Lehman College can look forward this spring to new developments in academic and administrative areas that will further enhance the educational experience we offer our students, and to an array of new channels to support and expand our internal and external communication. Thanks to the dedication of both faculty and administration, and the talents of a diverse and gifted staff, 2012 begins with growth, progress, and a sense of optimism for the future.

CUNYfirst, Intranet, Blogs, and Mobile Platform Will Move Lehman Into a New Technological Era

Technologically, with the help of the Information Technology Division and a number of campus partners, the College will move ahead with several major initiatives:

- CUNYfirst is scheduled to launch in early April and integrate everything from access to employee records to entering grades and registering for classes. Lehman’s CUNYfirst team, led by Jay Mercado, director of enrollment research and processes, is working diligently to improve security and self-help features and prepare key staff members as trainers for the wider College community. I urge everyone who can to attend a town hall meeting on CUNYfirst, planned for late February. A month later, in early April, a walk-in Support Center will open in the East Dining Room to provide hands-on assistance.

To reach students in particular, an energetic student marketing team will spread the word about CUNYfirst by sponsoring “Coffee Break” informational sessions and activities like a scavenger hunt and Jeopardy quiz, which will offer prizes ranging from Metrocards to an Apple iTouch. This is another example of the remarkable leadership skills of our students and their commitment to our College.

- An intranet portal, called Lehman Connect, will be opened for faculty and staff use. Designed to provide a gateway to College information in one convenient location, it will give users quick access to College resources, internal cloud-type storage of documents, team sites for departmental and com-
mittee collaboration, and access to automated forms, workflows, and class schedules. Among its features will be a new repository for hundreds of Lehman’s master’s theses, which will be accessible to the campus community as a research option. A similar portal for students is being developed and will open later this year.

- A new blogging platform will introduce the many voices of Lehman to a worldwide audience. A cadre of forty faculty, staff, and students will launch Blog@Lehman in mid-February from the College homepage, helping to spread the digital message about this institution’s role as a center of intellectual, cultural, and leadership development. The entire campus community — and beyond — is invited to comment and participate. Let’s get the conversation going and share experiences at Lehman in our own voices.

- A new platform for mobile devices will put important campus resources into our pockets. Lehman Mobile will enhance the web experience by easily providing the key information that students, faculty, and visitors need, including maps, event information, daily class schedules, and access to online Library resources.

### Child Care Center and Science Facility Will Open, Expanding Services and Research

On the building front, new facilities that prepare the College for a future central to our mission will reach completion on both the north and south end of the campus.

- The Child Care Center will be fully operational by the end of this semester, doubling the capacity of the present center and serving 140 children in a modern, sun-filled space that incorporates several sustainable features. The twenty-two modules that comprise the two-story structure, which were built off site, will be hoisted into place between Shuster and Davis Halls during Spring Break. Both Lehman students and their children will benefit from the support that the expanded Center provides.

- Phase I of Lehman’s new Science Facility — the first environmentally sustainable building in CUNY’s “Decade of Science” — will be dedicated in the fall. The project, which began in 2008, will attract new students to the sciences and support ever-expanding faculty research. The 69,000 sq. ft. building will feature state-of-the-art laboratories for research and learning, a greenhouse, and systems that recycle rainwater for use within the buildings. The building is aiming to be the first within CUNY to win a LEED® gold rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. Most importantly, it will be a space that facilitates greater interaction among faculty, researchers, and students, expanding opportunities for learning and discovery.

- This semester, Lehman will work to secure capital funding for new construction projects needed to fulfill key elements of the College’s Strategic Plan for 2010-2020. These include Phase II of the science complex and a home for the new School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing (HS2N). Phase I of the new School will accommodate the Nursing Department, and consideration is being given to modular construction for this phase, which would significantly shorten the completion schedule. This semester, construction will begin on the interior renovation of the Student Life Building, as well as the gut renovation of an organic chemistry lab in Davis Hall and the Food Lab in Gillet Hall.

### Funding Outlook Remains Stable for the Semester, As Fundraising and Grant Sources Bolster Resources

In the budgetary area, funding from the State, via the University, will remain tight for the remainder of this fiscal year, but manageable, as we await budget deliberations in Albany to provide a picture of the landscape for 2012-13. Meanwhile, however, Lehman continues to be successful in raising private funds from alumni and other sources for student scholarships and various College needs, while new and ongoing grants from prestigious funding agencies raise our institutional profile and support vital research underway.

- Fundraising is a key component of realizing the vision of an expanded campus with improved facilities, better student support, and more full-time faculty. The College’s annual Leadership Gala, held last October, raised $421,000 in cash and pledges and was attended by over 250 guests. During the fall semester, the Gala and other efforts by both the Lehman College Foundation and the Division of Institutional Advancement raised a total of $3,524,619 toward the overall fund-raising goal of $4,851,833 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, bringing the yearly goal well within reach.

- The College has raised $39 million in cash and pledges toward its $40 million Capital Campaign goal, which is part of the University’s Campaign for the Colleges. The target will be reached by this summer — two years ahead of the 2014 target completion date — and the goal will be reset this semester. The funds include two charitable gift annuities from Lehman alumni — the first within not only Lehman but also CUNY — and a $25,000 bequest from the estate of the late Professor of English Patricia Cockram, which has established the Cockram Endowment in the English Department.

- From the funds it raised, the Foundation contributed $274,000 to the 2011-12 CUNY Compact, a significant addition to our resources. The Compact is a financing strategy that shares responsibility among the State and City, the University, philanthropic sources, and the students through enrollment growth and modest, predictable tuition increases. The recent CUNY tuition increase, for example, represents a modest additional cost of $150 per semester for the next four years that retains our standing as one of the most affordable senior colleges in the region.

- Going forward, the Foundation’s board of directors will be led for the first time by a Lehman alumna, Myrna Rivera (M.A., ’75), who was elected its chair in December. She has served on the board for six years, chaired its Investment Committee since 2006, and is highly experienced in the area of finance and investments, as the founder and board chair of Consultiva Internacional, Inc., an employee-owned investment management consulting firm, and a former director and senior vice president of the Consulting Group at Smith Barney. She also is a recipient of the John Ellis, Jr. Excellence Award for dedication and service in this field. Ms. Rivera succeeds David H. Levey, an independent political economist who has served as board chair since 2006 and will continue as chair of its Investment and Finance Committee.

- In the area of grants, the Office of Research and Sponsored Pro-
programs has received five additional awards since July 1 for a total of nineteen active awards from the National Science Foundation. Among these is a $598,000 renewal of the S-STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program under the direction of Mathematics and Computer Science Professor Robert Schneiderman. This program supports math and computer science students at Lehman. The Office also has three continuation awards from the National Institutes of Health in the areas of microbiology and pathology, mechanisms of obesity, and plant sciences and biochemistry.

■ At the Bronx Institute, Engaging Latino Communities for Education (ENLACE) was awarded $100,000 by the Edwin Gould Foundation, as well as continuing support from the New York Life Foundation and the Toyota USA Foundation. ENLACE works with high-potential, college-bound Latinos from Bronx public schools and supports their achievement with out-of-school classes and enrichment experiences.

Awards and Community Outreach Continue to Grow

The spring semester also begins with positive news in the area of recognition, as well as in our community outreach efforts. Faculty as well as students have won additional awards, including:

■ The Bronx Journal, edited by Professors Christine McKenna and Elaine Rivera (Journalism, Communication, and Theatre), won The City University of New York’s 2011 Murray Kempton Award for Journalism in the "Best Web Publication" category.

■ Lehman junior and Bronx Journal staff writer Basilisa Alonso won the Kempton Award for “Best Feature Story.”

■ Distinguished Professor of History Joseph Dauben received the 2012 AMS Albert Leon Whitman Memorial Prize. The coveted award is presented to a scholar only once every three years by the American Mathematical Society (AMS).

Several new programs are underway in Lehman’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies. The School’s Adult Degree Program has seen its enrollment increase by sixty percent, helping to bring the School’s total enrollment to more than 10,000. In addition, a partnership with the Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network has enabled the School to offer its classes in real-time, using distance learning technology, and reach community-based organizations throughout New York. Similarly, course offerings have grown at CUNY on the Concourse, along with its presence as an area testing center. Building on the success of its summer camp last year, it will offer a new weekday afternoon program this semester for students in grades 3 to 8.

A component of the School, the Bronx Small Business Development Center, formerly headquartered in the Old Gym Building, moved last year to shared space with the School in Carman Hall. Since then, it, too, has experienced an increase in client requests for counseling and training. The Center has developed partnerships with community-based organizations and stakeholders, including the New York Hispanic Cosmetology and Beauty Chamber of Commerce and the Women’s Business Resource Center, both located at CUNY on the Concourse.

Search for Two Major Administrative Positions and Variety of Cultural Events Will Take Place This Spring

The spring semester promises to be especially busy in both the administrative and cultural arenas. With Dr. Mary Papazian’s election in December as president of Southern Connecticut State University, Dr. Joseph W. Rachlin (Biological Sciences) is once more serving as Acting Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, a position he previously filled in Spring 2001. At the same time as this search gets underway, interviews will be conducted for a new Dean of Arts and Humanities to succeed Dr. Timothy Alborn (History), who has indicated his preference to return to full-time teaching once a successor is in place. Helping to administer the School will be Acting Associate Dean Terrence Cheng, formerly chair of the English Department, who is well-known not only on campus for his service to the College, but also in the wider world for his two critically acclaimed novels.

Thanks to Professor Cheng, who was instrumental in inviting her to Lehman, the campus can look forward to an engaging talk by bestselling author, screenwriter, and essayist Esmeralda Santiago, who will deliver the Lehman Lecture on Wednesday, March 21. She is the author of several books, including When I was Puerto Rican, Almost a Woman, América’s Dream, The Turkish Lover, and her latest novel, Conquistadora. The Lecture begins at 11 a.m. in the Lovinger Theatre and will be followed by a reception in the Faculty Dining Room.

The list of other cultural events taking place this semester is too long to include in its entirety, but let me mention a few:

■ Groundbreaking productions from The Bolshoi in Moscow, the Royal Opera House in London, and the Gran Teatre Del Liceu in Barcelona are among those that will be shown in the “Opera and Ballet in Cinema Series” sponsored by Lehman Stages and Emerging Productions. The productions have not been previously seen in theatres. www.lehmanstages.org/opera-and-ballet-in-cinema

■ The Lehman College Art Gallery is hosting two exhibits through May 12: “Under the Influence: The Comics,” examining the work of twenty-three artists indebted to the style and energy of comic book imagery, and “Michael Ferris, Jr.: The Bronx Series and Other Works,” displaying his figurative sculptures based on actual people. A reception with the artists will be held on March 19 from 6-8 p.m. in the Gallery. www.lehman.edu/vpadvance/artgallery/gallery

Both popular and classical artists and companies will visit Lehman Center this semester, including the Moscow Festival Ballet, Ballet Folklórico de Antioquia from Colombia, and performing legends like Gloria Gaynor and Gilberto Santa Rosa. 
http://lehmancenter.org/shows.html

The Office of Alumni Relations will hold an Alumni Recognition event on February 19, formally recognizing and thanking donors and friends of the College. Guests will attend a reception in the Art Gallery and a performance by the Tschaikowski St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra in Lehman Center. Lehman’s School of Education also will host an Alumni Open House on April 30 from 4:30-6 p.m. Use http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SOE_ALUMNI to RSVP.

The College will commemorate Earth Day on April 25 in the Faculty Dining Room at 5:30 p.m. The Women’s Studies Program and Community Service/Service Learning have organized a program that celebrates the life of Dr. Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. The program will include a screening of the film “Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai” and guest speakers Carter Via, a dear friend of Dr. Maathai, and Mary Davidson, who delivered Dr. Maathai’s Nobel Peace Prize speech.

The next several months will bring much more news to report, and many more events to attend. Be sure to check the College’s homepage, as well as our online calendar, to stay on top of all that is going on in a busy and promising 2012.

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