

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

LEHMAN COLLEGE • THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK • SPRING 2006

New Initiatives and Facilities Contribute to Lehman's Steady Growth

Dear Students, Colleagues, Alumni and Friends:

The months ahead will bring major cultural and scholarly events to the Lehman campus, including an address by *Ambassador Andrey I. Denisov*, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, who will keynote a "Dialogue on Russia and China Today" on March 25, and another by *Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams*, who will give the annual Lehman Lecture on March 29. Work on new facilities and programs will also move forward, in keeping with the College's strategic goals, at the same time as the pace picks up on both fund-raising and image-building efforts:

- The Lehman College Foundation achieved a fund-raising milestone in 2005, as gifts hit the \$700,000 mark without the benefit of Title V matching grant funds, which were available for five years as part of a federal grant. The Office of Institutional Advancement, in conjunction with the Lehman College Foundation, has also established a campaign-planning group that is working with CUNY to create a multi-million-dollar campaign for the College.
- Success in fund-raising and admissions is closely tied to the public image presented by the College. Lehman recently selected a marketing firm to develop new admissions materials and redesign the College website, all under the umbrella of a comprehensive and integrated "brand" for Lehman College. This work will be accomplished over the next two years, with the goal of fostering greater recognition of our excellent programs, significant faculty research and talented student body. The results will help to attract donors, increase alumni involvement and help to recruit new students. Over the coming months, representatives of the marketing firm will schedule meetings with a number of faculty, administrators and students to gather information and insights as the first step in this process.
- Efforts to refresh the Strategic Plan are also underway and should be completed by mid-February. Objectives that have been accomplished will be removed, others will be updated with revised benchmarks, and new objectives will be added. The overall plan will be projected to a new three-year planning horizon. As we advance through the semester, the campus community will be kept apprised of the progress made in implementing the plan.

Construction Plans Move Ahead

An important part of the Strategic Plan revolves around the continuing need to provide up-to-date facilities in which to offer our programs. This spring, pre-schematics will be completed on the first phase of a new science building, followed by groundbreaking in late 2007. The facility, which ultimately will house all of the sciences taught at Lehman, will be built in three phases. Phase One will house teaching labs for introductory biology and chemistry, along with research labs for ten scientists from the Life Sciences. Phase Two will provide space for the remaining programs in biology, chemistry, anthropology and psychology. In Phase Three of the project, Gillet Hall will be completely gutted and renovated.



This semester, construction is expected to begin on the long-awaited Multimedia Center in Carman Hall. Located on the basement and cellar levels, the state-of-the-art facility will provide cutting-edge technical resources for the College in the rapidly growing and highly competitive media field.

New Programs in Healthcare Fields

Healthcare, another fast-growing field, is the number one employer in the Bronx, yet a broad spectrum of health-related issues continues to adversely impact many Bronx residents. To help address this problem, Lehman is launching a new Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program this spring and is awaiting approval for a Family Nurse Practitioner graduate program.

The M.P.H. program will prepare students for professional careers as practitioners and researchers and equip them to continue on to the doctoral level; in addition, it will boost the number of underrepresented groups in the health professions and help create more local solutions to remedy the problem of health disparities. The program has attracted an inaugural class that includes doctors and nurses.

The Family Nurse Practitioner program, submitted to the State Department of Education for approval, would address the vital need for culturally sensitive nurse practitioners, trained to work with families whose members can range from children to the aged.

Accomplishments Bring Accolades

In addition to designing notable programs for our students, many Lehman faculty continue to win well-deserved recognition for their groundbreaking and thought-provoking work. The new issue of *Quorum*, appearing January 30 in "Lehman E-News," will spotlight many of these faculty milestones. To mention just two:

- *Prof. David Gillison* (Art) revisited Crater Mountain in Papua New Guinea, a place that inspired his compelling photography during his sojourn there in 1973-75. New black-and-white images from that visit have been retouched and are on display in the Watson Place Gallery in Melbourne, Australia. His original color photographs were published in the book *New Guinea Ceremonies*.
- *Distinguished Professor of Music John Corigliano* has also revisited—and expanded upon—the music that earned him an Oscar in 2000. His "Red Violin" concerto was performed by the New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center on January 14 and praised by the *New York Newsday* reviewer as "music we can see."

Two media efforts have also won major awards:

- Lehman's bimonthly "E-News," launched by the Office of Media Relations & Publications in January 2005, recently earned praise from peers with a first-place award in the annual competition sponsored by District II of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The Temple University e-newsletter was in second place, and SUNY Binghamton's in third. It is Lehman's first CASE award.
- "Inside Lehman," the news magazine program produced by students and faculty in the Department of Journalism, Communication and Theatre, continues to garner trophies.

It recently received first place in the Communicator Awards, an international award created by communication professionals to honor excellence in this field.

New Programs Support Student Development

This type of student success demonstrates Lehman's commitment to helping young people make the most of their educational opportunities. To that end, Lehman has secured a number of grants and created programs that provide much-needed guidance to students and their teachers.

- Under the leadership of *Prof. Herminio Martinez* (Middle & High School Education), the Bronx Institute will use a five-year TELL (Teachers of English Language Learners) grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide fellowships to Bronx public school teachers to study effective ways of instructing English Language Learners.
- The Institute has also produced a video to demonstrate the success of its ENLACE program, funded by the Kellogg Foundation. High school students featured in the video discuss how the program has impacted them.
- To help foster a better understanding of the political system among Bronx high school juniors, Lehman is using a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to establish the José E. Serrano Leadership Institute. Close to 50 promising students have applied to the program. The 25 selected for the first class will begin a course on United States government on February 4. The program is made possible through the support of Representative José E. Serrano of New York's 16th Congressional District.

International Conferences Foster Dialogue

In addition to Lehman's work with the local community, two programs this year will focus on international issues. The two atomic bombs that dropped on Japan in 1945, killing or injuring hundreds of thousands, still live on in our collective memories. In the spirit of promoting peace, Lehman is partnering with two other educational institutions and two international human rights organizations to host a world summit in Hiroshima this September, entitled "The Role of Men and Women in the Culture of Peace: A Summit for World Leaders, Scholars and Citizens." *Dr. Sorosh Roshan*, a member of the board of the Lehman College Foundation, and *Dr. Anthony Garro*, Lehman's Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, are working to make this a notable event not only for Lehman but also for the world community.

In the same spirit of fostering understanding, the College will host a symposium on March 25 to explore the issues that confront Russia and China. The event will also commemorate for Lehman the first meetings of the United Nations on U.S. soil, which took place on this campus from March 25 to August 15, 1946. Our appreciation for organizing this event goes to *Profs. Gaoyin Qian* and *Patricia Thompson* (Specialized Services in Education) and the committee of faculty, administration and friends that they are chairing.

Lectures, Workshops, Concerts Set for This Spring

We can look forward to other exciting events this spring:

- The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture, hosted by the Black Studies Department, the Office of Campus Life and C.A.S.A., will take place on February 15 and feature an address by *Dennis M. Walcott*, the city's Deputy Mayor for Policy.

- The Library will collaborate with the Black Studies Department to honor Black History Month with a poetry reading on February 28 in the Library's Atrium. An exhibit entitled "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions" will also be on view.

- The annual Lehman Lecture on March 29 will feature activist, teacher and writer *Jody Williams*, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for her role as founding coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

- Furthering the College's involvement in promoting peace, the Division of Education will hold a workshop on Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) on April 25, highlighting how the study of tolerance can be integrated across the K-12 curriculum. Teacher education students will discuss the documentary "Paper Clips," chronicling a 1998 diversity project in which students in Whitwell Middle School (Whitwell, TN) collected paperclips to represent each individual lost in the Holocaust.

- Lehman Center for the Performing Arts began 2006 with one of its most successful concerts ever, as the legendary artist *B.B. King* was welcomed to the stage with a standing ovation. The show has become one of the Center's top ten all-time box office hits. Taking us through to June are performances by noted artists like *Chaka Khan*, *Debbie Reynolds* and *José Feliciano*.

- The Music Department's free concert series continues with performances in a wide range of genres. On February 22, the Lehman Chamber Players will give a classical music concert, featuring *Paul Roczek* on violin, *André Emelianoff* on cello and *Prof. Diana Mittler-Battipaglia* on piano.

- Lehman Stages will present an eclectic mix of performances throughout the semester, such as "Bruce Lee: The Cinematic Art," which will offer bi-weekly screenings of Bruce Lee films in the Gillet Hall Theater from March 1 to 29.

- The Department of Journalism, Communication and Theatre will present the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein love story "South Pacific" from March 17 to 19. The production will feature the Orchestra of the Bronx under the direction of *Michael Spierman*, who is also the musical director of the Bronx Opera Company.

- Prof. Sharon Freedberg (Sociology and Social Work) is passing on her role as director of the Women's Studies Program to *Prof. Bertrade Banoum* (Black Studies), who has been named acting director. This spring, the program's Brown Bag Luncheon series will include a presentation on February 23 by Lehman Scholar and Watson Fellow *Alice Michelle Augustine*, who will discuss the social and humanitarian issues she encountered while studying and working in Ghana.

It is clear that a stimulating semester of discovery awaits us, and I encourage you to take part in the events that are too numerous to list here. From advancing in technology to cultivating young minds to speaking out on crucial issues that affect us locally and globally, we at Lehman continue to serve the Bronx on many levels. Each of you plays a major part in making Lehman a center of quality education, cultural expression, community activism and academic research, and I thank you for your continuing hard work and commitment to our vision.

Ricardo R. Fernández, President
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