

## “Dr. Ruth” Returns to Lehman College to Speak at June 6 Commencement and Receive Honorary Doctorate

**D**r. Ruth Westheimer returns to Lehman College, where she was a faculty member from 1970-77, to deliver the 33rd Commencement address and receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. Commencement ceremonies will be held on Wednesday, June 6, at 10:30 a.m. on South Field of the College's Northwest Bronx campus.

Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández will preside and will be joined on the podium by CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, CUNY Trustee John J. Calandra, Lehman President Emeritus Leonard Lief and Bronx Borough President Fernando

Ferrer. More than 1800 graduates and their families are expected to attend the ceremony, including 1322 who will receive undergraduate degrees and 509 who will be awarded graduate degrees.

Dr. Tom Tarter of the Class of '86 will receive the Lehman College Alumni Achievement Award. The career of this colorful, long-haired biker and former weight-lifting champion from the Bronx has been followed by the PBS television series “Nova” from his first day at Harvard Medical School to a recent program entitled “Survivor MD: The Tattooed Doctor.” Dr. Tarter is an emergency room physician at Bloomington Hospital in Indiana.

Dr. Westheimer, better known as “Dr. Ruth,” was born in Germany and sent to school in Switzerland in 1939 to escape Nazism. Her parents died in the Holocaust and she joined the underground movement fighting for the creation of a Jewish homeland. In 1956 she moved to New York City, where she began a career in social services and earned a doctorate from Columbia University. Shortly after leaving Lehman during a time of CUNY budget cutbacks, Dr. Westheimer lectured a group of broadcasters about the need for “sexual literacy.” A member of this audience arranged for her initial radio show. That program, “Sexually Speaking,” became the anchor of the multimedia communications network that dis-



PHOTO:COLLEGERELATIONS-LEHMANCOLLEGE  
Dr. Ruth Westheimer will address the 33rd Commencement of Lehman College



PHOTO:COLLEGERELATIONS-LEHMANCOLLEGE  
Trinelle Ragoonanan of the Bronx will be the student speaker at the Lehman Commencement

tributes her expertise.

Speaking for the Class of 2001 will be Trinelle Ragoonanan of the Bronx. A member of the Lehman Scholars Program, she

was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in her junior year. She completed a double major in Psychology and Sociology and plans to do graduate work in psychological counseling.

## Lehman’s John Corigliano Wins 2001 Pulitzer prize for Music

**J**ohn Corigliano, Distinguished Professor of Music at Lehman College in the Bronx, received the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for his “Symphony No. 2 for String Orchestra.” Last year, Professor Corigliano received the Academy Award for Best Original Score for “The Red Violin,” a Canadian film that chronicles the story of one violin over several centuries.

One of the leading composers of his generation, Professor Corigliano has received the music world’s major prizes and numerous Grammy Awards for recordings of his work. He has taught at Lehman since 1972. This latest work for which he received the Pulitzer was premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra on Nov. 30, 2000 at Symphony Hall in Boston.

Professor Corigliano has been widely quoted in the press on his love of teaching and the special pleasures of working with the extraordinary group of music students on the Lehman campus.

“The world knows John Corigliano through his brilliant work as a composer,” said Lehman President Ricardo R. Fernández. “Our students know him as Professor Corigliano, a remarkably gifted teacher who inspires and encourages their own creative efforts. We are grateful for his commitment to our young musicians and congratulate him on his latest accomplishment.”

In his orchestral, chamber, and opera works, Professor Corigliano has won global acclaim for his highly expressive compositions and kaleidoscopic, ever-expanding technique. The Ghosts of Versailles, commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera, was a critical and popular success. His Symphony No. 1, commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, was the first major orchestral work written in response to the AIDS epidemic. It won a Grammy for Best Composition and the 1991 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition. His song cycle, Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan, debuted in 1999 at Carnegie Hall. A Dylan Thomas Trilogy premiered at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall and, in Europe, at London’s Royal Festival Hall. His collaboration with the National Symphony brought the orchestra its first Grammy, in 1996, for Classical CD of the Year, for its recording of Symphony No. 1 and Of Rage and Remembrance.



John Corigliano

June 6, 2001

### To the Graduating Class of 2001:

Congratulations on your graduation! You are now a member of the Lehman College alumni family. The degree you have earned places you among the empowered in our society, whatever your plans for the future may hold—a fulltime job, graduate school, or a new direction in your career.

At Lehman College, you have interacted with people from all walks of life and from many countries and cultures, an experience our alumni often say was as important to them as what they studied in classrooms. You have been encouraged to think deeply, to express your ideas clearly and thoughtfully, and to take up the responsibilities of citizenship in your community. Your professors have also emphasized the importance of learning how to learn and grow. Indeed, this is the message of our time—that we all must keep on learning throughout our lives.

As you make the transition from student to alumni of Lehman College, we hope that all those individuals who have contributed to your education will continue to be part of your life and your thoughts. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the months and years ahead. Many of our alumni return to the campus for a concert, lecture, art exhibit, alumni reunion, continuing education course, membership in The APEX, or just a stroll for old-time’s sake.

As you leave this special place where you have invested so much of yourself, I wish each of you happiness and great success.

Sincerely yours,

Ricardo R. Fernández  
President