



#### Office of Vice President for Administration and Finance

- Administrative Operations
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#### CUNY Productivity Awards

Under the leadership of the late Vice President Vincent Clark, Lehman College received the following awards:

2011

Lehman Online Management and Reporting System

2012

Parking Lot Automation Access System

2013

Performance Metric Program

2014

ROBO Calls Productivity

2015

In cooperation with the Division of Information Technology, the Excellence in Technology Award Innovation Process Automation at Lehman College

2016

Electronic Key Request System and the Merger of Mail/Central Stores Departments

2017

Electronic Budget Modification

## A Tribute to Vice President Vincent W. Clark

The first time I met face-to-face with Vincent, I was struck by the contrast between the sparsity of his words and the density of his thoughts. His lived experience gave him the quiet confidence needed to be direct and to the point. As a new President, in need of guidance and support, I felt most fortunate to have him as a colleague.

And I wasn't alone. I soon learned how widely respected he was by our campus community, University colleagues, and external partners—for his wisdom, humor, no-nonsense approach to problem solving and eternally optimistic view of Lehman's ability to constantly improve, to continually find ways to do more to lift our communities.

Indeed, Vincent was a fierce advocate for Lehman's mission and lived to expand opportunity and eradicate inequality. His expert stewardship of our resources and College operations helped transform Lehman into the remarkable institution it is today.

So, it was with great sadness and disbelief that early in the morning of August 2, I tried to make sense of a call informing me that Vincent had passed—a reality that I have yet to fully embrace . . . perhaps because, by making Lehman College part of his personal narrative, Vincent's story continues to have a hand in defining our present and forever shaping our future.

Thank you, Vincent, for the legacy of a life well-lived.

—Dr. José Luiz Cruz, President of Lehman



*The late Vincent W. Clark, Vice President of Administration & Finance from 2010 to 2018.*

I have tried to find the right words to express what it was like working directly for and with Vincent W. Clark over these past eight years and how his sudden passing has left a tremendous void—at the College, within the Division, and for me personally. Each time I think of his untimely passing, I am overwhelmed by sadness for him not being able to enjoy the fruits of his working years with a well-deserved retirement and for his family for their tremendous loss—he was a devoted father, always there when his children called. It was a loss for Lehman as well. He was a leader dedicated to the College's mission and students. Under his administration, Lehman was able to endure the financial difficulties of recent years, remaining whole and establishing the example of fiscal responsibility and sustainability within the University.



I still can't believe he is gone: he was my boss, my colleague, my mentor, my supporter and, most importantly, my friend. I find solace that our last conversation was filled with laughter and hope for the future. He always made sure to tell me how much he appreciated me and enjoyed working with me. I am grateful that I took the time to tell him how much I appreciated him and enjoyed working for and with him.

—Rene M. Rotolo, Executive in Charge of Administration & Finance and Assistant Vice President, Campus Planning & Facilities

See more Tributes on page 2-3...

## A Tribute to Vincent W. Clark... *Continued from page 1*

VP Clark wasn't one of those bosses who "said yes and did no." He was a man of his word. That was important to us. We run like a small business and businesses don't like uncertainty. With Vincent we knew where we stood. He could be a bit of a curmudgeon. At one point during a meeting, I said, "Hey Vincent, look at us, we're becoming friends"—to which he replied with a smile, "Don't get carried away." Vincent wasn't known for being a patron of the arts, but he understood how important the arts are to students and the community. Over time he really started to appreciate our contribution. Not to get "carried away," but we'll miss him. I'll miss him.

—Dante Albertie, Director of Lehman Stages



Somewhere in a digital file is a picture of me wearing a big red reindeer nose and Vincent giving an enormous guffaw at a Christmas party. It felt nice to make him laugh and break through that crisp exterior. At work, Vincent was no-nonsense. He exuded a quiet competence that was reassuring. He was also stern, which could be intimidating. But in our one-on-one meetings over 18 months, I went from being grilled with trenchant questions about the workings of the Art Gallery to quiet reflective conversations touching on careerism, race, social justice, art, and his beaming pride as a parent. Our different personalities gave us a working relationship that clicked. He believed in and respected Lehman students, and this produced a quiet gravity to the admirable work he did at the College. I miss him.

—Bartholomew Bland, Director, Lehman College Art Gallery

I met Vice President Clark officially as my new boss about two years ago. He had a reputation of being very demanding, so I was naturally nervous. At our first meeting I made him smile, and our working relationship got to a great start! He met with his supervisors every week on one-to-one basis. Given his busy schedule, I found this impressive. He was a great listener who paid attention to every detail. He appreciated my humor, and we had a great time discussing issues that arose. I considered him a mentor and a sincere, caring human being. Lehman Center will dedicate one of the concerts this season "In Loving Memory" to Vincent.

—Eva Bornstein, Executive Director, Lehman Center for the Performing Arts

VP Clark loved his job. Through the many projects we worked on together, I can still remember him saying: *Do what's best for the college*. That was his approach to every situation, simple or complex. He led by example, and he expected a lot from his team. An advocate for professional development, he expected us to grow on the job, as he did. And I, for one, am a better manager because of the conversations we had, the decisions I saw him make, and the wisdom he shared. One of the VP's top priorities was to provide excellent customer service to students and to the Lehman community. He had an open-door policy for Lehman employees, and he cared about their concerns. When his family asked me to read at his home-going service, I considered it an honor and a privilege. So I close with this tribute: *Thank you, VP Clark, for the opportunities you gave me. You challenged me and you helped me to grow professionally and personally. Your impact on my life will be lasting.*

—Diane Clarke, Director of Administrative Operations

Integrity, accountable, respectful, optimistic, inspirational, caring, humorous, and straightforward: these characteristics come in mind when I think of Vincent Clark. For eight years, VP Clark and I had countless discussions about budget planning, how to deal with reductions, and issues related to systems and processes. There were inspirational conversations about improving effectiveness and productivity.

Through all our interactions, one thing remained constant: VP Clark was a leader with a vision and clear values. You left his office knowing exactly what he expected you to do. You also left knowing that whatever issue may arise, you could come back to him for advice. He will forever live in my heart as I hold on to our memories together and practice the values and lessons learned under his leadership. He is truly missed!

—Bethania Ortega, Director, Budget & Planning

I always called him Mr. Clark, never Vincent—even though he asked me to address him by his first name. Somehow it felt more respectful, and Mr. Clark was someone who unconsciously, naturally commanded respect—a quality he may have been unaware of. I just wish there had been more time. Goodbye, Vincent.

—Ilona Linins, Director, Environmental Health & Safety



Under VP Clark's guidance and vision, Event Planning & Reservations has undergone major changes. He envisioned our department as a "one-stop shop" for all special events on campus. He initiated procedures to better assist in the booking and streamlining of reservation. He funded a new website that would optimize search-engine results and introduced planning assistance as part of the booking for internal and external events. He recognized and encouraged people's professional growth. Our prayers are forever with his family.

—Dixia Munoz, Event Coordinator, Event Planning & Reservations

VP Clark was instrumental in the successful implementation of the online photo ID submission, Phase 1, that happened shortly after his passing. Of the new freshman and transfer students invited to participate, 244 submitted pictures online and were approved. The system was so user-friendly it took less than two minutes to submit a photo and, within 24 hours, pick up their Lehman ID at Gate 5.

The VP's vision to streamline services for students was a first step. We look to expand in the next phase to include new faculty and staff.

—Fausto Ramirez, Director, Public Safety



VP Clark was a good person and a supportive boss. When we had emergencies and I'd have to call him in the middle of the night, he would always ask for my opinion: "What do you think is best?"

And he would listen to me. He trusted me and was very honest about tough decisions he had to make. That was motivating to me. He inspired us all to have high standards.

—Raymond Pegollo, Chief Administrative Superintendent, B&G



Vincent Clarke was an exemplary leader and mentor. He encouraged me to make decisions as a leader and to learn from the outcome—whether it was negative or positive.

We both were fans of promoting health and wellness, and launched "Team Lehman" to build camaraderie as well as promote engagement within the College community. Our custom-made shirts stood out the most every year at BCC's annual "Run the Bronx" event.

We will continue your legacy—and just know that you are truly missed, my friend!

—Luis E. Soltero-Rodriguez, Director, Office of Veterans and Military Affairs



## A&F WINS THE BATTLE OF THE DIVISIONS TROPHY

In Spring 2018, Althea Forde, Senior Director of Academic Programs (Enrollment Management) collaborated with Amanda Dubois-Mwake, Director of Community Engagement and New Student Programs (Student Affairs), to initiate the first-ever college-wide service project, the "Battle of the Divisions." The VPs of Lehman's five divisions (AA, A&F, EM, IT, SA) served as team leaders, encouraging staff and students to donate toiletries for residents of the Acacia Network Housing Shelters in the Bronx.

Working together, the Lehman community collected 13,322 toiletry items, of which 7,018—more than half—were collected by the winning Division of Administration & Finance. At the New Student Orientation in August, incoming freshmen contributed to the project by adding donations and assembling



*Rene Rotolo accepts the Vincent Clark Campus Service Award from Althea Ford and Amanda Dubois-Mwake.*

hygiene packs destined for Bronx shelters.

The Battle of the Divisions is slated to become an annual service project to benefit a Bronx community group. The campus service award has been named in honor of VP Clark, who passed away unexpectedly in August.

"Vincent was always very supportive of the community and of Lehman students," said Dubois-Mwake, "so we were pleased to name the Campus Service Award in his honor." The Vincent Clark Service Award trophy will be displayed

each year by the winning division. "Going forward," says Forde, "this will be a wonderful opportunity for the college to collaborate with its incoming members in service to the wider Bronx community."



*Members of the VP's winning A&F team.*



*At the Fall student orientation, freshmen assembly toiletries kits for homeless shelters.*

*...and we remember  
Vincent Clark*





## The Vincent W. Clark Scholarship Fund

The Lehman College Foundation is in the process of establishing the Vincent W. Clark Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is named to honor the commitment and dedication of the late Vincent W. Clark, who served Lehman College as the Vice President of Administration and Finance from July 2010 to August 2018.

The scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate and a graduate student pursuing a degree in the field of

Economics and Business. To support this effort, a committee has been formed to organize the first fundraising event, the “Walk of Remembrance” which will be held in Spring 2019. More details will follow in the coming months.

You can help Lehman to provide an excellent education to a deserving student. Now, more than ever, your support matters! We are now accepting contributions.

To donate please visit:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/lehmancollege/restriction/VincentClarkScholarshipFund>

## ANNUAL PUMPKIN SMASH PROMOTES SUSTAINABILITY



*As the photos show, the Pumpkin Smash—an awareness-raising activity—has become a highlight of the fall season at Lehman College.*

Pumpkin Smash is a fun-filled annual event developed in collaboration with the New York City Compost Project and hosted by Lehman College since 2014. Its purpose is to raise awareness of, and participation in, environmental sustainability.

The event incorporates many components of sustainability: education and outreach, composting and recycling, nutrition and food, to name a few. A community activity open to everyone, it has become an enjoyable, fall season tradition.

Pumpkin Smash was conceived as a participatory event to educate community members about the importance of composting in mitigating climate change. Composting is a powerful, multifaceted tool that cuts down on greenhouse gas production by diverting organic waste materials from disposal by landfill.

Organic waste materials are converted into nutrient-rich compost, a product that reduces the need for pesticides and fertilizers and helps manage storm water runoff. Composting efforts work best at the community level. Thus, one of the main goals of Pumpkin Smash is to encourage community members to practice daily composting.

On November 7, more than 1,000 students, faculty, staff and visitors attended the Pumpkin Smash. Naturally, some of the free food featured pumpkin. The attendees learned more about sustainability and about Lehman clubs and community environmental groups.



Baron Ambrosia was on hand once again as the Pumpkin Smash master of ceremonies. Members of the College community threw pumpkins off the upper-quad platform onto the target below or hurled them across the quad in a giant catapult.

All of the pumpkin waste was collected for onsite composting along with fallen leaves. This creates an environmentally friendly alternative to landfill disposal, which produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Pumpkins for the event were supplied by New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx. Participants were encouraged to take one or more of the magnificent heirloom pumpkin varieties home and to explore the world of healthy, pumpkin-based cuisine—after which they agreed to drop off their scraps at local composting sites. Otherworldly-looking inedible pumpkins were also available for home decoration.



## Much to Celebrate in Lehman Center's 38th Season

*The 2,278-seat Performing Arts Center auditorium has been called the "Lincoln Center of the Bronx" and is the largest facility of its kind in the borough.*

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts opened its 38th season in a renewed facility with brand new seating and carpeting in the lobby. The \$15.4 million, 18-month upgrade is still underway. The entire renovation project, including an attractive new addition, will be completed in late Spring 2019.

The addition will include a new main entrance, glass-encased lobby and ticket sales areas, administrative offices, restroom facilities, and an elevator. The project will modify the existing lobby and interior to comply with Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards.

Funding for the project was provided by the Office of the New York Governor, the New York State Legislature, the Bronx delegation of the New York City Council, and the Office of the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. "

We are also very grateful to President Cruz, Rene Rotolo, and the late Vice President Clark," says PAC Executive Director Eva Bornstein. "Without their hard work, these great improvements would not be possible." Also new this season is the Lehman Center's "Take Your Seat" funding initiative. Friends and patrons will have an opportunity to add their names or the names of loved ones to the new seats. "Naming a seat can be a meaningful and thoughtful way to connect your personal experience or memories with the rich history of the Lehman Center in the Bronx," says Bornstein.

Another positive development for Lehman Center this season is Goya Foods' expanded sponsorship of the entire series of performances. The Lehman Center renovation project has received press attention including feature stories in both English and Spanish news outlets.

### PAC'S EVA BORNSTEIN RECOGNIZED AS 'TIAA DIFFERENCE MAKER'

The Lehman Performing Arts Center Executive Director Eva Bornstein was named a "TIAA Difference Maker 100" honoree. Bornstein was one of 100 selected from 5,000 people nationwide who work for nonprofits. She won the Arts and Culture Award, which included a \$10,000 donation from TIAA to the PAC. The citation read:

*For the last 13 years, Eva Bornstein has created culturally engaging performances for underserved audiences at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts in the Bronx. She established the City Latino Concert Series to attract Lehman's local Latino community, and it continues to be a widely recognized,*



*Bornstein, at the newly renovated PAC.*

*respected event. In addition, Bornstein diligently manages funding for production expenses from donations and grants in order to keep ticket costs low.*

*Listening to the needs of her audience not only upholds Lehman Center's artistic excellence, but inspires Bornstein to continually expose the community to art and activities that strengthen the lives of its members.*

*"I feel very strongly that every community needs to have access to their cultural events. If we are not exposed to music, ballet, dance and theater, we are not spiritually enriched," Bornstein says.*

# TRUE STORIES OF LIFE AND LOVE, PAIN AND JOY

*Bronx storytellers (l-r) Ginaury Vasquez, Aleigi Dumé, Carla Cardenas, Anitha Koshy, and Cynthia Jimenez with her daughter Kairi.*



*Storytellers (l-r) John Berenguer, Michele Washington, Ginaury Vasquez, Mindy Matijasevic, Cassandra Hamdan, and Henry Ovalles.*

Lehman Stages will present its latest “Bronx Tales” at 7 pm on Thursday, December 13, at Lovinger Theater. It’s an evening of true stories—told by members of the College community—about joy, pain, life, and love in and around their favorite borough.

“Bronx Tales was born out of a love for shows like the Moth Radio Hour, along with a deep respect for the ability of solo performers to move an audience solely with their story and their passion in telling it,” says Lehman Stages Associate Director Henry Ovalles, who’s been both storyteller and director. “Many storytellers never imagined themselves at a microphone speaking to strangers. But during the process of developing their piece, they become committed to the idea of sharing their truth.”

Lehman student Aleigi Dumé shared a very personal story about her journey from adolescence to womanhood. “Telling one’s story can be very cathartic,” she says. “It allows people to unburden themselves from something they’ve been carrying for years.”

For others, storytelling is more akin to “bungee jumping,” says

Lehman Stages presents

# Bronx Tales

Real Bronx Stories. Live

An evening of true stories about joy, pain, life and love in and around our favorite borough.

Thursday December 13 at 7PM  
The Lovinger Theatre at Lehman College • FREE

LEHMAN COLLEGE

lehmanstages.org

MADE IN THE BRONX SINCE 2003 LEHMAN STAGES

Ovalles. “It’s working through one’s own fears and stepping out into the unknown of a live performance. It’s all about touching someone’s heart.”

Bronx Tales was created in 2014 by Dante Albertie, Director of Lehman Stages, who has worked with dozens of solo performers. “Bronx Tales is different,” he says. “It’s raw, it can take months, even a year, to put together a polished solo show.”

The development process takes several weeks. “When the storytellers get up there,” says Albertie, “there’s an urgency that’s really special.”

The audience thinks so, too. “I was blown away by the honesty and the courage I saw on the stage,” says Dance Program Director Amy Larimer, who attended last semester’s performance. “It was stunning and so moving.”

Angie Nunez agrees. “It’s a truly special, home-grown, Lehman College production that connects us all as a community. I mean, we all have a story, right?”

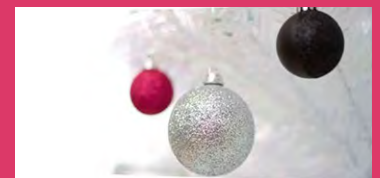


## Castles in the Sky

**Fantasy Architecture in Contemporary Art**

**Lehman College Art Gallery  
Exhibition to January 26, 2019**

## Save the Date



**Friday, December 14  
Faculty & Staff  
Holiday Party**