, and prosperity. You and I are linked by our Lehman educational DNA. This has instilled independent thought and the process of innovation in all of us.

This non-obvious educational benefit is subtle; but like gene

continued on page 30

Alumni Mentoring Network Reaches Out to Help Lehman Students

When Kerri-Ann Campbell transferred to Lehman from Westchester Community College in 2008, a professor gave her some advice. "He told me to get myself a mentor," she recalls. Which is exactly what she did.

After contacting the Career Services Center, Campbell was quickly paired up with Nella Valentino (B.A., '05; M.A., '08), who works as an adjunct in the English Department. The pair immediately hit it off. "We talk all the time," says Valentino. "It's more like a big sister-little sister type thing than a mentor-mentoree."

Launched by the Career Services Center in 2007, the Alumni Mentoring Network has served as a resource for Lehman students who face a range of issues, from the easily remedied to the more complex, such as acclimating to a college environment, choosing between two or more career paths, or figuring out the best road to success in a particular career. In each of these cases, students can benefit from the guidance, insight, and support of an alumni mentor.

For Campbell, who is scheduled to earn her B.B.A. in marketing in 2011, Valentino has been there to help her with anything she needs, whether it's grades or personal advice. But the one thing she says Valentino always suggests is that she stand up for herself. "She tells me to ask the professor a lot of questions, and it totally helps," she explains. The pair speaks by phone and regularly emails each other. They also see each other on campus. Adds Valentino: "We talk about whatever she wants to talk about: school, grades."

After two years of mentoring, Campbell is ready to move on, which is somewhat bittersweet. "I'm sad to see it end," she says, "but I know that we'll stay friends."

The mission of the Career Services Center (CSC) at Lehman is to assist students and alumni with all phases of their career development and help them transition from college to career. CSC strives to provide the highest quality of comprehensive services, allowing students to successfully meet the challenges of a globally competitive job market. Over the last academic year, the Center has had over 600 visits from alumni who needed assistance with various career-related issues.

The Career Services Center is always interested in recruiting Lehman alumni who would like to work with the College's students. If you would like to participate and help shape the lives of the next generation, please contact Navisha Maharaj, the alumni mentoring coordinator, at 347-577-4009 or via email at navisha.maharaj@lehman.cuny.edu.



Kerri-Ann Campbell, right, with her mentor Nella Valentino.

New Dean Hosts Reception for Arts and Humanities Alumni

A reception for Arts and Humanities alumni, hosted by Dean Timothy Alborn, brought alumni from various years and majors to the Leonard Lief Library last spring, just in time to catch an exhibit on Abraham Lincoln, as well as a performance of "A View from the Bridge," being produced on campus by the Theatre Program. Examining Lincoln's gradual transformation from an antislavery moderate into "The Great Emancipator," the display featured reproductions of rare historical documents, period photographs, and illustrative materials, drawing upon original documents in the collections of the Huntington Library and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Surrounded by the exhibit, faculty members from a number of departments, including African and African American Studies,



From left to right: Joan and Ron Brown, Dean Timothy Alborn, and Paul Ramirez.

English, and History, welcomed back their former students and caught up on each other's lives since graduation. History major Carmen Guzman (B.A., '97) said afterward that "we need more events like this one, so we can get to see old friends and professors and hear what's new at Lehman." Paul Ramirez, a fellow history major who graduated just a year later (B.A., '98)—and then returned later for his master's (M.A., '08)—said he had "met some very good scholars" and agreed it was "a great opportunity to see some of my old mentors again."

Playwright, Director, Theatre Professor

Dr. David Willinger '72, '75

Learned What He Was 'Born to Do' at Lehman



Dr. David Willinger

When Dr. David Willinger (B.A., '72; M.A., '75) was accepted to Lehman in 1968, he had barely heard of it. A lifelong resident of Manhattan's Upper West Side, he applied through CUNY Central and was informed he was accepted to Lehman. "I thought, 'Okay, fine. That's where I'll go,'" he says, although he was not sure what to expect.

Looking back, he considers his time at Lehman "as the happiest days of my life. Those were eventful years. I did a lot of my growing up at Lehman."

A playwright and theatre director, and a theatre professor at the City College of New York (CCNY), Dr. Willinger credits Lehman's faculty with changing his life. "I had great professors: Arlen Digtale, Bob Engstrom, and Albert Bermel—I could never be grateful enough," he says.

A few months away from graduation, he had a chance encounter with Professor John Wilson that altered the course of his career. Asked if he had thought about graduate school, he admitted he hadn't even considered it and planned to continue the acting career he had begun at the age of ten.

Professor Wilson told him to apply for a teaching assistantship. He did just that and was back at Lehman the following semester, teaching two classes while pursuing his M.A. in theatre. "It was at

Lehman that I discovered what I was born to do: teach," he says. He would go on to earn his Ph.D. in theatre from the CUNY Graduate Center.

In addition to his teaching appointment at CCNY, Dr. Willinger has been active in both theatre and film. His play "Andrea's Got Two Boyfriends" has been performed throughout the U.S., and his theatrical adaptation of Carson McCullers' 1940 novel *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* was staged at the Avalon Theatre in New York and Theatre for the New City. He also has published books and articles on Belgian theatre.

Even now, the lessons learned at Lehman are with him as he embarks on new projects, such as a production of Hanoch Levin's play *Job's Passion* at Theater for the New City and a recent feature film, *Lunatics, Lovers and Actors*, which he wrote and directed. The film had its world premiere in June at the New Hope Film Festival.

Shot on location at CCNY and St. Nicholas Park in Harlem, with a cast of sixty—half of them students—the film is a reimagining of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with the title taken from one of its lines. As in the Bard's original play, the film's characters are forced to reassess their prejudices of one another. Instead of being set in ancient Athens, however, the film takes place in modern Kuwait, where a born-again Christian falls in love with a Muslim, and a gay man transfixes a homophobe.

"I remember that when we finished it, I worried, 'Oh, what if the film becomes dated,'" he says. "But given recent events"—like the Mosque controversy in lower Manhattan—"I don't think it'll be dated any time soon."

Dennis Goode, '72, Publishes A Story that 'Had to be Told'



When Dennis Goode (B.A., '72) looks back at Lehman, he can't help but remember the good times. "I was always out on the big green playing my guitar," he says fondly. But those years—1968-1972—coincided with one of the most turbulent periods in American history. Political turmoil and serious discussions over the Vietnam War were a constant thread of campus life. "We were part of a collegiate voice that was sounded all across the nation," he notes.

In his courses, Goode discovered a lifelong passion for literature, as well as for writing and teaching, and praises professors like Ann Humpherys—"she gave me a deep love for Victorian lit." After graduation, Goode taught English at JHS 136 in the Bronx, before he and his wife moved to Cape Cod, where they lived for more than twenty years. Along the way, he published both poetry and short stories.

Relocating to Las Vegas in 1994 to be closer to his wife's parents, he taught English and worked as co-director of the Southern Nevada Writing Project at the University of Nevada. He also began thinking about his hometown and living in an apartment building like his former home in Brooklyn's Flatbush section.

Soon he found himself writing a story about two friends, their old neighborhood, and the lives of people they see every day. "It dawned on me that lives could pass by in front of your window, and you never know what they're about," he says. "It was a story I had to tell."

That story developed into his novel *Time Squares* (available both at amazon.com and www.createspace.com/3391908). His technique is to use very little dialogue "because I let the scenes and situations speak for themselves. It explores the nuances of freedom, and we recognize a bit of ourselves in all the characters."

City's Financial Crisis Detoured Career Plans for HRA First Deputy Commissioner

Patricia M. Smith '74

When Bronx native Patricia M. Smith was considering which college to attend, her search was limited by one major criterion: it had to be inexpensive. "My family didn't have a lot of money," she says, "so I had to find something affordable."

Fortunately, living so close to Fordham Road, she knew that at nearby Lehman College she could get a quality education at an affordable price. "At that time Lehman had 'open enrollment' and was 'free,'" she says, "so it was affordable in the extreme!"

Her first semester, in Fall 1970, was one of the most tempestuous moments in American collegiate history. "It was the time of the 'campus revolutionary scene,'" she recalls. "There were plenty of rallies, protests, and political meetings at Lehman."

It could be a dangerous time on college campuses as well. Smith recalls how a friend from Westchester attended Kent State—where on May 4, 1970, members of the Ohio National Guard shot and killed four unarmed students; after the shootings, the friend's parents pulled her out of Kent State and sent her to Lehman. "It was a very tumultuous time," Smith recalls.

An English major, Smith studied with Professor Billy Collins, who was just starting out in his teaching and writing career and is now a Distinguished Professor, as well as recent U. S. Poet Laureate. "He was immensely popular with students even back then," she says. She fondly recalls seeing singer-songwriter Harry Chapin and Bronx-born comedian Robert Klein perform at the College. "Even before the Performing Arts Center was built—which I still attend—there was a tradition of art and culture at Lehman," says Smith.

Throughout her college career, she had planned to be a teacher, but when she graduated in 1974, her plan hit a snag. Facing an unprecedented financial crisis, New York City began laying off

teachers for the first time. "As they say, 'I had a B.A. but I needed a J.O.B.," she laughs.

One day, she found herself walking into an office of the Human Resources Administration (HRA)—the city department that administers such social services as welfare payments and food stamps—that led to her first job. Although she still harbored thoughts of teaching, once she had gone back to school to earn an M.B.A., graduating from Pace University in 1980, she never looked back. She steadily climbed the ladder and was promoted to her current position of First Deputy Commissioner in 2002.

During her career with HRA, the agency has witnessed historic changes to welfare and other human services provided by New York City and State. By the early 1990s, welfare reform became a hot-button political issue in national politics for both Republicans and Democrats—President Clinton signed welfare reform into law in 1997; however, on a local level, New York City had already begun to change its welfare system under Mayor Giuliani. "As the welfare rolls grew," she says, "so did the idea that we should be doing something more to help get people into a better economic situation."

Case in point: in 1995, 1.2 million people were on welfare in New York City; now that figure is down to 345,000.

Smith rightly takes much pride in her work, helping New York's most vulnerable citizens find work and get access to health insurance or food stamps (not an actual stamp but a debit card). "It's sometimes a difficult job, but it's always an important job," she says.



Patricia M. Smith

From Teacher to Entrepreneur: Estrella Rivera Jacobowitz '72



When Estrella Rivera Jacobowitz (B.A., '72) was growing up near Yankee Stadium, she dreamed of being the first member of her family to go to college. The only school she had in mind was Lehman, then known as Hunter College Uptown. "It was the college I heard of," she says. "Going there was an opportunity I might not otherwise have had."

She admits that after she started at the College in 1968, she had to adjust to collegiate life. "That first year was hard," she recalls. "I was a good student in high school, but I was in over my head. I wanted to learn everything! I took too many classes, and I struggled. But I eventually figured it out."

Armed with a degree in Spanish literature—she grew up in a Spanish-speaking home—and minors in Italian and secondary education, she began teaching in a bilingual curriculum at elemen-

Classical Actor and M.F.A. Director

Theodore Swetz '76

Discovered the World at Lehman



Theodore Swetz

For Theodore Swetz (B.A., '76), better known as Ted to his family and friends, Lehman College was where it all started. It was here in the Bronx that Swetz discovered his passion for theatre, particularly classical theatre.

"When I was an undergraduate at Lehman, the New York theatre scene was absolutely vibrant," says the Yonkers native.

It wasn't just the lush, green campus that attracted him to Lehman—"most city universities do not give the typical college experience; there are no campuses," he notes—but the phenomenal theatre professors that he studied with, like Ralph Arzoomanian and Bing D. Bills. "I got a world-class education at Lehman," he says. "They were the first people who defined a standard for me, which is incredibly important when you're young."

He also got his first real, tangible acting experience. As an undergrad, he worked with legendary New York theatre producer Joseph Papp and appeared in three New York Shakespeare productions: "Pericles" and "Hamlet" (with Sam Waterston and John Lithgow), both in Central Park, and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Lincoln Center.

After graduation, Swetz immediately sought out legendary, New York-based acting teachers to continue his development. "Through my professors at Lehman, I learned about the greatest acting teachers in the world," he says, "and I sought them out."

In 1980, after studying with acting icons Stella Adler, Morris Carnovsky, and Phoebe Brand—"they still influence the craft of

acting to this day," he says—he moved to Spring Green, Wisc. There he helped open a classical theatre company, The American Players Theatre, with Randall Duk Kim, with whom he had first worked in "Pericles" along with Anne Occhiogrosso and Charles Bright.

It was a risky decision. When he left New York to dedicate himself to being part of a company and perform in works by Shakespeare, Chekhov, Sheridan, and Plautus, his career was going well.

"I had three national commercials on the air at the time," he recalls. "Commercials are great for the paycheck, but they're not the reason why you study theatre. You study theatre to create a classical theatre company. My agent thought I was crazy. For me, it was an easy decision."

In its fifth year, the American Players Theatre was nominated for a Tony Award, vindicating his decision. Now, three decades later, it averages 100,000 patrons each year.

These days, Swetz heads the M.F.A. Professional Actor Training Program at the University of Missouri—Kansas City, imbuing his students with his love of classical theatre, particularly Shakespeare—a passion he traces back to his days at Lehman. "My experience in the Lehman Theatre Department opened up the world to me," he says, "and I am grateful."

In the last issue of Lehman Today (Spring 2010), alumna Dr. Sari Dworkin ('72, '76) was misidentified as Sara Dworkin. Our apologies!

tary schools in New York. Four years later, she added a master's from NYU to her resume.

As much as she loved teaching, she had always dreamed of having her own business. In 1980, she married her multilingual skills with her entrepreneurial drive and opened her Larchmont-based company, Star Interpreting and Translating.

She fondly recalls how her firm grew from a "one-woman show" to a respected firm with three full-time employees and hundreds of

freelance translators who are proficient in more than eighty-five languages. "We do a lot of legal work," she says, "depositions, client conferences, and trials. But our translators have worked on everything from menus to movies."

She also takes no small amount of pride in being a self-made woman who built up a business from scratch that has existed for thirty years. "We've been around for a long time," she says. "And I hope to be around for a lot longer."

New Director and Board Officers for Alumni Relations

Lehman has a new Alumni Relations director: Cristina Necula, director of alumni affairs at her alma mater, Purchase College, SUNY, has succeeded Barbara Smith, who retired at the end of 2009 after more than thirty years at Lehman. Necula organized local and regional alumni events at Purchase and worked closely with the Alumni Board of Directors to establish a stronger alumni presence on campus, traveling and cultivating relationships with alumni across the country.

Also a long-time singer, she has performed at Carnegie Hall and the Statue of Liberty Centennial, among other venues, and has released two albums: "One Millennium Before Sunrise" in 2006 and "My Vie en Rose" in 2009. Her passion for opera led her to write *Life in Opera: Truth, Tempo and Soul* (Amadeus Press: 2009), a collection of interviews and stories that presents a wide perspective on life in the opera world. She studied French at the Sorbonne University in Paris and German at the University of Vienna and is fluent in French, German, Italian, Romanian, and Spanish.

"I love the Lehman campus, its inspiring atmosphere of collegiality and openness to ideas," she said. "I hope to channel this into creative ways to reconnect Lehman College alumni to their alma mater and to each other." She can be reached at cristina.necula@lehman.cuny.edu.

The top officers on the Alumni Board of Directors also have changed. Andrea Rockower, a theatre major in the last class of Hunter-in-the-Bronx (1968) who then received her master's from Lehman in 1973, has been elected as president, succeeding Aravind Mallipudi (M.S., '98). As associate director of Lehman Center for the Performing Arts since 1985, she has been responsible for a variety of fundraising and community outreach projects, including the Young People's Series, Community Celebrations Series, and Bronx On Stage Series. In spring 2005, she was the Center's acting director and also has served as a panelist for the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Dr. Lesco Rogers, M.D. ('84) *continued from page 25*

transfer, the presence of a gene does not guarantee expression. The correct environmental conditions are necessary for the desired outcome. We are now in challenging times. Environmental conditions are ripe for Lehman graduates to express the innovative process they possess.

You have all been prepared to follow a path to greatness. This will be punctuated with episodic failures, which will be a necessary component of your future growth. That being said, all innovators are faced by detractors who want to maintain the status quo. Change even when necessary is not readily welcomed. Some of



From left: President Fernández meeting with new Alumni Director Cristina Necula; new Board officers Andrea Rockower, president, and Constance Russell, vice president.

Previously, she was a program officer at Meet The Composer, Inc., a service organization supporting the work of living American composers, a staff member at the Roundabout Theatre, and a theatre arts teacher at a Bronx high school.

"Alumni have a dynamic role to play as Lehman College continues to expand its facilities, academic programs, and student services," she says. "I am looking forward to an exciting year of alumni activities and to reaching out to both recent and past graduates to actively engage them in celebrating and supporting their alma mater.

"It is a pleasure to welcome Cristina Necula as the new director of Alumni Relations. Her record of accomplishments, including the development of innovative programs to increase alumni participation, is very impressive and will serve her well in this important position. The Alumni Board of Directors and I look forward to working closely with her."

Newly elected as vice president of the Alumni Board is Constance Russell (B.S., '06), assistant manager in the Revenue Cycle Operation Department at Beth Israel Medical Center. She is a Certified Professional Coder (CPC) and a member of the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC).

the greatest innovations in history were rejected without consideration because they challenged the status quo.

In preparation for your future as key opinion leaders, let me provide you with phrases to watch out for. "That's stupid." "That will never work." "It's been done and failed." "Who cares?" "Solved in 1920." "A solution looking for a problem." "Too expensive." "Budget buster." "How can it pay for itself?" For the path each of you will follow, there are no guaranteed methodologies for success. Follow your instincts. Do what you love. And remember, in life there is no dress rehearsal. ■



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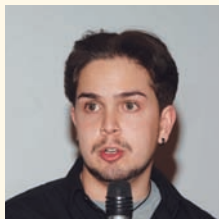
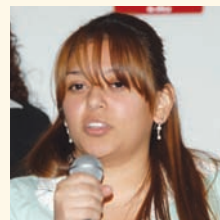
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Vincent Stefan
Kerstine Stephenson-Anyu '81
David A. Sternberg '88
Paul K. Sternschein '76
Bobbett Sterrett
Duane A. Stimmel '01
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At this year's scholarship dinner were, from left, Fredrick Gilbert, acting executive director of the Lehman College Foundation and assistant vice president of institutional advancement, President Ricardo R. Fernández, Borough President Rubén Díaz, Jr. (B.A., '05), scholarship recipient Vincent Subervi, David Levey, chair of the Lehman College Foundation Board, and Scott Dames, director of Testing and Scholarships.

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 Sallie Sypher
 Zoltan Szabo
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 Dea M. Taylor '06
 Martin Teplitzky
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 Cherrielin E. Thomas '84
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 Abdoulaye K. Traore '08
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 Susan Tree
 Sherrie L. Turkheimer '72
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 Amy B. Ubben '05
 Mohammad S. Uddin
 Lina Umylny
 Dale Unterman '73
 Constance C. Usera '96
 Denise L. Vasile '75
 Indhira Vasquez '08
 Dmitri Vassiliev '06
 Juan Vazquez
 Mildred X. Vazquez '94
 Marisel Velez '76
 Danilda Veloz '81
 Margaret M. Vescovi '78
 Esmeralda Vidad '07
 Florence Vignola '09
 Dora L. Villani '71

Isabel M. Vinhas '88
 Dorinda A. Violante '97
 Justus Vogel '01
 Stephen B. Walsh '82
 Theresa C. Walsh '70
 Mary R. Walter '88
 Helene Warm '69
 Nazlin B. Warner
 Nona T. Washington '79
 Odella N. Washington '74
 William Waters
 Virginia A. Weber '82
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 Stuart A. Weinberg '71
 Robert B. Weinstein '79
 Rebecca J. Weinstein '05
 Jessica M. Weiss '78
 Oliver K. Welch '90
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 Shaldon Watson
 Allison P. Wheeler '06
 Etta M. White '06
 Sarah Wilcox
 Ben A. Williams '05
 Berquin B. Williams '75
 Donica L. Williams '09
 Christine A. Woodside '95
 Charles E. Wright '74
 John W. Wroblewski '74
 Eleanore Wurtzel
 Alicia Wyatt '00
 Eli B. Yamin '00
 Marie Yarina '80
 Ralph O. Yates '08
 Anita M. Yessian '81
 Sharon K. Yeter '89
 Tewelde G. Yimer
 Katherine E. Young '84
 Sandra Young '07
 Conrad C. Youngren '74
 Elda Zappi
 Lawrence M. Zaruski '86
 Steven Zeitlen '74
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 Michael O. Shannon
 Katherine Shirley '06
 Yolanda Z. Shuster '82
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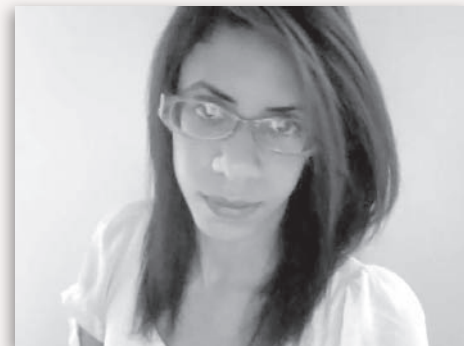


Remember When?

Crossing an Ocean to Find Her Voice

What brings students from far-off lands to study at Lehman, and how do they manage to adjust not only to the experience of college but also to a new culture and often a new language? Sophia Tewa's journey began in Paris, the city of her birth, brought her to Lehman and to selection as a campus correspondent for CNN, and then continued at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, where she completed her master's degree in 2010. Hundreds of students like her, representing more than 100 nations, are studying today at Lehman.

by Sophia Tewa (B.A., '08)



I visited the campus of Lehman College in the

summer of 2005, a day before leaving the city for a long road trip across America. New York was my starting point, and I came back a few months later to start my studies at Lehman. I was nineteen, and I wanted to see the world. It had to start somewhere. I left my home country to study at Lehman. I didn't know yet that I would find there all the ingredients I needed to learn the craft of writing, filming, and producing news.

I wanted to be a journalist, and Lehman trained me along the way. But I also took atypical classes in various fields. I learned about French cinema, Asian art, African American history, the Cold War. I always wanted to travel, and Lehman exposed me to universal subject matters. In each of my classes at Lehman, I met people who challenged my perceptions and opened my mind to new ideas. Born and raised in Paris, I had the chance to be exposed to different cultures and nationalities, which was not much different from the Bronx. I worked with classmates from all over the country on thought-provoking projects.

Lehman College is not only where I got my bachelor's degree in multilingual journalism and forged my skills, but it is also where I discovered that I could achieve my goals. It was an unusual major in an unusual city, a college in the center of New York City, far away from home. To my eyes, the campus was so vast, a small city within the city; so different from the small-sized university I had transferred from in France.

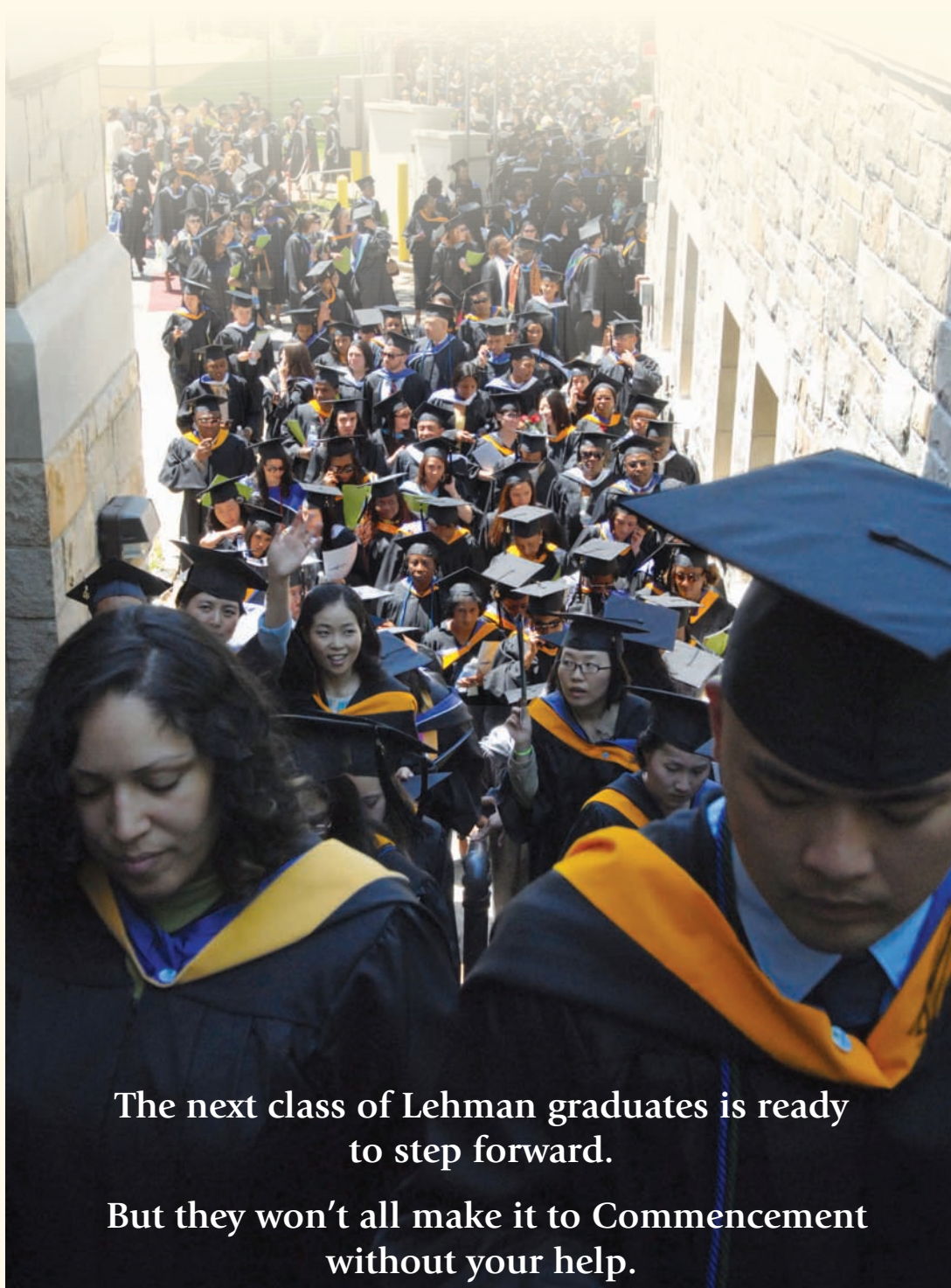
To my eyes, the campus was so vast, a small city within the city; so different from the small-sized university I had transferred from in France.

I quickly saw that the College was right for me and fit my striving spirit. My instructors valued student participation and dialogue. I found my aspirations and my voice in their classrooms. I developed my print, broadcast, and interactive media skills with veteran professionals. At Lehman, my professors introduced me to the world of journalism and the media industry. My experience and internship prepared me to apply for a master's degree at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism.

I spent most of my extracurricular time writing in the Student Life Building. I honed my writing skills there at *The Meridian*, Lehman College's long-time student newspaper, for which I was the news editor and reported stories. I learned TV and studio production inside Lehman College, at Bronx Net. I also wrote articles in French and English for the other campus paper, *The Bronx Journal*. This is where I learned how to express myself and film and produce quality journalism. To extend my knowledge, I decided to intern at several news stations while studying at Lehman. My classes exposed me to the field of broadcast journalism, but while studying I also found jobs and internships in the news industry. It wasn't an easy enterprise, but Lehman College trained me all along the way. ■

Did you come from another nation and culture? Continue the conversation about international students and their impact on Lehman by emailing us at lehmantoday@lehman.cuny.edu.

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When Lehman was established in 1968, 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 thirty percent of the College's annual operating budget. Tuition, external grants for research and sponsored programs, and gifts from alumni and friends make up the difference. These gifts expand Lehman's academic programs, establish endowed chairs and professorships, and upgrade facilities, instrumentation, and equipment—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 Fredrick Gilbert, acting executive director, Lehman College Foundation, 318 Shuster Hall, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx NY 10468 / 718-960-8975.*