Celebrating a Decade of Student Leadership

The Student Life Building was bustling on September 18 during a celebratory reunion of student leaders over the past 10 years. Nearly 100 alumni who led student government and campus clubs and were members of the Herbert H. Lehman Center for Student Leadership Development attended the event.

Among the activities was a guided tour of the newly renovated building. On hand was Justin Simmons, the student government president who led the initiative to raise the Student Activities fees that helped fund the renovation. He enjoyed the opportunity to see his peers and offered to mentor future student government leaders.

The reunion also featured a video with former students sharing what the Student Life Building meant to them. The most common expression: “This place felt like home to us.”

“It was beautiful to see the students reconnect and be nostalgic,” said Maria Hernandez, a Peer Educator with Campus Life and Political Science major who helped with registration. “It makes me think about where I might be 10 years from now.”

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of an Appreciation Award to Michael E. Sullivan, Director of the Office of Campus Life, for more than 17 years of service to Lehman students.

The event was sponsored by the offices of Alumni Relations and Campus Life and the Herbert H. Lehman Center for Student Leadership Development.
Lehman College students visited the New York office of Facebook on October 6 to meet with professionals and receive advice and tips on preparing for careers in Marketing, Human Resources and Information Technology, among others. The visit was arranged by the Career Services Center through its Employer Site Visit program.

“In the world of work your skills are just as important as your major,” said Gabriel Maldonado, a senior in Computer Information Systems. “It was a great experience.”

“I’ve enjoyed all the Career Services workshops this semester and this trip was icing on the cake,” said Larry Blanco, a junior in Computer Science.

“This experience was extremely insightful and informative,” said Leslie Gil, a senior in Computer Science. “I had the opportunity to meet with professionals in the field and connect with other Lehman students.”

“This program should be expanded,” said Katherine Rodriguez, a senior in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. “The job market is highly competitive, and fostering relationships with professionals can help tremendously in terms of getting advice, interviews and even a job.”

“There was a great representation from Computer and Marketing departments, and their career advice was applicable to everyone,” said Tarika N. Williams, a senior in Accounting.

It’s a must-do activity at Facebook (above): signing the wall. The entire group from Lehman (below).

‘Meet the Firms’

If you’re working toward a career in Accounting, Business or Economics, be sure to attend the Career Services “Meet the Firms” event.

Thursday, November 12, 4 to 6 pm
Music Building Room 330

• Professional Attire Required

You’ll hear from professionals at all levels who will share details about their organizations, employment opportunities, and their own career journey.

Come and meet with professionals in your field for career tips and advice.

To RSVP: Log into your Symplicity account at https://lehman-cuny-csm.symplicity.com
Select Events then Workshops
Food Day 2015 Celebrates Healthy Eating

Food Day 2015 was a collaborative effort of the Lehman Sustainability Council, the Lehman Wellness Education Program, Corbin Hill Food Project, Metropolitan, The CUNY Institute for Health Equity and the Lehman Nutrition Club. At the event (above) Nutrition Club President Katie Hamilton prepares smoothies.

The new Assistant Director for Clubs and Organizations in the Office of Campus Life is David Charcape. He received his BA in Computer Graphics and Imaging from Lehman in 2013.

As a student, David was a Peer Educator and member of the Dream Team. He was production manager of the Meridian, the student newspaper, where he was instrumental in increasing readership.

David worked in real estate advertising for two years as a graphic designer. He assisted a media company with animations for the short film “Masters of the Sea” and for the Off Broadway production “The Zombies: A Musical.” He worked on the Lehman College Yearbook and other projects, on contract with the College. In his new position, one of his goals will be to increase student participation in co-curricular activities on campus.

Office of Campus Life Welcomes New Staffers

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Campus Life’s new Assistant Director for Budget and Operations is Nathaniel Gasque. He received his BA in Business Administration at Lehman with a concentration in Business Law. He graduated magna cum laude and was inducted into the Golden Key Honor Society.

As a student at Lehman, Nate served as program coordinator for the Office of Community Engagement and New Student Programs. He was part of the first group of inductees into Lehman’s Urban Male Leadership Program—and would later serve as UMLP’s mentorship coordinator.

Additionally, Nate served as supervisor of the Transfer Coaching Program, which supported the transition of incoming transfer students at Lehman. In his new position, he will oversee all departmental budgetary matters as well as event/facility coordination.
Lehman students made a strong showing in the 2015 Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership (MSL)—with 700 students responding to a nationwide survey based on the Social Change Model of Student Leadership Development.

This is the second time Lehman has participated in the MSL. In 2009, about 300 students responded. But since then, the Office of Campus Life has taught an advanced leadership class in the Social Change Model.

“We simply had more students who had been exposed to the Social Change Model as well as other models of leadership,” said Campus Life Director Michael Sullivan, co-Principal Investigator along with Associate Director Suzette Ramsundar.

The MSL survey was sent to 400 randomly selected students. It found that students with leadership training and an internship or involvement in a community service project were more likely to demonstrate growth in civic responsibility, leadership skills, multicultural awareness and community orientation.

In the eight scales reported in the MSL instrument, Lehman scored highest (by a standard deviation) among students in the CUNY Coalition of six schools. Lehman students also scored higher than the national sample in five of the eight scales. Among the scales measured were commitment, collaboration, citizenship and resiliency.

Lehman’s participation in the MSL was funded by the CUNY Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and supported by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. CUNY Graduate Assistant Raquel Smith served as statistician for the study.

Black Engineers Club Hosts Winning Event at 2nd Annual Hackathon at Lehman

Nearly 200 CUNY students attended the 2nd annual Hackathon at Lehman College on October 16-17. Hosted by the National Society of Black Engineers Club in the Office of Campus Life, the 24-hour event featured the Hackathon Challenge, for which students teamed up to develop new applications, games and websites.

The winning team from Lehman created an application to help animals survive in shelters. Upcoming on the Black Engineers Club agenda is a series of JAVA workshops for Lehman students.

Among the sponsors were Goldman Sachs, the Entrepreneurial Concept Competition, the Louis Stokes Alliance, JP Morgan Chase and IBM. Speakers were from Facebook and Goldman Sachs.

Black Engineers Club President Carol Gonzalez expressed her appreciation for the guidance she received from Professor Brian Murphy, Chair of Math and Computer Science at Lehman.

Counseling Workshop to Focus on Language Nuance in Challenging New World

By Joel Sahadath, MA, LMHC

Among the many Lehman College Psychological Counseling Center’s new workshops is one called “Managing the World As It Is.” It was designed to provide language and other tips for coping with overt and covert forms of prejudice.

“As the news and social media have shown us, prejudice has not disappeared,” said Center Director Dr. Norma Cofresi. “Many of our students come from non-English speaking backgrounds and from populations that have been marginalized. We want to address this reality and empower students with tools for success in a world that may be less than accepting.”

The Center has also retained many workshops and groups from previous years ranging from goal-setting to personal and academic success to understanding anxiety and depression. Also returning this year is “Empowered Voices,” a closed, confidential group where women of color can express themselves and their concerns freely in a supportive, nonjudgmental environment.

“We’re excited about our program this year,” said Dr. Cofresi. “As we watch our students grow and evolve as individuals, we look forward our own growth and evolution as a Center serving the Lehman community.”
Marine Corps Leadership Seminar Nov. 20 Welcomes Students, Faculty, Veterans

The Office of Veterans and Military Affairs will host a Marine Corps Leadership Seminar at Lehman. The day-long workshop and networking session will be held in the Music Building’s East Dining Room on Friday, November 20, from 8:30 am to 2 pm, followed by a reception from 3 to 5 pm.

Major General Arnold Fields, USMC Ret., will be the guest speaker on the subject of “Standing Out from the Competition.” The seminar will include opening and closing remarks and a panel discussion.

The scheduled workshops will be on (a) Making Leadership Decisions, (b) Team Building/Problem Solving, and (c) A Case Study in Ethical Leadership. The seminar is free and open to Lehman and CUNY students, faculty and veterans, but it is important to RSVP online at http://evite.me/9Zwuly1pdM.

CUNY Recognizes Student Veterans for Academic Excellence

CUNY honors its student veterans who have achieved a 3.5 and above GPA and 90 credits at a senior college or a 3.5 with 60 credits at a community college.

At the CUNY 3rd Annual Veterans Academic Achievement Breakfast held on November 5 at the U.S.S. Intrepid, the following from Lehman were recognized:

Tiffany Barker, Michael Bauernfeind, Francisco Bautista, Vadim Belinschi, Joseph Casiano, Lisa Charlton, Julio Ferreira, Joseph Gonzalez, Gonslee Gordon, Raymond Henry, Michael Hutchins, Nicole Iarossi, Genaya James, Elvis Machuca, Michael Martinez, Thiry Ngin, Mario Riverasarmiento, Giovanny Rosario, Gregory Santos, Jeremy Schult, Dwight Smith, Joseph Sulitka, Juan Tavarez, Rachel Wert and Jason Williams.

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information about the seminar, call 960-7188.

Cooking Demonstration at Fall Health Fair a Big Success

Students in the Nutrition Club (left) spiced up the Fall Health Fair on September 29 with a cooking demonstration. The Fair, an annual event sponsored by the Student Health Center, featured 40 exhibitors among which were a number of Affordable Care Act insurers. Participants at the Fair also took advantage of opportunities for health screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, BMI and hearing (through Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences Department). The Fall Blood Drive was held concurrently in the East Dining Room. New this year: Walgreens gave flu shots without copays for the insured—and free for the uninsured.

Coast Guard College Student Initiative Talk Set for Nov. 9

Admiral Paul Zukunft, U.S. Coast Guard Commandant, will discuss the College Student Precommissioning Initiative (CSPI) and other opportunities currently available in this branch of the Armed Services at Lehman on Monday, November 9.

The “Meet n’ Greet” event will take place from 2:10 to 2:55 pm in the Music Building’s Faculty Dining Room.

For more information, contact Lehman’s Veterans and Military Affairs Coordinator by phone at 960-7188 or by email Barbara.Thompson1@lehman.cuny.edu.
After numerous information sessions, interviews and the completion of 25 hours of local community service, the Office of Community Engagement & New Student Programs is pleased to announce that 25 Lehman students and alumni were selected to participate in the 2015-16 Lehman L.I.F.E. Alternative Break Program.

Lehman L.I.F.E. (Leaders Involved For Everyone) supports service opportunities for students by creating an understanding of need in communities around the world and fostering action through volunteer work. The main goal is to increase awareness of issues affecting humanity from our campus to the global society.

This year, participants will partner with grassroots leaders in St. Andrew, Jamaica—volunteering with children at an orphanage and assisting with building maintenance as well as a community painting project. A second group will partner with the Lakota tribe on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota for the second time—building bunk beds, outhouses and skirting on trailers for this underserved community.

Before their volunteer experience, students and alumni will meet in two-hour weekly sessions to prepare for their trip. During this service project, students reflect each night on their experience and how their lives and the lives of others have changed throughout their time volunteering.

The expectation is that the cycle of service will continue as students bring their experiences back to the Bronx, and the greater New York area.