Lehman’s Student Health Center Hosts ‘Walk to Wellness Challenge’

The Student Health Center has launched its first “Walk to Wellness Challenge,” a campus initiative to raise awareness of physical fitness and the importance of walking to achieve better health. About 200 faculty, staff and students agreed to wear a pedometer for two weeks to record their steps and miles. They also got tips on beneficial stretches, walking safely and how to build more steps into their routine daily activities.

Participants in the “Walk to Wellness Challenge” documented their progress and commented on the experience in an online survey that included a raffle to win a Modell’s gift card.

To further encourage members of the Lehman community to take time out of their busy schedules to exercise, the Health Center hosted two “Bring Your Sneakers to Walk” events in September. More than 100 students, faculty and staff members participated in the events and spent their lunch hour walking around the South Field track.

Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández led the “Bring Your Sneakers to Walk” event on September 16, and Vice President of Student Affairs José Magdaleno led it on September 25.

Ode Hoppie, Assistant Director of Campus Life, served as DJ during both events—playing upbeat music to encourage participants to continue walking. The first 50 walkers during each event were given T-shirt prizes and the opportunity to win an iPod Shuffle in a raffle.

“Staff and students alike seemed very motivated by these events and asked when we would do more” said Kate Greenberg, the Center’s Director of Wellness and Health Education. She said the next campus-wide initiative will be the “Five-a-Day Fruits and Vegetables Challenge” in the Spring.
Lehman Students Participate in National ‘Disability Mentoring Day’

Eleven undergraduates from Lehman joined hundreds of students across the nation on October 15 as they shadowed professionals in the workplace in celebration of Disability Mentoring Day (DMD). The annual event is coordinated in New York by the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities and sponsored nationally by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). The Lehman contingent was the second largest in CUNY.

Lehman’s Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) has been preparing its mentees since last April, beginning with a workshop conducted by SDS counselor Lauren Henriquez-Bentiné and Maureen Bobrovnicky, an integrated employment specialist from Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID).

One of the Lehman students, whose major is Nutrition, was mentored by the Director of Volunteer Services at Bellevue Hospital. Another Nutrition major was placed in a unit within the Department of Health that is focused on individuals with diabetes. Three students majoring in Business Administration, Accounting and Art shadowed employees at Bloomberg LLP, the financial news, software and date services company.

Two psychology majors were placed at the Department of Youth and Community Development. One student was at CitiGroup and another at American International Group (AIG)—an especially interesting time for both corporations and a unique experience for the two Business Administration majors.

Lehman’s students were very grateful to receive these opportunities. After their stimulating day as mentees, the students attended a reception at City Hall.

The Lehman mentees shared their experiences at a reception sponsored by the Office of Student Disability Services on October 20.

Peer Educators Gear Up for New Roles in Student Affairs

Peer educators working in the Student Affairs Division prepared for the 2008-09 academic year at a day-long informational retreat. They were introduced to their new roles, department directors, and the special functions they will perform on campus.

Student Affairs Vice President Jose Magdaleno opened the session and welcomed the group. Associate Dean John Holloway spoke on the group’s dual roles as students and leaders on campus.

The retreat began with a “strength finder” workshop led by Counseling Center staff that focused on the development of each person’s core identity and strengths. The students took part in activities presented by the Herbert H. Lehman Leadership Institute, and these were followed by a workshop presented by Alan Fuentes of the Career Services Center and a presentation on “professional identity and networking” by image consultant Pamela Judd.

Student Francisco Valverde described the retreat as “very beneficial and interesting” especially because of its emphasis on how an understanding of one’s core identity can be helpful to peer educators they provide services at the various departments.

“Our program is a unique and multifaceted collaboration of the nine areas of Student Affairs,” says Suzette Ramsundar, Peer Education Coordinator. “Peer educators are specifically trained for the competencies they will need in their assigned areas.”

So if you see someone registering a new voter or talking about the dangers of drunk driving at a Health Fair—and that person is wearing a royal blue polo shirt—you’ll know you’re seeing a Lehman peer educator at work.

2009 CUNY Conference Host

Lehman College will host the annual CUNY Financial Aid Personnel Development Conference on May 29, 2009, for the first time since 1985.
Career Services Hosts Info Session on HACU Internships

The Career Services Center hosted an information session on the HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) led by Wilbur Wright Portalatin, the program’s manager of special events. Thirty-eight Lehman students attended, eager to learn about paid internships especially. Portalatin described the many benefits of internships and the application process—and he provided practical insights and real-life examples of the program’s successes.

Since 1992, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities has placed nearly 7,000 high-achieving students from all over the nation in rewarding, challenging internships matching their majors and career goals with participating federal agencies and corporations. The goal is to create a pipeline of future employees who’ve had positive, meaningful work experiences with these employers.

A number of Lehman students have been recruited for paid summer and semester-long internships in Washington, DC, Maryland, New York, Wisconsin, Colorado and Montana. Last summer, Accounting senior Crisle Acevedo and Nursing junior Catherine Barnes completed HNIP internships at the Pension and Benefit Guaranty Corporation in Washington, DC and the Veterans’ Health Administration in New York, respectively.

For more information about a HACU internship, Lehman students should go to the Career Services Center or they may apply directly at www.hnip.net.

Lehman’s Soccer Club Completes Busy Exhibition Season

During an intensive 8-game exhibition season this Fall, the Lehman Lightning Soccer Club fielded a men’s team, above, that performed consistently and well—a good sign that next year, after a decade-long hiatus, the College will again have a varsity soccer team competing in the CUNY Athletics Conference. Coach Joseph André, far left, is an alumnus who played on the Lehman team in the 1990s and the Cosmopolitan Soccer League for four years. He also served as a coach in the NCAA National Youth Sports Program.
Free Notebooks for Students Spring 2009

ABS Notebooks and the Division of Student Affairs recently came to an agreement that will provide a free four-section notebook to Lehman students each semester. ABS will produce the books with a Lehman-designed cover and eight initial pages of content relevant to the College.

Look for the free notebooks next Spring.