

Division of Student Affairs

- The APEX/Athletics
- Career Services Center
- Child Care Center
- Community Service, Service Learning, and New Student Orientation Programs
- Counseling Center
- Financial Aid Office
- International Student Services
- Office of Campus Life
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
- Student Disability Services
- Student Health Center
- Urban Male Leadership Collective

What's Inside

- Housing Forum 2
- Save-A-Life Tour 2
- Counseling Launches ADAPT program 3
- Lehman Preschoolers Make Friends in Africa 3
- Award Winners 3
- Creating the Quilt 4
- Outdoor Fairs 4
- News Briefs 4



“There is just so much to say...”



PHOTO: WILLIAM SEDUTTO

...and Lehman students and staff did their best to say what was on their hearts in response to the tragic loss of lives at Virginia Tech University. They created a memorial quilt with 100 messages of love and support. With the finished quilt, above, are (l-r) Pilar Guichardo, Lara Tosin, Julissa Cruz, Traci Palmieri, and Amanda Dubois. After a May 7 display at Lehman, the quilt will be sent to the Blacksburg campus. See page 4 for the story of the making of the Virginia Tech memorial quilt.

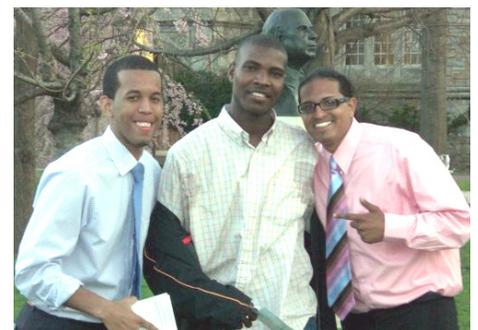
Record Turnout in Spring Election for CASA & Student Conference Officers

The Lehman Students United Party won a major victory in the annual Spring election of officers for CASA and the Student Conference. A record number of 1022 students voted. **Elias Alcantara** will be President of CASA for the 2007–2008 academic year and **Ravi Rampersaud** the Vice President.

Other new CASA officers include: **Jose Tavarez**, *Campus Facilities*; **Colleen Murphy**, *Community Activities Programmer*; **Tracy Owusu**, *Entertainment Programmer*; **Alan Gonzalez**, *Financial Planner*; **Mohammed Ayub**, *Research Planner*; **Mikaela Chase**, *Evening Students Activity Coordinator*; and **Randy Polanco**, *Student Services Programmer*.

The following were elected to the Student Conference and will be seated in the Lehman Senate: David Afrani, Gbenga Ajasin, Vered Albelda, Christopher J. Amaechi, Melisa Bailey, Catherine N. Barnes, Jason Biggs, Kadian Brown, Nusrat Chowdhury, Daniel Clark, Halit Daci, Zoe E. DeRoo, Sonica Dixon, Alfred Dominguez, Jenniffer Efthymious, Patrick Enweronye Okiro, Sylvia Ezech, Miguel Gonzalez, Tiffany Hsueh, Joseph Khalili, Ksenia Kulagina, Jody Elaine Lacson, Milagros Lopez, David Lowenstein, Araceli Morales-Diaz, Dermott Myrie, Victor E. Negron, Margarita Palaj, Kendra Pierre, Rovna Lyn Joseph, Jamila Rose, Shaunte Swinton, Lyda Williams, and Valerie Verdejo.

Congratulations to the successful candidates!



On the campaign trail: Elias Alcantara (left) and Ravi Rampersaud (right), CASA's new President and Vice President.

Forum Looks at Critical Issue of New York Housing

A panel of experts appeared at a Lehman forum organized by the Office of Disability Services to address the extreme shortage of affordable housing in New York City that confronts low-income residents including many college students. A large group of more than 100 participants attended.

The topics discussed included eviction practices and discrimination, programs for accessible and affordable housing, Section 8 vouchers, temporary housing, homelessness, building codes, and legal issues.

“Housing issues have an impact on students’ attendance and sometimes their participation in higher education altogether,” said **Merrill D. Parra**, Director of the Office of Student Disability Services. “We designed the forum to stimulate discussion and provide a toolbox of resources for anyone who is seeking temporary housing, having difficulty paying rent, or facing eviction or housing discrimination.”

The program began with an announcement of the Lehman/LCU program coordinated by the Division of Student Affairs to help eligible female students experiencing a



Audrey Tannen discusses eviction intervention services with housing panelists (l-r) Ted Finkelstein, Robert Ortiz, Greg Bell, and Paula Wolff

housing crisis. Opening the forum was Ted Finkelstein, Director of Project Access of the New York City Commission on Human Rights. He set the tone when he touched on people’s fundamental right to shelter.

Attorney Thomas Small outlined the rights of persons with disabilities to reasonable accommodations in their own homes. Audrey Tannen, from Eviction Intervention Services, urged anyone facing eviction to seek free legal assistance from her agency.

Paul Feuerstein and Greg Bell spoke about their respective organizations, Barrier

Free Living and Insight for New Housing, which help people to live independently. Paula Wolff and Robert Ortiz, housing specialists from the Centers for Independent Living, described programs that alleviate the cost of rent for low-income individuals and families. **Jill Gerson** of the Lehman faculty, author of the book *Hope Springs Maternal*, spoke about one homeless women’s quest to obtain education for her children.

A robust Question & Answer session followed the panel presentations, and some participants received on-the-spot help.

Health Center Sponsors Alcohol Awareness Program



The Lehman campus was a stop on the nationwide Save-A-Life Tour.



Students were challenged by the drunken-driving simulator.

Lehman students experienced the harsh impact of driving under the influence of alcohol when the national Save-A-Life Tour arrived on campus earlier this spring. The high-impact informational and awareness program was sponsored by the Student Health Center.

More than 70 students used a mechanical simulator to experience how one’s driving becomes impaired after as little as one drink. The Ford Taurus seat, wheel and dashboard had five virtual monitors that simulated changes in roadways, wheel sensations, and the weather. Bystanders could view large

projection screens showing the driver’s view and a helicopter view. To add poignance, a casket “reserved for the next drinking and driving victim” was paraded through the student cafeteria. Participants in the program received “I’ll take the keys!” bracelets to promote and identify designated drivers.

PHOTOS: ANNSWORTH BROWN

Counseling Center Receives Funding for Its ADAPT Program

When a tragedy occurs such as that at Virginia Tech, the media turns its laser focus on issues of mental health.

In the Counseling Center at Lehman, the mental health focus has never been off.

“What happened on the Blacksburg campus was off the charts—but we are very much aware that, nationwide, a growing number of college students experience depression, anxiety, and thoughts of suicide or other forms of violence,” said Dr. **Annecy Baez**, director of the Counseling Center. “We know also that the connection between counseling and student retention is well documented.”

For example, studies of U.S. university students have found that:

- More than 70 percent of those seeking counseling services reported that their personal problems were affecting their academic progress.
- Nearly 20 percent reported that they were considering withdrawing from school because of personal problems.
- More than 60 percent reported that counseling was helpful in maintaining or improving their academics.
- Nearly half reported that counseling helped them decide to stay in school.

The success of any counseling program requires outreach—students need to know where and how to get help. And a new grant-funded program known as ADAPT (Anxiety and Depression Awareness, Prevention and Treatment) will help Lehman beef up its outreach efforts. The funding will bring on board counselor **Heather Coleman**, who will work with Dr. Baez on educational workshops and class presentations. She will also create stress-management programs for depression and anxiety and will provide counseling and referral to students.

The ADAPT program was created at Suffolk University, and Suffolk counselors will assist Lehman staff in their efforts to engage students, increase awareness, and promote the prevention and early detection of depression and anxiety. *Call 960-8761 to participate in focus groups related to ADAPT.*

Lehman Preschoolers Make Friends in Kenya Through “Imagine Kids for Kids” Program

Can we teach young children to be caring and compassionate? “Yes,” say the early childhood educators at Lehman’s Child Care Center.

Children absorb these principles in many ways. At the Center, for example, they learn to share, wait for their turn, and help others. And through their involvement in the “Imagine Kids for Kids” program, the Lehman tots go a step further as well.

Last year the Child Care Center sponsored a “Build-a-Thon” to help kids whose lives were upended by Hurricane Katrina. This year the Center has organized a “Read-a-Thon” (through May) to benefit school children in Kibera, Kenya. Their theme is “Our hearts are filled with love for our friends in Africa!”



Kenyan children say thank you to their new friends in the United States for the school supplies they have received.

The Lehman children have sent gifts and exchanged letters and pictures with the children in Kenya. Now they’re asking their families and the college community to sponsor them as they do one of the things they love the most: read books! All of the proceeds will help purchase books and sup-

plies for the school children in Kibera.

The Child Care Center is also looking for “secret readers” who will volunteer some time to read to the kids at

the Center. To donate or volunteer to be a “secret reader,” please contact **Jaci Maurer** or **Caroline Moran** at (718) 960-8746.

Shannel Richardson and Anne Shreffler Receive CUNY Awards for Leadership

Graduating seniors **Shannel Richardson** and **Anne Shreffler** received annual CUNY Student Leadership Awards on May 2 at the Graduate Center auditorium. CUNY Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gary

Moore presented each of them with a citation, plaque, and check.

Richardson was cited for her dynamic leadership of the Sociology Club, of which she was President. Club members hosted guest speakers at brown bag luncheons, refurbished their lounge and stocked it with reference books, and donated 1000 books and a book cart to the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore. “Shannel is a quiet facilitator of change,” said **Michael Sullivan**, Director of Campus Life, who read the citations. “She substitutes action for speeches and accomplishments rather than proposals.”

Shreffler was cited for her work as Editor in Chief of *Meridian*, the campus newspaper, which went online and greatly expanded its writing staff and range of coverage under her leadership. *Meridian* is staffed by students who must balance their college work with home and job responsibilities. Shreffler managed her balancing act with distinction; she will graduate in June *summa cum laude* with English Department Honors.

Met All-Star Sally Nnamani

Lehman sophomore Sally Nnamani was named to the “All Met First Team” by the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association. She received her award in a ceremony at the Giants Stadium Club in East Rutherford, NJ. Sally led her team, Lehman Lightning, to its first-ever CUNY championship. She averaged 20.2 points a game for the season and was named CUNY Conference Player of the Year, among other honors.



Creating the Memorial Quilt



Lehman students and staff come together to work on the Virginia Tech memorial quilt.

When the shocking news from Virginia Tech began to sink in, a groundswell of concern developed among Lehman students. They wanted to do something to bring comfort and solidarity to their fellow students and staff. As it happened, **Amanda Dubois** had just begun her first day on the job as Coordinator for Community Service—and a Lehman response to the Blacksburg tragedy was her first assignment.

In collaboration with Associate Dean **John Holloway** and the staff in Career Services, a plan was put into place to create the Virginia Tech memorial quilt. Vice President **Jose Magdaleno** e-mailed the campus community asking students and staff to express their thoughts and messages on patchwork squares that would be sewn onto the face of the quilt. In a short time, more than 100 patchwork squares were produced. The completed quilt will be sent to the Blacksburg campus after its May 7 display at Lehman.

“There is just so much to say,” said student **Lara Tosin**. “This quilt symbolizes something you can rest on. We send our love.” Student **Traci Palmieri** put it this way. “Even though it happened there, it affected all of us.”

It’s the Season for Outdoor Fairs

At the Office of Campus Life’s recent Community Fair, students (at right) described their work with the Peer Health Exchange. The Exchange trains college students in 12 different areas. The students then visit public high schools to share this information. Among the issues they discuss are the choices people can make with regard to sexual behavior, drugs, and alcohol.



PHOTO: ILYDIA QUIRROS



The annual Spring Wellness Fair is sponsored by the Student Health Center. This year’s event featured 40 exhibitors, five mobile health vans, and a blood drive. In the photo (left), an officer from the NYPD gives a student some information about crime-prevention.

NEWS BRIEFS

New in Student Affairs **Raymond G. Flook** has joined the Division of Student Affairs as Associate Director of Campus Life and coordinator of the Herbert H. Lehman Institute for Student Leadership Development. Formerly director of the Center for Student Leadership and Activities at Adelphi University, he’s a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University who is currently enrolled in the Student Personnel Program at NYU.

Think Fast! Lehman students came in 8th out of 35 local colleges in the recent “Think Fast” competition at Fordham University. In the photo are team members **Elías Alcantara** and **Jose Tavarez**.



Lehman Students Are “Model” Senators The New York State Assembly and Senate Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force invited CUNY to organize and conduct a model session of the New York State Senate at the annual “Somos El Futuro” Conference in Albany on April 28. Lehman students **Alfred Dominguez**, **Chia Schonberg** and **Gretel Munoz** represented the College at the Senate session. They trained at the CUNY Graduate Center for three evenings and one full Saturday in preparation for their roles. Schonberg was selected to be Speaker and moved the legislative agenda to passage by near unanimous consent.

CASA’s “Karaoke Night” a Big Hit Is it the microphone? The music? The fantasy of American Idol stardom? Whatever it is, students love their karaoke nights sponsored by CASA in the Student Life Building. In the photo is **Ray Pimentel** of the Dominican Students Association.



What’s New in Financial Aid? Three TV panels were installed recently in Financial Aid—one in the office waiting area and two in the corridor outside the office suite. The current programming (CNN and other news networks) is from the IT Center. But in the future, financial aid information will be presented via Power Point and other formats on an as-needed basis.

—Photos by Ode Hoppie