



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

LEHMAN COLLEGE • THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK • FALL 2008

Landmark Events to Mark Lehman's Fortieth Anniversary Year

The Lehman College community can look forward this year to a continuation of special events celebrating Lehman's fortieth anniversary—a major milestone in our history. As we honor the achievements of this institution, we also will set our sights on guaranteeing a strong future.

One of the most notable events will take place on Thursday, October 23, when Lehman College and the Lehman College Foundation sponsor a Gala dinner to salute the College's accomplishments and raise funds for scholarships. Honored that evening will be *Frito-Lay North America President and CEO Al Carey*, who will receive the Lehman Leadership Award, and *alumnus and noted musician Michael Bacon*, who will receive the Alumni Achievement Award. Mr. Carey, through his leadership at Frito-Lay, has been instrumental in bringing scholarship support and internship opportunities to our students. Likewise, Mr. Bacon, who studied with *Distinguished Professor of Music John Corigliano*, has been both generous and enthusiastic in helping to raise additional funds for student scholarships.

Particularly as we consider the impact of the difficult State budget situation, we realize, more than ever, that the support of our alumni, friends, and other donors, as well as grant funding, is critical in assuring Lehman's continued growth.

Bronx Institute Awarded New GEAR UP Grant

This summer, for instance, the U.S. Department of Education announced that the Bronx Institute's GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) will receive an additional \$2 million Partnership grant each year for the next six years to help more Bronx middle school students prepare for and pursue a college education. Out of 283 applicants from across the United States, the Bronx Institute was one of only seventeen organizations to receive a Partnership grant, testifying to the strength and success of its program. This brings to over \$55 million the amount of Federal funding given to this effort in the Bronx since GEAR UP's inception in 1999. With our community partners matching these grants dollar-for-dollar, in either direct or in-kind services, the result is more than \$100 million invested in the future of Bronx schoolchildren over the past decade. More significantly, the grant will extend the reach of the GEAR UP program, allowing Institute

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staff to work with 2,500 seventh-graders in a network of more than a dozen Bronx middle schools. To date, more than 10,000 students in over fifty schools have benefitted from the Institute's GEAR UP effort.

Thanks also to the vision of Chancellor Goldstein and other University officials, the new financial model New York adopted a number of years ago—known as the "Compact for Public Higher Education"—has allowed us to more effectively leverage public and private funding. This private funding has significantly increased since 2004, when the Chancellor announced a capital campaign aimed at raising \$1.2 billion by the end of FY 2012 for all the CUNY colleges. This is not the kind of campaign that is ever concluded and set to rest; when one phase ends, a new one begins. The needs of our students—for modern facilities, sound infrastructure, world-class faculty, and programs in keeping with global competition—will remain a constant. This year at Lehman, we will pick up the pace of our own fund-raising, building on the spirit of pride and enthusiasm engendered by the College's landmark anniversary and by the start of construction on our highly anticipated new science facility.

New Multimedia Center Opening, New Systems Set to Be Implemented

When completed in 2011, Lehman's new 69,000 sq. ft. science building—the first phase of what ultimately will be a three-phase complex—will become the first CUNY structure certified under the U.S. Green Building Council's Green Building Rating System. Chancellor Goldstein has declared this CUNY's "Decade of the Sciences," and the new building on our campus represents the first project to break ground toward that end. The facility's design uses many energy-saving techniques, such as a water-treatment system, that will cut Lehman's energy expenses and reduce our carbon footprint.



The portrait bust of Herbert H. Lehman keeps a student company during a quiet study break.

This year, Lehman students, faculty, and staff also will be teaching and learning in a state-of-the-art facility for media production. The new Multimedia Center, located on the lower level of Carman Hall, is now open for classes. When installation is fully completed in the spring, the Center will house the most up-to-date audio and video production equipment, as well as administrative space and workstations for the creation of digital graphics.

In an effort to bring uniformity and increased efficiency to CUNY's computer-based data and our many different processes, the University has implemented the first phase of "CUNY FIRST" ("Fully Integrated Resources and Services Tool"). This unified and integrated system will replace antiquated computer systems throughout the University, including those used by the general ledger, human resources, and such student services as financial aid, the bursar's office, and the registrar's office. Having a uniform, University-wide system will work to improve services to the entire Lehman community. This semester, Lehman's Office of Human Resources will begin training on the new system and transmitting information to the CUNY Central Office of Human Resources Management in preparation for the March 2009 implementation of the first wave of the CUNY FIRST Human Resources system.

As our programs and offices increasingly rely on the latest in technology, additional measures to secure computers and other portable devices are being implemented by Lehman's Public Safety Department, in conjunction with the New York City Police Department (52nd Precinct). Operation I.D., launched last spring, involves engraving the letters "N.Y.C." on such valuables as laptops, projectors, fax machines, and copiers and registering each item's serial number, owner's name, and address with the Police Department. Labeling these items discourages theft and allows the property to be more easily traced in the event it is stolen. Students, faculty, staff, and departments can enroll in this program by contacting Public Safety at extension 8228.

New Programs, Accreditations Enhance Lehman's Academic Profile

New efforts are underway in other areas of the College as well. On the academic side, Lehman is continuing to usher in initiatives that enhance the quality of our education and extend our reach in critical areas affecting the community.

This fall, for instance, Lehman welcomes the new CUNY Institute for Health Equity to the campus. Directing the Institute is *Professor Marilyn Aguirre-Molina* (Health Sciences), who was recently appointed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Center for Health Marketing at the Centers for Disease Control. The Institute is designed to serve as a CUNY-wide locus of scholarly and applied work, helping to develop a cadre of faculty, students, and communities that understand the social determinants of health and disease, and collaborate to achieve health equity. *Professor Luisa Borrell*, also of Health Sciences, is the deputy director.

In the Division of Education, a partnership has begun with the competitive Teach For America (T.F.A.) program that will bring over 200 T.F.A. Corps members to Lehman to pursue master's programs in early childhood, childhood, and middle and high school education. The division also continues to work with the New York City Department of Education's Teaching Fellows program and has initiated the "Leap to Teach Program" to transition paraprofessionals working in the public schools into classroom teaching positions.



Professor Ralph Salvatore teaches an Organic Chemistry class.

In addition, we look forward to two new programs submitted to the CUNY Board of Trustees for approval. The master's degree in business, with specializations in finance, marketing, and human resource management, will prepare students to solve the technical, interpersonal, and conceptual problems specific to these fields. The bachelor's in exercise science will prepare students for positions in the expanding health and fitness industry. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of fitness professionals is expected to grow faster than the average of the labor market through the year 2012, as more people turn to fitness services and more businesses recognize the benefits of fitness and wellness programs.

Our programs also continue to gain national recognition for their breadth and rigor:

- The master's program in speech-language pathology was recently reaccredited until 2015 by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, indicating that the program has met all the national academic and clinical standards for this discipline.
- The Division of Education's graduate program in literacy studies has been recognized by N.C.A.T.E./S.P.A. (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education/Specialized Professional Association). This is the second program within the division to receive this prestigious accreditation.
- Lehman's counselor education program has achieved a milestone after nearly a decade of hard work. The program has become the first one in CUNY to receive accreditation

from the coveted Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (C.A.C.R.E.P.). C.A.C.R.E.P.'s recognition means that Lehman's program has met strict standards for program development and has achieved a level of excellence in preparing students for professions in the counseling field.

- The Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program has been fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the national accrediting organization for social work education programs. This program, with its Advanced Generalist Practice curriculum, brings an important perspective to graduate social work education in the New York City area. Students are prepared for leadership positions as they address urban social problems in their work within social service agencies and organizations.

On July 1, the Department of Sociology and Social Work—whose programs have grown extensively over the past several years—was reorganized into two separate departments. *Professor Norma Phillips* is chair of the new Department of Social Work, *Professor Madeline Moran* is chair of the new Department of Sociology, and *Professor Carl Mazza* has been named M.S.W. Program Director.



Courtesy, NYC Dept. of Transportation

Artifacts from the recently decommissioned "Herbert H. Lehman" ferry will go on permanent display in the Leonard Lief Library.

The accreditation of the M.S.W. program and the establishment of the new department occur during the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accreditation of Lehman's undergraduate social work program. Accredited since 1983, Lehman's social work program is one of the largest and oldest in New York City. In celebration, the new Social Work Department will host an Urban Social Work conference on November 18, with *former Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields* delivering the keynote address. The meeting, which will be spread between the Music Building and the Lovinger Theatre, will feature presentations by members of the Lehman faculty, M.S.W. students, and social work professionals.

Exhibitions, Lectures, Performances Fill the Calendar

We can look forward to many other exciting events on campus this semester, such as:

- The Lehman College Art Gallery has teamed up with Wave Hill and the Bronx River Art Center to present a photography exhibition exploring the natural beauty of the Bronx, which will run until December 15. Other exhibitions this semester include "Elizabeth Jobim: Endless Lines" and "Tony Bechara: Infinite Dots," both running from October 7 to December 15.



Cirque Athens will perform at the PAC on April 19. View the complete schedule of events at www.lehmancenter.org.

- CUNY's Center for Sustainable Energy will convene its fourth annual Alternative Vehicle Technology conference at Lehman October 3. Panels will discuss emission reduction strategies, emerging technologies, policies and incentives to boost corporate interest in green vehicles, and other issues. Alternative vehicles on display will include trucks, passenger vehicles, buses, and maintenance equipment.

- *Dr. William Vélez* of the sociology faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will speak October 30 at 2 p.m. on "Chasing the Florida Dream: The Social and Economic Adaptation of Puerto Ricans in Central Florida." This event is sponsored by the President's Office, the Department of Sociology, the Sociology Club, and Alpha Kappa Delta (the sociology honor society).

- Kicking off this year's workshop series sponsored by the Continuing Education Program of the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences will be one on "Assessment and Treatment for Childhood Apraxia of Speech," presented by *Professor Shelley Velleman* on October 31 in the Lovinger Theatre from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Professor Velleman is an associate professor of communication disorders at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

- Artifacts from the recently decommissioned "Herbert H. Lehman" ferry that sailed between Staten Island and Manhattan for more than forty years (photo above, on left) will go on permanent exhibition in the Leonard Lief Library in late October. *Wendy Lehman Lash*, a member of the Lehman family and president of the Edith and Herbert Lehman Foundation, Inc., donated the artifacts to the College.


- Lehman's Performing Arts Center welcomes an eclectic mix of performances by world-renowned artists and companies such as Cirque Athens (photo above, on right). On November 1, noted *jazz and classical saxophonist Branford Marsalis* will be the featured soloist with Brazil's Filarmonia. This performance—an exclusive New York City engagement—is part of Lehman's Fortieth Anniversary celebration.

Two New Senior Administrators Join Lehman, Other Key Searches Are Under Way

As the new academic year begins, we welcome new senior administrators to the College community:

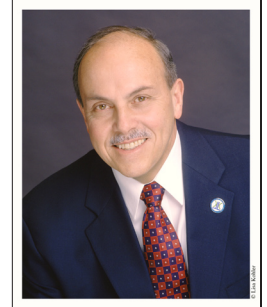
- *Mario DellaPina* became Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Lehman on July 1, following the retirement of *Dr. Anne Johnson*. VP DellaPina completed twenty years of service to Queens College and was its director of development as well as executive director of the Queens College Foundation. In his new role at Lehman, he will lead fundraising and development efforts and oversee the Media Relations Office, the Performing Arts Center, and the Lehman College Art Gallery.

- *Dr. Deborah B. Eldridge* took the helm of the Division of Education on August 18, following the move by *Dean Annette Digby* to vice president and provost at Lincoln University. Formerly the chairperson of the Department of Curriculum and Teaching at Montclair State, as well as chairperson of the Department of Curriculum and Teaching at Hunter College, Dean Eldridge has more than thirty years of experience as an educator.

During this academic year, searches will be conducted for several other key administrators: a vice president of the  Division of Information Technology, following *Dr. Zong-Guo Xia's* acceptance of a position as associate provost at the University of Massachusetts at

Dartmouth; a dean of the Division of Arts and Humanities, following *Dr. Marlene Gottlieb's* retirement; a dean of the Division of Natural and Social Sciences, following *Dr. William Tramontano's* new position as provost of Brooklyn College; and an associate dean of education to succeed *Dr. Susan Polirstok*, who has become dean of Kean University's College of Education. I thank *Acting Deans Deena Bernstein* and *Robin Kunstler*, as well as *Acting Associate Dean Gaoyin Qian*, for so ably serving in these positions during the interim, and *IT Director Joseph Middleton* for his oversight over this important area while a search for a new vice president is carried out.

This new academic year challenges us to keep pace with our expanding programs and evolving curriculum in the face of a difficult economic climate. But with ingenuity and vision, we can maintain our level of excellence in research and academics. Let us all take pride in the strong foundation Lehman College has created over the past forty years and look toward the future with optimism and the certainty that we can continue to build an even stronger institution in the next forty years.



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