

Division of Student Affairs

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Lehman Marks UN E-Accessibility Day with Rededication of Access & Technology Center



James Prince demonstrates the Dragon Naturally Speaking software at the Access & Technology Center in the Library.



NYC Commissioner Matthew Sapolin (left) greets Disability Services Director Merrill Parra and VP Jose Magdaleno.

Celebrating E-accessibility that's available through the Office of Student Disability Services: (photo at right, seated) Lehman student Arianny Ramirez and CUNY's Dr. Christopher Rosa with (left to right, standing) students Leah Hershkovits, Ronald Harris, Basil Burke, Jeanine Endres, alumnus and Bronxnet's Special People Special Issues host Lawrence Seiler, Director Parra, Student Affairs Associate Dean John M. Holloway, and Vice President Magdaleno.

—Photos by Phyllis Yip



Lehman College celebrated United Nations' International Day of Disabled Persons on December 6. The theme this year was "E-Accessibility," and the **Office of Student Disability Services**, directed by **Merrill Parra**, used this special day to rededicate its Access and Technology Center, in Room 215 at Leonard Lief Library. (See also *What's in a Name* on page 3.)

Lehman students **Basil Burke, Ronald Harris, Lucas Tossas, James Prince, and Francisco Valverde** demonstrated the computer software they use at the Center to read books, write papers, and access the Internet.

"We have overcome many barriers to physical access," said Parra. "But the computer technology once thought of as a great equalizer brings with it a new set of challenges for people with disabilities.

The UN reminds us today that access to information and communication technologies create opportunities to everyone in society—but perhaps no more so than for persons with disabilities."

Other speakers were Vice President for Student Affairs **Jose Magdaleno**, University Director of Disability Services **Dr. Christopher Rosa**, and New York City Commissioner **Matthew Sapolin** from the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities. **Thomas Schindlmayr**, Policy Specialist from the United Nations, sent congratulations and noted that the Lehman event was the only E-Accessibility observance in the New York City area.

Special thanks went to **Joseph Middleton**, ITR Director, and **Madeline Soto**, Library Administrative Assistant. For more information, contact disability.services@lehman.cuny.edu.

Lehman's Swim Teams Show Exciting Potential



TONY CORREA

Darnell James at work. He was CUNY "Swimmer of the Year" for two years in a row.

The last couple of seasons have meant a great deal to long-time swimming coach **Peter Kiernan**. The men's team won the CUNY Championship last season—and may be even better this year. And the women's team is, in a word, *inspiring*.

"What a dynamic group of women," Kiernan said. "At least 12 are freshmen, so they're developing their competitive skills now. But they have such a tremendous desire to learn, and that's all you ask for as a coach—the desire to learn."

Recently, men's team star **Darnell James**, a junior in Speech Pathology, came in fourth in the butterfly event at the regional East Coast Athletic Conference championships. For a rundown of all the sports action, visit The APEX/Athletics at www.lehman.edu.

New Program for Latinos Tries to Level the Playing Field in Corporate World

A group of 25 upper-level Lehman students in Business, Accounting, and Economics completed the National Puerto Rican Coalition's inaugural "College to Career" leadership development and mentoring program. The program helps high-achieving Hispanic students to better understand corporate culture and succeed at careers in the business world. The **Office of Career Services** will provide liaison services to the students in the program until they graduate.

"This is a wonderful collaboration of an important national organization, Academic Affairs, and the Student Affairs Division in support of our students' career development," said **Jose Magdaleno**, Vice President for Student Affairs.

"Businesses increasingly are looking for talented Latinos," said President **Ricardo R. Fernández**, "We're pleased to partner with the Coalition in this initiative."

The program offers six seminars that cover (a) an overview of the Hispanic consumer market, (b) the corporate hiring and interview process, (c) a coaching session on the corporate workplace, (d) a day at the PepsiCo headquarters and (e) follow-up internship and placement services to enhance the students' marketability.

Busy Semester at Student Health Center

Getting Personal—for Women Only The Center's women's health provider, **Rosemary Weingarten**, F.N.P., has conducted several workshops at which women students are encouraged to express their health needs and issues in a supportive environment. The first, on Halloween, was entitled "The Myth Behind the Haunting Virus...HPV." Based on students' requests, the second workshop focused on birth control options. A third workshop, scheduled in December, will discuss sexually transmitted infections. A male health forum is planned for the spring.

Influenza Workshop The Association for Hispanic Student Nurses hosted a workshop on influenza and the flu shot. Health Center Director **Cindy Kreisberg** emphasized the need for health care providers to be vaccinated against influenza to avoid carrying the virus to sick and elderly patients in their clinical settings. She discussed the facts and myths about flu shots as well as treatment options. A raffle of nursing reference books was held at the end of the workshop.

Students on the Patch The **Student Health Center** invited the New York City Department of Health (DOH) to dispense free six-week nicotine patch kits to help people on the Lehman campus who want to quit smoking. Within the first hour, more than 30 kits flew into the hands of students and staff members.

A second batch of 30 kits went equally as quickly once they arrived. DOH representatives also helped potential quitters complete a tracking form and instructed them on how to use the patches. Several follow-up contacts will be conducted by the DOH for questions, support, and tracking.

Lehman student receives her nicotine patch kit.



AINSWORTH BROWN

To Blog or Not to Blog: Emerging Issues in Cyberspace

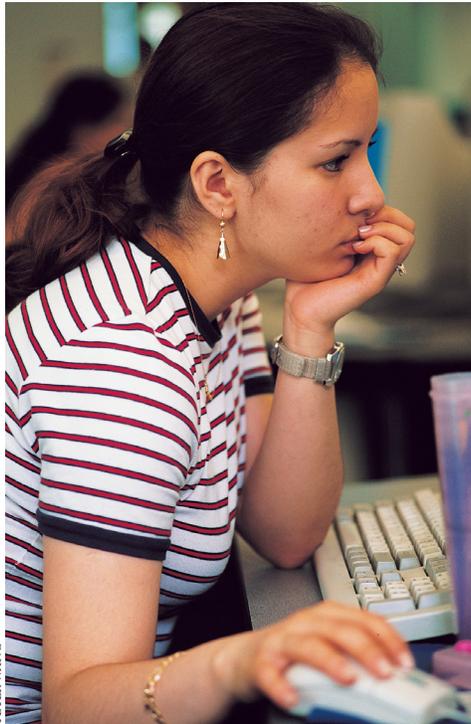
Campus Life Director Michael E. Sullivan and Assistant Director Rhena Montero got an earful at Montclair State University last semester during a day-long briefing on “Emerging Issues on Cyberspace.”

Since then, Sullivan and Montero have been sharing information and materials from that meeting with students and staff. Here is some of what they learned.

■ *The Internet is a bit like the Wild West.* It’s a wide-open space—an essentially free market offering everything from digital libraries to dating services to streaming videos via webcams to pornography. It’s important to maintain some balance in how we use it.

■ *As human beings, we are predisposed to socially connect and to communicate.* These days millions of young people are creating interactive logs (“blogs”) on web sites such as MySpace, FaceBook, and Xanga. Publishing a blog can strengthen communication skills, be an esteem booster and a great way to be creative. But it has its risks and can be enormously time consuming. As UConn Professor of Clinical Psychiatry David Greenfield pointed out, “There’s no agreed upon definition for compulsive Internet use or abuse. It’s too new a medium.”

■ *There’s no definitive case law on student safety related to Internet use in a college setting.* Generally speaking, students have a right to “due process” at public institutions,



PETER WANG

and college students are viewed as adults. At the time of the meeting, the Supreme Court had not ruled on the issue of free speech with respect to the use of blogs.

■ *Bloggers, especially women, may be vulnerable to stalking, unwanted messages, or visits to their residences.* It’s best to use gender-neutral screen names and to never reveal personal information such as a phone number or home address on a blog site. And be careful with passwords. No sharing!

■ *Bloggers need to recognize and observe*

some basic principles. Here are two of the most important:

—*Be respectful* of your own values and limits and of the limits and values of others. Many bloggers have learned the hard way that what goes around comes around and can cause trouble. The Golden Rule applies in Cyberworld too.

—*Be knowledgeable.* Just because you deleted something doesn’t mean it’s gone. Words can last forever and photographs can be manipulated through software programs such as PhotoShop. *Don’t be a cyber bully!* That includes e-mailing or posting embarrassing pictures of other people.

■ *Some institutions monitor student websites* and have taken disciplinary actions against students who posted illegal conduct on their pages. About 25% of employers currently check past net postings for job applicants.

Counseling Center Website Offers New Features for Freshmen

The Counseling Center is continuing to improve its website with an emphasis on helping first-year students get off to a good start. “We’re working very closely with FYI,” said Dr. Annecy Báez, Director of the Center. “We encourage all freshmen to go to our website and click on FYI. Students can test their study skills and learn a lot on their own about how to improve them.”

FYI Coordinator Lucinda Bratini and Assistant Coordinator Heather Coleman do study skills counseling on an individual basis as well as learning skills workshops and classroom presentations.

Faculty members are important in this process. “Some have asked us to administer the LASSI (Learning and Study Strategies Inventory) to their classes, and we are able to arrange that,” said Dr. Báez.

Many students, after taking the LASSI, go online to build their skills in specific areas. Resources related to LASSI study strategies are available with the click of a mouse. “The students really like this added feature,” Dr. Báez said. For more information, visit www.lehman.cuny.edu/vpstud/counseling/.

What’s in a Name? Introducing the Office of Student Disability Services

The Office of Special Student Services is pleased to announce its new name: the **Office of Student Disability Services**. The impetus for the change was a general sense that the former name was outdated and often misunderstood by the public—not to mention that it undermined a basic belief that all students are “special.”

It is hoped that the new name will more accurately reflect the mission of the Office and the population it serves.

The search for a new name involved a thoughtful process undertaken by Office staff and members of its Student Advisory Board. During their discussions, students

discovered that they had some philosophical differences. Several argued for a trendy name that connoted feelings of pride. But everyone recognized the need to come up with a name that would be easily recognizable to people at Lehman and outside communities.

At a meeting last June, the group was able to unanimously recommend that the name of the office be changed to Student Disability Services. Administrative approval for the change came quickly thereafter.

The new name makes the work of the Office instantly recognizable. This name is also being used by many other colleges within CUNY and throughout the country.

Holiday Coat Drive in Student Affairs through December 30

Once again, Lehman's **Division of Student Affairs** is collecting winter coats for needy New Yorkers through the project known as New York Cares.

Throughout the month of December, thousands of gently used winter coats are collected and distributed to men, women, and children through the City's homeless and women's shelters, churches, community organizations, and agencies that serve low-income senior citizens.

If you have a coat or coats that you are no longer wearing (as so many of us do), please consider giving it to someone who needs it. The New Yorkers served by this project will appreciate your participation.

Coats will be collected through Friday, December 29, in the **Office of Financial Aid**, Shuster Hall, Room 136. Coordinator of the coat drive is **Robin Gardner-Jones**. If you have any questions regarding this appeal, contact Gardner-Jones at extension 2588 or visit www.nycares.org.

Financial Aid Likes Its Now-Serving Counters

An automated "Now Serving" counter system is making life easier for students and staff in the **Office of Financial Aid**. The counters are like those commonly used at busy customer-service locations ranging from one's friendly local bakery to the DMV.

Students check in and print out their number. They can see immediately how many people are ahead of them in the queue and judge how long they will need to wait.

"This is much more efficient than our old sign-in system," said Financial Aid Director

David Martinez.

"We would call out names, and some names were hard to read. People complained about others cutting ahead of them in lines. So it's a big improvement."



PHYLLIS YIP

Campus Life Update

Lehman's Art Club Planning Spring Visit to "Bodies Exhibit" at South Street Seaport

A group of 25 Lehman students are looking forward to a Spring semester visit to the South Street Seaport where they will view the much-discussed "Bodies Exhibit." The trip was organized by the **Art Club** and the cost of tickets was underwritten by the Club Board. The tickets went quickly on a first-come, first-serve basis. "We expect to be amazed and maybe a little shocked," said one student. To get a glimpse of what the students will see, visit www.bodiestheexhibition.com.

CASA Celebrates Thanksgiving with All the Trimmings

Sharing is a year-end tradition that Lehman students take very seriously. The student government organization CASA kicked off the holiday season by inviting the College community to its annual pre-Thanksgiving Day dinner.

More than 400 students and staff members attended the event on Tuesday, November 21, in the Faculty Dining Room. The doors opened at 2 pm for day students and at 6 pm for evening students. CASA officers and student club volunteers assisted Campus Life staff members on the serving lines as they dispensed good cheer and good food.

One of the favorites on the menu this year was Kosher turkey as prepared by Lehman parent and Kingsbridge resident **Stu Loeser**. In addition to the foods traditionally associated with Thanksgiving, the Lehman dinners included crowd-pleasing Asian, Spanish and African dishes. One CASA member, who observed a few of the same people enjoying both mid-day and evening dinners, considered this a sincere compliment to all those who prepared and served the meals.



SHANIQUEWA LINO

Dodge Ball Rules at GLBT Club Tournament

Seventy students representing 10 teams took over The APEX Auxiliary Gym on November 28 for a spirited dodge ball "Battle of the Clubs" hosted by the **Rainbow Alliance**, Lehman's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Club. In a round-robin tournament, the Meridian "Geeks" were narrowly defeated by the Athletic Club during regulation play. In an informal game immediately following the tournament, the Meridian scored a victory, setting the stage for yet another rematch.

Workshop on Dating Abuse and Domestic Violence

Urging students to "come out and be heard," Lehman's **Club Rave** and the New York City advocacy group "Day One" presented a two-hour interactive workshop for about 23 students the Student Life Building. The workshop addressed the signs, causes, and effects of dating abuse and domestic violence. The students who attended were encouraged to express their own feelings, share experiences, stay informed, and give each other support.

"Day One" partners with New York City youth to end dating abuse and domestic violence through community education, legal advocacy, supportive services, and leadership development. The group educates, organizes and advocates. All of its services are free and available in Spanish and English. For more information, visit www.dayoneny.org.