Lehman Student-Athletes Will Benefit from New Lehman-Montefiore Health Initiative

Director of Athletics Dr. Martin Zwiren announced a new partnership with the Montefiore Medical Center that will bring an unparalleled level of medical care to Lehman’s 300 student-athletes.

Montefiore clinical fellows Shane Drakes, MD and Daniel Tsukanov, DO will work closely with student-athletes to provide comprehensive sports medical care. They will be present at home contests and will have office hours during the week for physicals and treatment.

“Our student-athletes will benefit tremendously from this hands-on approach,” says Dr. Zwiren.

The program took shape through the efforts of Dr. David Gonzalez, Montefiore’s Director of Sports Medicine, who’s been working with Lehman student-athletes for the past two years. Both Drs. Drakes and Tsukanov have completed a rehabilitation residency at Montefiore and are trainees in the field of sports medicine.

Also instrumental in launching the program were Dr. Se Won Lee, Fellowship Director for Sports Medicine; Dr. Matthew Bartels, Chairman of Rehabilitation Medicine, and Dr. Karen Morice, Director of Women’s Sports Medicine.

“This program will enhance the mission of two institutions to serve the Bronx and surrounding region, in addition to providing high quality healthcare service to students-athletes at Lehman College,” Dr. Lee says.

“This collaboration will allow us to see student-athletes on campus and facilitate and manage care through the medical system,” adds Dr. Gonzalez.

Drs. Drakes and Tsukanov will also work with Durval Morgan, Lehman’s certified athletic trainer, to coordinate coverage throughout the year.

“This is a great opportunity,” says Morgan. “I look forward to working with the hospital to keep our teams healthy.”
The annual fall Wellness Festival, sponsored by the Student Health Center, was not dampened by a downpour of rain. Held inside the Music Building outside the cafeteria, more than 30 organizations participated.

Lehman staff and students took advantage of the opportunity to receive free health screenings such as blood sugar, cholesterol, body mass index, hearing and HIV testing. Multiple affordable health insurance companies provided information and assisted students with applications.

Other groups and clubs from Lehman as well as community-based organizations provided health information on smoking cessation, nutrition, the WIC programs, food stamps, sickle cell, and violence prevention.

Pay It Forward Day...A Roaring Success for Volunteer Action

The Office of Community Engagement and New Student Programs hosted its annual Pay It Forward Day: Community Engagement Fair and “I Volunteer” Campaign on September 15. The event promotes global citizenship through public service by connecting students, staff and faculty with community organizations in need of volunteers. It is aligned with the National Day of Service and Remembrance on September 11, which brings Americans together in the spirit of compassion, unity and service.

The Fair was a roaring success with more than 500 members of the Lehman community registering to volunteer or request more information about services.

Fifty participating organizations representing interests ranging from local schools and hospitals to social service and governmental organizations made this service fair the Office’s largest to date. Among the partners: BronxWorks, Community Learning School, LIFT—the Bronx, Montefiore Hospital, the New York Botanical Garden and Visiting Neighbors.

Some 150 students took part in the “I Volunteer” photo campaign. They shared their reasons for volunteering by creating a T-shirt and taking a photo. The design project enabled members of the Lehman community to state their individual, unique motives for volunteering for public service.

Photos of the students holding their shirts are on display on the first Mezzanine in the Old Gym Building.
Hispanic Heritage Month Focus on Higher Education

The Urban Male Leadership Program (UMLP) and the Department of Latin American, Latino and Puerto Rican Studies presented a Hispanic Heritage Month tribute in the Lovinger Theatre on October 1. The theme was "A Legacy of History Toward a Future of Success."

The keynote speaker was Dr. Samuel Betances, a diversity consultant, motivational speaker and workshop facilitator whose own compelling personal story is engaging, inspiring, entertaining and informational.

Dr. Betances overcame tremendous early hardships to earn graduate degrees in Education from Harvard University and to do post-doctoral work in Urban Social Institutions at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has become a strong national advocate for social justice, with a focus on achievements through higher education by urban students who themselves must overcome difficult life experiences.

Dr. Betances delivered his keynote lecture to more than 400 students from the Lehman College community and Bronx high schools. After his speech, he answered questions from members of the audience. He encouraged students to identify their personal educational path and emphasized that their hard work would be rewarded.

UMLP Program Coordinator and Lehman alumnus David Tavarez also spoke at the event about the importance of Hispanic heritage.

Tavarez cited current leaders such as Lehman College President Ricardo R. Fernández, Bronx Borough President and Lehman alumnus Ruben Diaz, Jr., and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, among others—outstanding role models who have distinguished themselves through higher education and successful careers.

UMLP Outreach Diversity Recruiter Euston Harp directed his remarks to the many high school students in the audience—about potential pitfalls in making the transition from high school to college. He talked about how programs like Urban Male Leadership at Lehman can facilitate that transition.

A feature of the event is the annual award presentation—this year to David A. Badillo, Associate Professor of Latin American, Latino and Puerto Rican Studies.
Lehman Pride Comes Out and Speaks Out!

On October 8, Lehman celebrated National Coming-Out Day, an annual event that supports and affirms members of the LGBTQ community. It was sponsored by Lehman Wellness and the Counseling Center. The day featured performances, speeches, poetry, and coming out stories—all efforts to bring to light the struggles and experiences of the LGBTQ community at Lehman and beyond.

The event raises visibility and awareness around LGBTQ issues on campus and affirms Lehman’s commitment to being an inclusive, safe environment for all students, faculty and staff regardless of their race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation.

Dugeidy Ortiz, Director of Lehman Wellness, hosted the event that opened with a reading from the Laramie Project by Dean John Holloway, followed by Professor Stuart Chen-Hayes from the Counselor Education/School Counseling program, Janelle Hill, Lucinda Bratini, and Megan Wilen.

Student performed pieces including original short stories, poems and musical numbers by Sudden Chemistry and Jeremiah Salvador. The Speak-Out portion of the event was followed by a march to the Old Gym building where students and other participants were met with a networking reception.

In a positive response to the Ebola outbreak that involved members of the nursing profession, two Lehman student groups—the African Nursing Students Association and the Nursing Students Association—held a fund-raiser for the Centers for Disease Control on October 14. They raised $735 in five hours for the CDC.

Lehman Student Veterans in the News

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