Celebrating the Hard Work and Success of the Class of 2007

Art major Arleen Rios (right) finds a unique way to sum up her feelings on Commencement Day. From jubilant cheers to thunderous applause, fellow members of the Class of 2007 found still other ways to express their own sense of accomplishment. Gathered under sunny skies on the College’s South Field, they applauded Congressman Charles Rangel, the first African American to head the powerful Ways and Means Committee, as he told them that education is “the key to what this world is all about” and urged them to “share that key with everyone who will listen to you.” More Commencement photos on page 9.

What’s in a Name?
For the Anusionwu Family, It Means A Calling to Service

Siblings Justina, Reagan, and Kissinger Anusionwu share more than just blood ties—they also share a passion for serving others. All three are nursing majors with distinct interests in the field: Reagan, who graduated in January ’07, works as a registered nurse at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and plans to be an anesthesiologist; Justina’s love for children has inspired her to seek a career as a pediatrician; and Kissinger plans to pursue an M.B.A. after graduation, with his sights set on becoming a hospital administrator.

Born to Nigerian parents, the trio’s love of learning and their commitment to helping others started at home. Their mother is a nurse, and their father a professor at New York Institute of Technology. The siblings agree that their parents’ dedication to their upbringing has fueled their drive to succeed.

“Our father believed that if he named his children after great leaders they would aspire to do great things,” explains Reagan. “I certainly believe that his philosophy has proven true so far.”

In addition to their studies, the Anusions have sought to be examples to their peers. Justina has worked as an orientation workshop leader for the Office of Student Affairs and as a tutor in math, science, reading, and writing. Kissinger has been president of the African Student Association and the S.E.E.K. club. He is also a member of Golden Key Honor Society, as well as a S.E.E.K. honor student, and was on the Dean’s List. Both Kissinger and Reagan were president of their respective nursing classes. ◆
Phase One of Lehman’s new science facility, set to break ground next spring, will be “green” in more ways than one. Not only will it focus mainly on the plant sciences—it is also being designed as a “living machine.”

Storm-water runoff, as an example, will be captured for microbial treatment and reuse in flushing toilets. Lavatory wastewater, in turn, will collect in an underground holding tank and again be cleaned microbially before being discharged into the City’s sewer system or reused in irrigating the building’s landscaping.

This complex natural system would reduce reliance on the municipal water supply and limit the amount of wastewater produced, while serving as a valuable tool for teaching both Lehman students and the many schoolchildren who visit the campus. The building is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council and will pursue Leadership in Energy Environmental Design certification.

Other strategies are being designed to reduce overall energy use. Although most of the inside air will be exhausted directly outside, as required for a laboratory building, variable air volume systems will be used to more accurately control that air supply. Return fans, which recirculate the building’s air, and fume hoods, which expel fumes from laboratories, will be designed to conserve energy and operate at maximum efficiency. Motion sensors would also control room lighting, and automatic dimmers would capitalize on the daylight that will naturally enter into the open laboratory layouts.

Two other phases of the project will begin in subsequent years. Ultimately, the complex will combine the natural and social science departments into one facility.
Three Win Watson Fellowships—A New Record

This spring, three Lehman students—a record number—were awarded the prestigious Jeanette K. Watson Fellowship. Mikaela Chase, Ansamma James, and Valerio Russo will take part in paid internships for three consecutive summers, lasting up to ten weeks each, and receive mentoring as well as enriched educational opportunities.

The fellowship, awarded to promising New York City undergraduates, aims to increase their life choices and develop their capacity to make a difference in their own and others’ lives. Funding comes from the Thomas J. Watson Foundation, honoring the founder of IBM.

Mikaela Chase (Class of 2009) is enrolled in the Macaulay Honors College at Lehman and is double majoring in anthropology and art history. She hopes to intern in different settings to find a working atmosphere that is “both compassionate and realistic, oriented toward cultural understanding and helping people.” A student of the creative process, Chase is interested in examining symbols and rituals and plans to study the natural materials used to create spiritual and artistic works. Her interest in art history was sparked by her grandmother, whom she describes as a virtual encyclopedia in this area.

Ansamma James (Class of 2010) is a member of the Lehman Scholars Program. In just her first year at Lehman, she started her own club, called the College Students Coalition, which focuses on uniting students to plan and execute community service projects. Ambitious in her academic plans, she looks forward to earning her M.B.A. as well as a master’s in social psychology. James credits her mother, who died in 2002, with influencing her to work hard and persevere.

Valerio Russo (Class of 2009) is also a member of the Macaulay Honors College at Lehman, as well as the Lehman Scholars Program, and is tackling a double major in political science and history. Born in Italy, he lived for four years in Kenya before moving to New York City in 1992. Undecided so far about his career path, he looks forward to the opportunity to form ideas about his long-term professional goals through the Watson program.

Bronx CUNY Colleges Benefit from New Fund

Elias Karmon may be approaching the century mark, but he shows no signs of slowing down—especially in his support of students. His generous gift in 2006 endowed the Elias Karmon Scholarship, which will be awarded annually to students at the CUNY Bronx colleges. Now, the well-known Bronx businessman, who likes to be called “Dr. Bronx” for the honorary degree he received from Lehman, is the founding philanthropist of another new scholarship fund for students attending any of these same three colleges—Lehman, Bronx Community College, and Hostos Community College. Together, they enroll over 23,000 students. The scholarship fund, which has also attracted corporate support, was announced at a press conference and donor reception at the New York Botanical Garden. Its ultimate goal: $1 million in scholarship funds for qualified students at any of the three colleges who demonstrate financial need.

Recent Grads Generate Buzz In Theatre World

When Dario Torres, an ‘06 theatre major, was auditioning recently for the famous Actors Studio M.F.A. program, his scene partner was Natasha Burgos, who graduated from Lehman this June. Although she was not an applicant, her performance so impressed the panel of judges that she was encouraged to apply. When asked, both students told the judges that they had studied with Prof. Marilyn Sokol at Lehman College. (In fact, they had worked on their audition scene in her Advanced Acting class.) Dario was accepted into both the Actors Studio and the M.F.A. in Theatre program at Brooklyn College, and is deciding between the two. Prof. Sokol, an Emmy and Obie Award-winning actress, has previously served on the audition panel for the Actors Studio.

Dr. Mary Papazian Named as New Provost

Author and distinguished scholar Dr. Mary A. Papazian, Dean of Montclair State University’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences, has been named as Lehman’s new Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Since 1988, Dr. Papazian has taught English literature and continued to pursue her research and scholarship while serving as an administrator. Previously, she was Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Oakland University in Michigan.

Dr. Papazian holds a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has numerous publications in her field of Early Modern British Literature and continues to serve as an outside reviewer for a number of university presses. She presently is revising her book, “Shipwrecked Into Health: The Context and Experience of John Donne’s Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions,” and has a second collection of essays under review at a university press.

“Dr. Papazian brings with her a significant blend of experience in research, teaching, and administration,” said President Ricardo R. Fernández. “We are confident that her commitment to scholarship and to institutional excellence will help continue the broad-based growth that is taking place at Lehman.”

She succeeds Dr. Anthony J. Garro, who served as Provost from 2001–2006 and is now Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.
**Fair Funding for Public Schools**

City Councilman Robert Jackson (7th Council District in upper Manhattan), chair of the Council’s Education Committee, paid his second visit to Lehman this spring. Together with April Humphrey, regional coordinator of the Alliance for Quality Education, he joined Prof. Patricia J. Thompson (Specialized Services in Education) for a panel discussion, entitled “Common Sense and Smart Money for Public Schools.”

Their discussion focused on current issues facing educators, parents, students, and teachers in financing public education. At issue has been an equitable distribution of public funds for inner-city schools that affects class size, school construction, and budgets.

Jackson has been a longtime activist in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, which succeeded in winning a landmark court case to bring additional revenues into New York City’s public schools. Public discussions are underway to determine the best way to use these funds.

**Prof. Piccolomini Joins NEH Advisory Council**

Dr. Manfredi Piccolomini, a professor of comparative literature at Lehman, was named as one of eight new members of the National Council on the Humanities. This is the 26-member advisory council of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

**Michelle Li Earns a Place as a ‘Laureate of Tomorrow’**

Whether it’s solving a complicated problem in physics or learning a new language, nothing seems to stump 17-year-old Mingzhu ("Michelle") Li, whose essay on Danish physicist Niels Bohr placed first in the physics category of The Laureates of Tomorrow Nobel Essay Contest.

Li, who will enter her senior year this fall at the High School of American Studies at Lehman College, won an all-expenses-paid trip to Sweden to attend the Nobel Week Festival in December.

A native of Benxi, China, Li emigrated to the U.S. at age 14 with her family. She spoke no English, but that did not stop her from enrolling in the high school’s advanced English and physics courses and quickly impressing her teachers with her aptitude.

“Michelle is an exception in a school filled with exceptional students,” says her physics teacher and Lehman alumnus Dr. Adil Benmoussa. “My class is one of the most difficult, but for Michelle it’s like a walk in the park.”

**English Professor Publishes Second Novel Set in China**

Prof. Terrence Cheng (above) of the English faculty has published a new novel, Deep in the Mountains, An Encounter with Zhu Qizhan (Watson-Guptill Publications). In the novel, fifteen-year-old Tony Cheung is expelled from his Bronx high school after spray-painting a teacher’s car. As punishment, his parents send him to spend the summer working in his uncle’s Shanghai restaurant. There he befriends Zhu Qizhan, the revered painter who lived through more than a century of China’s history, up to the early stages of China’s tentative embrace of capitalism. Drawing upon Master Zhu’s experiences, Tony learns what it means to be a serious artist and a disciplined, caring person. This is Prof. Cheng’s second novel; his first, Sons of Heaven (2002), was set during the Tiananmen Square Massacre.

Science is a subject that has always intrigued Li, particularly quantum physics. When it came time to choose a subject for her essay, she immediately thought of Bohr, whose work marked the beginning of modern science. Under the conditions of the contest, Li was required to defend her essay, entitled “Niels Bohr and His Model of the Atom,” before a panel of scientists and journalists.

When she’s not waist-deep in her physics studies, Li plays tennis on the high school’s team and is active in the Key Club, Asian Club, J.R.R. Tolkien Club, and Model U.N. team.

The contest is sponsored jointly by the Consulate General of Sweden in New York, the New York Academy of Sciences, and Nobelprize.org (the official website of the Nobel Foundation), in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education and CUNY. Students are invited to write an essay honoring the Nobel Prizes and the scientific work they recognize. The two other first-prize winners this year were from the Bronx High School of Science (in the chemistry category) and the Horace Mann School (in physiology/medicine).

**‘EdCast’ Program Shines the Spotlight on Education**

James Carney (above, right) of the Journalism, Communication, and Theatre faculty is co-hosting a new program about education.

Called “EdCast,” the show also features Prof. Linda Hirsch (left) of Hostos Community College. The monthly program airs over CUNY-TV (Channel 75 for Cablevision and Time Warner subscribers), as well as Bronxnet.

Aimed at non-educators, it tackles issues like teacher education, the effects of the “No Child Left Behind Act,” trends in science and math education, gender in the classroom, and the role of the arts in literacy development. Check your program listings for dates and times of the next show.
Growing Music Department Adds Two New Ensembles

The Lehman College Saxophone Ensemble and the Lehman Percussion Ensemble not only added new kinds of music to the Music Department’s performance repertoire this spring—they were also a bellwether of the department’s growth.

This expansion is seen in the number of active ensembles, now at 12, as well as the number of campus performances, which have doubled over the past nine years, from 14 to 28.

The Saxophone Ensemble, directed by Distinguished Lecturer Bob Stewart, made its debut at the 8th Annual CUNY Jazz Festival in May and appeared on campus just a couple of days later for a Mother’s Day concert celebrating the music of Duke Ellington. Performing with the group are several professional musicians who are current master’s degree students.

“This gives them another opportunity to play their instruments,” notes Prof. Stewart, who also directs the Lehman Jazz Brass Ensemble and the Lehman College Big Band. A professional tuba player for over 35 years, he has toured and recorded with such big-name artists as Charles Mingus, Wynton Marsalis, David Murray, Taj Mahal, and Dizzy Gillespie, and is often credited with bringing the tuba back into the modern jazz ensemble.

Directing the new percussion ensemble is Morris Lang, percussionist emeritus of the New York Philharmonic and recipient of the Hall of Fame Award of the Percussive Arts Society.

“We’ve always had string quartets, brass groups, woodwind quintets—why not a percussion ensemble?” he asks. As part of an ongoing exchange program with Dublin, Ireland, the Lehman Ensemble gave its first performance in the Recital Hall, playing with the Brooklyn College Percussion Ensemble and the Royal Irish Academy of Music Percussion Ensemble.

Appointed associate principal timpanist and percussionist with the New York Philharmonic in 1955, Lang has performed on hundreds of recordings and television programs, including Leonard Bernstein’s “Young People’s Concerts” and “Live from Lincoln Center.” After 30 years at Brooklyn College, he joined the Lehman Music Department just this year.

Lehman College, Sungshin University, and Korea’s Department of Human Resources have signed an agreement that allows graduates of Sungshin’s College of Nursing to attend Lehman if they have also passed the New York State licensing exam for nurses. The students will be enrolled in the College’s R.N. to B.S. in Nursing Completion Program.

Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández, Prof. Alicia Georges of the Nursing Department, and Dr. Michael Paull, dean of the Division of Adult and Continuing Education, travelled to Seoul this spring to formalize the agreement. This 33-credit program will allow the Korean nurses to receive a Lehman College bachelor’s degree.

Thirty Korean nurses are expected in the program’s first entering class. Sungshin has expressed an interest in expanding the agreement to include a student exchange program between the two schools.

‘A Night at the Races’ For a Good Cause

The Lehman College Alumni Association held its annual end-of-semester event on May 31, this time at the new Empire City at Yonkers Raceway. Over 75 alumni and friends enjoyed a ‘Night at the Races,’ complete with a buffet dinner followed by harness racing, some wins at the casino, and a lot of laughs. Best of all, proceeds from the evening will benefit a student through the Lehman College Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

The Spotlight Series
Béatrice Coron: The Secret Life of Cities
Sept. 4 - Dec. 15, 2007

One of the exhibits in the Lehman College Art Gallery this fall—“The Secret Life of Cities”—will present a selection of Béatrice Coron’s large-scale paper cutouts of urban environments, created by the artist over the past decade. Coron’s cities are complex narratives teeming with life. Figures in silhouette fill busy streets and can be seen through every window and doorway, as their stories unfold in the mind of the viewer. Often created as multiples, the works are hand-cut from Tyvek.

The Gallery’s Spotlight Series highlights artists who have created public art projects in the Bronx. Coron’s stained-glass installation, featuring the work of Bronx authors, was created under the MTA’s Art for Transit program and can be seen at the Burke Avenue Station on the 2 and 5 lines.
As He Retires, Prof. Seraile Looks Back
On Sharing His Passion for History With 7,000 Students

After teaching some 7,000 Lehman students over the past 35 years, African and African American Studies Prof. William Seraile is taking his place among the senior faculty deciding to retire from full-time service.

Born in New Orleans and raised in Seattle, Prof. Seraile is one of seven children, and one of only two among his siblings to attend college. Growing up, he had a great love of sports and played baseball in school, with the hope of one day becoming a professional athlete. But after serving in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia, he found that his interest in history had become his passion.

“It was my experience outside of the United States that helped me to better understand America and the African American experience,” he explains. “For the first time, I saw blacks who were professionals—airline pilots, attorneys, doctors.”

He began studying African American history in earnest afterwards, feeling that the American educational system had failed to adequately teach him about the role African Americans played in building the United States. In his teaching career, he drew heavily on the extensive research he has conducted in this field.

A graduate of Central Washington State University, Prof. Seraile received his M.A. in the Teaching of History from Teacher’s College, Columbia University, and later his Ph D. in American history from the CUNY Graduate Center. He began his teaching career at a Westchester high school and then went to Vietnam to teach English with International Volunteer Services; because no facilities were available for teaching, he volunteered in a local hospital and took care of civilian casualties of the war. In 1971, he joined the Lehman faculty and has seen his students become attorneys, social workers, police officers, and, yes, even teachers.

“My arrival at Lehman coincided with the start of open admissions,” he notes, “so I had a lot of students who were new to the college experience. They saw power through education and were very studious.”

As the decades progressed, Prof. Seraile challenged students to see a connection between their coursework and what they can do for their community. What he will miss most, he says, is the opportunity to help students—particularly those from other countries—better understand America and the dynamics of race.

Winner of numerous awards, including Lehman’s Teacher of the Year, he is the author of four books. His most recent manuscript, on New York City’s Colored Orphan Asylum, is being considered by the University of Tennessee Press.

Looking ahead, he plans to continue his professional interests and also find more time to indulge in some of his favorite pastimes, like cooking, traveling, and jogging. Prof. Seraile has participated in 30 marathons; he ran his last one in 2003.

Looking for Alumni ‘Legacies’

Do you have family members who also graduated from Lehman College? If so, contact Barbara Smith, director of alumni relations, at barbara.smith@lehman.cuny.edu or call her at 718-960-8975/8294. In conjunction with the upcoming 40th anniversary of the College, the Alumni Association plans to host a “Legacy Dinner” for all alumni with family members who are also Lehman alumni. This event will be held in Spring 2008. The Alumni Association would like to contact as many “legacies” as possible.

A Night for the Arts—and for Remembering a Special Friend

Friends and family of Charlie Greenberg gathered with Lehman alumni and staff this spring to celebrate Charlie’s legacy of volunteerism and commitment to Lehman College. For more than 20 years, he played ball, taught tennis, and volunteered as a coach for the Lehman tennis team. With a buffet dinner in the rotunda of the Lehman College Art Gallery, followed by center orchestra seats for the Robert Klein and Joan Rivers concert at the Performing Arts Center, the evening raised funds for the Charlie Greenberg Memorial Scholarship—besides providing a night filled with friends and fun. Above, left, actor and comedian Robert Klein chats with Eva Bornstein, PAC executive director, and President and Mrs. Fernández. At right are members of Charlie’s family: (left to right) Ken Goodman, Evan Schneider, Susan Greenberg Schneider, Debra Greenberg, and Marty Greenberg.

New Role for Alumni
At Career Fair

The annual Career Fair at Lehman continues to attract not only graduating seniors but also alumni, who are returning as recruiters in healthcare, education, business, and other fields. Among the alumni recruiters at this year’s fair were Gustavo Pacheco ’99 (top), president and chief executive officer of Genesis Business Consulting, and Business Administration grad Mia Rodriguez ’05 (bottom), district sales leader of Frito Lay.

Prof. William Seraile
Two Lehman Teams Savor the Joy of Victory

Two Lehman teams won their way to the top in the CUNY championships this year—in basketball and swimming. For the swimmers, the victory marked their second consecutive win, and to make the triumph even sweeter, the final match was played out in the APEX pool (below left). For the women, their championship win on the court at City College (below right) brought an automatic berth to the NCAA playoffs.

The Anatomy of a Winning Season

Although the swim team won by a record margin in 2006, Head Coach Peter Kiernan knew this past season would be a challenge, and the team had to get even better. Baruch and College of Staten Island were both expected to be greatly improved, and Lehman needed to stay in their same league. To complicate matters, the team was also shorthanded.

In the end, the difference turned out to be the diving team.

After losing his only two divers to graduation, Kiernan recruited from within the team and also invited newcomers to give diving a try. Four unproven, novice divers—sophomores Johan Lopez, David Turay, Jason Santana, and Genc Hasanjekaj—developed steadily throughout the season and performed well enough in the Conference meet to give Lehman a chance to win. Without them, Kiernan says, the team would not have had a chance.

Led by junior Darnell James, who won and set records in two events while finishing second in the 1,000-meter freestyle, the swimmers brought the trophy home. Fellow juniors Joseph Bodden won the 100-meter breaststroke and finished second in both the 50-meter freestyle and the 100-meter freestyle, while Hector Pena added third places in three events.

“The distinctive quality of this team,” said Kiernan, “was the ability of the members to see the overall picture and sacrifice themselves to attain the team goal.” He credits Captain Walter Lugo ’07 with establishing the right attitude of the team over his four-year tenure, noting that he “will be missed more than anyone realizes right now.”

A Magical Championship Year

The Lehman Lightning Women’s Basketball team made its first-ever appearance this spring in the NCAA Division III Tournament. The team played the fourth-ranked Lady Royals of the University of Scranton—and gave them a scare, coming within two points with 11:40 left to play.

Lehman did not advance past Scranton, but the game ended what had been a magical season for the Lightning, who captured the CUNY Championship and capped off the season with a record of 19-10.

Lehman’s Head Coach Eric Harrison was also named the CUNY Conference’s Coach of the Year. Harrison, in his ninth season at Lehman, has won the award three times and is the all-time “wins leader” in the College’s history.

“This was a special season for our entire program,” said Harrison. “Our young women, as well as their coaches, worked extremely hard, and this is something they truly deserved.” (See the profile at right of sophomore Sally Nnamani, who was named the 2006-07 CUNY Conference Player of the Year.)

The Championship victory also capped off an outstanding career for senior guard Kathy Santiago. The 1999-2000 CUNY Rookie of the Year, she had left the program for several seasons to take care of family obligations, but returned to help the Lightning capture the title with her remarkable performance at the point guard position. During the run, she also scored her 1,000th career point in the loss at Scranton. She admits, with a hint of embarrassment, “I like to shoot.”

This season, the New York Metropolitan Sports Writers selected Nnamani as a first team all-star, an award that honors the top fifteen players in the tristate area. She plans to pursue her interest in history and work after college for an N.G.O. (Non-Governmental Organization).

Daniel Gurdak ’07

Another star athlete this past season was also a stand-out scholar. Daniel Gurdak ’07 was captain of the cross country and indoor/outdoor track and field teams—and also a member of the Macaulay Honors College of CUNY at Lehman as well as a double major in biology and environmental sciences.

This spring, he was accepted to the graduate programs at Oxford University, Columbia University, and SUNY ESF (Environmental Science and Forestry). He plans to earn at least a master’s degree, pursuing his interests in the crossroads of conservation biology and ecology. “I found Lehman to be a place to really grow,” he says.
Gifts Honor Faculty Member and Two Alumni—Each a Part of Lehman College

Three recent gifts, creating new scholarship funds, honor the commitment of individuals who each followed a different calling in life, but were bound together by their connection to Lehman. Their legacy will live on through the students being supported by their scholarships.

• Stephen Belson '73 earned a degree in physical education from Lehman and worked for the New York City Fire Department for 22 years, spending most of them with Ladder 24 on Manhattan’s West Side and receiving many citations for bravery. On Sept. 11, 2001, he perished in the attacks on the World Trade Center.

His mother, Madeline Brandstader, who remembers that her son “never had any fear for himself,” visited Lehman this spring and established the Steve Belson ’73 Memorial Scholarship Fund. “I am really very happy,” she said, “about my new-found connection with Lehman College and thrilled to be part of its continuing greatness.”

More than 150 members of the Lehman family celebrate publication of their family history.

The family tree includes Herbert H. Lehman, the governor and U.S. senator for whom the College is named, as well as a chief judge of the New York State Court of Appeals (Herbert’s brother, Irving), U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., two ambassadors, and members of the U.S. House of Representatives and both the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

All were descendants of Mayer Lehman, the youngest of three German Jewish brothers who came to the U.S. from Bavaria and in 1850 formed Lehman Brothers, a mercantile goods company in Montgomery, Ala. After moving to New York, Lehman Brothers helped found the New York Cotton Exchange and went on to become the sixth-largest private banking operation in the country.

The celebration was hosted by Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, who is also a Lehman.

• Dorothy Brodin, Professor Emerita of Romance Languages, taught French to hundreds of Lehman students. Known as a “tough teacher,” she demanded the best from them. She also taught at Hunter College High School and the Lycee Français de New York. After retiring in 1980, Prof. Brodin still maintained a strong connection with Lehman, and in her will made a generous bequest. In fact, her gift (more than $800,000) is the largest in Lehman’s history. In honor of her and her husband, “The Pierre and Dorothy Brodin Scholarship” will support deserving students in the humanities.

• Lillian Greenbaum was already a senior citizen when she began taking courses with History Prof. Duane Tananbaum. A dedicated student, she regularly walked the mile from her home to the campus. Gracious and kind, and grateful for all she had, she had been a secretary before she retired. Although of limited means, she established a unitrust in memory of her aunt, to benefit Lehman students.
Congressman Charles B. Rangel saluted Lehman’s Class of 2007 during Commencement exercises on the South Field that saw over 2,000 students receive their degrees.

Now in his 19th term as the Representative of New York’s 15th Congressional District, Congressman Rangel is the first African American to chair the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. In his address to the graduates, he recalled his return to New York after serving with the U.S. Army in the Korean conflict and urged graduates to help others in their communities achieve the benefits of a solid education.

The ceremony honored Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., former president of Bronx Community College and a decorated World War II commander of the famed Tuskegee Airmen—America’s first African American military airmen. Dr. Brown, who received The President’s Medal, was a full professor at N.Y.U. for more than 25 years and directs the Center for Urban Education Policy at The CUNY Graduate Center.

Honorary doctorates were awarded to Tony Award-winning composer Adam Guettel; poet, actor, and founder of the famous Living Theater Judith Malina; celebrated author and educator Judith Ortiz Cofer; and veteran civil rights attorney Peter D. Roos.

Presiding at the ceremony, Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández told the graduates that “each of you entrusted your education to Lehman College. Now Lehman College entrusts the future to each of you. We know we are leaving it in good hands.”

Joining him on the podium were Rev. Dr. J. G. McCann, pastor of St. Luke Baptist Church; CUNY Trustee Dr. Hugo M. Morales; and Frederick P. Schaffer, CUNY General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs.

Speaking for the graduates was sociology major—and mother of two—Lorraine Brown-Zanders. A member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Dean’s List, she plans to pursue a master’s in education at Lehman.

Dr. Bruce Byland, a member of the Lehman anthropology faculty since 1984, received “Teacher of the Year Award,” while two other faculty members were honored for excellence in research, scholarship, and creative works: Prof. Thomas Spear, an expert on contemporary French and Francophone literature who created an award-winning website dedicated to the arts and culture of the Francophone world, and Prof. Christopher Gerry, whose highly regarded research on quantum optics has been cited more than 1,400 times in the past 25 years.
By 1990, I was working as a substance abuse counselor for a and “party to party.” After many years, I ultimately became tired of Work. I remember Dr. Norma Phillips interviewing me, telling me that a graduate degree, and my employer was encouraging me to do the same.

I attended Lehman College from 1972 thru 1974 after graduating from All Hallows High School in the Bronx. Many of my friends attended Lehman as well, which is why I initially went also.

I left Lehman in 1974 as a result of not really wanting to put in the effort needed for college and not having any definite ideas regarding a career. I proceeded to bounce around from “job to job” and “party to party.” After many years, I ultimately became tired of that lifestyle, and with the help and support of my mom, sister, and future wife, I began a new life.

By 1990, I was working as a substance abuse counselor for a residential drug treatment program called Project Return, now known as Palladia. I enjoyed my work and knew that if I wanted to advance in the field, a college degree was needed. I married in 1992 and returned to Lehman in 1994. I was interested in the Adult Degree Program and the opportunity to acquire life experience credits, since I had lots of that! When I first enrolled, I started slowly, not really sure what my major would be. Ultimately, social work became my “calling.” After years of managing work and school, I graduated with my bachelor’s degree in social work in January 2002.

My goal, however, was not yet complete. I wanted to return for a graduate degree, and my employer was encouraging me to do the same. In September 2006, I began my journey toward the Master’s in Social Work. I remember Dr. Norma Phillips interviewing me, telling me that it was a rigorous course of study I was beginning. Well, now that it is over, she was so right.

It is safe to say that without support from the M.S.W. Program staff, many of my classmates, colleagues, supervisors, and my family, I would never have made it through. I can say that attending Lehman College has helped change my life this time around. I found that the graduate M.S.W. Program not only made me a better and more prepared social worker, but a better individual as well. I attribute this to the many close and hopefully lasting relationships I have forged with both my classmates and faculty. I have never been in an environment where people genuinely cared so much for one another.

In Their Own Words: Four Lehman Graduates Hold Fast to Their Dreams...

LEONORA BAJRAMI
B.A., Speech Pathology and Audiology

The United States is the land of dreams, and little by little I will make them all true.

I AM FROM KOSOVO and belong to the Albanian nationality. For many years, there was a war waging between Albanians and Serbs in my country. During the war, I went through some horrible experiences, which began when NATO troops started to take action. We traveled by train to the neutral zone of Kosovo and Macedonia, where thousands of people were gathered. The whole country was being evacuated. I spent two days and three nights under the open sky. Staying there in the rain felt like heaven compared to staying in Kosovo. After three days, we managed to cross the border and lived in a refugee camp for two months. My family’s name was eventually placed on a list to come to the United States. I spent six weeks in Fort Dix, where I volunteered for the American Red Cross. It was a great experience to help families find their missing family members.

In the beginning, I lived in the Bronx, close to Lehman. My time at Lehman was precious. My brother, who had a speech delay as a child, was my inspiration to study speech pathology.

When I came to the United States, I was very sad and happy at the same time. I was sad because I was forced to leave my country, but happy that I came to the right one. I was 24 and full of dreams. The United States is the land of dreams, and little by little I will make them all true. ♦

Leonora Bajrami plans to pursue a master’s degree in speech pathology.

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS UNTIL THE AGE OF 17, when my Mom and Dad packed me and my baby sister up and we moved to Riverdale. I initially attended Lehman College from 1972 thru 1974 after graduating from all Hallows High School in the Bronx. Many of my friends attended Lehman as well, which is why I initially went also.

I left Lehman in 1974 as a result of not really wanting to put in the effort needed for college and not having any definite ideas regarding a career. I proceeded to bounce around from “job to job” and “party to party.” After many years, I ultimately became tired of that lifestyle, and with the help and support of my mom, sister, and future wife, I began a new life.

By 1990, I was working as a substance abuse counselor for a residential drug treatment program called Project Return, now known as Palladia. I enjoyed my work and knew that if I wanted to advance in the field, a college degree was needed. I married in 1992 and returned to Lehman in 1994. I was interested in the Adult Degree Program and the opportunity to acquire life experience credits, since I had lots of that! When I first enrolled, I started slowly, not really sure what my major would be. Ultimately, social work became my “calling.” After years of managing work and school, I graduated with my bachelor’s degree in social work in January 2002.

My goal, however, was not yet complete. I wanted to return for a graduate degree, and my employer was encouraging me to do the same. In September 2006, I began my journey toward the Master’s in Social Work. I remember Dr. Norma Phillips interviewing me, telling me that

EDWARD SLEPIN
B.A., Social Work, ’02
M.S.W., ’07

I have never been in an environment where people genuinely cared so much for one another.

GRADUATING SENIORS’ BRUNCH. The Lehman College Alumni Association Board of Directors toasted more than 100 soon-to-be alumni for a job well done at the annual Graduating Seniors’ Brunch, which has become a traditional celebration on campus prior to Commencement. Informative speakers discussed career and networking opportunities, as well as the need to support the College, and a drawing was held for a new Dell laptop computer. Everyone who contributed to the Graduating Class of 2007 Gift Campaign was eligible to win. Alumna Elizabeth Luna, first winner of the laptop in 2005, picked the lucky senior—Kermit Urena.
I was born with a condition known as Diastrophic Dwarfism. Nowadays, the more politically correct term is Diastrophic Dysplasia. My dwarfism is one of the two common forms: Achondroplasia and Diastrophic.

As I have grown older, my disability has become more limiting. Growing up, I used prosthetics to walk, but nothing else. When I attended Smith College in Northampton, Mass., as an undergraduate, I used a three-wheeled vehicle to get around campus. My walking strength diminished, and by post-graduation I started using one cane for long distances and to move faster. In March 2002, I started using a second cane when my left hip, growing progressively worse, prevented me from walking.

After almost two years of trying to see a surgeon and then awaiting surgery, I found myself at Helen Hayes Rehab Hospital in Rockland County, where I stayed for three months. That’s where I developed an interest in therapeutic recreation. I enrolled in Lehman’s recreation education program in 2003. What’s important in therapeutic recreation is that you can have fun but also have outcomes, whether it’s maintaining memory and cognitive skills, relationship building, or strengthening of muscles. Therapeutic recreation is about improving the quality of life.

I have loved the education I have received at Lehman. I loved being back in the classroom, and I have loved meeting all the people I have encountered these past four years, including Professors Robin Kunstler, Ori Caroloe, and Miriam Lahey, who have given me so much in terms of knowledge and passion for the profession.

I was born in Bermuda, a mid-Atlantic island off the cost of the Carolinas. I spent about half of my life there and half of it in the U.S., in Georgia, Ohio, Texas, and New York. Moving around a lot taught me about adapting to circumstances and making the most of what you have.

I learned that even though it is difficult to let go of what we are used to and comfortable with, our stations in life are constantly changing. My mother was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (M.S.), a disease of the central nervous system, nearly 20 years ago. We were very fortunate because she has the relapsing-remitting form of the disease, in which there are periodic exacerbations, but she is able to live and function normally between those periods.

My stepfather had played a large role in helping to take care of my Mom, but I had to take on a lot more responsibility when I was a junior in high school. Although I had to balance attending classes with running the house, something about the situation empowered me. I started to realize that all of the things that my mother instilled in me to make me a responsible woman of character were actually serving some purpose.

The key to the success that I’ve had has been my family. They provided a strong foundation for me, believed in me, and they see so much in me—more than I see in myself. Without them, I certainly wouldn’t be where I am today. I think that every obstacle I have faced has been turned into a triumph because my family is a team and we made it through together.

Kristin Burgess is a graduate of the Macaulay Honors College of CUNY at Lehman. She plans to pursue a law degree.

For several years, I had been searching for my place in the world. At Lehman, I found myself again. I found the person who loves learning and loves meeting new people. I believe I have found my purpose. I found the little girl I used to be—the one who would push ahead even if nervous or shy. I want to prove that people—regardless of handicaps or limitations—can be useful and helpful, and can make a difference in other people’s lives for the better.

Geri Pinciario-Mariano plans to work as a certified therapeutic recreation specialist.
Alumna Principal Wins Prestigious Public Service Award

Patricia Quigley (’83, M.S.Ed.), principal of Francisco Oller Elementary School in the East Tremont section of the Bronx, has been named one of six 2007 recipients of The Fund for the City of New York’s Sloan Public Service Awards. The awards are the leading independent honor for city employees who display extraordinary commitment, often far from the limelight, and achieve exceptional results in serving the public.

“Principal Quigley and her co-honorees stand out for their singular, unwavering focus on direct service,” said Dr. Mary McCormick, president of the Fund for the City of New York. “They channel their considerable talent and energy into making life better for New Yorkers every day.”

A lifelong educator, Quigley has presided over a dramatic, consistent increase in student achievement in math and reading scores. In 25 years in the public school system, she has been a teacher, speech therapist, administrator, and principal. Through all this, she has not missed a day of school.

Sharina Cabrera ’04 Wins Prestigious CUNY Scholarship

Sharina Cabrera ’04 has won a five-year Enhanced Chancellor’s Scholarship to earn her Ph.D. in Spanish Literature at the CUNY Graduate Center. The news came as both an honor and a surprise.

Sharina Cabrera came to the U.S. in 1998 from the Dominican Republic and enrolled in Lehman. As a junior, she took a course with Prof. Ana Diz (Languages & Literatures) on Cervantes’s “Don Quixote” and subsequently decided on a double major in psychology and Spanish. She went on to graduate summa cum laude as a McNair Scholar.

As she pursues her studies in Spanish literature, the works of Spain’s Golden Age, including those of Cervantes, remain her primary interest. Her ambition is to teach in college, and she admits she would love to wind up back at Lehman.

Michael Klausner ’69 Publishes New Research

Dr. Michael Klausner ’69, associate professor of sociology at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, has published a chapter in a set of books on public personnel administration. The books are meant to guide those managing governmental and civil organizations. His chapter describes some of the factors associated with high-performance work teams, such as goal and role clarity, cooperative social climate, unified commitment, open communication, and mutual accountability. Dr. Klausner has taught at Pitt-Bradford since 1976.

Catherine Harnett ’72 Joins Board Of Lehman College Foundation

The newest member of the Lehman College Foundation Board of Directors is Catherine Harnett (’72, B.A.), a senior vice president in the Global Real Estate Group of Lehman Brothers. She joined the firm in 1998 and has over 25 years of banking and real estate finance experience at major institutions, including Lehman Brothers, Chase Manhattan Bank, and Bankers Trust.

Born and raised in the Bronx, Harnett was in the first freshman class entering Lehman College. She received her degree in speech and theatre, with a minor in education, and then earned her M.B.A. in finance from New York University. Starting her business career in the credit training program at Chase Manhattan Bank, she became a lending officer for major U.S. corporations and real estate companies. She continues to specialize in real estate finance at Lehman Brothers.
Donors with an asterisk [*] have contributed for five consecutive years or more.

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HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Myrna Rivera ’73 M.A., a member of the board of the Lehman College Foundation, was chair and organizer of the First Annual ‘Jazz for Lehman College,’ held in November 2006 at the Intercontinental Hotel in San Juan. With her is world-renowned jazz flutist Enrique Salgado ’80.*

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Recent Graduates (2002-2006)

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The Class of 2006 had the greatest number of donors. The Class of 1974 contributed the highest total in dollars.

* Donors with an asterisk have contributed for five consecutive years or more.
+ Deceased
Westchester Parks Commissioner Strives to ‘Make a Difference’

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Joseph Stout (’85, M.S.Ed.) manages nearly 18,000 acres of public land—the most anywhere in Westchester. On any given day, his duties can range from dealing with personnel issues to meeting with the Board of Legislators.

Stout began his career as a recreation supervisor for the Town of Harrison and enrolled in Lehman’s master’s program in recreation education at just about the same time. The program’s faculty and reputation, he says, plus the College’s reputation, drew him to Lehman, where his strongest influences became then-director Dr. John Ryan and Dr. Miriam Leahy.

“They instilled in me a dedication that what we did as a profession was very important to people,” he explains, “and that we could—and did—make a significant difference in people’s lives.”

Moving on to become Superintendent of Recreation and Parks first for the Village of Hastings and then for the Town of New Castle, Stout ultimately gravitated toward a role in County government. He began as a Deputy Commissioner, then became First Deputy Commissioner, and in 2002 he was appointed Commissioner.

As Commissioner, Stout says he’s glad that the County Executive and Board of Legislators are strong supporters of parks and programs and have been generous in voting for various projects and budgets. In addition to what most people recognize as traditional parks, his office manages an amusement park, interpretive farm, arboretum, civic center, and six golf courses.

—Anita Spearman

Margaret Goodzeit ’77 Named Secretary of Family Law Section of NJ Bar Association

Margaret Goodzeit ’77, a partner in the Woodbridge office of Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP, has been installed as secretary of the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association. Goodzeit is a member of the firm’s Litigation Department. She concentrates her practice exclusively in the area of family law, including divorce, custody, support, equitable distribution, adoptions, and prenuptial agreements. Goodzeit is also a certified mediator for the American Arbitration Association and an early settlement panelist for matrimonial matters pending in the Family Part of the Chancery Division of the Superior Court. A lecturer on family law and related tax issues, she has published articles in New Jersey Family Lawyer, is chair of the Editorial Board of New Jersey Lawyer, the Magazine, and is co-managing editor of New Jersey Family Lawyer. She is also a member of the Family Law Sections of the New York State, Somerset County, and Middlesex County Bar Associations. After graduating summa cum laude from Lehman, Goodzeit earned her law degree from Columbia Law School. Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP operates with over 100 attorneys in four practice groups.

Roberto Calderin ’95 M.S. Receives National Educational Award

Dr. Roberto Calderin, principal of the New Windsor School in Orange County, N.Y., has won the prestigious National Distinguished Principal Award from the National Association of Elementary School Principals. The award has special significance because winners are nominated and selected by their fellow principals statewide. Prior to serving as New Windsor’s principal, Dr. Calderin was an administrator in the North Rockland and Yonkers School Districts, as well as a teacher in New York City and the East Ramapo School District.

Dr. Calderin has also won the Lehman Urban Teacher Education Award, Fordham University’s Dissertation of the Year Award, and the J. Walch McMillan Award for Educational Leadership from the New York State Administrators Association. He serves on the boards of the Human Rights Commission and the United Way in Orange County.
Bronx Teacher Rose Fullam Scores ‘100’—Twice

Rose Arocho Fullam (‘01 B.A., ’05 M.S.Ed.) couldn’t ask for much more. Last year—her first year teaching fourth grade—100 percent of her class at the Carl Icahn Charter School in the Bronx passed both the New York State math and science exams.

Fullam attributes her school’s success to the skills of its principal, Jeff Litt, who served many years with the Department of Education, as well as “teachers who want to be there, and children who do their very best.” The school, she notes, also benefits from a small class size (18), ongoing staff development, and an open-door policy that includes parents.

As far as her personal success goes, the five-year teaching veteran points to her experiences at Lehman. “Hands-on practice,” she says, “helped prepare me for my first years of teaching. At Lehman, I was sent to several of the surrounding public schools and worked directly with the children.”

She credits Prof. Helene Silverman (Early Childhood and Childhood Education) for the quality of the professional math education she received, both as an undergraduate and graduate student, and for her pedagogical approach. “Prof. Silverman goes out of her way to supply you with whatever you need, she doesn’t let go until she’s completely sure that you’ve learned what was taught, and she’s tough! If you miss a class, you’d better have a valid reason,” Fullam says.

This is the same approach the Lehman alumna uses with her fourth graders. “I’m tough,” she explains, “but the kids know I care.”

Honorable Lehman Alumni Take Their Places on Court Benches

Three Lehman alumni were recently elected or reappointed to terms as State or City judges.

- The Honorable Sam Walker (‘75, B.S.) was elected by an overwhelming margin to a 14-year term as a judge in the State Supreme Court’s Ninth Judicial District. The district covers Westchester, Orange, Rockland, Putnam, and Dutchess counties. Judge Walker had been an acting Supreme Court justice with the Integrated Domestic Violence Court. Before that, he was a Westchester County Court judge and a judge in Mount Vernon.

  “The grassroots approach was a major contribution to the success of our campaign,” Judge Walker told The Jamaica Observer. “I was truly overwhelmed with the support from the community and the level of volunteers who came out for us.”

- The Honorable Barry Kron was reappointed as a judge in the New York City Criminal Court (Queens County). Judge Kron has been in the Criminal Court since 1991. He graduated from Lehman with honors and spent much of his legal career as a law secretary in the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court after graduating from Columbia Law School as a Harlan Stone Fisk Scholar.

- The Honorable Alma Cordova (1978, B.A.) was appointed as a judge in the New York Criminal Court. She had been on the bench of the Family Court since 1993. Judge Cordova graduated from Lehman with honors and later from Seton Hall University School of Law.

Retired Alum Raises Race Horses—and They’re Winning

Joseph Criscuolo, ‘73 (at far right in the photo), proud owner of “Bet Me,” recently flew in from his home in South Africa to watch his three-year-old filly win a harness race at Pocono Downs. Criscuolo, who retired in 1998 from his beverage carbonation business in Florida, made his first equestrian purchase more than thirty years ago. Now he raises and trains thoroughbreds both in the U.S. and the province of Kwa, Zulu Natal. When he’s in the winner’s circle over there, he makes sure to wear red, white, and blue. “I may live in South Africa for some nine months a year,” he says, “but I’m proud to be an American.”

Alumni Notes

1977
Dr. Jose Quinones (B.A.) has been named as the Endowed Faculty Chair in the Respiratory Care Program at Westchester Community College. “Lehman provided me with an outstanding education,” he says, “at a very reasonable price, with flexible scheduling, and plenty of activities to round out my education. There is no doubt I would not have achieved the success I have been blessed with had it not been for Lehman College.”

1979
Howie Karpin (B.A.) is an official scorer for the New York Yankees and New York Mets. He fills out official lineups and scores the game for the official statistics.

1980
Kathleen Silard (B.S.) has been promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer of Stamford Hospital. She now has a greater role in day-to-day operations, while continuing to oversee various health services as well as construction and property management. She worked previously at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey, and at Montefiore Medical Center.

1990
Adele Lerner (B.F.A.) is a painter and recently turned 100 years old. Lerner, who earned her degree at Lehman at the age of 83 despite an acute hearing loss, lives in a senior complex in Queens. “Time is like diamonds for an old person,” she told The Jewish Week. “It’s so limited that every moment is precious.”

1993
Dr. Peter Gill (B.A.) has earned his doctorate in clinical psychology from Antioch University in Keene, New Hampshire. He and his advisor plan to make his dissertation into a journal article and book chapter. He works at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Beth Acocella (B.S.) was promoted to assistant manager of the New Rochelle office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, where she is also an Associate Broker. Acocella is the top producer in the office and received awards while working previously at the brokerage’s Larchmont office.

Carmine Catena (B.A.) is the head of Print Curious, a New York print production company (www.printcurious.com).
Pass — have you heard about the hottest tickets in town? Passion, romance, and the thrill of extraordinary artists from around the world greet audiences at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts (PAC). From ballet to tango to salsa, a variety of events will light up the stage this fall and spring. Check the PAC website (www.lehmancenter.org) for the full 2007-2008 schedule. Purchase tickets online or call the Box Office at 718-960-8833.

Saturday, October 27, 2007, 8 p.m.
A Musical Cultural Treasure
DANNY RIVERA
Tickets: $55, $50, $45, $40
One of the most beloved and celebrated singers from Santurce, Puerto Rico, Grammy-nominated Danny Rivera is the only Puerto Rican singer to perform in three consecutive seasons at New York’s Carnegie Hall.

Sunday, October 14, 2007, 4 p.m.
Sensual Romance and Passion of TANGO BUENOS AIRES
Tickets: $35, $30, $25, $20

Saturday, November 17, 2007, 8 p.m.
TOMMY OLIVENCIA – Para la historia
A Tribute to a Salsa Legend. Tickets: $55, $50, $45, $40
When Tommy Olivencia died in 2006, he left behind a legacy that spans over four-and-a-half decades. His band La Primerísima was considered a school for young singers and musicians to develop their art. Under the direction of Tommy Olivencia, Jr., La Primerísima orchestra will fly in from Puerto Rico to pay an exclusive tribute to their maestro. Joined by Conjunto Clásico, one of today’s most authentic bands in Latin music.

Sunday, November 4, 2007, 4 p.m.
Experience the Fire and Grace
GEORGIAN STATE DANCE COMPANY
Tickets: $35, $30, $25, $20
(Children 12 and under, $10 any ticket)

Saturday, December 8, 2007, 8 p.m.
A Latino ‘Bomba y Plena’ Christmas
ASALTO NAVIDEÑO
With YOMO TORO, JUAN GUTIERREZ, and LOS PLENEROS DE LA 21
Tickets: $35, $30, $25, $20
(Children 12 and under, $10 any ticket)

Sunday, November 25, 2007, 6 p.m.
A Timeless Family Holiday Classic
THE NUTCRACKER
By The Moscow Classical Ballet
Tickets: $35, $30, $25, $20
(Children 12 and under, $10 any ticket)

Sunday, January 13, 2008, 7 p.m.
Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Broadway Musical Hit
EVITA
Tickets: $45, $35, $25, $20

Sunday, January 27, 2008, 4 p.m.
AFRICA FOOTPRINT
Tickets: $35, $30, $25, $20
(Children 12 and under, $10 any ticket)
The history of South Africa is told through the heartbeat of the African drum, the soulful saxophone, and an ‘explosive stampede’ melding Afro- and Euro-centric music and dance. An exclusive NY engagement.