

Student Affairs

- The APEX/Athletics
- Career Services Center
- Child Care Center
- Counseling Center
- International Student Services
- Office of Campus Life
- Office of Community Engagement and New Student Programs
- Office of Financial Aid
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
- Peer Educator Program
- The Sophomore Year Initiative
- Student Disability Services
- Student Health Center
- Urban Male Leadership Program
- Veterans/Military Affairs

What's Inside

- A Liberal Arts Perspective in the Business World 2
- The Alumni Mentoring Program 2
- Remembering Ann O'Sullivan 3
- NCAA Track & Field Champions 3
- 'Good Guy' Award to Chris Gonzalez 3
- Conference Focus on "My Brother's Keeper Initiative" 4
- Students Attend Model New York State Senate 4



'The Broadcast Mentoring Program Inspired Me'



Karina Rivera is being mentored by working broadcast journalists she met through the Career Services Center.

By Karina Rivera, Class of 2016

I am a junior, majoring in Journalism with a minor in Professional Writing. I aspire to be a news reporter and, eventually, a news anchor. In addition to my classes, I work as a freelance news correspondent at BronxNet Community Television.

Last summer, during transfer student orientation, I met Nancy Cintron, Director of the Career Services Center at Lehman. My mother, a Lehman alumna, encouraged me to register with Career Services right away. She emphasized how great the staff is and the opportunities that are available to students and alumni through this office. In fact, my mom is still working for the employer she met through a Lehman Career Services Expo six years ago.

Recently, through Director Cintron, I was invited to attend the Broadcast Mentoring

Program, which is sponsored by the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

I jumped at the chance. I responded "yes" immediately, and I'm so glad I did. I've been talking about this program almost nonstop ever since.

The Broadcast Mentoring Program offers opportunities for students like me to meet and network with news reporters and anchors who are currently at work in the broadcast field. My favorite part of the day was the Q&A session because it was so informative.

I had the honor of meeting CBS news anchor Dana Tyler, who offered to mentor me in the process of becoming a reporter. I also met CBS News reporter Christine Sloan, 1010 WINS anchor Lori Madden,

Continued on page 2...

Broadcast Mentoring. . .

Continued from page 1...

CBS Radio News anchor Wayne Cabot, FOX 5 reporter Mac King, and CBS News reporter Dave Carlin, who offered to help me work on my demo reel.

It was great to hear about the personal journeys and experiences of working journalists as they navigated the challenging and highly competitive field of media and communications.

Participating in this mentoring program has already helped me to gain general knowledge about the field of TV production and learn valuable skills needed to become a good reporter.

Currently, in addition to my work at BronxNet, I have also joined two career-boosting organizations—New York Women in Communications and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

The Alumni Mentoring Network

The Alumni Mentoring Network is a seven-year-old Career Services Center program that matches alumni professionals and Lehman students in their fields of interest. Mentors provide career guidance, advice, support and networking opportunities to help students achieve their academic and career goals.

"We're keeping it flexible. It's very open-ended," says CSC Director Nancy Cintron. "Some students are looking for short-term, specific advice. Others want a longer-term relationship. Mentoring can include face-to-face meetings, online communication, or a combination of both. It's up to the mentors and the mentees to decide the approach that works best for them."

Whatever they choose, it's a win-win. "The students get a better understanding of the world of work," Cintron says. "Alumni mentors tell us they get personal satisfaction from being helpful."

Studies have also shown that mentoring undergraduates helps increase retention and graduation rates.

To become an alumni mentor, contact the Program Coordinator at (718) 960-8366. If you're on campus, stop by Room 254 in Shuster Hall.

A Liberal Arts Perspective in a Business World

By Steve O. Sobers, Class of 2015

I felt awkward and intimidated at first—here I was, a Liberal Arts fish out of water, attending the Business Summit and Career Expo hosted by the Selective Corporate Internship Program at JP Morgan Chase on February 7.

Top executives from some of America's major



Senior Steve Sobers is a Music major, Peer Educator and Resident Assistant.

corporations were present to offer insights into the daily operations of their companies along with information regarding job and internship opportunities.

I thought to myself, "What am I doing here? Will my Liberal Arts resume with a major in Music open any doors for me?"

As the day progressed, I found myself interacting and networking with others. Many of them attended different colleges, and their majors were diverse. I

breathed a sigh of relief as I soon discovered that I wasn't the only one with those concerns.

Attending a series of panel discussions and workshops at the event broadened my thinking and changed my perspective. I was encouraged to present myself to employers as a forward-thinking professional with the ability to adapt, propose new ideas, and develop entrepreneurial skills.

Then I started thinking about what my Liberal Arts education has taught me that could be useful—not only in a business environment, but in every field of workplace

activity. My studies helped me build on my critical thinking and professional writing skills. I felt prepared to strategically apply knowledge in order to connect with business development.

I remembered reading that Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, insists that his senior executives write long memos. They begin senior management meetings with a period of quiet time while everyone reads the memos and makes notes on them. Clearly, whatever I do in life, the ability to think critically and articulate those thoughts in both writing and speech will be invaluable skills.

Perhaps the most important asset of a Liberal Arts education is that it teaches you how to learn—to read a variety of subjects, find data, analyze information, and form conclusions. Given the rapid pace of change in all aspects of our society and our increasingly technical work world, the ability to continually learn and retool is an absolutely essential skill. Yes, I decided. I, too, am ready to capitalize and conquer.

As it happened, I did not connect with a company that day. But I realized that my education has prepared me well. The Business Summit raised my confidence. It challenged me to seek a competitive edge, to make myself marketable, to emphasize and build on my strengths, no matter what the job situation might be.

I am happy to report that I am working on my admissions application for acceptance to the Vermont College of Fine Arts where I intend to pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree in Music Composition.

Remembering Ann O'Sullivan

The Division of Student Affairs and the Lehman community have lost a wise colleague and warm friend: Ann O'Sullivan, Coordinator of International Student Services. She passed away on Christmas Day after a long battle with breast cancer.

Ann was born in the County of Limerick in Ireland and often cited her Irish mother's advice as she provided characteristically sound support and service to Lehman's international students.

Kemi Akinboyewa, Class of 2012, says, "Ms. O was amazing. I worked in her office, and she treated me as an equal, not just an employee. She always looked out for me." Senior Muhammed Kajakeh says, "As a new student in the U.S., she encouraged me to work hard and do well to avoid losing my immigration status."

In her 15 years at Lehman, Ann made an impact on the lives of countless international students as she helped them navigate a sea of rules and regulations. She worked previously in International Student

Services at FIT, and for 10 years directed the South African Education Program, which brought students to the U.S. for higher education.

In that capacity, Ann made many trips to South Africa to lead the student selection process. On her third trip, she met President Nelson Mandela, who was on the same flight. They talked about her program and its goals, and he thanked her for her service to his country.

"I was fortunate to share a suite with Ann in Shuster Hall," says Amanda Dubois-Mwake, Director of Community Engagement and New Student Programs. "Not only was she a great friend, but an exceptional woman with a deep sense of ethics and love for her students. She will be greatly missed."



NCAA Track & Field Champions



President Ricardo R. Fernández celebrates the NCAA victories of Lehman track stars (l-r) Allie Bernasconi and Adriana Wright.

Indoor track student-athletes Adriana Wright and Allie Bernasconi made history at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships, held at the JDL Fast Track in North Carolina. Both women won NCAA national championships.

Wright won the 60-meter hurdles with an NCAA National Championships record time of 8.45 seconds. She placed third in the 200-meter run with a time of 24.77 seconds, just .13 seconds off the NCAA record.

Bernasconi earned her NCAA National Championship in the 400 meters run, with a blistering 55.74—winning the race by 1.41 seconds.

As a team, the Lehman Lightning finished in seventh place nationally, with 26 team points. Both student-athletes earned All-America status in the process.

'Good Guy' Award to Chris Gonzales

Lehman's Director of Sports Information and Intramurals Chris Gonzales received the Mike Cohen "Good Guy" Award from the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association. He was honored at the recent annual Haggerty Awards dinner, the longest running, media-managed college basketball awards program in the U.S.

Gonzales, who joined Lehman in 2012, oversees media and public relations for 18 varsity sports, including the Athletic Department's website and its Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts.

He was previously General Manager for MAAC Sports Properties and Interim Assistant Director of the CUNY Athletic Conference. He also worked at Mercy College, Manhattanville College, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He was VP at Sports Systems Services and PrestoSports, building relationships with colleges and universities across the country.

Gonzales has worked throughout his sports PR career in both collegiate and professional sports venues—ranging from NCAA Championships in many different sports, the college football Nokia Sugar Bowl, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament and the Cancun Challenge to special events for the New York Jets Radio Network, the Baltimore Ravens, the New York Mets, and playoff baseball with the New York Yankees.



Conference Focus Is on 'My Brother's Keeper' Initiative

The Hebert H. Lehman Center for Student Leadership Development hosted its fifth annual "Engaging Urban Commuter Students in Leadership Conference." It was largest conference to date for the Center. The focus this year was on an initiative launched in 2014 by President Barack Obama called "My Brother's Keeper."

The Presidential initiative addresses ongoing, persistent opportunity gaps that boys and young men of color encounter in the United States. Its purpose is to ensure that all young people have the chance to reach their full potential.

The keynote speaker was Michael Smith, Special Assistant to the President and White House Senior Director of Cabinet Affairs for "My Brother's Keeper." In his inspiring address, Smith challenged the audience to become more active and involved in mentoring young people.

Students and faculty from local high schools and other CUNY colleges, as well as members of the Lehman



Keynoter Michael Smith.

community, attended the March 25 event at Lovinger Theater.

The conference featured breakout sessions on "Challenging the Portrayal of Minorities in the Media" and "Being an Advocate for Social Change."

Dean of Student Affairs John Holloway led a lively panel discussion on "Institutionalized Forms of Racism." Panelists included Lehman faculty members Judith Duncker, Mark Christian, Carl Mazza and Michael Deas.

The Conference was coordinated by Associate Director of Campus Life Suzette Ramsundar, CUNY Graduate Assistant Raquel Smith and their team from the Herbert H. Lehman Center for Leadership Development.

Lehman Students Attend 'Model New York Senate'

Eight Lehman students, along with Director of Campus Life Michael Sullivan, traveled to Albany on March 27 to attend the City University's Model New York Senate for the weekend.

To prepare for the event, the students previously had the opportunity to meet and network with government and elected officials including the Mayor of New York City, the Comptroller, State Senators, and members of the State Assembly.

In Albany, the students debated policy issues such as an increase in the minimum wage in New York State. They discussed the high rate of poverty in areas like the Bronx. And they got a first-hand look at legislative process—representation, leadership, and how state policies are formulated.

"As a Political Science major, this was just the opportunity I needed to see if this was where my true passion lies," says Justina Gray, one of the participating students.

"The weekend gave me a broad perspective on



Campus Life Director Michael Sullivan with Lehman students Muhammed Kajakeh and Justina Gray in Albany during the recent Model New York Senate weekend.

how policies are made and bills are passed at the State level that affect our lives," says Muhammed Kajakeh, another Lehman student participant.