Lehman Biology & Chemistry Labs: A Title V Upgrade

Clockwise from top-left: new Sam the Super Skeleton; new balances in General Chemistry lab; spectrographic analysis with new meters & mobile cart laptops; new spectrometer; old General Chemistry equipment; old jaw model with missing teeth; new Tabitha the Torso; old cross section of human circulatory systems; old skeletons missing arms, legs, & skulls for Anatomy & Physiology labs.

Inside:
Page 2: Lab Equipment Upgrades; Title V SI Team Profile: Jinnie Lee
Page 3: International SI Conference: Lehman’s SI All-Stars
Page 4: Title V Office Team Profile: Angela Garcia
Title Upgrades Lab Equipment for Biology and Chemistry

The new Science Building under construction at the northwest end of campus will soon be hosting many of our science classrooms and laboratories. For a few courses, such as Anatomy & Physiology and General Chemistry, the move to the new building will take place as late as 2012 or 2013, which means that the current classroom and lab space will be used by as many as 3,000 to 5,000 students in current condition.

These classrooms and laboratories are located in Davis Hall on the 1st and 3rd floors. Last fall, when Title V directors and staff did a preliminary walkthrough, they noted that not only the equipment used by students in lab sections for general sciences but the rooms themselves were in poor condition and in some cases dangerous or nearly unusable. Skeletons for pre-nursing students were missing arms, legs, and in some cases heads; balances and water filtration in the General Chemistry labs were badly out of date or not working. Some classrooms had broken chairs and damaged floors; none of the labs or classrooms was set up for effective use of educational technologies.

The Title V grant includes funds to upgrade lab equipment in these courses, and with the assistance of the College, has worked with the Biology and Chemistry Departments to renovate the existing space and supply state-of-the-art technologies and equipment for students and faculty. This fall, students in Anatomy & Physiology are learning anatomy with upgraded and complete models as well as the “Real Anatomy” software purchased from WileyPlus. General Chemistry students are using new spectrometers in combination with laptops to improve analysis of lab experiments.

The College and the Title V grant will be completing the equipment upgrades this year in these courses and will continue working to improve classroom and laboratory space for teachers and students as part of Lehman’s overall strategic plan to promote student success and academic excellence.

Title V SI Team Profile: Jinnie Lee

Jinnie Lee is a 21st century Renaissance woman. Graduating summa cum laude from Lehman in 2010 with a double major in Mathematics/Arts and a minor in Japanese, Ms. Lee has gained an impressive range of academic skills. She brings this experience to her work as an SI Leader and SI Assistant Supervisor with students in Mathematics and Biology this term.

Ms. Lee began her work with the Title V SI Program in Spring 2008 and has worked with students in College Algebra, Problem-Solving for Business Majors, and Precalculus in each of the successive terms. She was promoted to the position of SI Assistant Supervisor in Fall 2009 and now assists SI Leaders and SI Assistant Supervisors with training, observations, and weekly supervision.

Ms. Lee has brought a wealth of skills and ideas to the Title V SI Program, which include new strategies for mastering mathematics, innovative marketing techniques, and effective training activities for SI Leaders and SI Assistant Supervisors. Her enthusiasm and clear thinking are valued by her peers and instructors, who praise her facilitation and teaching skills.
Lehman’s Title V SI Program sent three of its SI Stars to the 6th International SI Conference this past June in New Orleans, Louisiana. Gina Rae Foster, Title V Project Director & SI Coordinator, Chukwuma Nwagboso, Title V SI Assistant Supervisor and SI Leader, and Andre Bruce, Title V SI Leader, gave presentations on the SI Star model and on project management and professional development through training and ePortfolios. SI Programs from around the world, including South Africa, Puerto Rico, Great Britain, Sweden, and Canada, participated in the conference.

Foster’s presentation of the SI Star model used SI facilitation skills and strategies to connect principles of community resiliency to higher education and academic support services. Bruce and Nwagboso designed poster presentations illustrating the processes and communication skills emphasized in Lehman’s Title V SI Program that lead to increased effectiveness in project management and professional development activities. Each presentation was well attended; the participants gave enthusiastic feedback about Title V’s new model and implementation.

The conference was a great opportunity to learn from other SI Programs and to share what Lehman does best—support and motivate students towards academic and professional excellence. Partnerships with other CUNY colleges and universities in Puerto Rico and South Africa may be in the works!
Title V Office Team Profile: Angela Garcia

Angela Garcia’s sunny smile and professional manner are familiar to many students and staff at Lehman. As the new HR/Business Coordinator for the Title V Office of Supplemental Instruction & Technology, Ms. Garcia is continuing her Lehman success story, helping the Title V grant and the College increase its services and resources for students and faculty.

Ms. Garcia graduated *summa cum laude* from Lehman in 2005 with a B.A. in Psychology and minor in Sociology. She began working for Lehman in the Counseling Center and the Academic Center for Excellence during her undergraduate years. In 2008, Ms. Garcia joined the Title V Office in the Administrative Assistant position, setting up the front office and managing the SI Program scheduling, event planning, and data support.

This summer, Ms. Garcia was promoted to the position of HR/Business Coordinator. She will be responsible for managing the financial and personnel resources of the Title V grant as well as overall office management. Ms. Garcia’s skills in supervision and organization make her a great asset to the College and the grant.

Ms. Garcia continues to work as a writing tutor for the ACE in Old Gym and to participate in ISSP tutor cohort trainings. She plans the semi-annual SI Kids’ Picnics and parties and connects the SI Team through the SI Community Resources Group, a special project designed to support SI Leaders and SI Assistant Supervisors. Ms. Garcia is also a Sudoku “master”: challenge her to a game and see what happens!

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Title V/Lehman Promotions

We are pleased to announce these recent promotions in our office:

- *Gina Rae Foster* is now Director of the Lehman Teaching & Learning Commons, Title V Project Director & SI Coordinator.
- *Melissa Espinal* is now the Title V SI Assistant Coordinator.
- *Angela Garcia* is now the Title V HR/Business Coordinator.
- *Andre Bruce* is now the Title V Administrative Assistant.

We invite you to join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our team!!!