

Division of Student Affairs

The APEX/Athletics
Career Services Center
Child Care Center
Counseling Center
Financial Aid Office
International Student Services
Office of Campus Life
Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
Special Student Services
Student Health Center

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It's All About Teamwork at Leadership Weekend



Photos: Robera Herrera



Thirty Lehman students took part in skills-building workshops and activities designed to encourage teamwork at the Fall Leadership Weekend at the Macy Conference Center.

Lehman Is in National Study to Understand and Enrich the Undergraduate Experience

Representatives from Student Affairs and Academic Affairs attended a five-day workshop in Snow Bird, Utah, hosted by the Alliance for Equity in Higher Education and the Institute for Higher Education Policy. The purpose was to study data from the National Survey for Student Engagement (NSSE). One of 45 colleges and universities at the workshop, Lehman was also involved with a related NSSE project called Building Engagement and Attainment of Minority Students (BEAMS). NSSE data have also been used to inform the College's current Strategic Plan initiative.

The National Survey was designed to measure undergraduate educational experiences and provide information concerning students' level of engagement and overall quality of life. Some 529

institutions participated in the survey, for which the findings were grouped in five main areas of educational practice: level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interactions, enriching educational experiences, and supportive campus environment.

Lehman administered the NSSE instrument to randomly selected first-year and senior students during Spring 2004. More than 162,000 students nationwide were included in the sample. Utah workshop participants from Lehman included Counseling Center Director Anney Baez, Career Services Director Nancy Cintron, Student Affairs Associate Dean John Holloway, Provost and Senior Vice President Anthony J. Garro, Institutional Research Director Susan Tulmulty, and Associate Professor of Psychology Vincent Prohaska.

Financial Aid Advisers Offer ‘Life Lessons’ in Money Management

Lehman graduates are repaying college loans as they promised they would. Their default rate dropped from 6% in 1998 to only 1.9% in 2003, the most recent year for which data is available. The key to this success story is Financial Aid counseling which includes extensive in-person and online entrance and exit interviews.

“We make it clear that loans are *not* like other forms of financial aid. They are statutory obligations for which students are personally responsible—and if they do not make payments on time, they might experience the full force of a federal government collection effort,” said William Hill, Associate Director of Financial Aid.

“We let them know that defaulting on a student loan will have immediate conse-

quences in terms of not getting a transcript or being rejected for admission to medical, law and other professional schools as well as loss of eligibility for other forms of financial aid,” Hill added. “There will be long-term consequences as well, in terms of credit checks and employment, especially with government employers.”

Some Lehman students just out of high school have not had much experience managing money. They may not fully understand the ramifications of their financial decisions—and there’s no denying that we live in a popular culture that encourages spending and makes credit card purchases too easy.

“We explain to students that the purpose of financial aid is not to raise one’s stan-

dard of living but to help you pay for your college education,” Hill said. “We try to help students understand that a loan is not a right but a privilege—with strings attached.”

A typical scenario is for a student to seek a \$5,000 Federal Direct Student Loan for which she or he is eligible. “We encourage the student to go for a smaller amount that will be easier to live with—and pay back—in the future.”

David Martinez, Director of Financial Aid, said he met a Lehman alumnus recently who told him, “I was so angry when your Financial Aid counselor tried to talk me into taking a smaller loan. Now I wish I had listened to her.”

Martinez comments: “We hear that all of the time.”

Volleyball Athletes Visit Buenos Aires on Goodwill Tour

Lehman College senior Isabel Lorenzo and junior Yaniza De Los Santos spent 11 days in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on a CUNY women’s volleyball Goodwill Tour in July-August. As members of a team of 15 student-athletes from CUNY colleges, they played in matches, taught at clinics for underprivileged kids, and took part in cultural tours. Among their activities, they visited historic sites, rode horses, and attended a soccer match at legendary River Plate Stadium.

“The tour was one of the greatest experiences in my life,” said Lorenzo. “It was a thrill to compete on an international level.” Each of the participants kept a daily journal of her experiences.

The CUNY women finished the tour with a 2-2-1 record. In the team’s first victory, Lehman’s De Los Santos scored seven service aces.

This was the third Goodwill Tour sponsored by the CUNY Athletic Conference. The first sent a men’s basketball team to the Dominican Republic. The second tour sent a women’s basketball team to Quito, Ecuador. Plans are currently being made for a CUNY men’s soccer team to travel to South Africa next summer.

OWLs Welcome New Students at Orientation



OWL program participants at Orientation (l-r) include Vanessa Gonzalez, Johnathan Millan, David Anton, Justina A. Velasquez, Tica Frazer, Dean John Holloway, Nhan Tran, Royshon Osborne, Colette Sydney, Satyra Gonzalez, Ruvimbo Nyakurimwa, Sayyid Cato, Denia York, Malaine Clarke, and Cindy Montalvo. OWLs who also assisted include Syka Mancliere, Ainsworth Brown, Christina Chicaiza, Kinzang Tobgay, and Jerilyn M. Day-Johnson.

More than 500 new transfer and first-year students along with 250 of their family members and friends attended fall semester orientation on August 20—the largest orientation at Lehman in recent history. The Division of Student Affairs partnered with other campus programs and academic departments in designing an engaging, full-day orientation to help new students make a smooth transition to college life. Among those playing a major role were upper-division students in the Orientation Workshop Leader (OWL) program that was launched on campus last spring under the supervision of Associate Dean John Holloway. “The peer-to-peer approach is an effective way for new students to learn about the collegiate experience,” said Holloway. “Our student OWLs serve as ambassadors for the college. Their involvement played a key role in the impressive new-student turnout for the orientation.” As part of their training, students in the OWL program made phone calls to all of the newly admitted students—welcoming them to Lehman and personally inviting them to the orientation.

Lehman Students Recruited for Federal Banking Positions

The Office of Career Services reports that the Comptroller of the Currency, a division of the Department of the United States Treasury, continues to recruit Lehman College accounting students for positions as Assistant Bank Examiners, a progressive training program designed to produce Senior Bank Examiners.

In recent years, representatives of the Comptroller's office have visited the campus to interview potential candidates. Career Services Counselor John Augliera was instrumental in screening Lehman candidates for interviews and, thus far, three have been hired.

Alumnae Erika Fermin and Ronette Coleman, who successfully completed their training and are currently Associate Bank Examiners at the Comptroller's New York Field Office, returned to Lehman this fall as part of the recruitment effort.

"Our graduates have represented the College very well," said Nancy Cintron, Director of Career Services. "This year the Currency Comptroller's representatives spoke directly to seniors in two classes: Advanced Accounting Problems 444 taught by Professor Linda Tauber and Auditing 441 taught by Professor Tony Murrell."

'Scholar-Athlete' Kudos to Amy Ruston

September was an "awesome month for me," said Amy Ruston, a junior on Lehman's cross-country team. She won three big races: the Vassar Invitational 5K for the second year in a row in a course record of 17:41—nearly two minutes faster than the second-place finisher. She won the New York University Invitational 5K in 18:19 and the Bard Invitational 6K with a course-record time of 22:47.43.

For her efforts on the track and her 3.35 GPA, Ruston received the "Hospital for Special Surgery CUNYAC Student-Athlete of the Month" award for September. She was also "CUNYAC Runner of the Week" following each of her three victories.

In her debut as a Lehman runner last season, Ruston set a record for the 5K race at the CUNYAC Championships in Van Cortlandt Park and she won the Division III Atlantic Region 6K race at St. Lawrence University. Her goal this season is to win the Regionals again and to finish in the top 10 at the NCAA Championships.

"My passion is running and I know that I can't compete if I don't do well in the classroom," she said. "So there is a direct correlation between my success in athletics and in academics."



Ruston, who comes from Nashua, New Hampshire, sees herself in a career as a personal nutritionist working with athletes.

Student Involvement in CUNY & College Senate Grows

Lehman CASA officer Carlos Sierra was elected Chair of the University Student Senate in October. This makes him an *ex officio* member of the University Trustees.

At the college level, student interest and involvement in the Lehman Senate continues to grow. The full contingent of 2005-2006 student representatives includes:

Rosalie Abreu, *Social Work*
Abibatu Adenikey Bello, *Nursing*
Avraham Albelda, *Computer Science*
Rony Arauz, *Biology*
Shakirat Ameen, *Anthropology/Biology/Chemistry*
Temitayo Awoyomi, *Biology*
Melisa Bailey, *English*

Gaurav Bawa, *Political Science*
Daniel Bigman, *Anthropology*
Laura Bodden, *Music*
Kristen Burgess, *Business Administration*
Lisa Capetola, *Computer Science*
Dorothy Dobson, *History*
Mildred Expinosa, *Puerto Rican Studies*
Lee Falcon, *Undeclared 2ed Major*
John Varant Figueroa, *Undeclared Major*
Caroline Gomez, *Undeclared Major*
Richard Gorges, *Philosophy*
Daniel Gurdak, *Biology*
Leah Herskovits, *Recreation Education*
Jody McLaughlin, *Comparative Literature*
Sophie Muller, *Political Science*
Rhea Natividad, *Biology*

Ebelechukqu Nnoli, *Biology*
Eberechi Nwogu, *Biology*
Oluwatosin Ogunjemilusi, *Undeclared Major*
Jesse Paez, *Biology*
Christina Powell, *English*
Aileen Pascal, *Biology*
Kendra Pierre, *Sociology*
Jose R. Rodriguez, *Political Science*
Yini Rodriguez, *Multilingual Journalism*
Aminah Muhammad Shi-ttu, *Speech Pathology and Audiology*
Kermit Rafael Urena, *Business Administration*
Lyda Williams, *Undeclared Major*
Leon Wilson, *Computer Science*

The APEX Camp Supports Healthy Living

Lehman's APEX was the setting for a unique collaboration between the College and the Children's Pediatric Diabetic Unit of Montefiore Hospital. A week-long summer camp last July for youngsters with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes offered sports, play, entertainment, and health education in a stigma-free environment. Montefiore staffers taught classes that emphasized life skills ranging from the importance of getting daily exercise to reading food-product labels to proper use of the insulin pump.

"The campers were individually selected so they could be in a comfortable environment while learning to come to terms with the demands of their illness," said Mathelyn Claudius-Santiago, R.N.

The "best thing about camp" was The APEX's Olympic-size swimming pool, said a sixth-grader who earned his blue belt in tai kwon do. Another camper, an aspiring football player, said he enjoyed the camp's "really good" food.

Obesity and a sedentary lifestyle greatly



Summer campers and Montefiore staffers at The APEX.

increase the risk for Type 2 (formerly known as "adult") diabetes—and these days more and more American children are suffering from this form of the disease. With education, kids with diabetes can "lead normal lives," said Patricia Appel, of Montefiore's Pediatric Social Services.

Michelle Moch, a 1994 Lehman alumna with a master's from the University of North Carolina, was the camp's dietician. Her specialty at Montefiore is adolescent diabetes, and she works on obesity issues with public school students in the Bronx.

Dr. Martin Zwiren, Director of Athletics and The APEX, worked with Montefiore officials to make the camp a reality. They're talking now about making it a two-week camp next summer.

Merrill Parra Is New Director of Special Student Services

Merrill D. Parra has joined Student Affairs as Director of Special Student Services. She has worked in higher education and with issues affecting persons with disabilities for more than 30 years. Parra was Director of Special Students Services at Queensborough Community College where she also led the national model Homebound Program. A long-time member of the CUNY Committee on Student Disability Issues, she was on the Board of Directors of the Queens Independent Living Center for 15 years.

As a pioneer in distance learning, Parra has worked with faculty to offer innovative methods of course delivery for disabled students who are unable to attend classes on campus. She has served on committees and task forces at local, state and national levels and is well-versed on issues confronting low-income and first-generation students from diverse backgrounds.

Parra worked to establish a part-time TAP program for students with significant disabilities and currently serves on NYSED's advisory board for the implementation of the new E-text legislation. She has a B.A. in Sociology from Queens College and an M.S.W. from Columbia University.

Alan Fuentes Joins Career Services as Bilingual Counselor



Alan Fuentes joined the staff of the Career Services Center in September as a bilingual Coordinator/Career Counselor. He earned a B.A. in Psychology from New Paltz University and an M.S.W. from Hunter College. He has worked as a mental health therapist.

Student Health Center Welcomes New Staffers

The Student Health Center has announced the appointment of Jessica Butts, Michelle Rosario, and Rosemary Weingarten. Butts is the Center's new Health Educator, a position she held at Plattsburgh State University before joining Lehman this fall. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Health Education at SUNY Cortland and is a certified Health Education Specialist. Rosario joined the Center as Administrative Assistant last May. She has an Associate's degree in Occupational Science from Monroe College. Weingarten



Michelle Rosario

is the Center's new Women's Health Care Provider. She is a Registered Nurse who received B.S.N., M.S. & F.N.P. degrees from Pace University. Weingarten has 20 years experience in obstetrics and is an adjunct clinical professor at several local nursing schools.



Jessica Butts