We begin this semester with a look back over the forty years of excellence that Lehman College has achieved since its founding in 1968, at the same time as we look forward to a year filled with events to commemorate this milestone. The official kickoff of the anniversary celebration took place January 10 with a reception at the midtown offices of AllianceBernstein, hosted by CUNY Trustee Jeffrey Wiesenfeld. Over 80 guests, including alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends, were on hand to celebrate the future of Lehman College and show support for increased scholarship funds for our students. The event was punctuated with the premier of an anniversary video, featuring interviews with students, founding faculty, prominent alumni, long-time staff, and the family of Herbert H. Lehman.

In the next several months, as part of the anniversary celebration, a number of major events on campus will call attention to the College’s legacy and mission. To date, these events include:

- On March 9, Lehman will proudly welcome its third Nobel Peace Laureate in recent years. Dr. Muhammad Yunus will receive the President’s Medal and deliver a lecture to the Lehman community entitled “Social Business Is the Solution.” Known as the “banker to the poor,” Dr. Yunus established the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh in 1983 based on his belief that credit is a fundamental human right. He is known for pioneering microcredit, an innovative banking program that provides poor people—mainly women—with small loans they can use to launch businesses and lift their families out of poverty. Dr. Yunus received his Ph.D. in economics from Vanderbilt University after receiving a Fulbright scholarship. I invite everyone on campus to join us for this talk, scheduled for 2:30 p.m. in the Lovinger Theatre.

- The anniversary video will make its campus debut at the Retirees’ Luncheon March 26, which will honor faculty and staff who have served the College for thirty-five years or more, as well as several members of our early graduating classes. The luncheon will follow the Lehman Lecture at 11 a.m., featuring Jonah Triebwasser and his portrayal of “A Morning with FDR.” This program represents a departure from the more traditional format of past lectures. In keeping with the spirit of celebration, and to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the inauguration of President Roosevelt, Mr. Triebwasser will give a performance designed to illustrate the era in which FDR lived, his presidency, and his friendship with Herbert H. Lehman. He has appeared as the legendary president on the History Channel and in numerous public appearances. Our students, in particular, should find this an enjoyable way to learn about both the College’s namesake and the era of the Great Depression.

- Later on March 26, at 4:30 p.m. in the Lovinger Theatre, the Division of Education will host a lecture by Dr. Donna Alvermann, University of Georgia Distinguished Research Professor of Language and Literacy Education. Her talk, titled “Inviting Popular Culture into Literacy Instruction,” will explore a widening gap between traditional in-school extracurricular literacy practices, like e-mail and instant messaging. She argues that such a gap has implications for pedagogy and curricular decision-making, but that these implications have been largely unexplored by teachers and teacher educators. She poses the question, “What are our students missing as a result?”

- Culminating the events this spring, the College will mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which began to be drafted during the U.N. Security Council’s stay on our campus in 1946. On May 21, the College will host a Homecoming for U.N. staff who were serving the organization at that time. This event will include a distinguished panel of speakers, including Sir Brian Urquhart, Margaret Bruce, and Betty Teslenko.
Other Events Focus on HS Students

Other important events, apart from the fortieth anniversary celebration, are also set to take place this semester.

Lehman will host the second annual Drop Out Prevention Summit on February 22. The summit seeks to further the exploration of current research in drop out prevention and develop action plans and timelines to address this pressing problem. Sponsored by a number of organizations, along with the participation of many State and City officials, the summit hopes to identify effective strategies to eradicate the drop out problem—a dilemma that greatly impacts our community in particular. Pre-registration is required to attend the summit. Please visit www.dfoy.org to register. All are invited to attend.

The Metropolitan Opera’s 2007-2008 High Definition Live performance series will continue with a performance of Britten’s Peter Grimes on Saturday, March 15. The series, which began at Lehman last December, is part of the Met’s efforts to increase music and art education in schools, and to make opera accessible to communities throughout the country. The Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music, one of the College’s high school partnerships, is one of five New York City public schools selected to host the program. Live performances are presented via satellite in the Lovinger Theatre to high school students around the Bronx—and to an estimated audience of one million around the world.

New Initiatives and New Funding Mark Start of 2008

In a new venture for the College and CUNY, Lehman’s second Winter Intersession proved to be very successful. Students are embracing the opportunity to take courses and progress toward their degree—while also taking advantage of the chance to do something different. Over 600 students registered for courses, with a number using the time to explore different parts of the world though study-abroad programs. Some chose our own London Theatre program, while others selected programs to China, India, and Japan. We plan to offer more courses on campus next January and hope to include more study-abroad opportunities.

One course, which included two weeks in New Orleans, represented the first joint curricular effort between the CUNY Teacher Academy and the Macaulay Honors College. The students were assigned to work in public schools in New Orleans. They also visited a new African American museum and took a day-long tour of the social, racial, and class geography of New Orleans, which included a visit to the levees to learn more about the science, engineering, and geology of what happened during Hurricane Katrina. Finally, the students worked with Habitat for Humanity, helping to rebuild the homes of victims of that storm.

As Lehman continues to build on the successes of the past to shape the future, other new programs and initiatives are on the horizon.

- Proposals have recently been submitted to CUNY Central Administration for the new M.S. in Business (with specializations in Global Marketing, Finance, and Human Resource Management), B.S. in Environmental Science, and M.S. in Global Information Science.
- Lehman continues to build its international programs. Through the work of Dean Michael Paull of the Division of Adult and Continuing Education, the College has established a close relationship with Sungshin Women’s University in Seoul, South Korea. This semester, a second cohort of forty students, who have already completed their R.N. training in South Korea, arrived to pursue the B.S. in Nursing program at Lehman. A new student exchange program has been established between Lehman and Sungshin, with the possibility of students earning a dual degree.
- Centers and institutes in various stages of planning and approval include Plant Science, Public Health Capacity Building, and Paleoenthropology.

Initiatives, of course, no matter how worthy they are, never move beyond the planning stage without adequate funding. Faculty and staff throughout our academic divisions have recently received a number of impressive government and private grants to support either their research or new and continuing programs. They include:

- Susan Polirstok (Division of Education): $234,650 from the New York City Department of Education for the Teaching Fellows Program;
- Juliana Maantay (Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences): $76,802 from Montefiore Medical Center for “Environmental Justice: Partnerships for Communication;”
- Eugene Chudnovsky (Physics and Astronomy): $74,000 from the National Science Foundation for “Theory of Nanomagnets;”
- Catherine Alicia Georges (Nursing): $50,000 from Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors for “Expanding Diversity Among the Nurse Workforce;”
- Marlene Gottlieb (Division of Arts and Humanities): $50,000 from the New York State Music Fund for Music Education Community and Culture;
- Marcie Wolfe (Institute for Literacy Studies): $40,000 from the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development for the Adult Literacy Services program;
The President’s Letter

The President’s Letter
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be selected by early spring 2008 for a much-needed addi
to the Center, with construction expected to begin in
June, with a 21-month target for completion.

Sustainability Issues Take on New Importance
Keeping pace with the “green,” environmentally friendly features of the new Science Facility, Lehman has joined with
CUNY in an overall Environmental Stewardship Initiative. A Sustainability Council has been established on campus
to ensure that the College meets the highest environmental standards and that economy, society, and environment are
balanced within campus operations. The committee will explore various methods of supporting environmental sustain-
ability across a wide range of our activities.
Energy-efficient renovations will also be coming to the
Performing Arts Center in the near future. A design firm will be selected by early spring 2008 for a much-needed addi-
tion to the Center, with construction expected to begin in
summer 2009 for completion in 2010, just in time for the celebration of its thirtieth anniversary. The project is made possible by a $3.25 million capital allocation secured by
Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr. and Council Members James Vacca and Annabel Palma. The College is grateful for their hard work and dedication to improving the
Performing Arts Center, which provides cultural enrichment to families, schools, and communities both in the Bronx
and the wider region.
The two-story, 2,500-square-foot expansion of the Center will house a new box office and management offices, as
well as mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems that can operate independent of the main facility. Those systems will keep the 2,300-seat theater temperate when not in use, producing cost and energy savings. The project will also bring the Center into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, providing ADA-compliant bathrooms, an elevator, and access to the stage, lobbies, and theater. These improvements will better accommodate the needs of the elderly and those needing wheelchairs or an elevator to reach the Center’s upper levels.
In addition, the project will add outdoor seating and an electronic rooftop bulletin board to the facility. Performances, which are generally held in the evening or on weekends, will continue as usual during the construction period.

Administrative Restructuring and New Appointments Announced
Restructuring of another kind is also occurring at Lehman. This semester, the College established a new Office of Undergraduate Studies and Online Education to achieve Lehman’s Strategic Performance Goals of raising academic quality and improving student success. The Office is headed by Journalism, Communications, and Theatre Professor Robert Whittaker as Acting Associate Provost. Housed within this new division are the Office of Undergraduate Studies; General Education Program; Freshman Year Initiative; Freshman Composition; ESL; the Center for Excellence and Instructional Support Services; Writing Across the Curriculum; Honors Programs; CPE Faculty Liaison; Office of Online Education; the Online Teaching & Learning Technology Specialist; and the Office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment.
At the senior level of the Lehman administration, we recently said goodbye to an integral part of the College leadership. After almost ten years of outstanding service, Dr. Anne Johnson, vice president for institutional advancement, has retired. Dr. Johnson’s tireless work in moving Lehman College ahead included a revitalized alumni association and a successful $1 million endowment drive, named for Lehman’s founding president Leonard Lief. While a search for her replacement is conducted, Milton Santiago, recently named as assistant vice president for advancement and external affairs, will oversee the operations of this division.
Dr. William Tramontano, dean of natural and social sciences, whose vision and drive for the new Science Facility helped immeasurably to move this project forward, will leave Lehman at the end of this semester to take the helm as provost of Brooklyn College. We are delighted that he will
remain within the CUNY family. A search for his replacement will begin shortly, along with announcement of an acting dean.

I am also pleased that Rene Rotolo, who has served the College admirably as director of campus facilities, is overseeing our projects in a new capacity, as assistant vice president for campus planning and facilities.

In keeping with the College’s history, this semester again brings challenge, change, and opportunity. I urge all of us to take pride in our work, our institutional record, and our plans for growth—in what Lehman has accomplished and will accomplish—and in the dedication we bring every day to our mission and our students.

Ricardo R. Fernández, President
Herbert H. Lehman College
The City University of New York