



- News and Events
- Global Futures
- R.U. Events
- LSC Calendar
- This Week at LC
- Monthly Updates
- Recent Events
- Useful Links

NEWS AND EVENTS



[LC Home : News and Events](#)

[Printable Version](#)

NEWS AND EVENTS

Livingston College Monthly Update Summer/September 2005

Honors, Awards, Accomplishments

Fellows

"La Metrópolis," a story by Lourdes Vázquez (RU Libraries), was read by actress Wanda Arriaga at the Instituto Cervantes on June 7 in New York. The story is part of a new anthology of 12 stories, *La Estatuilla (The Statuette)*, published in 2004. The title work won France's Juan Rulfo Short Story Prize in 2002. The reading was introduced by Arnaldo Cruz Malavé. ♦♦♦♦♦

Academic Programs

- Approximately half of the first-year class (roughly 350 students) is taking part in special academic learning communities at Livingston. Three initiatives are related to the first-year mission course, [Building Community](#), one of which is a four-credit pilot version of the course; the other two are expanded versions of pilot programs undertaken last year.
 - The newest innovation is the Colloquium, which meets for an additional hour each week and is designed to complement the existing course. Students attend lectures by faculty, films, and class discussions, and also meet weekly with their academic advisors.
 - In four sections of the course, students in each class are living together in the North Tower. A unique co-curricular component includes special advising, programming, and activities. In conjunction with the visit of the [Dalai Lama](#) this month, the sections visited the [Zimmerli Museum](#) to see the mandala sand painting, attended the [Dalai Lama's](#) lecture as a group, and then met for a follow-up lecture and discussion with Professor Seth Gopin (Art History, FAS) and Professors Abena Busia and Kurt Spellmeyer (English, FAS).
 - Three sections are dedicated to commuters, focusing on creating co-curricular programming which addresses special interests and needs of commuter students.
 - There are two new special-interest houses in Quad I. In one, the students are enrolled in Media Studies, taught by Professor Steve Miller (Communication, SCILS). He and a senior Communication major (who tutors the students) provide study skills, support, and review for exams, visits from the Career Services office, and films related to the course material. The other house's students are all enrolled in a section of General Psychology, taught by Professor Debra Bryant.
- The Livingston College Honors Program Colloquium's September events were:
 - Film -"The Seventh Seal" by Ingmar Bergman on Sept. 14
 - An open-mic poetry slam on Sept. 21

Keynote and Major Conference Presentations

The first of the [2005-2006 Global Futures Symposia](#) was held September 15 in the Livingston Student Center. The speaker was [Jan E. Leighley](#) of the University of Arizona's department of political science. Her topic was "Prejudice, Politics, and Racial Policy Attitudes." The session was coordinated by [Professor Beth Leech](#) (Political Science, FAS). This year's series' theme is "[Pathways for Envisioning Power](#)."

Other Noteworthy Items - Accomplishments/Activities

Students

- [Welcome Week 2005](#) began with greetings from Dean Hyndman and Vice-President Blimling as the Class of 2009 gathered on the Livingston Student Center lawn to hear James McBride speak about his national best seller, *The Color of Water*. The students had received the book during the summer as a component of the summer orientation program and will be discussing it during the first several weeks of [Building Community](#), the LC mission course. Mr. McBride stayed after his lecture and graciously autographed the books that many students brought to the event.
- Students showed their pride in Livingston as they participated in a number of activities between Sept. 11 and 25. [Pride Week](#) events included a pie-throwing fund raiser for Hurricane Katrina victims, in which students got to decorate the faces of deans, RAs, or RMs, (which netted more than \$700); and one of the most successful campus blood drives (111 registrants, 92 participants including 67 first-time donors). Also held were a barbeque and carnival games, a most enthusiastic water balloon fight, and treasure and man hunts. In addition to the traditional decorating of the Towers and Quads lounge windows, there were also karaoke and open mic nights in the Towers Coffee House.

EOF

- Livingston's EOF's Residential Summer Program "graduated" 62 first-year students, who lived in the Quads and completed two college courses in five weeks. The program is designed to imbue students with a heightened understanding of college life and work. There were many high-achieving students this summer; one was accepted into the School of Engineering, one into the Math Department's Honors Program, and a third student is already working at the level of Calculus III who plans to become a physicist. A fourth student placed out of Biology 101 and 102 based on her AP Exam results
- Students attended a wide variety of workshops conducted by university staff.
- Dr. Kamal Khan, Associate Director of the [Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences](#) (ODASIS), introduced students to his program, which provides support systems designed to increase the number of students entering careers, graduate study or professional programs in science and technology. A number of our students are working with Dr. Khan this fall.
- Kaz Wilson-Williams, an alumna of the Livingston EOF Program. who is now a teacher in the Franklin school system, spoke about the realities of college life, and met several other times with our female students.
- Kwesi Vincent, Math Development Specialist from Student Support Services, led workshops on how to take effective math notes and how to deal with math anxiety, particularly during exams.
- Moses Kim, Technology Development Specialist from Student Support Services, led classes in the Student Support Services micro-computer lab that introduced students to the available technology, and helped them set up their Rutgers e-mail accounts.
- Chris Catching, Manager at the Office of Student Leadership, Involvement & Programs, led a workshop on the benefits of student involvement in campus organizations and service leadership activities.
- Delmy Lendof-Gomez, Assistant Director of Residence Life, led a very interesting workshop for our RA's on different styles of communicating, listening, learning and working.

General

- The [Livingston Student Center](#) (LSC) trained more than 100 student leaders on August 26 at their Fall Leadership Training Day. On August 31 more than 45 organizations participated in the LSC Student Activities Fair, promoting their clubs to new and returning students and telling them how they could get involved. Live music and carnival activities were also part of the event.
- LSC sponsored a poster sale on from Aug. 30 - Sept. 1 and an activities fair on Aug. 31 on Tillett Lawn. LSC's Daytime Diversions program included "Create-a-Bear" on Sept. 13, a chocolate factory on Sept. 19, and airbrush T-shirts on Sept. 27.
- Livingston Program Board (LPB) events included: movie night "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" on Sept. 1; EA Sports video game tournament on Sept. 16, ladies' night on Sept. 22.
- The Livingston Commuter Program sponsored: "Parking Lotta Love" on Sept. 1; the re-opening of the Commuter Lounge on Sept. 2, mini-golf on Sept. 28; a softball luncheon on Sept. 15; and a trip to the Yankees-Baltimore Orioles game on Sept. 21 at Yankee Stadium.
- [LOCO](#) held a Katrina benefit concert on September 29 featuring Nightmare of You, Slik Willy, A Sense of Belonging, and Blueprint; and a welcome back concert on September 8 featuring H2O.

Staff

- The Livingston College Counseling Service held a seminar for staff on Sept. 22 entitled "Emergency Procedures, Suicidal/homicidal Assessment." In particular, discussion focused on the Elizabeth Shin case.
- Dr. Paul Herman, Assistant Dean for Collegiate Program Development and Bob Copeland, Superintendent of Piscataway Township Public Schools, were Keynote Speakers at the New Jersey School Boards Association Leadership Conference in June. The Conference is designed to help board presidents, vice presidents, and members who aspire to those positions to improve

their board leadership skills; to assist participants in understanding how the board-superintendent leadership team affects student achievement; and to provide them with the tools to develop a strong district leadership team.

- Dr. Casey Coakley, Assistant Dean for First-Year Students, was part of a panel at the Student Success Conference at Middlesex Community College on June 3 entitled "Ah-ha Moments!!," focusing on ideas that work to create academic success.

Submit information for future updates to [Dean Tamar Kieval Brill](#)

LIVINGSTON RUTGERS

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