

# Lehman

## TODAY

SPRING 2014



## The Bronx at 100

A Centennial Celebration and Lehman College's Role  
In a Growing and Evolving Borough

The Bronx  
On Ice

From Lehman College to  
Lives of Public Service

On the Air:  
Best of the Bronx

THE MAGAZINE OF LEHMAN COLLEGE  
For Alumni and Friends

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A message from

## President Ricardo R. Fernández

Spring is here.

The weather is warm and the flowers are blooming across Lehman College and the Bronx. It is a time to look to the future with optimism and anticipation—the future of Lehman College and the bright prospects of nearly 2,000 graduates. They are now members of a very special and very select club—Lehman College alumni—and will always be part of our family and community.

In this issue of *Lehman Today*, we celebrate our students and alumni, and the neighborhoods from which they arrived at Lehman College. Many of those neighborhoods are in the Bronx—from Kingsbridge to Highbridge, from Morris Heights to Mott Haven, from Parkchester to Pelham Bay, from Wakefield to Woodlawn.

Throughout 2014, the Bronx is marking its Centennial, the 100th anniversary of joining the City of New York as the only mainland borough. This year also marks 375 years since the borough's namesake Jonas Bronck arrived in the region. We celebrate by focusing on the people and places of the Bronx—past, present, and future—and Lehman College's ties to them.

In our cover story, we salute three alumni who have achieved remarkable success in public service: U.S. Congressman Eliot Engel, New York City Public Advocate Letitia James, and Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr.

We hear from men and women on the street in a preview of *Bronx Faces and Voices*. The forthcoming book features a series of interviews conducted more than 30 years ago as the Bronx faced major challenges, and revisited as the borough prepares for another turning point in its history.

It was lights, camera, and action for students who put their new television production skills to work in creating the “Best of the Bronx,” a series of video vignettes. Plus, exciting plans are on the horizon in our own neighborhood, just a few blocks south of campus at the empty Kingsbridge National Guard Armory, as we eagerly await its redevelopment into the city's largest indoor ice rink.

We also examine the groundbreaking research occurring at Lehman College, which spans the globe from midtown Manhattan to eastern Africa.

We are entering a period of evolution at Lehman College. Some might say a revolution, where we must examine who we are and who we need to be to continue serving our community and generations of students to come. Challenges to U.S. higher education have never been greater. I am confident the Lehman College community—faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends—will be there to help us meet these challenges head-on.



## ■ Noted Epidemiologist Dr. William W. Latimer Named Dean of the School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing

Dr. William W. Latimer was named founding dean of the School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing. Dr. Latimer comes to the Bronx after serving as the Elizabeth Faulk Professor and Chair of the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology in the College of Public Health and Health Professions at the University of Florida.



Dr. William W. Latimer

The new School consolidates under one academic roof several departments: Health Sciences; Nursing; Social Work; and Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. "I feel deeply honored and very fortunate to be the inaugural dean of this new School at Lehman College and have the opportunity to lead an exceptional group of faculty, students, and staff," said Dr. Latimer, who will begin in his new post on September 2, 2014.

Dr. Latimer has secured more than \$25 million in NIH funding to study the epidemiology, prevention, and treatment of infectious disease and drug dependence, with a focus on neurobehavioral risk factors of disease, treatment engagement, and outcome. He previously spent 11 years on the faculty at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where he directed two large training programs for U.S. and international fellows in public health and allied health professions funded by the NIH and the U.S. State Department, respectively.

Health and wellness is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the U.S. economy and has become a big concern in the Bronx, where residents face challenges like few other communities—poverty, high-risk schools, the lack of medical care, a shortage of nutritious food, and more. Working with community partners, Dr. Latimer and the School will take a leading role in confronting these problems. Nursing and social work are already two of Lehman College's most popular majors.

## ■ John Corigliano Wins Grammy for Best Classical Instrumental Solo

Distinguished Professor of Music John Corigliano brought home his fifth Grammy Award at the 56th annual music award ceremony on January 26. The Albany Symphony Orchestra's recording of Corigliano's *Conjurer: Concerto for Percussionist and String Orchestra* with soloist Dame Evelyn Glennie and conductor



Professor John Corigliano

David Alan Miller won for Best Classical Instrumental Solo.

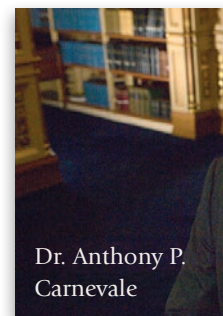
Originally commissioned in 2007 by a consortium of six orchestras, *Conjurer* was introduced by the Pittsburgh Symphony in the 2007-2008 season. Corigliano was at first hesitant about composing solely for percussion, but ultimately was compelled by the challenge. The Albany Symphony Orchestra recorded the concerto in 2011 at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, and the album was released on the prestigious classical music label Naxos Records.

## ■ 45th Annual "Lehman Lecture": The U.S. Workforce and Higher Education: A New Deal

Dr. Anthony P. Carnevale, director of the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, delivered this year's Herbert H. Lehman Memorial Lecture on April 2.

In his address he discussed the political legacy of Herbert H. Lehman. He also discussed the evolving balance between capitalism and democracy, from the eras of Roosevelt, Lehman, Reagan, through the present day. He also addressed the role education has played as an equalizer in the U.S. and global economies, and increasingly, its role in inequality.

"The growing racial, ethnic, and resource divide is turning the American postsecondary system into a dual system of separate and unequal institutions," said Dr. Carnevale. "Disadvantage, like privilege, is now driven by a complex set of mutually reinforcing mechanisms impervious to narrow solutions but require a much more serious commitment to equal opportunity and upward mobility than is currently available in our national will!"



Dr. Anthony P. Carnevale

The Herbert H. Lehman Memorial Lecture honors the legacy of Herbert H. Lehman, former N.Y. Governor, U.S. Senator, and statesman.



## Renovated Student Life Building Provides Home Away from Home

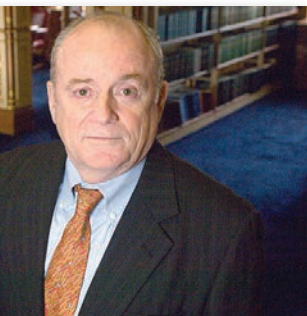
On October 30, members of the Lehman community gathered to dedicate the reopening of the Student Life Building, which had been closed while it underwent a \$1.98 million renovation and re-imagining. “The newly renovated Student Life Building ensures that our students have a place to retreat to,” said President Ricardo R. Fernández. “It gives them a much-needed breather from their hectic schedules, and in the case of many of our students, full-time jobs.”

Among the new features are a reconfigured main entrance that allows more natural light to flow through the space; new heating, air conditioning, and lighting systems to replace older, less energy-efficient models; additional club offices; new furniture, and state-of-the-art technology for workshops, presentation, and study groups.

On the lower level, a gallery of student art greets visitors. Exhibits range from canvases to murals to photographs, with a placard introducing the artist and describing the inspiration behind the



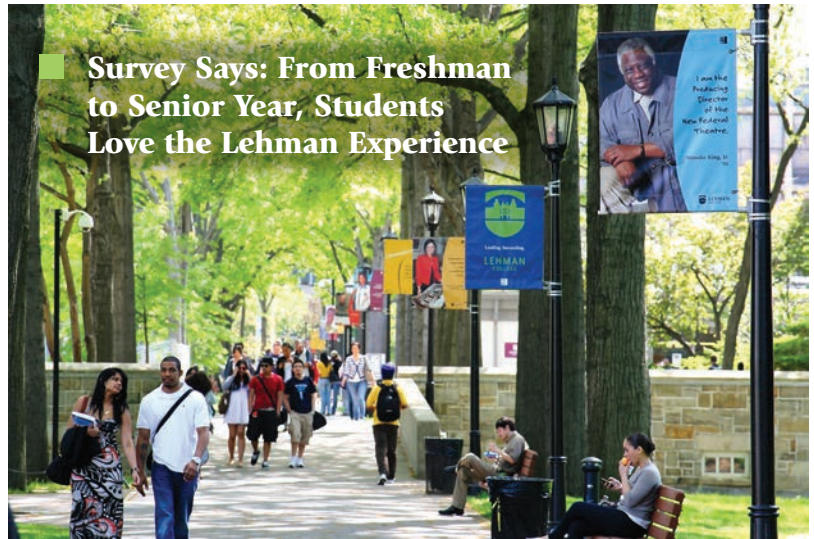
(Above) Vincent Zucchetto, the Executive Assistant to the VP of Student Affairs; Lehman College President, Dr. Ricardo R. Fernández; VP of Student Affairs José Magdaleno; Michael Sullivan, the Director of Campus Life; and Chardonnay McMillian, Student Government Facilities and Planning Officer.



work. The work is part of the Student Life Art Project, known as SLAP, which invites students to submit their work for consideration. “Renovating this building means

student leadership has a home again,” said Chardonnay McMillian, Student Government Facilities and Planning Officer, speaking at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. “It means fostering a sense of community and support system that we students may not find elsewhere.”

## Survey Says: From Freshman to Senior Year, Students Love the Lehman Experience



A recent survey of Lehman College students found that nearly ninety percent had a favorable experience during their time on the campus. The poll, conducted by the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), found that eighty-seven percent of Lehman College students described their freshman year as “excellent” or “good”—two points above the national average.

But perhaps the more impressive statistic was that students’ enthusiasm for the College did not diminish over the course of their college career. When Lehman seniors were asked about their experience at Lehman, eighty-three percent described their time at the College as “excellent” or “good.” Said Nikita Shetty, a current Lehman student and recipient of a Lehman Foundation Scholarship: “I think of Lehman as a second family. Everybody here is kind, very friendly, very hospitable, and it feels like home.”

The cost of college also plays into students’ perceptions and their campus experience. As student debt nationwide has skyrocketed and U.S. college graduates owe an average of about \$27,000, eighty percent of CUNY students graduate without federal student loans, according to a new report, “The CUNY Value Plus.” For Lehman graduate, veteran, and mother of two Kasha Taylor, it was the College’s low-cost tuition, plus work and careful budgeting, that allowed her to cover 70 percent of her costs with her veterans’ benefits. She paid the remainder before collecting her diploma. “It’s a beautiful thing,” said Taylor, who earned a degree in business administration and plans to attend graduate school. “A lot of people feel the higher the tuition, the higher the education. I disagree. My professors were awesome.”

## Lehman College Mourns the Loss of Alumna Kisook Ahn

Nursing alumna Kisook Ahn was one of four passengers killed when a Manhattan-bound Metro-North







# campus walk

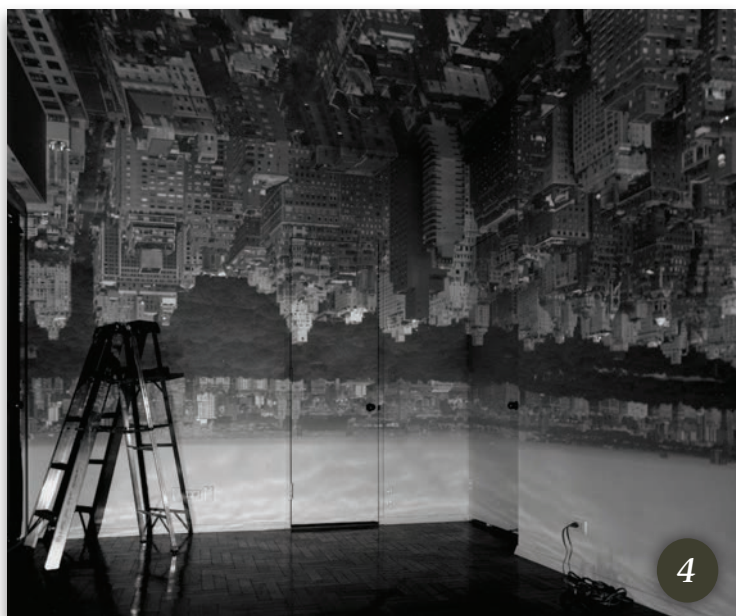
train derailed in the Spuyten Duyvil section of the Bronx. Ahn, a native of South Korea, arrived in the United States in 2008 as part of Lehman's exchange program with Sungshin Women's University. She completed an accelerated bachelor's degree in nursing in 2009 and a master's degree in the family nurse practitioner program in 2012. Catherine Alicia Georges, chair of Lehman College's nursing department remembered her as a model student. "She did well in both her undergraduate and graduate programs," said Professor Georges.

Ms. Ahn was returning to her home in Woodside, Queens after an overnight shift at the Sunshine Children's Home and Rehab Center in Westchester County, where she cared for children with acute illnesses. Lehman College Foundation and Perfect Choice Staffing, the firm that brought Ms. Ahn and other nurses to the U.S., have created scholarship fund; the money will help Korean nursing students at the College.

## Cuban America: An Empire State of Mind

A new exhibit featured this semester at the Lehman College Art Gallery: *Cuban America: An Empire State of Mind*. The exhibit included over 35 contemporary artists of Cuban descent, who have been raised in either the United States or Cuba. In this ground-

breaking exhibition, a myriad of themes inspired by America are explored, such as America as a familiar homeland for second and third generation children of Cuban parents, or as the distant, imagined place that has historically empowered diverse ideologies on the island nation. The works in this exhibition add to the construction of a fresh—and complex—image of America: a Cuban America.



1. Alexandre Arrechea. *Empire State*, 2012-2013
2. Andrés Serrano. *Wunmi Fadipe, Sales Assistant at Investment Bank*, 2002. Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Yvon Lambert Gallery
3. Luis Cruz Azaceta. *Shifting States: Iran*, 2011. Photo: Courtesy of the artist
4. Abelardo Morell. *Camera Obscura: Manhattan View Looking West in Empty Room*, 1996. Photo: Courtesy of Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York
5. Los Carpinteros. *Trash-Shopping Cart*, 2008. Photography: Jason Wyche © Los Carpinteros. Courtesy: Sean Kelly, New York



## ■ Professor Dmitry Garanin Elected American Physical Society Fellow

The American Physical Society (APS) elected Dmitry Garanin, Lehman professor of physics, as a fellow. Prof. Garanin's research focuses on the theory of magnetic phenomena and statistical physics, including, but not limited to, magneto-mechanical effects in nano-magnets and magnetic deflagration. Most recently he has published articles on the topic of random-field and random-anisotropy magnets, fronts of tunneling in molecular magnets, and collective spin-phonon relaxation. According to the APS Fellows Committee, Prof. Garanin's work has "shaped research on molecular magnets and helped to develop deep understanding of their magnetic properties."



Above: Dmitry Garanin, Lehman professor of physics.  
Below: Bronx SciFest winner Raychell Vélez explains her experiment.

## ■ Lehman Hosts Second Annual Bronx SciFest

Raychell Vélez, a senior at the Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics High School, took the top prize for her research on the effects of acidity and salinity in plant growth at Lehman's second annual Bronx SciFest.

For her research, Vélez wanted to see whether acidity or salinity had any effect on the germination of seeds in crop plants. When her initial experiment showed no effect on the germination process, she moved on, expanding the scope of her research to determine the affects of salinity and pH on plant growth. Along the way she learned how to conduct statistical analysis. The result: for her presentation at the festival, she was able to show three generations of plant responses, the last being the number of seeds produced by exposed plants.



"Working with Raychell was a delight," says her mentor Prof. Joseph Rachlin of Lehman's Biological Sciences Department who worked with Vélez over the course of two years. "She took ownership of her project, was always on time, willing to help other students, and had a good sense of the future direction of her project."

## ■ Leonard Lief Library Hosts Exhibit on Burkina Faso, West Africa Families

Lehman College presented the groundbreaking photographs of Beryl Goldberg, which featured three families over the course of three decades in Burkina Faso, West Africa. The opposite of helicopter journalism, these images are a personal exploration of regular people in a part of the world most often depicted in crisis. The portraits show how the country has evolved through the years. The parents were market people

from rural villages; today, many of the younger generation are sophisticated dwellers in the wired urban environment, and some have traveled abroad—including Italy, France and the Bronx. Based in New York, Beryl Goldberg is a globe-travelling photographer who has worked for various international organizations and publishers. Her stated goal has always to function as an unobtrusive observer, providing us with images of regular people engaged in the various facets of normal life. ■

Scenes from a Life: Photographer Beryl Goldberg's photos, taken over the course of three decades in Burkina Faso, West Africa, were on display at the Leonard Lief Library.





## bookshelf

### *Urban Appetites: Food and Culture in Nineteenth-Century New York*

By Cindy R. Lobel (University of Chicago Press, 2014)

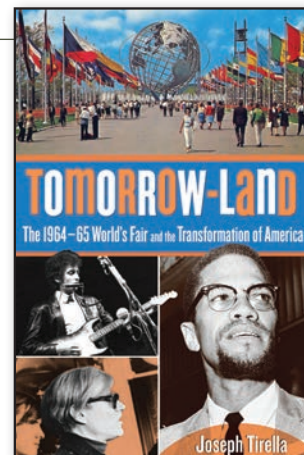
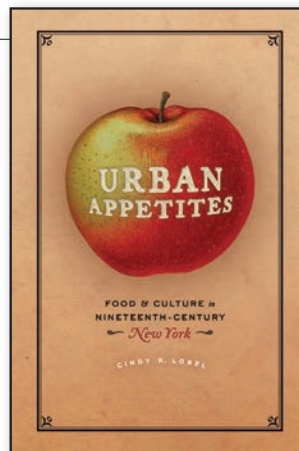
New York City may be known as the city that never sleeps, but it's also the city that likes to eat. It is estimated that there are more than 20,000 restaurants in Manhattan, with seemingly every type of cuisine to choose from. In her new book, Cindy Lobel, a scholar of New York City history, takes readers back to 1800s New York when the first restaurants opened and explores the rise of the city as a food capital.



The book, which won the New York State History Association's 2013 Dixon Ryan Fox Prize for best manuscript on New York, is filled with lively descriptions of the farms and markets that supplied the kitchens of private homes and dining establishments. We also learn about the people: who they were, what they ate, and where they dined. *Urban Appetites* gives a complete picture of the times and the evolution of the city, its politics, and its eating habits.

For her research, Lobel focused primarily on sources of 19th century New York, including papers of the city government, newspapers, periodicals, diaries, letters, cookbooks, menus, novels, and reformers' tracts. She also studied the archives at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe, the New York Public Library, the New York Historical Society, Museum of the City of New York, and the New York City Municipal Archives.

Lobel teaches in the History Department at Lehman. She is an expert of 19th-Century U.S. social and cultural history, urban history, women's history, and New York City history. She is currently working on two biographies, one of Catherine Beecher, a pioneer of American Women's education, and the other of Thomas Downing, a Nineteenth Century African American oysterman and civil rights pioneers.



### *Tomorrow-Land: The 1964-65 World's Fair and the Transformation of America*

By Joseph Tirella (Lyons Press, 2014)

In his new book about the 1964-65 World's Fair held in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, author Joseph Tirella doesn't just write about the sights, sounds, and inventions found there. He explores the tumultuous political and social climate leading up to the last World Fair to be held in New York 50 years ago.



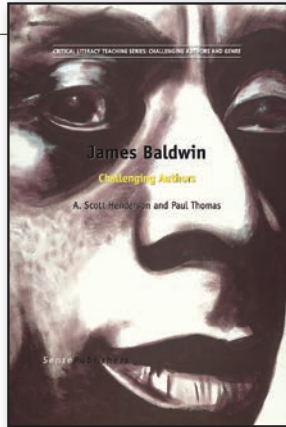
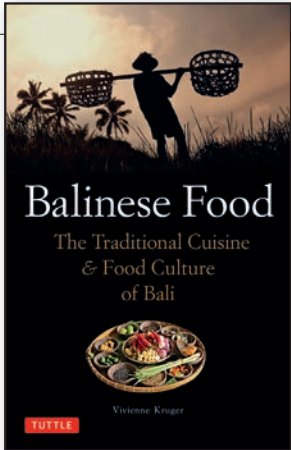
The Fair's theme was "Peace Through Understanding," but in Tirella's telling there was nothing peaceful about how the event was organized and came to fruition. Tirella draws out in bold colors the characters of the time, from New York's Master Builder Robert Moses and his heavy-handed ways, to Walt Disney, Andy Warhol, and other contributors.

Tirella goes beyond the Fair to give an overview of the decade and how the clash between music, art, the Civil Rights Movement, America's wars, and the political landscape all colluded to undermine the Fair's success.

Since its release in early January 2014, *Tomorrow-Land* was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writer's selection. *The Kirkus Review* called *Tomorrow-Land*: "Top-notch popular history" and the *Library Journal* said the book was "a model of accessible narrative, showing the author's immersion in archival research"; while *The New York Times Book Review* noted: "Tirella explores the contrast between the purported idealism of the 1964 World's Fair and the conflict and compromise that surrounded the event.... The Kennedy assassination, Vietnam, rising urban crime and racial strife provide the backdrop for Tirella's detailed history."

Joseph Tirella, a graduate of Queens College, is a writer and editor whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Vibe*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, *People*, among other publications. A former senior editor at *Fortune Small Business*, he is currently the Associate Director of Media Relations at Lehman College, where he is also an Adjunct Lecturer.





## *Balinese Food: The Traditional Cuisine and Food Culture of Bali*

By Dr. Vivienne Kruger (Tuttle Publishing, 2014)

Lehman alumna Vivienne Kruger ('73) has written a new book about her long-time passion for Bali, its people, and their food. It is a passion that began in 1993, when she was vacationing in Indonesia and landed in Bali on an overland tour from Java. She fell in love with the island of the gods at first sight.

She has spent the last twenty years becoming intimately involved with Balinese culture and customs. Written from the perspective and world-view of the Balinese, the book sheds light on and shares the previously unexplored secrets of Bali's virtually unknown cuisine, kitchen architecture and apparatus, and culinary mindset.

Kruger describes Balinese food as singular among the leading cuisines of the world. The book captures the heart of the Balinese people: from the food preparation that is steeped in divine rituals to the artful way the Balinese carve, etch, and paint their food into the rich spiritual shapes and divine colors of fragrant, holy temples, and imposing royal palaces.

Kruger grew up in Manhattan. She arrived at Lehman in 1969, during the height of the Vietnam protests and the first year of the draft. Despite a few protests, the Lehman campus remained relatively idyllic at the time. It was also a new college in the CUNY system, having only been established the year before (it was formerly Hunter in the Bronx.)

"It was a wonderful time to be a student at Lehman," says Kruger, who remembers the newness of the campus. "Students here were very friendly and happy, as well as socially and politically aware of what was happening in the country and beyond."

She studied history with Professor Richard Gerber and became familiar with several of the faculty from the History Department. "I have very fond memories of the faculty; they really gave me a solid foundation on which to pursue what I loved," says Kruger, "and strongly encouraged me to follow in their footsteps and go on to graduate school."

She went on to earn a Master's Degree in history, a Master's in Philosophy, and finally a Ph.D. in American history from Columbia University, completed in 1985. Kruger continued to do doctoral-level social and cultural research, focused on the magnificent traditional cuisine and complex religious rituals of Balinese village life.

Kruger has spent the past ten years living in Bali and Australia. During this time, she served as a special research consultant for E Entertainment Television's "Wild on Bali," and wrote a series of travel articles for *Bali and Beyond* magazine. As a food writer, she produced a monthly newspaper food column for the Bali Advertiser for two years ("Food of the Gods") on Balinese culture and cuisine.

A graduate of Stanford University, she lived in France briefly to participate in a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship in Lyon, where she taught high school English and translated documents for the Lyon Opera. Later, she attended the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she received a Maytag and Teaching/Writing Fellowship.

## *James Baldwin: Challenging Authors and Genres* (Sense Publishers, 2014)

Susan Watson-Turner is one of several authors whose essay is featured in a new book about James Baldwin. Her essay, titled "Why Theatre, Mr. Baldwin... Baldwin and the Black Theatre," describes Baldwin's initial forays into the theatre and his influence on the rise of the Black Theater Movement.



In the book's introduction, editors A. Scott Henderson and P.L. Thomas argue that authors like Baldwin are largely uncelebrated in 21st century America. The collection of essays found in the book provides a wide range of perspectives that confront Baldwin's impressive and challenging canon as well as his role as a public intellectual. In her essay, Watson-Turner discusses Baldwin's two most successful plays: *Amen Corner* and *Blues for Mister Charlie*, and their relevance then and now.

Susan Watson Turner is an assistant professor in the Department of Journalism, Communication, and Theatre. She is a producer and director, best known for her work on *The Mattress Hustle*, *Blinded by Love*, and *Biography*. ■



## Highlights of the 2013-2014 Lehman Athletic Season

It was both a record-setting and record-breaking season for Lehman College's men's and women's basketball programs this winter. The men's team posted a 14-13 record, while the women finished at 16-11. Both programs helped their coaches achieve milestone victories, while the women advanced into the post-season for the first time since 2011. The men doubled their win total from a year ago, and finished in sixth place in the regular season CUNY Athletic Conference standings; along the way they won a quarterfinal game in the CUNYAC Championships. In the final regular season game of the season, Lehman defeated City College of New York, 74-59, and presented head coach **Steve Schulman** with his **200th career victory**.

Leading the way for the Lightning all season was sophomore **Jerrome Jones**, who led the team in scoring four of the final six games. The Mt. Vernon-native averaged 17.4 points and 9.0 rebounds, leading the team in both categories. He was the eighth-highest score ever in CUNY, and third in rebounding. For his colossal efforts, he was named a second team CUNY All-Star.

Jones was one of five student-athletes to score in double figures per game. The team's second leading scorer was junior **Brandon Stolz**, who scored 17.1 points per game before being injured in a double overtime loss to Colorado College, the No. 25-ranked squad in Division III. Junior **Jonathan Greenfield**, who increased his scoring output in the later half of the season, scored 13.2 points per game, followed by senior **Kelvin Gil**, with 12.4, and senior **Stanley Stephens**, with 11.9.

On the women's side, the Lightning placed fifth in the CUNYAC regular season standing. The Lightning would eventually head into the ECAC Division III Metro Region Championships, falling to eventual champion Kean (N.J.) University. The squad was led by **CUNYAC Rookie of the Year Amely Del Rosario**, who was one of only three student-athletes nationally to lead her conference in both scoring and steals. In fact, Del Rosario was CUNY's leading scorer, and was **No. 32 in the nation in scoring**, with **19.7 points** per game. Her 3.73 steals were the ninth best average in the country, and again, tops in CUNY. She is the second CUNYAC Rookie of the Year for Lehman in as many years, as current sophomore **Jennifer Navarro** earned the honor a year ago. Under coach Eric Harrison's tutelage, there have been eight Rookies of the Year at Lehman in his 16 seasons.

Del Rosario was one of five student-athletes to average in double figures in scoring. Sophomore Amani Lightbourne was named a second team CUNYAC All-Star, as she averaged 15.4 points and 8.5 rebounds per game. She added 60 assists and 50 steals, playing mostly on the perimeter. Jennifer Navarro was third in scoring, with 13.9 points per game, followed by junior **Shalaya Nieves**, with 12.2, and freshman **Genesis Liberato**, with 10.2. Nieves had a great season, as the forward averaged 10.5 rebounds per game.



Coach Harrison also earned a magical mark during the year, as he earned his **225th career victory** at Lehman, as the Lightning won at Gallaudet (D.C.) University in early December.

Four members of the Lehman College men's and women's indoor track and field teams are among the **2014 CUNY Athletic Conference All-Stars**. For the women, senior **Aminat Adebayo** and junior **Jhanelle Mullings** were selected as honorees, as were sophomore Pierre Francois and freshman **John Pollina** for the men. At the recently completed CUNY Athletic Conference Championships, the men's team placed fourth, with 66 points, just one point shy of third place. The women, meanwhile, scored 42 points and finished in fifth place.

Mullings earned the title of **CUNY's Fastest Woman**, as she won the 60-meter dash, with a time of just 8.22 seconds. She also took home seventh place in the 200 meters, in 28.51, and was a member of the fourth place 4x400 relay team. Adebayo was honored for the shot put, and weight throw events. She took second place in the weight throw at the CUNYAC Championships, with a





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distance of 12.73 meters. This is her second all-star honor in as many years. Francois finished second in the long jump at the CUNY Championships, with a leap of 6.32 meters, while in the triple jump, **Pollina** claimed gold, with a distance of 14.41 meters. **Pollina** later qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships in the triple jump at the ECAC Indoor Championships. Pollina (Staten Island, N.Y./Tottenville) earned men's Most Valuable Performer of the CUNYAC Championship Meet, as he recorded 28 points, the most of any male competitor. He earned two gold medals, and one silver. Gold came in the one mile run (4:36.04), and the 5000 meters (16:49.36), while the silver came in the 800 meters. In that race, he was out-leaned at the tape, finishing with a time of 2:01.39, just .02 seconds behind the winner. ■

1. Kelvin Gil, senior. 2. Amely Del Rosario, freshman. 3. Jerrome Jones, sophomore. 4. Stanley Stephens, senior. 5. Shalaya Nieves, junior. 6. Genesis Liberato, freshman. 7. Pierre Francois, sophomore.





## Institute of Mexican Studies

### **Jaime Lucero: Poder Económico y Político a Través de la Educación. Political and Economic Power by Means of Education.**

Translated from Spanish, his name means literally “bright star.”

That is what Jaime Lucero is to the CUNY Institute of Mexican Studies at Lehman College, a generation of Mexican-American students, and the Mexican community in New York City: a shining star. A beacon of hope. An inspiration of all that can be accomplished with perseverance, hard work, and a great idea.

Jaime Lucero arrived in the United States in 1975 and found modest work as a restaurant dishwasher. Twenty years later, he was one of the most successful Mexican-American businessmen in the New York City area. Today, Lucero supports students at Lehman College through the CUNY-IME Becas scholarship program, funded by the Mexican government and private donations, that are administered by the Institute of Mexican Studies.

Recipients of the CUNY-IME Becas scholarship are selected based on academic achievement, economic need, and commitment to service in the Mexican community. During the past two years, Lucero’s generosity has funded nine scholarships, allowing future leaders to advance their educational goals and obtain real-world experience with an internship.

As a leader in the global fashion industry, Jaime Lucero today oversees Gold and Silver, one of the largest distributors of high-end clothing in the United States. Headquartered in New Jersey, Gold and Silver is a bridge between the manufacturing industry and retail stores, where 250 employees clean and sew the final details before the high-end fashions are shipped for display. Gold and Silver distributes to more than 50 stores, including Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdale’s, and Macy’s.

Jaime Lucero was born in 1957 in the Mexican state of Puebla. Like many immigrants to the United States, he knew little English, had little money, and possessed few skills with which to begin a career. “It was confusing,” he said. “You see everything differently. You have to try to adjust to a new place; the community in general—the people who surround you to help you get a job.”

After making a few connections, Lucero landed a job washing dishes in a seafood restaurant in Little Neck, Queens. Six years later, the restaurant bought a new truck for deliveries. Lucero purchased the old truck from the restaurant and decided to try delivering something besides clams. “That was the beginning of the textile business,” he tells *Lehman Today*. “I was an independent contractor, working for commission for a company in Manhattan. They used to send me to the factories to transport fabric.”

“It was a need,” Lucero continues. “I became familiar with the business—the textile industry. Little by little, you’re building up the company and relationships with customers.”

After ten years of delivery work, Lucero established a warehouse, combining it with his distribution system. Today, Gold and Silver is a multi-million dollar business servicing the ever-evolving and ever-demanding New York City fashion industry. But Lucero has not forgotten the help he received along the way and is determined to ensure that young people in New York City—immigrant or not—are not forgotten.



Left: In addition to his textile business, Jaime Lucero is re-embracing his restaurant past, with the recent acquisition of Mexican Festival, a restaurant on Manhattan’s west side. Below: (from left) Lucero, Dr. Alyshia Gálvez of the CUNY Institute of Mexican Studies and VP of Institutional Advancement Mario DellaPina.



In addition to his support of scholarships and other philanthropic work, Lucero is founder and president of “Casa Puebla New York,” a non-profit association that seeks to support and promote the Hispanic community and culture—both in New

York and back home in Mexico. Casa Puebla began as an informal salon back in Lucero’s restaurant days. The group was known then as Club Azteca; it consisted of conversations around a dinner table about helping people from Mexico. Today, Casa Puebla is a multi-faceted organization that supports civic and cultural causes and works to build a model community for Mexicans.

Much of Lucero’s focus is on education, evidenced by his support of Lehman College students through scholarships. “Education is an urgent need for everybody who comes to this country,” he said. “I was very happy when the Institute of Mexican Studies was formed at Lehman College. It is extremely important that we work with it to offer more educational opportunities to the community.” ■



# The Bronx at 100

Constructed as Hunter College in the Bronx in 1931, Lehman College has played a major role in the history of the borough and the city, and yes, even the world. During World War II, the campus served a U.S. navy training center for women volunteers known as WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). After the war, the campus hosted the first meetings of the United Nations Security Council and the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Fittingly in 1968, the college was named for Herbert H. Lehman, former New York Governor, U.S. Senator, and statesman—a tireless worker for both human and civil rights, the impoverished, and for working class people through the nation. Lehman College is still The City University of New York's sole senior college in the Bronx.

Today, Lehman College is an intellectual and cultural center and a place that more than 12,000 students call home. It is where they study science, education, business, health care, and the arts and humanities before advancing their careers in their chosen fields. On the following pages you will see stories that celebrate the Bronx—and Lehman College's place in it. From profiles about our alumni who have gone on to serve the public; to the borough's hidden architectural gems; to the upcoming Kingsbridge National Ice Center; this issue of Lehman Today celebrates the past, present, and future of the New York's northernmost borough.

*Viva El Bronx!*



#### LEHMAN THROUGH THE YEARS

Clockwise: WAVES; Campus Bookstore, July 1968; Science Hall which opened its doors last year.



## The Bronx On Ice

When the Kingsbridge National Ice Center opens in the summer of 2017, it might just change the way people think of the Bronx. Forever.

*By Sophia Tewa*



### **New York City will soon host the largest ice**

skating complex ever built at the Kingsbridge Armory, a few blocks away from Lehman College's campus. The location choice is not accidental. When KNIC Partners—which stands for Kingsbridge National Ice Center—a group headed by Stephan Butler, a civil engineer, and Kevin Parker, a former Deutsche Bank executive, decided to invest \$275 million to develop an ice rink center project, they spent a year looking for a location that would provide the ideal combination of accessibility and diversity.

"When we saw the facility in the Bronx, in this vibrant neighborhood surrounded with schools, Van Cortland Park, and the zoo, it just seemed like there was no other place in the city better than that," Butler said. "For recreational activities that focus around schools like Lehman College or Fordham Prep, you need the support of a community."

Butler and Parker got hockey Hall of Famer and New York Rangers legend Mark Messier and Olympic gold medal-winning figure skater Sarah Hughes on board with the project. Then last December, the New York City Council approved their plan to redevelop the city

Kingsbridge Armory, an unused century-old military facility near the Kingsbridge Road subway stop, and turn it into an ice rink that will be accessible to the public 365 days a year.

"The Armory provided the facility and the community at walking distance from mass transit. We want kids, nannies, grandmothers, and baby sitters to be able to just hop on the subway and get there," Butler said. "We want to be close to people of all range levels interested in having opportunities for recreation, from the two-year-old to adults. The demographic of that region is ideal."

Since the inception of the project, Butler worked hand in hand with a coalition of local groups, known as the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance and Bronx Community Board 7 to include disadvantaged schools in the project and offer a community space as well as sports activities for local youth. The developers agreed to donate a million dollars of ice time for local children who will be able to join afterschool programs offering skating, tutoring, and nutrition education courses—all totally free. Fordham Preparatory School, Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, and Lehman College have already agreed to partner with Kingsbridge to create hockey programs and help bring the new facility to life.





#### An Armory Transformed:

(From top left): New York Rangers legend Mark Messier (second from right) with his fellow KNIC partners during a visit to the campus; an artist's rendering of the Kingsbridge National Ice Center from the inside; and how the armory will be transformed on the outside.

Butler calls KNIC's relationship with Lehman a partnership made in heaven. The developers are already in talks with the College's Multimedia Center, which would be involved in the production of national televised sports events. KNIC plans to provide part-time job positions and internships at the ice rink to Lehman students, and create courses in sport nutrition, and career opportunities in sport training.

"Very early on, Lehman's leadership has understood those opportunities," said Butler. "They fully embraced us. Our facility is almost an annex of the College."

With 750,000 square feet of space featuring nine year-round indoor rinks, including several elevated rinks and a 5,000-seat center rink, the facility will be the world's largest indoor ice facility when it opens in September 2017. It is also the first ice rink to be open all year round in New York City. It will feature a wellness center with off-ice training fitness, sports therapy programs, retail, concessions, and parking. Construction is set to begin next year.

"We want to change the user experience of ice rinks," said Mark Messier, who will serve as CEO of the Kingsbridge National Ice

Center. "We want to change what it means to go to ice rinks for the parents and the kids, as well as bring more things for the kids to do when they're not on the ice, whether they come early from school and need to do their homework, or use the sports rehab or conditioning facilities, or make use of the nutrition, and after-school programs."

The Kingsbridge National Ice Center could draw more than two million visitors a year to local shows, semi-pro hockey games, international tournaments, and national competitions in hockey, figure skating, and curling, which will provide additional tourism and business opportunities for the borough. The developers, who will hire at least 50 percent of the construction workers locally, said they want to first focus on spreading the wealth in the Bronx before it reaches out to the rest of the city.

"There is a lot of work for us ahead but the community has been incredible in its support and we're looking forward to transforming the Kingsbridge National Ice Center into one of the world's most iconic ice sports destinations," Messier said. "We can't wait to get a shovel in the ground and get started." ■



# Lehman College has a history of turning out alumni who in turn apply

Rep. Eliot L. Engel:

“I Was Able to Get a Top-Notch Education” at Lehman College

By Suzanne Rozdeba



*“Lehman has always been a great place, with the high-quality education it provided me.”*

#### A BRONX FIGHTER:

(From top) Rep. Engel has only fought for the working classes and Bronxites during his years in Washington; the Congressman meets with constituents.



Congressman Eliot L. Engel (D-N.Y.) is a lifelong Bronx resident. He grew up on Morris Avenue and later moved to the Eastchester Gardens housing project with his family. “I was raised on social justice, helping the poor, and giving back,” he said. His tight-knit, traditional Jewish family moved to the housing project near East Gun Hill Road when he was 12-years-old. He attended public schools while his father worked as a welder, and his mother raised the family and held various jobs, one as an off-Broadway actress. “I used to say how it would help me get up in front of an audience. I said, ‘Mom, I watched you and I was able to do it,’” he recalled. “My mother was strong and always encouraged me.”

With his dad, he had weighty political discussions. “I was always interested in politics, especially in international relations. We would talk about China, the Soviet Union, and the countries that were absorbed in the Soviet Union,” he said. “My parents were rabid Democrats.”

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in history with minors in political science and education from Lehman College in 1969, and then returned to the College for a Master of Arts in guidance and counseling, graduating in 1973. During his time on campus, he was a member of the student government and worked for the student newspaper. “I always wanted to go to school there,” he said. “College tuition was free. I came from a working-class family that couldn’t afford to send me anywhere. I was able to get a top-notch education.”

After graduation, he worked as a teacher and guidance counselor while becoming active in local Democratic clubs before turning to politics full-time. Today, he represents New York’s 16th Congressional District, which includes the Bronx and portions of Westchester County. He is the ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and also serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee. “My strong Bronx roots always helped me to connect with the people of the Bronx,” he said. “I honed a lot of that at Lehman. I always feel very grateful and privileged. I had applied to other dormitory schools where I made it in, but I still chose to go to Lehman.”



# the lessons they learned on campus into public service for the benefit of all New Yorkers.

## Lehman “Allowed Me to Achieve a Grade A Education”—says Public Advocate Letitia James

By Suzanne Rozdeba

Letitia James is not just a proud alumna of Lehman College, she thinks her *alma mater* is vital to the future of New York City. Lehman College “is critically important to New York City, especially as the City’s demographics change, and how we embrace emerging communities,” said James, who was elected New York City Public Advocate in 2013. “We need to provide assistance to CUNY in order to keep college as affordable for the next generation of New York leaders.”

James, the first African-American woman to be elected to citywide office in New York City, earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology in 1982, which gave her a deeper understanding of the human character. She also had an avid interest in law. “It was about the strength of one’s character and developing that, and the ability to overcome one’s condition, and trying to define yourself in a society that often times minimizes members of a minority community,” she said. Her interest in psychology stemmed from a passion for social work. “I’m a lawyer by training, but a social worker at heart.”

“I knew education was the key to overcome poverty. My family was of humble means,” said the lifelong Brooklyn resident. “I recognized that in order for me to make ends meet, and to improve the condition of my family, I would have to graduate from college.” The tuition “was definitely affordable. It allowed me to achieve a grade-A education.”

She later enrolled in a Master of Arts program in social work at Hunter College, but her interest in the law deepened. She changed course while working at a law firm to put herself through school. “The lawyers at the job where I was working convinced me to go to law school.” She earned a law degree at Howard University in Washington, D.C.



In her current role as Public Advocate, she said her focus includes health care and trying to keep hospitals open, educational programs and school co-locations, homelessness, and nutrition in public schools. She’s in a position to do that now, she says, because of her Lehman College education. “At Lehman I found my voice,” she says, “and I had a top-shelf education with an affordable tuition.”

**LEHMAN PROUD:**  
(Left) Letitia James is the first African-American woman to win citywide office in New York;  
(Below) James was part of the movement to reform NYC’s controversial ‘Stop & Frisk’ laws.



## “Lehman Did Wonders for Me on So Many Different Levels— Says Proud Alumnus Rubén Díaz Jr. ('07) the Bronx Borough President

*By Suzanne Rozdeba*



Rubén Díaz Jr., who serves as Bronx Borough President, credits Lehman for affording him not only a sound education, but for creating “lifelong friendships” and boosting his political career. “I had a great academic experience,” said Díaz. “Lehman did wonders for me on so many different levels.”

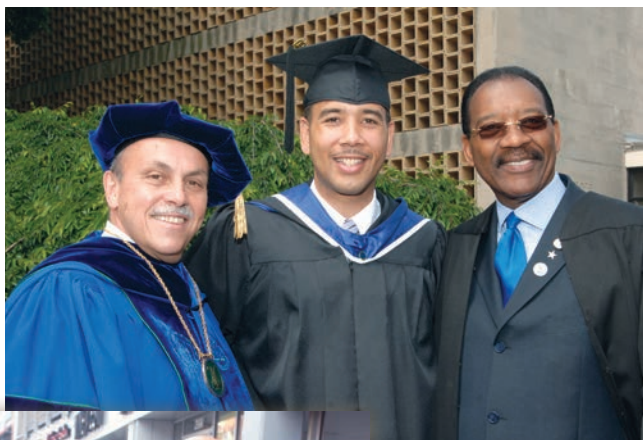
Like his father before him—Rubén Díaz Sr. graduated Lehman College in 1976—Díaz earned a Bachelor of Arts in political theory in 2007. “While at Lehman, I’m a young father of two, a husband. Even though I was an elected official, we were tight. My kids were in Catholic school. We had to pay rent. Lehman was affordable.”

He created close bonds with students, whom he said taught him about issues for which he now fights. “Many of the issues that I champion today—living wage, fighting for the DREAM Act, affordable housing, the reduction in crime—a lot of these things I got from the people that I sat next to.”

One person who greatly influenced him was the Political Science department’s Prof. Ira Bloom. “That’s one man that certainly helped me hone my skills. He was tough on me. I think he picked on me more, knowing that I was an elected official.” When Díaz entered Lehman, he was already serving in the New York State Assembly, representing the 85th Assembly District, starting from 1997. There he served as Chair of the Committee on Election Law and on the Standing Committees on Education, Ways & Means, Children and Families, Environmental Conservation and Transportation. He was also a member of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Task Force, and the Black/Puerto Rican and Asian Legislative Caucus. Nevertheless, Díaz kept taking his classes. “I never received an ‘A’ in his class,” he laughed. The same department’s Prof. Tomohisa Hattori was another notable professor. He calls both “friends for life.”

As important as the Bronx is to him personally, he believes the College plays an even bigger role to the borough it calls home. “Lehman plays the role of helping us re-brand the borough because of the excellence in education. Lehman also plays an economic development role,” he said, noting the number of graduates employed by the college and neighboring businesses. “There are so many benefits from having that great institution there.”

As Bronx Borough President, he’s focusing on job creation, economic development, housing, crime reduction, and education. “We want to make sure that people understand, our kids in the Bronx—we have geniuses here. How do we get gifted and talented programs? How do we get more specialized schools? How do we get more STEM schools? We’re focusing on a lot here in education.” He credits Lehman for much of his political success. “Lehman had a strong influence in allowing me to do as good of a job as I’m doing today,” he said.



**LEHMAN THROUGH AND THROUGH:** The Bronx Borough President speaking at Lehman College; President Fernández with Rubén Díaz Jr., and Rubén Díaz Sr. in 2007; Díaz Jr. mingles with his constituents on the streets of the Bronx.



# Lehman College Partners with NYC's Mayor's Office to Produce Videos Promoting the Bronx

By Sophia Tewa



**A series of video vignettes promoting the "Best of the Bronx"**—produced by Lehman College students and supported by faculty and industry professionals—has been appearing across New York City since the fall of 2013. While Yankee Stadium, the Bronx Zoo, and the New York Botanical Garden are well-known, the series focuses on other landmarks that have defined the Bronx during the past century. Revolving around the themes of history, culture, dining, and entertainment, the series of ten videos highlights local attractions including the historic Woodlawn Cemetery, where many luminaries such as Miles Davis, F.W. Woolworth, and New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia are buried; Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center; and City Island, known for its plethora of beachfront restaurants. The first video—a profile of Arthur Avenue, the Bronx's famed Little Italy section—debuted in October 2013 on NYC life with the remainder rolling weekly.



Above: (back row:) The Best of the Bronx crew, from left: Keren Minto; Eduardo Angel; Edgar DeLaVega; Josmar Taveras; Nicole Johnson; Brendan McGibney. Bottom Row: Louis Carrasco; Marisa White; Elizabeth Molina; and Nialaney Rodriguez.



Left: Sophomore Maddy Sher shown recording a segment at the Freedman Home.

NYC life, part of the official network of New York City (Channel 22 on Cablevision and Channel 25 on many other cable providers). The videos are also presented on Taxi-TV, NYC Media Video-On-Demand, BronxNet, and Lehman College's online channels.

The "Best of the Bronx" vignettes have been seen across a variety of platforms, exposing New Yorkers and tourists to the many cultural and historical resources of the Bronx. The channels include

The series, which was supported by the New York City Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, also allowed Lehman College's School of Arts and Humanities and Multimedia Center to offer master classes in video production while simultaneously producing the series. About 20 students joined





4. The welcome sign to City Island. 5. The skating park at the Andrew Freedman Home. 6. The Andrew Freedman Home, the onetime home of businessman Andrew Freedman, has been designated official landmark status. The Roman-style palazzo now serves as both a park, cultural institution and a bed-and-breakfast. 7. The Bronx Community College's new Library. 8. BCC's Goldman Memorial Library.







1. The crew interviews the matron of Bogetti's—Arthur Avenue's premiere pasta store. 2. Maddy Sher, also a Theatre major at Lehman College, is a narrator for 'The Best of the Bronx' videos. 3. Staff and students take a well-deserved break at the Arthur Avenue Market.



faculty, staff, and other experts for weekly workshops on all aspects of video and film production: writing, editing, camera operation, sound recording, music scoring, graphic arts, location scouting, hosting, and more. Speakers included Lehman College faculty, representatives of the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, professional film editor Holle Singer, and Olga Luz Tirado, executive director of the Bronx Tourism Council. The "Best of the Bronx" crew then fanned out across the borough to put their new skills in action and showcase the landmarks that distinguish the Bronx.

Among the student producers was Nialaney Rodriguez, a junior majoring in multimedia studies. She began her television career in a high school program offered by BronxNet, headquartered at Lehman College. She says serving as producer opened her eyes to the organization, hard work, and flexibility necessary to bring such a production to the screen. "We had a lot of surprises on this shoot," said Nialaney. "On Arthur Avenue, we shot at several locations – mostly mom-and-pop stores in the market. Nearly everything happened on the fly, because we were dealing with so many moving parts and very busy people."

The vignettes were hosted by Lehman College students Maddy Sher and Lawrence Mays. "Our first major goal was that the students get the best educational experience, get exposed to a professional production, and are crossed trained in all the disciplines involved, not just to the specific job that may be doing for the project," said Jerold Barnard, director of Lehman College's Multimedia Center/Lehman Studios. "The second goal was to produce a truly professional product that we can be unconditionally proud of and that the client is completely satisfied with the final product. I believe we have achieved both of these goals."

"As you can see from the finished product, our students far surpassed our expectations—we are very proud of them and what they've accomplished and have no doubt about their success in the future," said Deirdre Pettipiece, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities. "We are grateful to the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment for their support and their unconditional confidence in the students, faculty, and staff at Lehman College."



9. The Bronx Community College Hall of Fame. 10. A bridge to the Bronx's City Island district.



# Bronx Faces and Voices: A Centennial Offering

By Dr. Emita B. Hill

## In 1914, the Bronx was the last county to be

created in New York State. And this fall, during its centennial year, a new book I co-edited with Janet Munch, *Bronx Faces and Voices* (Texas Tech University Press; Fall 2014), will tell the story of the borough through the words of sixteen men and women—as they were recorded between the years 1982 and 1984, following the harshest years of arson, crime, and abandonment. Books and movies sensationalized what was a tragedy for long-time residents of the Bronx. One longtime Bronx resident, Father Robert Banome, once told me that the fires stopped “when there was nothing left to burn.”

Many fled. Rae Flores, Ada Quiñones, Irving Bick, Mike Núñez and many others did not flee when the troubles hit. For all of them moving to the Bronx had meant “moving up,” and they were determined to preserve the beauty of the Bronx parks and the stability of their neighborhoods. They fought back against drug dealers, absent or indifferent landlords, banks that red-lined entire neighborhoods, and an ever-hungry media that made the Bronx an international symbol of urban disaster.

Charlotte Street in the South Bronx was arguably the original “ruin porn” site—a recently-coined phrase to describe photos of modern urban wastelands—in a U.S. city. Presidents and tourists arrived to be photographed amid the decay. But Bick, who grew up there, told a different story. Among the book’s sixteen voices, there were heroes, both sung and unsung. But they all spoke freely and with passion, their words conveying for posterity what they believed mattered the most in how they lived and what they had done. A diverse group, they led me from one narrator to the next, picking up threads from different stories—but they all shared a love for the Bronx and commitment to its preservation.

Describing the care with which buildings were maintained in the 1950s and 60s, Morris “Moe” Greenstein said: “When they did windows, it’s like you were painting the Mona Lisa.” Greenstein was the oldest of the group, born on Simpson Street in 1911, when it was still cobblestone. He became a realtor and building manager. “My mother was a sewing machine operator, and my father was a plumber,” he said. “Everybody who came here got into real estate when they discovered...delightful apartments with foyers. You didn’t have to walk room to room like you did in a railroad flat.”

Greenstein helped Bishop Crooms buy the building at 2015 Crotona Avenue for his Rapture Preparation Church in 1979. When Núñez started the Bronx Venture Corp, an economic development company in 1973 to help revitalize the borough.



**BRONX TALES:**  
A little girl worships  
with her family at a  
local Bronx church.

Greenstein helped Núñez start his first business venture: a paint factory. “The important thing is that something has to be done, and we are doing it. We are the anchor,” he once said. And although Núñez passed away, his legacy remains: the Bronx Venture Corp., is still active. “This organization is my heart,” says Carmen Bermúdez, who runs the company now. “And I’m going to continue to serve the community as long as I live.”

Lehman Special Collections Librarian and co-editor Janet Munch and I have been working on *Bronx Faces and Voices* for four years, but the book had its genesis more than 30 years ago, after the College received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create the Bronx Regional and Community History Project, later to become the Bronx Institute. Faculty and students were trained in oral history techniques and carried out hundreds of interviews, students typically with their grandparents. Those early tapes and transcripts are preserved in the Leonard Lief Library’s Bronx Regional and Community History Studies Archives (BRACHS), many of them now digitized. And the thoughts they expressed three decades ago, which sounded like wishing thinking then, have now proven prophetic. As Stanley Friedman told me in 1983: “In the next 20 years the wheel is going to just keep turning around—as wheels generally do as long as they’re round—and the Bronx will be just as viable as Brooklyn and Queens.”

The evidence that “the Bronx is up” is all around us.

Dr. Emita B. Hill was Professor of Romance Languages, founder of Lehman’s City and Humanities Program and Humanities and the Bronx Institute, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Lehman when she retired in 1990. Subsequently she became Chancellor of Indiana University Kokomo and retired from IU in 2000.



I would have left a long time ago if the opportunity of involving myself very deeply in the community did not come about . . . I do not wait for people to do things for me. I nudge them. I want them to help me do things.

– Father Robert Banome, 1982



**A SIMPLER TIME:**

(Above) A young boy enjoys some of the Bronx's vast green spaces. (Left) Bishop Crooms looks over his Rapture Preparation Church, founded in 1979; (Bottom left) the church, which is still in existence, back in the early 1980s; (bottom right) the church choir gives praise.





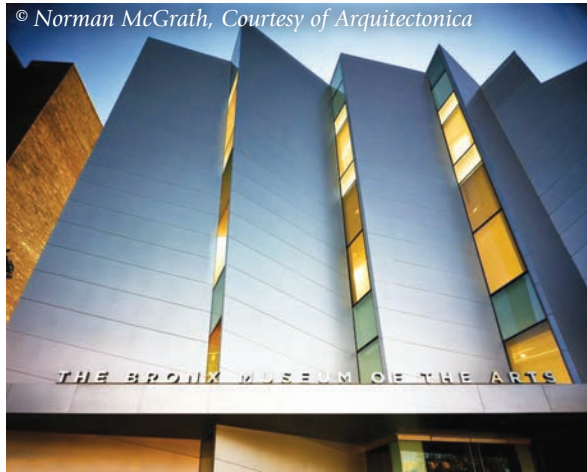
# Celebrating the Architecture of the Bronx

Some of New York City's most beautiful architectural treasures are hidden in the Bronx. Here is a personal guided tour.

## The Bronx Museum of the Arts, North Building

*Grand Concourse, near 165th Street*

*Arquitectonica / Bernardo Fort-Brescia and Laurinda Spear  
2006*



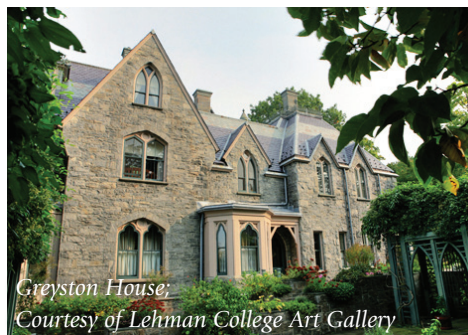
© Norman McGrath, Courtesy of Arquitectonica

Founded in 1971, the Bronx Museum of the Arts now occupies a building that was once home to the Young Israel Synagogue on the northeast corner of 165th Street. The small building received a new entrance and a tinted-glass corner lobby in a 1988 expansion by the architects of Castro-Blanco, Pischioneri, and Associates.

However, exhibition space remained cramped, and the museum felt that, physically, it hadn't yet made its presence felt. In 2006 the museum opened its North Building that has—visually speaking—put the Bronx Museum on the map with its fritted-glass windows set along the north-facing edges of three of these accordion-folds and the south edges of two others. Outsiders passing in either direction will catch glimpses of the galleries and insiders can look up and down the boulevard.

## The Greyston House and Gatehouse

*690 W. 247th Street and Independence Avenue  
Riverdale, New York  
James Renwick, Jr.  
1863-64*



*Greyston House; Courtesy of Lehman College Art Gallery*

Perhaps the easiest way to describe the Greyston home in Riverdale is "it's eccentric." The details—trefoil balustrades, pointed windows—seem "gothic," but the overall plan is actually very classical, until your eye drifts upward over the attractive gray stone walls. Then there's the jagged roof line which reveals the house to be a late example of the "Picturesque"—an anti-classical strain in 19th-century American architecture. Although architect James Renwick was best known for his Gothic Revival churches—he designed New York's landmark St. Patrick's Cathedral—Greyston was designed to let visitors know the house was the home of the powerful and sophisticated. That was certainly true of Greyston's first owners, the family of William E. Dodge Jr., who were wealthy merchants.

## Tracey Towers

*20 and 40 W. Mosholu Parkway  
Paul Rudolph  
1974*

The tallest buildings in the Bronx—one tower is 38 stories high; the other 41 stories—the Tracey Towers dominate the Bronx skyline. From a distance they seem imperious: two isolated dark-gray cylinders rising straight up. As you approach them, something more complicated and futuristic emerges. Each cylindrical building reveals itself to be a circle of

nine narrower columns, windowless concrete rising to a spiral crown. Horizontally bridging the space between each column are windows and balconies. While the balconies seem small and overshadowed, the views from Tracey Towers are said to be spectacular.

The Towers are an example of a "mega-structure." This avant-garde engineering scheme fascinated many architects in the 1960s, including Paul Rudolph, an important American modernist who served as chairman of Yale University's Department of Architecture from 1958 to 1965. When developer Frederick De Matteis planned adventurous middle-class apartment towers for the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx, he turned to Rudolph, who created these faulty, yet memorable, concrete towers.



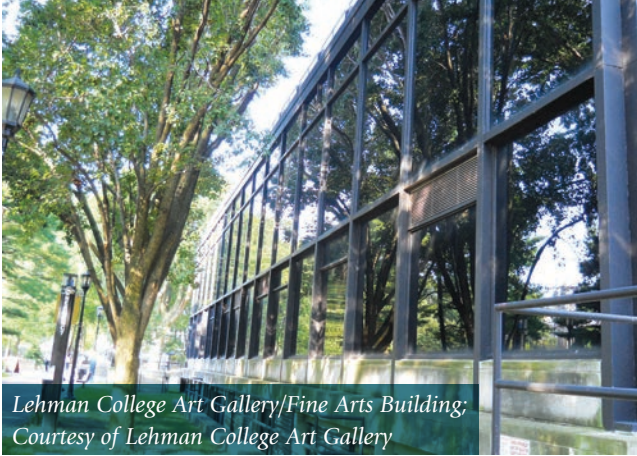
*Tracey Towers; Courtesy of Lehman College*

## Lehman College Art Gallery/Fine Arts Building

*Goulden Avenue at Bedford Park Boulevard West  
Marcel Breuer, with Robert Gatje and Eduardo Catalano  
1957-60*

Marcel Breuer's first buildings in New York City were completed in 1960 on the western edge of Lehman College (when the school was still known as Hunter College Uptown) where their severe geometry was juxtaposed against the neo-Gothic of four structures from the 1930s. Breuer designed two structures: Shuster Hall, which originally housed many classrooms, and its narrower two-story neighbor, the College's then-new Library. In 1981, the





*Lehman College Art Gallery/Fine Arts Building;  
Courtesy of Lehman College Art Gallery*



*Bartow-Pell Mansion; Courtesy of Lehman College Art Gallery*

latter was renamed the Fine Arts Building and today houses the Lehman College Art Gallery. But when Breuer originally designed the building, he wrapped its shoebox shape in a curtain wall of clear glass, flooding the rooms with natural light—for better reading. The building’s interior space was unobstructed except for two rows of columns: each column spreads out and upward to form broad inverted umbrellas, or calyxes, which join one another and form an undulating ceiling. Breuer molded each in an extremely light, thin-shelled reinforced concrete, using only six columns to support the 160 x 180 foot ceiling—an impressive architectural feat.

### Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum

*895 Shore Road Pelham Bay Park*

*Minard Lefever, architect  
(attributed); John Bolton,  
architect (attributed)  
1836-1842; restored by  
Delano & Aldrich  
1914*

One of the least known and accessible of New York City’s museums, the Bartow-Pell Mansion in Pelham Bay Park, is well worth visiting. The reward is a trip back in time to a gracious 19th century country mansion typical of other large estate houses once found in the Pelham Bay

area. The ten-room, Federal style stone mansion has a stunning mahogany spiral staircase, high double windows, iron lattices, and breathtaking views of Long Island Sound. Its interior is in the Greek Revival style and features period furnishings on loan from other city museums. The story of the Bartow-Pell estate began in 1654 when Thomas Pell, an English doctor from Connecticut, bought the land from the Siwanoy Indians as part of a nearly 9,000-acre tract. Held through four generations of the family, the Pell’s lost the land during the American Revolution. By the time Robert Bartow and his wife Ann Pell purchased the property in 1836, it had been reduced to 220 acres and the original manor house was gone. The Bartows built the mansion that stands today and moved in with their family in 1842. The city purchased the estate in 1888 when many large parcels were being taken over and converted to parkland in the Bronx.

Starting in 1914, the city leased the mansion and grounds to the International Garden Club for use as a clubhouse and grand gardens on the order of the botanical gardens at Kew in England. The elaborate plans for the gardens, as originally envisioned, were

scaled back. Today, they are even smaller than when first created. Mayor Fiorello La Guardia used the mansion as his summer residence in 1936, and said that he “wanted to make New Yorkers realize that this is a big city, that it does not all center in Manhattan.” Since 1947, the mansion has served as a public museum.

### Villa Charlotte Brontë

*2501 Palisade Avenue Riverdale New York  
Robert Gardner  
1926*

In the 1920s, there was still time left for semi-rural Riverdale to hold out against the encroaching City of New York. Even as its estates along the Hudson were being subdivided, they retained their winding lanes



*Villa Charlotte Brontë;  
Courtesy of Lehman College Art Gallery*

in place of grid-mapped streets. Yet it had long been clear that high-density residence was coming to the northwest Bronx. In the first decades of the century, wealthy citizens seeking to defend the character of their neighborhood (while turning a profit) had formed syndicates to buy up land whose development they could personally control. John Jay McKelvey, a lawyer and a director of the Park District Protective League, had been especially active in these purchases. He took the initiative by building what are regarded as the first apartment houses in Riverdale. These were not tenements, but “villas” made up of individually owned duplex and triplex “studio homes.” This included his Villa Charlotte Bronte, probably the most determinedly picturesque set of buildings in the Borough.

McKelvey picked the extreme southwest point of the Bronx—a cliff one hundred feet above the spot the tide rips known as Spuyten Duyvil, or the “spitting devil” (There are other, less trustworthy etymologies.) From this aerie, his architect, Richard Gardner, built two matching buildings, divided by a central courtyard which thrusts toward the Hudson. Each wing is a carefully irregular composition of tiled roofs, protruding bays, balconies, and casement windows. Together they house seventeen apartments, no two exactly alike. ■

# Eliás Alcántara ('08)

## From the Bronx to the White House

Eliás Alcántara always knew he wanted to pursue a career in public service and political science. His path took him from the president's seat at Lehman's Campus Association for Student Activities (CASA), to the student speaker chair at his graduation, and now at the White House where he serves as a staff assistant.

"I am honored and quite honestly consider myself lucky to have the opportunity to serve the President of the United States," Alcántara said. "The most significant first impression I had was arriving at work and seeing a group of the most talented, diverse people in our country, and in many cases, young."

Alcántara first learned about the opportunity to intern at the White House while searching online. After being selected to join the prestigious internship program in 2012, Alcántara became a staff member in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, through which local, county, and state governments can participate in the work of the White House. He informs and reaches out to dozens of offices and local communities around the U.S. from Los Angeles in California, to Fulton County in Georgia. One of his responsibilities is to manage local elected official involvement at events with the President while he travels or in Washington D.C.

On a recent campus visit, Alcántara took a tour of the newly renovated Student Life Building, which CASA helped fund

*...his experience at Lehman equipped him with leadership and team building skills that he still uses today at the White House.*



Eliás Alcántara

during his years as a student body president. He believes that his experience at Lehman equipped him with leadership and team building skills that he still uses today at the White House.

"My professors were constantly pushing me to think outside of the box and pursue opportunities that led me to where I am today. Several of these professors became mentors that I still keep in touch with today," Alcántara said. "My peers who have gone on to serve as lawyers, artists, and many other careers taught me that it didn't matter where you came from, that you can achieve your dreams if you put your mind to it. In a nutshell, the best part of studying at Lehman was that without me knowing at the time, it became the strong foundation for the person I am today."

### ***Network with us!***

**Congratulations Lehman College Alumni! Our LinkedIn group has surpassed 1,400 members. Please network with us by joining the "Lehman College Alumni" group on LinkedIn as well as Facebook. Share your stories on the Lehman College Blog, go to [blog.lehman.edu/](http://blog.lehman.edu/) and let us know about you and your Lehman experience.**



# Rafael Almanzar ('09)

Teaching Others the Lessons He Learned at Lehman



Rafael Almanzar

Rafael Almanzar moved from his native Bronx in 2014 for a new job as a senior academic advisor at Texas A&M University, a public research university in College Station, Texas. But 1,700 miles from his hometown, Almanzar finds that the counseling skills he learned at Lehman still serve him well in Aggie country.

When Almanzar entered the SEEK program at Lehman College, he was unsure about his career path. He learned to navigate the college system and manage his course-load

in the office of his SEEK counselor, Carrie Zimmerman. But the SEEK sessions and group workshops, which provide academic and financial help to underserved youth, also opened his mind to a whole new vocation field: student counseling.

"Carrie Zimmerman and other SEEK counselors all inspired me to do counseling," Almanzar said. "I learned a little bit from everybody, from how passionately they work to help students in need and students that are considered at risk due to their performance or low income."

Almanzar worked for four and a half years in the SEEK department, first as a college assistant then as a counselor after graduating from Lehman. He then earned a master's degree in bilingual school counseling from New York University. Even after moving to Texas, he maintains strong bonds with the students he counseled throughout their studies at Lehman.

"It was tough for me because I had a privileged relationship with students and I couldn't see them graduate after I left Lehman,"

*...the SEEK sessions and group workshops, which provide academic and financial help to underserved youth, also opened his mind to a whole new vocation field: student counseling.*

he said. "For now I'm working with graduate students, which is a whole different group of students, but I apply the same skills and work on building relationships with these students."

Born in the Bronx and raised by a single mother who worked two jobs, Almanzar believes that education can help overcome humble beginnings. "My mother didn't graduate from high school so she made sure that I was on top of my school work. When I was seven, she helped me with math," he said. "She thought that my education was the key to open more opportunities that she didn't receive."

One of Almanzar's future career goals is to open a program similar to CUNY's SEEK to help underprivileged students succeed in college and achieve their professional dreams.



# Keren Minto ( '12)

## Bang the Drum Slowly

Keren Minto's connection to Lehman started when she was still in high school. During her senior year Minto and her mother would make the three-hour drive from their home in Boston Lake in Upstate New York to Lehman College where the aspiring musician could take percussion lessons with Professor Arnie Lang of Lehman College's Music Department.

The weekly six-hour road trip was worth it Minto says, so that she could study with a professor who was also a member of the New York Philharmonic. "My mom sacrificed a lot for me to follow my dream," she says.

Minto would go on to attend the Macaulay Honors College program at Lehman College, graduating with a B.S. in Music in 2012 and while at Lehman she studied with Emmy Award-winning film composer Michael Bacon.

"I was always into classical music and instrumental music," says Minto, who received a St.

George's Society Scholarship. "But perhaps the genre I loved the most, even as a child, was film soundtracks."

*"Lehman has done so much for me," she says. "That's why I'm so happy to work here and give back. I'm so happy to give back to the institution that gave me so much."*



Keren Minto



Since graduating Lehman, Minto has taken a job at the College's Multimedia Center, where she has gained hands-on experience on all aspects of film and video production from planning to post-production work and she already has several independent film projects to her name. She has also performed with various ensembles including the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

"Lehman has done so much for me," she says. "That's why I'm so happy to work here and give back. I'm so happy to give back to the institution that gave me so much."



# Josh Kardisch ('80)

From the Emergency Room to the Court Room....



Josh Kardisch

For most of his college life, Josh Kardisch wanted to be a doctor and was interested in the biological underpinnings of human behavior. In fact, when he was a student here at Lehman College, he was pursuing a double major in biology and psychology and preparing for medical school. That's when his mother made a small suggestion that changed his life. "She told me to go work in an ER," recalls Kardisch, sitting in the sunlit conference room of his Garden City-based law firm, the Kardisch Law Group PC.

That one bit of motherly advice changed everything.

Within the first two hours in the ER of a hospital in his Washington Heights neighborhood, Kardisch helped the nurses handle a gun-shot patient. "My mother knew I was the queasy type", Kardisch recalls, "and after that experience, I had to admit that while I liked the study of medicine, the practice was not for me."

Kardisch enjoyed several courses (one, an internship with the Bronx Legal Aid Society), with a Lehman professor who encouraged him to go to law school. After one year of post-graduation employment and travel through Europe and Israel, he attended his first choice, Boston University School of Law, graduating in 1984. He was hired as an associate at Rivkin Radler, a nationally-known firm which had recently engineered an 80 million dollar settlement on behalf of seven chemical manufacturers in the historic Agent Orange veterans' case. Kardisch joined the Toxic Tort Group, a unit of attorneys with scientific backgrounds, and he defended companies nationwide in pesticide exposure litigation. Within a few years, he was promoted to partner and became a member of the firm's Hiring Committee. His early focus on this area of law lead Kardisch to represent individuals and business entities in lead-poisoning, asbestos, mold and products liability matters. "My biology, chemistry and psychology courses at Lehman have always helped me in my legal work," Kardisch states, "as I understand the scientific literature, and can effectively evaluate cases and cross-examine opposing experts at trial."

*"My biology, chemistry and psychology courses at Lehman have always helped me in my legal work, as I understand the scientific literature, and can effectively evaluate cases and cross-examine opposing experts at trial."*

In 1996, Kardisch thought about starting his own firm. He admits that he hesitated, unsure if the timing was right. The married father of three sought advice from the person whose opinion he knew would be the most meaningful: his father. "My dad was a journalist for the same media outlet for most of his adult life and was not a risk-taker," Kardisch says, "and I thought for sure he would tell me to stay put. But when he told me that 'Sometimes you have to take a chance,' I knew that I should take this chance." That same year, Kardisch started his own practice (his wife Bonnie, also an attorney, later joining him), and he has never looked back.

Kardisch continues to practice in the same areas of law and has added employment and general litigation to his four-attorney firm's repertoire. Of all the cases he has won in nearly 30 years of practice (including a few that received press coverage), one clearly stands out. Kardisch represented a 9-year-old boy whose stepmother fraudulently removed him as beneficiary of a life insurance policy that his dying father had procured. Had she ultimately been

successful, her illicit act would have robbed the child of \$750,000 in proceeds, the sum total of his parent's assets. Kardisch brought suit against the woman and the Court eventually ordered the insurer to place the money in trust for his client. "And now, that young man is able to graduate from a top-flight private university completely debt-free, just what his dad had wanted for him," Kardisch says proudly. "In all my years practicing law, that was the most rewarding achievement"



## Richard Tucker Music Foundation Concert

For the third year in a row The Richard Tucker Music Foundation brought two of its rising stars to the Lehman Multimedia Center to play a private concert for esteemed guests on Dec. 10. This year soprano Caitlin Lynch and baritone Edward Parks sang selections from Puccini's *La Bohème*, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, Handel's *Messiah*, as well as a selection of Broadway songs accompanied by Earl Buys on piano. In what now has become a tradition, composer Mark Adamo, whose 2013 opera, *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, debuted last year at the San Francisco Opera, interviewed Barry Tucker and both singers about their lives and careers. The Richard Tucker Music Foundation is named for the world-famous American tenor and is internationally renowned for developing young opera singers. The Foundation also has, as its core mission, promoting opera to communities in particular in urban settings.



1. (From left) Mark Adamo, baritone Edward Parks, Lehman College President, Dr. Ricardo R. Fernández, soprano Caitlin Lynch, Barry Tucker, Director of Alumni Relations Maria-Cristina Necula, and Earl Buys. 2. Soprano Caitlin Lynch and baritone Edward Parks hear it from the Lehman crowd. 3. President Fernández and Barry Tucker 4. Richard Tucker Foundation founder Barry Tucker with Maria-Cristina Necula. 5. Baritone Edward Parks, composer Mark Adamo, soprano Caitlin Lynch, composer Michael Bacon, a Distinguished Lecturer at Lehman College, and pianist Earl Buys. 6. Barry Tucker poses with alumna Joanne Stavrou and her husband Christopher, and Mario DellaPina, VP of Institutional Advancement.

## Woodlawn Cemetery Tour

As poet Billy Collins once remarked, Woodlawn Cemetery, which is just a few miles north of Lehman College in the Bronx, is an amazing place. And Collins would know: a former two-time U.S. Poet Laureate, Collins is also a Distinguished Professor of English at Lehman, where he has taught for 40 years. So it should come as no surprise that the Lehman College Alumni Director, Maria-Cristina Necula, led a group of a few dozen alumni on a tour to see the historic resting place of—among others—jazz greats Miles Davis and Duke Ellington; Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia and New York City's former Master Builder Robert Moses; musical legends Celia Cruz and Irving Berlin; and suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It is also where American writer Herman Melville is buried in a small, unassuming grave.







1. The cemetery, currently celebrating its 150th anniversary, has more than 1,300 historic mausoleums.
2. The alumni group listens to their tour guide describe the details of a Woodlawn mausoleum.
3. Lehman alumni pay homage at Celia Cruz's tomb.



## Forum Impact of Tech on Healthcare Career Opportunities

On Sept. 26, the Lehman College Alumni Association and the Office of Career Services hosted a conference exploring the key issues and challenges facing healthcare professionals. Prof. Keith Happaney ('92), of Lehman's Psychology department, led a workshop on current and future technologies and how they will impact healthcare career opportunities. The event's speakers included Ivan Durbak, chief information officer at Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, and Dr. Helen Slaven, chief learning officer at Montefiore Learning Network at the Montefiore Medical Center.



1. (From left) Hillary Peart ('99), Andrea Rockower ('73), Ivan Durbak, Dr. Helen Slaven, Nancy Cintrón, Director of Career Services, Maria-Cristina Necula, Director of Alumni Relations, and Prof. Keith Happaney ('92), the Alumni Board President. 2. VP of Student Affairs José Magdaleno, Ivan Durbak, Dr. Helen Slaven, VP of Institutional Advancement Mario Della Pina and Alumni board member John Dean Daley ('89). 3. Soomintra Shike ('12). 4. Prof. Happaney introducing Ivan Durbak and Dr. Helen Slaven.

## Master of Social Work Alumni Picnic

On August 17, a group of alumni from Lehman's Social Work department returned to campus for a picnic with staff and faculty of the nationally ranked program. Although the sun didn't always cooperate, fun was had by all as former students—many of whom are now working in their chosen field—socialized with their mentors and enjoyed an opportunity to return to Lehman's beautiful campus. The Department of Social Work hopes to make the summer event a yearly tradition to keep former students and graduates actively involved in the College and the program, which is one of Lehman's most competitive.





1. Lizette Morehead, Prof. Patricia Kolb, Laura Salcedo, Sonja Rodriguez, Rosalyn Gonzalez, Crismelda Fermin. 2. Prof. Brenda Williams Gray, Marie Mazza, Prof. Patricia Kolb, Prof. Norma Philips, Michael Markiewicz, Prof. Carl Mazza, Prof. Mark Miller, Prof. Graciela Castex, and Yuleidi Delacruz.

### Library Reading Series: Martin Kleinman ('72)

Alumnus Martin Kleinman returned to the Bronx to hold a reading of his short story collection, *Homefront* (Sock Monkey Press). A Bronx native, he graduated Lehman College in 1972 with a degree in economics with a minor in psychology and soon began a career in public relations. In 2010, he co-authored *Robert's Rules of Innovation: A 10-Step Program for Corporate Survival* (John Wiley & Sons) and then decided to write all the stories about "the real New York," the kind of stories that only a native New Yorker would know from the city's less-than-stellar days back in the 70s and 80s.



Kleinman (left) meets up with Myron Spektor, a fellow member of the Class of '72.



# In Memoriam



**Dr. Barbara Jacobson**, assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, passed away on April 9, 2014. She was 74.

Dr. Jacobson's research focused on education and social mobility. She worked on major data sets related to the experiences of CUNY students. Her articles include "Education and Mobility: From Achievement to Ascription" in *American Sociological Review* and "Education: Social Fact of Social Process?" in *American Behavioral Scientist*. At Lehman College, Dr. Jacobson was known for her passion for the liberal arts and for her work as chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

"Barbara's encyclopedic knowledge of curricular procedures, the care she took working with departments as they developed their courses and curricula, and her support for general education profoundly influenced the experiences of generations of Lehman students," said President Ricardo R. Fernández.

"She was a mainstay of the College's Phi Beta Kappa chapter, every year reviewing hundreds of transcripts to find eligible students, and at times, reaching out to personally counsel students about eligibility requirements. She was an invaluable resource on many campus-wide committees and task forces. Her voice and passion for education will be missed."

Dr. Jacobson graduated from DePauw University in 1961. Two years later, she received an M.A. in Sociology of Religion from Yale Divinity School. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University in 1970 and soon after joined the Lehman College faculty in the Department of Sociology.



**Dr. Thomas Jensen**, retired biology professor and former chair of the department, passed away on February 14, 2014. He was 81.

Dr. Jensen served as chair of the Department of Biological Sciences for more than 20 years, retiring from Lehman College. He published more than 100 papers on the anatomy and evolution of cyanobacteria, a phylum of bacteria that obtain their energy through photosynthesis. Among his research was the development of a chemical analysis used to provide information on bones from an anthropological find in Croton-on-Hudson.

"Dr. Jensen was a well-respected leader of the Department of Biological Sciences," said Dr. Leisl Jones, current chair of the department. "He will be greatly missed."

Dr. Jensen was born in Iowa and served in the Korean War. He served as president of the Torrey Botanical Society. He also garnered attention on campus for his involvement in a classroom hold-up in 1986. He was teaching microbiology in Davis Hall when he and seven students were robbed at gunpoint, part of a spree of hold-ups on college campuses that year.

**Robert Sutliff** passed away on January 6, 2014. He was 62 years old.

Mr. Sutliff served as an administrator at Lehman College for more than 40 years until his retirement in May 2012. Most of his career was spent in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science as a technical administrator.

Mr. Sutliff was a native of New York City and earned a B.A. in Mathematics from Queens College (CUNY). He taught at Lehman College as an adjunct lecturer before moving into administration.



**Joan Miller**, founding director and icon of Lehman's Department of Dance, died March 23 at the age of 77. She was also the founder of Joan Miller's Dance Players.

Born and raised in Harlem, Ms. Miller began dance training with the Girl Scouts, performing folk and ballet work. While studying physical education at Brooklyn College, she also studied dance at the Jose Limon studio with Ruth Currier and Betty Jones. She also went on to study with Limon, Doris Humphrey, Louis Horst, and Pauline Koner.

In 1963, Ms. Miller began teaching dance at Lehman College, known then as Hunter in the Bronx. She danced with the Merry-Go-Rounders, a group that performed for children, and worked with James Waring, Remy Charlip, and Yvonne Rainer, members of the Judson Church group.

Ms. Miller founded her Dance Players troupe in 1970, which enjoyed resident status at Lehman College for a decade, and went on to perform across the tri-state region. Her work delved into social issues of the time, such as Vietnam, urban violence, race, and class divisions. Her signature work was "Pass Fe White," where a black dancer discards clothing and accessories used to "pass for white."

After retiring in 2007, Ms. Miller was honored with a performance at John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY). Ms. Miller earned her master's degree at Columbia University Teachers College and a professional diploma from Juilliard.

# The President's Report, 2013



The year 2013 will go down in the history of Lehman College as a year of important transitions. Over the last twelve months the College has declared a bold new vision that builds on our bedrock values and strategic mission of a providing a quality and affordable education for all people, regardless of background.

Just as our faculty continues to participate in groundbreaking scientific research and our students continually win awards and scholarships for their hard work, so we too—the administration—of the College continue to push the envelope in meeting the educational challenges of the 21st century. The simple truth is a college education has never been more important, and around the nation there is an ongoing discussion about redefining what a college education means.

Inspired and challenged by this national debate, we have determined there were three areas that the College will focus on in the future:

ensuring that an education is more versatile than ever, the classes are more innovative, and our outlook on the world more global than ever before.

The reason for this is also easily explained: today's college graduates can expect to have as many as a dozen jobs in their careers. That is why we must prepare students, not just for their first job – but also for their fifth, or their tenth job. As Malcolm X once said: "The future belongs to those who prepare for it today."

If you look at the stories on these following pages you will see all the things our faculty and students are accomplishing. We could not be more proud of them, as I know you are too. We at Lehman College are meeting the challenges of the 21st century head-on and our family of scholars, researchers, and students are fulfilling our goals as an institution of higher learning. With your generous support and help, we will continue to do so.



## January / February

**Science Hall** officially opened for class. Although only a few classes were held on the first day of the new Spring 2013 semester, the first floor of the building was a beehive of activity as students, who had never stepped foot into the building, looked around for their classrooms.

**President Ricardo R. Fernández** was named a Director of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) at the organization's annual meeting in Atlanta. The AAC&U is the leading national association concerned with the quality, vitality, and public standing of undergraduate liberal education. Its members are committed to extending the advantages of a liberal education to all students, regardless of academic specialization or intended career.



**New York Governor Andrew Cuomo** stopped by the Lovinger Theatre to talk about the progress his administration has made in the past two years, as well as current and future proposals for growing the state's economy. The visit was part of the Governor's "New York Rising" tour, in which he outlined his bold agenda for the state's budget.



## March

Teachers from the metropolitan area had a chance to study poetry with one of the nation's most celebrated poets: **Lehman College's Distinguished Professor of English**

**Billy Collins**—a former two-time U.S. Poet Laureate. The special seminar was part of the New York Public Library's prestigious Academy of Teachers program that pairs accomplished high school teachers, who are selected by their peers to win entrance in the program, with an acknowledged master of a particular subject—in this case, poetry—for a day long master class.



A study by two Lehman College professors assessed the nutritional quality of foods advertised on the first page of online weekly circulars from 15 supermarket stores in the Bronx over a two-month period. The results of the study—by **Professors Danna Ethan** and **Lalitha Samuel** of the College's Health Sciences Department—found that less healthy foods were often promoted at the expense of more nutritious options. The study was published in *The Journal of Community Health*.



## April

**Four Lehman students traveled to Las Vegas** to start one of the most unconventional internships in the media industry: Sony's

Student Experience. The four interns attended the annual NAB show—the National Association of Broadcasters' media and entertainment convention—and spent a week at the Sony booth where they were introduced to the latest broadcast technology gear.

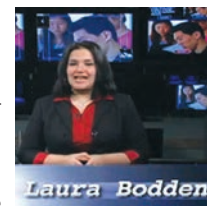


**Professor Catherine Alicia Georges**, chair of the Nursing Department, had her name entered into the Congressional Record in recognition of the role she played in creating National Black Nurses Day.

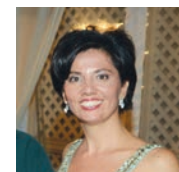


## May

The producers of the video news magazine **Inside Lehman XIII** captured three new awards—the Hermes Award, a Telly Award, and the Communicator Award—for their most recent series of programs. The show features segments on *Stem Cell Research* and what medicine may be able to do in the future, *Nurse Practitioners* and how they provide services not otherwise offered to patients, *Human Rights Summit*, which focused on the treatment of women in Latin America, *Careers After College*, and *'Hairspray' on Stage*.



**Maria-Cristina Necula**, director of Alumni Relations, received the 2013 Outstanding Achievement in Alumni Outreach Award at the CUNY Philanthropy Forum held at the Graduate Center.



**Shabel Castro**, a junior in the Macaulay Honors College at Lehman, won the Bronx 2013 Denim Day NYC Writing competition.



## June / July / August

**Graduate student Emma Wixted** was awarded the New York State School Counselor Association Scholarship for her academic achievement.



Lehman co-hosted **New York City mayoral candidates** in a forum at Bronx Community College.

**Ricardo Kriebel**, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in Plant Sciences at Lehman, won the George R. Cooley Award for Best Contributed Paper in Plant Systematics at the American Society of Plant Taxonomists' annual meeting. His talk—titled "Syndromes within syndromes: floral diversification in buzz pollinated *Conostegia* (Melastomataceae, Miconieae)"—describes his research on the tropical princess flower family. Kriebel described how he used extensive DNA data sets to reconstruct the evolutionary history of a closely related group of about 70 species of princess flowers in the genus *Conostegia*.

Lehman College **unveiled its new homepage** look, which includes "responsive design" to enhance viewing and interaction on mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets. The design is being rolled out across all web pages.



Science Hall became the first CUNY building to earn a **LEED Platinum certification** from the U.S. Green Building Council, one of only 67 in New York State and fewer than 1,200



worldwide. It earned platinum status for an array of environmentally sustainable technologies, such as a rainwater/graywater system to clean and recirculate water for use in restroom flushing fixtures and rooftop solar panels to heat the building's water. It is also equipped with a rooftop teaching and research greenhouse.

## September

To give more students the opportunity to attend college—by providing convenient child care facilities—dignitaries from across the city and state



of New York cut the ribbon on Lehman College's new **Child Care Center**. Lehman College and the City University of New York dedicated the Center on September 26, opening new doors for young minds. The new Center accommodates 120 children of Lehman College students, twice the capacity of the previous center.

Lehman College received leading marks from two national publications for the College's affordability, accessibility and research, among other categories. **Business Insider** ranked **Lehman College No. 3** in the nation when scored according to President Barack Obama's new plan to help students pay for college. **Lehman College also received high marks from Washington Monthly** for its graduate programs. The publication, a non-profit magazine focusing on U.S. politics and government, named Lehman to its list of top 100 master's universities. *Washington Monthly* ranked Lehman #56, based on criteria such as social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), research (scholarship and PhDs), and service (encouraging students to give back to their nation).

**Lehman College welcomed nearly 3,000 new students** to campus for the fall 2013 semester. Data show it is the College's strongest incoming class in two decades. The Class of 2017 arrives with more community engagement and volunteer experience under their collective belt. They are honor roll students with strong academic records. They are award winners and all-around high achievers.

## October

**Clarence Stanley**, Director of the Bronx Small Business Develop-



ment Center at Lehman College, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation.

The Student Life Building re-opened on October 30 after a **\$1.98 million renovation** and re-imagining.



**The Lehman College Foundation's 2013 awards ceremony**—Dinner with the Stars—took place October 24 at the New York Botanical Garden. The annual event honors the hard work undertaken by Lehman students every day, and the support of the 2013 honorees, each of whom embodies the values and qualities that Lehman College strives to instill in its students.



Nearly 100 Lehman College students fanned out across New York City to lend a helping hand. They are part of the new **CUNY Service Corps**, which mobilizes CUNY students, faculty, and staff to work on projects that improve the civic, economic, and environmental sustainability of New York City. Lehman is one of seven City University of New York colleges taking part in the initiative, which is in its inaugural year. Students work with organizations that provide services ranging from literacy to health care to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum.

## November

The Lehman community mourns the loss of **Elaine Rivera**, a member of the faculty in the Journalism, Communication, and Theatre Department. She died on October 26. Rivera joined the faculty at Lehman College in 2009 as a substitute lecturer, bringing nearly thirty years of experience at top news organizations around the country, including *Time* magazine, the *Washington Post*, and WNYC Radio. One year after joining Lehman, she was promoted to the rank of Distinguished Lecturer.



## December

December 5 marked the 50th anniversary of the passing of the College's namesake, **Herbert H. Lehman**, the former Governor of New York, U.S. Senator and statesman, in 1963.

Lehman College congratulates **four recent scholarship recipients**—three from the Bronx CUNY Scholarship Fund and one from the New York Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. All have plans to work for the well-being of Bronx residents and advocate for a healthier global village. Francisco Cruz and Sharonda Oppong-Addae are Bronx CUNY Scholars and Genill Reynoso is an Elias Karmon Scholar.



# Research

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

Through a mixture of groundbreaking work, determination, and the desire to succeed, Lehman College students and faculty continue to make breakthroughs in both research and scholarship. This year our faculty made further inroads in the sciences and our students continued to win scholarships for their academic achievements.

### Origin of Apes: Lehman College Researcher Joins International Team in Groundbreaking Discovery

An international team of researchers, co-led by Professor William Harcourt-Smith, has discovered the remains of an ancient forest on Rusinga Island, Lake Victoria, Kenya—evidence of the habitat of the early ape *Proconsul*.



Prof. William Harcourt-Smith, top, is part of an international team of scientists who have found the fossils of an early ape in Kenya.

The groundbreaking discovery includes the fossil of a single *Proconsul* specimen among geological deposits that also contained tree stump casts, calcified roots, and fossil leaves. Their findings—published in February 2014 in *Nature Communications*—show that *Proconsul* and its primate relative *Dendropithecus* inhabited “a widespread, dense, multistoried, closed canopy” forest. The fossils will help scientists understand the connection between ancient habitats and the emergence of ape lineages, including our own.

Prof. Harcourt-Smith is co-director of the site, where he and colleagues have been prospecting for fossils since 2006. “It’s a well-known locality, famous for *Proconsul*, but hadn’t been visited in ages,” says Dr. Harcourt-Smith, who also serves as a research scientist at the American Museum of Natural History “We wanted to go back and ultimately work out what the ancient environment was like back then, and the ecology of these early apes.”

**“...only by working with a diverse range of scientists can one really start to reconstruct the environments of our ancient ancestors.”**

Obtaining a grant from the National Science Foundation and the Leakey Foundation, the team descended on Rusinga Island. “This is where the first apes emerged—where they thrived,” he says of the 10 mile-long island on the eastern side of Kenya’s Lake Victoria.

The other members of his group included Baylor University geology professor Dan Peppe and geology doctoral student Lauren Michel, lead author of the article in *Nature Communications*. “Our research findings provide direct evidence and confirm where the early ape lived about 18 to 20 million years ago,” said Dr. Peppe. “We now know that *Proconsul* lived in a closed-canopy, tropical seasonal forest set in a warm and relatively wet local climate.”

Prof. Harcourt-Smith says the project highlights the importance of inter-disciplinary work, and commented that “only by working with a diverse range of scientists can one really start to reconstruct the environments of our ancient ancestors.”

### The City That Never Sleeps... Or Wears a Helmet

An article co-authored by Professor Danna Ethan of the Health Sciences Department found that more than eighty-five percent



Prof. Danna Ethan of Lehman College’s Health Sciences department and her coauthors, including Prof. Corey Hannah Basch of William Paterson University found that most CitiBikers don’t worry helmets.

of CitiBike riders in New York City do not wear a helmet as they navigate city streets. Prof. Ethan and her four co-authors observed 1,054 cyclists for forty-four hours at the twenty-two busiest CitiBike locations for an article just published in the new issue of *The Journal of Community Health*.



"The consistency of non-helmet use was striking," said Prof. Ethan, who has worked at the College since 2010. "It didn't matter what time of day it was, or the location, or whether the cyclist was taking a bike or returning it, it was always roughly the same percentage of riders not wearing helmets."

The article notes that in 2012, there were 3,882 injuries and 18 fatalities involving a cyclist and a motor vehicle in New York; nearly all serious injuries (or fatalities) occurring since 1996 involved a cyclist who wasn't wearing a helmet.

As the CitiBike program grows—plans to add 4,000 more rental bikes in Manhattan and Brooklyn were initiated at the end of 2013—more riders will share the road with New York City traffic, other riders, and often distracted pedestrians. "To better understand why so few riders are wearing helmets, factors that hinder and promote helmet use should be assessed," said Dr. Ethan. "Understanding what it would take to increase helmet use can help public health efforts make it more feasible for riders to access and wear inexpensive but durable helmets."

"CitiBike is a great program that can contribute to increased physical activity and at the same time help reduce carbon emissions," said Professor Corey Hannah Basch, an Assistant Professor of Public Health at William Paterson University, who co-authored the article along with Prof. Ethan. "However, given that such a high proportion of riders do not use helmets while riding in busy urban streets, education is needed to help people make informed decisions about reducing their risk of head injuries by wearing a helmet while cycling."

### **From Molecules to Materials: Lehman Scientist is New Board Member for International Sol-Gel Society**

Professor Andrei Jitianu was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Sol-Gel Society for his work in the field of materials science. Prof. Jitianu is a leading researcher in the field of the sol-gel process, which is a method for producing solid materials from small molecules.



The International Sol-Gel Society promotes sol-gel technology in the scientific and industrial communities, and works to bring researchers together from various fields and geographic regions. "This is one of the highest recognitions from my peers," said Prof. Jitianu, who has taught at Lehman College and the City University of New York's Graduate Center since 2008. "It shows that my research performed at Lehman College together with my students reaches international standards. Moreover, this proves that one can perform quality research in an undergraduate research institution."

His research focuses on new inorganic and organic-inorganic hybrid materials obtained by the sol-gel method. These materials have a variety of applications from electronics to biomedical materials. Prof. Jitianu has published more than 60 papers in sol-gel science and developed a material science laboratory at Lehman College, focused on nanomaterials and sol-gel processing.

"This election honors and obliges me at the same time," he continued. "The Board of Directors together with the President is in charge with the destiny of more than 1,000 scientists from around the world. I hope to influence the opening of new borderline research avenues, such as electrochemistry sol-gel or biomedical sol-gel. These new directions can have a huge influence on the quality and impact of our research. Plus, I hope to bring the International Sol-Gel Conference to the United States for only the second time."

In 2011, Prof. Jitianu was selected by the Research Council and the Provost of Lehman College to receive the New Investigator Award. In 2010, he received the Feliks Gross Endowment Award from the CUNY Graduate Center for his excellence in research. In 2005, he received Gheorge Spacu Prize from Romanian Academy for his novel research in the field of hybrid organic-inorganic nonmaterials. Professor Jitianu was co-editor of *Sol-Gel Processing for Conventional and Alternative Energy*, focusing on the use of sol-gel processing in materials in energy systems, conversion, storage, and generation.

Prof. Jitianu completed his Ph.D. in 2001 at the University of Bucharest, Romania. He studied material chemistry, focusing on sol-gel processes. He has conducted postdoctoral research at the Centre de Recherche sur la Matière Divisée (C.R.M.D.) C.N.R.S. / Université d'Orléans, Orléans, France; at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY; and at Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ ■

***"...my research performed at Lehman College together with my students reaches international standards. Moreover, this proves that one can perform quality research in an undergraduate research institution."***



# Community Outreach

## Community Outreach: Connecting Campus Resources with Public Needs

While the year 2013 saw the nation continue to discuss issues that divided people—Blue State vs. Red State; the ongoing battle about healthcare and immigration; the ever-widening gap between the rich and poor—Lehman College remained steadfast in its commitment to be an agent of change in its local community.

### Making the Rent: Grant Eases the Burden of NYC Housing Costs for Students

As any New Yorker can attest, living in the Big Apple is expensive.

For Lehman College students trying to make ends meet, financial pressures can quickly mount—tuition, books, housing, transportation, groceries, and more. This stress is due partly to the astronomical cost of housing in the city, among the highest in the nation. The average rent in NYC is more than \$3,000 per month.

To ease the housing burden on students, Lehman College was awarded a grant by the LCU Fund for Women's Education. For the second year in a row, the \$75,000 award will assist promising women students studying for careers in education, health care, social work, criminal justice, public administration, international development, and the arts.

"A comfortable, welcoming environment is essential for a student who is trying to learn, whether on campus or at home," says José Magdaleno, Vice President for Student Affairs. "With the many pressures students face, we are grateful to LCU Fund for helping the College ease some of that pressure for deserving students."

The grant is primarily based on financial need related to housing. Undergraduate women who are enrolled full-time for the academic year—and earn less than \$30,000 a year—are eligible to apply. They must have earned

at least 12 credits at Lehman College, maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0, and be enrolled in an eligible program. During the fall of 2013, the LCU Fund assisted

16 students, with awards ranging from \$1,480 to \$2,400 per person. An additional 16 grants were to be awarded for the spring of 2014.

### A Sense of Belonging

In the effort to foster a campus-wide climate of belonging and diversity, Lehman College kicked off its *Diversity Development in Teaching Project* in February. The goal of the project is to support faculty and student development in relation to the educational and instructional needs of the College's diverse student body.

The initial session, which included members from across the campus community, included presentations and a panel discussion on each of the project's three key areas of research: *Culturally Relevant Teaching*, which uses the cultural characteristics, experiences, and perspectives of diverse students to teach them more effectively; *Universal Design for Learning* applies principles from neuroscience and architecture to learning; and *Cogenerative*



Above: Members of Lehman College's Diversity Development in Teaching Project.

***"A comfortable, welcoming environment is essential for a student who is trying to learn, whether on campus or at home," says José Magdaleno, Vice President for Student Affairs.***

*Dialogue* are conversations with faculty, students, and administrators that are geared toward creating agreed upon measures to create a new learning environment. After the initial seminar, small,

facilitated groups were to meet three times during the semester. All participants will gather again in August 2014 for a final seminar where the results of the work completed will be shared.

"We are excited to gather so many invested faculty, staff, and students for the Diversity Development in Teaching Project," said Professor Jessica Bacon, co-leader of the project. "The enthusiastic program participants heard presentations on the first two research areas, then engaged in cogenerative dialogues where faculty and students learned to work together and learn from each other's perspectives."

## Scholarship Students Plan to Work for a Better Bronx and Healthier World

Four idealistic Lehman College students won recent scholarship recipients this past year; all have plans to work for the well-being of fellow Bronx residents and to advocate for a healthier global village. The Bronx CUNY Scholarship Fund winners included Francisco Cruz and Sharonda Oppong-Addae. Genill Reynoso and Imani Dubois each received a New York Hispanic Chamber of Commerce award. Dubois was awarded at the Chamber's annual banquet on December 6, 2013 entitled "Building Hispanic Leadership."

The Bronx CUNY Scholarship Fund was founded in 2007 by two Bronx businessmen, Serafin Mariel and the late Elias Karmon, to provide scholarship support to students who attend one of the three CUNY colleges in the Bronx: Lehman College, Bronx Community College, and Hostos Community College. Since its launch the Bronx CUNY Scholarship Fund has helped more than 250 students.

Francisco Cruz is a senior pursuing a double major in Psychology and Philosophy. He has been a Presidential Scholar for the past three semesters. Francisco works with the Healthy CUNY Initiative, conducting research about food environments on CUNY campuses and working to ensure that students leave CUNY healthier and prepared to protect their future health.

Sharonda Oppong-Addae is a senior majoring in Speech Pathology. She plans to earn a master's degree, work with children and adults, and increase global awareness of speech conditions.

Genill Reynoso is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Nursing, with plans to attend graduate school. Genill is a Lehman Scholar and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society. She is a member of the Nursing Students Association, where she tutors new students, and she has volunteered at the Isabella Nursing Home and Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. As a nurse, she plans to lobby for more programs to educate people on maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



Genill Reynoso, a Lehman Scholar and member of the Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society, is one of the four scholarship winners.

Imani Dubois is a sophomore with plans to major in Nursing. A native of West Palm Beach, Florida, Imani has worked as an intern at Bronx Lebanon Hospital. She is also a student-athlete on the Lehman Lightning women's volleyball team.

## Digits and Data in Everyday Life

More than a dozen CUNY faculty members participated in an innovative course on quantitative reasoning at Lehman College. The course, "Numeracy Infusion Course for Higher Education

(NICHE)," is designed to help them better understand how to effectively teach their students numerical skills to solve real-world problems. Twenty professors from a wide range of disciplines—including African-American studies and mathematics to political science, and sociology—enrolled in the online eight-week program.

"Now quantitative reasoning is becoming this really high priority in academia," says Professor Esther Wilder (Sociology). "It's so important for our students to address these skills so that they are better prepared for the world we live in."

In 2011, Prof. Wilder, Prof. Dene Hurley, (Economics), and LaGuardia Community College Mathematics Prof. Frank Wang were awarded a three-year \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to launch the project, with the help of Prof. Elin Waring (Sociology).



"Even before I applied for the grant almost three years ago, it was apparent that our students had such deficiencies in quantitative reasoning, which is the ability to use numbers and data in everyday life," says Prof. Wilder. "So many students in CUNY are math-phobic because they may have had bad experiences in high school."

"Now quantitative reasoning is becoming this really high priority in academia," says Prof. Esther Wilder (center), seen here posing with the other faculty and students who participated in this important project.

The group recruited faculty that could benefit from the course across multiple disciplines. Participants learned how to develop strategies to improve their students' quantitative reasoning skills, which are recognized to be essential to their academic success and professional development.

***"So many students in CUNY are math-phobic because they may have had bad experiences in high school."***

***Professor Esther Wilder***

Prof. Wilder hopes that the pilot course could develop into a national faculty workshop and inspire other colleges and university programs to create similar courses. "From my whole experience working with students, lectures are not an effective way of teaching students. If you actually go through the process, you have to teach with active learning. If you want to teach students, you engage them," she says. "You can never stop learning; you can never stop your teaching." ■



# Super Bowl Spotlight!

Lehman College made the international scene in the build-up to Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium. Janelle Monáe played the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts on January 28 as part of VH1's Super Bowl Blitz: Six Nights + Six Concerts. It was one of a series of shows telecast on the music network from all five boroughs and New Jersey during the week preceding the game. Entertainers Nick Cannon and Stacy Keibler hosted the show with help from the Lehman Lightning Spirit Squad!



*Photos courtesy of VH1*



# 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:

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Help our College, our students, and our departments.

Help your loved ones. Help yourself.



*For a brochure on the brick program,  
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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.*

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