New Lehman Child Care Center Will Double Enrollment Capacity

The new modular facility is being build off campus and is planned to open in Spring 2012. It will have skylights, a natural ventilation system, vertical gardens, and many other green features.

Children, families, students, and staff of the Lehman College Child Care Center joined friends and distinguished guests at a ground-breaking ceremony September 20 for a new child care facility. Among the speakers were President Ricardo R. Fernández, Vice President for Student Affairs Jose Magdaleno, Congressman Eliot Engel, New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera, CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor Allan H. Dobrin, and CUNY Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction, and Management Iris Weinshall.

The Center’s class of four-year-olds wore construction hats and wielded inflatable hammers as they performed the “Carpenter’s Song” for the audience.

The new facility will have six classrooms, a multipurpose room, an outdoor playground, terraces designed to grow greenery, an atrium with an open stairway, and skylights offering a natural ventilation system, among its many green features. The new building will allow the Center to double its enrollment to serve 140 children for all day and after school programs.

“Our students have told us again and again how important it is to their academic success to have convenient, high-quality child care on campus,” said Vice President Magdaleno. “We’re very pleased and happy to see this dream for a wonderful new facility come true.”

The $6.3 million new Center will be located along Goulden Avenue, between Shuster Hall and Davis Hall. The building was designed by the Brooklyn firm of Garrison architects. It is expected to open in the Spring.
After a rigorous recruitment process, 23 of 114 applicants were selected to join the Student Affairs’ Peer Educator Program. The new Peers shared their enthusiasm at a day-long retreat filled with workshops and team-building activities. To commemorate the National Day of Service on September 10, they participated in the annual Lehman College Fun Run/Walk. Theirs was the largest team registered, Peer Educators Begin Year of Service

The Division of Student Affairs welcomes its 2011-2012 team of Peer Educators.

Peer Educators Begin Year of Service

The entire College honored families and friends who lost loved ones ten years ago in the attack on New York’s World Trade Center and other tragic events that occurred on that fateful day. The commemoration ceremony on campus included a rendition of the Michael Jackson song “You Are Not Alone” sung by the “Turtles’ Class” of four year olds from the Lehman College Child Care Center. The class is shown here with Olga Spearman, Head Teacher and Assistant Director of the Center, and Rafaelina Vargas, Assistant Teacher.

‘Turtles’ Class Sings at 9/11 Commemoration

More than 300 students took part in Special Elections for the Student Government Association and the College Senate held on September 26-27. Elected to the Senate were: Animat Adebayo, Taofeqat Alli, Pedro Diaz, Kou Dokie, Frantz Enama, Anthony Green, Kerri-Ann Mchayle-Henry, Julissa Lora, Vanessa Morales, Leslie Morones, Stella Okure, Michael Olivencia, Rosy Perez, Debora Otun, Miguel Randon, Yafreci Peralta, Dorothy Williams-Wallen, Chigozirim Uwaga, Taraneece Williams, and Rebecca Varillas. Elected to Student Government Association offices were: Salimah Ross as Community Activities Programmer, Rupert Marin as Research Planner, Jesenia Morales as Financial Planner, Joanna Gomez as Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Christopher Chavez as Communications Officer. Special Elections Increase Senators in Student Government

T he Counseling Center has a new Director, Norma I. Cofresi, Ph.D., and is mulling over the possibility of a new name, the Personal Counseling Center. But whatever it’s called, staff and students alike are excited about this year’s programs. They include:

“Relax and Renew,” Fridays at 2 pm, yoga sessions taught by Valerie Baker, L.C.M.H., a certified yoga instructor.

“Worry Less,” Tuesdays at 5:30, on anxiety-reduction techniques, taught by Shaina Siber-Sanderowitz.

“Smile More,” on Wednesdays. Postdoc Fellow Stephanie English, Ph.D., helps students understand and relieve depressive feelings. Dr. English also serves as GLBT Training and Outreach Counselor. If you are interested in Safe Zone Training for your organization, staff, or class, call the Center at (718) 960-8761.

Getting Personal at the Lehman College Counseling Center

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The Student Life Building is buzzing with school spirit. Students registered 44 clubs this fall, 10 of which are new. These include Cultura, which seeks to educate about the various Latino cultures, and the Young Entrepreneurs Association, which is aimed at promoting entrepreneurial thinking among students.

Student leaders attended the fall weekend retreat at the Edith Macy Conference Center, where they focused on issues in leadership development through workshops and presentations. The students also shared in a leadership dialogue with President Fernández and other top college administrators. For a team-building project, the students built rafts.

The retreat was sponsored by the Herbert H. Lehman Center for Student Leadership Development. The Center also sponsors the "Track One" leadership program which has a record enrollment this semester of more than 80 students.

This semester, Lehman’s Student Government Association is hosting African dance classes on Wednesdays and monthly “Take Over Thursdays” to build school spirit. At these events, students can meet their representatives in a fun, informal setting. Student government is also offering low-cost LSAT prep courses.

The Office of Campus Life welcomes its new Assistant Director of Operations, Michael Steele, a recent MBA graduate from the College of Mt. St. Vincent.

Lehman Honors 9/11 Heroes

The Urban Male Leadership Program at Lehman presented a tribute to Hispanic Heritage Month at Lovinger Theatre. The theme was “Building A Stronger America Through Our Heritage and Diversity.” The keynote speaker was Dr. Frank D. Sanchez, CUNY Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. Dr. Sanchez provides leadership for the student-centered university culture and is responsible for initiatives such as the Leadership Academy, CUNY’s opportunity programs, the University Student Senate, and the Black Male Initiative.

Nearly 500 students from Lehman and local high schools attended the Tribute, which included a lively Q&A session after Dr. Sanchez’s inspiring talk. Dwight Stephenson, UMLP Outreach Diversity Recruiter also spoke—about the importance of making a successful transition from high school to college.

At the event, the UMLP honored Nancy Cintron, Director of Career Services, for her outstanding leadership and service to students, education, and the Lehman College community.
**Lehman Lightning Athletics’ Fall Update**

If you have ever marvelled at those electronic sports scoreboards that do just about everything but cook dinner, check out Lehman’s South Field. The big, new high-definition Daktronics scoreboard will project informational graphics, text, photos, and animation—in addition to the old basics of scores, innings, and times at baseball/softball games and soccer matches. “We’re always looking for ways to improve the sports experience for our teams and students,” said Athletics Director Dr. Martin L. Zwiren, “and we want our athletes and coaches to know how much we value their hard work, contributions, and sacrifice.”

**New Baseball Coach Chris Viggiano**

One of the teams that will make great use of the new scoreboard, men’s baseball, is welcoming a head coach whose name may ring a bell to fans of Lehman athletics. He is Christian Viggiano, the star second baseman on the Lightning’s back-to-back CUNY Championship teams of 1995 and 1996 and a three-time CUNYAC All-Star. Viggiano coached previously at Archbishop Stepinac High School, Saunders Trades and Tech, and, most recently, Iona Prep. “Chris was an outstanding student-athlete at Lehman who knows what it takes to perform at a top level,” said Dr. Zwiren. “His experience at high schools will also be a positive factor in recruiting future student-athletes.”

**Coming Together for Health, Fun and Good Cause**

During a talk about school spirit at the Herbert H. Lehman Spring Leadership Retreat, Godwin Doe, a senior, emphasized the need to get more students involved in physically challenging activities. Other students chimed in about the importance of raising school spirit through community engagement—and so began the re-birth of the Annual Fun/Run Charity Walk, which took place on September 10, in recognition of the September 11 National Day of Service.

The September Service Challenge was co-sponsored by the Office of Community Engagement and New Student Programs and the Student Government Association. Doe returned as an alumnus to manage the event of over 15 teams of 100 participants, donors, and volunteers.

A committee of students and staff voted to donate more than $1400 raised through the Fun/Run Walk initiative to the Lehman L.I.F.E. Alternative Break Program. The funds will provide scholarships for student volunteers who will travel to Apopka, Florida and Ginsberg Township, South Africa during academic breaks this year. The Admissions Office team was the leading fundraiser for the event.

![Celebrating their wins—Christopher Bethea and Kayoung Annie Kim of the Internationals team.](image)