

## 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  
Student Disability Services  
Student Health Center  
Urban Male Leadership  
Program  
Veterans/Military Affairs

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## 91 Lehman Students in CUNY Service Corps



Lehman students, above, in the CUNY Service Corps were selected from among 230 applicants to the new program.

Lehman kicked off its inaugural CUNY Service Corps program this Fall with 91 student members. The grant-supported initiative has already mobilized 700 CUNY students and partner organizations for work on projects to improve the sustainability of New York City and its residents.

A big part of the success of the program is the work of Amy Olsen, the CUNY Service Corps Manager who is based in Lehman's Office of Community Engagement and New Student Programs.

Members of the Service Corps work in fields of health, education, the environment, and the economy that are related to their academic majors, skills and interests. They are paid \$12 an hour for 12 hours of work each week for 12 weeks each semester. After their selection and training, Corps members provide services to community agencies throughout the five boroughs while being compensated by the City University.

Traditionally, CUNY students, faculty, staff, individual colleges, and the Central Office have dedicated critical resources to



CUNY Service Corps Manager Amy Olsen welcomes students at the inaugural event.

support their communities throughout the metropolitan area. The CUNY Service Corps builds on this legacy and on the service-learning, community service, and internship programs currently in place at Lehman College.

This program can be an opportunity for nonprofit groups locally. For information about how to participate, contact [amy.olsen@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:amy.olsen@lehman.cuny.edu).



## Awards to Career Service Center Staff and Top Lehman Interns



*Junior of the Year Madelyn Gil.*



*Center Associate Director Alán Fuentes accepts the award for the College.*



*Award winner Carlos Martinez.*

The Career Services Center at Lehman recruits many of the College's outstanding students for "Inroads" pipeline programs that offer them professional opportunities to put their classroom theoretical concepts into practice as interns. And this year, the Center staff's efforts received major recognition. Lehman was named

the "Educational Institution of the Year" at the 2013 Inroads Annual Reception and Awards Ceremony. The College was cited for its continued commitment to recruit qualified students for Inroads nationwide corporate partners.

Two of Lehman's high-performing graduating seniors were also

acknowledged for their hard work and commitment. Madelyn Gil received the Junior of the Year Award and Carlos Martinez was given the Jhan Carlos de La Cruz Memorial Scholarship.

Associate Director and Employer Relations Manager Alán Fuentes accepted Lehman's award on behalf of the College and Career Services.

## Well Ed Program Sponsors 2nd Annual 'Fall Fun Fit Challenge'

Of the 73 students who participated in the second annual "Fall Fun Fit Challenge," 57 completed the entire obstacle course. Students did aerobic, callisthenic, and strength exercises. They learned about healthy eating and the benefits of physical activity. The Challenge, sponsored by Lehman's Well Ed Program, is designed to give students 10–15 minutes of their daily recommended 30 minutes of physical activity. The event reminds students that exercise can be fun and can be incorporated into their daily schedules.

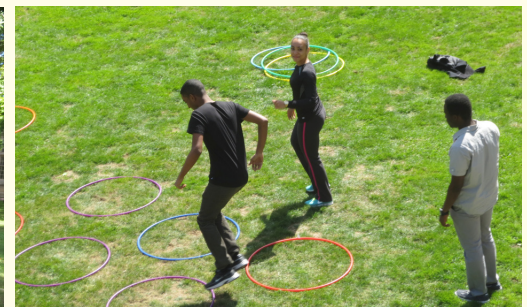


*Lehman students (l-r) Charity Obeney, Nazirber De La Cruz, Bipika Joshi, and Lashay Bentley at the Challenge's education/information table.*

A survey of students who took part in the Challenge produced positive comments about the event, such as: "Great," "It allowed me to be active and have fun at the same time," "It got my heart pumping," and "Looking forward to next time!"



*Students learn to do the plank exercise, one of the core-strengthening exercises,*



*Peer Educator Melissa Carreno instructs students in the hula-hoop challenge.*



# Urban Male Leadership Program Welcome Reception

The Urban Male Leadership Program (UMLP) held a Welcome Reception for the freshmen class of 2017, new incoming transfer students, and the Lehman community. Student Affairs Vice President Jose Magdaleno made opening remarks, Dean John Holloway gave greetings, and UMLP Director Michael A. Deas spoke about the importance of identifying support programs to enhance student success. He described the UMLP's mission and its resources that focus on recruitment, mentorship, retention, and graduation.

The event gave new students, both male and female, an opportunity to sign up for the UMLP's signature "Passport to Success" program and also to get to know some of the UMLP staff and inducted members.

Julette Sanchez, the new Academic Intervention and Success (AIS) Coordinator, explained UMLP requirements for maintaining high academic standards, and she encouraged students to set up and keep consistent AIS appointments to ensure their success. Ron West, the new Mentorship



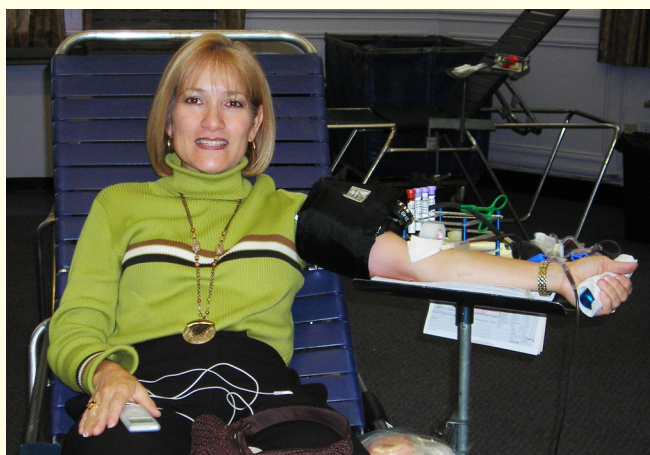
*Members of the UMLP Lehman 100 Class of 2017 (above) with Director Michael A. Deas (front, left) and UMLP staffers Dwight Stephenson (back row, left), Ron West (front, right), and Julette Sanchez (front, center).*

Coordinator, spoke about the power of mentorship, and of becoming a part of the UMLP Circle of Support.

Closing the event, Dwight Stephenson, Outreach and Diversity Recruiter, encouraged students to take advantage of UMLP's extensive resources. Many students signed up for an upcoming AIS workshop.

Director Deas also announced that Professor Neil Hernandez is the guest speaker at the UMLP's Distinguished Speaker Series. The event will be held on Friday, November 15, in the Lovinger Theatre, from 10 am to noon. The theme is "Serving and Leading Our Nation With Pride and Honor."

## Students, Staff Support Blood Drive



*Haydee Acevedo, Administrative Assistant to the President, gives blood during every Lehman blood drive—and she's not the only one. Lehman students and staff regularly donate to help others. Last year the College received the Bronx Borough President's award for the second-highest rate of blood donation among Bronx colleges. The recent Fall blood drive, organized by the Lehman College Student Health Center, produced 96 units, enough to help more than 278 individuals.*

## Lehman Scholar-Athletes Cited

Lehman College posted the highest number of scholar-athletes in the nine-member CUNY Athletic Conference for the 2012-13 academic year. In all, CUNY schools produced 723 student-athletes who carried a GPA of 3.2 or higher, and 364 with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Lehman produced 127 student-athletes at 3.2 or higher, including 68 with a 3.5 or higher.

"We're very proud of the accomplishments of our student-athletes," says Dr. Martin L. Zwiren, Director of Athletics. "As Lehman raises its academic standards, our student-athletes continue to excel, both in the classroom and in competition." At the CUNYAC 27th Annual Michael Steuerman Scholar-Athlete Awards Dinner last spring, four Lehman student-athletes were among the 47 Honorable Mention Scholar-Athletes of the Year. Only seniors are eligible for this prestigious honor, and they include Ravnit Bhatia (women's tennis) Janet Ortiz (softball) and Chris Mammano and Ivan Srdanovic (men's swimming and diving).



# Campus Life Holds 13th Annual Fall Student Leadership Weekend



*Students designed, constructed, and launched rafts in a team-building exercise at the Fall Leadership weekend sponsored by the Office of Campus Life and the Herbert H. Lehman Center for Leadership Development.*

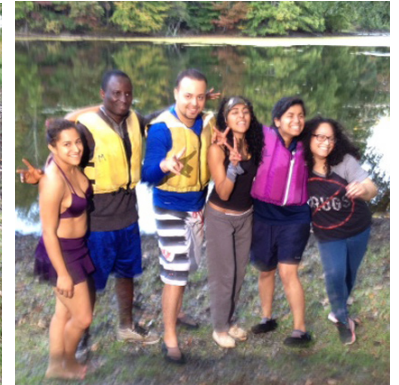
Thirty representatives from student government, the Herbert H. Lehman Center for Student Leadership Development, and various clubs traveled to the Edith Macy Conference Center over the September 27-29 weekend to take part in the 13th annual Fall Leadership weekend sponsored by the Office of Campus Life and the Lehman Center for Student Leadership Development.

Upon arrival at the 300-acre Retreat Center students began an intensive immersion program that involved identifying themselves as leaders, assessing their individual talents, and putting their skills into practice via group exercises.

The students also engaged in a dialogue with Lehman administrators: President Ricardo R. Fernández, Provost Anny Morrobel-Sosa, Vice Presidents Jose Magdaleno, Vincent Clark, and Ronald M. Bergmann, VP and Associate Provost Robert C. Troy, Associate Provost Robert Whittaker, and Labor Designee Mary Rogan.

One of many weekend highlights was the team raft-building challenge. Education through Adventure Facilitator Joseph Ventimigula randomly assigned 10 students to three teams with a simple charge: design, build, and launch a raft. Paddle it to the center of the lake and return.

Students divided responsibilities and built three different shapes from plastic barrels, rope and pieces of wood within a 40-minute time limit. After each team chose a crew of four to six member, the challenge was joined. For the first time in a leadership weekend, all three teams completed all aspects of the challenge.



*All three Lehman student teams successfully completed the raft-building challenge.*



*A traditional and essential component of Lehman's Student Leadership Development Week-ends is the opportunity for student leaders to sit down with President Fernández and other top administrators for a productive, wide-ranging dialogue. The entire group of students, Student Affairs staff, and administrators got together (above) in the Drucker Auditorium at the conference center following their Leadership Dialogue session.*



## Lehman Peer Mentors Have a Mission: Engage Freshmen

Four outstanding Lehman College students spent last summer preparing to become mentors to new incoming freshman students this Fall. They learned key strategies in peer mentoring at the Hispanic Federation, Las Americas Conference Center at 55 Exchange Place in Lower Manhattan. They were among a cohort of students from Lehman, John Jay, City and Kingsborough Colleges.

The peer mentors are members of the Crear Futuros Program, which is funded by a Lumina grant to the City University and the Hispanic Federation in an effort to improve student success, retention and the college graduation rate of Latino students.

This data-driven model for success involves engaging freshman students during their first four semesters at college by helping them connect to social and academic support opportunities. A recent Lehman study



*Crear Futuros mentors (l-r) are Shabel Castro, a senior majoring in Business Administration; Guillermo Escano, a junior in Latin American Studies; Melissa Garcia-Velez, a junior majoring in Social Work, and Stephen Sanchez, a senior and Nursing major.*

showed that students who are more engaged and involved on campus do better academically (see page 6).

More than 40 freshmen attended the first mentoring session at Lehman at which Student Affairs Vice President Jose Magdaleno gave the keynote talk.

"The students we're meeting seem to be very eager to be a part of the program," says Crear Futuros mentor Melissa Garcia-Velez. "We have exciting weekly workshops planned for the semester and a special monthly speaker series that is aimed at building a sense of pride in the Latino community."

Lehman College students and Freshman Year Initiative instructors are welcome to visit

the Student Life Building, Room 219, for more information about the Crear Futuros Program.

Liaisons for the program are Michael Sullivan, Director of the Office of Campus Life, and Suzette Ramsundar, Associate Director.

## Students, Staff Join 'Tunnel to Towers' Run Honoring 9/11 Heroes

On 9/11, Stephen Siller ran in full gear from his Fire House in Brooklyn through the Battery Tunnel to the World Trade Center. He is one of 343 members of the FDNY who lost their lives on that horrific day.

Since then the Stephen Siller "Tunnel to Towers" 5K run/walk has raised money to help build custom-designed "smart homes" for some of the nation's most catastrophically injured service members, among other charitable programs. For this year's run, Barbara Thompson of the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs coordinated a Lehman volunteer effort with the Department of Athletics.

Thompson participated with the wounded warrior contingent. Student-athletes gave water to the runners and walkers. Other Lehman participants included women's soccer Assistant Coach Casey Melilli and Finance Budget Specialist Luis Soltero-Rodriguez. Lehman freshman Whitney Hudson also volunteered for the Tunnel to Towers event.



*More than 30,000 people participated in the 2013 "Tunnel to Towers" run. Lehman student-athlete participants (l-r) Juliana Generoso, Chariny Graciano, Ashley Williams, Melanie Varillas, Samantha Dias, and Jon Hochberg of the Lehman Student Athletes Advisory Committee pose with bagpipers from the Fire Department's Emerald Society.*

## **Campus Life Office and Counseling Center Staff Present Research Findings on Involved and Noninvolved Students**



*Conference presenters (l-r) Dr. Norma Cofresi and Melville Malone of the Counseling Center and Suzette Ramsundar and Michael Sullivan of the Campus Life Office.*

The Center for Student Leadership Development and the Counseling Center collaborated on a study of the attitudes of involved and non-involved students in a co-curricular leadership program. Michael Sullivan, Norma Cofresi, Suzette Ramsundar, and Melville Malone made a Poster presentation of their findings at the NASPA Region II Conference. Malone and Ramsaudar made a major contribution to this new research.

The Poster showed characteristics of a mostly first-generation Latino and African American student population. The study sought to assess personality and behavioral tendencies related to achievement, motivation, mental well-being, and involvement in campus activities, all of which influence academic success and retention.

The findings were based on self-report questionnaires completed by 196 fulltime Lehman students. Briefly stated, the study found that students who were more involved in extracurricular activities and in the leadership program showed higher rates of other positive traits, such as leadership, self-compassion, and greater academic achievement than non-involved students. Students who joined multiple groups and were highly involved showed more self-confidence.

Lehman student leaders were found to have strong community values and the desire to make

connections with other people. Many students come from communities with a strong sense of connectedness. And in the new context of a college, they are seeking a sense of connected identity through citizenship.

Controlling for cultural factors did not alter the Lehman research results. There was still a strong connection between student leadership involvement and community values, as well as a link between self-efficacy and students involved in clubs or teams.

The findings help to further the understanding of a diverse, urban student population, at Lehman and elsewhere. "It becomes an opportunity for us to develop transformative programming that is empirically driven and collaborative—and will facilitate leadership development, academic success, personal development, and community engagement," says Norma I. Cofresi, Ph.D., Director of the Counseling Center.

For example, the Counseling Center and the Student Leadership Development Program will add a component for developing a "leadership identity" and will launch a workshop on this topic. The Center will also address issues of integration from collectivist cultural values to more individualistic based works and study environments.

*For more information about the study, contact Dr. Cofresi.*