

Student Affairs

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A Big Year for Women's Soccer



With the Lehman team's runner-up trophy, captains Juliana Generoso and Samantha Dias (l-r, above) with CUNYAC Commissioner Zak Ivkovic. See the story on page 4.



Lehman Students Feeling the Holiday Spirit



"We have so much to be grateful for," says student leader Lynn Chau, a junior in Speech Pathology who worked on the week-long campus Thank You Project.

It started with a leadership class at the Herbert H. Lehman Center for Student Leadership Development. Class members were studying Kouzes and Posner's "Encourage the Heart" leadership practice, and that became the catalyst for a week-long "Thank You Project" on the Lehman campus. The timing was perfect as the College community approaches the year-end holiday season.

"We wanted to encourage Lehman students to express their appreciation for things we often take for granted—our families, our homes, our health, our safety and the opportunity for higher education," says Peer

Educator Maria Hernandez, who led the project in collaboration with student leaders.

Many of the messages posted at popular "Thank You Project" locations around the campus did just that.

"This project is like therapy," one student commented. "It's a reminder of good things we tend to forget." Others mentioned major life events. "I'm thankful for surviving cancer," one leadership student wrote. "It's a great idea and a thoughtful project to get us in the holiday spirit," another commented.



Students Launch Food Pantry in Campus Life

An Advanced Leadership class at the Center for Student Leadership Development researched, designed, planned and implemented the “Lend a Can” food pantry located in the Campus Life Building. It is part of an experiential learning requirement to engage in positive social change.

Members of the College community are encouraged to contribute items of non-perishable foods and also to refer any students who are struggling financially and may benefit from food assistance. (Download the intake form at <http://goo.gl/forms/NwTLZ4S07O>.)

The project was conceived last Fall, and the pilot pantry opened during the Spring semester. Students worked corroboratively with Leadership Instructor Lauren McCarthy, the offices of Wellness Education and Promotion and Campus Life, and the Food Bank of New York.

Students in Track One Leadership classes helped run the pantry and reported its use to Student Leader Taisha Pagan, who was in charge of organization and inventory.

For more information, contact Suzette Ramsundar, Associate Director of Campus Life, at (718) 960-8535.

Men’s and Women’s Basketball Teams Are Off to a Strong Start



Men's and women's team leaders John Brens, No. 12 and Amely Del Rosario, No. 21.

Varsity, intercollegiate basketball has a long, proud tradition at Lehman, and this season both men's and women's teams are off to a strong start. As always, the sports program emphasis is on the student part of the student-athlete. Players are encouraged to work hard and focus on teamwork, discipline and academic success.

The men's basketball team has won six games in a row and stands 7-2 overall with a perfect 4-0 in CUNY-AC play, with one more contest scheduled before the holiday break.

Senior Chaun Miller is averaging almost 17 points per game and was

named CUNYAC/ROTC Army Player of the Week. Olando Minott is netting just under 16 points per game.

The women's team stands at 5-4 with 3-1 in CUNY-AC league play, also with one more game scheduled before taking a break for the holidays.

Both Lightning men's and women's teams will return to The APEX on Tuesday, December 29 for the two-day Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament, the ninth annual benefit for the American Cancer Society.

The Lehman teams compete with three regional teams. The women kick off the tournament with a game at noon, and the men play at 6 pm. Winners and losers compete for the tournament title on December 30, with the consolation game tipping off at noon and the championship to follow.

Lehman's sports programs can now reach a larger audience, thanks to Internet streaming technology.

Both men's and women's home basketball games, including all of the Coaches vs. Cancer contests on December 29-30, will be livestreamed from The APEX at www.lehmanathletics.com/watch.

The games can be viewed free of charge on any device that connects to the Internet.

Open Enrollment for Health Insurance

Open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act started on November 1 and will run until March 15, 2016. A new plan called “The Essential Plan” will help Lehman students who earn between \$16,300 and \$23,500 a year obtain health insurance for between \$0 and \$2 a month with small deductibles and free preventive care. The plan covers doctor visits (including specialists), tests ordered by your doctor, prescription drugs, urgent care and inpatient and outpatient care at a hospital. A health insurance navigator is available at the Student Health Center, Monday to Thursday, from 10 am to 4 pm.



Helping Students with Disabilities Find Employment

Finding work after college can be a stressful, frustrating, costly process.

But for job hunters with disabilities, the challenges can be even more complex. In 2014, only 17.1 percent of persons with disabilities were employed compared to 64.6 percent of the general population, according to a recent U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report. However, Lehman is working aggressively to change these statistics.

The Office Student Disability Services is systematically preparing its students for the workforce through collaborative partnerships, experiential learning and its LEADS program (Linking Employment, Academics and Disability Services).

Career Skills and Confidence Building

LEADS advisor Lauren McCarthy helps students develop the “soft skills” needed for successful interviews and provides guidance on how to transfer skills learned in an academic setting to the workplace. Students learn strategies for disclosing information about their disability to a potential employer. They gain an understanding how a paycheck may impact their benefits.

During interview workshops students practice talking about themselves to peers and then participate in mock interviews with professionals. They also conduct job searches and practice applying for specific jobs. All of these programs are designed to build confidence and provide the skills needed for all levels of career and work readiness.

Transitioning to the World of Work

In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October, the Office of Student Disability Services celebrated the contribution of workers with disabilities by inviting four Lehman alumni to discuss their transition to the workforce.

Dirk Hohenkirk was a Morgan Stanley analyst for 10 years who recently returned to Lehman to pursue a Master’s degree



Lehman alumni with disabilities talk about their experiences in the workforce (l-r): Dirk Hohenkirk at the New York City Office of Emergency Management, Samantha Brijmohan at JP Morgan Chase, Kyle Hays at the Port Authority, LaQuon Johnson at LaGuardia Community College and Lauren McCarthy, LEADS Advisor at Lehman.

in Social Work. Paralyzed from the neck down, Dirk became one of the first in the financial sector to use voice to text (Dragon Dictate). He spoke eloquently about the difference between pursuing a job and a career.

Kyle Hayes, an Exercise Science major who works for the Port Authority of NY/NJ, encouraged students to prepare for employment by working hard in an internship before graduating.

After he graduated from Lehman, LaQuon Johnson pursued a Master’s degree in Rehab Counseling and now works as a Disability Specialist at La Guardia Community College. He spoke of the importance of students really understanding their disability and becoming good self-advocates.

Samantha Brijmohan received a degree in Finance from Lehman in 2010 and has since earned five promotions at JP Morgan Chase. As a person with a disability, she emphasized the importance of letting people know what it is you need to function on the job.

For example, she was recently asked to attend back-to-back meetings in two locations. Because much of her work is done via phone and computer, the scheduler was unaware that Samantha uses crutches and that it would be impossible for her to arrive at the second meeting on time. When Samantha shared

this information, she was able to attend the second meeting via video phone, a common practice at JP Morgan.

Help with Internships

At Lehman the Office of Student Disability Services is committed to assisting students to engage in some type of work experience before graduating.

To this end, students are assisted with applications for the very competitive Federal Workforce Recruitment Program, which offers a paid summer internship with the federal government. Nine students completed the process last year, two were offered employment, and one accepted a job offer from the Office of Veterans Affairs.

One student interned at Prudential and two at Mutual of America for the summer through the Emerging Leader’s Program.

“Educating potential employers about the benefits of a diversified workforce is essential to increasing the employment rates of individuals with disabilities,” says Merrill Parra, Director of Student Disability Services. “Our goal is graduate skilled, job-ready candidates who are prepared for the transition.”

Women's Soccer Team Reaches CUNY Finals



Lehman team members and coaches, wearing their runner-up medals, bring home a big new trophy.

The Lehman women's soccer team, now in its fourth year of competition in the City of New York Athletic Conference (CUNY-AC), lost the championship game to the College of Staten Island, 2-1 in overtime. It was the first time the Lehman women have reached the finals, and they were well-represented on the CUNY All Star Teams as well.

After surrendering an early goal, freshman Chelsea Harris tied the game at 1-1, and the score remained tied through regulation time. With 30 seconds left in the first overtime, Staten Island found the back of the net to upset Lehman's bid for the first CUNY women's soccer title and a chance to compete in the NCAA tournament. With a strong season record of 14-3, the Lehman women may still get an invitation to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) tournament.

Lehman's new Sports Information Director Lenn Margolis reports that the Lightning team set new school records for wins, goals and shutouts in a season.

Several members of the Lehman team as well as its coach were 2015 CUNY-AC Women's Soccer All Stars. In voting by the League's coaches and Sports Information Directors, Coach Casey Melilli was chosen Women's Soccer Coach of the Year for the second year in a row,

and Chelsea Harris was honored as Player of the Year. Harris leads the CUNY-AC and is in the Top 10 in the nation in goals scored. To date, she has scored 26 goals.

Joining Harris with accolades are a trio of talented midfielders. Lillian Barreto, Daisy Gomez and Michelle Reyes Ruiz were all selected to the CUNY-AC First Team, along with Samantha Dias and Gredia Sanchez. Barreto, a sophomore from the Bronx, scored eight goals with eight assists this season. Gomez also scored eight goals. Reyes Ruiz, a freshman, scored four goals and five assists.

Also on the CUNY First Team were a pair of defenders: senior Samantha Dias, a four time CUNY-AC All-Star. She tallied four goals this year including the final in the Lightning's semi-final victory over John Jay College. Yonkers sophomore Gredia Sanchez led the team with nine assists and also scored five goals.

Two Lehman players were named to the CUNY Second Team: Juliana Generoso and Pamela Sanchez. Generoso, a senior, was second on the Lehman team in scoring with 13 goals and five assists, including four game winning tallies. Sanchez started all 15 games and netted five goals during the season. Daisy Narvaez was chosen for CUNY's Sportsmanship Team. For more information, see Lehmanathletics.com.

Student Affairs Presenters at National Conference

The national organization Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities (COSD) assists employers and higher education professionals in their outreach efforts with college students and recent graduates with disabilities.

On November 5, two professional staff members from Student Affairs at Lehman—Bascillia Toussaint, Associate Director and Employer Relations Manager in Career Services, and Lauren McCarthy, LEADS Advisor in the Office of Student Disability Services—participated in the Higher Education Best Practices Panel at the COSD Annual National Conference in Chicago.

The University of Delaware and Villanova were similarly represented on the panel. They talked about how the two offices on their campuses collaborate.

The Lehman team of Toussaint and McCarthy focused on specific programs their offices have worked on together such as the Bronx Disability Employment Expo, Passport to Employment, the Mock Interview Program, Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) and career development workshops ([see also the article on the previous page](#)).

“It’s important for all students—with and without disabilities, to know



Lehman presenters at the Chicago conference (l-r) Bascillia Toussaint of Career Services and Lauren McCarthy of Student Disability Services.

that they are held to the same standards of academic success and that they are being provided equal opportunity to use all of the available resources on our campus,” according to the Lehman team.

“Our commitment to serving students with disabilities is in keeping with Lehman’s mission to provide undergraduate and graduate studies in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education within a dynamic research environment, while embracing diversity and actively engaging students in their academic, personal, and professional development.”

The team looks forward to collaborations among all areas of the Lehman community and sharing those efforts at future conferences.



The Higher Ed panelists from Lehman, the University of Delaware and Villanova University.



Career Services Launches ‘Meet the Firms’ Series

The Career Services Center (CSC) is always on the lookout for creative ways to proactively engage Lehman students who are making career decisions. To this end, among the Center’s new offerings is its “Meet the Firms” series of panel discussions, the first of which was held on November 12, targeting students interested in pursuing careers in Business, Accounting and Economics.

“Our goal, as always, is to connect Lehman students with professionals at all levels who are willing to share important details about their organizations, career opportunities and their very own career journeys,” says Nancy Cintron, Director of Career Services.

At the recent event, students networked successfully with panelists and with each other as well. The professionals were able to meet and connect with potential job candidates from Lehman.

The CSC team strategically selected a panel that represented professions in the fields of Human Resources, Marketing, Economics, Insurance, Finance and Accounting, and Higher Education.

The panelists included Kerry Crawford, Business Development Manager at Accounting Principals; Katherine Gomez, Lehman alumna and Associate Project Manager/Promotional Design at NBC; Professor Dene Hurley, Chair of the Economics, Business and Accounting Department at Lehman; Bryan Roberts, Partner at New York Life Insurance, and Leonardo Sabino, Managing Director of Advisory Services at KPMG.



“Meet the Firms” panelists (l-r): Leonardo Sabino, Katherine Gomez, Bryan Roberts, Professor Dene Hurley and Kerry Crawford.

Deirdre Constant, Senior Academic Advisor in the Department of Economics, Business and Accounting, served as panel moderator.

“The panelists’ broad range of skills, backgrounds and experience kept the audience stimulated,” says Cintron. “Our students received many different points of view, all of which were constructive.” Panelists offered the following advice:

- ▶ “The best way to predict your future is to create it.”
- ▶ “Meet professionals in the field you want to pursue, ideally through internships, temporary positions, freelance work and Career Services.”
- ▶ “Be deliberate, strategic and purposeful in your education, internship and employment choices, as well as in your networking. Your career will reflect the decisions you make and the effort you exert.”

▶ “Education is not just about attending classes and getting passing grades. You need to get involved on campus. Invest your time to acquire deeper knowledge as well as relevant skills in your discipline—both of which are necessary for a successful professional career in the future.”

▶ “Your attitude and your aptitude will determine your altitude and how far you will fly.”

Lehman students at the CSC event demonstrated professionalism, the ability to ask strategic questions, and their eagerness to network with the panelists. Human Resources major and alumna Denise Kerr found the event “very helpful.” Accounting sophomore Davis Sanchez said, “I learned a lot of valuable lessons.”

For more information about this program, call (718) 960-8366 or stop by Shuster Hall, Room 254.

SAVE THE DATES
March 14–15, 2016

ReelAbilities: Disabilities Film Festival at Lehman College

Faculty are invited to bring classes.

For more information, contact: disability.services@Lehman.cuny.edu

It's All About Generosity #GivingTuesday

On Tuesday, December 1, the Office of Community Engagement and New Student Programs and its Lehman L.I.F.E. students took part in #GivingTuesday.

Now in its fourth year, the hashtag #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many nonprofit organizations around the world focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

Since its inaugural year in 2012, #GivingTuesday has become a movement that celebrates and supports giving and philanthropy with events throughout the year and a growing catalog of resources.

The Lehman L.I.F.E. students were stationed at locations in Shuster Hall and the Music Building. In just one day they raised more than \$1,100, showing the incredibly charitable spirit of the student body and staff.

A portion of the money raised will go to Nepal earthquake relief



Members of the Lehman L.I.F.E. Alternative Break Program participate in #GivingTuesday in Shuster Hall.

through the Red Cross. The rest will help support the Lehman L.I.F.E. program of domestic and international community service-learning trips.

During the upcoming 2016 spring break, the Office of Community Engagement and New Student Programs will send eighteen Lehman students to Jamaica where they will work at an orphanage, making repairs to the complex and interacting with

the children who live there. The second trip will lead eight more students to the site of the Battle of Wounded knee at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Participants in the South Dakota trip will be attaching skirting to trailers, helping to protect older people especially from nature's elements and building bunk beds that will be distributed throughout the reservation.



Lehman L.I.F.E. 2015 member Melissa Pinales makes a donation to #GivingTuesday (above, l-r) with Community Engagement Director Amanda Dubois Mwake.



Lehman L.I.F.E. students raised nearly \$1,100 as they celebrated the spirit of giving at the fourth annual #GivingTuesday, an international effort to encourage philanthropy.