It was a spectacular evening this past Tuesday, as Lehman College paid tribute to all of the student-athletes at the 54th annual Athletic Awards Dinner. The dinner was held in the East Dining Room on the lovely Bronx campus of Lehman College. All seventeen varsity teams were represented, with Most Valuable Player, Rookie of the Year, and Most Improved Awards being presented for each team.

Highlighting the evening festivities was the presentation of the Male and Female Athletes of the Year. Men’s swimming sensation Darnell James received the male honor, while track star Amy Ruston was the female recipient.

In just two seasons at Lehman, James has continued to establish himself as one of the most dominant athletes to emerge at Lehman College. His dominance in the swim world led Lehman to their first ever CUNY conference championship. The two-time CUNY Swimmer of the Year has also been recognized as one of the premiere swimmers in the Metropolitan area, and the ECAC regions. With two more years of swimming left for this rising star, the future is bright for the Lehman College swim program.

“This award is something that I will cherish for the rest of my life,” said James. “This award symbolizes the dedication of my teammates and I and it is something I share with them.”

During the Cross Country championships, Ruston led Lehman to their first ever CUNY championship. While competing in the CUNY, she became the all-time record holder. After the CUNY championships she went on to capture individual championships in the Bard, Vassar, and NYU Invitational. In the NCAA national championships, she improved on her time, finishing 41st out of a field of 210 runners. With all of these accomplishments, Ruston was also selected as a D3 Hoops All-region performer, an ECAC All-Star, as well as an NABC All-American.

“To be honored with the President’s Award is an honor that I will cherish throughout my career,” said Francis. “With so many great student-athletes at Lehman, this award is a great way to finish up my collegiate career.”

In other awards, junior men’s basketball player Chris Diplan was named the Male Scholar Athlete of the Year, while junior track/softball star Lianee Torres was named Female Scholar Athlete of the Year. The Pedro Violet Memorial Award was presented to junior softball player Shirley Arrieta, while the Paula Soto Spirit of Athletics award was presented to senior track performer Martinia Heath.

A special presentation was made at the ceremony, as the athletic department acknowledged Public Safety officers Pedro Arroyo, and Angel Irizariz. The duo was presented with the Lehman College Service Award for their life saving rescue efforts at the APEX in October.

“This annual event gives us an opportunity to show our appreciation and respect to the many student-athletes and coaches who represent Lehman College”, said Lehman College athletic director Dr. Martin L. Zwiren.
## BASEBALL

- **Most Valuable Player**: Jhonny Reyes
- **Most Improved Player**: Leo Fortyz
- **Rookie of the Year**: Kareem Benjamin

## SOFTBALL

- **Most Valuable Player**: Lianee Torres
- **Most Improved Player**: Marleny Felipe
- **Co-Rookie of the Year**: Miguelina Reyes
- **Co-Rookie of the Year**: Margie Roman

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

- **Most Valuable Player**: Sekani Francis
- **Most Improved Player**: Jason Marchena
- **Rookie of the Year**: Dwayne Rhoden

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- **Co-Most Valuable Player**: Tiara Carroll
- **Co-Most Valuable Player**: Sally Nnamani
- **Most Improved Player**: Maria Loor

## MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

- **Most Valuable Runner**: Raul Sanchez
- **Most Improved Runner**: Richard James
- **Rookie of the Year**: Patrick Thompson

## WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

- **Most Valuable Runner**: Amy Ruston
- **Most Improved Runner**: Olga Torres
- **Rookie of the Year**: Ana Ortiz

## MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

- **Most Valuable Runner**: Raul Sanchez
- **Most Improved Runner**: Issa Tall
- **Rookie of the Year**: Patrick Thompson

## WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

- **Most Valuable Runner**: Amy Ruston
- **Most Improved Runner**: Alyyah Vizcarrando
- **Rookie of the Year**: Mobria Small

## MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

- **Most Valuable Runner**: Raul Sanchez
- **Most Improved Runner**: Issa Tall
- **Rookie of the Year**: Patrick Thompson

## WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

- **Most Valuable Runner**: Martinia Heath
- **Most Improved Runner**: Stacy Mohammad
- **Rookie of the Year**: Mobria Small

## MEN'S SWIMMING

- **Most Valuable Diver**: Juan Aguirre
- **Most Improved Swimmer**: Steve Guerrero
- **Rookie of the Year**: Bud Rivera

## WOMEN'S SWIMMING

- **Most Valuable Swimmer**: Quy Kim Ho
- **Most Improved Swimmer**: Vanessa Solis
- **Rookie of the Year**: Chia Schonberg

## MEN'S TENNIS

- **Most Valuable Player**: Mark Peart
- **Most Improved Player**: Chris Polanco
- **Rookie of the Year**: Youngda Leung

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

- **Most Valuable Player**: Macaela Tabbing
- **Most Improved Player**: Elzbieta Mul
- **Rookie of the Year**: Kim Ho Quay

## MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

- **Most Valuable Player**: Gustavo Ordu
- **Most Improved Player**: Joel Sanchez
- **Rookie of the Year**: Edward Jimenez

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

- **Most Valuable Player**: Lidabel Moronta
- **Most Improved Player**: Kelloney Thompson
- **Most Improved Player**: Carry Em

## CHEERLEADING

- **Most Valuable Cheerleader**: Nadine Gurley
- **Most Improved Cheerleader**: Vanessa Blackwood
- **Most Dedicated Cheerleader**: Jillian Pizarro

## SPECIALIZED AWARDS

- Pedro Vialet Award: Shirley Arrieta
- Service Award: Sergeant Pedro Arroyo
- Service Award: Officer Angel Irizariz
- Paula Soto Award: Martinia Heath
- Charlie Greenberg Scholarship: Juan Penguero
- Ed Kramer Scholarship: Tiara Carroll
- President's Award: Sekani Francis
- Male Athlete of the Year: Darnell James
- Female Athlete of the Year: Amy Ruston
- Male Scholar Athlete of the Year: Chris Diplan
- Female Scholar Athlete of the Year: Lianee Torres