

Division of 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 Collective

Veterans/Military Affairs

What's Inside

Busy Year for Office of Veterans & Military Affairs 2

Students join World AIDS Day Commemoration 2

Urban Male Leadership Program Celebrates 3

Freshmen Complete First "Crear Futuros" Semester 3

Expanded Health, Nutrition Initiatives for Students 4

Counseling Center Offers Warm Welcome 4



Project Director to Focus on Sophomore Challenges

Erin E. Varsalone has joined the Divisions of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs as Project Director of a major new Title V Grant, "Increasing Sophomore Success and Beyond." Previously a senior academic advisor at Parsons, The New School for Design, Varsalone specializes in assessment and evaluation with a focus on early identification of students academically at-risk. She has counseled at-risk students at both two-year and four-year public and private institutions.



Erin Varsalone directs new Title V project.

Her experience also includes report writing for NIH-funded studies involving developmentally at-risk youth. She earned a B.A. in Psychology at Rhode Island College, an M.A. in Art Therapy at NYU Steinhardt, and is currently pursuing post-graduate study in Psychology at The New School for Social Research.

Lehman is one of 19 institutions across the country to receive the Title V grant, a \$3.18 million award over five years. Sophomore students (who enter as freshmen and transfer students) often experience great challenges in meeting the requirements to remain in good academic standing at the college.

This grant addresses those challenges through an early warning system, enhanced database monitoring, a focus on students' earning 30 credits per year, and a revision of probationary monitoring. The approach also involves integrating academic support services through a referral and communication system, professional development of faculty for early assessment and use of the warning system, revision of the freshmen course LEH 100, and development and implementation of a transfer student database to identify key challenges and develop strategies to address them at their prior institutions and at Lehman.

Lehman Students and Staff Feeling the Volunteer Spirit

A growing number of students and staff are working as volunteers in community projects locally and in far-flung locations. "It's wonderful to see so many students who want to find ways to give back," says Office of Community Engagement and New Student Programs Director Amanda Dubois. And now, she has some extra hands to assist in involving even more students. Karstina Wong has joined the Office staff as Assistant Director, and Estefania Moreno is the CUNY CAP/Graduate Assistant of Community Engagement. Both are Lehman alumnae. Wong received her Master's degree last May. Moreno earned a Bachelor's degree and began her Master's program in Speech Pathology this Spring.



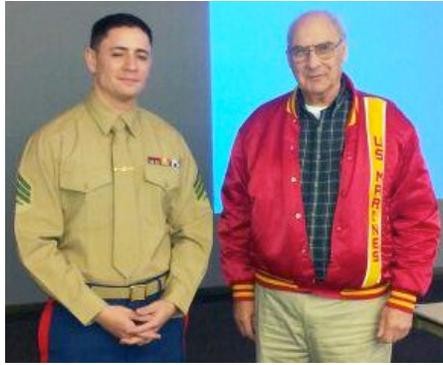
Estefania Moreno helps build a home in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward, and Karstina Wong sorts donations for Nkosi's Haven, a South Africa orphanage for moms and children with HIV/AIDS.

Busy Year for Office of Veterans & Military Affairs

The Office of Veterans and Military Affairs held a Salute to Veterans luncheon on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7. President Ricardo R. Fernández welcomed participants and recognized Lehman students and employees who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces.

The event marked the 237th birthday of the Marine Corps. Lt. Col. Richard Bordonaro of the 6th Communication Battalion at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, explained the Marine Corps tradition of inviting the youngest and oldest Marine to be part of the cake-cutting ceremony. Lt. Col. Bordonaro cut the cake with his Marine Corps officer's sword and presented the first piece to Lu Caldara, the oldest Marine at the luncheon, and Caldara presented the second piece to Sgt. Jorge Negron, the youngest.

The luncheon included special guests who served in World War II and Korea, four female veterans, a Green



Sgt. Jorge Negron and Lu Caldara were the youngest and oldest Marines at the luncheon.

Beret who served in Vietnam, active duty recruiters from the Army and the Air Force, members of the NYPD's Community Affairs Division in the Bronx, and a Battalion Chief from the FDNY in the Bronx.

Student athletes Melanie Varillas, Thamare Rejouis, Samantha Dias, Marcos Coto-Batres and Andres Restrepo of the women's and men's soccer teams provided valuable assistant again this year for the event.

Toys for Tots Campaign

The Office of Veterans and Military Affairs, Public Safety, and the Legion of Veterans student club collected 100 toys for the annual U.S. Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" holiday-season campaign.

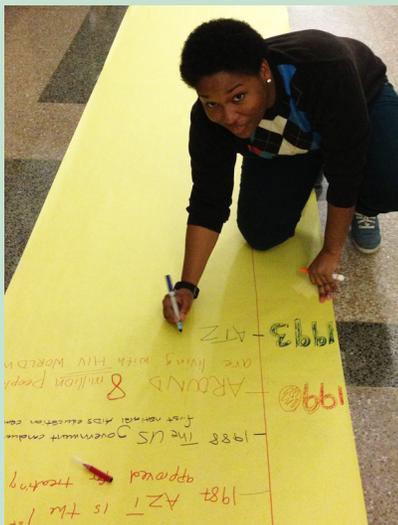
Lehman was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Marine Corps Reserve at Floyd Bennett Field for organizing the toy drive. At the Salute to Veterans luncheon, \$140 was raised to benefit Hurricane Sandy victims and Lehman student veterans.

Hurricane Sandy Relief

In response to Hurricane Sandy, Carol Albino, a student veteran and future veterinarian, organized a "Pets Are Family Too" donation drive as part of the Legion of Veterans student club. Thirty items were collected for the Mount Vernon Shelter and the Pets Alive Shelter in Elmsford.

Lehman Students Join World AIDS Day Commemoration

The "Getting to Zero" World AIDS Day commemoration in December urged young people around the globe to get tested and know their status. Recent HIV/



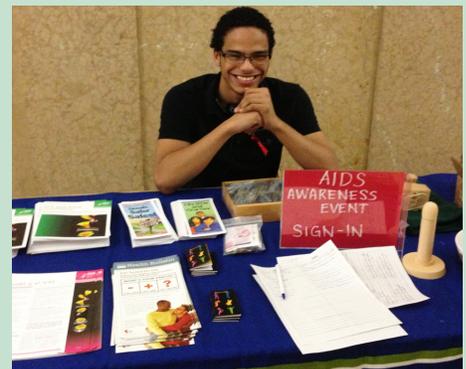
Denise, president of the Rainbow Coalition, works on an AIDS timeline.

AIDS campaigns in the Bronx have also stressed the importance of knowing one's status.

Centers for Disease Control data have found that one in four new HIV infections occur in young people from 13 to 24. Of the 12,000 U.S. youth infected with HIV in 2010, a disproportionate number were

African American (57%) and Hispanic/Latino (20%).

In the spirit of "Getting to Zero" and of these alarming rates of infection, Lehman's Wellness Education and Promotion Program (Well Ed) in collaboration with the Student Health Center held an AIDS Awareness event on December 6. The event gave students opportunities to learn risk-reduction strategies, and the Latino Commission on AIDS was on campus providing free and confidential HIV tests to students. For more information, contact Well Ed Program Director Dugeidy Ortiz at (718) 960-2415.



Well Ed Program Peer Educator Jeremy Guerra provides risk-reduction strategies.

Urban Male Leadership Celebrates 'Fall Finale'

The Urban Male Leadership Program (UMLP) at Lehman hosted a "Red Carpet Fall Finale" holiday event at the Performing Arts Center on December 7 to celebrate the success of its current cohort of participants, who include incoming freshmen, new transfers, and returning active students. The event highlighted the program's fall semester activities and previewed what's upcoming for the spring semester.

Student Affairs Vice President José Magdaleno gave opening remarks followed by a welcome from UMLP Director Michael A. Deas. Program Coordinators Keith A. Lewis and Dwight Stephenson made presentations covering the next steps to academic

success for program participants. UMLP College Assistant Marvin Sanchez was emcee for this first-time event.

Students were able to check out the Spring calendar of UMLP events and get

information that will be helpful to them as they strengthen their personal "Passports to Success."

Among the guests were Lehman administrators, faculty, and staff.

Student Affairs Dean John Holloway and Dr. Leronn Brooks from the Department of African and African American Studies were honored for their leadership and commitment to the 2012 UMLP Freshman Seminar. Participants from the Office of Community Engagement and New Student Programs were recognized for their Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. Dean Holloway gave the closing remarks.



The Fall Finale recapped UMPL activities and previewed opportunities during the spring semester. Participants included: (front row, l-r) Tatiana Gonzales, Natasha Hinojosa, Johely Gonzales, John Holloway, Shekel Daniels, Yennifer Estevez, (second row, l-r) Andres Mendes, Eladio Perez, Aaron Muniz, Philip Ruiz, Anthony Beltran, Brian Allen, (third row, l-r) Robert Adorno, Andre McKay, Rilloux Leonidas, Jeremy Rivera, Ricky Valdez, Marvin Sanchez



The December 7 event included holiday music and a catered lunch. Among the participants (above, l-r) UMLP Director Michael A. Deas with student and staff guests Luis Soltero-Rodriguez, Marvin Sanchez, Keith Lewis, Amanda Dubois, John Holloway, Nathaniel Gasque, Charles Brewster, Elizabeth Lora, and Giona Vazhappilly.



UMLP event participants: (front row, l-r) Alejandro Berrera, Diana Manzueta, honoree Dr. LeRonn Brooks, VP José Magdaleno, Bianca Ruiz, Jasmin Giron, (top row, l-r) Giovanni Yapor, Dashaun Michie, Justin Quinones, Gilbert Tavera, and Minh Pham.

Freshmen Complete First Semester of 'Crear Futuros' Program

Lehman freshmen have just completed their first semester of the *Crear Futuros* ("to create futures") program, a peer-mentor based initiative granted to CUNY and The Hispanic Federation and funded by the Lumina Foundation. The program provides an opportunities for incoming CUNY freshmen to position themselves on a path to success.

Students are paired with trained peer mentors who are upper-classmen. The program offers internships,

professional development activities, tutoring, and a range of support services. Lehman is one of four CUNY colleges in this project. Last semester participants did an Amazing Race-style team-building exercise, attended workshops, and had weekly meetings with their mentors. This semester they'll network with The Hispanic Federation for internship and other resources.

If freshmen are interested in signing up, please e-mail Suzette.ramsundar@lehman.cuny.edu.

Expanded Initiatives Support Students' Health and Nutrition

By Roberta Warren, Peer Health Educator, Student Health Center

Having health insurance is extremely important because of the high cost of medical care. It provides compensation for both urgent and preventive care and reduces the risk of becoming financially overwhelmed as a result of an illness or injury. Current statistics show that a third of New Yorkers are uninsured, and this is also true of Lehman's student population—at the very least.



Priscilla Garcia helps Lehman students apply for health insurance.

Four years ago, the Student Health Center enlisted the help of Mirsa Parra of the Morris Heights Health Center to assist Lehman students in enrolling in Family Health Plus, a free, nonpartisan state program that offers access to coverage for primary care, hospitalization and prescriptions from a selection of ten different HMOs.

To be eligible for Family Health Plus, students must be at least 19 years old, earn less than \$900 each month,

be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and live in one of the five New York boroughs.

Students who meet these criteria are asked to provide documentation (proof of identity, residence and immigration status) to begin the application process. Typically, in a matter of weeks, they receive an insurance card in the mail.

"We encourage Lehman students who need health insurance and who meet the requirements to take advantage of this opportunity," says Cindy Kreisberg, Director of the Student Health Center.

During the 2013 spring semester, health insurance advisors will be available for consultation and Family Health Plus enrollment assistance by telephone. Lehman students should call (718) 295-7160.

Food Stamp Program

A 2011 survey of CUNY students conducted by Dr. Nicholas Freudenberg and his students at the School of Public Health at Hunter College indicated that approximately 30 percent of CUNY students were "food-challenged."

Armed with this information, Cindy Kreisberg contacted BronxWorks, a nonprofit organization that works with individuals and families to

improve their economic and social well-being and help build a stronger community.

Last May, a representative of BronxWorks came on campus for a pilot half-day program to assist students in applying for food stamps. Fifteen students were served. During the fall semester, a BronxWorks representative returned to campus twice a month for half-day periods and, to date, 54 students have received food stamps.



A BronxWorks staffer helped Lehman students apply for food stamps.

Counseling Center Offers Warm Welcome & Professional Service

By Fermina Alcantara

Many students are not sure what to expect when they enter the Counseling Center. But after turning a rather stubborn knob, inside they find a warmly lit, cozy space.

The first faces they see are those of the rotating team of front desk staff: Peer Educators Yaneisi Fernandez, Sandra Rubio and Avena Ramautar, CUNY Cap graduate student Shancia Jarrett, and College Assistants Fermina Alcantara and Stephen Sanchez. The front desk staff greet and welcome the students, who are beginning the sometimes anxiety provoking process of seeking help.



Front desk team members (l-r) Fermina Alcantara and Ingrid Hiraldo.

Ingrid Hiraldo, who oversees front desk management, has trained staffers to be sensitive to the needs of students seeking services. And students often comment on how warmly they were received at the Counseling Center—highlighting the ease of that initial encounter.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to call the front desk at (718) 960-8761 and request to speak to a counselor regarding student referrals. Counselors are trained to diplomatically discuss with students the recommendation that they seek counseling services.

Each call and each visit is handled with sensitivity and care. Students can call the front desk for an appointment or come in during walk-in hours, from noon to 2 pm on weekdays. For immediate services, a counselor is always on call during working hours, from 9 to 5; from Feb. 25 to May 21 from 9 am to 7 pm on Tues. and Weds; and from 10 am to 2 pm on Sats.