

# Lehman

## TODAY

SPRING 2012

### The Making of Great Math Teachers

**Lloyd and Loretta Kantor:  
A Story of Love and Courage  
In the Aftermath of War**

**The President's  
Report, 2011**

THE MAGAZINE OF LEHMAN COLLEGE  
For Alumni and Friends

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*On the Cover:* Charlene Peralta (B.A., '11) teaches math in a bilingual classroom at PS 58 in the Bronx. She is in the vanguard of graduate education students enrolled in Lehman's new MATH-UP initiative. Photo by Jason Green.

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A message from

## President Ricardo R. Fernández



Spring here on the Lehman campus culminates in our annual Commencement, an event that expresses our mission as no other can. Many traditions are associated with Commencement at Lehman, including our senior brunch. Here we congratulate students and welcome them into a new relationship with the College, as soon-to-be alumni. Another tradition is the letter from the president that leads off the class yearbook. Each year, in framing this letter, I point out how proud we are of the students' accomplishments and how confident we are of their success in the years ahead. I can make that statement because of the remarkable record of Lehman's more than 63,000 alumni. This issue of *Lehman Today* illustrates that success.

From the courage of two members of our first graduating class, Lloyd and Loretta Kantor, to the varied careers of our many alumni with art degrees, to the range of professional paths chosen by our young alumni, this issue unfolds like a quilt. Each section is different, but tied with a common thread: the formative years spent at Lehman College.

The quilt begins with the cover story on our MATH-UP program, which focuses on two young alumni setting out to become teachers in the Bronx, a journey many Lehman graduates have taken in decades past. Like their fellow alumni educators, they hope to make a difference in the lives of the children they teach. In this case, the College is also working with them. Supported by a major Federal grant, we aim to build a new model of math teaching in the borough.

Other sections focus on a new book by Pulitzer Prize-winning alumnus Mitch Weiss, whose latest work examines a particular battle in the mountains of Afghanistan, and on the career of a distinguished alumna, Susan Coté, a partner in the firm of Ernst & Young. You'll also meet Maliq and Mervin Matthew, twin brothers who embarked on the road to a Ph.D., and Terence and Eileen Houlihan, who share not only married life but also a Lehman graduate degree in counseling. Particularly inspiring is the profile of alumnus Dale Drakeford, who has established one of CUNY's first charitable gift annuities as his way of giving back to Lehman College.

At the end of the quilt is the institutional story, the President's Report on the progress Lehman was able to achieve during 2011, thanks to the dedication of faculty, students, and staff and the commitment of alumni and friends. We press forward with the College's mission, with the education of another generation of students, because we are convinced of the impact they will make on their professions and on our society. Your lives offer proof for that belief.



## campus walk

### Reception Spotlights Journalism Program and Multimedia Center

Journalists from around the region were impressed by a tour of Lehman's new Multimedia Center on March 28, as well as by an in-depth look at the work underway across all platforms by faculty and students in the College's Multimedia Journalism and Multimedia Studies programs.

More than 100 reporters, producers, and other professionals attended the reception, hosted by both the Journalism, Communication, and Theatre Department and UNITY: Journalists of Color, a coalition of four national media organizations. Joining them were faculty, staff, students, and alumni.



Media from around the region enjoy the program portion of the reception.

"I am so impressed by this state-of-the-art facility and the things you are giving back to the community that allows us to tell our stories ... stories that are often neglected," Unity President Joanna Hernandez told the crowd.

Department Chair Miguel Pérez said he was convinced that once journalists saw the state-of-the-art facility and the quality of the programs being offered, they would have "a different vision of journalism in the Bronx" and be eager to hire Lehman students as interns and staffers. The two majors offered by the Department are designed to prepare students to meet the challenges faced by twenty-first-century media professionals.

### A Reservoir That Actually Holds Water

Anyone looking at the Jerome Park Reservoir this winter saw something rare—water. This area of the reservoir, the south basin, was filled with water from the Catskill-Delaware system while maintenance work was being performed there. The last time this part of the reservoir was filled was 2008.



### Save the Date

The National Numeracy Network (NNN) is holding its 2012 annual meeting in New York City this October, focusing on the theme of "Quantitative Literacy at Work: Navigating the Worlds of Journalism, Finance, Business, and Citizenship." The kickoff dinner will be held at Lehman on Friday, Oct. 12, with keynote speaker Andy Serwer,

managing editor of *Fortune* Magazine. Lehman alumni and members of the campus community are invited. Check the Lehman website ([www.lehman.edu](http://www.lehman.edu)) for more details as the date draws nearer. Learn more about NNN at <http://serc.carleton.edu/nnn/index.html>.

### AMS Award for Distinguished Professor Joseph Dauben

Dr. Joseph W. Dauben, a Distinguished Professor of History and the History of Science at Lehman College, received the 2012 AMS Albert Leon Whiteman Memorial Prize this January. The coveted award is presented to a scholar only once every three years by the American Mathematical Society (AMS).



The oldest professional society in the United States devoted to the promotion of mathematics, AMS was originally founded as the New York Mathematical Society in 1888. It became a national society, and was renamed the American Mathematical Society, in 1894 and remains the oldest and most prestigious society for mathematics in the U.S.

In its citation, the Society noted that Dr. Dauben was being honored "for his contributions to the history of Western and Chinese mathematics, and for deepening and broadening the international mathematical community's awareness and understanding of its history and culture."

In his response to the award, Dr. Dauben thanked the Society and cited many mentors and colleagues here and abroad who have inspired, influenced, and collaborated on his studies. But, he added, "It is my home institution, Herbert H. Lehman College, to which I must say a special thank-you for the resources and encouragement it gives to faculty, especially for their research and participation in conferences and projects involving the larger academic community of scholars." In particular, he pointed to the College's recent support of his work on a compendium of mathematics from ancient China, *Nine Chapters on the Art of Mathematics*.

### CUNY's Kempton Award Goes to The Bronx Journal

*The Bronx Journal*, edited by Professors Christine McKenna and Elaine Rivera (Journalism, Communication, and Theatre), won CUNY's coveted 2011 Murray Kempton Award for Journalism in the "Best Web Publication" category, while Lehman junior Basilisa Alonso also won the Kempton Award for "Best Feature Story." The awards are named for acclaimed journalist Murray Kempton (1917-1997).

The judges for this year's awards said that they were impressed with the publication's clean website design, its ease of navigation, scope of coverage, and ambition, "which appears to meet Bronx residents' need for essential local information."

Alonso's feature story, "Recycling to Survive, Some Face Abuse," was recognized for its "heartbreaking look at homeless, undocumented immigrants who survive by gathering cans and bottles and cashing them in for five-cent deposits. The story is broadly sourced, using not only interviews, but also statements from public agencies."



Students in *The Bronx Journal* workshop.

*The Bronx Journal* is created and maintained by Lehman journalism students who take *The Bronx Journal* Workshop, which is part of the Multimedia Journalism Program.

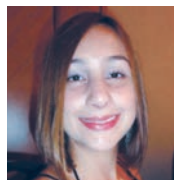
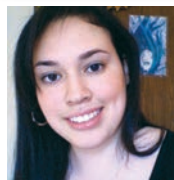
## Recognition for M.S.W. Program and Its Faculty, Students, and Alumni

Lehman's Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program, only seven years old, has made it to the list of the nation's top 100 graduate programs in the field, according to the latest rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*. One reason for the recognition might be the awards the program has been garnering among its faculty, students, and alumni. Among the most recent was an award in March for Professor Carl Mazza from the Latino Social Work Task Force, for his service to Lehman and his dedication to his profession.

In November, students Maria Alejandra Gomez and Fanny Duran won the Child Welfare Workforce Initiative Fellowship, which recognizes social work students in New York State who work for a not-for-profit child welfare agency. It provides up to \$12,000 per academic year for tuition and fees, plus additional support for books and transportation and access to a nationwide network of child welfare professionals and social work students.



Professor Mazza (above) and graduate students Fanny Duran (top) and Maria Gomez.



Gomez has worked in foster care since 2008 and is a family team conference scheduler and facilitator for Good Shepherd Services, a New York-based social services agency. Duran has worked for New York Foundling for the last six years as an adoption social worker, counseling children up to age twenty-one in the adoption process, working with foster families to prepare them for adoption, and managing all the related paperwork.

Just a few weeks before that award, alumnus Nelson Torres (B.A., '98; M.S.W., '08) captured an Emerging Leadership Award from the National Association of Social Workers. See the story on page 28.

## Dr. Joseph Rachlin Becomes Lehman's Interim Provost

Dr. Joseph W. Rachlin, a faculty member in Lehman's Biological Sciences Department for more than forty-five years, began serving as interim provost and senior vice president for academic affairs this February, following the departure of Dr. Mary A. Papazian, who was tapped as the new president of Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven.

Dr. Rachlin, also a member of the faculty of the Ph.D. Program in Biology at the CUNY Graduate Center, has held several academic leadership positions at Lehman, including service as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, dean of natural and social sciences, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, and, most recently, acting chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

An aquatic ecologist and evolutionary biologist, Dr. Rachlin is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London—the world's oldest, continuously active biological society—and the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, as well as a founding member of the Association of Northeastern Biologists. He and his team from Lehman's Laboratory for Marine and Estuarine Research (LaMER) recently helped to establish a breeding population of river herring in the Bronx River, the only remaining free-flowing river within New York City's borders.



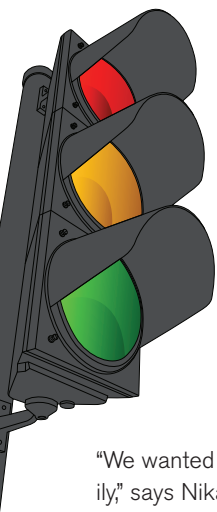
## Psi Chi Chapter Wins Inaugural Kay Wilson Award

Members of last year's Psi Chi chapter at Lehman have won the inaugural Kay Wilson Officer Team Leadership Award for demonstrating exceptional leadership as a group. From hosting workshops on getting into graduate school to raising funds for disaster relief efforts to launching an electronic

newsletter, the team exceeded expectations and earned high praise from peers and faculty advisers alike. Named after the executive officer of Psi Chi from 1991-2003, the national award honors her commitment to leadership and collaboration.



## 'Traffic-Light' System in Vending Machines Points the Way to Healthier Snack Choices



There's something new in Lehman's vending machines: healthier snacks and a "traffic light" system for selecting them—green for the healthiest, yellow for those that should be eaten in moderation, and red for the ones highest in fat and calories.

The new system is a project of the CUNY Institute for Health Equity, headquartered at Lehman, and is based on data collected from more than 200 Lehman students. The Institute team worked closely on the initiative with CC Vending, the company that stocks Lehman's vending machines.

The new labeling system provides basic nutritional data so students can make an informed decision.

"We wanted something simple that everyone would recognize easily," says Nika Lunn, the Institute's program director. The Institute hopes to introduce the new system, which began this semester, to other CUNY colleges.

Each snack is accompanied by a colored sticker:

- **Green:** The snack has fewer than 250 calories, fewer than 35 percent of its calories from fat, less than 10 percent saturated fat, zero trans fat, fewer than 300 mg of sodium, and fewer than 20 grams of sugar per serving;
- **Yellow:** The snack meets all of the above criteria except one; or
- **Red:** The snack fails to meet at least two of the above requirements.

Snacks with a green sticker include Rice Krispies Treats, Fig Newtons, and Nature Valley Honey & Oat Bar; snacks labeled with a yellow sticker include Yogurt and Nut Trail mix, Garden Salsa Sun Chips, and Toasted Veggie Wheat Thins; and those coded "red"—the least healthy option—include M&Ms, Herr's BBQ Chips, and Snickers bars. "We tried to keep a range of options," says Lunn.

These changes went into effect at Lehman for both the College's fourteen vending machines and its thirty-three beverage machines. The price of a bottle of water stayed put at \$1.50, while the cost of a soda or other sugary drink increased from \$1.50 to \$1.75. As a result of the initiative, water started outselling soda, and Rice Krispies Treats became the top-selling "green" item, as well as the top-selling snack overall.

Three separate teams of interns—all of them pursuing a master's degree at Lehman in either public health or nutrition—worked on the initiative. The first team examined the contents of the vending machines at Lehman, Hunter, and City Colleges; the second team polled 238 Lehman students about their eating habits during last fall's International Food Day; and the third team tabulated all the data into a final report.

Based on students' stated preferences and working in partnership with CC Vending, the vending machines were filled with healthier options. CC Vending is now tracking what sells and will stock the machines accordingly. "We took into account not only the price point of various foods but also the taste," says Rosanna Abraham, a graduate nutrition student who was part of the research team. "We wanted to offer a wide range of options so students had choices."

So what was the most popular health food that students asked for? "Oatmeal cookies," says Abraham. "We were a little surprised. I didn't know they were that popular."

## Latin Music and Jazz Festival Renamed to Honor Johnny Pacheco

Aspiring and established jazz musicians of all age groups converged on the campus late last year for the third annual Johnny Pacheco Latin Music and Jazz Festival. The festival featured special performances by the Terry Silverlight Band, the Leslie Lewis/Gerard Hagen Quintet, the Zacia Curtis Quintet, and Lehman's own Jazz Ensemble. Also joining in were high school and middle school jazz bands, vocal jazz groups, and Latin jazz ensembles. The three-day festival was renamed after the legendary musician and composer who received an honorary doctorate from Lehman in spring 2011.



Among those performing during the festival were bass player Dennis Paulino (left), a Lehman music major, and the Pacheco Festival Jazz Quintet (right), comprised of Paulino on bass, Alejandro Castro from Lehman on guitar, Alex Strong from Bronx HS of Science on vibraphone, Jeff Moy from Lehman on drums, and Nicole Davis from Celia Cruz Bronx HS of Music on trumpet and flugel horn. Professor Allan Molnar (Music) directs the quintet. *Photos by Brendan McGibney and Karl Watson.*

## Science Building Heading Toward Completion

The new science building on campus is starting to look more and more like the rendering drawn by architects five years ago. Construction is in the last stage for the new facility, which will be CUNY's first "green" science building—and Lehman's first major addition to the campus since the APEX opened more than fifteen years ago. The dedication is set for October 12, 2012. ■





## A New Varsity Sport Emerges, As Another Takes Home The Gold

### Women's Soccer: A First for Lehman

A new day is dawning for women's soccer on the playing fields of Lehman College.

Beginning this spring, Lehman Athletics began the process of tapping into a student population that is decidedly female by starting a women's soccer team for the first time in the College's history. Season one is set to officially begin in August and will offer a full collegiate schedule of fourteen home and away contests.

The addition of women's soccer will boost Lehman's total team offerings to eighteen, with nine geared specifically to female students, making Lehman one of the very few CUNYAC colleges to provide such a large number of team and individual sport opportunities for women.

"Lehman Athletics is excited to present yet another opportunity for our female students to get involved in the college student-athlete experience," said Lehman Athletic Director Dr. Martin L. Zwiren. "We look forward to watching and developing those young women who choose to participate on this new team, not only as student-athletes but also as members of the Lehman College community."

But what's a women's soccer team without a head coach? Given the responsibility of leading Lehman's first-year program will be Amanda Popoli, a former team captain of NCAA Division II Adelphi University on Long Island, who enjoyed a run to the NCAA Tournament as well as an East Coast Conference championship during her time with the Panthers.

Following her collegiate playing career at Adelphi, Popoli was given the opportunity to train with an Italian "A" level professional team in Trieste, Italy, as well as with Sky Blue FC of the women's professional soccer league. Over the last several years, she has built a solid coaching reputation throughout the metropolitan region with several top local programs.

"Amanda Popoli brings a great deal of energy and knowledge about the game of women's soccer to Lehman College, and we are fully confident in her ability to mentor the Lightning's inaugural program into one that will be a model for years to come," said Dr. Zwiren.



New head coach Amanda Popoli.



Women's MVP Tobi Alli.



Michaelle Garcon, winner of three medals at the CUNYAC.



Aminat Adebayo, winner of two medals at the CUNYAC.



(l to r): Aminat Adebayo, Yrvane Edmond, Ashley Hernandez, Dr. Zwiren, Michaelle Garcon, Head Coach Lesleigh Hogg, and Crystal Rodriguez



Jasmine Springer.



Shantay Beccan.

### Indoor Track: CUNYAC Champs

The Lehman women's track & field team did what many expected at the 16th Annual CUNYAC/U.S. Army Indoor Championships, taking first place to win the championship.

The Lightning leaned hard on its talented

trio of Tobi Alli, Jasmine Springer, and Shantay Beccan and was not disappointed. The fearsome threesome combined for ten medals as they dominated the sprint and jump events.

"Tobi, Jasmine, and Shantay did a heck of a job," said Lehman head coach Lesleigh Hogg. "They competed in a lot of events, they scored a lot of points for us, and they made the difference."

Alli finished first in the 60-meter dash, setting a new meet record (7.80 seconds), first in the 200-meter dash (25.42), and second in the triple jump (11.51m).

A key acquisition for the Lightning by way of transfer this year, Springer actually one-upped Alli in overall medal count, grabbing first in the 400-meter dash, triple jump, and long jump and second in the 200-meter dash.

For her part, Beccan won her specialty, the 60-meter hurdles, in a new meet record of 9.00 seconds. She also was the top finisher in the high jump (1.52m) and earned a bronze medal in the 60-meter dash (8.07).

Despite all of their excellence, three does not make a team, however, as they received help from up and down the roster in building the Lightning's winning margin of 81 points over runner-up CCNY.

Alli was named MVP and would go on to compete at the NCAA Division III National Championships, where she was named an All-American for her seventh-place finish in the 60-meter dash.

— Andrew Pearson, Sports Information Director

### Want More Sports News? Get the Android App

Lehman has released a new Athletics Department mobile application for the Android platform. The app can be downloaded at no cost at the Google Play / Android App market and a search for "Lehman College Athletics." It will give users access to stories, headlines, team rosters, schedules, photo galleries, student-athlete profiles, recruiting information, Facebook, coaches' e-mail addresses, and the Athletics Department staff directory, as well as many other features.



## *Breathing the Same Air: Children, Schools, and Politics in Northern Ireland*

(Strategic Book Group, 2012.) Abigail Stahl McNamee. \$35.

When Dr. Abigail Stahl McNamee (Early Childhood and Childhood Education) visited Northern Ireland for the first time in the 1980s, she found herself, in a word, enthralled. She and her husband were initially involved in a program that gave children from Belfast a summer holiday away from the violence. She returned again and again—through the long years of the Troubles in Northern Ireland—to work on one project or another.

As a developmental psychologist and Professor of Early Childhood Education, Dr. McNamee was interested in how children develop and learn, often in unsafe environments. She has written about the impact of stress, violence, and war on children, with a scholarly focus on those in Northern Ireland, but the themes she explores are universal.

“The teachers in my classes at Lehman are very much aware of our own history of violence and segregation, and the impact of each on children,” she says.

In her new book, *Breathing the Same Air: Children, Schools, and Politics in Northern Ireland*, Dr. McNamee examines the “integrated education” movement that began in the 1980s in Northern Ireland. A small but promising cohort of integrated primary and high schools brings Catholic and Protestant children together in an atmosphere of respect and understanding. The schools emphasize what their cultures have in common, rather than what divides them.

Although the thirty years of Northern Ireland’s recent history were called “the Troubles,” war is not “troubling” to children, says Dr. McNamee. “It is bad for them in every way. It removes opportunities for appropriate play, learning, and supportive relationships. It forces them to worry about their safety and the safety of those who care for them. It separates them from children who may be different in some ways but alike in many others—children who could be their friends. It teaches fear and hatred. It leads some children to become militant, and it teaches them *all*, too soon, that people die and do not come back.”

The 1998 Belfast Good Friday Agreement brought a “vulnerable peace” to a troubled land, but the process of healing continues.

“My time in Northern Ireland began as a personal experience that developed into academic work,” Dr. McNamee says. “Then it was the reverse, an academic project that became intensely personal.”



Her new book expresses the richness of her experience. Random strangers became close friends. Local people took her into their hearts and homes. Parents and school personnel made it possible for “the American” to talk to their children. In one small town, she interviewed virtually all of the children in each of the three primary schools: integrated, Catholic, and State (de facto Protestant), 127 in all.

“We talked about how they saw themselves, what they thought about their school, and what makes it unique,” she says. “We talked about their friendships within and across the schools, and their sense of their own cultural group.”

Currently, only six percent of Northern Ireland schools are integrated. “It’s not a huge movement because the government has not required integration, saying that the decision for integrated schools must come from parents,” says Dr. McNamee.

The government provides most of the funding for existing integrated and Catholic schools, as it does for State schools. But it will not fund any new integrated schools. The idea now is for Catholic and State schools to integrate, *if* a majority of parents and school staff agrees. “It’s a difficult plan to implement,” says Dr. McNamee.

She went to Northern Ireland with many questions that she discusses in her book: What families, schools, and church personnel have participated in the integrated school movement? What risks have they taken to do so? What do the children understand about the uniqueness of the school they attend? Do friendship patterns extend beyond their school? How has the integrated school movement changed? Can it support the fragile peace process? How can this movement resonate with Americans? “I got answers to these and a whole lot more,” she says, “and I hope I gave something back.” ■

— Anne Perryman (M.S., '93)

## *To Kill a President*

(iUniverse, 2011.) George L. Colon (M.S.Ed., '87). \$26.95, hardcover; \$16.95, paperback; e-book, \$3.99.

A Bronx resident by the name of Oscar Collazo has slipped into obscurity, but Lehman alumnus George Colon has revived his notoriety in a new novel, *To Kill a President*. Collazo (aka Osvaldo Cotto) and Griselio Torresola (aka Gregorio Tejada) traveled to Washington, D.C., on October 31, 1950. The next afternoon, they tried to assassinate the thirty-third president of the United States, Harry Truman, in a plot hatched in the Bronx on Bruckner Boulevard.



## *No Way Out: A Story of Valor in the Mountains of Afghanistan*

(Berkley/Caliber, 2012.) Mitch Weiss (B.A., '81) with Kevin Maurer. \$27.

When Mitch Weiss first arrived at Lehman College, he planned to major in music. The Bronx native had played saxophone and keyboard in various bands for years and dreamed of a career in the music world. "But to be honest," he says with a laugh, "I wasn't a very good musician. Once we got to music theory and counterpoint, I said 'That's it for me.'" These days, he leaves the music making to Suzyn, his wife of twenty-eight years. "She's the music major," he says. "I was the epitome of musical mediocrity."

Not to worry. Weiss eventually found his calling: Journalism. A correspondent for the Associated Press with a Pulitzer Prize to his credit, he is the co-author of a new book, *No Way Out: A Story of Valor in the Mountains of Afghanistan*, published by a division of Penguin Books.

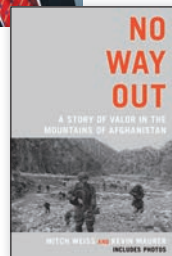
After graduating from Lehman with a degree in political science, Weiss moved to Chicago, earned his master's from Northwestern University's prestigious School of Journalism, and set about looking for work. After searching unsuccessfully for a full-time job with a New York paper, he moved to Greenville, S.C. in 1983 and a position with the *Greenville News*. "It was a bit of culture shock," he admits. "It was a nice community and a small paper, and a good place to learn the business."

After three years in Greenville, Weiss moved to Ohio to work in the Columbus bureau of the Associated Press (AP), the worldwide news service. He eventually settled in Toledo, working for the *Toledo Blade* as an investigative reporter. "*The Blade* was a small paper, but it was aggressive," he says. "They had a chip on their shoulder; they wanted to do intensive, investigative projects."



In 2003, Weiss and a colleague, Michael Sallah, worked on an eight-month-long investigation that resulted in the series "Buried Secrets, Brutal Truths." The pair had uncovered a series of war crimes carried out in Vietnam over several months in 1967 by an elite Army fighting unit known as Tiger Force. The group had killed hundreds of civilians, including unarmed men, women, and children.

The Pentagon had investigated the crimes in the early 1970s, but the official report was buried. Thanks to the *Blade* series, the Pentagon reopened its investigation in 2006. The series won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting and was later turned into a critically acclaimed book, *Tiger Force: A True Story About Men and War* (Little, Brown).



Weiss then moved back south, this time to the *Charlotte Observer*, a well-regarded newspaper in North Carolina, before returning to the AP in 2008. There he met Kevin Maurer, a veteran war reporter who had been embedded

with troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan. "We just hit it off," says Weiss. "He told me, 'I read *Tiger Force*, and I liked it. We should do a book together.'"

The two kicked around various ideas before deciding on the story of a Special Forces mission gone awry in Afghanistan, which became their recent book. It details in novel-like prose the story of one battle that goes horribly wrong and is a cautionary tale of what happens when generals, removed from the battlefield, don't listen to the concerns of the soldiers who do their bidding.

Weiss is currently a correspondent for the AP's Charlotte bureau. He and Maurer are already busy on their next book about the covert mission to hunt down Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto "Ché" Guevara in the jungles of Bolivia. No doubt it will be quite a read. ■



The two were members of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, which sought independence for the island from the United States. Small in number and lacking support at the polls, the Nationalists led a failed coup on October 28 that included an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Governor Muñoz Marin.

The coup led the Secret Service to be on alert against a possible attack against President Truman. Because of repairs going on in the White House at the time, the President and his family were

residing across the street in Blair House, which was more vulnerable to attack.

Colon has gone beyond the historical facts to create a novel focused on two men, one in the Secret Service, the other a Puerto Rican police officer. The author worked in community and social service programs in the South Bronx and later taught English, history, and Spanish in New York City schools. ■



## English Department Receives New Endowment

The service and inspired teaching of the late Professor Patricia A. Cockram will live on as a result of a \$25,000 bequest from her estate, which has established the Cockram Endowment in the English Department. Interest from the endowment will be used to fund scholarships for students who have made a life/career change to pursue English as a major and for those undergraduates who exemplify the strongest portfolio of academic work from the most recent academic year.

Dr. Cockram joined Lehman in 2000 after receiving her Ph.D. from the CUNY Graduate Center. Over the next decade, she won several research awards and fellowships and made a memorable impact on the Department, serving as the director of the graduate program and on various committees. A highly respected Ezra Pound scholar, she published widely and continued her research and writing even as she battled breast cancer during her final years.

A warm and generous leader in the classroom, Dr. Cockram earned the respect of both her students and fellow faculty, who praised her as a talented teacher with a calm sense of mastery. Students thought similarly of her, saying she was professional, open-minded, charismatic, and attentive, while ultimately providing a wealth of knowledge. Many said they had never learned more from one professor in just one class. Dr. Cockram once wrote, "I am convinced that the pedagogical method one employs is less important than the rapport one develops with the students and the enthusiasm for the material one feels and communicates."

This is the second endowment established recently in the English Department. In 2010, Lehman Professor Emerita Dr. Alice Griffin contributed \$100,000 to create an endowment for graduate fellowships. The award is being given to high-performing graduate students who have already completed 15 credits in the M.A. in English program.

## Alumna Myrna Rivera Elected New Chair of Foundation Board



Myrna M. Rivera

Myrna M. Rivera (M.A., '75), founder and board chair of Consultiva Internacional, Inc., has been elected chair of the Lehman College Foundation's board of directors. She has served on the board for six years and chaired its Investment and Finance Committee since 2006. The Foundation raises, invests, and distributes private funds for scholarships, faculty support, and other educational needs of Lehman College. In 2010 and 2011, hundreds of Lehman students received \$1.1 million in scholarships made possible by contributions to the Foundation.

Ms. Rivera, who received the College's 2006 Alumni Achievement Award, succeeds David H. Levey, an independent political economist who served as board chair since 2006. He will continue on the board as chair of its Investment and Finance Committee.

A former director and senior vice president of the Consulting Group at Smith Barney and a John Ellis, Jr. Excellence Award recipient for dedication and service in this field, Ms. Rivera founded Consultiva Internacional, Inc., an employee-owned investment management consulting firm, in 1999. Along with other pioneers of the early 1980s, she contributed to developing standard investment practices for endowments and foundations, pension funds, insurance companies, credit unions, individuals, and families.

In addition to the John Ellis, Jr. Excellence Award, she has been honored with the Joyce Johnson Award of the National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP) for contributions to the advancement of women and minorities in financial services; the Highest Leaf Award from the Women's Venture Fund of New York for entrepreneurial excellence; and inclusion by *Hispanic Business Magazine* as one of the "Top 100 Influential Hispanics."

Ms. Rivera also is a founding member of the Comisión de Ciudadanos al Rescate de Caimito, a community-based organization in San Juan devoted to community education and conservation, and a board member of NASP, a trade organization dedicated to the advancement of women and minorities in financial services.

Two other Lehman alumni are also currently officers of the Foundation: Dr. Aramina Vega Ferrer (B.A., '73) is vice chair, and Aravind Mallipudi (B.A., '98) is secretary. ■

## Campus Welcomes Author Esmeralda Santiago

The Lovinger Theatre was filled this March, as acclaimed author Esmeralda Santiago delivered the 43rd annual Lehman Lecture. She has written *When I Was Puerto Rican* and two other well-received memoirs, as well as a novel and many essays and opinion pieces. After the lecture, students, faculty, and visitors lined up for a book-signing.



# Susan (Baltera) Coté ('76)

## Lehman 'Set the Stage' for a Remarkable Career in Accounting



### Back in the early 1970s, Upper West Side native

Susan (Baltera) Coté (B.S., '76), now a partner at Ernst & Young, one of the "big four" accountancy firms, was deciding where to go to college. She knew it would be a City University school, but she wasn't sure which one. "I knew the Bronx," she recalls, having attended the Academy of Mt. St. Ursula in the Bedford Park section, not far from Lehman. "I liked that there was a campus at Lehman. It made it feel like a traditional college. That was a deciding factor for me. With all that green space, I felt like I was going away to school."

When she first arrived at Lehman, she thought of becoming a math major since she always loved working with numbers, but a course in Advanced Calculus soon cured her of that ambition. "Someone suggested I take an Accounting course," she recalls. That's when she found her true calling and credits Professor Itzhak Sharav of what was then the Department of Economics and Accounting for setting her on her career path. "He first introduced me to accounting and made the subject interesting," she says.

She also credits Professor Sharav for steering her toward her first break into the business. He helped her land an internship at Oppenheim, Appel & Dixon, a public accounting firm in Manhattan.

She worked at the firm as a paid intern for two years, doing accounting and tax research, and laying the foundation that would serve her well after her graduation in 1976. "I think that if you can get an internship in your field of interest, it gives you an opportunity to get crucial experience," says Coté. "It gives you credibility with a future employer because it gives you a leg up on the competition. It was absolutely critical to my career."

After graduation, she went to work for seven years at KPMG, another large public accounting firm, before moving on to Prudential Insurance Company of America for fourteen years; it was at the latter that she began to build on her accounting and auditing background and specialize in the area of asset management, working as CFO of mutual funds and then of the business itself, ultimately becoming chief operating officer of Prudential's investment management group.

In 1997, she moved to Ernst & Young, working in the assurance practice before rising to her current position as director of the firm's Americas Asset Management Practice. Now she works with clients—whether in the U.S. or abroad—to provide audit, tax, advisory, and transaction services. For example, the practice may help clients branch out into new growing markets, such as Brazil. "Brazil is a hot market right now," she says, "and U.S. businesses want to get a foothold there. So we help them do that, whether it's assisting them in establishing a product or business specifically for

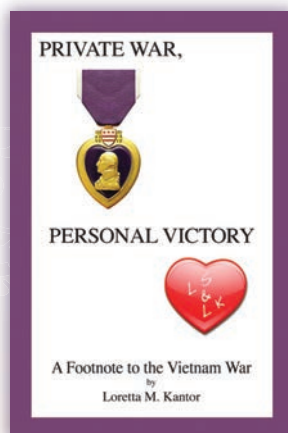
the Brazilian market or just working within regulatory compliance or rules of the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) and local Brazilian regulators."



Coté credits her time at Lehman for helping her develop the skills necessary for her remarkable career. "Going to Lehman College gave me a chance to learn my profession inside and outside the classroom," she says. "And going to a 'commuter' school also helped me develop a work ethic. Like a lot of students, I went to school and worked and then studied when I got home. Juggling all those things builds character and helps set the stage for the rest of your career." ■



## Lloyd and Loretta Kantor, Class of '69:



Loretta M. Kantor's book, *Private War, Personal Victory*, opens with the dark scene of November 18, 1970 that forever changed her life. The first paragraph of her memoir reads: "Lloyd is dead.' I could see it in the faces of my parents.... After an eternity, my brother calmed my terror and restored my future. 'No, Lloyd is not dead, only wounded.'" With these words, readers learn the fate of Loretta's then-boyfriend Lloyd, who had been deployed to Vietnam on July 7, 1970.

Loretta read the telegram, sent to his mother, two days after Lloyd's accident—a tragic run-in with a landmine that left him a quadruple amputee. Her book chronicles the harrowing journey she and her husband of forty-plus years have since shared. She relives the early, disorienting days as they grasped their new reality, followed by unimaginable struggles, inspiring triumphs, and, through it all, an unbreakable bond that has helped carry them through.

Loretta credits "Lloyd's courage and attitude" for giving her strength, in addition to support from loyal friends and his mother and stepfather. Loretta (née Santoro) grew up in the Bronx and met Lloyd in 1967 during their sophomore year at Hunter-in-the-Bronx, where they both enrolled in Physical Anthropology 101. From the get-go, Loretta was attracted to Lloyd's positivity. "He has always had this kind of strength...this optimism," she marvels.

Loretta reminisces fondly about their time in college. "I loved it. My husband loved it, too. We were proud to go there." Loretta studied anthropology, Lloyd political science. "It was just a wonderful experience," she says, "a place where we were exposed to new things, a time for our minds to open."

They graduated from Lehman in its first graduating class, in June 1969, and Loretta acknowledges her evolving distrust of government as disturbing world events caused her cynicism to grow "by leaps." In January 1970, Lloyd received his draft notice and entered the Army, deploying to Vietnam in July. His injuries occurred north of Chu Lai, an area referred to as "rocket alley," where his Americal Division suffered many casualties.

After sustaining near-fatal injuries, Lloyd arrived at Japan's Camp Zama and then was transferred, on December 5, 1970, to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. Looking back on their experiences there, Loretta says, "It took a long time, but it's a good thing it closed." Eventually Lloyd became a patient at the Bronx VA Medical Center, where Loretta portrays the care he received as less than favorable. His initial struggles included painful surgeries, challenges with prosthetics, and battles with therapists who had "agendas of their own."

Although the couple has not returned to New York in more than thirty years, Loretta cherishes memories of her hometown. While at Walter Reed, Lloyd reminisced about days in college when, "along with friends, a few guitars, and a recorder or two," they would climb up to one of the towers in

Student Hall (now the Music Building) and have their own private "hootenanny"—or folk-singing session. During one of the couple's first excursions from the Bronx VA, to the nearby campus, they visited one of Lloyd's political science professors, Dr. Bill Bosworth. In October 1971, less than a year after Lloyd sustained his injuries, the couple were married in the Mount Vernon, N.Y. City Hall by then-Mayor August Petrillo.

Today they enjoy a quiet existence in Arizona, where they moved in 1980, sensing "it was the right place for them," and they keep in touch with a close group of friends from college. If at all possible, they drive when traveling to avoid the "humiliation" of airline security. "Even though Lloyd gave up a good part of his body for his country, his country's not very accommodating when it comes to flying."



Loretta started writing *Private War* in the 1990s. "I believed it was a story that should be told," she says, but at that time, no one wanted to hear about Vietnam." Recent headlines, however, have made this topic relevant again, and she feels a duty to share the rarely publicized story

## A Story of Love and Courage in the Aftermath of War



Earlier days: Top, Lloyd after a meeting of Hunter College Students for Nixon (New York, 1968). He had organized one of the first Students for Nixon clubs in the country. Above, left, a stand down party at Lloyd's unit, Co. B, 2/35th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, An Khe, Vietnam. Above, right, November 16, 1970. Lloyd is in the field, hours before the explosion. Photos used with permission from *Private War, Personal Victory*.



of wounded war veterans. "Only if you experience it, do you know what's going on."

Though Loretta hopes her book will provide inspiration for others, she is realistic about it serving as a universal, how-to survival guide. "The only thing you can do is go to other amputees and say, 'a good life is possible,' but people are different." As she adds, "It's *not* that the book's not patriotic. I tell the truth, and sometimes the truth isn't pleasant."

Other than her relationship with Lloyd, music has served as Loretta's lifesaver. "We both have a lot of interests," she says. Loretta jokes that their life is now "normal," except that her husband "has to put on his arms in the morning."

*continued on page 12*

Loretta writes, "We have been blessed in so many ways. Vietnam is still with us, everyday... The lesson of life's fragility was not lost on us." In the Kantors' kitchen, a verse reads: "When two fond hearts as one unite, the yoke is easy, the burden light." No doubt this inspiring couple's enduring partnership has given them the strength to overcome tragedy and to emerge, together, on the other side. ■

— Corinne Whiting

*The book Private War, Personal Victory: A Footnote to the Vietnam War, by Loretta M. Kantor, is available at amazon.com for \$18. Alumni who wish to contact the couple may write to Mrs. Kantor at Windy Acre Publishing, PO Box 635, Hereford, AZ 85615.*



Loretta and Lloyd Kantor on their wedding day, October 10, 1971, less than a year after he had sustained his injuries in Vietnam. Photo used with permission from *Private War, Personal Victory*.

***In the Kantors' kitchen, a verse reads: 'When two fond hearts as one unite, the yoke is easy, the burden light.'***

Even veterans who have not experienced combat face a period of adjustment to civilian life, as this student, from the Lehman Class of 2012, explains.

## How I Adjusted Since Separating from the Military

My name is Wilson M. Ndzi. I am a U.S. Navy veteran. After taking courses during the Fall 1999 and Spring 2000 semesters at Lehman, I enlisted and joined the US Navy, where I served onboard the frigate USS Hawes, first as a deck seaman and then as a logistics specialist. During my service, I was stationed in Norfolk, Va., and sailed with the Hawes to several ports overseas.

I returned to Lehman in 2010 to complete my bachelor's degree and am currently in my senior year, planning to graduate this spring. My major is mass communication, and my minor is business administration. I aspire to become a documentary/movie producer.

For a long time after I was discharged, I was uncertain about my ability to transition smoothly into civilian life. Without being consciously aware of it, I had become quite used to life in the military. Fortunately, my family and friends, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal and State government programs, and Lehman College have all helped me in one way or another to adjust to life outside the military.

I've kept in touch with many of my former shipmates and buddies from basic training. I count myself lucky to have an older brother who served in the Navy around the same time as I did. Several of my friends who are no longer in the service are also either in college or some other training institution. Some have even earned their degrees and certifications. Quite often we exchange stories and reminisce about what life was like when we were in uniform, but we also help each other to stay focused on our pursuit of education and excellence in civilian life. My parents and three other siblings have also been always helpful and supportive with words of encouragement and guidance.

Exercise and fitness are good for the body and the mind as well. In Cameroon, where I was born, soccer is a huge sport. It is, therefore,



not just my main hobby, but one of the major ways I exercise and keep fit. Fortunately, Lehman has a varsity soccer team, and I'll be eternally grateful to Coach Joseph Andre and my teammates for giving me the opportunity to participate. I was even appointed as one of the captains of the team—a great honor and responsibility. The games, the travelling, the camaraderie, and the many memorable moments all contributed to improving my morale and making my adjustment to college and civilian life much easier.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, through its innumerable programs, has demonstrated its willingness and determination to assist veterans during their transition to civilian life. I am a recipient of several benefits, such as health care services at the VA Hospital and G.I. Bill education benefits, career services, and retail discounts, just to name a few. The Lehman Veterans Representative, Barbara Thompson, has been very helpful in providing information and assistance. During my adjustment, I have also been able to make use of numerous Federal and State Government programs geared toward veterans, notably the free tuition program for state colleges in Connecticut, which I was able to use during the year I spent at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport.

My primary preoccupation since leaving the service has been the completion of my college education, so I've had to adjust mostly to classes and the other necessities of student life. It has been both challenging and rewarding. My family, friends, hobbies, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, among others, have been very helpful. Beyond all these, however, what has helped me most to adjust is an attitude of determination, discipline, respect, humility, and all the other values that were cultivated in me during my time of service in the military. ■

# The Making of Great Math Teachers

Moving  
Up  
with

## MATH-UP

*By Joseph Tirella*

In the corner of a classroom crowded with desks, books, and educational toys, Damon Branch, a graduate student at Lehman College, is explaining math to a small group of first-graders at PS 55, near Yankee Stadium. To help him do this, he's brought some props: M&M® candies.

*“What are we counting?”* he asks the students, a little girl and two boys.

“M&Ms!” they say in unison.

Branch holds up a plastic lunch bag with a half-dozen multi-colored M&Ms. “Now, how many red M&Ms do you see?”

A little girl raises her hand. “Two,” she says.

“That’s right,” says Branch, 34, who graduated from Lehman last year with a B.A. in sociology.

After counting out the numbers and colors of the other M&Ms, Branch turns his students’ attention to a nearby desktop computer, where a graph charts the number and colors of all the candies in the lunch bag.

“Now see this,” says Branch, pointing to the graph. “What’s this called?”

“A graph!”

After more math lessons on the computer, in which the students get to use a mouse, pointing and clicking their way to answering their instructor’s questions, Branch gathers the three children around him. He opens a book about numbers and colors as the students demonstrate their reading skills, gleefully shouting out words like “orange” and “eleven.”

“Very good,” their teacher tells them.

“Very good.”

“And they’re only in the first grade,” he adds to a visitor.

Branch is one of twenty Lehman College M.S.Ed. students pursuing their graduate degrees under the auspices of MATH-UP (Mathematics Achievement with Teachers of High-need Urban Populations), a five-year program aimed at training aspiring elementary teachers to better serve the needs of South Bronx schoolchildren in the most needy school districts. In 2010, Lehman was one of only twelve colleges and universities and/or school districts in the country—and the only one in New York State—to receive Federal funding as part of the second round of TQP (Teacher Quality Partnership) grants.

MATH-UP aims to prepare 125 teachers in grades 1-6 who will bring their new skills and approaches into the classrooms of 18,750 South Bronx students in five schools: PS 1, PS 55, PS 58, PS 73, and PS 114. The program’s teachers-in-training will face a multitude of challenges: over 50 percent of school-age children come from families where languages other than English are spoken, and the child poverty rate in the Bronx is over 58 percent (the highest in the U.S. outside of Puerto Rico).

The grant proposal was written by Professor Anne Rothstein (Early Childhood and Childhood Education), the founding director of Lehman’s Center for School/College Collaboratives, and former Dean of Education Deborah Eldridge. Once funding was secured—\$7.6 million from the U.S. Department of Education and \$810,000 from the New York State Education Department—the program needed an executive director to oversee day-to-day operations.



*‘Like a resident fresh out of medical school, our teacher interns get hands-on training.’*



Enter Arlene Weinstein. A Lehman alumna, she earned her B.A. in psychology in 1972 and has thirty years of experience in urban education, including years as a middle school math teacher in the South Bronx and later as an educational administrator. She was a perfect fit for the job and understood what the program was about.

“What we really want is to get Bronx kids who would like to teach to come back to the Bronx and teach math,” says Weinstein, who is careful to point out that MATH-UP students aren’t math teachers per se; they are well-rounded generalists—as all elementary school



teachers need to be—who have been trained to teach mathematics throughout the curriculum.

“As these 125 well-trained and prepared candidates become teachers of record,” she explains, “we hopefully look forward to seeing a rise in students’ State test scores over the next five years. In turn, Lehman’s teacher preparation program will become a model not only for other schools in the Bronx but also for other impoverished, Spanish-speaking districts in the nation.”

*‘What we really want is to get Bronx kids who would like to teach to come back to the Bronx and teach math.’*



Charlene Peralta and Damon Branch, after attending a graduate class at Lehman.

On left: Top, Damon Branch with students at PS 55 and, below, Charlene Peralta at PS 58.

This is the way the program works. All applicants must have a 3.5 or higher GPA, submit two letters of recommendation, complete an on-site math exam and writing sample explaining why they want to join the program, and be interviewed by a MATH-UP staff member. If accepted, they pursue their M.S.Ed. in early childhood/childhood education with a specialization in math, taking the required graduate courses over ten months, including summer—a ten-month

clinical residency,” Weinstein calls it. While their tuition isn’t free, they are eligible for a TEACH grant that covers half of their tuition bill, as well as a small stipend.

On weeknights they take courses at Lehman; on Fridays they get a day off to do homework and, once a month, meet at Lehman with their fellow interns for informal “support group” sessions. “At our Friday meetings, we can be really honest and talk about our successes, or talk about things that didn’t go well, our concerns, everything,” says Charlene Peralta, 22, another MATH-UP “intern” who graduated from Lehman last year with a B.A. in sociology.

At the same time, they train as an “intern” alongside an experienced teacher in a South Bronx classroom, four days a week from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., gaining invaluable hands-on experience in a classroom. “Like a resident fresh out of medical school, our teacher ‘interns’ get hands-on training,” says Weinstein. “By the time they’ve graduated from the program and earned their M.S.Ed., they’ve had a full year in the classroom under their belts, dealing with real situations. We’re trying to meld ‘the science of teaching’ with the ‘the craft of teaching.’”

As the school year progresses and the interns become more comfortable in the classroom, they slowly but steadily take on more responsibility. “Eventually we teach fifty percent of the day,” says Peralta, “and as the year goes on, we’ll get to teach a whole day.”

Which is exactly what she was doing on a rainy Thursday morning at PS 58, on East 176th Street, with a small group of third- and fourth-graders. “No one has a ‘perfect class,’” she says. “We all deal with students of different learning abilities or even grades in the same class sometimes.” On this day, her classroom was bilingual. Approximately half of the class was doing “free writing” in their notebooks, while the other half needed a bit more attention.

Peralta stands at a white blackboard and addresses her students in Spanish, explaining a math problem. It’s just after lunch, and the children are bouncing in their seats. The boys excitedly jump up and raise their arms to get her attention, but another boy just yells out the answer. In Spanish, she tells them to write the answer in their notebooks. The boys are laughing and smiling, ecstatic to get the answer right, but Peralta is in complete control; she gets them to focus and fulfill the assignment.

“They’re a little excited today,” she says with a smile. “It happens now and then.” ■

From painting to photography,  
many acclaimed artists got their  
'art start' at Lehman College.

# The Art of Success

By Jane Schreier Jones

The starving artist, struggling in an attic garret, is the stuff of weepy operas and gripping novels. But that stereotype is not nearly as fascinating as the resounding success of many artists whose degrees from Lehman College started them on the path to notable achievement.

The work of Lehman grads has been exhibited at prestigious shows, displayed in fine galleries and collections, and sold around the world, earning not only high respect and critical acclaim but also substantial financial success.

Lehman art alumni run galleries, studios, and art-based enterprises. Others are teaching, passing along knowledge and skills to developing artists. Most importantly, many are producing art every day.



Professor Flavia Bacarella

"No matter which measure you use to determine success, we have much to be proud of in Lehman art grads," says Professor Flavia Bacarella, chair of the Art Department.

"Very talented students come to Lehman, and the best ones become very disciplined artists," she points out. "Each of our art professors is an exhibiting artist, and we are dedicated to helping students find their own vision by providing the studio experience for them."

Here's just a sampling of the talent who got part of their "art start" at Lehman.

## Sculptor and Designer Nadeige Choplet

"I'm very fortunate to make a living with something I am passionate about," says Nadeige Choplet (M.F.A., '98), owner of the Choplet Gallery and Ceramic Studio and the Williamsburg Ceramic Center, both located in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. Choplet's staff of teachers offers classes to emerging artists, and Choplet herself teaches undergrads and graduate students at Lehman and at Manhattanville College.



This talented sculptor and designer, born in France, earned the equivalent of a master's degree from l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Then through a Fulbright scholarship, she came to the United States to earn a second M.F.A. at Lehman.



One of Nadeige Choplet's works, *Geisha*.

Choplet's work has been sold at prestigious galleries worldwide and published in *The New York Times* and other media. She has been commissioned to create one-of-a-kind pieces for the Metropolitan Home Show house at Gramercy Park,

Jim Franco's prop stylist studio, and the Hilton Garden Hotel on Staten Island, as well as for multiple private collectors. She recently designed the interior space of the Baumgart restaurant in Nyack, N.Y. More info at [www.choplet.com](http://www.choplet.com)

## Painter Andy Golub

Many say there's no such thing as bad publicity. Certainly, resounding praise and (ahem) a few arrests have helped Lehman grad Andy Golub (M.A., '01) forge his own way.



Golub is a freelance painter, a street artist whose incredible body-painting art has crossed a line for some law enforcement officers when he paints on the bodies of live nude models in public places like Times Square and in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New York Public Library. Golub first debuted his eyebrow-raising yet inventive process at the Javits Center's 2006 Art Expo.

Less controversial is his imaginative work painting cars and other items.

Golub earned his M.A. in art education at Lehman and spent several years teaching before turning full time to his artwork.

"Professor Bacarella was very helpful in my thesis project," he explains. "I have a tendency to overanalyze myself, and she helped me forge ahead. She helped me focus on the making of the art."

You can see this extraordinary Lehman graduate in an upcoming Travel Channel episode of *Unpacked* and at [www.andygolub.com](http://www.andygolub.com).

## Mosaic Muralist Stephen J. Miotto

Stephen J. Miotto (B.F.A., '76; M.F.A., '79) has made a name for himself in the field of mosaics—and he's done that by creating some breathtaking work around the world. He is the founder of Miotto Mosaic Art Studios in Carmel, N.Y., a highly respected and sought-after company that fabricates mosaic murals for artists, architects, and designers.

"Our goal is to faithfully interpret the design into the mosaic medium," Miotto comments. "We do that by being dedicated to old-world craftsmanship and offering technical expertise."



Not your ordinary car: *Matrix*, by Andy Golub

Miotto's murals, often created with glass, marble, gold, and ceramic, are a joy to behold. In 2010, his team completed two sizable jobs in South Korea for the artist Daru, commissioned by LIG Insurance. Past jobs also include mosaics for thirty-six stations for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) in New York City and helping to fabricate and install two 54-foot domes at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

## Photographer Dominick Totino

While he was a student at Lehman, Dominick Totino (B.A., '88) was encouraged by an art professor to do photography for a book being written on Woodlawn Cemetery.

"I felt I was in over my head, but Professor David Gillison insisted I could do this, and I did," he recalls. "Woodlawn then hired me to do all of their brochure and event photography."

Totino says that it was at Lehman that he received the support, inspiration, and education that enabled him to attempt a career in photography. "I got the confidence I needed, starting with Professor Gillison, and that has been critical," he said.



Dominick Totino captured President Clinton greeting schoolchildren after giving a keynote address in Co-op City, the Bronx.



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One of the mosaic murals fabricated by Stephen Miotto. Daru was the artist, and the mural can be seen at LIG Insurance, Busan, South Korea.

Totino is the owner of the successful Dominick Totino Photography, a business located in Whitestone, Queens. His excellent work has garnered him over 1,000 clients, including the City of New York. Totino has been the photographer for the Queens Borough President's Office for fourteen years and the official photographer of New York City's St. Patrick's Day Parade since 2003.

### Painter Graig Kreindler

Graig Kreindler (M.A., '07) has combined two loves—baseball and fine art—into one very successful career. His realistic oil paintings stunningly depict the visual history of the national pastime in its golden era, making viewers smile at the quaint ballparks and baseball legends he has brought to life.

His classic baseball scenes have found their way into personal collections, as well as



In a bygone era, faithfully depicted by Graig Kreindler, Babe Ruth “explodes out of the box.”

the permanent collections of both the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center in Montclair, N.J., and the Bob Feller Museum in Van Meter, Iowa.

Working from his studio in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn, Kreindler does an incredible amount of research. “I use the Internet, videos, old newspapers, and other sources to gather details about the players, the stadiums, even the weather on a particular day that I'm depicting,” he says.

Lehman art alumni run galleries, studios, and art-based enterprises. Others are teaching, passing along knowledge and skills to developing artists. Most importantly, many are producing art every day.



### Educator Rikki Asher

As successful as she is, Dr. Rikki Asher (B.A., '76; M.F.A., '81) is quick to give recognition to her Lehman roots.

“I was truly inspired by Professors Herb Broderick, George Corbin, Ursula Meyer, Sal Romano, Beebe Salzer, and Bernie Flicker,” she says.

After earning two degrees from Lehman, Dr. Asher went on to earn an Ed.D. from Columbia University Teachers College and now inspires others. She is director of art education in the Secondary Education and Youth Services department at Queens College. This follows a remarkable career that to date has included teaching art classes and painting murals in Mexico, India, Ghana, and Nicaragua and working as a visual art teacher in South Bronx and East Harlem schools.

Dr. Asher is also accomplished in pastel drawing and painting. Her work was featured in a color exhibition of silk painting in a gallery in Israel and was among a group of artists who painted “When Women Pursue Justice,” a mural in Brooklyn.

More about her is at [www.cultd.net/rikkiasher](http://www.cultd.net/rikkiasher). ■



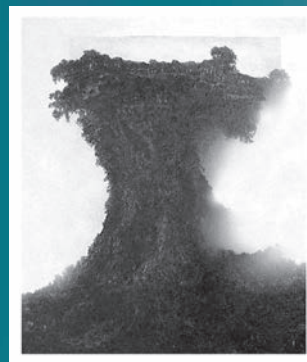
Dr. Rikki Asher's *Life of the Mind Mural*, 2009.

Painter and printmaker **Mitche Kunzman** (B.F.A., '73; M.F.A., '89) and ceramicist/potter **Helen Kunzman** (B.A., '90) of South Salem, N.Y., are founders and owners of the prestigious Artifacts Lanier and Artifacts Collections of New York, Inc. The talented couple also specializes in Indian miniature paintings and Old Master drawings and prints. [www.mitchekunzman.com](http://www.mitchekunzman.com), [www.helenkunzman.com](http://www.helenkunzman.com), and [www.artifactslanier.com](http://www.artifactslanier.com)

Mitche Kunzman (1) at Kean University opening 2011; Erosion: Archival print (from oil painting), private collection (2); Helen Kunzman (3); Red Banded Bowl, glazed clay, 10 x 8 inches (4)



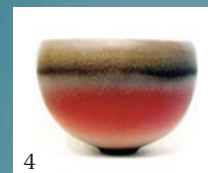
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2



3



4

Painter **Amy DiGi** (M.F.A., '07), who lives and paints in the Bronx, recently held a solo show at Publicis Healthcare and another at the Grace Institute this spring. She is a U.S. Coast Guard Artist, and her work is included in their 2010 Permanent Collection. DiGi is also a U.S. Department of State "Art in Embassies" artist; her "Boat House" painting is displayed at the U.S. Embassy in Sierra Leone. [www.amydigi.com](http://www.amydigi.com)

Amy Digi (5); Boat House Central Park (6), NYC Oil on Linen, 16"x24"



5



6

**Natalie Collette Wood** (M.F.A., '09) came to Lehman after earning her bachelor's degree at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Shortly after her Lehman graduation, Wood, who works in painting, sculpture, and collage, had a solo show in Berlin. Her creations have been in selected group exhibitions, including a recent one at the Bronx Museum of Art, and are being sold through the Metropolitan Gallery in Austin, Texas. [www.nataliecollettewood.com](http://www.nataliecollettewood.com)

Natalie Collette Wood (7); Painting: Synthetic Eruption With Acid Spill, 2010, Acrylic, Gouache, Spray-Paint, and Glitter on Spandex 70" x 70" (8)



7



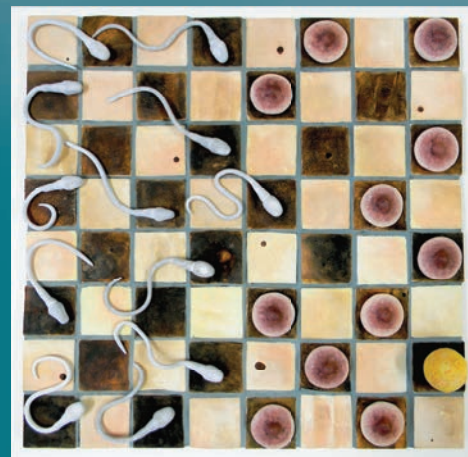
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Originally from Dublin, Ireland, ceramist **Regina Farrell** (B.A., '11) established Cara Art and Design Studio in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx, where she also conducts classes for the local community. She was recently selected for a juried art show at the Longwood Art Gallery in the Bronx. [www.reginafarrell.com](http://www.reginafarrell.com) and [www.caraartstudio.com](http://www.caraartstudio.com)

Regina Farrell (9); "Check.Mate" Ceramic, wood, oil, acrylic. Tiles cast from body casts. (10)



9



10

**Kathy Caraccio** (B.F.A., '71) is an artist and master printer whose small sculptures, prints, and collages are exhibited in various New York City venues. She bought a printmaking business in 1977, and now the K. Caraccio Printing Studio produces editions of original fine art intaglio and relief prints and also includes gallery space for artists. [www.kcaraccio.com](http://www.kcaraccio.com)

# 'Under the Influence:'

## A Serious Look at the Comics



(1) **H.J. Ward's** *Superman* (1940) was a special addition to the exhibition and offered a counterpoint to the contemporary artists' works in the show. The painting, created as a promotional image for the Superman radio show—it was to be used as a signed "fan photo"—became the first official portrait of Superman and defined his standard features. With the painting, Superman evolved from a rudimentary line drawing into a real flesh-and-blood superhero. (The painting ultimately was not used for the "fan photo"; a line drawing based on the painting was used instead.) Strong, with hands on his hips, the hero defends the metropolis in the background. It is a persona developed on the eve of America's entry into WWII. Now in the collection of Lehman College, it once hung on the walls of the DC Comics offices.

(2) **Mark Dean Veca's** over the top, pop culture iconography is rendered in a hand-drawn ink line that is straight out of the comics. His style has variously been referred to as cartoon abstraction and psychedelic phantasmagoria. *Great* (2011) presents a rendering of Tony the Tiger, the cartoon character and corporate food icon developed in the early Fifties as a Sugar Frosted Flakes spokesman. Familiar to many from childhood, there is also a sense of nostalgia. Like Superman, he, too, strikes a hero's pose. Tony's organic, interior lines, looking like worms or intestines, animate the painting. A bold background color sets off the figure.

(3) A pioneer of the site-specific installation, **Red Grooms** has long been known for his comic-inspired work. His colorful bas-



relief *Mike and Chuck* (2009) refers to an historic event that occurred on Groundhog Day in 2009. While officiating at the February 1 ceremony that determines whether the winter will be long or short, Mayor Michael Bloomberg was bitten by Chuck, a local groundhog from the Staten Island Zoo. In Grooms's version, the moment (and the Mayor's bloody hand) are captured by a CBS cameraman.

(4) **Pablo Helguera's** *Artoons* series, which includes *Curators are the New Artists* (2010), parodies the contemporary art world with humor and insight, using the cartoon as the vehicle. (It is a world he has observed as an artist, writer, and museum educator.) His large-scale line drawings, vinyl applied directly to the wall, have the look of New Yorker cartoons and a similar sensibility. The cast of characters, including artists, collectors, dealers, critics, curators, and historians, offers an insider's view, chronicling arcane social rituals and economic practices.

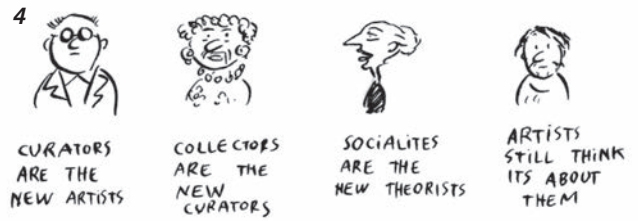
(5) Imaginary narratives, where fantastic creatures inhabit their own worlds and follow their own laws, are also a thread through many of the works. Since 1998, **D. Dominick Lombardi** has been developing an elaborate narrative—the Post Apocalyptic Tattoo Series—that focuses on fictional characters: mutants that have survived a great cataclysm. His colorful, abstracted shapes, painted in reverse on Plexiglass, represent shrunken heads (a highly sought-after memorial in this narrative) created by one of the characters, Johnny Two-Heads. Lombardi's project grew out of doodles in a sketchbook and an anxiety over the fate of the universe.



A major exhibition this spring in the Lehman College Art Gallery, entitled “Under the Influence,” examined the work of a group of artists indebted to the style and energy of “comics” imagery. This genre began to proliferate in the 30s and 40s, and has become a significant visual language of American popular culture.

In an iconoclastic move, the pop artists embraced mass culture and the comics in their paintings and sculpture. Over the years, many artists have been drawn to the action, fantasy, and humor of the “funnies” and cartoons. While one immediately associates a light-hearted sensibility and playfulness with the comics, their power as an image goes much farther. Their seductive appeal and wide accessibility make them a perfect vehicle for persuasion—for expressing a

political stand as well as selling corn flakes. These pages feature a few examples from the show.



(6) **Enrique Chagoya's** work, on the other hand, is part of a broader series of illegal alien's guides. Having emigrated from Mexico, this artist addresses the experience of displacement and the multicultural encounters taking place in today's society. He has developed the concept of “reverse anthropology,” through which he looks toward mainstream cultures from a Latin American perspective. *Illegal Aliens Guide to the Surplus of Nothingness* (2009) is formatted as a pre-Columbian codex. Drifting figures in a broad sea range from an oil tanker to Picasso's art, the Cuban *balseros*, and Popeye. As with the codices, the more one looks, the more one discovers.

(7) **Sean McCarthy** is known for meticulous drawings of monsters and demons that are created with the precision of an etching. In the new series, *Maladapted*, he creates animal hybrids developed through imaginative invention, and a loosely structured system based on actual species. Configured almost like an “exquisite corpse” drawing, McCarthy develops the creatures by mixing and matching animal parts from three different phyla. In *The Watering Hole* (2010-11), a setting akin to the neighborhood bar, there is a congenial gathering of animals that despite their sources look totally unfamiliar. These creatures with pastel colors seem more lovable than fierce. Several art historical precedents—a Goya drawing and paintings by Gauguin and Bacon—influenced the look of the composition for this drawing.

(8) **Tom Otterness** draws from fairy tales, myths, and his own fantasies to create stories and fables in cast bronze sculptures. Very stylized characters—human and animal alike—interact with each other in a playful manner. The contrast of scale is always meaningful. Little men, like cartoon characters in three dimensions, interact with giant figures in situations that are often humorous. Behind a graceful appearance, the pieces are full of symbols and allusions. In *Fish with Pencil* (2007), a little man teaches a big fish how to write. Human body parts—in this instance, hands, legs, and a tongue—are an incongruent addition that sneaks in a bit more humor.

(9) **Priscila De Carvahlo** depicts scenes from events in different cities of the world to create an urban landscape: the Mermaid Parade in Coney Island, the Carnival in Brazil, and the West Indies Parade in Brooklyn. The graphic quality of watchtowers and parachutes contrasts with the pastel colors and comic-like elements that add a certain playfulness to the work. Steps creating pathways spill off the wall, fill the gallery, and loop back again. Black electrical poles with cables fill the space and cast shadows. The use of recycled materials—from Styrofoam to plastic pipes and cardboard—has become a signature strategy in her work. De Carvahlo makes reference to the *favelas*, or shantytown communities of her native Brazil.

— Susan Hoeltzel and Yuneikys Villalonga

# Daniel Gurdak:

## In Search of Arapaima

You could say that Daniel J. Gurdak (B.A., '07) is continuing down the same path he began traveling while a student at Lehman. It's just taking him to even more exotic places.

A *summa cum laude* graduate of the Macaulay Honors College at Lehman, Gurdak had his first study-abroad experience as a junior, when he traveled to the Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador—made famous by the studies of Charles Darwin—to study the ecology and evolution of the archipelago.

Today, as a doctoral student at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, he travels to the Amazonian floodplain in Brazil. There he is working to protect both animals like the arapaima—a giant fish that can grow up to ten feet long and needs to breathe surface air about every twenty minutes—and the forests they depend on. The arapaima are not only an important food fish for Amazon communities but also an important source of income for local fishing communities.

The son of Polish immigrants, Gurdak designed his own undergraduate major at Lehman, with the help of faculty, and pursued the study of environmental science as well as a traditional biology major. A Boy Scout when he was young, Gurdak was an outdoor guide for hiking and camping groups, which led to his interest in the environment.

By the time he graduated from Lehman—where he also was a member of the track team—the research awards started coming his way, with funds to study abroad. Awards he received at the University of Oxford, where he earned his master's in biodiversity conservation and management, funded research in carbon dynamics and the influence of climate change on tropical forests in the Peruvian Andes. In 2009, he received a DEFRA/FFI Flagship Species Fund Small Grant (which was almost quadruple his first grant) to research butterfly communities across various habitats in Assam, India. You get the picture. Oh, yes, and in 2010, he also picked up his master's of public administration degree at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University to bridge his interests between science and policy.

In 2010, Gurdak won a Maurice and Annette Alexander Wetlands Research Award and then an even bigger prize: a National Geographic Young Explorers Grant. Both helped fund his first research expedition to Brazil late last fall, during the dry season, to look for arapaima nests, where the young are hatched



Daniel Gurdak, along one of the many lakes in the Amazon.

and cared for. He was also involved in a regional arapaima population survey and trekked with Portuguese-speaking fishermen from local communities and the coordinator of the survey.

As Gurdak reports in his blog, the group at first walked for hours through “dense fields of grass taller than me,” and “the swaying blades in the setting sun made me dizzy and faint.” Few arapaima were found. The next day brought more of the same, as they set out before dawn on the same uneven trail, crossed by boat to another area, and travelled again on foot. Unlike the day before, however, the lake they visited held many arapaima, which they counted before returning to camp the same way they had come. While in the field, he slept most of the time in a hammock.

One night, as the group gingerly hooked their television set up to a satellite dish to watch a soap opera, Gurdak decided instead to sit on the roof of their boat and enjoy the sun setting over the river.

“It really never did get old,” he writes in his blog of the scene he saw. Lipe, one of the fishermen, climbed up and asked if he could join him. “We talked—I don't know if he understood me, and he generally talked too fast for me to understand him. Another fisherman joined us, and we chatted a bit more until the mosquitoes drove us under. The sun never sets the same...”

During his remaining weeks in Brazil, Gurdak saw a broad area of the floodplain, living on a boat, visiting more than fifty lakes, and counting the number of arapaima in each. Many lakes had none of the species, he says, but others that were farther away or more difficult to reach seemed to have more.

Gurdak returned to Brazil in early March and will continue his research through 2012 and return in 2013 to complete his project. Helping to support his research is yet another grant—a prestigious Fulbright Scholar Award from the Institute of International Education. As he writes on his webpage, “The rest of my story remains to be written.”

Learn more about Daniel Gurdak's expeditions and research on his personal page: <http://sites.google.com/site/dgurdak> and at his blog, <http://walkvarzea.blogspot.com>. ■



# An American in Russia

by Jared DeLuna ('10)

Some say to find your dream you have to search all over the world. I have started on that journey and have landed here in Russia. My name is Jared DeLuna, and I am a Lehman College graduate; I met my girlfriend, now turned wife, Anna, in the first semester. With a nice little mass communication and Russian language degree under my belt, I changed my life. Don't get this wrong; I am terrible at Russian, although many people have told me that I can speak just fine—I just make the simple mistakes with endings. I first came to Moscow in the summer of my first semester. This sealed the deal; I understood then that Russian was something that was missing from my life.

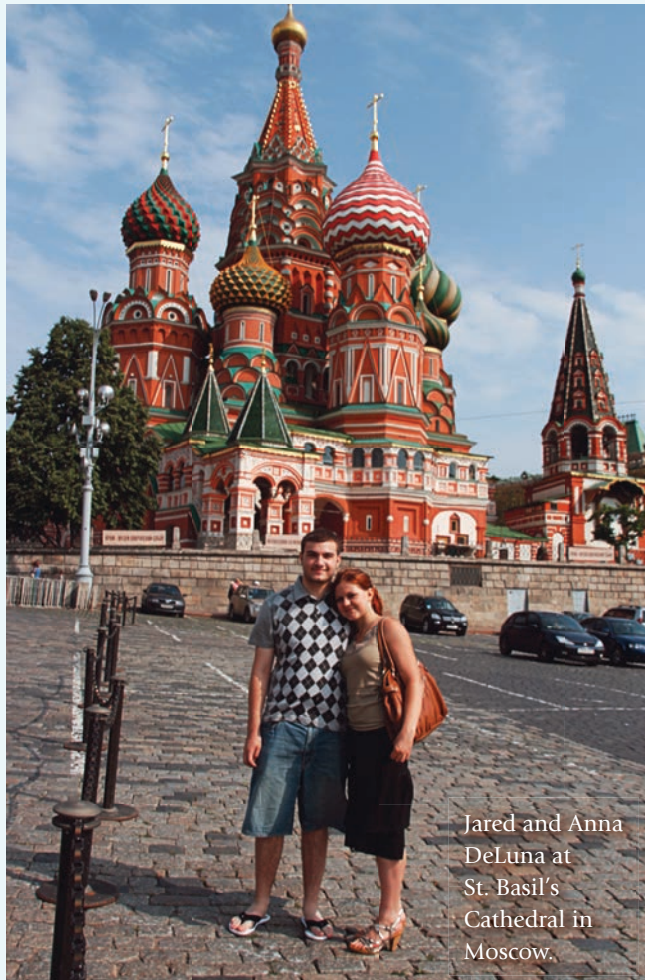
I landed in Moscow the September after I graduated and found a job as a teacher of English and was soon working a very crazy schedule. At first, Russia was very hard for me to figure out. In the summer I had Anna doing all the talking, getting tickets and food. Then it was my turn to start going to work during rush hour, and, believe me, I did not live right next to my job. In fact, most Russians live at the total opposite end of their jobs.

My clothing did not protect me from the fierce winter. I was constantly getting sick, thanks to the terrible windows of our rented apartment, and it was just COLD. If someone today asked me if I would recommend people to come to Russia in the winter, I would say "NO, don't for the love of everything you hold holy, come in the winter. It is cold, dismal, and icy."

Although Russia has its dismal winter, it has some great spring and summer weather. Anna's family has a *dacha* (countryside house), which is in the west of Moscow, an area considered to be the best of the region because there aren't that many factories, and the air is fresh. This is what kept me going, counting down the days till I could go back to the village and enjoy some relaxation.

Being a teacher of English, however, does not give you any time off. It was not for me. Every weekend, I was teaching class after class. I would get home at 10 p.m. and have to be at work at 8 a.m. There were days when they forgot to tell me about different canceled classes, and I would waste an hour rushing there for nothing.

This unprofessionalism really got to me, so at the beginning of last summer Anna asked me if I could help her start her own photography company. We were both burned out by our office jobs and wanted to do something we loved. She loved photography, and I loved to create videos. That summer was the start of DeLuna Studios. We created a photography and videography portfolio, and soon the orders started to roll in.



Jared and Anna DeLuna at St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.

Before I came to Russia, I had everything provided for me. I had my own car, a job that paid well, and I didn't have to pay any real bills. I thought that Russia was filled with bears, drunks, and bread lines. This couldn't be farther from the truth. Russia has given birth to the greatest number of millionaires in the world. Most Russians live just like middle-class Americans. They own their own companies, they are in different stock groups, and are making money hand over fist.

You can see why, as an American, I love this about Russia. This country has so much to offer to people—all you need to do is work very hard and enjoy yourself at the same time. When Russians hear I am American, their eyes get huge. They want to know why I am here and why can't I find a job there. I tell them the same thing I tell people in America: I live here because Russia has been good to me, it has provided people who like my work, and has provided me with a good life.

Of course, there are times when I want to go back to America to see

my family and friends, but I have Facebook and Skype that can help heal that aspect of my life. Living in Russia has shown me that you should enjoy what you do, because if you don't, you will end up like a grumpy old *babyska* (grandmother in Russian).

Read more about Jared DeLuna's Russian adventures in Lehman's award-winning publication, *The Bronx Journal*, produced by the College's Department of Journalism, Communication, and Theatre. Visit [www.thebronxjournal.com/category/russia](http://www.thebronxjournal.com/category/russia). ■

# Terence and Eileen Houlihan

## Share a Life, a Career, and Graduate School

It's not often that a married couple shares a career; it's even less likely they would share an alma mater. But that's exactly the case with Terence (Terry) Houlihan and Eileen (Tannian) Houlihan who were married in 2002; both are graduates of Lehman's M.S.Ed. program in counselor education/school counseling. Terry (M.S.Ed., '10) works as a school counselor at Iona Preparatory High School in New Rochelle, while Eileen (B.A., '99; M.S.Ed., '06) is a school counselor at Frank McCourt High School on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

Eileen, in fact, earned her undergraduate degree at Lehman, graduating in 1999 with a B.A. in English. Hailing from the Woodlawn section of the Bronx, she began working as a teacher in various Bronx public middle and high schools. In 2002, while continuing to work as a teacher, she decided to pursue an M.S.Ed. at night and originally attended Hunter College before transferring back to Lehman.

"I felt more comfortable at Lehman," she says. "The focus of Lehman's program was more practical. While it included counseling theory, opportunities to practice what we learned in class were incorporated into the program through practicums and internships. I gained real experience in finding solutions for students. And I enjoyed that."

By this time she and Terry, who graduated from Manhattan College with a B.A. in philosophy and theology in 1995, were married, and both wanted to earn graduate degrees. So they made a decision: only one could go to school at a time, since they were both busy raising Eileen's son, who was nine years old at the time.

"That's why Eileen went for her master's first," says Terry, who was teaching at Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx at the time. "When she was going to school at night, I would be the one coming home, making dinner, helping him with his homework, and putting him to bed."

Terry had already begun studying for an M.A. in spirituality at Fordham University, which he put on hold while Eileen pursued her M.S.Ed. After hearing Eileen discuss her classes at Lehman with such enthusiasm and excitement, however, Terry had a change of heart. "We would talk about the program," he says. "I decided that this is what I wanted to do."

In 2011, the pair co-authored an article for *School Counselor*, the magazine of the American School Counselor Association, titled "The Adolescent Brain," putting their hands-on experience (as counselors and parents) and research skills to work. ■



The Houlihans.

### Cheryl Castronuovo Delaney ('09):



#### *School Counseling Degree Leads to Successful Career Change*

After a two-decade-long career as a business-to-business marketing executive at top-notch law firms, like Loeb & Loeb and Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, Cheryl Delaney (M.S.Ed., '09) had an epiphany: she would pursue something else, specifically school counseling for grades K-12. "I decided that it was now or never," she says. "At some point, you realize you don't have forever to make a change."

As a marketing executive, she put to good use the bachelor's degree she had earned at Boston University's College of Communication in 1984, becoming fluent in intellectual property and corporate law, writing business proposals and recognizing marketing opportunities.

Delaney is the first to point out that she enjoyed the world of marketing, but she knew she wanted something more fulfilling. She attributes her interest in school counseling to her experience of attending three high schools in four years, due to her father's career moves. "I had very little contact with school counselors. I wanted to address this by helping K-12 students to develop personal/social, college, and academic competencies," she says.

She researched schools and chose Lehman's graduate counselor education program because of its close affiliation with the Education Trust's National Center for Transforming School Counseling (TSC), a decade-long project that seeks to enlist school counselors as key partners in education reform. TSC-affiliated programs emphasize

# Dale Benjamin Drakeford (‘74, ‘89)

## ‘Pays It Forward’ With One of CUNY’s First Charitable Gift Annuities



Dale Benjamin Drakeford

Lehman alumnus Dale Benjamin Drakeford believes in paying it forward. “That’s what makes America great, isn’t it?” he asks. Drakeford (B.A., ‘74; M.S., ‘89) is one of the first Lehman—and CUNY—alumni to take out a Charitable Gift Annuity for his alma mater. The \$10,000 gift will go toward scholarships for Lehman students.

Born in the South Bronx, Drakeford has lived in the borough his entire life. While still in high school, he

began working at the Bronx Boys Club, where sports and table games had constructively occupied his young life. School—especially college—was never part of his plans, but his club mentor, Leonard M. Cohen, had other ideas.

When Drakeford was an impressionable junior teen, Cohen took him by the head (literally) for a tour of New Jersey “because it was time to see something other than Southern Boulevard.” This same mentor took a similar approach when Drakeford as a middle teen had metal stuck to his eyeball and was determined to “tough it out.” The Eye, Ear, and Throat specialist then on Tremont Avenue was heard saying to Cohen, “You likely saved that boy’s eye.”

“On the way out,” says Drakeford, “Lenny leaned over to me and said, ‘Because that young man went to school and learned a valuable skill, he was able to save your eye.’” Drakeford never knew the

name of the technician who wheeled the huge magnet in front of his face, but he never forgot the lesson.

At twenty-one, Drakeford had another pivotal moment of paying it forward. After buying a brand new Duster, he recalls Cohen saying, “Beautiful. Start it up, and I’ll follow you back to the dealership.” There, he experienced the impact of word-of-mouth marketing.

“Lenny said something like, ‘Return every penny of his money today, and I will see to it that everyone I know who needs a car will check you out first.’” When Drakeford told his mother (his other lifelong mentor, who was only allowed to complete third grade), she simply smiled and said, “He sounds like a smart man.” Although the two never met and shared little in common, they agreed that Drakeford did not need a car and needed instead to determine his priorities.

“He started talking to me about college,” says Drakeford. “I was working, making money. I really didn’t have a reason to go to college. And he said, ‘Either go or lose your job.’” Drakeford began attending Lehman during its open enrollment period and quickly developed an interest in political science. While attending classes, he took a work-study job at the Boys and (later to be) Girls Club.

“College was the first time I actually enjoyed school,” he says. “I learned that it’s okay to argue, as long as you can come to a conclusion that makes some sense. And there was always encouragement.” He found that faculty like Professors William Bosworth and Bertrand Green were always supportive and presented course material in a way that made him want to come back.

*continued on page 29*

advocacy, leadership, collaboration, counseling, consultation, and use of data—skills required to remove the barriers to student achievement and help every student graduate from high school, ready to succeed. Lehman offers the only graduate school counseling program affiliated with TSC in New York City—and the only one, out of three in New York State, located within a public institution.

Commuting from her home in Westchester, Delaney attended class at night. By day, she did fieldwork at schools such as PS 304 in the Bronx and later worked in the Elmsford School District’s junior/senior high school, focusing on college readiness and raising academic achievement. While working as a counselor trainee at PS 304, she conducted classroom lessons for fifth-graders on bullying awareness

and prevention. “The students were very responsive,” says Delaney. “They later told me how the lessons had prompted them to speak with an adult, rather than remain silent.”

After earning her degree, Delaney maintained her freelance marketing practice until this January when she transitioned to a college counselor position for the Greater New York area with International College Counselors, a Florida-based firm that provides personalized college counseling for students and their parents. There, she says, “we learn about our students to help them realize their college dreams.”

# Matthew Twins Ervin ('05) And Mervin ('04) Both Chose the Doctorate Road

Twin brothers Ervin "Maliq" Matthew (B.A., '05) and Mervin Matthew (B.A., '04) are well-accomplished Lehman alumni from the sociology and psychology departments, respectively. Maliq is a Ph.D. candidate studying at Ohio State University and begins a tenure-track position as an assistant professor this fall at the University of Cincinnati. Mervin, having already earned his Ph.D. from Indiana University, is teaching psychology at the University of Mississippi.

While both brothers attended Bronx High School of Science, and later Lehman College, the focus of each man's study differs somewhat. Both cite their early years growing up in a tough South Bronx neighborhood as a factor that started them on the path to their respective academic careers. Given the same set of circumstances, Maliq sought answers in sociology, while Mervin sought them in psychology.

"My experience at Bronx Science directly informs my interest in education inequality and its impact on future outcomes," says Maliq. "The racial/ethnic and socioeconomic diversity at Science was entirely new to me, and it was especially eye-opening." He notes that talent and motivation require opportunity in order to result in success, and that fact has driven his interest in the shortcomings of society's current system.

Maliq says he knew other talented students from his neighborhood who never received the opportunities he had and did not advance to their potential. "I was successful as a student from the Bronx because I was talented and motivated, but also because I had opportunities that are more limited in communities like mine," says Maliq. "My mission is to give voice to those left behind and make sure that more young people in the inner city get the chances to shine that I did."

Although originally interested in child psychology, Mervin changed his focus to judgment and decision making while attending classes at Lehman with Professors Stanley Renshon (Political Science) and Kevin Sailor (Psychology). "My main research interest is how our social identities influence our decision making-processes," says Mervin. Professors Gary Schwartz (Lehman Scholars Program) and David Manier (Psychology) were also very influential during his years at Lehman.

Maliq researches issues in disadvantaged communities and—thanks to his experience teaching chess in public schools while at Lehman—can put faces to those issues. Although his primary focus is research, he considers teaching an important part of his job. "As an education researcher, I consider my research and my role as an instructor to be complementary."



Ervin "Maliq" Matthew (left) and Mervin Matthew with two of his students.

In fact, teaching is a passion both brothers share, and each follows a unique style in the classroom. Mervin says that his diverse group of students brings a variety of perspectives that enhance learning in his classroom, although to him, the actual classroom experience is secondary. "Mentoring is as important as, and maybe more important than, anything we teach in class, and my students have taught me to pay much more attention to the relationships I form with them. Of all the lessons, I think that the biggest concerns my own role as a teacher."

Maliq likes to engage his students in their exploration of sociological knowledge and pushes them beyond specific class requirements, while striving to create a "captivating intellectual environment" for the learning and exchanging of ideas. "First, at every level of education, we are preparing students to experience success at the next level; this is the ultimate measure of successful teaching, not whether a student has earned a specific grade in a course or performed exceptionally well on an exam, although those accomplishments are obvious byproducts of our work."

Unlike Maliq, who prefers a research university, Mervin prefers liberal arts colleges where more importance is placed on undergraduate work. "Research universities focus on the grad students way more than on the undergrads, and I believe that a person's undergraduate career is something to be highly valued, too." He continues to focus on teaching and notes that both he and his brother have service responsibilities as well. Mervin prefers his service role to involve the teaching and development of new professors.

Even though they came from humble beginnings, Maliq and Mervin have made the most of their opportunities and continue to excel in their respective fields. The brothers are proud to represent Lehman alumni, and Maliq, soon to defend his thesis, says he is working hard and wearing the title of Lehman alum "proudly and loudly." ■

— Anita Spearman (B.A., '11)

# Film by **Sophia Tewa ('08)**

## Wins Best Documentary Award



**Sophia Tewa** (above). In the upper right, Nurto Ousmane, a Somali farmer, holds her newborn baby in the refugee camp of Dadaab. She had to sell her farm to get there.

Sophia Tewa (B.A., '08) tells a powerful story of both change and resilience in her documentary, "The People the Rain Forgot," which captured the Best Documentary Feature at the Winter 2012 Hollywood Cinema Film Festival. The festival showcases domestic and international films from talented independent filmmakers.

Producing the film, which documents the drastic impact of climate change on the agricultural areas of northern Kenya, as well as to the border with Somalia, where millions of refugees have fled famine and civil war. Driving a Land Rover on dirt roads—or no roads at all—she and her sister Celine, also a cinematographer, were sometimes accompanied by a military or UN escort because of the occasional raiders and bandits.

With no rainfall in the past four years, the film reports, once-fertile lands are slowing turning into

deserts, and local tribes and nomadic people who call that area home are unable to produce crops or harvest water for themselves or their animals.

"Without rain, most Kenyan communities basically can't survive," Tewa explains. "I wanted to raise awareness of this issue and how it is linked to climate change. I think it is important for all generations to know that we are already seeing the disastrous effect climate change has on some of the world's most vulnerable populations."

Even though the area's residents now depend heavily on relief food, they have not given up hope and have devised a variety of projects to sustain their existence. The Somali refugees, too, hope one day to return to their country and fight the drought.

Tewa, a 2010 graduate of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, produced the film with her sister over the course of six months, including two months of filming on site. "With the assistance of the United Nations World Food Programme and Red Cross volunteers," she says, "we were able to witness the courageous acts of change happening all around Kenya."

More information is available at <http://thepeopletherainforgot.com>. ■

## **Julissa Alvarez-Díaz ('04, '10)** **Working with Youth in Dominican Republic**

Born in the Dominican Republic, Julissa Alvarez-Díaz (B.A., '04; M.S.W., '10) temporarily left her post as the budget analyst in the Provost's Office at Lehman this February not only to visit her native land but also to work with the country's First Lady, Dr. Margarita Cedeño de Fernández. The two had met in Spring 2011, when Dr. Cedeño delivered the Lehman Lecture.

Along with more than 3,000 students, Alvarez-Díaz attended the graduation for the leaders of Dr. Cedeño's new organization, *Proyecto de Formación de Jóvenes Líderes por el Progreso y la Paz* (Project

for the Formation of Young Leaders for Progress and Peace), which focuses on empowering youth regarding the country's values and social justice. The graduation capped off the group's accomplishments during 2011 and set new goals for the year ahead.

In addition, Alvarez-Díaz met with key members of Dr. Cedeño's office, including Dr. Altagracia Suriel, who is in charge of overseeing fourteen programs, and Dr. Sabrina Santana, the director of international relations. Alvarez-Díaz concluded her week-long visit by giving a presentation called "Social Issues of the Dominican Republic and the Role of the Youth" to about seventy young people. "I felt empowered by the humility, optimism, and enthusiasm of each of them," Alvarez said. "I also had a flashback of myself growing up and realized how far I had come."

She plans to collaborate with the organization on similar activities in the near future.

**Alumna Julissa Alvarez-Díaz (center left) with Lorilet Monegro, a speech pathologist who also traveled to the Dominican Republic to work with its youth. The photo was taken following the end of Alvarez-Díaz's presentation to the group.**



# Nelson Torres ('98, '08)

## Wins Prestigious Social Work Award

Nelson Torres was surprised when he heard the news, but those who know him were not.

The Lehman alumnus (B.A., '98; M.S.W., '08) won an Emerging Leadership Award last fall from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) for his work with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transsexual (LGBT) community of the Bronx. "It's a great honor," he said.

Torres is the site director for the Bronx office of the Hispanic AIDS Forum. "What is particularly great about Nelson is his empathy, support, and leadership with LGBT teens who are struggling with their sexual identity and coming out," noted Professor Carl Mazza (Social Work). "He has, almost singlehandedly, developed an annual 'Coming Out' event at Hostos Community College for young people."

Born in Puerto Rico, Torres immigrated to New York with his family in 1988. After earning a degree from Lehman in sociology, he became a case manager with the Citizen's Advice Bureau, serving in the area of homelessness prevention and later in prevention services for children. After working with members of the LGBT

communities marginalized by society, he decided to work for the Hispanic AIDS Forum. While serving as a full-time coordinator of prevention services at the Forum, he returned to Lehman, also on a full-time basis, and earned his master's of social work degree in 2008. At the Forum, Torres helps young Latinos who are being ostracized by their families for their sexual orientation and also created the now-annual Coming Out Day in the Bronx.



Nelson Torres

The event, which drew 700 people last October, including Bronx Borough President Ruben Díaz, Jr., is part of an international observance. "There's a lot of hate crimes and homophobia in the Bronx," said Torres, "and we need to celebrate our borough's diversity so that everyone can feel included."

In 2005, Torres, who was living at the time in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx, was himself the victim of a hate crime. He was assaulted by a group of 15-20 youths because they assumed he was gay. The crime only strengthened his resolve to help people. ■

### *A Banner Year for the Gallery*

The Lehman College Art Gallery in 2011 continued to reach a wide audience of adults and schoolchildren alike with a variety of programs:

- Art education programming: more than 13,000 visits from K-12 students and teachers, in addition to adult visitors;
- Saturday bilingual family programs, offered free to the community;
- Three major contemporary art exhibitions: "New York Fiber in the Twenty-First Century," "El Museo's Bienal, the (S) Files 2011," and "Sticks and Stones";
- Expansion of the Bronx Architecture website, thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The website celebrates the borough's important buildings and major architects who have worked here over the past 200 years; and
- Recognition once more by a prestigious Institute of Museum and Library Services / Museums for America grant that supports the Gallery's work with Bronx schools and the community.



Artist Barbara Andrus (left) and Gallery Director Susan Hoeltzel look over the materials being gathered to create the "Sticks and Stones" exhibit.

## Dale Benjamin Drakeford (continued from page 25)

The Lehman experience led to graduate work at St. John's University, NYU, and Fordham University and an experiment with long-distance learning, studying politics, public administration, non-profit management, and educational administration.

"Lehman embedded appreciation for school and thinking," says Drakeford, who now champions lifelong learning. "The influence of Bosworth and Green goes further than just the Lehman campus. Their style served me later as an adjunct with the College of New Rochelle in the South Bronx. In the facilitation of seminars titled The American Experience, Urban Community, The Black Family, and Experience, Learning & Identity, I often thought of how they might present a topic."

After earning his bachelor's degree from Lehman, Drakeford continued to work at the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club, and retired from there as director of operations in 1997 after twenty-eight years of service. Throughout those years, Leonard M. Cohen was still present, making sure he received a work-study contract and later serving as a reference for achieving Robert W. Woodruff Fellow status. As a Woodruff Fellow, Drakeford studied government and the non-profit business in many major cities across the nation, as well as in Germany.

In the late 1980s, he returned to Lehman for a second master's degree, this one in guidance and counseling (his first was earned at a private institution). Equipped with this degree, he has worked for the past thirteen years as a counselor for the New York City Department of Education.

While attending a Planned Giving Reception in November 2011, hosted by President and Mrs. Fernández, he was introduced to the Planned Giving vehicle of a Charitable Gift Annuity and thought that this was the perfect way to give back to the College.

"I had been looking at it at a number of places," he explains, "and it just seemed right to me that I do it here. I went to Lehman twice, I'm a Bronxite, and I had a good experience," he says. "I'm a working, middle-class guy, and this is a program where a working, middle-class guy can still get a return."

Drakeford presently works at PS 204 in the Bronx and believes that "intelligent giving" must be evident in one's work, play, and charitable involvement.

"It's most important I give to this institution called Herbert H. Lehman College, because this institution gave to me. When I benefitted, I didn't know who was making it possible, and the people who benefit from my gift won't know me, but that's okay," says Drakeford.

Looking back on his life, he feels he was lucky with firm, but caring mentors, including friends, teachers, and administrators from grade school through middle and high school, and other adults at

the Bronx Boys Club. "Mentors were all of different shapes, colors, sizes, and inclinations, yet indispensable to this one life," said Drakeford.

He remembers, in particular, an event on August 4, 1980. "Lenny man-napped me with the help of Lehman alum Joan Sulpizi DiSalvatore (B.A., '69). They were running the Mount Vernon Boys Club, and they kept me on the premises to stall for time. First, they had me read a proposal for my input, and then they had me meet with some members they claimed would benefit from my perspective on constructive play. About ninety minutes later, I was finally exiting

*'It's most important I give to this institution called Herbert H. Lehman College, because this institution gave to me. When I benefitted, I didn't know who was making it possible, and the people who benefit from my gift won't know me, but that's okay.'*

when the social-work intern they wanted me to meet was pulling up in her car." Drakeford and the social worker were married four years later to the day.

Then there was the nameless lady who rescued his broken car from the back roads of the North Carolina-South Carolina state lines. Or the nameless classmate who rescued him from a jobless summer in 1969, providing detailed information about a bank that was hiring teenagers. "He was certain I would ace the interview and get hired. I did get hired, and a world of financial worry and troubled self-esteem got fired."

Drakeford concludes, therefore, that paying it forward need not be dramatic or prolonged. "An affordable contribution to your college is KISS—Keep It Simple and Studious, in other words, doable."

Also a songwriter and poet, Drakeford recently published two collections of self-help activity poetry: *Preambles* (for adults) and *Pocket Poems and Pedagogy* (for elementary-school students). Here's a sample from *Pocket Poems*:

*Nervous is my nickname  
Afraid is my second  
That's because Sad and Mad  
Are already taken  
Stubborn is my middle name  
Embarrassed is my first  
Frustrated is the last to say  
Anger makes me burst*

Now, Drakeford suggests, write your own pocket poem with the feelings you most experience. ■

— Keisha-Gaye Anderson

Events organized this past season by Lehman's Alumni Relations Office ranged from the practical to the cultural.



President Fernández addresses guests at November's Planning Giving Seminar.

**A Planned Giving Seminar** in November at President Fernández's residence gave alumni information on the benefits of Charitable Gift Annuities, as described by Steve Imperato, an expert in this field. Two alumni subsequently decided on such an annuity (see page 25).

The following month, during December's holiday season, a free **Richard Tucker Foundation Concert** featured two rising opera stars, baritone Keith Miller and mezzo-soprano Renée Tatum, who had won the prestigious Richard Tucker Awards. They celebrated the legacy of America's greatest tenor with a selection of opera favorites, marking the first time this landmark cultural event was held in the Bronx, thanks to Barry Tucker, president of the Richard Tucker Foundation. The concert, which was followed by a reception with the artists as well as guests from the extended Lehman community, represented the last in a series of events celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Lehman campus.



Above, from left, Barry Tucker, president, the Richard Tucker Foundation, with composer and musician Michael Bacon (B.A., '95) and his wife. At right is Maria-Cristina Necula, director of alumni relations. At left, the stars of the show, Keith Miller (left) and Renée Tatum (center left), with President and Mrs. Fernández.



Tatum (center left), with President and Mrs. Fernández.



Then in February, the Alumni Relations Office organized the College's **Annual Donor Recognition** to thank Lehman's alumni, friends, and other donors for their support. As partners in the event, the Lehman College Art Gallery hosted a reception allowing guests a chance to view the new spring exhibits (see p. 20-21) prior to a spectacular concert in the Performing Arts Center by the Tchaikowski St. Petersburg Orchestra. Both the reception and concert tickets were the College's gift to supporters.



(From top) Carole Rothman (left), an alumna from Lehman's first graduating class in 1969, and her guest, Rita Falbel.

Representing the Sociology faculty were Professor Esther Wilder (left) with her husband, Saam Trivedi, and retired Professor John Lally with his wife, Mary.



Larry Carr (left) from the Class of '77 with guest Jennifer Berkeley, and Mario DellaPina, Lehman's vice president for institutional advancement.

From left: Nancy Cintron, director of career services; Mort Berkowitz, a Hunter-in-the-Bronx alumnus from the Class of 1961; Maria-Cristina Necula, director of alumni relations; and Eva Bornstein, executive director of the Performing Arts Center.



## Lehman Alumni Are Now on Facebook and Linked-In

The Lehman College Alumni Facebook page officially launched this spring at <http://www.facebook.com/LehmanCollegeAlumni>.

Visit the page, "like" us, and become our "friend." You'll see lots more photos from alumni events—maybe even a few with you and your classmates. You're invited to share information, announcements, photos, comments, and ideas about any Lehman alumni-related happenings, events, performances, exhibits, talks, and resources. Spread the word to grow a strong network of Lehman graduates.



Lehman alumni can also connect now on LinkedIn. The easiest way to get there is to visit [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com), "Groups," and then search for "Lehman College Alumni." Voila!

The goal at LinkedIn is to connect current and future Lehman alumni and offer a networking and discussion forum, as well as information about various alumni-related events and activities.

If you request to join this group, you must be a Lehman alumnus or a currently enrolled student planning to graduate from Lehman. If you don't have Lehman College posted to your profile, then please e-mail [alumni@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:alumni@lehman.cuny.edu) with the year you graduated and your major/minor/specialization.





# alumni notes

## 1968

**Murray Sabrin (M.S.Ed.)**, a Professor of Finance in the Anisfield School of Business, Ramapo College, was the featured lecturer at the third installment of the Felician College Division of Business and Management Sciences' Leadership and Innovation Lecture Series. Professor Sabrin has worked in commercial real estate sales and marketing, personal portfolio management, and economic research and has also written more than 200 essays on the web and in a variety of newspapers and journals since early 2000. He is the author of *Tax Free 2000: The Rebirth of American Liberty* and a technical editor of *Stock Investing for Dummies*. Visit his commentary about New Jersey and the national economy at [www.MurraySabrin.com](http://www.MurraySabrin.com).

## 1971

**Barbara Gutzler (B.A.)** was elected Town Supervisor of Wappinger in Dutchess County, N.Y. She has a decade of experience with the County Legislature, working on budget, social service, environmental, and personnel issues; she has also evaluated capital plans for county resources and worked with State and Federal regulations. As a teacher, she worked with special-needs children and their parents.

## 1972

**John R. Khani (M.S.)** has retired and now works part-time as assistant director for public affairs for the Council of Supervisors and Administrators. In 1968, he began teaching fifth grade in the South Bronx at CS 61 and the following year became a pioneer in the "task-card" approach to learning, a precursor to individualized learning and differentiated instruction. In 1975, when he was transferred to PS 305 in Bedford-Stuyvesant, he began teaching gifted and talented students, and became assistant principal there in 1981. Then in 1988 he was appointed principal of PS 287 in Fort Greene, where he served for nearly two decades. In 1997, he was selected as Supervisor of the Year in District 13. During his last term as principal, his school ranked fourth in New York City in terms of improvement in mathematics and 17th in language arts out of over 700 elementary schools.

## 1973

**Constantine "Gus" Drakakis (B.S.)** has joined First County Bank as vice president of mortgage lending operations. He manages all residential mortgage application operations for the bank.

**Phyllis Schieber (B.A.)** was a finalist in the 2011 Inaugural Indie Publishing Contest, sponsored by the San Francisco Writer's Conference, for her book *The Manicurist*. In the book, each of the characters embraces a specific truth that ultimately leads her or him to realize their lives are constantly shaped by factors beyond their control.

## 1975

**Saida Pagan (B.A.)** received honorable mention in the 80th Annual Writer's Digest *Writing Competition*. Her story, "Not Just Another Walk in the Park" was entered in the Inspirational Category and ranked fourteenth out of 660 entries. It tells of how she once kept a toddler from potential danger by listening to the "inner voice" that compelled her to go to a particular park on a September morning. Her name and the title of her entry are scheduled to be included in a special Collectors Edition of *Writer's Digest*.

## 1976

**Chris Morris-Ernest (B.S.)** of East Stroudsburg, Pa., was promoted to full-time bookkeeper for the East Stroudsburg University Foundation.

## 1977

**Ronald W. Belmont (M.S.)** has been elected mayor/supervisor of the Town of Harrison in Westchester County.

## 1978

**Dr. Joseph Scelsa (M.S.)** was chosen by the Morris Park Columbus Day Parade Committee to lead the 2011 Bronx Columbus Day Parade. He was born in the Belmont section of the Bronx before moving

to the Pelham Parkway area and then later the Morris Park neighborhood. Dr. Scelsa is the founder and president of the Italian-American Museum located in the heart of Manhattan's historic Little Italy district.

## 1979

**Kathleen Silard (B.S.)** is the executive vice president and chief operating officer of Stamford Hospital in Connecticut, where she has also been appointed chief nursing officer.

**Dr. Steven Tepikian (B.S.)** has worked as a physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island for nearly thirty years. One of ten national laboratories overseen and primarily funded by the Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy, the Laboratory conducts research in the physical, biomedical, and environmental sciences, as well as in energy technologies and national security.



## 1980

The late **Miguel Guillermo Amaro (B.A., '82)**, one of the original founders of the Dominican Day Parade—held for the first time on Audubon Avenue in Washington Heights—has had the street corner at West 190th Street and Audubon Avenue renamed after him, *Miguel Amaro Way*. It is just yards away from the apartment building where Amaro held meetings and helped plan the very first Dominican Day Parade. He died in 1997.

**Dr. Elizabeth Capezuti (B.S.)** is the Dr. John W. Rowe Professor in successful aging and co-director of NYU's Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing. Her program of research addresses fall prevention, restraint and seclusion elimination, APN (advanced practice nurse) facilitated models, and geriatric work environment. Findings from her research have been used to draft both State legislation and Federal regulations related to nursing home care. Her current studies focus primarily on translating effective interventions into actual practice, specifically system-change approaches to transform provider behavior. She gave the keynote address last spring at Lehman's Honors Convocation.

**Dr. Marion (Caryl) Somers (M.S.)** became the spokesperson for the *3 in 4 Need More* campaign, which is aimed at spreading the message that health insurance isn't enough; it is estimated that three in four Americans will need some form of long-term care insurance or planning for longer-lasting illnesses and disabilities not covered by regular insurance or Medicare. Dr. Somers is the author of *Elder Care Made Easier* and her self-syndicated "Ask Doctor Marion" column series, which is published monthly in regional newspapers nationwide. She also won the Merit Award from the 18th Annual National Mature Market Media Awards Program.

## 1983

**Dr. Jocelyn A. Brown (B.A.)** is founder and CEO of *WritingProfessional.org*, a publishing and consulting firm for writers.

## 1985

**(William) Kenneth Freeman (B.A.)**, interim chief information officer and vice president of Webster University, has been named to the *St. Louis Business Journal's 2011 Class of Diverse Business Leaders*. Prior to joining Webster, he served in senior IT leadership roles at Monsanto, CIGNA, UPS, and IBM. He is on the board of Herbert Hoover Boys & Girls Club and the IT committee for the St. Louis Metro Urban League.

**Michael J. Teator (B.A.)** has received a Certificate of Merit from the New York State Assembly for his years of service teaching children. He is a lunchtime enrichment/after-school instructor at eleven area schools in lower Westchester and a BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services)-certified instructor.

## 1986

**Francisco J. Cotto (B.A.)** is one of the founders of Hot Peas 'N Butter, a children's musical group. The group combines an interactive,

invigorating approach to performance with multicultural music, incorporating elements of Afro-Caribbean rhythms, jazz, R&B, folk, and rock. The group has received three Parents' Choice Awards.

## 1988

**Janet Evelyn-Dorsey (B.A.)**, the dean of the School of Business at Ivy Tech Community College East Central Region, took part in the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership presented by the Presidents' Round Table. The Institute seeks African-American participants whose experience and credentials indicate they are ready to attain the highest academic positions. The program provides an opportunity to open dialogue with chancellors, presidents, and CEOs and covers all aspects of academic leadership.

**Christopher Reid (B.A.)** is an actor, comedian, and rapper who is known as part of the 80s hip-hop duo Kid 'N Play. He has worked as a stand-up comedian, appearing on shows such as *Your Big Break*, *Martin*, *Sister, Sister*, and *It's Showtime at the Apollo*. He also wrote the theme song for *Real Time with Bill Maher*, has made guest appearances on *Celebridadra*, *The Dawn and Drew Show*, and *Comics Unleashed* and played the role of *The Rhymers* on Nickelodeon's *Supah Ninjas*.

## 1996

**Andre Blackman (B.S.)** is a senior health insurance examiner for the New York State Insurance Department. He received an M.B.A. in health services administration from the State University of New York Institute of Technology.

## 1998

**Héctor Manuel Fernandez (B.A.)** is a lawyer and an assistant professor in the Department of Business and Technology of LaGuardia Community College. Before becoming a professor, he worked as a vice president for Amalgamated Bank in a number of different areas.

## 2001

**Ileana Ferreras (B.A.)** is a professional life coach in New York.

## 2002

**Elizabeth Donnelly (B.S., M.S. '07)** is a social worker and senior program development coordinator at the Aisling Irish Community Center, a social services organization based in Yonkers, which serves the needs of Irish immigrants living in New York.

## 2003

**Michael John (B.A.)** is director of public safety at William Peace University, located in Raleigh, N.C. He previously served for thirty-one years at the Rockefeller University in New York City as a night shift guard, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, operations manager, and assistant director of security.

## 2005

**Celina Basant (M.S.Ed.)** is a substitute biology teacher in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and an adjunct instructor in education at the Community College of Allegheny County. Previously she was the assistant summer school principal and chair of the science department at Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction in New York City.

## 2007

**Elizabeth N. Raupers (M.S.Ed.)** is an English teacher in the San Francisco Unified School District. Previously she was with Bronxwood Academy as an English language arts instructor.

## 2008

**John Hahn (M.A.T.)** is part of Peekskill High School's teaching staff and received the "Teacher of the Month" award after being nominated by his students. A graduate of the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, Conn., he is a multi-instrumentalist who plays the trombone, tuba, and bass, is a member of over a dozen bands of various genres, and has performed in many Off-Broadway shows.

*continued on page 32*



## alumni notes

**Aney Paul (M.S.)** is a registered nurse since 1987 at Nyack Hospital and president of the New City Library Board. Last fall, she became the first Indian-American woman to be elected to the Rockland County Legislature.

### 2010

**Ezequiel Jiménez (B.A.)** exhibited at the Ninth State Annual Exhibition of Black Art. This event is organized by the administrative department of the State of Rhode Island, in association with the Council for the Arts, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts-RISCA, and the Governor's Office.

**Airman 1st Class Randolph L. Mercado (B.B.A.)** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

**Lynn Sabat** has been elected the new administrator of the Jewish Center of Teaneck, N.J. Previously she worked for The Jewish Community Campus of Rockland in Rockland County, N.Y., and most recently was its administrative director.

### IN MEMORIAM

**Mildred Lazar Guido (B.A., '96)** died on August 17. She was a teacher for the New York City Board of Education.

**Patrick Gerard O'Connor (B.A., '75)** died on October 6, 2010 in Brooklyn at the age of 57. He began his career in the art business while still in college, working summers for the Weintraub Gallery on Madison Avenue, and continued there full-time after graduation. He was manager of Hammer Galleries until 1986. For several years, he was with Associated American Artists and then became director of Galerie Tamenaga. Most recently he worked at J.N. Bartfield Galleries.

**Talibah M. Yazid (B.A., '96)** died on April 22 in Gainesville, Ga. During her career, she was employed by the New York City Department of Social Services, the Miami-Dade School District, and the Valdosta (Ga.) City School District.

### From the Blogosphere:

#### 'I would not have gotten a better education at Harvard'

I thought I was a loser.

I dropped out of high school in my senior year in 1982 and worked construction for years in Alphabet City, renovating apartments for people who lived in a world I only dreamed about. In 1988 I moved back in with parents in the Bronx at the age of twenty-five to try to make something of myself. I made it through undergrad in about three years because of the support and help and excellence of the people who work at Lehman.

The people in financial aid made sure I had the money to go. They were patient and kind. The admin assistants like Eileen in the Lehman Scholars Program and Stella Americo in Art made sure I knew what I was doing and even helped me figure out my schedule. The professors at Lehman took the time to really see who I was and gave me guidance beyond what I expected. For example, some took the time to read and comment thoughtfully on a series of short stories I wrote. Thank you for that!

Gary Schwartz and Charles Beye inspired me to study the classics. I still have those textbooks twenty years later. They took me out for lunch, sat with me on the quad, and taught me things that I never knew existed, including a new way to frame what I knew. Herbert Broderick inspired me to study art history and challenged me to become a better scholar than I had thought possible. He encouraged me to go to graduate school, wrote me letters of recommendation, talked with me while we rode the 4 Train together. Professors Dubler and Virginia Scott taught me how to express my ideas in writing. Professor Ackerman taught me how to write a research paper by allowing me to attend a graduate level seminar.

I am now a professor and I owe it all to Lehman. I would not have gotten a better education at Harvard. I would have been lost, and you guys pulled me out of my cave. You cared about me. I'm trying to pass that on now. I am a professor at a community college in California who every day tries to give back what Lehman gave me. I never can, but I will try.

— Kenney Mencher (B.A., '91)



Professor Mencher is now a member of the art and art history faculty at Ohlone College in Fremont, Calif., where he also directs the Louie Meagher Art Gallery. He shared his inspiring personal story on the new blog launched at the College. Join in the conversation and share your own experiences at the College. Visit the Lehman homepage ([www.lehman.edu](http://www.lehman.edu)) and click on "Blogs@Lehman," or share your story directly at <http://blog.lehman.edu/blog/landing-pages/share-your-story-about-lifelehman>

### Remembering Former PAC Chair Lee H. Bloom

Lee H. Bloom, chair of the board of Lehman Center for the Performing Arts from 1987-1993, died on December 12 at the age of 92. A memorial service was held for him in Larchmont on March 4.

Dedicated to the growth of cultural programming on Lehman's campus during the early years of Lehman Center, he had been president and vice chairman of Unilever U.S., Inc. and had served previously for more

than twenty-five years in executive positions with one of its two original firms, Lever Bros. A 1940 graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he earned his law degree from Harvard University in 1943 and began working as an attorney for Lever Bros. in 1947. He retired from Unilever as its vice chairman in 1983 and later taught for a year at Grinnell College in Iowa.

Active in both civic and community life, he was a member of the Planning Board, Town Board, and Republican Committee in Mamaroneck, N.Y. A staunch believer in the United Nations—which he shared with his wife, he was president of the southern New York State division of the U.N. Association U.S.A. from 1989-93. He also was coordinator of the New York State School and Business Alliance for Yonkers Public Schools from 1987-93.

### Denise Fawcett Facey ('79): A Teacher Turned Author

Denise Fawcett Facey (B.A., '79) went on to earn her M.S.Ed. from Hunter College and was a classroom teacher for many years. She has been a speaker at various national and local education conferences and currently conducts workshops that train teachers to understand and reach today's diverse students. In addition, she recently published *The Social Studies Helper* and *Can I Be in Your Class?* to help teachers acquire new tools for interacting with their students.

*The Social Studies Helper* includes projects and activities to involve high school students in active learning that is also designed to be fun, while simultaneously building the skills needed for standardized exams. *Can I Be in Your Class?* offers detailed tips and techniques to help improve individual teaching, as well as self-assessments so teachers can reflect on



the suggested improvements and then individualize and implement those suggestions. Both books are published by Rowman and Littlefield Education, and are available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Strand, and individual book-sellers. *Can I Be in Your Class?* is \$16.95, and *The Social Studies Helper* is \$29.95. For more information, visit [www.denisefawcettfacey.com](http://www.denisefawcettfacey.com).

## Year Two of Lehman's Strategic Plan: The Future Begins to Take Shape

Lehman College's strategic plan for 2010-2020 moved briskly forward in 2011, despite the ebb and flow of the Great Recession. Like the green sprouts heralded as signs of returning growth in the nation's economy, there were promising signs at the College as well. Enrollment climbed, funding remained tight but stable, and construction started on a new child care center while continuing on the new science building. Above all, the College's framework for the future began taking shape.

Arts and Humanities, Natural and Social Sciences, and Education—all became schools instead of divisions, a structure that will keep the arts and sciences as the College's core while encouraging the creation of professional programs in newly developing fields. At the same time, work continued on the development of another new school: the School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing, which will create a synergy of scholarship and service among these fields.

Seeds planted in past years through new initiatives also bore fruit, with upward trends in the SAT scores for regularly admitted, first-time freshmen, in the rates of student retention, and in graduation rates. To assist students coming to Lehman from other colleges, planning began on a "one stop" Transfer Center to guide these students through the admissions process and help them make a seamless transition to Lehman. In the meantime, until funding is secured for the physical space, a virtual transfer center was created to help serve that same purpose.

To forge new pedagogical paths, the Lehman Teaching and Learning Commons was established, and faculty members began develop-

ing an advanced aesthetics lab, a hybrid lecture-and-lab for teaching anatomy and physiology, more effective ways of teaching and tutoring in mathematics, and other new teaching methods. With funding of \$1.3 million secured from the Bronx delegation to the New York City Council, planning began on a permanent home for the Commons that will include flexible classroom and presentation space, areas for group and quiet study, as well as for technology support and training, and a combination lounge and café. Ultimately, the Commons will become the heart of an interdisciplinary, cross-campus dialogue that will make Lehman a center of excellence and innovation in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Critical funding from alumni and other private sources also grew, reaching \$4.6 million during 2011 and fueling support for student scholarships and other essential needs. Over the last three years, the rate of participation from Lehman alumni in College giving more than quadrupled, rising from .05 percent to 3.5 percent, the average rate for CUNY colleges. By the end of 2011, about 2,100 alumni were actively involved as donors. Also by year's end, \$39 million in cash and pledges had been raised over the course of a decade toward the College's \$40 million Capital Campaign, which is part of the University's Campaign for the Colleges. The \$40 million target is expected to be reached by the summer of 2012—two years ahead of the 2014 target completion date—and will be reset accordingly.

The year 2011 saw a host of other accomplishments as well. The stories on the following pages highlight some of them.



## January / February

The Metropolitan Opera's 2010-11 Live in HD series continues at Lehman with a new production of John Adams's opera *Nixon in China*. The opera is transmitted live via satellite to the Lovinger Theatre.

NY1 News reporter Dean Meminger delivers the keynote address at Lehman's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture.

Lehman's newly created Center for Human Rights and Peace Studies hosts its inaugural event—a day-long conference on immigration reform and immigrants' rights—with the keynote address given by Dr. Linda Green, director of the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Arizona. She discusses the landscape of immigration in that state and what it means for the rest of the country.

## March

The First Lady of The Dominican Republic, Dr. Margarita Cedeño de Fernández, delivers the 42nd annual Lehman Lecture and receives an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the College.

In honor of Women's History Month, several esteemed poets visit Lehman for a poetry slam, "Celebrating Haitian Women."

The event is sponsored by the Division of Arts and Humanities, The Kreyol Students Association, Haiti Cultural Exchange, Inc., and the Women's Studies Program.



## April

Lehman announces a series of events to celebrate the eightieth anniversary of the College's historic campus. The series will include a book reading, the Richard Tucker Foundation Concert, an Eightieth Anniversary Dinner, and other events for alumni as well as the public.

CUNY-TV's *Nueva York*, co-hosted by Lehman Professor Patricio Lerzundi (Journalism, Communication, and Theatre), wins three New York Emmy Awards. The program focuses on the New York Latino community and is broadcast in English and Spanish. This is the third year in a row that the program has been recognized.

The Department of Languages and Literatures hosts a two-day symposium on "The City and Hispanic Literatures," featuring readings and presentations in both Spanish and English by some of the most respected writers and researchers in the field.

Lehman celebrates National Poetry Month with "Billy Collins and Friends" in which former U.S. Poet Laureate and Distinguished Professor of



English Billy Collins, as well as other acclaimed poets from the faculty of The City University of New York, present a set of readings.

Lehman's Center for Human Rights and Peace Studies holds "New Pathways to Justice," a major international conference on strategies to stop the violence taking place against women in Central America. The conference features more than a dozen speakers from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, as well as the United States, representing a panoply of institutions and organizations, from "cold case" detectives and forensic specialists to prosecutors, judges, and human rights advocates.



The Lehman Alumni Association and Office of Alumni Affairs sponsor a one-day bus excursion to Washington, D.C.

## May

Dr. Susan Reverby, the medical historian who uncovered the experiment by the U.S. government in which hundreds of Guatemalans were deliberately inoculated with a sexually transmitted disease, gives a talk at Lehman entitled "Reflections on the Inoculation Syphilis Studies in Guatemala."

Nine budding playwrights read from their works at Lehman's First Annual Lehman Playwrights' Festival.

Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández is honored at ASPIRA's Fiftieth Anniversary Salute for his more than forty years of work in the field of education. He is presented with the Education Award at the event, which is held in honor of those who have made a significant impact on the Latino community and ASPIRA.

## June

Former U.S. Poet Laureate and Distinguished Professor of English Billy Collins addresses over 2,500 graduate and undergraduate students in the Lehman College Class of 2011 at the College's 43rd Commencement exercises. Award-winning Latin music artist Johnny Pacheco and Ponce De León Federal Bank Chairman and CEO Erasto Torres receive honorary degrees. *Photo at right by Brendan McGibney.*



"Inside Lehman XI," a thirty-minute video magazine produced by a team of Lehman students, faculty, and staff, wins a Communicator Award of Excellence from the International Academy of the

Visual Arts and the Communicator Awards. With this latest honor, the video magazine has now won a staggering twenty-two awards since it was launched.

The Board of HETS (Hispanic Educational Technology Services) gathers at Lehman for its annual meeting. Lehman is a founding member of the organization.



## July / August

Lehman's four academic divisions become schools.

Lehman names Dr. Harriet R. Fayne, a skilled administrator with more than thirty years of experience in higher education, as the new dean of Lehman's School of Education. She comes to Lehman from Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio, where she was dean of the School of Professional Studies, as well as interim dean of its graduate school.



Eight Lehman students earn the opportunity to connect their career aspirations to real-world experience as part of the NYNY (New York Needs You) intensive two-year fellowship program, sponsored by Goldman Sachs.

## September

Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández receives the NFL Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award during the Jets game against the Jacksonville Jaguars at MetLife Stadium.

Lehman breaks ground on a new \$6.3 million Child Care Center that will double the capacity of its present center and serve 140 children for all-day and after-school programs.



## October

Noted author, playwright, activist, and poet Sonia Sanchez gives a special reading and discusses the essence of both her poetry and poetry-making as part of the School of Arts and Humanities Fall 2011 Speaker Series.

Lehman's annual Leadership Dinner Gala is held at the New York Botanical Garden, celebrating eighty years of the history of the campus and raising funds for student scholarships. Honored are



Congressman Eliot Engel (B.A., '69; M.S., '73), William Gilbane, Jr., president and chief operating officer of Gilbane Building Company, and Dominick Russello, vice president and relationship manager of Citibank.

## November

Lehman's Master of Public Health Program hosts its first annual MPH Alumni-Student Event, with guest speaker Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association.

Children at Lehman's Child Care Center are treated to a reading by faculty from the Leonard Lief Library—the first in a series of activities designed to introduce children to the Library's holdings and help to cultivate a love for reading.

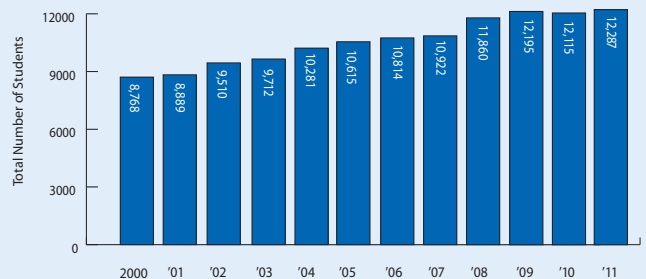


## December

Student work is showcased in Lehman's first annual Festival of Theatre and Dance.

### Enrollment Figures Continue Upward

Lehman College Enrollment 2000-2011



Enrollment continued to climb at Lehman in 2011, growing 40 percent since 2000. The number of students has stood at more than 12,000 for the past three years.

# Research

## Research, Scholarship, and Creative Works: Expanding Human Knowledge and Expression

From a new song cycle by Distinguished Professor John Corigliano to dozens of new books, articles, and other publications, Lehman faculty in 2011 produced a wealth of artistry, research, and discovery. Inspired and mentored by these faculty, Lehman students also contributed to the world of knowledge. These pages provide just a few examples. Find a full listing of faculty publications and grants at [www.lehman.edu/library/faculty-publications.php](http://www.lehman.edu/library/faculty-publications.php).

### Neotropical Blueberries: An 'Extreme Super Fruit'

Blueberries grown in North America have long been touted as a "superfruit" that's excellent for your health, but a Lehman professor and his research team have discovered that their little-known cousins have far greater nutritional benefits. In fact, he calls them "extreme superfruits."

These "neotropical" blueberries grow wild in places like Mexico and Central and South America, and, according to Dr. Edward Kennelly (Biological Sciences), they are far more potent than most blueberries sold in U.S. supermarkets.

The team's research, published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, shows that the neotropical berries exhibit "significantly higher" antioxidants that help prevent illnesses like cancer, cardiovascular disease, and Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Kennelly and his coauthors studied two of the more than 600 species—*Cavendishia grandifolia* and *Anthopterus wardii*—and found they had two to four times more antioxidant capacity than conventional blueberries.

"We consider these two species of neotropical blueberries to be extreme super fruits with great potential to benefit human health," Dr. Kennelly says. He first learned of the fruit through a partnership between Lehman and the New York Botanical Garden, which has long cultivated these species.

### Impact of Outsourcing Industry on India

Driven by cost-savings, many American and European corporations have sent jobs overseas. In *Dead Ringers: How Outsourcing is Changing the Way Indians Understand Themselves* (Princeton University Press, 2011), Dr. Shehzad Nadeem (Sociology) explores the pros and cons of this trend in workplace globalization.

The outsourcing industry in India employs close to two million people, and revenue from outsourcing by foreign companies has reached many billions of dollars annually. Dr. Nadeem introduces readers to the world of this distant workforce, who are paid to become "dead ringers" for the more expensive American workers they have replaced. They assume Westernized names, speak in foreign



One of the species of neotropical blueberries, *Cavendishia grandifolia*. Photo by Dr. Paola Pedraza-Peñalosa.

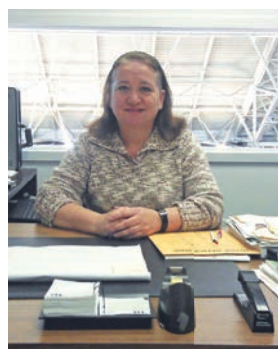
accents, and are expected to understand the culture, habits, and lifestyles of their overseas customers.

While the high-tech outsourcing industry is a matter of considerable pride for India, the reality is that these workers still occupy the lowest rung of the corporate ladder, and often work under tight surveillance and aggressive management. "Outsourcing' has become a public spectacle, and I try to capture its many, often absurd, facets," says Dr. Nadeem. "My goal was to move back and forth from corporate headquarters and trade fairs to offshore workplaces and the spheres of everyday life to paint a more accurate picture of its costs and benefits. As the focus is on the supposed beneficiaries of globalization, I pay close attention to the cyclical humiliations and joys of life under transnational capitalism."



### Fighting Obesity with Smarter Exercise

The epidemic of obesity in developed countries like the U.S. is linked to diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and other serious medical conditions. Physical exercise can combat obesity, by increasing the energy we expend, but it also can increase our appetite, driving us to eat more. How can an exercise regimen be made more effective?



To find out, Dr. Gul Sonmez (Health Sciences) conducted exercises in which ten participants used treadmills, exercising for different durations and intensity, and then compared the results against a program of just high-intensity exercise or low-intensity exercise. Her study concluded that long-duration, low-intensity exercise (1 hour), followed by short, moderately high-intensity exercise (15 minutes), can decrease appetite and be more

effective in weight-loss and weight-control programs than high-intensity exercise or low-intensity exercise alone. Her research was published in the *Journal of Sports Science and Medicine*.

### A Song Cycle to Commemorate 9/11

Distinguished Professor of Music John Corigliano premiered his new twenty-eight-minute song cycle, "One Sweet Morning," at Lincoln Center last fall to both audience and critical acclaim. Commissioned by The New York Philharmonic for the tenth commemoration of 9/11, the work presented its composer with the challenge of determining what would be appropriate for the occasion. In deciding to express various themes of war, he drew on texts ranging from *The Iliad* to a poem written in Warsaw during World War II.

As Professor Corigliano told *The New York Times*, “We have a chance to look back at 9/11 and then to look back further, to see how it fits into the drama of all the world’s wars, all the world’s battles, all the world’s horrible mistreatments of people.” In writing of its debut, *The Times* critic described its “shifts in mood from ruminative to bellicose, from mystical to wrenching.” Another reviewer called the work “truly a masterpiece occurring right before our eyes.”



## Lehman Senior Set to Move on to NIH

Not many college seniors are like Kelechi Ndukwe and have a job lined up seven months before they graduate. Ndukwe, a Biological Sciences major and Lehman Scholar, won a year-long fellowship with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Maryland, where he will work as a full-time researcher.

“It was unbelievable,” said the soft-spoken Nigerian native, who is focusing on neurobiology. “It’s a dream come true. I was exposed to biology early on in secondary school. I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do when I arrived here, but I knew it would have something to do with biology.”



“Kelechi has a strong mind with great aptitude as a young scientist,” said his mentor, Professor Stephen Redenti (Biological Sciences). “He made many contributions to our research in stem cell biology by developing molecular techniques and by helping other researchers in the lab. He certainly has a bright future.”

Ndukwe immigrated to the Bronx in 2007. His mother, who won an American visa in a lottery, had moved here seven years earlier, while Ndukwe and his brother and sister lived with family back home.

When his NIH fellowship is finished, Ndukwe hopes to enter an M.D./Ph.D. program—one of the most competitive graduate programs in the nation. “I want to be both a medical doctor and a researcher,” he says. “I want to work with patients and in a laboratory.”

## Physics Students Present Their Research at Syracuse University Conference

For the third consecutive year, Lehman physics majors travelled to Syracuse University to take part in Undergraduate Research Day and present their work to an audience of researchers, faculty, and peers. Their research on quantum optics and nanomagnetism, conducted with Professors Christopher Gerry and Dmitry Garanin (Physics and Astronomy), was showcased in a series of talks and posters.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to present their work in a public forum, and get valuable feedback,” said Professor Dimitra Karabali, department chair. “Students gained presenta-

tion experience, learned about undergraduate research projects done by students at other institutions throughout New York and nearby states, and established connections with physics faculty and students outside of Lehman College.”

“I’ve always been fascinated by astronomy, so I figured this would be the best field to take that fascination to the next level,” said Richard Birrittella, who will begin his doctorate in physics at the CUNY Graduate Center this fall. “It was the best choice I’ve ever made.” His talk was entitled “Pair Coherent States and Quantum Optical Interferometry.”

Anna Gura, a junior originally from Ukraine, looked forward to meeting students from other institutions and learning more about how they conducted research. “This experience opened my eyes to the plethora of opportunities that will be available to me when I pursue higher education,” she said. She is interested in the field of medical physics. The title of her poster was “Coherent beam stimulated parametric down conversion.”

Lehman’s Physics and Astronomy Department offers undergraduate research opportunities in areas such as condensed matter physics, high-energy physics, quantum optics and quantum information, astrophysics, and observational astronomy. Faculty research is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy, and other Federal and private sources.

Raul Carranza has been working with Professor Gerry, a Fellow of the American Physical Society, on research around quantum states of light. He was chosen to give a talk at the conference, titled “Quantum Optical Interferometry with photon subtracted two-mode squeezed vacuum states.”

“Interestingly enough,” says Carranza, “Syracuse University conducts research experimentally in optical interferometry, and we here at Lehman conduct research theoretically. Events like these bridge the gap between theoretical and experimental research. We proposed a new method for them to conduct their experiments that promises interesting results.” Carranza wants to pursue graduate studies in medical physics in the hope of contributing to the field of radiology and using his knowledge “for the benefit of human beings.”

Saaber Shoyeb, originally from Bangladesh, presented a talk on “Quantum deflagration and supersonic fronts of tunneling in molecular magnets.” “I was chosen to attend because I have been involved in research with Professor Garanin since I joined Lehman in the fall of 2009,” he said. “Events like this help promote advances in science and provide opportunities and ideas to novice researchers.”

Mark Davis, who did not make a presentation, was thrilled to attend the conference. “I chose this major because I loved playing with Legos as a kid,” he said. “The event showcased a lot of interesting topics in physics.” ■



Physics students presenting at the conference included, from left, front: Raul Carranza and Richard Birrittella and back: Mark Davis, Anna Gura, and Saaber Shoyeb.

## Community Outreach: Connecting Campus Resources with Public Needs

*Lehman College's commitment to its extended community reached within and beyond the borough in 2011, touching many hundreds of thousands of lives in ways both planned and unexpected. Young children, K-12 students, senior citizens, and families were impacted by a host of educational, cultural, health awareness, economic development, and other kinds of programs presented either on the Lehman campus or in a variety of community settings. Here are just a few of them.*

### Tropical Storm Irene Proves 'Our Government Works'

Over the years, drivers in various parts of the Bronx may have casually noticed signs posted here and there, with an arrow that pointed vaguely upward to an evacuation location in case of coastal flooding. Hardly anyone paid attention to them until a storm named Irene came out of the Antilles last August and began a steady track toward the east coast.

Irene landed first on St. Croix and then on Puerto Rico, where it gained strength and became a Category 1 hurricane. By the time Irene reached the Bahamas, it was a Category 3. Although it had weakened again to a Category 1 by the time it struck the Outer Banks of North Carolina on August 27, the storm had caught everyone's attention, including officials in City Hall.

The city's emergency evacuation and shelter system had existed for years only on paper, but now it was activated, and in the Bronx that vaguely westward destination on those signs—the campus of Lehman College—also went on high alert. The APEX became the center of a swirl of activity in a race against time.

Instead of a world-class sports and recreation center, the building shifted into three new, untested roles: a possible evacuation center where the city could coordinate the transfer of storm victims to a shelter; an actual shelter if needed; and a special medical needs center, where the ill and injured could receive care.

On Friday morning, the day before Irene was due to strike, crates of materials arrived by the truckload, including cots, blankets, medical supplies, water, and non-perishable food. So did a small army of city personnel, who had volunteered and been trained to staff and operate such emergency facilities throughout the five boroughs. Among them as well were teams of doctors and nurses from Jacobi Hospital, North Central Bronx Hospital, and other health-care networks.

As it turned out, the APEX was called upon to fill all its new roles.

Lehman staff from the Office of Public Safety and the Buildings and Grounds Department had readied the building and remained on duty to lend assistance. Their presence became particularly



Helping to feed the displaced New Yorkers.

important on Saturday morning, as Irene—downgraded to a tropical storm—approached. Staff at the APEX received the news that more than 250 elderly patients and their attendants would arrive by bus from an adult home in Queens and a nursing home in the Bronx. Some would need medical attention; all would be staying through the night.

Behind the scenes, Hector Morales, executive chef of Nayyarsons, the College's food service, became a key figure. Morales, who had experience as an executive chef at a nursing home, was familiar with the type of menu to prepare for these elderly New Yorkers. He left his home and arrived at the campus, opened up the College's kitchen, and cooked for the evacuees, their attendants, and for city and College personnel. He did that for almost thirty-six hours straight. Hearing of the situation, the president of Nayyarsons, Anil Nayyar, along with his wife, son, and other family members, came in from Long Island to help Lehman and city staff members serve the various meals and feed those in need of assistance.

On Sunday afternoon, when the storm had passed, the buses arrived once more, and all the evacuees were safely returned to their own facilities. They did not forget the experience, however.

Writing to President Fernández in appreciation of the care and attention they received at Lehman, the residents and staff of The New Gloria's Manor Adult Home in Rockaway Park remarked that "an experience that might well have been distressful and disruptive, was actually well organized and positive.

"It made us feel," they wrote, "that we had come through the experience with good memories to share with each other and with a sense that 'our government works.'" Attached to the letter were the signatures and hand-written thanks of fifty-five men and women. ■

### Student Festival Raises Funds for Japan

"Our students are always very eager to lend a helping hand," says Suzette Ramsundar, Lehman's associate director of campus life.

They proved her right last spring, when clubs and organizations put together a Fundraising Festival to help victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Tables were set up for creating calligraphy, origami, or bracelets. Other tables featured face painting, caricature making, bake sales, and freshly prepared sushi. The Glee Club of-



## Lehman Stages and Bronx Zoo Partner on Children's Theatre Project

The Children's Theatre Company at Lehman College began partnering in 2011 with the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo to present a series of weekend musicals at the zoo, called "Animal Tales Extravaganza." The first original piece the Company produced for the zoo, *I'll Huff and I'll Quack and I'll Blow Down Your Porridge*, ran for over thirty performances from mid-April through June and was seen by thousands of people from all over the world.

The performances were so successful that the Company was asked to create another show for the series "Boo at the Zoo" last fall. *So You Think That's Scary?*, which ran through October 2011, was a funny and informative musical revue about some misunderstood animals—and why they're not so scary if you give them a chance. Featured in the cast were Lehman alumni Henry Ovalles (B.A., '06), who's also the assistant director of Lehman Stages, and Glendalys Sosa (B.A., '08). This spring, the company returned to the zoo to present another original production.



Glendalys Sosa, Henry Ovalles, and David Arzberger in *So You Think That's Scary at The Bronx Zoo*.

Comprised of Lehman students and alumni, the Children's Theatre Company was founded in 2002 as part of Lehman Stages, the College's performance and rehearsal facility. Over the years, it has become known for its special brand of fairy-tale sketch comedy, performing throughout the New York City public school system as well as at the New York Botanical Garden, the Van Cortlandt House, the Riverdale Y, the Whitehall, also in Riverdale, and other venues.

According to Judith Klein Frimer, director of marketing for the Bronx Zoo, "When we developed the concept of 'Animal Tales Extravaganza,' we envisioned having a Repertory Company that could bring the concept of wildlife and children's books to life...We couldn't be more excited about this partnership."

For more information, visit [www.bronxzoo.com/animal-tales](http://www.bronxzoo.com/animal-tales) and [www.lehmanstages.org](http://www.lehmanstages.org). ■

## First Bronx Education Summit Held on Campus

Hundreds of Bronxites filled Lehman Center last October for the borough's first Bronx Education Summit: From Cradle to Career. Sponsored by Borough President Rubén Díaz, Jr. (B.A., '05), the summit brought together students, parents, educators, and community leaders to examine issues of concern and develop plans to address them. Early childhood education, special education, English language learners, college readiness and awareness, and school health interventions were among the topics addressed. Keynoting the meeting, which also showcased the innovations currently practiced in Bronx schools, was well-known author and educator Dr. Diane Ravitch.



Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott addresses the summit.

ferred songs, and Professor Tomohisa Hattori (Political Science) talked about his perception of the disaster and how it will affect the country in years to come.

All proceeds were donated to the Japan Red Cross.



Students display the calligraphy they created during the Fundraising Festival.

## Bronx Institute at Lehman College Expands ENLACE

ENLACE (Engaging Latino Communities for Education), the Bronx Institute at Lehman College's academic enrichment program for college-bound Latinos, expanded in 2011, thanks to the support of three foundations: Edwin Gould Foundation (\$25,000); New York Life Foundation (\$100,000); and Toyota USA Foundation (\$135,000).

When the newly recruited cohort of seventh-graders arrived at Lehman in the fall, they joined a group of eighth, tenth, and eleventh-grade peers selected from schools across the Bronx for the rigorous two-year program.

"The Institute is very grateful for the support of these foundations," said Professor Herminio Martinez (Middle and High School Education), who is the Institute's executive director. "Each passing year of student achievement, innovative teaching, and fundraising success is further evidence that ENLACE's educational model is both sound and replicable."

Established in 2001, ENLACE at Lehman College is unique in New York City. Students are invited to apply based on recommendations from their school principals; Bronx Institute faculty evaluate each candidate's grades, recommendations, personal statement, test scores, motivation, and leadership potential. Students receive year-round, advanced instruction in math and science, and they have access to paid internships and summer study opportunities at renowned research institutions and universities.

Classes are often taught by Lehman faculty and held on campus, giving students an opportunity to experience college life. Families attend workshops to learn about researching and choosing a high school and a college appropriate to their child's interests, and students are guided by Bronx Institute faculty during the college application process. Professional organizations such as Princeton Review or Kaplan provide New York State Regents and SAT test preparation; the average SAT score for the 2011 graduating cohort was 1610.

# Enjoying Spring's Beauty

## Right on the Lehman Campus



Spring arrives long before the flowers do, but it's the sight of Lehman's Buildings and Grounds crew planting fresh flowers in baskets, pots, and flowerbeds that marks the start of a new season on the Lehman campus. It's the same every year, but it never gets old.

The tilling, weeding, and fertilizing involved in planting begins in April. In May, the flowers arrive—three truck loads filled with crates on top of crates of marigolds, super petunias, impatiens, salvia, geraniums, begonias, coleus, and more. Selection is based on color variations—bright pinks, yellows and oranges, vivid blues and purples, and deep reds and greens make up a kaleidoscope of hues.

The flowers are hung from baskets, nestled in deep barrels, positioned in flowerbeds, and circled around trees. By summer's end, the super petunia's vines are spilling over their baskets, the flowerbeds are thriving, and everywhere there is a sense of controlled chaos.

Coordinating this grand event is the task of Joseph Parone, who has been with the College for fifteen years and has served as a supervisor for the last eight years. The process of ordering the plants begins in November and December. Once the flowers are delivered, it takes the Buildings and Grounds crew about three weeks to plant the flowers in their various locations on campus.

"The guys who do the actual planting say they enjoy the work," says Parone. "They like talking about what they're doing and enjoy the compliments that come with this type of job."

According to Parone, the annual ritual of planting flowers began with the late David Cain, a Lehman alumnus (B.A., '97) and former Greenhouse Manager who served the College from 1994-2007 and was the first adviser on the project. "He was the one who made the flower selections and advised on where they should go," says Parone. "It's his vision and lessons that have carried through and continue to inspire our work here."

— Yeara Milton (B.A., '02)

1. Flowers arrive in early May by the truckload;  
2. French Marigold; 3. Purple Scallion; 4. Salvia;  
5. Vinny Napoli, a member of the Buildings and Grounds team for forty-four years, plants flowers at the Goulden Avenue entrance of Shuster Hall;  
6. From left, Pat Macchia, Mike Pippo, Gil Vega, Willie Benitez, Hal Jenkins, Joe Parone, and Frank Macchia.



# Two Ways to Make a Lasting Gift

## Become a Part of History.

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

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

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



## Create a Legacy.

*Ever wonder how the wealthy make a charitable gift?*

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

It's a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA).

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

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

Help our College, our students, and our departments.

Help your loved ones. Help yourself.



*For a brochure on the brick program,  
or a simple, one-page description of the Charitable Gift Annuity,  
contact Sol Margulies in the Lehman College Foundation  
at 718-960-6908 / [sol.margulies@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:sol.margulies@lehman.cuny.edu).*



past, present, future



## Lehman Today Creates Lehman Tomorrow

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

Today, New York State funding contributes only about thirty percent of the College's annual operating budget. Tuition, external grants for research and sponsored programs, and gifts from alumni and friends make up the difference. These gifts expand Lehman's academic programs, establish endowed chairs and professorships, and upgrade facilities, instrumentation, and equipment—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 Sol Margulies in the Lehman College Foundation, 318 Shuster Hall, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx, NY 10468 / 718-960-6908 / sol.margulies@lehman.cuny.edu.*

**Help build a strong network of Lehman alumni. Visit [www.facebook.com/LehmanCollegeAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/LehmanCollegeAlumni) and become a "friend."**  
**Connect on LinkedIn at [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) and find "Lehman College Alumni" under "Groups."**