Lehman Celebrates Student Athletes

Acting Provost William Tramontano presented the 2006 Scholar Athlete Awards to Lianee Torres, a Computer Science major on the softball and cross country teams, and Sociology major Chris Diplan (left), a member of the basketball team. The 54th Annual Athletics Award Dinner was held in the Faculty Dining Room on May 16.

The President’s Award for 2006, the highest honor for a Lehman student-athlete, was presented to basketball MVP and Mass Communications major Sekani Francis (left).

Athlete of the Year Awards were presented by Athletics Director Dr. Martin Zwiren to runner Amy Ruston and swimmer Darnell James. Ruston was an NCAA Division III All American and James’ record-breaking 100-meter butterfly helped his team win the 2006 CUNY Athletic Conference championship.

Basketball player Tiara Carroll received a scholarship in memory of long-time Coach Ed Kramer, presented by Mrs. Kramer and her brother Stu Levine. See the APEX/Athletics Web site at www.lehman.edu for all of the athletics award winners.

Good News from the Child Care Center

The Lehman College Child Care Center has earned its re-accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.

“This lets families know that children in our programs are getting the best care and the best early learning experiences,” says Center Director Dawn Barton. “It also places us among the leaders in a national effort to help give children a better start.”

The Lehman Child Care Center was the first in the CUNY system to be accredited. It presently offers toddler, preschool, afterschool/evening, and Saturday programs to assist student parents while they attend classes.

Assistant Director Jaci Mauer reports that the Center’s annual “Trike-A-Thon,” held on the Quad on May 3, raised $2500 for the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Fifty-five children participated in the event.

The Center also benefits, along with the Library, from Lehman’s annual “Fun Run/Walk,” which was held on May 6. This event, sponsored by the Office of Campus Life, includes teams and individuals representing the faculty, students, staff, and alumni.
Online support for students, counselors through ULifeline

If you know a Lehman student who might benefit from free, confidential, supportive information about mental health issues, it’s available at www.Ulifeline.org. This Web site also links to Lehman’s Counseling Center with the click of a button.

ULifeline was created by the Jed Foundation, a national organization working to prevent suicide and improve the mental health of college students. ULifeline is available to colleges and universities free of charge, regardless of the size or type of institution. Currently, more than 530 colleges and universities participate in the ULifeline Network.

Students can log on to Ulifeline through the Lehman Counseling Center’s home page (www.lehman.edu/vpstud/counseling) or go directly to www.ulifeline.org, where they can sign on as a student by clicking on “New York” and “Lehman” on the State and College pull-down menus.

Students visiting the Web site will see tabs on mental health resources, suicide prevention, and Lehman’s own counseling services. Information is presented in a fact-based, non-threatening way.

By clicking on “Counseling Services,” a student can contact a Lehman counselor or register for a campus group.

ULifeline has something to offer counseling professionals on the faculty and staff as well. Its “Counseling Central” feature shares information about best practices, programs, project results, and other resources.

Faculty and staff members who wish to explore the Web site should first call the Counseling Center to obtain a user name and password, then sign in directly at www.ulifeline.org.

Among the other Ulifeline features:

✔ Polls and stories—on the interests, concerns, and experiences of college students. What they believe and how they feel about issues from sex to stress. Personal narratives by college students about anything and everything to do with college life.

✔ Fact sheets—on such areas as anxiety, depression and bipolar disorder.

✔ Resources and links—to other important mental health resources.

✔ Suicide prevention—the risk factors, protective factors, myths, warning signs, and what you can do to help a friend.

The Counseling Center, directed by Dr. Annecy Baez, is located in the Old Gym Building, Room 114. For more information, call 960-8761.

Students Work in Dominican Republic on ‘Habitat International’ Project

Seventeen members of Lehman’s LIFE Club (Leaders Involved For Everyone) spent their Spring break hard at work in the seaside town of Nagua in the Dominican Republic. They were part of a Habitat for Humanity International home-building project for two families in need.

“The students came away from this experience with a sense of purpose and humility that will live in their hearts and minds for a lifetime,” says Student Affairs Associate Dean John Holloway, who helped club members organize and raise funds for the volunteer effort and accompanied them on their trip.

The students—many of whom had no prior construction experience—helped to mix cement, level floors, and arrange cinder blocks. They worked alongside family members, engineers and others laborers to bring the two new homes up to window level.

Club member Nicole Vasquez described the work as physically demanding and emotionally rewarding. She says that what she enjoyed most about the experience was the warmth and hospitality of the families and neighbors she met in the village.

Vasquez, whose parents are originally from the Dominican Republic, was moved and saddened by the poverty she observed, however. “The hardest part for me was seeing small children begging for food,” she says.

When the students weren’t hard at work, they took advantage of a nearby beach—and at one point during their visit played softball with Nagua’s impressive local team.

Lehman’s LIFE Club is made up of a diverse group of students whose stated aim is to provide service to communities in need. Members are already talking about a service trip next year to possible locations in the Philippines or Cuba.
Q&A

CUNY, Daily News Sponsor ‘Call-in’ on Immigration Issues

International Student Advisor Ann O’Sullivan answers immigration questions as part of an annual Spring call-in project sponsored by CUNY and the New York Daily News. We asked her to tell us a little more about the project.

O’Sullivan: It’s called “Citizenship Now!” and it's led by Allan Wernick, Professor of Law at Baruch and author of the “Immigration Advice” column that appears on Thursdays in the Daily News. We held our fourth call-in on May 5. It was staffed by 180 CUNY professionals, immigration lawyers, paralegals, students and other volunteers.

Editor: Is there a typical caller or question?

O’Sullivan: Many callers are trying to figure out what’s going on with immigration. They’re concerned that things are not going their way—and they feel a level of threat in some of what's being said. We answer their questions the best we can. But the reality is that much is up in the air right now. Another big question we hear is: “How much longer will I have to wait for my Green Card?”

Editor: What do you tell them?

O’Sullivan: Obtaining permanent residency is like climbing stairs. There are many steps and it can take years. We need to find out where an individual is—that is, at what step in the process. For example, if he or she has already received employment authorization, the Green Card will arrive shortly.

Editor: How do you deal with legal questions?

O’Sullivan: That’s the beauty of working from a call-in center. We have five or six lawyers right there with us. If we get a legal question that we can’t answer, we pass it on to them, and they get back to us with an opinion.

Editor: What would you like to see in terms of legislation?

O’Sullivan: For starters, we need to help those individuals who were brought to the United States as children. They went to school here and now they’re in college, but they’re still undocumented. Proposed legislation to put these people on a citizenship path has been sitting in Congress for years.

Lehman’s Health Center Helps Students Find Medical Insurance

Approximately one-third of CUNY students have no health insurance, which mirrors the percentage of uninsured New Yorkers. To address the needs of these students, CUNY contracted with Group Health Insurance (GHI) to offer a plan with quarterly premiums of $500. But this is more than many students can afford.

The State offers two health insurance plans—Child and Family Health Plus and Family Health Plus—for New York residents who do not qualify for Medicaid but who meet other financial eligibility requirements. Some 18 HMOs were recruited through New York City’s boroughs to offer this plan.

‘Spring into Wellness’

The annual Spring fair sponsored by Lehman’s Student Health Center attracted hundreds of participants. Among the offerings this year were cholesterol and glucose screening, massage therapy, a blood drive, and information on how to quit smoking. The Department of Health and the Fire Department also had tables on STDs and fire safety.

Student Government Leaders Elected

The Office of Student Life reports that following an intense campaign, students turned out in record numbers to elect the 2006-07 slate of CASA officers and Conference Board Senators. The new members of CASA are: Jackson Ude, President; Yaw Appiah, Executive Vice President; Andrew Lisko, Club Board Vice President; Racquel Terrelonge, Financial Planner; Mikaela Chase, Evening Student Coordinator; Shaniquewa Lino, Communications Officers; Tracy Owusu, Campus Facilities Officer; Safurat Sanni, Research Planner; Carlos Sierra, Community Activities Officer; Dorothy Lewis, Entertainment Programmer, and Elias Alcantara, Student Services Programmer. The new Conference Board Senators are: Avraham Albelda, Vered Albelda, Shakirat Ameen, Kassime Berth, Essence Bird, Melissa Bailey, Kristin Burgess, Lisa Capetola, Lik Sm, Anthony Dejesus, Carry Em, Daniel Gurdak, Leah Herskovits, Cadyss Joseph, Daequan Lawrence, David Lowenstein, Jody McLaughlin, Sophie Muller, Dermott Myrie, Rhea Natividad, Aileen Pascal, Kendra Pierre, Temitayo Awoyomi, Kinzang Tobgay, Milyn Torotoro, Valerie Verdejo, Lyda Williams, Shalena Wilson, and Jo-Anne Winter.

Students turned down a proposition to raise the Student Activity Fee.
Lehman’s annual “Career Expo,” sponsored by the Career Services Center (CSC), spun off as expected this spring—but the spin was a little different. This year employers and students met in the Faculty and East Dining Rooms in an atmosphere more conducive to business and pleasure. Other new features were a raffle and an exhibition of works by the Puerto Rican artist Luis Cordero.

Among the 76 employers at the Expo were representatives of Con Edison, Frito Lay, Pepsi-Cola Bottling of New York, the U.S. Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service, the New York City Department of Education, Children’s Aid Society, and New York University Medical Center.

A total of 359 resumes from students and alumni were presented to potential employers. Among the majors represented were: Economics, Accounting and Business Administration (32%), Social Sciences (25%), Liberal Arts (11%), and Computer Science (11%).

The CSC has been working to enhance its annual Expo, which has become a primary networking source for internships and jobs. “One of our top priorities is to increase the number of recruiters at our career fairs,” says CSC Director Nancy Cintron. “And since the number of applicants is one of the criteria that attracts quality recruiters, we’re encouraging the college community to make students aware of the importance of this event—as well as career fairs in other venues in New York City.”

A second priority is to give students opportunities to work on their own marketing skills. “Well-written resumes and knowing how to communicate make a huge difference when you’re looking for an internship or new job,” Cintron said.

Expo-evaluation data showed that 89% of participating employers would prefer a weekday evening event. This would also make attendance easier for evening and weekend students and alumni. As a result, the CSC may start its Expo later in the day next year, under the coordination of Alan Fuentes, a career advisor with CSC who was instrumental in organizing this year’s event.