I am privileged to be a part of the MATH-UP Program at Lehman College. This 42-credit graduate program is training me to become a great teacher. MATH-UP includes rigorous coursework, wonderful professional development workshops, mentoring, and an exceptional ten month long internship devoted to the preparation of high quality teachers committed to serving the South Bronx community.

The internship involves a pre-service teacher (mentee) co-teaching with a cooperating teacher of record in a classroom to gain real life experience. So far, during this internship I have learned to assume the role of a teacher. I have learned to teach, to administer assessments, and subsequently group my students to ensure I can meet their needs. As a mentee I am able to attend all professional development workshops available to my mentor which provides access to information and resources that will serve me when I become a teacher of record. Additionally, I am able to participate in grade level meetings where I am able to observe teachers discussing and planning lessons for their grade. All of these opportunities cultivate more knowledge and skills to add to my repertoire.

The summer prior to start of the internship, MATH-UP organized a summer institute which involved a weeklong series of workshops that equipped me with different strategies and ideas to help start off the school year. During this week I met with my mentor and college supervisor to plan the upcoming school year.

My mentor Gloria Zelasco at P.S. 73 is a wonderful teacher. She really cares about the students and is extremely experienced. I have learned many things from her approach to teaching. We have established a good relationship and have a great dynamic teaching together. I am pleased with this opportunity and hope that in the months to come I become fully equipped with all the tools required to teach the children of the South Bronx.

Jaffranna Castillo (’14)
Each summer, MATH-UP invites elementary grade students from our five partner schools to attend the Early College Mathematics Institute (ECMI), a week-long summer mathematics enrichment program. This past summer, approximately 20 students in grades 2-5 attended ECMI to study fractions. For one hour each day, Professor Anne Marie Marshall taught an hour-long fraction lesson to the students. Prior to the lesson, Professor Marshall and Khalilah Arrington (P.S. 114 Mathematics Coach and MATH-UP Instructor) met with the MATH-UP interns to discuss the lesson plan for the day. During this meeting, interns had the opportunity to ask questions about the mathematics and intended instruction. During the lesson, the Professor Marshall taught the lesson to students while the interns observed the lesson enactment. After the lesson was taught, the interns sat down with Professor Marshall and Ms. Arrington to discuss features of the lesson enactment as well as evidence of student learning. This discussion provided an opportunity for interns to “see” an inquiry based mathematics lesson. This lab-like setting helped to reveal the subtle aspects of the complex work of teaching including but not limited to planning, design and preparation of materials, differentiation, improvisational decision making during instruction, analysis of students’ mathematical ideas and reflection on teaching.

The elementary grades students spent the week focusing their thinking on fraction concepts in the Common Core. In addition to solving fraction problems in small groups led by interns and playing fraction games, students engaged with ST Math, an interactive math application. Over the course of the week, teams of students created interactive projects that highlighted a fraction concept in ST Math. On the last day of the Institute, parents and representatives from ST Math were invited to attend a student-led museum that showcased their projects.

Professor Marshall and Ms. Arrington with participating elementary student during ECMI Summer 2013.

Spotlight: Cohort 2 Alumni
This September many of MATH-UP’s Cohort 2 graduates began their careers as teachers in elementary schools across the city.

- **Renee Ahmad**
  Bronx Park Middle School, Grade 7

- **Sheanna Amaker**
  Brightside Academy, Pre-K

- **Crystal Arvelo**
  P.S. 277, Grade 5

- **Katrina Garcia**
  P.S. 1, Kindergarten (Bilingual)

- **Grizel Marquez**
  P.S. 218, Grade 1

- **Steven Mayol**
  P.S. 216

- **Sayra Peguero**
  Brightside Academy

- **Nathali Rosado**
  P.S. 154

- **Awilda Taveras**
  P.S. 218, Grade 5

- **Vanessa Veerasammy**
  P.S. 38, Grade 1 (ICT)

- **Elizabeth Velez**
  P.S. 76, Grade 4

For more information about all our alumni visit the MATH-UP website:

www.lehman.edu/education/math-up-program/math-up-alumni

A Week of Fraction Fun!

Professor Marshall and Ms. Arrington with participating elementary student during ECMI Summer 2013.

Professor Marshall and MATH-UP interns get ready for her lesson on fractions.

English explaining a fraction problem to some of the students.
Cohort 3 attends National Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2013 Regiona

Attending the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) 2013 Regional Conference & Exposition in Baltimore, MD has been one of the highlights of the MATH-UP program so far. MATH-UP’s Cohort 3 had a great time learning more about how to teach mathematics in innovative ways and also had the opportunity to bond as classmates. The workshops were varied and covered all grade levels including college and professional development. There was something for everyone interested in teaching or learning more about mathematics. One common theme throughout many of the workshops was the understanding and integration of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics in the curriculum, lessons, assessments, games and activities. Many workshops included hands-on activities and games with manipulatives that modeled what should be occurring in the classroom.

They were fun, creative and added to our steadily growing bank of ideas about teaching mathematics in interactive ways. The opportunity to win prizes or shop for materials at discounted prices was an added bonus. Overall, it was a great experience. It provided us with important information and endless resources for teaching mathematics. As educators, these workshops gave us much to reflect on and think about in our teaching.

Thank you MATH-UP for this great experience! Gratefully,

Cohort 3

Laverne Bazan-Thomas (’14)

School Spotlight: “Health, Happiness and Peace” at P.S. 1

Mr. Jorge Perdomo became principal of P.S. 1 in 2006 after graduating from the New York City Leadership Academy. Mr. Perdomo’s passion for teaching arose after completing a Master’s Degree in Music Education at Lehman College. He dedicated almost a decade to teaching music in various middle schools in the Bronx; yet he knew that ultimately he wanted to be a principal at a school in this borough.

The environment at P.S. 1 has been described as having “a beautiful energy” where the administration’s vision is focused on Health, Happiness, and Peace. The positive energy at this Bronx elementary school encourages the teachers to keep up with the moving targets that the NYC DOE presents to them. Mr. Perdomo believes that a staff’s longevity is as essential in impacting school transformation. Every year the school focuses on strategic goals as a means for improvement.

This year, the focus is on academic language and vocabulary, and their inspirational motto is “When we choose, it will happen”. The relationship amongst the teachers at P.S. 1 and the MATH-UP interns creates a feeling of birthplace for these future teachers. The fact that these trainees spend a yearlong internship in this supportive environment encourages them to desire a teaching career at P.S. 1 or another school with the same inspiring environment. The interns feel that this teaching experience they are acquiring in the MATH-UP program is unique. Interns have also realized that they have made the right choice in coming to Lehman College for their masters, and have said that they will be giving back to their own community by teaching in the Bronx.

Jose Nunez (’14)
MATH UP Newsletter, Fall 2013

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