

REGION'S COLLEGES GIVE TOP AWARD TO PIONEER RIVER SCIENTIST

Lehman College Professor Joseph Rachlin "A Role Model for Student and Teacher Alike"

For Immediate Release

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When environmental issues were still trying to gain a foothold in the Hudson River Valley in the late 1960s, Joseph Rachlin was already a wet and muddy grad student up to his elbows in river research.

Now a veteran aquatic ecologist and director of the Laboratory for Marine and Estuarine Research at CUNY's Lehman College, Professor Rachlin has spent 48 years doing something few scientists do – building a world-renowned research career within a few miles of home. A Bronx native, he has devoted his life to the study of the Hudson estuary, and Bronx, Saw Mill and East rivers, and at 80, his passion is undiminished as he leads students in research aimed at restoration of those urban waterways.

"Dr. Rachlin has achieved professional recognition investigating the ecological complexities right outside our door, and training a new generation of researchers at the same time," said Michelle Land, director of the Environmental Consortium of Colleges & Universities. The Consortium will bestow its "Great Work Award" to Rachlin at their annual conference at Vassar College on Saturday, November 7th. Conference agenda and registration here: <http://www.environmentalconsortium.org/news/annualmeet.html>.

Lehman colleague, Professor Yuri Gorokhovich says Rachlin "miraculously combines service, teaching and leadership and shows students how beautiful and productive research can be at home, right in our neighborhood."

"Joe Rachlin is a role model for student and teacher alike," said Land. "He believes, as we at the Environmental Consortium do, that the Hudson-Mohawk watershed is a world-class living laboratory and classroom. His career is proof that a lifetime commitment to knowledge and to this region is a life of accomplishment and service."

Professor Rachlin is best known for his research into the life histories of both freshwater and marine aquatic organisms. He is a fellow of both the Linnean Society of London, and the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists. In addition to his research activities he has served as the director of the CUNY Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, and has served Lehman College as Dean of the Division of Natural and Social Sciences.

The Environmental Consortium's 12th annual conference, "Celebrating the Living Classroom: Research, Education and Collaboration in the Hudson-Mohawk Watersheds," will take place at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY on Friday, November 6th and Saturday, November 7th. The agenda includes field trips, workshops, breakout sessions, a poster session and keynote by Dr. Jean MacGregor, Senior Scholar and Director, Curriculum for the Bioregion, Washington Center for Undergraduate Education, The Evergreen State College. New this year, the inaugural Student Congress is a meeting of student representatives from our member schools to create an agenda for inter-school education and research programs. [Register](#) online. Walk-ins also welcome.

The mission of the Environmental Consortium of Colleges & Universities is to harness higher education's intellectual and physical resources to advance regional, ecosystem-based environmental research, teaching, and learning with a special emphasis on the greater Hudson-Mohawk River watershed. Spearheaded and hosted by Pace University, the Consortium's headquarters is situated within the Pace Academy for Applied Environmental Studies at Dyson College in Pleasantville, New York.