Lehman College Honors Student Athletes At Annual Awards Dinner

The stars shined in the Bronx last week, as Lehman College honored their student athletes at the 51st annual athletic awards dinner. The dinner paid tribute to the athletes representing Lehman’s seventeen varsity sports. The stellar event was hosted by Lehman College athletic director Dr. Martin L. Zwiren. Bronx Net’s Gary Axelbank was the emcee for the night, while various members of the Lehman College administration participated in the night’s events.

The night was highlighted with the presentation of the Male and Female Athletes of the Year. Senior basketball star Jonathan Rojas was selected as the Male Athlete of the Year. Rojas led the Lightning basketball team to a 22-7, and the school’s first CUNY championship in seventeen years. The victory gave the school their first appearance in the resulting in the NCAA Division III basketball tournament. His 17.8 points per game ranked him 5th in the CUNY athletic conference, while his 3.7 assists placed him the upper half of the conference. After a stellar season, this individual’s accomplishments were acknowledged, as he was selected as a CUNY First-team all-star, while also being selected as an ECAC all-star and Metropolitan Sports Writers All-star to complete the season.

On the women’s side, senior volleyball player Josenny Hidalgo was awarded the Female Athlete of the Year. Hidalgo has made a lasting impact on the Lightning athletic program. A four-year member of the Lightning athletic program, this young lady has excelled on three different varsity teams. In her final year of competition, Hidalgo led the women’s volleyball team to a 19-7 record, and an appearance in the CUNY Conference Championship game. Her team leading 205 kills, to go along with 462 total attacks ranked her amongst the top performers in the CUNY Athletic Conference. In addition to her heroics on the women’s volleyball squad, she helped lead the Lightning to two CUNY championship appearances in softball, as well as being selected as a CUNY All-star for the women’s swim team.

Seniors Monciana Edmondson and Manny Pantigua were both honored with the Female and Male Scholar Athlete of the Year. Edmondson (3.69 GPA), also was honored with the Charlie Greenberg Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship has been established in memory of longtime Lehman College supporter Charlie Greenberg, who passed in 2000.

Lehman College men’s basketball coach Steve Schulman was presented the prestigious President’s Award. The award is the highest honor bestowed in Lehman athletics. Schulman directed the men’s basketball program to a 22-7 finish and the school’s first ever berth in the NCAA Division III tournament.

“Lehman College athletic banquet is a great reward for all of our student-athletes,” said Lehman College athletic director, Dr. Martin L. Zwiren. “Our athletes work hard all season, and this ceremony is a good way for us to express our appreciation for their dedication.”
LEHMAN COLLEGE
ATHLETIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

BASEBALL
Most Valuable Player-REGGIE RIVERA
Most Improved Player-HECTOR VALLEJO
Rookie of the Year-DAVID MALAVE

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Most Valuable Player-JONATHAN ROJAS
Most Improved Player-MARK DOMIN
Rookie of the Year-KEVIN PROCTOR JR.

MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY
Most Valuable Runner-BILL AGOSTO
Most Improved Runner-FREEMAN BLALOCK
Rookie of the Year-DANIEL GURDIAK

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD
Most Valuable Runner-MARVIN RAINFORD
Most Improved Runner-BILL AGOSTO

MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD
Most Valuable Runner-MARVIN RAINFORD
Most Improved Runner-EMMANUEL CENORAL
Most Valuable Fielder-VICTOR ONYEKERE

MEN'S SWIMMING
Most Valuable Swimmer-MANNY PANTIGUA
Most Improved Swimmer-WALTER LUGO
Rookie of the Year-JUAN JOSE VILLAR

MEN'S TENNIS
Most Valuable Player-TASHIUS MATHURIN
Most Improved Player-JUAN JOSE VILLAR
Most Improved Player-CHRIS POLANCO

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Most Valuable Player-EDWIN GONZALEZ
Most Improved Player-GAURUO BAWA
Rookie of the Year-RAFAEL VALLERIO

SOFTBALL
Most Valuable Player-STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
Most Improved Player-MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Rookie of the Year-SHIRLEY ARRIETA

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Most Valuable Player-SHATASIA LITTLE
Most Improved Player-STEPHANIE GARCIA
Sportsmanship-SHIRLEY ARRIETA

WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY
Most Valuable Runner-SU-ELENE CUEVAS
Rookie of the Year-DENISE STANISLAUS

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD
Most Valuable Runner-LATOYA SPAULDING
Most Improved Runner-SHELLY ANN FINNIGEN
MV Field Runner-DANIELLE HOWARD

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD
Most Valuable Runner-LATOYA SPAULDING
Most Improved Runner-SHELLY ANN FINNIGEN
Most Improved Runner-DANIELLE HOWARD
Most Valuable Fielder-CLAUDEN WILLIAMS

WOMEN'S SWIMMING
Most Valuable Swimmer-MICAELA TABBING
Most Improved Swimmer-QUY HO
Rookie of the Year-JENNIFER CORTEZ

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Most Valuable Player-MACAELA TABBING
Most Improved Player-CHRISTA GRANT
Rookie of the Year-CHRISTY REYNOSO

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Most Valuable Player-ISABEL LORENZO
Most Improved Player-JOSENNY HIDALGO
Rookie of the Year-YANIZA DE LOS SANTOS

SPECIALIZED AWARDS
Pedro Vilaet Award-SCOTT DAMES
Pedro Vilaet Award-CHRIS BOWMAN
Service Award-DAVID MARTINEZ
Service Award-JOE BARNETT
Chip Salvestrini-CARLOS DE LOS SANTOS
Paula Soto-LATOYA SPAULDING
Charlie Greenberg-IVELISSE ROSARIO
President's Award-STEVE SCHULMAN
Male Athlete of the Year-
JONATHAN ROJAS
Female Athlete of the Year-
JOSENNY HIDALGO
Male Scholar Athlete of the Year-
MANNY PANTIGUA
Female Scholar Athlete of the Year-
MONCIANA EDMONDS

Male Scholar Athlete of the Year-
MANNY PANTIGUA

Female Scholar Athlete of the Year-
MONCIANA EDMONDS