

WILLIAMS CENTER TURNS 40 ♦ A NEW COLLEGE SONG ♦ BUSHKILL CREEK'S BIG GAINS ♦ INFLATION HIGHS & LOWS ♦
FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY IN EASTON ♦ GAME DAY FOOTBALL SCENES ♦ ALUMNI EXPERT HOW-TO GUIDES

Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

FALL 2023

"The Bergh gift
has allowed me to
expand my horizons
as a student and as
a human being."

ELINE PELLICANO '24,
INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS MAJOR



MAKING The Bergh Family Fellows AN IMPACT

program helps hundreds of Lafayette students pursue academic experiences around the world.



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HOW TO WATCH THE GAME

The Lafayette Sports Network's broadcast of the 159th Lafayette-Lehigh football game can be seen on ESPN+ (locate the Lafayette broadcast), MASN, ATVN, and WBPH TV60.



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FALL 2023



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ALL IN HARMONY

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PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON

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is just one of
this year's Bergh
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Expert “how-to” advice from alumni across a variety of industries.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY (TOP) ADAM ATKINSON, (BOTTOM) SAHAR COSTON-HARDY; ILLUSTRATION MIGUEL PORLAN



The Dyer Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship provides the knowledge, networks, and resources to take an idea from conception to development to reality. The center, which welcomed Rita Chesterton as its new director in August, is committed to ensuring students remain globally competitive and are equipped to solve society’s most pressing problems. “I am looking forward to helping to grow the center and expand its mission of increasing the creative capacity of students to lead and inspire change,” says Chesterton. “By embracing entrepreneurship within the liberal arts, the Dyer Center can help to equip students with invaluable skills to navigate an ever-evolving world by fostering innovation, resilience, and a lifelong passion for learning.”

For more information and to check out upcoming events: dyer.lafayette.edu.

WHAT MAKES DYER UNIQUE

▶ **The D.Y.E.R. Fellows Program**
Four years of mentorship and funding to a cohort of students to pursue their own ventures and passions each year.

▶ **Regional Impact**
Through a partnership with City Center Allentown, the Dyer Center established the Real Estate Lab, a program that supports entrepreneurs with knowledge, networks, and capital to transform downtown Allentown neighborhoods.

▶ **Courses**
Lafayette offers several entrepreneurial-centered courses. Four of the latest:

- Social Entrepreneurship
- High-Tech Startup
- Biotechnology Innovation
- Real Estate Investment Decisions

▶ **Entrepreneur-in-Residence and Notable Speakers**
Bringing in notable alumni, corporate partners, and friends of the College to share their backgrounds, knowledge, and career paths helps turn concepts into real-world learning for students. For a full year, the Dyer Center welcomes an entrepreneur-in-residence who teaches a course, mentors students, and assists with programs.

▶ **Real-World Learning**
Each year, students pitch and present ideas in front of panels of experts at the Real Estate Case Competition and the Big Idea Pitch Competition for invaluable feedback and cash prizes.





Why can't a Leopard change its spots?

With the help of Studio Wyse, an award-winning graphic design studio, *Lafayette* magazine has been reimagined. Over the past 18 months, our Communications team deeply considered the makeup of our editorial pages. We wanted to give readers more stories about Lafayette's leaders, impact, and opportunities—and take them behind the scenes, too. We've also devoted at least 25% of the magazine to alumni, because we wanted to share much more about how alumni are shaping the world. In a section in which the title, "In All the World," is drawn from the alma mater, you'll find all sorts of alumni news and nostalgia. Elsewhere in the mag, we offer five pages of practical and professional advice from Pard. (Psst—drop me a line at lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu if you have any expert tips for readers.) As for the design? The delight is in the details. Take, for example, the "Lafayette" masthead on the cover: Our designers wanted to bridge the two "T's" in *just* the right way so it resembled the stone arch at the base of campus. The gateway to the campus felt like an appropriate, albeit symbolic, entryway into the magazine as well. Take a look around, and let us know what you think. We're glad you're here. —Amy Downey, editor, *Lafayette* magazine

Bryan Hay
"A Watershed Moment,"
p. 32



Author Bryan Hay talked to the Wildlands Conservancy in Lehigh County, plus several departments at the College from biology to economics, to report on their collaborative efforts to protect the freshwater mussels in Easton. "Our hope is that the project will encourage others to invest more in the stream as an asset to our community," says David Brandes, professor of civil and environmental engineering and chair of integrative engineering.

Cristiana Couceiro
"All in Harmony," p. 38



Based in Lisbon, Portugal, Couceiro is an award-winning illustrator and designer whose work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *Vanity Fair*. In the story about Lafayette's new college song, Couceiro incorporated handwritten lyrics from poet Yolanda Wisher '98 and sheet music by composer Tom DiGiovanni '96 into the artwork. That extra touch has made the story, like the song, a little more personal.

Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

FALL 2023

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Warm welcomes

President Nicole Hurd catches up with Sarah Moschenross, Lafayette's new vice president of student life, to talk Pard pride, students finding their guardrails, and the benefits of meditation.

NH: What are your impressions on campus so far?

SM: There's a lot of student engagement. Lafayette students have a passion in their bellies about making the world a better place.

NH: You were just at Yom Kippur dinner with the Hillel Society, plus volleyball and football games—as you've been showing up, what has been most exciting about the Lafayette community?

SM: For one thing, it does feel like a community. There's a sense of school pride. Students cheer each other on.

NH: That's one of the reasons I wanted to come here, because I believe in that sense of community. What appealed to you about this position?

SM: I've been committed to inclusion throughout my career, and I felt like I could do that work here. We can focus on real problems that are affecting students and solve them together.

NH: How does this position shape you as an educator?

SM: Education can come in a lot of different packaging. It can be pedagogy that's delivered in the classroom.

And it can be one-on-one conversations with students about how they experience the world. The 18-24 age range is a time of great disruption—exciting, but also challenging. You have to create that sense of safety and belonging in order for students to grow and flourish.

NH: Yes, we need to help students find their guardrails. This is a beautiful moment of discovery for them, and they need enough space to be creative, take risks, and find themselves.

SM: My staff will hear me say this often: This is a learning place. Students are allowed to make mistakes. And we have to show up fully human with each other so we can work through those mistakes.

NH: If the default is kindness, you can actually make real progress. On another topic, what do you want to check out now that you're in the Lehigh Valley? One of my favorites is Owowcow Creamery.

SM: The downtown is so charming. I've been to the farmers market, but I'm also excited to get to know people who are involved with local businesses and places where students can be connected.

NH: What are you reading or listening to right now?

SM: *The Island of Sea Women*, which takes place in Korea. And I'm listening to a podcast about meditation.

NH: I'm reading *Think Like a Monk* by Jay Shetty. I was drawn to it because I'm interested in both how we care for each other and also how we care for ourselves.

SM: This became acute during the pandemic. There's a critical nature to the student well-being aspect of what we do—how to have balance in lives.



GET TO KNOW SARAH MOSCHENROSS

Moschenross joined Lafayette in September as the vice president of student life. Previously, she was the chief student affairs officer at Grinnell College in Iowa.

EXPERTISE
The Division of Student Life cultivates a vibrant educational environment outside the classroom to build connection and belonging, engagement, wellness, career trajectories, and joy.

NOTEWORTHY
Moschenross is currently working on a dissertation about the experiences of women who ascend into executive leadership in higher education.

FOR FUN
Playing with her three kids and dog; spending time outdoors; doing puzzles.

LAST WORD
"We have to meet students where they are and, with a growth mindset, help them to their next stage of development," Moschenross says. "And that's not a one-size-fits-all."



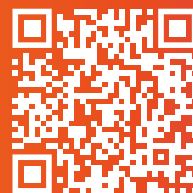
PERFORMANCE SERIES AT THE WILLIAMS CENTER FOR THE ARTS



This fall we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Performance Series at the Williams Center for the Arts. 40 seasons of Lafayette and the best artists in the world, together. Join us at a performance this season to celebrate friends and neighbors, old and new.



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or order online at
williamscenter.lafayette.edu



THE ARTS AT LAFAYETTE

INSIDE

Noteworthy news and happenings on campus. **p. 9**—Strategic planning and campus master plan. **p. 10**—Fulbright awards, Hugel Welcome Center debut, and more. **p. 11**—Recently endowed faculty positions.

On the Hill



EN PLEIN AIR

Jim Toia's drawing class steps outside to sketch an abstract sculpture on campus called *Transcendence*.



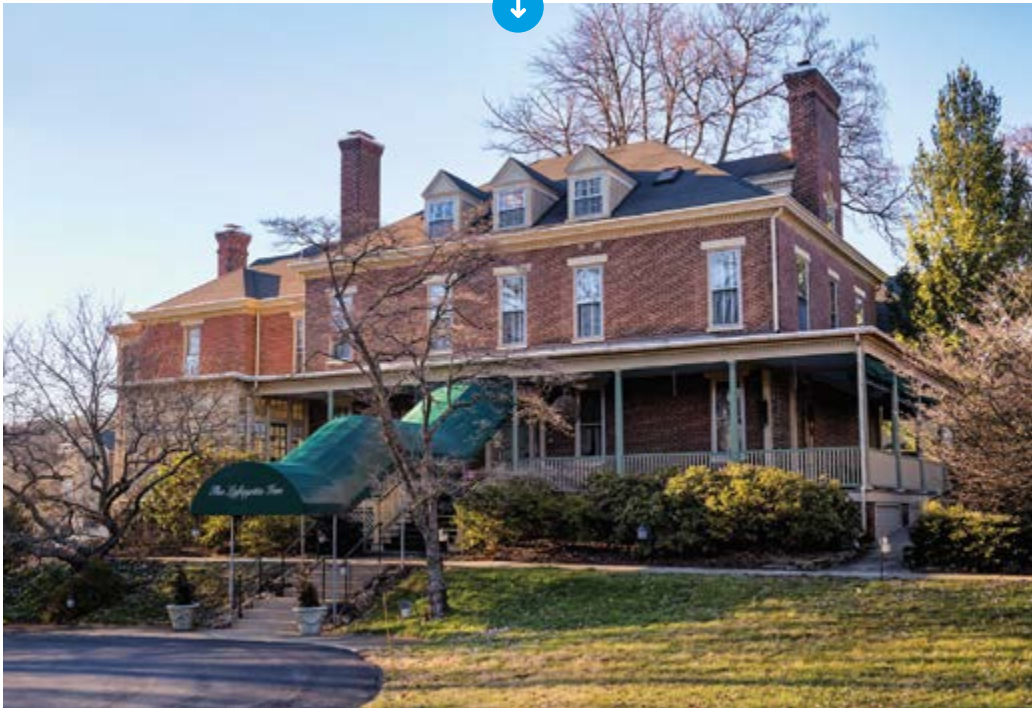
PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON; ILLUSTRATION BY MIGUEL PORLAN

BUILDINGS

Lafayette purchases historic inn

In August, Lafayette purchased the Lafayette Inn, a historic bed and breakfast just a few blocks from campus. The College plans to continue operation of the property as an inn and make any needed renovations and upgrades over time—including, perhaps, just a little bit more maroon and leopard decor. “The Lafayette Inn plays a significant role in our campus community, College Hill, and the greater Easton and Lehigh Valley region,” says Audra Kahr, Lafayette’s executive vice president for finance and administration. “We are thrilled to keep the property operating as an inn that will continue to welcome community members, Lafayette families, and visitors to Easton.”

The Lafayette Inn, now owned by Lafayette, is an elegant Georgian mansion first built by Elizabeth Wagner Leary in 1895. Over the years, it has evolved into an 18-room bed and breakfast.



TECH

Errands get a little more convenient

Two state-of-the-art technologies were incorporated in common areas this semester. The College Post Office, in the basement of Farinon, got a makeover over the summer, including replacing the mailboxes with technology-enabled lockers. Now, students who are picking up a special delivery just have to scan their QR code at the kiosk inside the post office. The order is then recognized and—voilà—one of the lockers automatically pops open for the student to fetch the package. (This is not unlike the Amazon locker technology available at stores like Whole Foods.) As for those students who still receive letters? Well, they just show their ID to



the post office clerk, who retrieves it from the back. Simon’s Market, located in Kamine Hall and open nearly 24/7, now utilizes Amazon’s Just Walk Out technology where hungry students do just that—grab their groceries and exit without ever having to wait in line. Here’s how it works: Customers scan their mobile app or credit card upon entering the store and

then go shopping. Through artificial intelligence, weight sensors on shelves, and object recognition software (think: a bag of chips), the technology identifies what the shopper has selected and charges the account accordingly. Lafayette is the first school in the Lehigh Valley to offer this checkout-free service.

EXTRACURRICULARS

Pard pirouettes?

Five new student clubs were recently approved at Lafayette. Here’s what debuted this fall:

- › Ballet Club
- › Empowering Female Athletes
- › Middle Eastern Studies Association
- › Hellenic Society
- › Amnesty International

UPGRADES

On the pitch

Over at Metzgar Fields Athletic Complex, thanks to a lead gift from Peter Gummeson ’80, the Gummeson Grounds: Home of Mike Bourger ’44 Fields at Oaks Stadium has been constructed with covered seating, English-style terraces behind the goals and along the sidelines, a new press box, and an irrigation system for Metzgar Fields. Look good, feel good, maybe—both men’s and women’s soccer programs were off to winning starts at time of publication.

COMMUNITY

New escarpment trail and plaza available to the public

The new hike-bike trail that connects the main campus with Easton’s downtown business district opened



At Gummeson Grounds, fans attending Lafayette soccer games can enjoy comfortable, and covered, seats to watch the match.

TRENDING

New opportunities for applications, enrollment

It’s about quality, not quantity. Lafayette has reduced the number of extracurricular activities it’s now accepting from high schoolers on the Common App. The College will now consider up to six activities rather than the 10 that the college application platform suggests. Lafayette is the first college to implement such a change.

This marks another step through which Lafayette continues to become more inclusive under the leadership of President Hurd. Recently, the College also became the first liberal arts school to waive the complex financial aid form for students from high-poverty schools.

Additionally, the College announced in October that starting with new applicants for the 2024-25 academic year, students with total family incomes of up to \$200,000 will have their financial need met through grants and work study, without any loans. “With this increase, we want to open our doors even wider to all talented students who know that Lafayette is the right fit for their growth and success,” says Hurd.

STRATEGY

Strategic planning and campus master plan

Thanks to the engagement of the College community, Lafayette continues to make progress on its strategic

this semester. The pathway significantly eases walking to and from town and the Williams Arts Campus. These changes also create a new pedestrian walkway between the Karl Stirner Arts Trail and South College Drive (near the intersection with McCartney Street). At the top of the trail is the new Class of 1962 Gateway Plaza, which was dedicated during Homecoming and made possible by members of the Class of 1962. Head there to snap a selfie with unmatched city views.

IN THE NEWS

Lafayette climbs rankings for top liberal arts school

U.S. News & World Report recently ranked Lafayette as the 30th best liberal arts school in the country, up nine spots from last year’s list. The latest methodology

includes metrics like earnings of graduates and low student-loan indebtedness.

GIFT

Program that offers help writing gets boost

The Dee Miller Prince ’77 College Writing Program Endowment Fund, which provides students with valuable writing assistance, has been created in her honor by husband George Prince. Dee, who passed away in July 2022, was an accomplished writer, journalist, and businesswoman. “It is my hope that Dee’s former classmates and friends will support this endowment to help make it beneficial to even more current and future Leopards,” Prince says. To support the fund for an even greater impact, visit bit.ly/Dee_Miller_77.



BY THE NUMBERS

15

Number of tenure-track faculty members joining Lafayette this 2023-24 academic year. Get to know them all at: news.lafayette.edu/newfaculty2023.

planning process, titled “Becoming Lafayette,” and campus master planning. Both planning processes are well underway and on schedule. Extensive information about both is available online.

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee, supported by a Feasibility and Implementation Committee and consulting firm Grant Thornton, has assigned campus working groups to conduct further analysis and make specific recommendations for College strategic priorities, and the campus community will continue to be invited to contribute to the deliberations as the College moves to finalize the plans by summer 2024.

Following discussions now underway with the Strategic Planning Steering Committee to align the themes and goals of both plans, the community will soon be invited to provide a new round of feedback and perspectives on the emerging campus master plan. The SmithGroup is assisting the College in the process.



DISCOVERY

Potential links between turtles and strokes

Abigail Mack ’24, a biology major who plans to pursue a medical degree in ophthalmology, is working alongside James Dearworth

Jr., an associate professor of biology and department head, to study how the retina cells of freshwater turtles react to different temperatures. Since turtle retinas have an abundance of glutamate—an amino acid that becomes problematic in humans during a stroke—these creatures might be able to explain more about how humans can prevent the disease or mitigate the harm it can cause.

GIFT

Supporting the next generation of student-athletes

A few years ago, a group of Lafayette football alumni were inspired to check on current football players of color in the wake of the death of George Floyd. Mentorship sessions with these students turned into monthly meetings, and regular guidance was offered on issues ranging from career readiness to financial literacy. In March, they created the Brothers of Lafayette Football Fund to further support first-generation and underrepresented student-athletes so they can make the most of their Lafayette experience. (This might mean defraying costs, for example, to pursue internships or study abroad.) To support the fund, visit bit.ly/Brothers-of-Laf.

ON CAMPUS

A greener tour, by request

When it comes to sustainability, there’s been more interest from students—and potential students. Recently, Lafayette began offering sustainability tours to families visiting Easton. Tour guides take prospective families (as well as students,

Impressions matter: The newly renovated Hugel Welcome Center in Markle Hall is often the first place future Leopards visit when they arrive on campus.

faculty, and employees) on a campus tour through the lens of environmentalism. Some topics covered: waste reduction, the College’s carbon footprint, LaFarm, and biodiversity efforts.

UPGRADES

Spaces and places

The newly renovated Hugel Welcome Center in Markle Hall is ready for visitors. Made possible by a bequest from Charles “Charley” Hugel ’51 and his wife, Nina, the space received a major refresh inside (i.e., modern furniture, video screens) and outside (i.e., floor-to-ceiling windows, gardens with native landscaping). “The Hugel Welcome Center serves as the front porch for the College, and we can be proud of the first impression this facility offers,” says Forrest Stuart, vice president for enrollment management. (The renovations also created direct access to the center via the Markle parking deck.)

Across the Quad, there’s a new “Leopard’s Lair” student lounge in the basement of Farinon, which has a cozy fireplace. (This space was formerly the Lafayette College Store.)

DISCOVERY

2023-24 Fulbright grants Lafayette was recently named as a top producer of Fulbright scholars, and this academic



DID YOU KNOW?

When Rockwell Integrated Sciences Center was built a few years ago, a tunnel was created to connect it with the nearby Acopian Engineering Center. The goal? Increase collaboration between the two buildings (also helpful for this winter’s snowy forecast).

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON; ILLUSTRATION BY MIGUEL PORLAN



year, two more students earned the honor. Mackenzi Berner ’23 will complete a teaching assistantship in northern Spain as an English instructor, and continue to absorb as much as she can about Spanish culture and language. Meanwhile, Maria Bossert ’23, who studied in Nepal last spring, will return there for an immersive 10-month project to research effects that national parks have on the country’s Indigenous population.

ACADEMICS

Taylor Swift in the classroom College Chaplain Alex Hendrickson is teaching a new First-Year Seminar, “From Fred Rogers to Taylor Swift:

The Influence of America’s Public Theologians.” In it, the director of religious and spiritual life uses Swift and other celebrities as a jumping-off point; the class explores public theology and people in positions to shape culture and policy.

ON CAMPUS

More student accommodations

The second phase of the housing complex project on McCartney Street is well underway. The expansion will add 160 more beds, modern accommodations, retail on the street level, and anticipated LEED silver certification. Expected completion is the fall 2024 semester.

FACULTY NEWS

Five faculty members recently earned endowed positions. Here’s some of what inspires them.



Justin Hines
David M. ’70 and
Linda Roth Professor
of Chemistry

“I was attracted to Lafayette because of the commitment to quality teaching, which included a strong emphasis on undergraduate research.”



Robin Rinehart
Richard H. Jr. ’60
and Joan K. Sell
Chair in the Humanities

“The most fulfilling thing to me at Lafayette is watching students grow intellectually.”



Joseph Shieber
James Renwick Hogg
Professor of Mental and
Moral Philosophy

“Each semester brings new joys when I get to share with my students some of humankind’s greatest ideas for the first time.”



Julie K. Smith
Frank Lee and Edna M.
Smith Professor
of Economics and
assistant department
head, economics

“I’ve enjoyed working with my colleagues in the department and across the College on research, teaching, and service.”



Megan Rothenberger ’02
Peter C.S. d’Aubermont,
M.D., Scholar of Health
and Life Sciences

“Mentoring my research students, my ‘lab family,’ is my favorite part of being a Lafayette faculty member.”

A

bove the distant din of Interstate 78, two Lafayette students and their adviser are quietly strolling through morning dew at Easton Urban Garden, plucking weeds, inspecting rows of plants, and harvesting herbs and fresh roots, leafy greens, and other seasonal vegetables to help address food insecurity in the city.

Collecting a colorful bounty of dusky eggplant, cucumbers, collard greens, bok choy, string beans, yellow squash, kale, and Peruvian purple potatoes, EXCEL Scholars and track and field teammates Rylee Bordwick '25 and Harvest Gil '25, along with Lawrence Malinconico, associate professor of geology and geophysics, are preparing to take their haul to Easton Area Neighborhood Center in the West Ward. It's one of the Easton neighborhoods facing food insecurity.

Their work is a subset of an impressive roster of faculty, students, farmers, and community members who, for more than a decade, have been dedicated to developing ways to address food issues in Easton. "This summer project is really about connecting with the community and trying to make a difference to address real problems that are happening here, like food insecurity," says Bordwick (anthropology and sociology and environmental studies, minor in geology).



"Food deserts and food insecurity affect a lot of areas, and Easton is no different. So being able to work here on the farm and then figure out different strategies and ways to get produce to those who need it most is a super rewarding experience for us," she says. "But also, we can see the effects that we're making."

Addressing food insecurity in Easton is personal for Gil (environmental geology, anthropology minor). "One thing that has stuck with me through the course of this summer research is how my community works and how it develops," she says. "I went

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON



"We're doing this for the people who live in the same town as we do," says junior Harvest Gil (pictured, above).

to Easton Area High School, so I have a little more of a perspective on how the different sides of Easton interact with each other."

The research to bring fresh produce into the West Ward is part of Lafayette's evolving attention to local food systems. It's an outgrowth of the Tech Clinic Veggie Van project, which began in fall 2012 through a collaboration between Lafayette's Technology Clinic and the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership, in an effort to make fresh produce available within the West Ward.

Malinconico, who has partnered with Benjamin Cohen, chair of engineering studies and professor, on food insecurity research, says helping provide access to fresh produce to people with limited access is at the root of the summer project. "There are less fortunate people in our communities who don't have access to fresh produce," Malinconico says, explaining that produce tends to be relatively expensive on a per-calorie basis. "The real goal for our project is to get produce into the hands of those people who have limited budgets."

The summer research project has reimaged previous food distribution programs supported by Lafayette and Easton Urban Farm, focusing on a customer service-oriented experience. Tables at the Easton Area Neighborhood Center are beautifully and carefully prepared. Wicker and split-oak baskets brim with freshly picked produce. "It gives everyone a little bit more of a sense of oh, this is a nice interaction," Malinconico says. "Through the process, we're learning more about the demographics of the West Ward, which is really important as we work to make sure the food is reaching those in need."

FAST FACTS
Often unnoticed, food insecurity affects many.

18%

Easton's current poverty rate, or a median household income of less than \$58,000, according to Census data.

10%

of Lehigh Valley residents are food insecure, according to Feeding America.

Their work, done quietly and in collaboration with community partners, including Crayola, is appreciated. "I call them my Lafayette angels," says Lisa Campbell, assistant director of Easton Area Neighborhood Center. "They have formed valuable relationships with many of the kids, families, and seniors who come here."

As student-athletes, Bordwick and Gil are used to sweat equity. "Working on a farm is manual labor. And I think just training every day has prepared us for that transition," Bordwick observes.

Cohen, who has led Lafayette's awareness about the importance of fresh food, says the growth of the College's farm and farm studies programs encourages participation in the local food scene. "The purpose wasn't about turning Lafayette into a farming school," he says. "It's about living our principles and generating attention to healthy soil and healthy eating on campus and off."

Over the years, Malinconico has observed students begin to understand how food is sourced and why accessibility matters; many graduates are even working in food systems now. "From a learning experience for the students, there's a fair amount of manual labor," says Malinconico. "But it has been beneficial for the students and the community." ■

On a food distribution day in the summer, Gil, Rylee Bordwick, and Lawrence Malinconico (pictured, left to right) help local residents fill their grocery bags with varieties of lettuce and other seasonal produce.



Lessons in sustenance

Through civic-minded programs, Lafayette addresses food insecurity in Easton.

BY BRYAN HAY

BACK TO BUSINESS

Economics professor Julie K. Smith talks inflation and a new cost of living.

BY BRYAN HAY

If you're a public radio listener, chances are pretty good that you tune into *Marketplace*, American Public Media's flagship business news program.

Chances are also pretty good that on any given day you're listening to *Marketplace*, host Kai Ryssdal has once again called on Julie K. Smith, Frank Lee and Edna M. Smith Professor of Economics and assistant department head, to weigh in on some of today's most pressing topics facing consumers and global commerce.

And Smith, who's also regularly quoted in other media such as the *Financial Times*, always delivers with straightforward, practical information and advice.

We asked our media-savvy economics professor to share her insights into inflation, which in the last couple years has haunted American consumers in ways it hasn't in decades, and provide her take on whether the worst of it is behind us.

How do you explain inflation?

Inflation is a general rise in prices in the economy. The goods and services we purchase are (on average) going to cost more. It does not mean that every price in the economy is going up or that all prices are rising by the same amount. The current inflation arose from both the supply and demand sides of the economy.

How did the pandemic impact inflation?

The pandemic interrupted supply chains and consumers shifted to buying more goods as opposed to services starting in 2020, so the U.S. economy faced huge supply issues. We had cargo ships backed up in

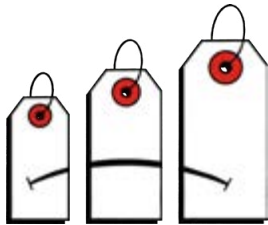


PHOTOGRAPH BY SAHAR COSTON-HARDY

ports and delays in factory production abroad that meant consumers could not get the goods that they wanted when they wanted them, hence prices of goods rose. Then the U.S. government also enacted a large stimulus in the form of direct payments to households. These payments to households gave consumers more money to spend. While early on in the pandemic consumers spent more on goods, eventually consumers switched back to spending more on services (i.e., so-called ‘revenge travel’), so those prices rose. Overall, the combination of supply issues and unusual demand gave rise to higher prices and inflation that we experienced in 2021 and 2022.

With noticeable drops in gasoline, transportation, and food prices, is inflation really starting to ease?
It seems that inflation is beginning to ease with drops in some prices. Also, worldwide supply-chain issues seem to be mostly resolved. In some respects, the easy part of the inflation battle has been won. The harder part is to get inflation close to the 2% target, especially when looking at the core inflation rate, which removes food and energy prices that tend to be volatile.

“Prices are still rising, but they will be more in line with what we have experienced over the last two decades,” Smith says.



Why has the Federal Reserve lately been hiking interest rates? Doesn't that ultimately hurt the spending power of consumers?
The Fed has been increasing interest rates over the last year to cool demand. It does hurt consumers who need to borrow in the short term, but because higher borrowing costs—including, for example, on credit cards, which are affected by Fed rates—tend to reduce demand, higher interest rates also allow the economy and, more specifically, the labor market to recalibrate to a sustainable level that will then allow inflation to move back to 2%, which is the Fed's target rate.

If inflation falls to the Fed's targeted 2%, does that mean the cost of goods and services will start dropping across the board?
Unfortunately, as inflation reaches that 2% level, prices are still rising but they will be rising more in line with what we have experienced over the last two decades. Some goods or services prices may actually fall, but it is likely that the price increases we have experienced are here to stay unless we have a severe recession. The good news is that once we adjust our mindset to the new higher prices, we should see price increases that feel more normal to us.

Is there anything good about inflation?
Some inflation is necessary for the labor market to run smoothly and for the easier conduct of monetary policy. If the Fed's target rate of inflation was zero, then conducting effective monetary policy would be more difficult, and we might find the U.S. economy would experience more volatility, as it did in the pre-World War II era.

It's always a treat to hear you on *Marketplace*. Why is it important for you, your students, and Lafayette to be a frequent guest on the program?
I love contributing to *Marketplace* because it allows me to reach a wide audience, including former students and alumni. I have received emails afterward noting how excited they were to hear me and Lafayette mentioned on a national stage. Being a professor at a small liberal arts college is a wonderful job, but often people do not know or realize the expertise that the faculty at Lafayette have, and being on *Marketplace* gives me an opportunity to share that expertise with more than the Lafayette community. ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAHAR COSTON-HARDY; ILLUSTRATION BY MIGUEL PORLAN



PHOTOGRAPHS BY (BUILDING) LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES, (MORRIS WILLIAMS) BERNARD I. SUSS, (ELLIS FINGER) ADAM ATKINSON, (PAINTING) LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ART COLLECTION, (PIANO) ADVENTR/ISTOCK, (ISAAC STERN) LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES

The Williams Center turns 40

This year, the College celebrates four decades of artistic excellence and memories.

BY BRYAN HAY

When the Guarneri Quartet lifted their bows to perform Beethoven's Quartet in E-flat Major, Opus 74 to open the new Williams Center for the Performing Arts in October 1983, it launched a stellar procession of world-class ensembles and artists that has filled the hall with magic ever since.

A regional cultural attraction and Lafayette's home for the performing and visual arts, Williams Center for the Arts is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Through its Performance Series, the Williams Center has delivered diverse, award-winning, and world-class programming from classical guitarist Eliot Fisk to, more recently, the Washington Ballet. Its intimate 400-seat theater is considered one of the best venues in the Lehigh Valley to experience the finest musicians, dancers, and artists in the world.

In addition to its performance schedule, the Williams Center provides rehearsal and classroom

space for students and annually programs dozens of educational and community events, including pre- and post-performance talks, demonstrations and master classes, specially scheduled shows for families, and outreach programs in area schools, colleges, and community centers, many of which are free and open to the public. Designed by the architecture firm Perkins&Will of Washington, D.C., the Williams Center cost \$8.7 million to build. Construction began in 1981.

Here's a look at some of the Williams Center remembrances and little-known facts from the past 40 years.



1. The center was funded by Morris Williams, Class of 1922. Williams attended Easton public schools and majored in mechanical engineering at Lafayette. As a student, he played on both the soccer and tennis teams, and was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. His family founded and owned a manufacturer of pigments, fillers, and coatings.



2. Ellis Finger, then a professor at the College, was introduced as the center's first director in 1983. Finger went on to lead the center for more than 30 years.



3. The center is home to at least nine portraits of the Marquis de Lafayette, many of them spanning his life (1757-1834). Some are full-sized oil paintings; others are smaller watercolors.



4. The Williams Center elevator was designed to transport a concert grand piano. Meanwhile, the wood paneling over the stage, or the “acoustic shell,” makes for stellar sounds.



5. American violinist Isaac Stern (1920-2001), considered one of the greatest instrumentalists of the 20th century, was part of the Williams Center's inaugural events. He was the Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Visiting Lecturer on Nov. 30, 1983.

LEARNING BY GROWING

LaFarm gets a greenhouse, and it's a hub of activity for the College and community.

BY KELLY HUTH

Lafayette's new 30-by-48-foot greenhouse at LaFarm doesn't just provide a jump-start for the growing season. Housed on Lafayette's 3-acre farm at the Metzgar campus, the greenhouse doubles as a classroom, research facility, and community space. "It's a game-changer," says Josh Parr, manager of food and farm.

The greenhouse, built with support from the Lafayette community and Heidi Ludwick Hanson '91 and Daniel Hanson, debuted in early 2022. During the spring semester, the greenhouse hosted 12 different classes—providing space for students to put studies into practice and gain hands-on experience. Civil engineering students, for example, studied water issues and performed a soil slake test. And, in March, Lafayette offered space within the greenhouse to the USDA to study spotted lanternflies.

Parr, who works with Dining Services to develop a crop plan, previously relied on a small greenhouse at Kunkel Hall but grappled with shade, ventilation, and transportation issues. LaFarm's new greenhouse has improved the quality of seedlings, which means healthier plants and higher production.

Higher yields led to increased donations to local food banks and nonprofits, strengthening the College's bond with the Easton community. Of the 12,000 pounds of produce grown in 2022, one-third was donated to community organizations, another third used in dining halls, and the remaining sold via LaFarm-stand, the College's weekly market. 



Rainwater is collected from the roof and mixed with a vinegar-like solution to organically clean the produce.

Indoor spaces allow for year-round production. In May, LaFarm sold nearly 1,000 plants during its first plant sale.



Student-grown butternut squash, romaine lettuce, sweet potatoes, carrots, cabbage, beets, leeks, chard, eggplant, and tomatoes are featured in campus dining menus and in to-go items at Simon's Market.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SAHAR COSTON-HARDY
ILLUSTRATION BY MIGUEL PORLAN

Mechanical engineering students designed this 750-gallon rainwater catchment system to store water for the veggie wash station.



LAFARM BY THE NUMBERS

3

Total acreage of the property, which is a few miles north of campus.

15k

Average pounds of produce grown each year from blue potatoes to cherry tomatoes.

1,000

Jars of salsa and tomato sauce created in September from 1,600 pounds of tomatoes (plus basil, garlic, onions, and peppers).

24

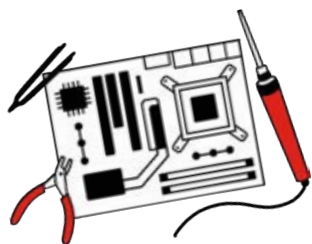
Lafayette students employed by LaFarm in 2022.

CAN THIS BIKE BUILT BY LAFAYETTE ENGINEERS SAVE LIVES?

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS



Associate professor of mechanical engineering Alexander Brown and student-researchers spent this summer constructing a self-driving minibike and innovative software that could potentially transform motorcycle safety.



As an avid motorcyclist, Alexander Brown, associate professor of mechanical engineering, is keenly aware of the unique safety risks associated with cruising on two wheels. There are less than half as many motorbikes on the world's roads as there are cars (600 million motorbikes to 1.4 billion cars); yet, he explains, motorcycle

riders are almost 30 times more likely to die in a crash than those driving cars.

"Motorcycles are little balls of contradiction on so many levels," Brown says. "The stark dichotomy between their mechanical simplicity and their dynamic complexity is fascinating. They have fewer wheels than a car, and they're far less expensive to own and maintain. But they require active, continuous, and nuanced input from their rider simply to remain upright—let alone navigate tricky traffic or road conditions."

The development of new, improved motorcycle safety systems and technology undeniably has the potential to positively impact—and save—many human lives. However, conducting the necessary

research to achieve that goal is challenging. Experimenting with human drivers carries obvious risks, and using life-size bikes makes crash-testing expensive and laborious. In a perfect world, Brown explains, computer simulations would take care of most experimentation—but commercial simulation programs come with a hefty price tag and offer little flexibility for manipulating testing conditions.

Determined to find a more practical solution for testing and improving bike safety, Brown hit the research lab with five Lafayette student-researchers: Ben Arky '24, Paris Francis '26, Bryson Kroenheim '24, Sam Milhaven '24, and Wenjia Li '25. The team spent this past summer custom-building accessible simulation software and a robotic self-driving minibike.

"The models and technology we develop in my lab use free open-source software as a base, which will allow our group to do things few others can do without enormous resource investments," Brown says. For example, they can run hybrid simulations (part hardware, part software), simulate new types of sensors used in advanced safety systems, develop innovative virtual riders of differing skill level or stature, and share their work freely with others—i.e., regulatory bodies—to understand the impact that new motorcycle safety technology might have on traffic flow and safety as a whole.

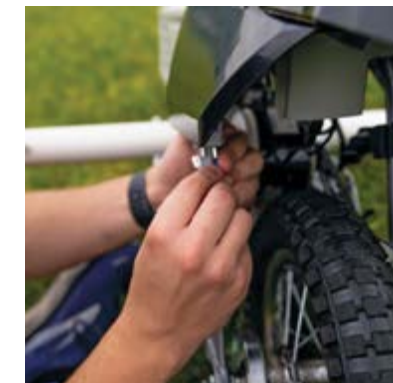
The autonomous bike will be capable of keeping itself upright and steering automatically to follow paths defined by GPS; data collected from it will allow Brown and his student-researchers to see how accurately their simulation software can replicate motorcycle behavior. "Once we have confidence in our simulation software, we can use it to tackle more complex motorcycle safety issues, like development and evaluation of Advanced Rider Assist Technology," Brown says. "These days, premium motorcycles are hitting the market with features like adaptive cruise control and lean-sensitive anti-lock brakes. Motorcycles' dynamic complexity makes developing this type of technology challenging, so it is a rich area for growth in the next decade as we work to make



Meet "Maximus," the high-tech robo-bike with custom sensors and motor controllers.

these systems work better, and more accessible and affordable."

The research project—which was inspired by Brown's Robotics Systems and Design course, and is supported by Lafayette's Mechanical Engineering Department, Integrative Engineering Program, EXCEL Scholars Program, and Clare Boothe Luce & Ally Research Scholars Program—also provides invaluable experience for the students involved. "After conquering this, the students should deservedly have a lot of confidence when tackling other robot design problems," Brown says. "They are developing a level of intellectual maturity and dexterity with the tools and methods of robotics and vehicle dynamics that I didn't have until several years into graduate school."



"The most rewarding thing for me is being able to take the skills and concepts we've learned in class, and use it to work on something hands-on that's our own," says Milhaven, a senior majoring in integrative engineering with a focus on robotics. "It's being able to jump straight into research with a professor as an undergraduate. I'm making things. I've designed parts, installed additional wiring and circuitry, and programmed control schemes. And I didn't have to wait until graduate school to get that experience."

Francis, a sophomore integrative engineering major, says the experience helped her discover new possibilities for her future. "This opportunity opened my eyes to an entirely different career field," she explains. "Having successful code, building my first finite state machine and seeing it run, seeing things work that I've never done before—it's been really rewarding."

Brown and his student-researchers plan to continue their work in the lab throughout the academic year. "We are just getting started," Brown says. "If we can develop models that contribute to new safety systems, infrastructure, or policy, that's a win." ■

FOR MORE To hear more about the project, visit magazine.lafayette.edu/motorcycle to watch a short video.

← The safety tether switch is reconnected, which will stop the bike if it goes off track.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON; ILLUSTRATION BY MIGUEL PORLAN



Members of the Lafayette and Columbia media staff in the press box, including director of athletic communications Philip LaBella. ———>



Game on

Scenes around Fisher Stadium as Lafayette gets ready for its first home football game of the season.

BY MADELINE MARRIOTT '24

For the Leopards, game day begins long before the first whistle blows. In Lafayette's September home opener against Columbia University, the lights turned on in Bourger Varsity Football House as early as 6 a.m. when equipment manager Michael Shiffert '18 began the day's work in the locker room, and what followed was a full community effort: Coaches, trainers, cheerleaders, musicians, fans, and more all rallied behind the players to help them bring home the dominant 24-3 victory over the Lions. Here are just a few scenes from the morning.

Around 9:30 a.m., athletic trainers tape players in the locker room. ———>



Left to right: Devin Paige '27, John Olmstead '24, and Mason Gilbert '24 lead teammates out of the tunnel and by the new scoreboard just before kickoff.

The squad and staff fuel up on breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON; ILLUSTRATION BY MIGUEL PORLAN



Shiffert, who was a four-year starter for the Pard, packs up the essentials. Also pictured are helmets that represent the season schedule; the Lafayette helmet faces each week's opponent.

John Skalski '27 readies his baritone saxophone for the pep band's halftime show.

Players take the field for warmups around 11:15 a.m. ———>



Markle parking deck provides the field for Wilson Warriors practice plays.

Making

By
SHANNON SIGAFOOS

Mark

photographs by
Cole Wilson

From conducting cancer experiments in San Diego to studying languages in West Africa—internship, research, and study abroad opportunities around the world are expanding how and where our students learn. Their work also has far-reaching impact.



IMMERSION IN AFRICAN CULTURE

—
ELINE PELLICANO '24
International Affairs

Eline Pellicano '24, an international affairs major, had been dreaming about a trip to Senegal since she was 6 years old. Not only does she have family friends from the West African country, but she grew up listening to her father tell stories of his many visits there. And, in high school, she volunteered with an organization that helped young women from Senegal and Mali, which further increased her desire to travel. In January 2023, supported by the Bergh Family Fellows program, she finally went to Africa. (For more on the gift from Chip Bergh '79 H'22, see sidebar.) "The Bergh gift allowed me to expand my horizons as a student and as a human being," Pellicano says.

During her time in Senegal, Pellicano became immersed in the culture; her group was led by Wendy Wilson-Fall, professor and program chair of Africana studies, and Rachel Goshgarian, associate professor and assistant head of history. The students participated in daily language lessons to learn the native language (Wolof), traveled to historic sites, and participated in discussions with Senegalese university students and professors.

"While we are here, we have campus support, guidance, and the presence of people we know," Pellicano says. "All of that support is so integral to a college study abroad experience." Rochelle Keesler, director of Study Abroad, adds that the Bergh program has expanded access to Lafayette's interim program for those who weren't able to study abroad. "There's nothing like going to another country and being fully immersed," Keesler says. "I think we'll see a lot more students registering for the next interim program."

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"IT'S A PRIVILEGE
TO TAKE MY STUDIES
OVERSEAS AND BE
PART OF THE GLOBAL
SCHOLARSHIP
HAPPENING TODAY."

STUDYING LINKS
BETWEEN THE
U.S. AND CHINA

STEPHEN BLEISTINE '25
Government and Law,
Asian Studies

● How do you manage to think creatively about China's bilateral relationship with the United States? Stephen Bleistine '25 completed a research internship at Hudson Institute, a think tank in Washington, D.C., and worked with a team to evaluate an increasingly authoritarian and aggressive China. They also studied how China's tendencies will impact the U.S.-led liberal international order.

As a double major studying government and law as well as Asian studies, and minoring in Chinese, Bleistine has a heightened interest in the relationship between the two countries, particularly in the context of U.S. national security. "We simply cannot go back to the Cold War playbook we used against the U.S.S.R. Those rules don't apply anymore," Bleistine says. "Our policymakers, national security experts, and policy experts need to embrace new ideas and reinterpret old ones to stay ahead."

Everything he learned at Hudson Institute deepened his existing enthusiasm for international relations. "I'm very interested in working within federal law enforcement or for one of the intelligence community agencies," he says. "I believe my internship experience will help make that dream career a reality."

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CONSULTING
IN JAPAN

CHRISTOPHER KIRCH '26
Economics and
International Affairs



● More than 6,700 miles from Easton, economics major Christopher Kirch '26 suited up to work at Langley Esquire, the premier public affairs and government relations consulting firm of Tokyo. "Langley Esquire was particularly appealing because of its multicultural environment," says Kirch, explaining that an internship in East Asia would have been unattainable without the Bergh Fellowship.

During his time as a summer analyst in public affairs, he collaborated with other consultants from countries such as Australia, France, and Germany. "This diversity enabled a multifaceted analysis of public policy, which provided a leg-up on our wholly Japanese competitors."

Kirch, who is interested in economics, public policy, and

international affairs, worked on a range of projects to get experience in these domains. "Public affairs acts in the margins of the public and private sector," Kirch says. For example, Kirch learned about the startup nature of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Japan and the development of large-scale infrastructure projects there. He also did work for the Government of Japan for clients in the defense sector. Additionally, he helped to improve commercial partnerships between nations of the Asia-Pacific through co-produced research with the World Bank and World Trade Organization.

"The importance of intellectual diversity is shared between Langley Esquire and the Lafayette ideal," Kirch says.

BIOLOGY LAB
DISCOVERIES

JALY CHIMBO MACANCELA '26
Biochemistry

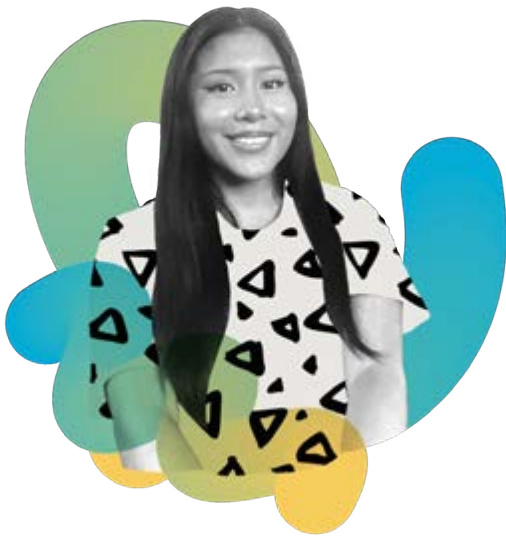
● Using an array of bioinformatics tools, biochemistry student Jaly Chimbo Macancela '26 worked with Eric Ho, associate professor of biology, to identify and annotate the encoded genome of a specific bacteriophage, also known as a phage, which is a virus that infects bacteria and replicates inside of it. Additionally, they worked to identify what types of bacteria it infects by comparing its tail proteins to those

of other phages.

"Jaly worked through various steps of a scientific project, such as collecting data by annotating phage proteins, and critically analyzing if the data align with the hypotheses," Ho says. "The Bergh program created an environment for students to experience what a true scientific investigation is."

Chimbo Macancela had spent the spring semester isolating and characterizing

bacteriophages in her general biology lab, and she was able to continue similar work this summer with a different approach. "This research gave me the opportunity to increase my understanding of the subject outside of the classroom by using bioinformatics," Chimbo Macancela says. She notes that bacteriophages—which have a long history of evolution—possess the ability to infect specific bacterial hosts, as a result of molecular interactions throughout the infection cycle; phage therapy can be used to treat antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections. "Understanding the host range provides



data for comparative analysis with other phages," Chimbo Macancela says, "and offers potential insights on their evolutionary patterns and innovative treatments for bacterial infections."

"The Bergh program is incredibly valuable, because I'm interested in pursuing a career in health care and I've been able to familiarize myself with research tools I have never used before."

INTERNATIONAL
AIRSPACE
IMPROVEMENTS

LANDY RAKOTOARISON '26
Computer Science



Rakotoarison underscores the difference the Bergh program has made for her: “As an international student, I have grappled with uncertainties about my post-college plans and whether I would measure up to the challenges ahead. However, this internship has transformed my perspective. It has instilled in me that there are no limits to what I can learn, achieve, and improve upon. It has given me the assurance that I have the potential to excel in my chosen field, and is a testament to the power of support and encouragement from others.”

exploring how to optimize ASECNA’s free airspace routes to achieve greater fuel efficiency. By developing a model that considers factors such as flight level and turbulence, she found more efficient paths in Madagascar’s airspace. “By creating interactive dashboards, I empowered personnel across various departments to access and explore the data with ease,” Rakotoarison explains. “This enhanced accessibility and collaboration can improve decision-making processes within the company.”

limited internet access and unstable electricity; she was a natural fit for an internship looking to solve problems, specifically about aerial navigation safety. Says Rakotoarison: “My learning in data management and analysis allowed me to assist the agency in efficiently handling their vast amount of data.” One of her key projects was

● Madagascar native Landy Rakotoarison '26 was able to stay close to home for her summer internship with the Agency for Aerial Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA). The computer science major and Lafayette Initiative for Malagasy Education student taught herself coding in high school despite having

EXPLORING
CANCER
RESEARCH

MAX GIANAKOPOULOS '25
Biochemistry



● Out on the West Coast, Max Gianakopoulos '25 spent his summer interning at Scripps Research in San Diego, one of the world’s most influential institutions in the health field. (Thanks to Bergh funding, he moved out to California several weeks before the official housing period began so he could start his research early.) Working with Kristen DeMeester, assistant professor of chemistry, Gianakopoulos completed several proteomic experiments developed by the Cravatt Lab at Scripps, along with western blots, SDS-PAGE gels, and confocal microscopy; together, they tested how effective small molecules were at covalently bonding to proteins in the human proteome. With an overarching goal of contributing to cancer research, DeMeester likened this type of work on chemical proteomics

to “fishing” inside of a cell. “I designed these small molecules that acted as bait,” DeMeester explains, “and Max focused on trying to ‘fish’ out the proteins.” Through this technique, they observed changes between a diseased state (i.e., fishing in “stormy” weather conditions) versus a normal healthy cell. They will continue working together in the spring when DeMeester is teaching at Lafayette; they’ll focus on how bacteria influence the human cell and prioritize a process known as autophagy (or how the body reuses old or defective cells). Thanks to his internship, Gianakopoulos will build on the lab techniques he’s already developed. “Understanding the science and research behind the curtain can help medical professionals fully understand what they’re doing on a day-to-day basis,” Gianakopoulos says.



CODING FOR
A CAUSE

ARMAGHAN EJAZ '25
Computer Science,
Economics

● Thanks to Bergh funding, associate professor of economics Christopher Ruebeck was able to move forward on three different projects this summer, collaborating with nine students and faculty colleagues. “We are looking at questions of environmental resilience in linked natural and social systems,” says Ruebeck, explaining that it’s a two-year program that they are hoping to extend further through future National Science Foundation support. “That’s another way in which the Bergh family’s initiative is leading to opportunities—potential future external funding for additional faculty-student collaboration.”

As a summer EXCEL Scholar, Armaghan Ejaz '25 worked with Ruebeck to use coding to understand the environmental impacts of technological change. Through his work, he learned a new language called NetLogo and a modeling paradigm in agent-based computational economics. “The model we worked on comes from my previous research in differentiated products and technological change,

as well as work with Laura Wong Hon Chan '12 on her honors thesis,” Ruebeck says. During this summer’s research, they focused on how advances in technology affect the environment and consumer choices. “Our findings on how consumers value these changes was very interesting to me, because I previously had not considered the correlation between these areas,” Ejaz says. “I’m grateful for the Bergh program because it taught me how to use my knowledge and skills in programming to investigate real-world cases.”

●●
“IT TAUGHT ME HOW TO
USE MY KNOWLEDGE
AND SKILLS IN
PROGRAMMING TO
INVESTIGATE REAL-
WORLD CASES.”



FROM INDIA TO PHILLY

PADMANABH KAUSHIK '25
Electrical and
Computer Engineering

As an electrical and computer engineer, international student Padmanabh Kaushik '25 was offered two internships during the summer interim period. One, which was an offer to work with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), was back home in his native country of India. However, he faced timing issues with getting Curricular Practical Training approval on time. So, he made the decision to work with ISRO for the first half of the summer, and then—thanks to the BFF program—spent the latter half of the summer as an engineering intern with power and electronics company Evenlite, based in Trevoise, Pa.

“At the sophomore level, many students aren’t experienced enough to work with power electronics and high-voltage control circuits,” says Kaushik, explaining that it’s one of the reasons that employers do not increase internship stipends for students. Even though the company is located close to Philadelphia, it is still an hour’s drive from Easton, and there was a significant cost involved

with commuting and housing. “If I hadn’t received the Bergh Fellowship, I would have had to think about taking another part-time job to support myself financially,” Kaushik explains. “Instead, though, I could take time out to do other productive things.”

Because of the pandemic, companies like Evenlite have confronted difficult changes in the global supply chain. Kaushik identified alternate parts from other manufacturers, tested them on Evenlite’s existing products, and made modifications. The company also used his help for launching their 33,000-watt inverter units, and for designing lithium batteries that would significantly reduce the size occupied by their inverters.

Kaushik garnered confidence working with hardware and power electronics ahead of his third year in school. “Designing a new product was a totally different experience,” he says. “I’m definitely going to be confident moving into these fields after graduating from Lafayette.”

DEPLOYING WRITING SKILLS

ALEX THURTLE '24
English and Theater

English and theater major Alex Thurtle '24 was determined to pursue an internship position on the business and operations side of the arts. While she had applied to a number of different internships, the one that stood out to her most was the opportunity as an Arts Education Fellow at New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark, N.J. However, Thurtle, a New York native, lived a significant distance from Newark. “I would not have been able to take part in this program if it weren’t for the Bergh program,” Thurtle says. “Because of the generosity of the Bergh family, I was able to procure residence in Newark and cover transportation costs for the duration of the summer.”

Thurtle applied many skills she acquired at Lafayette, especially from her time as the 2022-23 Williams Center Fellow. For example, while participating in an executive review of social emotional learning reports, she worked on grammar, writing, survey, and collection skills. (Those reports, which spanned 2020-23, were formed based on surveys completed by arts education students and teaching artists.) In Newark, she reviewed department materials and observed areas like operations; she also took the initiative in other areas, including making presentations about the department, on two separate occasions, to the other fellows, managers, and vice presidents of the organization. “This internship not only showed me what working in a healthy, positive corporate workplace is like,” she says, “but it also helped me to solidify my career path.”

THURTLE WAS DETERMINED TO PURSUE AN INTERNSHIP ON THE BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS SIDE OF THE ARTS.



About the Gift

BERGH FAMILY FELLOWS PROGRAM IS EXPECTED TO SUPPORT AT LEAST 1,000 STUDENTS OVER 5 YEARS



When Chip Bergh '79 H'22 and his wife, Juliet, contributed an unprecedented \$5.25 million gift to Lafayette last fall to support internships, global engagement, and research experiences, they envisioned at least 1,000 students benefiting over five years, through the College's bicentennial celebration in 2026.

Bergh, who is president and CEO of Levi Strauss & Co., studied international affairs at Lafayette. In his 2022 commencement speech to the College, he advised on the importance of learning by doing. “While you only have one life, within that one life you’ll have the opportunity to live many lives,” he said. “Your first job won’t be your last job. Your first career won’t be your last career.”

Those words resonate with students: In 2022, 84% of seniors surveyed held internships in college. Also, at least half of undergrads participate in student-faculty research. “Students who engage in mentored research projects see longer-term benefits in terms of their academic performance and careers,” says Provost John Meier.

Unfortunately, financial roadblocks often stand in the way of what can be life-changing opportunities. Students without the resources to sustain associated travel costs, plus housing and living expenses, can’t pursue or finish

these experiences—something Rochelle Keesler, director of Study Abroad, says is heartbreaking. “The Bergh gift closes the gap and has been really rewarding and fulfilling,” she says, “because these students have been fully supported.”

Experiences like these can lead to promising futures. “This transformative gift,” explains Mike Summers, associate vice president of Gateway Career Center, “removes barriers and makes students much more apt to land a successful career after they leave Lafayette.”

This summer alone, the Bergh Family Fellows program enabled Gateway Career Center to award nearly 30 students with funding. While some students hopped on far-flung flights to practice a new language, others were able to stay in Pennsylvania and continue doing their work with professors, uninterrupted, and without having to face the predicament of also finding a part-time job. And when the experiences end, students bring new competencies back to campus and inspire new ideas and discussions in the classroom.

But the benefits of experiential learning go well beyond building resumes and enhancing campus curricula. Their work has been a catalyst for broader change, whether that’s evaluating the evolutionary behavior of bacterial infections or understanding the political relationship between the U.S. and China. As President Hurd reflected upon the early success of the program, “there is a ripple effect from the Bergh family’s generosity that can affect industries, policymakers, and scholarship around the globe even as it inspires other alumni to invest in this powerful way in our students.”

A

WATERSHED

RECENT DAM REMOVALS ALONG BUSHKILL CREEK IN EASTON ARE LEADING TO A CRITICAL RETURN OF FRESHWATER MUSSELS IN THE AREA. LAFAYETTE'S INITIATIVE AT THE BASE OF CAMPUS IS YEARS IN THE MAKING—AND A CALL FOR OTHER COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD TO RECONSIDER THEIR OWN WATERWAY RESTORATION.

MOMENT

BY
BRYAN
HAY

Freshwater mussels, the unsung bivalves with an oversized role in filtering and purifying water, are essential to the environment. Near Lafayette, however, their egress into Bushkill Creek, a watershed encompassing 80 square miles from Blue Mountain to the Delaware River in Easton, has been blocked for more than 100 years after a series of dams was constructed for milling. Due to dams and water pollution, freshwater mussels everywhere are facing a troubling future: According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, more than 70% of approximately 300 species in North America are considered endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Thankfully, over the past few months, a Lafayette-supported project led by the Wildlands Conservancy, and involving numerous government agencies and conservation organizations, has been removing dams to remedy the waterway, restore freshwater mussels, and improve the overall health of this creek.

Nearly 20 years in the making, the project emerged from a legal settlement stemming from a 2005 coal ash slurry spill at a coal-fired power plant on the Delaware River about 10 miles north of Easton. The nearly \$1 million mitigation settlement

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ADAM ATKINSON

was mostly designated to fund mussel restoration and removal of the Bushkill Creek dams, including the one owned by Lafayette behind its Film and Media Studies building on North Third Street. Separately, the Wildlands Conservancy secured nearly \$2 million in grants and other funding to support the project.

On July 7, using a hydraulic pick, crews started to safely remove the Lafayette dam, the first—and most critical—of a series of dams upstream of the confluence of the Bushkill and the Delaware. Later, in September, the dam at the Simon Silk Mill was removed. And the Easton-owned dam, located between these two sites, is scheduled to come down next summer. The Wildlands Conservancy removed two additional dams on Bushkill Creek in 2021.

By fall, rippling water was flowing smoothly and evenly as if no human-made obstruction had ever been there. The stream channel is adjusting to its restored natural flow, and floodplain capacity has been enhanced. Despite several heavy rainstorms in late summer, the creek has handled the high flow very well.

There's still work to do. As funding becomes available, the Wildlands Conservancy plans to remove a fourth upstream dam and install instream habitat at another nearby preserve. While the Delaware River Basin Commission is selecting a partner for the introduction of freshwater mussels in 2024, the conservancy is partnering with Lafayette to manage the invasive species along the stream banks and restore the riparian buffer with native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers.

Along the trail and stream corridor, birds, pollinators, and other wildlife will benefit from native buffers. Fish will be able to migrate from the Delaware River, and the restored instream habitat will now create sustainable conditions for cold water fish species, including trout, creating improved fishing opportunities. In addition to providing a healthier stream for recreation, erosion will be controlled along the banks and Karl Stirner Arts Trail.

The initiative is about environmental stewardship, but it's creating a restorative nature for humans as well. "The benefits that people derive from a stream, psychologically and emotionally, to be able to come down here and just sit or to fish, it does wonders," says Dru Germanoski, Dr. Ervin R. Van Artsdalen Professor of Geology. "It's a place to nourish our emotional health."

During the dam removal process, Liam Thompson '24 (integrative engineering) and Elise Walsh '25 (geology) collect samples from the stream to measure suspended sediment. In addition to recording the time and location, they are checking the turbidity, or clarity, of the water.



THE BUSHKILL DAM REMOVALS NEEDED VARIOUS KINDS OF EXPERTISE TO ADDRESS THE FULL SCOPE OF THE ISSUE. "IT ISN'T JUST A SCIENCE PROBLEM. IT ISN'T JUST AN ECONOMICS PROBLEM," ROTHENBERGER SAYS.

The Bushkill project has provided an opportunity for the College to offer rich interdisciplinary collaborations, bringing together faculty and students in biology, civil and integrative engineering, geology, and economics. For almost 15 years, they have examined and studied the effects of removing the dams, gathering valuable data that will support and inspire similar projects in the future. "Lafayette College has done a tremendous job engaging their students in the many aspects of the project and helping them gain real-world experience," says Kristie Fach, director of ecological restoration with the Wildlands Conservancy. She adds that these years

of stream monitoring have provided a detailed record of pre-project conditions and stream ecology. "We are excited to be able to compare and quantify the benefits of the dam removals and use this as a model for future stream restoration projects," Fach says.

Since 2010, students of Megan Rothenberger '02, associate professor of biology and chair of environmental programs, have been wading in the Bushkill collecting data in preparation for these dam removals. "When I was a student here, there weren't as many interdisciplinary programs as there are now," she says. However, she explains, the Bushkill Creek dam removals have been a really good example



of a problem that needs various kinds of expertise in order to address the full scope of the issue. "It isn't just a science problem. It isn't just an economics problem," says Rothenberger, adding that it's been gratifying to see students who have worked on this project in her lab to interact with other departments from engineering to geology. "It's the kind of stuff I love and what makes the Lafayette experience so unique."

Mussels, which burrow into sediment and help with nutrient recycling and decomposition, create habitats that are used by other aquatic freshwater species and are considered a keystone species in rivers and streams. (They are vital to the ecosystem and represent a freshwater version of coral reefs.) "Nobody really thinks about mussels, because they're just there. It's not like they move around like fish or frogs," Rothenberger says. "But they're one of the most threatened species of animals. And the main threat to mussels is dams."

Mussel larvae are parasitic, but only temporarily. They attach to the gills of fish that swim up and down rivers and streams. Once they get upstream into a new habitat, they drop off the gills, never harming their host, and grow into adults. Long-lived mussels can survive up to 200 years; the bivalves in the Delaware River below the confluence with the Bushkill are abundant. "But if dams are blocking the streams and the fish aren't able to move up and down, then neither can the mussels," Rothenberger says.

Eurnett Christopher '25, who's pursuing a degree in environmental science with a data science minor, joined Rothenberger's lab last spring to study the effects of low-head dams on the physical and ecological structure of Bushkill Creek. She understands the significant importance of the

initiative: In addition to restoring the natural flow regime and migration of fish species, says Christopher, mussel restoration efforts will likely improve water chemistry and aquatic food webs in the Bushkill Creek. Their pre- and post-removal monitoring will allow them to assess all of this information—and, hopefully, inspire other communities to remove their dams. "We rely heavily on the ecological and economic services provided by freshwater mussels," Christopher says. "Restoration of these extraordinary creatures is just the beginning for Bushkill Creek."

Hongxing Liu, assistant professor of economics, also sees the opportunity within this interdisciplinary project, particularly with biology, and how housing market data and water quality data have merged together to support her socioeconomic research with her students. "We're looking at the housing values around the creek," she says, "to see how the dam removal is capitalized in the housing market." When the water quality is better, Liu explains, the housing prices are typically higher. They've also been surveying Easton residents to gauge how their behaviors and activities have been influenced by the dam removals, considering the changes in aesthetics, water quality, and recreation. "These are things that you can't directly measure from scientific measurements of water quality," Liu says. "It's just so exciting to see it happen."

It's a blazing hot late spring day on the Bushkill Creek at Lafayette's dam, an appropriate backdrop for the kind of gritty learning that makes Lafayette classes and labs come alive.

Removing a machete from his pack of gear, a khaki-and-camouflage-clad Germanoski takes several hearty whacks at Japanese knotweed, a thick, reedy invasive plant that chokes the stream banks. He clears enough of it to make room for the geology and engineering students to move around safely and place their equipment.

Out on the creek, above the dam, David Brandes, professor of civil and environmental engineering and Walter A. Scott Chair of Integrative Engineering, is in a kayak helping his students position and secure a line to an eyebolt, allowing consistent surveying over time of cross sections of the creek both above and below the dam.

Germanoski, with his students, is gathering data on how the streambed and hydraulics will change with removal of the dam as sediment disperses with the creek's elevation shifts. "That sediment will start to get eroded because the energy of flow is proportional to the slope," he says. "And that'll cause sediment to erode upstream of

the dam. This stream will eventually create its own sort of natural gradient, or slope, that will basically be a new equilibrium."

Germanoski also observes the pools in the less active water above the dam; they warm up in the summer and affect the migration of trout trapped in that area. "Every time

"THE LONG PROCESS TO GET TO THE POINT OF DAM REMOVAL IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF THE PERSISTENCE OFTEN NECESSARY TO EFFECT ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE,"
BRANDES SAYS.

you're taking a dam out, you're opening up passage for the fish," he says. "So that movement is really important to the fish. This allows temperature-stressed fish in warmer pools to move freely to find cold water during the heat of summer." He adds that, during spawning season, fish will be able to migrate into Bushkill Creek from the Delaware River, which helps both the Bushkill and other fisheries throughout the Delaware River.

While people often associate dams with flood control or flow management, Germanoski notes that these Bushkill dams play no positive role in flood control. "They were not constructed to provide any flood protection. They have very little water storage capacity and do not provide any real measure of flood control," he says. "In fact, dam removal will reduce local flood impacts. The channel can convey more water within the channel without flooding."

Navigating his kayak to shore, Brandes takes a philosophical view of all the

interdisciplinary work that's been done by Lafayette over the years. "Part of it is environmental stewardship and giving something back to the larger community. The Bushkill Creek is our neighbor, our natural boundary between campus and the city of Easton," he says. "I think it's fair to say, it was essentially ignored by almost everybody until the Karl Stirner Arts Trail was established in 2011; soon after we started conversations about dam removal on the lower Bushkill."

Access to the stream from the trail has brought to light its potential as a recreational green space, and so removal of these dams will continue the work of connecting people to nature in a mostly urban environment, Brandes says, adding, "that's what makes this project so important."

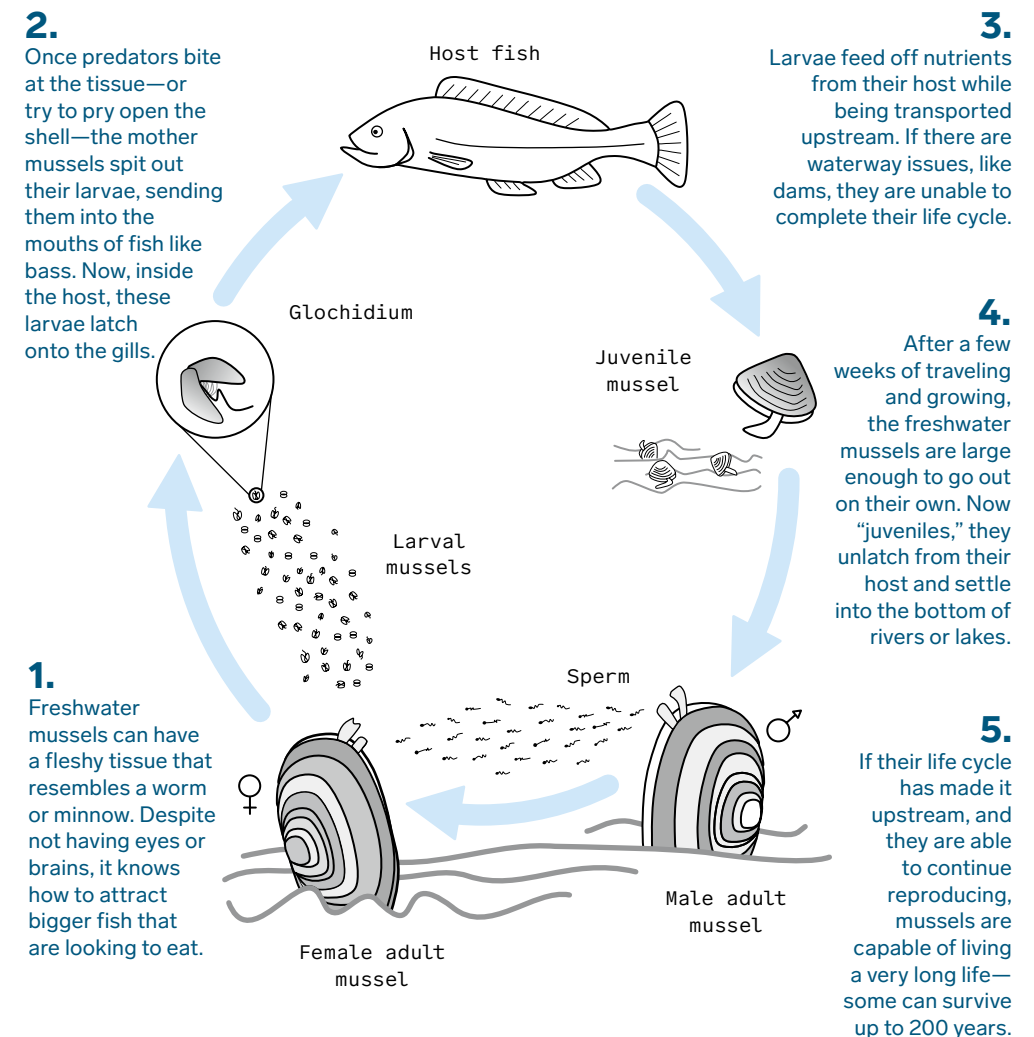
"Our hope is that the project will encourage others to invest more in the stream as an asset to our community, rather than letting it remain a forgotten industrial corridor," he says. "I have had several teams of students, in engineering courses and environmental studies capstone, contribute fabulous ideas to what this place could look like." He adds that while many in and around campus might not even know the dams existed, it's easy to imagine, for example, sitting on a deck above the former site and enjoying lunch and a cold beverage while listening to the sound of water running over the rocks.

"The fact that it's so close to campus just makes it an incredibly great opportunity for students to get involved in meaningful multidisciplinary research. This is the kind of project where collaboration and commitment of many partners with differing expertise are needed," Brandes says. "The long process it took us to finally get to the point of dam removal is a great example of the perseverance that is often necessary to effect environmental change."

Nearby, integrative engineering major Liam Thompson '24 is in a wetsuit helping guide the line; he's interacting with

WILD RIDE

Freshwater mussels have an important job: They improve habitats for creatures, like fish and snails, and clean waterways by filtering out things like algae and bacteria. Inside the fascinating life cycle of freshwater mussels—one of the most imperiled animal groups in North America.—Amy Downey



Eventually, the students will take these samples to the lab, dry them out, and weigh the solid material. This sort of data allows them to estimate how much sediment, formerly trapped behind the dam, is now mobilized by the dam removal.

This year, through
community and collaboration

—and the lyrics and composition
of two alumni—

the newest College song has
emerged.

all in _____ *harmony*

by Shannon Sigafos

illustrations by
Cristiana Couceiro

Yolanda Wisher '98
was asked to draft
the lyrics for
Lafayette's newest
song. She named it
"Why Not?"



SOURCE PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN HULVAT

Sitting in front of a blank page,

its stark white space gleaming with possibilities, Yolanda Wisher '98 summons words that are unplanned and unpredictable. Lyrics come to life as she ponders what best to say to the future: When her son's generation, and *his* children's generation, listen to her song, what will they need to hear from this time and this moment?

Wisher, the 2016-2017 Philadelphia Poet Laureate, was tasked with a rare assignment to create the newest song for the College's musical catalog. The Lafayette Alumni Chorus (LAC), which commissioned the project last fall, trusted that Wisher could help bring that vision to life. "Since its founding in 1826, there have been songs written for and about the Lafayette experience," says Jennifer Kelly, associate professor of music and director of choral activities. But the school's collection was due for a revisit: Some of the songs are more than a century old—the "Alma Mater," for example, was written in 1884 by Walter C. Stier—and the last new Lafayette song was created in the '60s, when the College was still an all-male institution.

So this Lafayette song had to meet many challenges. It had to be able to stand the test of time; be able to adapt, rearrange, and expand as musical styles evolve

over the years; and to make an impression while also building on Lafayette's long legacy of song and singing. While doing all of that, Wisher also wanted to consider the impact and deeper meaning of the song's message.

To get there, Wisher embraced the "craft of community" throughout the process. Choir students and Kaleidoscope social justice peer educators were invited to take part in a focus group to discuss potential ideas for the song's message. "We definitely did not want to do this in a silo," says Sheena Seopaul '11, president of the LAC.

But another step was essential too. While Wisher was chosen to be the lyricist, Tom DiGiovanni '96, who is trained as both a conductor and jazz pianist, took the

Composer Tom DiGiovanni '96 created the sound while conductor Jennifer Kelly brought the song alive on stage.

SOURCE PHOTOGRAPHS BY RYAN HULVAT



After a rough draft of the song was complete, DiGiovanni and Kelly met a few times to discuss what would make the piece “sing off the page” with minimal struggle for the performers.

to offer for everyone. Wisher's song, titled “Why Not?”, officially debuted in April at the 2023 Lafayette Choral Reunion.

Ethan Coffin '25, who is a baritone in the choir, said it was wonderful to have a chance to sing it alongside many other Lafayette alumni and describes the song as both catchy and endearing. Says Coffin: “It was really nice knowing that this was the first instance of what is later going to become a long-standing tradition.”

7

“Over the past few years, the board of the LAC had been discussing how to update the Lafayette songbook to be more inclusive,” Kelly explains. Unfortunately, during the process of these conversations, in 2019 the alumni group lost a dedicated member who served on its board, David Vilcek '78. His wife, HelenBeth Vilcek '79—also a member of the LAC—wanted to honor David through the organization; she offered to support a project for the Choral Reunion. But the LAC director, Kelly, and the board suggested another way to remember him: to commission a new Lafayette song that would be dedicated in his name.

Creating a heritage piece through music is a special tribute—and no easy feat. “To sing a song is a pretty intimate act,” Wisher says. “I’ve always been one to choose my words on paper pretty carefully.” The lyrics are born of Wisher's desire to say something she believes will also represent the Lafayette communities of past, present, and future. “How do I hold the people who have been helped by all the songs in the past,” she says, “but also the Black and the brown folks, the

lead on composing. “I lived with Yolanda's beautiful and daring lyrics for a few days before I tried to put them to music,” DiGiovanni recalls. “The lyrics hit that perfect space of saying so much while shining a spotlight on the space between the words and the phrases.”

As the song structure began to take shape, the composer sang various lyrics in different tempi—repeating, assessing, evaluating, and repeating again. (“This part of the process is sloppy and ugly,” DiGiovanni says.) After a rough draft of the song was complete, he and Kelly met a few times to discuss what would make the piece, as DiGiovanni observes, “sing off the page” with minimal struggle for the performers.

Finally, the LAC, Concert Choir, and Chamber Singers came together for several rehearsals to test out the music and lyrics through performances. “When it all came together and we heard the song for the first time, we were thrilled,” Seopaul says. She notes that the lyrics represent today's Lafayette, with something

queer folks, and women—folks who weren’t necessarily thought of when those other songs were written?”

Wisher says lyrics like “*Why not dream it together, a Lafayette of ever*,” which draw upon her fond memories of the physical campus and her own experiences of “feeling like an outsider” at Lafayette by way of her race and class, make up a song “folks can find themselves in and that serves as a call to imagine the edges of what’s possible.”

She adds that the decision to commission a Black woman poet as the author of this new song points toward progress and vision. “It makes me hopeful about the College’s future and growth,” she says. “With so many great poets who have come out of Lafayette, I’m honored that I was chosen to write these words.”

Seopaul is moved by the theme of inspiration in the song and especially in lyrics like, “*Spark the fire and rally the wind, why not shake the sky and move the hill*.” “‘Why Not?’ reminds you that you can make a difference where you are today,” she says. “Everyday change is change.” She suggests there is still more to

“How do I hold the people who have been helped by all the songs in the past, but also the *Black* and the *brown* folks, the *queer* folks, and *women*?”

be learned about the song: “We’ll continue to discover new meaning as we perform it and as it becomes part of Lafayette’s history.”

Kelly, who also conducts the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, is working to put together a comprehensive edition of all the Lafayette songs from the 19th, 20th, and now 21st centuries. “Times change, and we wanted a song that embraces our students of today,” she says. “Embracing ‘Why Not?’ connects us to the important legacy of Lafayette songs while also welcoming our growth into the present times.”



In April, student singers joined Lafayette Alumni Chorus members onstage at the Williams Center for the Arts to perform “Why Not?” for the first time. The song was part of a joyful 75-minute concert highlighting music and poetry from around the world.



Catching up with Yolanda Wisher ’98

Pard poet reflects on the writing process.

For more than two decades, Yolanda Wisher ’98 has been writing poetry to shed light on personal, societal, and social justice issues. In 2016, her impactful work was recognized when she was named Philadelphia’s Poet Laureate. Like many artists who use literature or music to help advocate for transformative change, Wisher has also been using her words to help mobilize communities in Philadelphia through block parties, neighborhood hangouts, workshops, and other events that encourage engagement.

Writing played a vital role in strengthening her creative muscle as a child growing up in the northern suburbs outside Philadelphia. As a teenager, she spent one summer staying with relatives who lived in the city so that she could attend poetry classes at the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia would beckon her home after she finished her degree at Lafayette, and she’s been part of the city’s fabric ever since. A focus of her work, she says, is cultivating a sense of togetherness and family in the sometimes very harsh places that cities can be. “They’re very prismatic places, and I love all of it,” Wisher says. “It’s a playground for a poet.”

Wisher feels just as nostalgic about her connection to College Hill; she frequently returns to Easton to reconnect with those who helped shape who she is today. “When I was there as a student, my sanctuary was with the professors,” she says, adding that many of those cherished individuals—including retired professors—are still in the area. “They made me feel like I belonged there.” Primarily, she credits Professor of Economics Rex Ahene;

Francis A. March English Professor Emerita Carolynn Van Dyke; and Emerita Francis A. March Professor of English and Writer-in-Residence Lee Upton. “I wouldn’t be the poet or leader I am without the encouragement that they gave me,” Wisher says. “So, it’s about the place, but it’s also a lot about the people.”

In more recent years, prepared as she feels by Lafayette, she has also been encouraged by the broader acknowledgment, resourcing, and celebration of artistry informed by the Black experience. In the past year alone, Wisher was named a “Cultural Treasure” of Philadelphia; has worked as an artist-in-residence at Thomas Jefferson University; and moderated a film festival panel about *Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project*, a documentary about the world-renowned poet and civil rights activist. Additionally, she’s on a team committed to addressing gun violence through public art projects.

And so, when she says that she was humbled by the opportunity to provide the lyrics for a new Lafayette song, she is also clear about her confidence. When she was asked to combine her affection for her alma mater with her poetic skills, she knew she was the best person for the job. “I really love and honor the process of writing something that can speak to a lot of people,” says Wisher, explaining it’s one of the reasons she’s so drawn to music and poetry. “It requires humility and a lack of ego that I strive for in the work—to be able to write something that will live on beyond you.”



WHY NOT?

why not leap like leopards
into the thick of things
why not reach like trees
into the everyday

why not spark the fire
and rally the wind
why not shake the sky
and move the hill

why not major in moments
why not wonder now
why not adorn tomorrow
with this golden hour

why not spark the fire
and rally the wind
why not shake the sky
and move the hill

why not fight to flower
live to learn
why not dream it together
a Lafayette of ever

why not

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RYAN HULVAT

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INSIDE

We asked alumni to share their industry expertise. **p.46**—Elevate your writing like a pro. **p. 47**—Strategies to solving problems both big and small. **p. 48**—How to filter out (and overcome) information overload.

Cur Non

The Marquis de Lafayette's family crest bore the Latin words "Cur Non" or "Why not?" This phrase is emblematic of having courage to challenge the status quo.



"Once a writer realizes they have something to say, they have an obligation to say it in the best way that represents them."

KAMEISHA HODGE
LIBERAL ARTS, 2011



PHOTOGRAPH BY EMAN MOHAMMED

HOW TO ELEVATE YOUR WRITING

Want to be heard through the written word?

Author, publisher, and wordsmith extraordinaire Kameisha Hodge '11 will help you find your voice as a writer—and take it to the next level.

BY STELLA
KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS

When she founded Sovereign Noir Publications in 2019, Kameisha Hodge '11 set out on a mission: to champion Black women writers. Today, as the company's CEO, she brings to the forefront the words of Black authors across age brackets—from seasoned novelists to poets as young as 13—shedding light on issues that are typically muted in mainstream culture, like mental illness or domestic violence. "Some days it's difficult; others it's rewarding," Hodge says. "But I feel the responsibility to make sure those stories are told and shared with as many people as possible."

Since she self-published her first poetry collection while studying at Lafayette, Hodge has led an illustrious career as a poet, author, and spoken-word artist. Having earned Hodge the honor of No. 1 bestselling author on Amazon and accolades like Poetry Book of the Year from Rainbow Rendezvous, her award-winning work is a testament to the fact that she's mastered the art of carving out her own voice—a practice she says is invaluable for every writer.

"Once a writer realizes they have something to say, they have an obligation to say it in a way that best represents them," Hodge says. "Our lived experiences, the way we understand and navigate the world, how we think and feel, the way we interact—all of those things combined create our voice. And finding it is the most beneficial thing you can do not just for your readers, but for yourself."

Here, Hodge shares the tried-and-true methods she uses to help writers not only nail down their voice, but also amplify it for maximum audience impact.



Practice makes performance, explains Hodge: "Writing is a skill that, if you don't use it, you lose it."

Get inspired

Pick a few of your favorite writers and do a deep-dive study of their lives, careers, writing styles, and works. Pay particular attention to the choices they make when it comes to grammar and syntax, and to the way they present themselves at interviews. "Ask yourself, how does their writing embody them? Take notes and, I would dare say, try to emulate them," Hodge says. "Not in the sense of mimicking their voice—but think about your lived experiences and use those authors as examples of how to speak your truth in the best way you can."

Use it or lose it

"Practice makes performance" is a mantra Hodge learned as a member of Lafayette's Precision Step

Team—and one she holds fast to as a writer. "Writing is a skill that, if you don't use it, you lose it," Hodge says. "You have to immerse yourself in it, whether that's writing a certain number of times a week, creating assignments for yourself, or submitting to writing contests. The more varied the content you write, the more successful you'll be at finding your style."

Be real

A writer's voice is a reflection of their true inner self, Hodge explains, and being comfortable with showing up authentically in your writing is key to reaching your audience. "My voice has significantly changed since my youth," she says. "When I was younger, I was bold and straightforward when I was writing about political topics I wanted to change, and my personal writing was more vulnerable and delicate. Now, all of my writing is essentially the same. I've realized I don't have to code switch when I'm writing for an academic journal or NPR. My voice is more consistent, because if I can't be who I am 100 percent of the time, then I don't need to be there."

Professional development matters

Even for those who have mastered their tone, no writer is beyond growing and improving their craft. "You cannot grow in a silo," Hodge says. "Go to conferences, conventions, writing retreats, workshops. Attend networking, media, and entertainment events. Subscribe to *Writer's Digest*. Those experiences are what's going to help you improve, and how you're going to build connections with peers who can provide you with constructive feedback."

Don't rush the process

Hodge likes to remind all her authors that the writing process is not going to be fun 100 percent of the time. It's essential to find the why behind your writing and cling to it during challenging times. "Finding your voice is going to take literal years," Hodge says. "It's not going to happen overnight, and there will be times when you feel like giving up. It's an ugly, taxing, terrible, beautiful, rewarding storm of a process. But there will be a rainbow at the end. Because once you find it, my God, it's going to be such a powerful thing—not only for you, but for the people you speak up on behalf of, for the people whose voices you amplify, for the lives you change using the words that you finally have the voice for."

PHOTOGRAPH BY EMAN MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATION BY MIGUEL PORLAN

How to sharpen your critical thinking skills

Amy Herman '88 trains leaders around the world in how to make tactical decisions. Here, she shares three habits that will help improve any problem-solving process.



The FBI. Peace Corps. United States Postal Service. Johnson & Johnson. Georgetown University Hospital. New York City Public Schools. These are just a bite-size sample of the organizations around the world that have enlisted Amy Herman '88 to empower employees with a vital skill: critical thinking.

The founder and president of The Art of Perception Inc., Herman takes an innovative approach to the professional development training she provides to leaders across industries. She uses artwork as a means to challenge people to change how they see things, make keener observations, and tactfully glean information from

any situation to more effectively perform their jobs.

"At Lafayette, I discovered something in my liberal arts education I wouldn't have otherwise: how powerful art is," Herman says. "Now, I teach others how to look at art as data they've never seen before, ask questions, and use the power of perception to bring a fresh set of eyes to what they do every day."

At the heart of critical thinking, Herman says, is "visual intelligence," or the ability to gain clarity by seeing things from different perspectives. As she notes, understanding that there are multiple lenses through which a single situation can be viewed helps us make more

acute assessments and better-informed decisions.

Ready to see and impact the world in a new way? Here's Herman's advice for thinking more critically.

Make yourself uncomfortable

Falling into a daily routine is a common human experience, as it provides a sense of security. But it often causes us to miss out on new experiences that can help us grow our thought processes. Herman suggests making a daily conscious effort to either notice something new in your everyday surroundings or put yourself in an unfamiliar situation. "It could be something as small as taking a different route to work, or as big as traveling to a place where you don't speak the language," Herman says. "Making yourself uncomfortable strengthens your situational awareness and neuroplasticity, trains your brain to get out of a linear way of thinking, and expands your ability to adapt."

Understand "the pertinent negative"

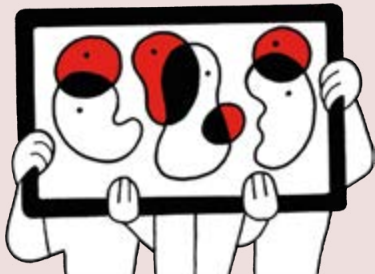
Herman teaches her trainees about "the pertinent negative," the concept of noticing what's *not* present in addition to what *is* in order to gain a fuller picture of a situation. "In medicine, the symptoms patients don't talk about are just as, if not more, important than the ones they do talk about, and that's critical to a doctor's assessment," Herman

says. "When you're looking to solve a problem at work, think about what people aren't saying or what didn't happen at a meeting. Ask yourself: 'What do I know? What don't I know? And if I had the opportunity to get one more piece of information, what would I need to know?'" It makes big challenges less daunting, and it helps you create better solutions."

Choose your words carefully

Two words you should strike from your vocabulary, according to Herman, are "obviously" and "clearly." Because we all view things differently, what's clear to one person may not be so to another. "Never assume we're all thinking about the same elephant in the room," Herman says. "We live and work in a complex world where nothing is obvious. Instead, explain why something appears to you the way it does. Not only will that help you better understand your own perceptions, but it'll help others gain clarity on them too. The words you use to talk to your team during a presentation, a meeting, an investigation—they matter." —SKV

"Think about what people aren't saying or what didn't happen," Herman says.



HOW TO FILTER OUT THE NOISE

In the digital media age, we're bombarded with data. Will Johnson '02, CEO of The Harris Poll, knows how to zero in on what's real and relevant.

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS

Thanks to its always-on nature, digital media can be extraordinary resources—if we take care to filter the misinformation from the legitimate kind.

As CEO of The Harris Poll—one of the world's leading public opinion, market research and strategy firms, which deciphers public sentiment for clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to nonprofits—Will Johnson '02 has learned well the difference between content that's trustworthy and not. "We live in an age of information overload," says Johnson, "and we have to trust our own judgment, experience, and education when we're consuming that information."

Johnson, who studied government and law at Lafayette, assumed leadership of The Harris Poll in 2017. He is a syndicated columnist and frequent contributor on matters of public opinion in numerous national media, such as *Fortune* and *The Washington Post*. Among the topics he covers is how citizens can interpret what are commonly mischaracterized polls. There are a few simple, yet effective, ways to clear up the confusion.

Know your sources

The first, and most essential, step is to decipher the source of digital information. Whatever the topic—from tips for better health to political information and everything in between—not all sources are credible.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MUSTAFA HUSSAIN;
ILLUSTRATION BY MIGUEL PORLAN



SIDEBAR SOURCE: THE HARRIS POLL

"Misinformation is pervasive, and we all need to be vigilant," he says. "Ask yourself, 'Who's behind what I'm reading? And what is their motive?' You want to make sure it's coming from a non-biased source."

Johnson notes, for example, that researchers at The Harris Poll spend a lot of time thinking about how they write questions to elicit unbiased responses. "We've been doing it for over half a century," Johnson says, "and people come to us because they can trust we're providing credible data."

certain things happen in society, why people make certain decisions. Rather than focusing, for instance, on which political candidate is leading in a poll, focus on what issues people are saying they're most concerned about.

You may be surprised. Says Johnson: "When you get under the hood, you take away people's partisan guards and you find that, as a society, we are less divided than we think we are. We all want solutions to the same problems." ■

← Johnson, CEO of The Harris Poll, lives and works in Chicago.

Understand timing and sample sizes

Know the context of when and how a particular set of data was compiled, Johnson stresses. "In this day and age, how people feel about an issue or product can change dramatically from one minute to the next," he says. "So, when you're looking at a survey, for example, check to see when it was fielded and make sure the data was collected recently. Another thing to think about is the fact that polls are just a measure of a snapshot in time. They don't necessarily mean things will be that way forever."

Johnson also recommends looking at the sample size of polls when considering them: A poll should have at least a few hundred respondents who accurately represent the larger demographic group being studied to be statistically credible.

Go beyond the headline

His final tip: Don't take anything at face value. Headlines and summaries may be clickbait. "You have to be an investigator and get underneath the surface," he explains. Search for the "why"—why people feel certain ways about things, why

MEDIA FRENZY

Americans were recently surveyed about their primary source of news and information.

27%

National media outlets (*The New York Times*, NPR)

20%

Social media (Facebook, X)

19%

Local media outlets

16%

Personal connections

In All the World



FOR YOUR WALL

For a frame-ready 8x10 copy of this photograph, courtesy of the College, email comdiv@lafayette.edu.



For a brief, but brilliant, moment, as photographer Adam Atkinson has captured, there's an intersection of morning light on the Quad, when lampposts glow alongside the rising sun. Soon, the fall frost will melt away and students will head to class.

Have a major life event or accomplishment? Share the news with fellow Pards! Go to [classnotes.lafayette.edu](#) to read more alumni updates and submit your own. Alumni news highlighted in the magazine may be edited for length and clarity.

1950s

Bill Hardy '56

Hardy writes that his son, Bill Hardy III '85 and wife Maggie, moved to Palmer Township—next door to Easton. In May, Hardy and his wife, Pat, visited them. “We made a quick trip to Lafayette to visit our beautiful campus,” Hardy says.



Hugh Jones Jr. '52

“Hope to return again to visit Lafayette, but at age 93 it is going to be tough. I’m fully retired but keep busy. I have spent my life in banking; I also married and have 16 grandchildren. In my lifetime, I have directed more than 10 students to Lafayette—three or four have been family connected. My dad, Hugh H. ‘Stoney’ Jones, was Class of ’27. We were both members of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and presidents of the house for a semester. Looking forward to a good football season this year. Go Lafayette.”

John Tuman Jr. '59

The Sword of Destiny, which is Tuman’s latest novel in the *Sword Trilogy* series, is a thrilling story of men who fought in two of the most

iconic conflicts of the 19th century, Crimean War and American Civil War.

1960s

John C. Becica '69

Becica reports that he spends most of his time working on celebrating General Lafayette’s contributions to America. “As we approach the anniversary of both the tour and College’s bicentennial, much is being revisited,” he says. “The American Friends of Lafayette is a great group to join these next few years to participate in events around the dates.” The AFL was formed as a patriotic and historical society at the College centennial in 1932. Much of Lafayette’s memorabilia in Skillman Library’s Special Collections is owned by the society. In his book *Trail Tales: Chronicling Lafayette’s Adventures During His 1824-1825 Triumphal Tour of America*, Becica chronicles 102 stories about General Marquis de Lafayette’s adventures during his tour of America, ranging from the hilarious and exciting to the tragic and unfortunate.

Edward '64 and Gerda Benda

Benda, a former refugee from communist Czechoslovakia,



↑ G. David Foster '65 wrote this about the Outing Club’s trip to the White Mountains in 1970: “Someone tried to use an air mattress and discovered they are too stiff to inflate at sub-zero temperatures.” (*Lafayette Alumnus*, April 1970)



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1979, Lafayette began offering travel abroad during Interim Session, held every year between the fall and spring semesters, as a way to further enrich education for students.

co-authored *A Tale of Two Immigrants* with his wife, Gerda. This self-published story highlights the difficulties of traveling across the Iron Curtain.

Hal Crane '68

Crane and Barbara have been living in Marlboro, N.J., for over 40 years. The couple travels as much as they can. In the last year they traveled to Israel three times—twice for two weeks at a time and once on a cruise ship. In fall 2022, they were in the southern part of the country where they

had spent very little time previously. They were amazed at the quantity and quality of produce and vegetables growing in the dry Negev desert under extremely harsh conditions. Recently, they took a cruise to Norway and Scotland from Amsterdam. Their ship went above the Arctic Circle to the most northerly city in Europe, where the sun doesn’t set in the summer. In June, Crane got closer to his goal of seeing all 50 U.S. states. When he reaches the 50th he intends to reconnect with Emmet White and Gordon Mau.

Tom Greenbaum '64

Entering his 80s, Greenbaum still works full time. He is the vice president of sales and marketing for Audio Help Hearing Centers, audiologists/hearing doctors in New York City, Scarsdale, N.Y., and Stamford, Conn.

G. David Foster '65

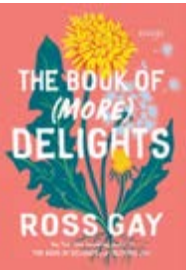
Foster has always liked adventure. While a student at Lafayette, he hitchhiked from his hometown of Lancaster, Pa., to Palo Alto, Calif., and back. The trip included stops in Wyoming’s Bighorn Mountains and the Exum Climbing School in Grand Teton National Park. In the Tetons, he put up his first rock climb with a high school friend—summitting Ice Point at 9,900 feet. Recently, he repeated that adventure. With the help of an Exum guide, he tackled Cube Point, a 9,600-foot-high prominence overlooking Jackson Hole. “I will cherish that moment at the top,” he says. “What better 80th birthday gift could I give myself than a climb in the Tetons?”

Paul Levy '68

Levy, president and CEO of the Philadelphia Center City District, delivered a progress report on June 20, 2023, to Philadelphia business and civic leaders at BNY Mellon Center’s Pyramid Club. The report contained a lot of good news. Center City’s population is higher than it was pre-pandemic and overall has more jobs than at any time since 1990. Additionally, crime is also down significantly. Two items were noted to be of great concern. SEPTA’s ridership is in a crisis. Additionally, the weaknesses of the city wage tax were highlighted because of the rise of remote working. Levy believes this is a clear case for tax reform citywide.

Check this

Lafayette alumni share their latest work.



The Book of (More) Delights

By Ross Gay '96
Algonquin Books, 2023

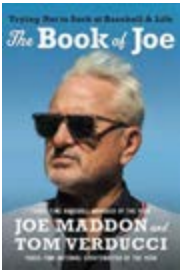
Gay’s collection of little essays, or “essayettes,” is a sequel to his *New York Times* bestselling *The Book of Delights*. Like before, the award-winning poet warmly muses on some of life’s most ordinary pleasures: kisses by an adoring puppy, the act of hugging.



The Pivot: One Pandemic, One University

By Robert J. Bliwise '76
Duke University Press, 2022

Bliwise traces Duke University’s response to the pandemic, illustrating how higher education broadly met the challenge. Bliwise is the founding editor of *Duke Magazine*, a position he held for close to 40 years.



The Book of Joe

By Joe Maddon '76 and Tom Verducci
Twelve, 2022

Maddon is a three-time Major League Baseball manager of the year who ended the historic championship drought with the Chicago Cubs in 2016. (The former Pard baseball standout also quarterbacked a win against Lehigh in 1972.) The memoir, which is co-authored by renowned sportswriter Verducci, is crafted with straightforward advice for baseball—and life.



The Perfect Lunch

By Brittany C. Powell '15
BCP Consulting LLC, 2022

Passionate educator, children’s book author, and community advocate, Powell teaches first-generation Black students how to navigate differing environments.



Nearly 50 years ago, in the spring of 1974, Donna H. Moore Weaver '74 (center) became the first female student to receive an engineering degree from Lafayette—and she certainly wasn't the last. For the past decade, Lafayette has consistently been above the national average for undergraduate women enrolled in engineering.

On the other hand, Levy believes Philadelphia is doing very well. Aided by strong federal recovery programs, Philadelphia is enjoying its share of economic recovery.

**Jeffrey Ruthizer '62, P'00
John Weis '62**

A special dedication took place Sept. 28, 2023, to

commemorate the Class of 1962 Gateway Plaza. The fundraising project was spearheaded by Ruthizer and class fund manager Weis when they identified this opportunity that would both honor their class and elevate the historic location on campus. Collectively, the Class of 1962 contributed \$350,000 to support the

project, with a lead gift from H. Peter Claussen Jr.

Henry Tuck '64

Tuck returned from a great time at Reunion: "Even for an off year, the 50+ club is fun. A great job was done by all the staff organizers," he says. "Let's make sure all of us get back there next year for our 60th. And a

big shoutout to all the guys in the Class of 1963 who welcomed me into their group."

1970s

Jeff Baymor '79

Baymor attempted to retire in 2000, but work kept calling. He has been involved with multiple high-tech startups, including CFO of a solar silicon purification firm; CEO of the U.S. arm of a Swedish NDIR Gas Sensing firm; and CEO of a Tucson-based manufacturer of MEMS Infrared light emitters. He and his wife of 40 years received their Irish and German citizenships, and hope to rejoin the world of retirement and leisure travel.

Peter Goodspeed '72

Goodspeed participated in a sprint triathlon in Denton, Texas, in August called the "Old College Tri" and was encouraged to wear college shirts and hats. He saw at least two other Lafayette Leopards, including Jeff Margolies '74 who heads up the Lafayette College Dallas/Fort Worth alumni group. "There were about 250 people in the race, and I was the oldest person by four years," he says. Goodspeed, who has lived in Texas since 1974 and worked in health care executive search since 1981, placed first in his age group. He and his wife have been married for 38 years; they have four children and several of them do triathlons with him. He has completed hundreds of 5Ks and 10Ks over the years, and has a goal to do at least six triathlons



PHOTOGRAPHS (LEFT) COURTESY OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES, (RIGHT) COURTESY OF KENYA ALLEN

and six to seven bike rallies every year. Says Goodspeed, "I discovered that exercise is truly the fountain of youth."

Richard Mayer '73

Mayer won bronze at Brandeis University's "Pomme de Terre" (punning Quebec "Terre de Homme") fencing tournament in 40+ age group. He will ref and compete at the Phoenix national championships in age and ability events.

Doug McCorkle '78

When McCorkle retired from accounting at age 60, he went all-in on an unlikely dream: to reinvent himself as a rock star. He documented the journey and turned it into a 2021 film called *I'm an Electric Lampshade*; it's now available on Amazon Prime and other digital platforms.

Mike Milano '79

The Major General, U.S. Army (Retired) wrote a book called *Large and In Charge No More: A Journey to Vulnerable Leadership* that launched Aug. 9. The book reflects on Milano's 33 years in the Army followed by seven years with Target Corp. and the realization of the power of vulnerability as a leader. Mitch Winter was part of Milano's launch team. In addition to being an author, Milano works as a leadership trainer and consultant, specializing in battlefield and other venue leadership tours for corporate clients. He and his wife, Kim, split their time between Denver and Naperville, Ill. They hope to eventually live in Colorado once she retires.

Joseph Rallo '71

Rallo writes that he and Barbara continue to travel. "In April, we took daughter (Kitty) and husband (Corey) to Disney-Orlando for a

week. Much easier when they are 39 rather than 9, as long as Dad continues to pay!" Then they took a Smithsonian canal cruise to Holland and Belgium for the tulip season. Barbara next went for her annual painting trip to the south of France. Finally, in August he will have "re-re-" retired: the first time was from the military in 2008 and the second time was from higher education in 2018.

Barbara Siegel '79

Siegel writes that she and Lisa Kassel continue to explore the numerous hiking trails around Park City: "We put on our HOKA super-cushion hiking shoes, load up the water reservoirs, and go for 10 miles while solving the problems of the world (lol!) and discussing what's happening at Lafayette." The first snow occurred Sept. 4, and they are looking forward to another winter of skiing the fluffy stuff. She revels in the sight of moose, elk, and mule deer in her "backyard," the mountain views from the ridgelines and summits, and the muffled silence of snowshoeing in the backcountry.

Dr. Oliver Wolfe '79

Wolfe became the CEO and chief of anesthesia of Gateway Anesthesia Group, a very large surgery center in St. Louis. Wolfe is looking forward to this new adventure and whatever comes with it.

Howard Zaharoff '73

Zaharoff attended the 50th reunion for the Class of 1973 in June. "I arrived Friday at the Easton home of my freshman year roommate, Peter Newman '73, and his forbearing wife, Andrea, who graciously put me up the two nights. Peter retired from teaching English at Nazareth High, but now teaches as

an adjunct at Lafayette. He remains a senior citizen who is eerily like his teenage self (ponytail, nonstop punning, and all). Peter and Andrea also housed Bob Zirlin '73 and his wife, Rachel. Bob was a good friend at both Lafayette and Johns Hopkins, where we both attended grad school in philosophy. It was great to have this time together (thank you, Reunion committee)." For Zaharoff's full recap of Reunion Weekend, visit classnotes.lafayette.edu.

1980s

Sue Bollman Duvall '81

Duvall writes she enjoyed wintertime in Bonita Springs and living in a golf community with Bill '79 and Laurie Brightly and Des and Joe McNulty, whom they see often. This past March, they met up with Dave and Nancy Turner '82, who were vacationing in Florida and had dinner with Bob '80 and Marilou Cannon. Phil continues to see his Zete brothers every year for a golf outing, and their dear friend Cam Warner is officially retired and he and Cathy Cochran '82 moved to Mountain Lake, Fla., where they hope to see a lot more of them! They also travel to Colorado a lot to see their kids and grandkids, and are trying to stay young by skiing and hiking.

Tony Fernandez '81

Fernandez and Susan Fernandez '83 wrote that their daughter Christina had a baby May 30, named Ivy Elizabeth. Everyone is thrilled to be living near, and this is their fourth grandchild. Christina works as a registrar for the Rubin



A MOMENT FOR THE ROOKIE
Malik Hamm makes his NFL debut.

As an undrafted free agent, Malik Hamm '23 earned a spot on the Baltimore Ravens squad in August. The outside linebacker, who grew up in Baltimore, was twice named Patriot League's Defensive Player of the Year and currently holds the record for career sacks at Lafayette. The last Pard to make any NFL 53-man roster was linebacker Blake Costanzo '06.



Museum of Art in NYC, and Max works as a structural engineer/project manager at Condon Engineering LLC.

Joseph Heaney '85
Heaney celebrated his 60th birthday scuba diving on the *Belize Aggressor III* (liveaboard dive boat) in August with a group of family and friends. His 30-year-old twins, Joseph IV and Marina Anne, both recently got engaged with nuptials planned for 2024. Joseph IV has joined him at his engineering firm, Walden Environmental Engineering PLLC, as COO.

Rebecca Price Janney '80
Easton at Sunset, Janney's latest in a six-book Easton-based series, delves into the lives of Peter Kichline and Erin Miles Bassett as they navigate their experiences, challenges, and opportunities in Easton.

Rich Kern '82
Kern writes that he and Brenda Kupchinsky '81 Kern moved to Michigan in 1985, after the birth of their daughter. Sadly, Brenda passed from cancer in 2008. Kern remarried in 2010. He spent 32 years in a variety of banking roles, the last 10 with Wells Fargo bank. Kern took a buyout in 2014 and worked in financial consulting for a nonprofit until "retiring" in 2020. While in "retirement," Kern decided to become a farmer! After several years of volunteering at a local farm, he and wife Cindy purchased a 10-acre farm in 2019, and now operate Cardinal Farms in South Lyon, Mich. They're a diversified organic farm, growing veggies and flowers, hosting camps for kids and events for adults, and raising



livestock (sheep, goats, pigs, and chickens). Kern's three grandsons are becoming good farm helpers!

Barb '88 and Todd Shegog '87
There was a lovely accepted-students reception at the Shegogs' home. The Boston waterfront marinas are exquisitely pretty, and the reception offered a great mix and welcome to the College.

Dave Sokolowsky '81
Sokolowsky attended Lafayette Day at Brandywine. He is married to Susan Murphey. They live in Downingtown, Pa., and one of their three children is a Lafayette grad.



STAY CONNECTED!

We want to hear from you. Share your accomplishments and news at [classnotes.lafayette.edu](mailto:classnotes@lafayette.edu). Alumni who submit a Class Note online will be mailed a small token of appreciation from the College.



↑ As sledding goes, the hill in front of Pardee remains unrivaled. Did you use cardboard, too, like these friends in 2020? Send us your snow day memories at classnotes@lafayette.edu.

1990s

Michael Borer '98
Borer was recently elected as chair of the department of sociology at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Dr. Kimberly Dahlman '99
Dahlman, associate professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, has overseen development and execution of the integrated science course program at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine for the past 10 years. In February, she advanced to co-director of the Immersion Phase for Curriculum 2.0 (the last two years of the medical school curriculum).

Malika Browne Lindsay '94
Lindsay has been named to the executive board of the Southern Association for College Admissions Counseling, admissions practices chair, and to the New Counselor Workshop and Series faculty for the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools. Each appointment is for a three-year term.

Kevin O'Sullivan '96
After 18 years of big firm law practice, O'Sullivan started his own immigration law firm, the "imaginatively named," he writes, Immigration Law Office of Kevin J. O'Sullivan PLLC. O'Sullivan lives in Brooklyn Heights, N.Y., and regularly sees Jon Gosberg '96, Chris Benedict '95, Larry Ellenberg '96, Mike Beck, and a host of other alumni and friends who come into town to enjoy the big city.

Jose Punchin '99
Punchin has been recognized nationally as the 2023 VA Staff

Engineer of the Year and will compete with other engineers across the federal government for the prestigious 2023 Federal Engineer of the Year. Punchin has served as chief of the Projects and Planning Division for VA Caribbean Healthcare System in San Juan, Puerto Rico. More recently, he was health care engineer in compliance for the Florida, South Georgia, and Caribbean Region.

John Troxell '94
During Homecoming Sept. 30, 2023, Lafayette's head football coach Troxell celebrated 100 career wins during a 56-22 victory against Bucknell.

2000s

Shiliang Cui '09
Cui, along with fellow professors at Georgetown University, published *Innovative Priority Mechanisms in Service Operations Theory and Applications*; they offer practice-based research that inspires future research directions in the service industry.

Kerry Kenny '07
Kenny was promoted to chief operating officer of the Big Ten Conference, where he has worked for the past 15 years. In addition, Kenny was recently named to *Sports Business Journal's* distinguished "Forty Under 40" list recognizing excellence in the sports industry through work and accomplishments that are driving sports business to new heights.

Beth Wynstra '01
Wynstra wrote *Vows, Veils, and Masks: The Performance of Marriage in the Plays of Eugene O'Neill* (University of Iowa

Alumni Memoriam

Notices received by the College since the last issue of *Lafayette*.

1948 Paul C. Grassey	1955 Edward F. Doerrmann P'78,'88 Marvin S. Lieberman Frank M. Perrine	1963 Dr. James C. Giudice Dr. Richard Norman Katon Timothy R. Sanford E. Martin Shane Rev. Walter E. "Walt" Williams	1973 Richard G. Fekula
1949 Stanley Chiras Gordon W. Laird	1956 Warren C. Mann William "Bill" M. Moore Richard L. Nemec Eugene "Gene" C. Preston Dr. Harvey Silver P'92	1964 Thomas L. Budd Philip M. Giles Jr. Joseph F. LeCompte Richard B. Stump	1979 Paul B. Egan
1950 George B. Cannon Jr. Richard G. Emley P'76 Rev. Robert C. Hamlyn Dr. Carl E. Smith	1957 James Lieu Dr. Karl Frederick Muller Ronald N. Rudderow Fred C. Shotwell Jr.	1965 Augustus "Gus" Constantinides Tom Honker Keith A. Postell Peter F. Turrell Samuel Wiley Wakeman	1981 Charles C. Kakareka
1951 Dr. Bruce C. McQuarrie	1958 David Swem Branch Charles Douglas Cherry GP'23 Alan C. Fitts Matthew Jen Ping Liu Mark L. Hammerstone Symmes Henry "Hank" Perrine Dr. Charles C. Seastrom Robert R. Uttal	1966 Dr. Charles T. DeLise	1983 Joseph Giancristofaro
1952 Donald C. Breiby William C. Finley Frederick Rosse Hemeon William H. Parsons	1959 William A. Kirby Jr. Dr. Allan Rosenbluth Wilbur "Wib" A. Swade Sr.	1967 Dr. Brian Joseph McLean David E. Newlin	1985 Joseph W. McFarland Jr.
1953 Edward Russell Cotton Jr. Dr. Robert G. Diener Dr. J. Dale Graham Howard D. Hendrickson Gene G. Knoble Charles W. Kuehn Gordon A. Leslie Stephen Pitela Robert P. Sturges P'85 Norman M. Wilson Jr.	1968 David C. Christ Jr. Robert "Bob" W. Griesemer	1987 Eric Hatke P'24	1989 Michael P. Taylor
1954 Dr. Samuel H. Osipow Richard A. Rathemacher Rev. Alexander Veronis P'82 George F. Wagenbach P'93	1969 Edward L. "Bud" Sinclair Jr.	1990 David W. Hill	1993 Obinna "Obi" C. Luckett Crystal Watts Zalonis
1955 Dr. Samuel H. Osipow Richard A. Rathemacher Rev. Alexander Veronis P'82 George F. Wagenbach P'93	1970 Richard H. Agins	1991 Matthew F. Stauffer	1994 Brian M. Coughlan
1956 D. Richard Hersh John M. Sharockman Timothy M. Mojonnier Robert L. Strong	1971 Thomas P. Bispham D. Darby Duryea II Charles M. Hogate III	1995 Nancy Berrier Andreski	1996 Adam D. Houser
1957 Donald E. Lancaster Lee E. Manifold	1972 Thomas P. Bispham D. Darby Duryea II Charles M. Hogate III	1997 Patricia M. Fisher	1998 Patricia M. Fisher

Death notices may be emailed to classnotes@lafayette.edu or sent to Lafayette magazine, Communications Division, Alpha Building, Easton, PA 18042.

Press), which was selected as part of *BroadwayWorld's* “27 Theater Books for Your Summer 2023 Reading List.” The book examines the culturally sanctioned traditions and gender roles that underscored marital life in the early 20th century, and that still haunt and define love and partnership in the modern age.

2010s

Tyler R. Bamford '12

Bamford's book, *Forging the Anglo-American Alliance: The British and American Armies, 1917-1941*, was published by University Press of Kansas last year. In it, he examines why the armies of two nations chose to view each other as their closest strategic partner instead of their greatest potential threat.

Amanda Magadan Golini '17

Field hockey midfielder Golini co-captained Team USA during the XIX Pan American Games in Santiago this fall, which is a qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Amos Han '14

In August, Han traveled to Budapest, Vienna, and

Prague. While in Prague, he attended a jazz concert overlooking the Vltava River and learned that the performing pianist was associate professor of music at Lafayette Skip Wilkins.

Marie Garofalo Imaizumi '10

Garofalo and Kirk Imaizumi were married May 6, 2023, in La Quinta, Calif. They celebrated with family and friends, followed by a beautiful honeymoon in Italy. They live in Indio, Calif., and enjoy the relaxing desert atmosphere—away from the traffic in Los Angeles.



Stephanie Kass '14 and Jonathan Kaplowitz '14

On Dec. 31, 2022, Kass and Kaplowitz welcomed their first child, Penelope Rose Kaplowitz, into the world. They couldn't be happier with their littlest Leopard.

Morgan Levy '19

Levy is a fourth-year M.D. and master's in public health student at University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, and applying to Ob/Gyn residency this year. Her capstone project, titled “Psychosocial Burdens Associated with Family Building Among Physicians

and Medical Students,” was recently published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

Sarah Naramore '12

In June, Naramore published *Benjamin Rush, Civic Health, and Human Illness in the Early American Republic* (University of Rochester Press). The book explores how Rush's medical theories interacted with the political and social realities of the Revolutionary Era to create a self-styled “American” system of medicine that influenced a generation of practitioners. Naramore is an assistant professor of history at Northwest Missouri State University.

Anjali Fortna Toole '14 and TJ Toole '16

Anjali Fortna Toole and TJ Toole welcomed their first daughter, Eliza Maeve Toole, June 5, 2023.

2020s

Emily Benson '20

Earlier this year, Benson was elected president of the American Optometric Student Association, the national organization that represents over 7,000 optometry students in the United States,

Canada, and Puerto Rico. She is currently a fourth-year optometry student at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, set to graduate in May 2024.

Stefano Mancini '22

Mancini received the Emerson National Hunger Fellowship through the Congressional Hunger Center, one of 15 chosen out of 200 applicants nationally. The fellowship trains young leaders working to end poverty in the United States at the local and national levels through field and policy placements. His term starts at the Greater Boston Food Bank, Public Affairs team.

Jen Schwartz '20

Schwartz will be traveling to the U.K. in October to represent Novartis as a delegate at this year's One Young World Summit

Dominic Zhang '21

Zhang finished his master's degree in education from the Graduate School of Education at University of Pennsylvania in May. He was one of 40 teachers nationwide selected as recipient of the prestigious Knowles Teaching Fellowship, designed for beginning high school STEM teachers, which provides five years of academic and financial support. 📖

Marquis Lineup

Over the years, some big names have stopped by College Hill to entertain and educate crowds, from Jane Goodall and Maya Angelou to Bruce Springsteen. Here's a sampling.

WRITE US Were you at any of these events? Share your memories at classnotes@lafayette.edu

“The doors of Kirby Field House got torn off as the crowds pressed in to find seats!” —Michael Weisburger '82, about The Grateful Dead show, May 7, 1979 ↪



← Tickets were only \$3 to hear Steve Martin in the Alumni Gym. He did two shows in Easton on March 13, 1977, just a few weeks after hosting *Saturday Night Live*.



↪ Hanks sat down with John Henry MacCracken Emeritus Professor of History Donald L. Miller for a 90-minute discussion about acting, and war, on Feb. 15, 2016, in Kamine Gym. Hanks and Steven Spielberg have developed a World War II drama miniseries, which debuts in January on Apple TV+, based on Miller's book, *Masters of the Air*. “It was a truly engaging event,” Ashley Ellis '16 says.



← Dionne Warwick (Oct. 6, 1967) was one of many '60s shows: Smokey Robinson, the Four Tops, and Martha and the Vandellas all held concerts as well.



↪ “It was fascinating to get a firsthand point of view,” Kimberly Harkins '12 says about world leader Mikhail Gorbachev lecturing in a packed Kirby Sports Center on Oct. 19, 2011.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (STEVE MARTIN: GRATEFUL DEAD; DIONNE WARWICK) LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES; (TOM HANKS; MIKHAIL GORBACHEV) CHUCK ZOVKO/ZOVKO PHOTOGRAPHIC LLC.

WANT
TO KEEP
READING?

The inaugural redesigned *Lafayette* magazine has been mailed to all alumni. **If this is the first time* you have received the magazine** and would like to continue receiving future issues, let us know: Scan the QR code by Jan. 1, 2024, to have your information added to the mailing list. ▶



*If you regularly received Lafayette magazine in the past, there is no need to respond. You will continue to receive future issues.



WITHIN REACH

Manaka Gomi '23 is improving the instrument, and the sounds, for pianists like herself.

BY BRYAN HAY

● AND...

Pianist-mechanical engineer Manaka Gomi '23 is designing a keyboard that's inclusive of musicians with smaller hands.

Following in the keyboard alteration tradition of Chopin and Liszt, Gomi (mechanical engineering and music, and now a Ph.D. student in mechanical engineering at Stanford University) is allowing pianists with smaller handspans to more comfortably reach a tenth, an interval that's often demanded in Romantic repertoire but out of reach. "The keyboard is standard across the world. If you have smaller hands, it's harder to play," she says.

Her Lafayette piano instructor, Prof. Holly Roadfeldt, knows all about technical limitations when approaching certain repertoire. With smaller hands too, she's been a supportive and sympathetic collaborator as Gomi continues to refine her prototype.

"In almost all works from the standard repertoire, a handspan of a ninth is required, but it is common for composers, like Rachmaninoff and Brahms, to include an interval of a tenth. Manaka and I can only reach that ninth," she explains. "So you have to manipulate certain passages."

Gomi has begun her endeavor by designing and building a hammer mechanism set in a block of aluminum, instead of the usual wood, and choosing a bronze guitar string, instead of traditional steel piano wire, to amplify sound uniquely.

The project "really allows her to use what she knows already, as an engineer and a musician, and to learn new things," says Jenn Rossmann, professor of mechanical engineering and Gomi's academic adviser.

Rossmann notes another benefit of her design: "A grand piano is not something you can put in the back of your car and take to your next gig. So portability was one design objective, along with inclusion."

Kirk O'Riordan, composer, performer, and associate professor of music and director of bands, has been a Gomi fan since she enrolled in three of his music courses.

"Her project is fascinating, dealing with different ways of shaping the keyboard as an interface device to create a variety of different sounds," he says. "As a composer, that automatically has a great deal of appeal to me."

He describes the project as the epitome of Lafayette's tradition of combining engineering and the humanities. "I don't know how it gets any better, frankly," O'Riordan says. "You're using engineering to facilitate the creation of art." ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY CAROLYN FONG

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