

Division of Student Affairs

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- Career Services Center
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- International Student Services
- Office of Campus Life
- Office of Community Engagement and New Student Programs
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LEHMAN IS NY



Lehman student volunteers (l-r) Lexsy Davy, Shomari Brown and Sailu Bah mix cement for a new home in the Dominican Republic. Students also worked as volunteers in New Orleans—and a group will return next month to Kenya for the third time to work on education and housing projects.

Lehman volunteers work on projects in New Orleans, Dominican Republic

Thirty-two participants in Lehman L.I.F.E.'s Alternative Spring Break program traveled to New Orleans and the Dominican Republic to work as volunteers on building projects. In New Orleans they joined a team of Habitat for Humanity home-builders in the Upper Ninth Ward, an area hard hit by the hurricane Katrina. In the Dominican Republic, they worked on a building project in the province of San Juan.

In June, eight Lehman volunteers will go to Kenya to continue their work over the past three years with Cross-Cultural Thresholds, a group that is building schools and creating educational workshops in Kibera, near Nairobi (see also the Child Care Center story on page 3).

The Lehman L.I.F.E. program embodies the spirit of Governor Herbert H. Lehman,

who throughout his life emphasized the importance of philanthropy, volunteerism and community service.



Students (l-r) Abel Gomez, Jennifer Henriquez, Kevin Nieves and Estefania Moreno worked with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans.

Leadership Weekend Sparks School Spirit

A diverse group including Lehman athletes, members of the student government and club presidents participated in the Spring Leadership Weekend held at the Edith Macy Conference Center.

The theme of the weekend was based on Kouzes and Posner's program called "5 Practices of Exemplary Leadership." Workshops included: "True Colors" (identifying individual styles of leadership), "Dining Etiquette," "Leadership and Service," "Steps to Lead," "Implementing the 5 Practices on Campus," and a leadership dialogue with the Vice President for Student Affairs Jose Magdaleno, Vice President for Technology Ronald Bergmann and Associate Provost Robert Whittaker.

The students returned to campus enthusiastic and ready to implement new ideas. One, for example, has already been rolled out. It is "Lehman Spirit Thursdays." Students who attended the weekend have started wearing Lehman College gear every Thursday to increase school spirit.

The Herbert H. Lehman Center for Student Leadership Development offers leadership training sessions, mentoring, and workshops on writing and presenting speeches. Any student who is interested in joining the Center or attending a Leadership Weekend should stop by the Student Life Building, Room 219—or contact Suzette Ramsundar (suzette.ramsundar@lehman.cuny.edu) or call (718) 960-8873.



Fired up and ready to lead. Student athletes, club presidents and student government leaders on their final day of Leadership Weekend after training in "5 Practices of Exemplary Leadership."

Lehman Student Is Woman Veteran of the Year

Social Work major and Army veteran Dorcedous Davis received the 2011 Woman Veteran of the Year Award along with citations from Congressman Charles Rangle, City Councilwoman Inez B. Dickens, and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

A former Army specialist who drilled with reserve units from the Bronx and served as a Combat Medic, she was among those honored at the "Celebration of Women in the Military and Community," held on March 24 during Women's History Month.

Davis was recognized for her dedication to helping veterans and their dependents obtain the required documentation for veteran's benefits. She serves the veterans' community in many capacities: as a member of Lehman's own Legion of Veterans Club, as a chaplain with the 715th VA of Brooklyn, as a public relations officer for the American Legion's Charles Young Post 398 in Harlem, and as a member of the NABVETS and Women in the Military Women chapter in



Davis was honored for her commitment and service to New York City's large and growing community of veterans of the Armed Forces.

the Bronx. Davis started a Veterans and Family Committee at the Mid-Manhattan branch of the NAACP. She's Vice President of the newly formed Veteran Action Group, which works with veterans' families and school programs, and she's active with the First Baptist Church of Central Harlem.

Davis was a recent guest on a Dr. Oz TV show segment on female veterans, PTSD, homelessness, and sexual assault in the military. The program aired in April.



African Student Association club member Amarachi Irozuru, above, shares plans for an event to build school spirit.

Student-Athletes Honored at Awards Dinner



The more than 250 student-athletes who compete on varsity sports teams at Lehman are recognized for their discipline, commitment, and achievements each year at the Annual Athletics Awards Dinner. The “President’s Award,” the highest honor for a Lehman student-athlete, went to Louvinia Hayes, photographed above with President Ricardo R. Fernández. During Hayes’ single brilliant season of basketball at Lehman, her 23.2 points per game average ranked third nationally among Division III players. The award for “Female Athlete of the Year” went to track-and-field star Tobi Alli, photo at left.



In her freshman year, Alli won five combined gold medals at the CUNYAC Indoor and Outdoor Championships, qualified for the ECAC Championships and was a provisional qualifier for the NCAA Championships. The award for “Male Athlete of the Year” went to Assami Valian, photographed above with Athletics Director Dr. Martin Zwiren. Valian was a driving force behind the Lehman soccer team’s run to the CUNYAC Championship, tying for the team lead with seven goals.

Child Care Center Builds Cross-cultural Awareness

At the National Coalition for Campus Children’s Centers Conference in San Diego this spring, Jaci Maurer, Director of the Lehman College Child Care Center, presented a workshop on the Center’s innovative curriculum that creates opportunities for children in the Bronx to develop cross-cultural learning friendships with kids in other parts of the United States and the world. The goal of the curriculum is to instill a sense of empathy through age-appropriate activities.

Through this curriculum, children at the Lehman Center have an ongoing penpal relationship with children at a school in Kibera, a slum near Nairobi, Kenya. The Lehman children and teachers have incorporated classroom activities and sponsored “fun raising” events to help support the educational growth and nutrition of the Kenyan children and also to support the teaching staff of the sister school.

Maurer and members of the Child Care Center teaching staff have visited the school in Kenya several times to assist in improvement projects and with the implementation of educational activities.

Lehman Players on ‘It’s Just Weed’

The Lehman Players, the Wellness Education and Promotion Program’s Peer Health Education Theater Group, performed “It’s Just Weed,” a sketch about marijuana use in college, for more than 200 students in Lovinger Theater last fall. The cast remained onstage after the performance for a lively discussion of issues raised such as: whether marijuana should be legalized and the effect of habitual marijuana use on academic performance, extracurricular involvement, family and romantic relationships and friendships. Of the 125 students who returned surveys, large majorities agreed or strongly agreed that (a) the event was relevant, (b) the Players’ performance and discussion segment were interesting and worthwhile, and (c) that the event made them think about how marijuana use affects their lives.



The Student Health Center’s three-session pilot class in Self-Defense and Self-Improvement was so well attended that four more sessions were added. Grandmaster B.M. Kim (above) taught the defensive techniques of kicking, punching and blocking along with messages of self-confidence, respect and self-discipline.

Job Fairs Target Employers That Are Hiring Now

To identify job opportunities and match students with employers that are hiring, the Career Services Center hosted three specialized “Career Expos” this academic year. Each event targeted different groups of majors and the industries in those areas.

The Center also strengthened its faculty connections in a number of departments to increase awareness of the events. Faculty helped spread the word to their students and to employers and professional networks.

The events kicked off in the Fall with the Business, Accounting and Information Technology CareerExpo. More than 175 students and alumni met with 28 employers. The Health and Science Expo in February was attended by 44 employers and 144 students and graduates. The final Expo in April focused on job opportunities in Education, Government and Nonprofit sectors. It too was well-attended with 166 students meeting with 43 prospective employers.

Among the recorded employer responses to the Expos: “Great turnout,” “well organized” and “the Lehman students were well prepared.”



Some 166 Lehman students and alumni met with 43 employers at the Education/Government/Non-Profit Career Expo in April.

Student responses were also positive: “Quality employers,” “I learned a lot about what employers are looking for.” A Biology major commented, “Considering the recession, this was very encouraging.”

“This has been a challenging time for us in Career Services, but we’re starting to see some upward ticks,” said Career Services Director Nancy Cintron. “We saw a high turnout of recruiters and Lehman participants.”

Lehman Marks Disability Awareness Month

In recognition of April as Disability Awareness Month at CUNY, Lehman’s Office of Student Disability Services focused on issues and services in and for the campus community by individuals with disabilities. A series of events and programs was held for faculty, students and staff.

Workshops for students focused on careers and employment, benefits including Social Security, and mentoring. Staff members and faculty were given opportunities to learn about how assistive technology provides access to coursework for students with visual, learning or mobility disabilities through demonstrations at the Access and Technology Lab.

In conjunction with the CUNY Learning Disability Project and the Lehman Teaching and Learning Commons, a Webinar on “Dyscalculia” was held. It provided an overview of the math disability issue along with instructional interventions for faculty that would best help Lehman students who are challenged in this way.

Highlighting the month’s activities was the program “Living without Sight: Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Blindness but Never had the Chance to Ask.” It offered a rare opportunity to experience the sightless world of a Lehman student. The event included a documentary film, “Blindspot,” starring Lehman graduate

student Tamesha Tate, her friend Jamil Zuleta and his guide dog Chip.

The program was presented in cooperation with the Seek Department, and Counselor Carrie Zimmerman provided an update on service animals under the new ADA (Americans with Disability Act as Amended) regulations.

Jill Roter, Assistant Director of the Office of Student Disability Services, described the resources in the Access and Technology Center (Library 215) to assist students with print disabilities to access their materials and texts. The audience was invited to ask questions of the speakers and a lively discussion followed.