

Division of Student Affairs

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CUNY MILESTONE—Lehman student Ryan Grant became the first deaf actor to appear in a CUNY theater production. He played the role of Jason in a Lehman Theatre Department production for which deaf and sign language interpreters were used throughout. At right in the photo is Lydia Ortiz, in her role as Medea.

Lehman Student Leaders Recognized

The Herbert H. Lehman Center for Student Leadership Development, a program of the Office of Campus Life, awarded certificates on December 19 to 23 students—the third group to complete Track 1 of a leadership training initiative. In addition to course work, the students completed more than 450 hours of service on campus and in the community.

Ray Flook, coordinator of Student Leadership Development, read each name and Michael Sullivan, director of Campus Life, presented certificates to: Duane Adams, Augusto Alarcon, Christian Almont, Rafael Almanzar, Hanna Brown, Letricia Brown, Renee Foster, Tanika Francis, Hee-ju Jang, Carly Krumins,

Donya Locke, Rukmini Moorleedhar, Christian Morraz, Winston N'Dow, Mark Nieves, Priscilla Oquendo, Adrian Paling, Chandralall Persaud, Lisa Sanchez, Yesenia Tejada, Francisco Valverde, Ryan Watson, and Shinelle Wright.

"It was great working with this diverse group that included student at all levels



Among the 23 newly minted student leaders (l-r): Winston N'Dow, Rukmini Moorleedhar and Adrian Paling.

from first-semester freshmen to seniors who've served in leadership roles for most of their time at Lehman," said Flook. "As we recruit a new class for this program, we're seeing a growing desire by our students to develop leadership skills that will be useful in their professional and personal lives, especially as they compete in a global marketplace."

Women's Volleyball Team Reaches CUNYAC Semifinals

The women's volleyball team put forth a tremendous effort in the semifinal round of the 2008 CUNY Athletics Conference tournament before bowing to the top-seeded Beavers of City College. Lehman finished its season at 15-12 overall (6-3 CUNYAC) and improved its win total by seven games. "I'm happy and proud of our women," said head coach Daniel Skilins, who looks forward to an excellent season next year. "The team's future is promising—with our returning players and new players coming in."



The women's team, led by head coach Daniel Skilins, made it to the CUNYAC playoffs.

Students Learn about NY State Career Opportunities

In an effort to increase employment opportunities in a distressed economic climate, Lehman's Career Services Center (CSC) hosted a recruitment and information session with the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD).

The OMRDD and its associated voluntary agencies offer services throughout the state—with many locations in the Bronx and Manhattan.

It is a public agency that hires employees who have academic backgrounds in many of the disciplines offered at Lehman such as Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, Nursing, Recreation Education, Health Services and Speech Pathology.

The OMRDD presentation team included two Lehman alumni: Dennis Elber, a mental hygiene program evaluation specialist, and Christopher Romaine, a recreation therapist. Others on the team were

psychologists John McGowan and Daniel Chung, nurse Kathy Boyle-Collado, personnel administrator Marian Senior, and community services treatment team leader Paul Blackwell.

Marian Senior encouraged the 25 students and alumni at the December 3 event to be proactive on their own behalf. "There are 200 job titles within the state," she said. So this requires many

hours of reading through the various positions, requirements/qualifications and civil service test deadlines on the website www.omr.state.ny.us.

This advice parallels that given by CSC staff at Lehman. "Self assessments and career exploration take time, patience and persistence," says Bascillia Toussaint, CSC career advisor and coordinator who also organized the event. "It's up to our students and

alumni to invest their own time and energy if they expect an employer to do the same."

In addition to learning about the multiple opportunities available at the OMRDD, the attendees received information about application procedures, career advancement, professional development, security and benefits—all of which are important indicators in accepting any job offer.

—For more information on OMRDD employment opportunities, contact Bascillia Toussaint at the Career Services Center.



The team of recruiters from the State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities included Lehman alumni Dennis Elber and Christopher Romaine. Above (l-r): Elber, Marian Senior, Romaine, Paul Blackwell, Kathy Boyle-Collado, John McGowan, and Daniel Chung.

Health Center Sponsors 'Breast Cancer Awareness' Events

By Valerie Verdejo

The Student Health Center dedicated a week in October to raising awareness of breast cancer and providing breast health education in the Lehman community.

In collaboration with Rainbow and Circle student clubs, the Center presented a workshop on breast and cervical cancers. It was facilitated by Lehman student **Briana Urbina**, an intern at the Lesbian Cancer Initiative.



The Lehman delegation to the "walk against breast cancer" included the women's basketball team. Student involvement was organized by the Student Health Center and the Community Service and Service Learning Program.

Kate Greenberg, director of Wellness and Health Education, described services available for women students Lehman's Health Center and explained how pap smears (to screen for cervical cancer) and clinical

breast examinations are performed.

Nearly 40 Lehman students—led by the women's basketball team—took part in the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk at Orchard Beach.

The Student Health Center also hosted a one-day campus visit by St. Barnabas Hospital's mammogram van, in which Lehman women ages 40 and older received free mammograms. The Center's Family Nurse Practitioner **Rosemary Weingarten** performed clinical breast exams later in the week for women who were ineligible for the St. Barnabas mammogram program.

After each exam, a breast health educator from the Maurer Foundation in Mineola, NY, showed women how to perform a breast self-examination.

—The author is a Peer Health Educator in the Student Health Center.

City Council Recognizes Center for Urban Male Leadership

The New York City Council honored Lehman's Center for Urban Male Leadership for its outstanding contributions to the community and to New York City. In a ceremony at City Hall, Student Affairs Vice President **Jose Magdaleno** accepted the Proclamation on behalf of President **Ricardo R. Fernández** and the entire college community. He thanked City Councilmember **Larry B. Seabrook** and the Council for supporting CUNY's Black Male Initiative. Lehman's was the first of the CUNY

programs to receive a City Council proclamation.

After Chancellor **Matthew Goldstein** announced a University Task Force on the Black Male Initiative in 2004, the Division of Student Affairs at Lehman established the Center for Urban Male Leadership.

"We're committed to empowering all students, with a special focus on Black and Latino males," said Center director **Michael A. Deas**. "Our programs are designed to strengthen our students' academic skills and empower them personally through leadership

development and character enrichment."

The Center is dedicated to increasing retention and graduation rates by developing the whole student—both inside and outside the classroom. Center programs and activities are open to students, faculty and staff without regard to race, gender, origin or other characteristics.

—For more information about the Center for Urban Male Leadership, e-mail michael.deas@lehman.cuny.edu or call him at (718) 960-8151.



The Lehman College delegation receives its formal City Council Proclamation in a ceremony at City Hall in Manhattan.



Opportunities for Students through Community Service

By Jenniffer Efthymious

For many students, holding a job while attending school is necessary and time-consuming. Yet, despite the economic crisis and rising prices for food and transportation, Lehman students are still finding time to volunteer.

In 2007, the Division of Student Affairs launched **Community Service and Service Learning (CSSL)** programs to benefit the community and broaden students' experiences as well. CSSL connects students with volunteer opportunities and projects such as coat, food and toy drives, Treats for Troops, walking for a cause, mentoring children, and serving meals at the local shelter.

Lehman L.I.F.E. (Leaders Involved for Everyone) is the local chapter of Break Away, a national organization that trains and assists campuses and communities in promoting alternative semester breaks, during which students spend time helping others in need. They travel across the nation building homes, working with children and helping to sustain the environment.

Credit-bearing Opportunities

"Service Learning connects students in a credit-bearing course to a volunteer opportunity tied into the curriculum," said **Amanda Dubois**, coordinator for

Community Service/Service-Learning and New Student Programs. "By the end of the course, students produce a project or program that will benefit that particular organization."

For example, one group of Lehman students created an after-school program with a neighborhood coalition.

Taking Citizenship Seriously

President-elect Barack Obama has emphasized the educational value of community service. "Just as we teach math and writing, arts and athletics, we need to teach young Americans to take citizenship seriously," he told an audience at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. *"Study after study shows that students who serve do better in school, are more likely to go to college, and more likely to maintain that service as adults."*

Already Lehman faculty members from three departments—**African and African-American Studies, Secondary Education, and Linguistics**—have included Service Learning into their classes.

In CSSL's first year, 279 Lehman students contributed more than 4,000 hours of community service. "I anticipate this year's program will surpass that with over 300 students, faculty and staff

volunteering nationally and abroad," said Dubois. The program is involved in all five boroughs through partnerships with Abbott House, the American Cancer Society, Part of the Solution (P.O.T.S), the High School, Montefiore Medical Center, and Visiting Neighbors.

For just one example, college assistant **Alisia Cordero**, a junior, worked last spring on a home-building project in New Orleans through Lehman L.I.F.E. She's participated in fundraiser walks for AIDS, MS, and the March of Dimes—and donates blood twice a year.

"I am humbled by these experiences," said Cordero. "It makes me feel good to help others."

CSSL Works with Student Clubs

The Rave Club began with a dance focus and now had a community service agenda as well. Club members work with the American Cancer Society to raise cancer awareness.

"It's vital," said Rave Club president **Cameron Crump**, a junior. "If you're not doing community service, then how are you preparing yourself to be a good citizen?"

—The author is a Peer Educator in the Office of Community Service/Service Learning and New Student Programs.



A growing number of Lehman students are getting involved as volunteers for community services ranging from sending treats to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to a major clean-up effort at a local subway station.