As we begin a new semester, Lehman College looks forward to a continued expansion of programs and facilities—and to a year-long celebration of our eightieth anniversary as an institution of higher learning. A new website commemorating the history of the campus, which began in 1931 with the opening of Hunter-in-the-Bronx, is being developed and will lead visitors through significant milestones of the past eight decades. It also will serve as a repository for archival multimedia materials related to this history.

The anniversary will officially open with the 2011 Lehman Lecture, which will be delivered on Wednesday, March 23, at 11 a.m. in the Lovinger Theatre by the First Lady of the Dominican Republic, Margarita Cedeño de Fernández. She received her law degree from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo and her master’s in corporate law and economic legislation from the Pontifical Catholic University and also has studied at Georgetown and Harvard Universities, as well as at the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

The First Lady has implemented programs in the Dominican Republic to tackle poverty, improve education, close the digital gap, and improve living conditions for families. Her lecture will be open to both the entire campus and the larger community. As the semester progresses, a calendar of other events, including a gala eightieth-anniversary celebration, will be announced.

Any institution with such longevity invariably experiences many peaks and valleys. The current financial climate in the State and nation remains a challenge for us all, and the University has had to address these realities while preserving the quality of education CUNY has long been able to provide for its students.

Funding from New York State to CUNY’s senior colleges has been reduced by $84.4 million in the current fiscal year, and reductions over the past three years total $205 million. As a result, last November the CUNY Board of Trustees approved a five percent tuition increase.
academic restructuring moves ahead, helping to enhance the learning experience

in a year in which we will celebrate lehman’s institutional heritage, the college also will mark a milestone in that history, as we work to convert two academic divisions into schools and establish a third new school. this restructuring will create more flexibility and support for students and coordinate our academic resources for maximum effectiveness. the changes will not affect the personnel, college governance, or academic programs currently carried out by each of these areas. two of the three schools were submitted in early january for approval by the cuny board of trustees. lehman’s division of adult and continuing education is proposed to become the school of continuing and professional studies, and

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and/or pell (a federal assistance program)—which are both based on household income and family size. our financial aid office estimates that only forty-four of those students will need to contribute $230 or less per year toward their tuition and fees.

it’s also true that, despite these state reductions and tuition increases, cuny remains one of the nation’s most affordable universities, and lehman continues to attract an increasing number of highly motivated and talented students. in lehman’s winter session, which began on january 3, more than sixty undergraduate and graduate courses were offered during the day and evening, as well as online, and the number of visiting students grew by 35 percent. most were referred by faculty members and advisers at their home institutions, including columbia, fordham, and new york universities, which indicates we’re doing a good job of getting the word out to our colleagues about our excellent programs. also helping in the overall recruiting effort is the news received last fall that lehman is now ranked by u.s. news & world report as both a tier i and top fifty public college among regional universities in the northeast.

such stability and growth in enrollment are vital to the college. steady numbers of students enable us to plan more accurately for the expansion of programs, faculty, and facilities. while we can expect less support this coming academic year from state sources, there are many ways, besides raising tuition, that we can cushion the impact of this reduction.

i recently established a productivity and budget planning committee to identify opportunities for efficiency improvements, budget savings, and the generation of additional income. the committee, which includes students, faculty, and staff, will announce the first of its recommendations in the coming weeks. i invite you to submit your comments and suggestions to the committee via the online form that is available at www.lehman.edu/innovations. no personal information will be provided to the committee—only your ideas.

last november, when then governor-elect cuomo asked me to serve on his health and education transition committee, i was able to work closely with my colleagues to help recruit the best possible talent to lead the new york state government. the future of our state is also the future of lehman college.
Strategic Plan for 2010-20 Proceeding on Schedule; New, Larger Childcare Center Will Triple Numbers Served

The conversion of divisions into schools is part of the process to ensure that the goals set forth in Lehman’s Strategic Plan for 2010-2020, Achieving the Vision by Building on a Strong Foundation, are met. One major goal, for instance, is strengthening collaborative efforts between Lehman and our principal feeder community colleges—Hostos and Bronx Community Colleges. The aim is to create a smooth transition for transfer students that will enhance their academic success. Participation in the Foundations of Excellence self-study, which began last summer, is helping to achieve this goal. Through the program, we are finding ways to improve the overall experience of this major student cohort. Reports generated to date have been submitted for review and feedback to the John Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education.

Initiatives that deepen faculty skills and expertise also have been implemented. Faculty workshops that began last fall, organized by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, will continue this semester. Previous workshops covered topics such as building a budget, grant writing, and an introduction to sponsored programs. The cultivation of greater alumni engagement, which was bolstered by the appointment last semester of Maria-Cristina Necula as the new Director of Alumni Relations, will continue this semester through a series of events and development of a plan for ongoing engagement.

Working in synchrony with the Strategic Plan is Lehman’s Master Plan for the campus, which was approved by the Board of Trustees, as amended, in 2004. The plan calls for construction of Phase I of the College’s new “green” science complex, scheduled for completion in Spring 2012, and demolition of the T-3 building—which houses our Child Care Center—to make way for construction of the next phase of the science facility. As a result, the College has the opportunity to build a more modern, expanded facility for our students’ children.

The current center can hold a maximum of forty children. A new 6,500 sq. ft. modular building will accommodate one hundred additional children in a two-story, steel-framed structure that will feature six classrooms, multipurpose space, and a pantry.

Modular buildings are assembled in a factory, then disassembled and shipped in sections to the site. There, they are rigge into place on the foundation and the areas where the sections are joined together completed on-site. This process will allow for the structure to be completed more quickly than traditional construction. The $6 million project is being funded through a New York State Capital Allocation bonded by the Dormitory Authority and managed by the CUNY Construction Fund. The building will be situated in the landscaped area between Davis and Shuster Halls, and is expected to open in Spring 2012.


In the Information Technology Division, a strategic plan is being developed that is designed to support Lehman’s strategic goals and provide guidance on the steps needed to improve services and the use of College resources. A new mission statement and metrics for the IT Division have already been completed and can be viewed on the Division’s website by visiting www.lehman.edu/it. In addition, the Division is:

- Creating a means of making data stored at both Lehman and CUNY Central more accessible to various campus offices, through use of a new online tool called Crystal Reports. This tool will provide instant access to reports that previously took days to prepare, enabling more informed decision making.
- Planning to launch a Lehman intranet or portal later this year. Initially for faculty and staff, the portal will provide access to announcements, forms, and applications, all in one place. Students also will have a dedicated portal as well as an enhanced CUNY email system in 2011.
- Establishing an Information Technology Infrastructure Library workgroup, which will apply industry standards for IT service management to improve IT processes and service delivery to the campus.

In other technology areas, we are looking ahead to a new Campus Solutions registration system under CUNYfirst (Fully Integrated Resources and Services Tool). This University-wide initiative is designed to integrate and standardize business processes for all CUNY colleges. The goal is to go live in the fall and conduct Spring 2012 registration using the new system. Queens College and Queensborough Community College implemented the system last November, and we are learning from them to ensure our smooth transition.

As part of our preparation, we will soon begin converting and validating student records in order to migrate them from the current system (SIMS) into CUNYfirst. Training is also a vital component to ensure a successful transition, and training sessions will begin in August and continue throughout the academic year. Finally, a student marketing team will be assembled to create materials, videos, websites, and use of social media outlets to ensure our entire community is ready for CUNYfirst.

Scholarly and Cultural Activities Enrich the Campus and the University

As all these new initiatives proceed, Lehman, as always, can count on the scholarly and creative activities of our faculty, as well as our outstanding cultural resources, to generate an exciting exchange of ideas and viewpoints. Three Lehman faculty members were selected to participate in the CUNY Diversity Projects Development fund, established by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Human
Resource Management to support research projects and other educational activities for or about populations that are traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

- **Professor Marilyn Aguirre-Molina** (Health Sciences), who directs the CUNY Institute for Health Equity at Lehman, will match students with New York City community-based organizations so they can document issues affecting the health and well-being of residents in underserved urban communities. Students will use a technique known as *Photovoice*, with the resulting photo-documentary available as a teaching tool.

- **Professor Licia Fiol-Matta** (Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies) will use the grant for her book manuscript *The Politics of Voice: Gender and Popular Music in Puerto Rican Culture, 1935-1995*. It will include critical biographies of Puerto Rican women singers Myrta Silva, Ruth Fernández, La Calandria, and Lucecita Benítez and explore larger issues of voice in performance.

- **Professors Mario González-Corzo and Dene Hurley** (Economics and Business) will examine the characteristics and growth of Hispanic businesses in the Bronx and evaluate their contributions to the local economy. The study aims to provide more understanding of the local population and promote greater collaboration between Lehman, CUNY, and our surrounding community.

The cultural venues on campus continue to attract record numbers of visitors. Lehman Center for the Performing Arts enjoyed an excellent fall season and plans to continue that momentum during the spring. Old favorites like Johnny Mathis, El Gran Combo, Doo Wop Forever, and Forever Freestyle 5 will return, and on May 1, the Center will host the Bronx premiere film screening of the animated film *Henry & Me*, featuring the voices of Richard Gere, Chazz Palminteri, Luis Guzmán, Cyndi Lauper, Paul Simon, and Danny Aiello. Rubén Blades, a Lehman Honorary Degree recipient (2000), will sing at Lehman Center on February 26 with Puerto Rican crooner Gilberto Santa Rosa.

In the Lehman College Art Gallery, *New York Fiber in the Twenty-First Century* will focus on artists in or near New York City who work primarily in fiber/textile materials or modes, from quilt-making to metal work. All of the works were produced since 2001 by six artists and demonstrate the vibrant diversity of this medium in New York. The reception for the artists will take place on Monday, March 21, from 6-8 p.m. in the Art Gallery and include a performance by Vered Sivan. An online catalog is available at [www.lehman.edu/gallery](http://www.lehman.edu/gallery).

Lehman’s growth and overall development as the premier public cultural and educational institution in the Bronx will accelerate in this decade, as we expand campus facilities, promote faculty scholarship, and enlarge our range of service to the local community. Our more than 62,000 graduates across the country are a testament to Lehman’s unwavering commitment to excellence and to the fulfillment of our mission. With a spirit of perseverance and innovation, we will continue to navigate the changes that lie ahead, confident in the knowledge and experience accumulated over these past many decades.

Ricardo R. Fernández, President
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