

MASTERS OF THE AIR ♦ POSSE SCHOLARS ♦ INSIDE THE KIRBY ROOM ♦ STUDYING MARCH MADNESS ♦
ALUMNI EXPERT HOW-TO GUIDES ♦ A TRIP TO RINGING ROCKS ♦ SPRING TRADITIONS ON COLLEGE HILL

Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE SPRING 2024

Ethan Binder '19, Erik Laucks '20,
and Zura Mestiashvili '20 founded
GoPeer in 2017.



LEARNING REIMAGINED

While students at Lafayette, they launched their online tutoring company. Their success since could transform global access to education.



Lafayette is here for the life of your career

Did you know that Gateway Career Center offers complimentary services to alumni? Courtesy of the College, Pards can take advantage of the following benefits:

- ▶ Individual career consultations
- ▶ Advising on professional transitions or relaunches
- ▶ Job search, networking, and graduate school resources
- ▶ Resume and cover letter reviews
- ▶ LinkedIn advice

LAFAYETTE
GATEWAY CAREER CENTER

Schedule a
virtual appointment
today:



Contents

SPRING 2024



COVER ILLUSTRATION BY NICOLÒ CANOVA; PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ROGER FREEMAN COLLECTION; LEOPARD ILLUSTRATION BY SOL COTTI



28

↳ **THE POSSE EFFECT**
For more than 20 years, the College has developed Posse Scholars to be leaders and models of academic excellence on campus.



Missions flown in the B-17 by the Eighth Air Force were unprecedented in the history of war.

36

MASTERS OF THE AIR
A World War II book by Professor Emeritus of History Donald L. Miller is behind the blockbuster Apple TV+ series directed by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks.

42

LEARNING REIMAGINED
GoPeer, a successful online tutoring company, is changing how easily kids can get academic help.

- 04 Behind the Scenes & Contributors
- 04 Masthead
- 05 Conversation With...
- 06 Letters



09

ON THE HILL

Recent and noteworthy happenings on College Hill: news, research, campus developments, key events, and more.

16 Big Ideas

Lafayette's Tech Clinic modernizes a third-generation trout hatchery near the Poconos.

18 Profile

Emerging artist Jolie Saint Vil '27 celebrates Haitian heritage through legacy painting.

21 Take 5

History professor Paul Barclay is working to preserve the legacy of Easton Cemetery.

22 Illustrated

A tour of the Kirby Room, a magnificent space tucked away in Van Wickle Hall.



24 Class Matters

Decades of geological expeditions down at Ringing Rocks Park.

26 A Day in the Laf

Catching up with professors in the Engineering Division.



ON THE COVER
Three alumni were recently recognized by *Forbes* for their contributions to education.

26



49

CUR NON

Expert "how-to" advice from alumni across a variety of industries.

54 In All the World

Curated content about alumni, plus nostalgic stories and memories.

64 And...

Highlighting a project, or person, centered in Lafayette values.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (TOP) GENAMARIE MCCANT, (BOTTOM) ADAM ATKINSON; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA



A SEASON to REMEMBER

Congratulations to Lafayette's football program on its **2023 PATRIOT LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP** and other season accomplishments:

- ▶ Ranked 16th in nation, the highest ranking in the Patriot League era (since 1986)
- ▶ NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision playoff berth
- ▶ Head Coach **John Troxell '94** is named Patriot League Coach of the Year
- ▶ **Billy Shaeffer '24** (10 sacks, 21.5 tackles for loss) is selected as Top 3 finalist for the Buck Buchanan Award, celebrating the nation's top defensive player
- ▶ Shaeffer, **Jamar Curtis '26** (who set a Lafayette single-season rushing record), and **Saiku White '25** earned All-America status
- ▶ 12 All-Patriot League selections, including **Jaylon Joseph '27** as Rookie of the Year
- ▶ Finishing at 9-3, the program achieved the most team wins since 1981 and the most Patriot League victories since 2006
- ▶ The program notched its 700th victory in history after its **49-21 win over Lehigh**



Want a piece of victory? Supporters of Lafayette football will receive this **one-of-a-kind commemorative coin** celebrating the 2023 Patriot League champs. Available while supplies last.





The art of putting together a magazine

As our staff created this issue, meaningful art emerged as a recurring theme. Take, for example, the profile about Jolie Saint Vil '27 [p. 18], a first-year art major who practices legacy painting to honor her family heritage. And, in “Illustrated” [p. 22], where readers can step into the secret Kirby Room in Van Wickle Hall—a Gilded Age masterpiece. The layout for the Posse Scholars feature was inspired by the powerful effects of murals, public artwork that’s created with love, optimism, and community. As a catalyst for positive change, the medium echoed Posse’s mission. For the *Masters of the Air* excerpt [p. 36], Lafayette designer Ellen O’Malley curated a powerful World War II gallery: B-17 planes that start on the ground, climb into perilous skies, and, hopefully, return airmen to the base. Finally, the illustrations for the cover story embody the entrepreneurial journey and spirit of the three alumni behind the company GoPeer. Among the iPads, globes, and molecules, we asked artist Nicolò Canova to work in one more personal detail: GoPeer’s logo, a backpack. (Can you find it?) See you in the summer. —**Amy Downey, editor, Lafayette magazine**

Stella Katsipoutis-Varkanis
“The Posse Effect,”
 p. 28



Stella Katsipoutis-Varkanis talked to more than a dozen students, mentors, and alumni to capture the essence of a scholarship program that’s been shaping Lafayette for more than two decades. There was familiarity in this assignment: In her years of writing stories for the College, she’s had a chance to work with many Posse Scholars who are often found at the center of compelling narratives.

Nicolò Canova
“Learning Reimagined,”
 p. 42



When he submitted sketches for the cover story about the successful tutoring business GoPeer, Italian artist Nicolò Canova shared his vision for the feature about Ethan Binder '19, Zura Mestiasvili '20, and Erik Laucks '20: “We can see three founders casting a shadow on the floor. This becomes the metaphor of what they created—learning, community, and a path for the future of kids.”

Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING 2024

Editor in Chief
 Amy Downey

**Interim Vice President,
 Communications & Marketing**
 Pete Mackey, Ph.D.

**Assistant Vice President,
 Communications & Marketing**
 Scott Morse

**Director, Development
 Communications**
 Jill Spatz

Director, Design & Web
 Erwin Annulyse

Design & Web Team
 Matthew Blackton Jr., Emily Graf,
 Kevin Hardy, Dale Mack,
 Ellen O’Malley

Director, Content Strategy
 Brittany Martin

Content Team
 Bryan Hay, Kelly Huth, Stella
 Katsipoutis-Varkanis, Kathryn
 Keck-Harris, Genamarie McCant,
 Margaret Wilson

Director, Photo & Video
 Adam Atkinson

Photo & Video Team
 Olivia Giralico, Alfred Greenbaum

Director, Athletic Communications
 Philip LaBella

Athletic Communications Team
 Courtney DuPont, Grace Royer,
 John Sabino

**Assistant to the Vice President
 of Communications**
 Terri Deily

Website magazine.lafayette.edu
Telephone 610-330-5120
Email
lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu

Lafayette magazine is published three times a year for alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of Lafayette College by the Communications Division, Alpha Building, Easton, PA 18042.

Lafayette College complies with all applicable federal and state legislation and does not in any way discriminate in educational programs or in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, national origin, age, or disability.



Elevating a purpose

Vice President of Inclusion Ernest E. Jeffries, who joined the College in January, talks to President Nicole Hurd about calling communities to work together.

NH: How would you describe your time so far?

EJ: It's been welcoming. People have been very interested in the work that I'm positioned to do here.

NH: I see you at a lot of lectures, arts events, and sporting events. Seems like we both believe in the power of showing up.

EJ: It's important that people see me. And, for what I've been assigned to do—be on coalitions, connect with people—I'm going to show up and be present as much as I

can. I want to connect with this community on all levels, because I truly believe that for this work to be done it's going to take everybody's help.

NH: This position is so important because it's not just about one person—it's the job of communities to work together.

EJ: I felt a genuineness that Lafayette wanted to do this work because it was the right thing to do, and it was also understood that this is the way to get better.

NH: You have 33 years of experience in higher education. What are some of your early goals to encourage campus-wide inclusivity?

EJ: It's important to establish a strategic plan for inclusion that elevates and connects everything.

NH: People across the College are doing great work, but now it needs to be amplified and codified.

EJ: Right. And for a lot of these efforts, the philosophies and ideologies behind them are spot on, but we need to scale some of those things. I'm seeing how efforts affect certain parts of the community, and I'm like, wow, what could this look like if everybody had access to this particular experience?

NH: Yes, access does not necessarily mean inclusion. Are there any programs or organizations you're looking forward to connecting with in your role?

EJ: I'll be working closely with student groups and the Division of Student Life. I'm also excited about meeting my peers across the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges.

NH: One of the things I love about these jobs is we get to keep learning all of the time.

EJ: And we have to ask ourselves: Are we where we should be for all constituencies or stakeholders to feel like they belong? When we look at the history of this institution, the initial structure was not built for inclusion. But we're in a different place right now. And as we move toward the future, it's going to be even more important that we get this right.



GET TO KNOW ERNEST JEFFRIES

Lafayette's new vice president of inclusion was most recently vice president of student engagement at Mary Baldwin University in Virginia.

EXPERTISE

He has more than 30 years of leadership experience in higher education, including 22 years at Davidson College in North Carolina.

NOTEWORTHY

At Mary Baldwin, he co-founded the Coalition for Racial and Social Justice.

FOR FUN

The gospel musician likes to play keyboard and Hammond organ; he studied music and earned a master's degree in education at University of South Carolina before receiving a master's in divinity and doctorate in ministry.

LAST WORD

"Research tells us that the pool of future students is more diverse, low income, and first generation," he says. "We have to ask ourselves if we're ready for that."





Magazine redesign

Colleges and institutions need to rethink their marketing materials as the behaviors of their target consumers shift. The thought is no longer, “How can I get to them?” It’s now focusing on finding unique ways to drive value. An interesting way to think of this: How can I design something that would look so nice they’d keep it on the coffee table as decoration? This rebrand from my alma mater is a perfect example of designing for a more modern aesthetic. It’s not just the info being shared, it’s the way it’s presented.

CHIRAG NIJJER '20

Success lead at Google and marketing speaker

Williams Center anniversary

Congrats on 40 years [*“The Williams Center turns 40,” Take 5, p. 17*]! As a student I was able to participate in the 10th; hard to believe that was 30 years ago! Cheers to Ellis Finger, Hollis Ashby, and all of those who have made the Williams Center so special for so long.

John O’Keefe ’96

Notable visitors

The College has always had interesting guests [*“Marquis Lineup,” Fall 2023, p. 59*]. I attended presentations by Gerald Ford and Stokely Carmichael (quite a contrast), great Motown concerts, as well as a performance by Herbie Mann, the jazz clarinetist.

Lester LaBov ’69

Prior to Mikhail Gorbachev’s “Celebrating the Oechsle Center for Global Education” lecture in 2011, I reached out to Lafayette with an idea to create a commemorative stamp cover. We made 107 items, had them canceled that day at College Station, and 10 special items were tricked out with Gorbachev stamps from around the world. I was hoping to get one signed for my personal collection, but was informed Gorbachev was ill and

there would be no pre-meet. Imagine my surprise when I saw the front page of the Easton news



and saw Gorbachev receiving my item from Lafayette’s president. Gorbachev had never seen a stamp with his picture, as Russia never issued one. He was so appreciative he signed the special items, and I have No. 2 of 107. (No. 1 was given to Gorbachev.) Thought this was a fun story to share.

Michael Beck ’83

If you saw the photo of The Grateful Dead, reminisce by reading the review “‘Ridin’ that Train’ into Kirby Field House,” of the 1979 show in *The Lafayette* by Steve Kwasney ’80. Kwas and Joyce Arnot Kwasney ’80 are still listening

to, singing, and writing music together. Check out Steve’s band, Revival Road, on all the usual streaming services like Spotify and Apple Music.

Bruce Buckle ’80

More memories

I was shocked to see William “Gus” Parsons ’52 passed [*Alumni Memoriam, Fall 2023, p. 57*]. We exchanged Christmas cards for years, but lost touch recently. Gus and I sang in the choir and ran cross country and track together. Gus astounded Coach Winters and the other runners by winning the half-mile against Rutgers when he was a junior at Lafayette. He ran it in two minutes and three seconds, which was the fastest Lafayette time since Jim Madera ’50. It was only Gus’ second race on the



ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIA PINNA

varsity team. Gus sang at my wedding when my wife, Joan, and I got married 70 years ago. He had a beautiful tenor voice! It's something I have always remembered. He and I were good friends for many years.
William "Bill" Conger '51



Women in engineering

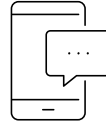
The caption on p. 54 [*In All the World, Fall 2023*] indicates that Donna Moore Weaver '74 was the first female engineering graduate at Lafayette. I also graduated in 1974 with a degree in civil engineering, and fondly remember my classmate Lynn Sinclair (later Sinclair Wagner), who also earned a B.S. in civil engineering in 1974. Lynn and I worked on many projects together during our undergraduate days. She was not only a great student, but an even better person and good friend. Both of these women deserve recognition for their dedication and perseverance. It was not easy for women in engineering and construction in the early '70s, and certainly a challenge to complete an engineering curriculum with no mentors (there were no female engineering faculty at that time) or upperclasswomen they could turn to for guidance and support.
Ed Wetzel '74

Magazine thoughts

I loved your clever title and editorial [*"Why can't a Leopard change its spots?"* p. 4] in the fall edition of the magazine and the redesign of the two "ts" in "Lafayette." Sadly, I discovered that my freshman roommate Robert Strong '71 passed away [p. 57], but was glad to see that my Phi Kappa Tau "Big Brother," Hal Crane '68, traveled to Israel three times in the past year [p. 52]. Better last year than this. I have only been there once, but Jerusalem is the most glorious city in the world, and I've been to most of the capitals in Europe and a few in South America. Well done.
Arthur H. Goldsmith '71

Pardee sledding

At the first sign of snow at the Zeta Psi house, we would grab large baking sheets from the



ON THE WEB

"We had a very productive summer thanks in no small part to our student and faculty friends from Lafayette."

—Easton Urban Farm

kitchen and head for the slope. The cook was often dismayed at the condition the pans were returned in!
John Black '75

Editor's note: A correction was issued on p. 54 [*In All the World*] in our Fall 2023 issue: Collectively, the Class of 1962 contributed \$350,000 to support the Class of 1962 Gateway Plaza, with a lead gift from H. Peter Claussen Jr.

WRITE TO US Send letters to: *Lafayette* magazine, Communications Division, Alpha Building, Easton, PA 18042. Letters published in *Lafayette* magazine should be a maximum of 250 words and may be edited for length and clarity.

"Snow day memories" [p. 56, *Fall 2023*] on campus.



NEW LOOK, SAME DESTINATION

THE
LAFAYETTE
INN

Visiting campus?
Stay at the historic
Lafayette Inn.

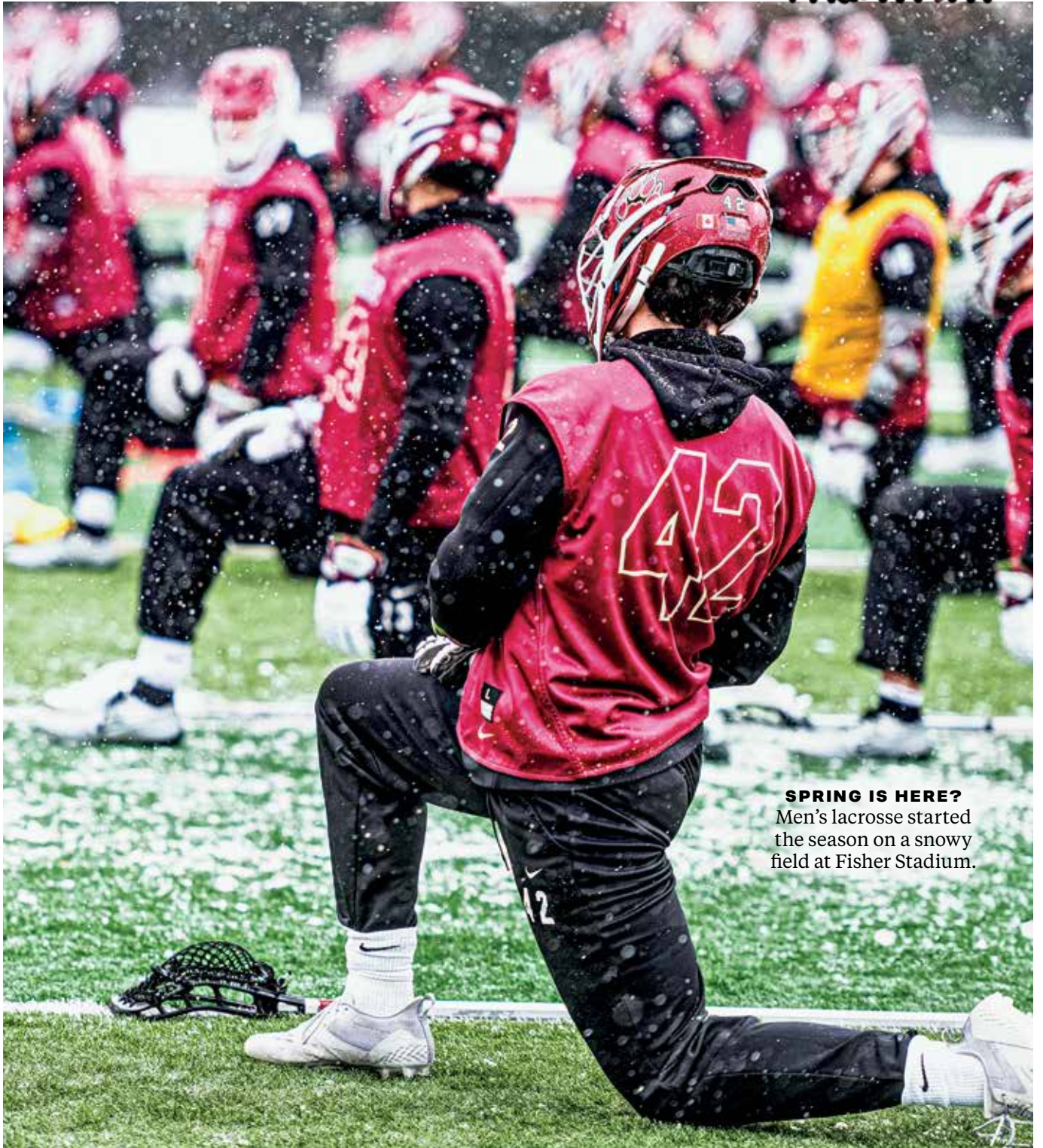
Plan your upcoming visit to Easton with a stay in the Lafayette Inn. An elegant mansion built in 1895, this charming bed and breakfast is now owned by the College and offers 17 plush guest rooms—all just two blocks from campus.

Book now at
lafayetteinn.com

INSIDE

Noteworthy news and happenings on campus. **p. 10**—Lafayette lands VP debate. **p. 11**—The Leopard gets a name, 1,000-point basketball careers, and more. **p. 15**—Skillman Library adds Marquis letter to its collection.

On the Hill



SPRING IS HERE?
Men's lacrosse started the season on a snowy field at Fisher Stadium.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

2024

VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

IN THE NEWS

Lafayette lands VP debate

Lafayette College has been chosen to host the 2024 vice presidential debate on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024. The debate, which will be held at Kirby Sports Center, will be broadcast live on several television stations nationally and worldwide.

All eyes are expected to be on College Hill in the fall: According to Nielsen ratings, nearly 58 million people tuned in to watch the 2020 VP debate held at University

of Utah in Salt Lake City. “We look forward to hosting this tradition in American politics,” President Nicole Hurd says. “We are working with our faculty and staff to capitalize in every possible way on this event and facilitate programming that engages our students and community in exploring and discussing our democracy and its future.”

The Commission on Presidential Debates estimates that 1,500 members of the media will be on campus to cover the event. This marks the fifth presidential or VP debate hosted in Pennsylvania since these events began in 1976, and the first one outside of Philadelphia.

For more information, including campus events surrounding the day, visit debate.lafayette.edu.



ON CAMPUS

Amy Herman '88 to deliver Commencement address

On May 19, Amy Herman will address the Class of 2024 during Lafayette’s 189th Commencement ceremony. Herman, an international affairs major, is founder and president of The Art of Perception Inc., a New

York-based organization that conducts professional development courses for leaders around the world, including at NATO, the French National Police, and Doctors Without Borders.

ENROLLMENT

Record admissions

At 871, the number of early decision applicants for the Class of 2028 broke a College record—and Lafayette received its second-highest number of overall applicants ever.

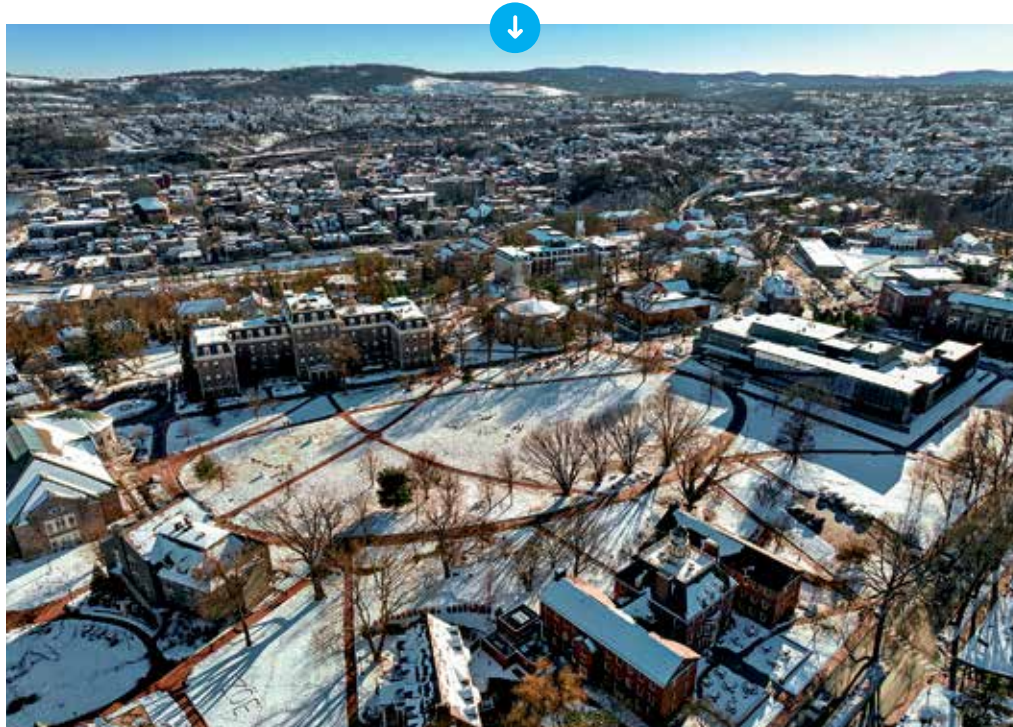
The 10,150 overall admissions applications represent a 3.6% increase over last year. These figures include a dramatic increase in applicants from the Southwest, Midwest, and Mountain West, reflecting the College’s increasing national reach.

ATHLETICS

Historic season for Pards football

Lafayette football, finishing at 9-3, were crowned 2023-24 Patriot League champs, and continued earning accolades well after their NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision Playoffs. Among the awards: Fred M. Kirby II '42 Head Football Coach John Troxell '94 is named Patriot League Coach of the Year; Billy Shaeffer '24 is selected as Top 3 finalist for the Buck Buchanan Award, celebrating the nation’s top defensive player; Shaeffer, Jamar Curtis '26, and Saiku White '25 earned All-America status; and 12 All-Patriot League selections, including Jaylon Joseph '27 as Rookie of the Year.

The sky’s the limit for Lafayette videographer Alfred Greenbaum and his newly licensed campus drone. Here’s his view of the Quad after some freshly fallen flakes in February.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY (CAMPUS) ALFRED GREENBAUM, (AMY HERMAN '88) CHRISTINE BUTLER



During a football game in November, a new name was revealed for the Lafayette Leopard: Roary. The name was decided after students and community members voted in an online poll. Roary will turn a sprightly 100 years old this fall.

STUDENT LIFE

Pard Pantry gets boost

Swipe Out Hunger, a national nonprofit that partners with colleges to end student hunger, recently awarded a \$7,000 grant to Lafayette's Pard Pantry. The funds will be used to increase the supply of nonperishable food items and personal hygiene products Pard Pantry offers to students in need.

ATHLETICS

Milestones for hoops programs

After notching seven consecutive wins in January, the men's basketball program tied its best Patriot League streak in program history. The last time this happened was in 2003-2004.

In the same month, Pard guard Makayla Andrews '24 (pictured, below) reached 1,000 points, becoming the 20th Lafayette women's basketball player to achieve the milestone. Then, in February, Kyle Jenkins '24 eclipsed 1,000 points, becoming the 49th Leopard to do so.



BY THE NUMBERS

98%

Graduation success rate of Pard student-athletes, ranking No. 2 among Patriot League schools.

ACADEMICS

Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award

Assistant professor of chemistry Michael Bertucci was one of eight awardees in the country to receive a prestigious, and unrestricted, research grant of \$75,000. "Bacterial resistance to antibiotics is one of those scary things on the horizon that's continuing to grow," says Bertucci, who will use the grant, with additional help from student-researchers, to further study the effects of synthetic peptides on bacterial communication. "The data we get from our study allow us to learn about the communication networks in bacteria and develop chemical tools that other scientists can potentially use."

THE ARTS

Pard playbill

The student-led *Cabaret* made its debut on the Williams Center stage April 11-13. The recreation of the 1998 Broadway musical included a cast of nearly 30 members, along with another 18 students to help with production and design. Says director Cormac Hurley '24: "This show is, and always will be, important because it warns us of the results of being a bystander to injustice and being complicit to bigotry."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (ROARY) ADAM ATKINSON, (MAKAYLA ANDREWS '04) HANNAH ALLY

COMMUNITY

Full of heart

During the month of February and through March 9, the College joined Easton residents to show their love for the city by putting hearts on display in windows and public places. As part of a new community art project, organized by Mercantile Home and Easton Main Street Initiative, and called “Love, Easton,” the goal was to hang 28,127 hearts, or the city’s population. That number was surpassed well before Valentine’s Day, with students and staffers at Lafayette contributing more than 6,000 hearts.



DISCOVERY

Deep-learning findings

Samuel Ehgartner ’24 and Ismail Jouny, professor and department head of electrical and computer engineering, published a scientific paper on deep-learning algorithms and delivered the findings during an engineering conference at Columbia University in October.

Ehgartner, who is studying electrical and computer engineering, started the project a few weeks after his spring 2023 semester. “We designed this new method of combining multiple

algorithms together to make them more reliable and accurate,” Ehgartner says, explaining that they tested it with a mock security system.

Once the paper was complete, Ehgartner began looking for additional applications from this kind of deep learning. He found, for example, that when he took a dataset of mammography images, the algorithm allowed the computer to quickly compare images for benign and malignant tumors. Another application was showing the computer several satellite images of huge storm systems; with that sort of training data, the technology could test and possibly predict, say, the direction and severity of a storm in real time.

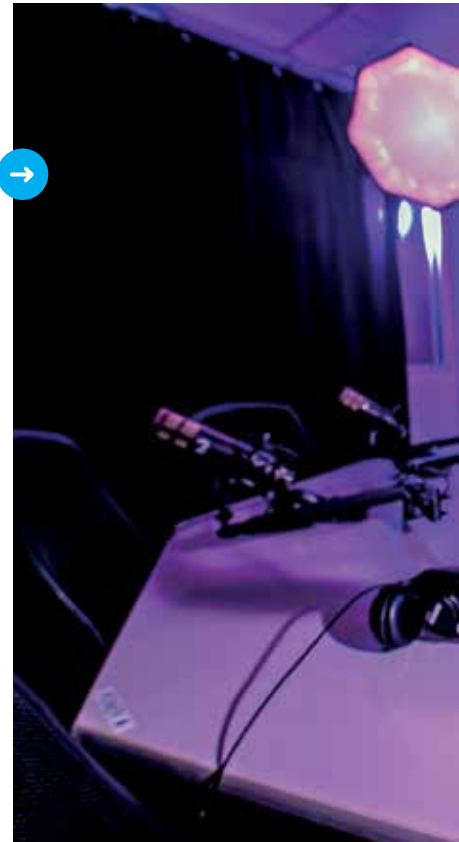
“I’m extremely grateful for the research opportunities that are at Lafayette and love the fact that the professors are very accessible,” says Ehgartner, who wants to ultimately pursue a job in the aerospace industry.

ACADEMICS

Professor Jenn Rossmann honored

Jenn Rossmann, Baird Professor of Mechanical Engineering, was recently honored for her career’s work by the Liberal Education/Engineering & Society Division of the American Society for Engineering Education, which presented her with its 2023 Sterling Olmsted award, recognizing those who have made distinguished contributions to the development and teaching of liberal arts in engineering education. Says Rossmann: “Lafayette is a really special place to be actively thinking about liberal arts and engineering, and how they inform each other.”

Skillman Library is home to a new video podcast studio that’s available for reservation. Three wall-mounted video cameras, installed lighting, and a high-tech audio mixer by RØDE are everything necessary to capture crystal clear shows.



BUILDINGS

On the move

The Economics Department will be moving into the new Simon Center for Economics and Business by the end of July; located in the renovated building that was previously Kunkel Hall, next to Hugel Science Center, the department will have a modern lecture hall, additional classrooms, and more spaces and technology with which to collaborate.

Meanwhile, one year after breaking ground, the second phase of the McCartney Street Housing project is nearing completion. The new residential units, which range from singles to suites, are on track to be ready for students by the fall.

ACADEMICS

National Science Foundation award

Assistant professor of computer science Christian López received a \$149,992 NSF grant to advance his research in gamification and machine learning to support STEM education. Through game-based, cutting-edge technology, he aims to teach students complex concepts

DID YOU KNOW?

Colton Chapel was designed by the firm Carrère and Hastings, who were the same architects behind the New York City Public Library.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON. ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA



in a simpler way. His work, which will be supported by at least three research assistants in the next three years, will also allow for opportunities to partner and collaborate with institutions like Penn State and Carnegie Mellon.

ATHLETICS

Breaking records

At the 2024 Patriot League Indoor Track and Field Championships in February, the men's distance medley relay team of Quinn Worrell '26, John Paul Pfisterer '26, Titan Casey '26, and A.J. Sanford '25 placed fourth with a final time of 9:54.72. This performance eclipsed a 31-year-old Lafayette record by just over three seconds.

It was a memorable season

for another student-athlete: Landon Orth '27 was the second diver in Lafayette history to qualify for NCAA Division I Regionals, which took place in March. (Kevin Oswalt '10 was the first Pard from the swimming and diving program to qualify.) Orth, who is from Nebraska, earned a score that broke Oswalt's school record on the 1-meter dive during a November meet versus Lehigh.

ALUMNI

Reunion Weekend 2024 is set

Save the date: All alumni are invited back for Reunion 2024, during the weekend of May 31–June 2. To see a full schedule of events and register, visit reunion.lafayette.edu.



Founders' Day festivities

Scenes from celebrating the College's beginnings nearly 200 years ago.



Since Founders' Day fell on a Saturday over Spring Break, the College offered goodies and giveaways a few days earlier in Farinon.



Owowcow Creamery in Easton supplied students with two custom Founders' Day flavors of ice cream: "Marquis Marshmallow" and "The Gilbert."



Civil engineering major Chris Taverner '25 channeled the spirit of the Marquis as he read a portion of the College's charter to the crowd.



To celebrate March 9, at least 550 alumni gathered for Wine 3/9 events around the world: New York, Boston, D.C., London, and Los Angeles (pictured), to name a few.



Special Collections and College Archives filmed "History in Our Hands: The Founding Years of Lafayette College from the Archives." Watch it at: bit.ly/history-in-our-hands.

CELEBRATION

Bicentennial planning is underway

It's Lafayette's 200th anniversary in 2026, and the College wants your ideas on how to embrace the major milestone. Share them at: lafayette.edu/bicentennial. All suggestions will be reviewed and considered by the Bicentennial Planning and Management Group.

TRENDING

Getting gold in green

Through the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, institutions around the world can measure their sustainability performance. This past year, Lafayette earned a gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education thanks to a variety of efforts on campus including the following:

- › **80-plus** organized green events and at least 35 paid opportunities for students to engage in sustainability.



During Green Move Out, students can keep extra matter out of landfills by placing unwanted items into designated green bins or Pod containers around campus.

- › **22,000 pounds** of unused or gently used items (i.e., clothing, household supplies) were collected last spring and redistributed through the Green Move Out program.
- › **Two-thirds** of all departments conduct sustainability research.
- › **15,000 pounds** of produce grown and distributed every year by LaFarm.
- › **42%** reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2007 baseline.
- › **12 buildings** on campus had

LED lights installed, which were financed through the Green Revolving Fund.

- › **60%** of academic departments offer courses that focus or touch on sustainability.

COMMUNITY

Williams Center hosts Keefe Colloquium

A daylong educational symposium, Keefe Colloquium in the Public

Humanities, is being held at Williams Center for the Arts this spring to kick off Lehigh Valley 250, celebrating the U.S. semiquincentennial. (This anniversary coincides with the College's Bicentennial in 2026.) The seminar features discussions and research presentations with local and national scholars, including many Lafayette professors, all centered on the Lehigh Valley's contributions to the early growth of America.

LAF CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Electric Vehicle Club



The idea for Lafayette's EV Club came from a senior design project a few years ago. Mechanical engineering students partnered with electrical and computer engineering students to design and race an electric vehicle in the Formula Hybrid + Electric Competition, and that sparked an interest. Although many in this interdisciplinary club are pursuing engineering, others major in economics, government and law, and international studies.

Mechanical engineering major Dylan Danko '24, who joined the club in 2021, says the group is an opportunity to apply coursework and gain hands-on experience like designing and manufacturing parts of a vehicle. But it's also about creating something bigger: "Building an organization for people to learn is just as, if not more, important than building a car itself."

In the fall, Laf EV Club welcomed local middle school students to talk about sustainable engineering and transportation. They shared advice on building electric cars, like creating mechanical drawings and identifying electrical components, along with embracing the critical design process of trial and error. Says Danko: "I hope they see that skills they build now continue to be valuable well into college and beyond."

STRATEGY

Keeping up with AI

Lafayette faculty passed a motion that, effective this spring semester, class syllabi must include a policy on generative artificial intelligence. The rules are up to the professor’s discretion on how AI can (or cannot) be incorporated into work. In other words, what’s appropriate for a computer science course may not be the same for, say, creative writing.

CAMPUS

Better schedules

Although the academic day will remain 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the spring semester has rolled out new changes to the block scheduling so routines are a little more seamless for students and faculty. The new schedule increases time between classes, offers varied lunch slots, and limits evening instruction so that those hours can be reserved for activities and meetings.



Ana Ramirez Luhrs, co-director, Special Collections and College Archives, is pictured with a newly acquired letter written by the Marquis de Lafayette. Luhrs learned about the signed letter through an appraiser.

IN THE NEWS

Rare letter acquired

Skillman Library’s Special Collections and Archives has added a new letter to its trove of personal archives from the Marquis. The letter, which is written in English, is dated May 24, 1824—months before his “Grand Tour” of the United States—and addressed to his dear friend Col. Marinus Willett, a retired Continental Army officer with whom he served during the American Revolution.

It will be included as part of a larger exhibit that will be presented this fall by the College to celebrate Lafayette’s farewell tour. “There aren’t a lot of Lafayette manuscripts out there,” says Ana Ramirez Luhrs (pictured, top), explaining that this one was acquired from The Raab Collection in Ardmore, Pa. “This letter is a window into a very specific and important time in Lafayette’s life journey. We’re thrilled to have this letter in our collection.”

The letter, which is in remarkable condition despite being 200 years old, contains a sentiment describing America as “the land of genuine freedom.” The Marquis wrote those words while in Paris; just a few months after sending this note to his friend, he was back on U.S. soil, in New York, on Aug. 21, 1824.

Here’s how to kill them.” In the article, Strömbom suggests that the widespread removal of an invasive tree called the tree of heaven might help: When the lantern flies feed on the stinky tree of heaven, they, in turn, become stinky—and perhaps unappealing to predators. If the insects feed elsewhere, maybe birds would be more likely to eat them, or learn from other birds eating them.

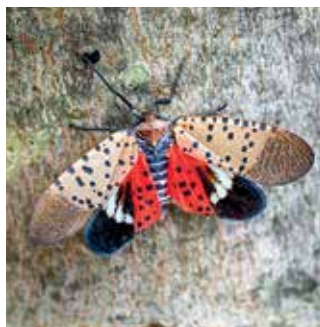
The Post also references a study by Strömbom and his former students Amanda Crocker ’23, Alison Gery ’23, Autumn Sands ’22, Grace Tulevech ’22, and Kelly Ward ’22, which was recently published in *Royal Society Open Science*. Their study uses a mathematical model to look at how social learning in birds might help mitigate spotted lantern flies.



BY THE NUMBERS

1,000

Approximate number of LED lights added last fall to enhance the architectural lighting of the historic Northampton Street Bridge connecting Easton to Phillipsburg, N.J.



IN THE NEWS

Taking on spotted lantern flies

Daniel Strömbom, assistant professor of biology, was quoted in an article by *The Washington Post*, published in March, titled: “Squashing lantern flies isn’t enough.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (LANTERNFLY) SHUTTERSTOCK, (ANA RAMIREZ LUHRS) ADAM ATKINSON

H

appily, Ty Bartosh tosses a scoopful of fish pellets into a spring-fed holding pond, smiling radiantly as thousands of excited adolescent rainbow trout churn the water into a sparkling fountain of splashing fins and tails. “They’re my babies, grown from eggs and raised with love and respect,” says Bartosh, owner of Green-Walk Trout Hatchery in Washington Township, Pa. The hatchery was started in 1950 by his grandfather to supply fishing clubs and derbies, but Bartosh has broadened the business model by selling fresh trout to about 40 high-end restaurants in New York and Philadelphia. (He hand-packs his fish in ice and personally delivers them to customers.) His wife, Carly, and daughter Ella work by his side, feeding baby trout, cleaning the holding ponds, and inspecting pumps that oxygenate the water.

Pure water from artesian wells, springs, and the Greenwalk Creek percolates everywhere on this 300-acre property, surrounded by hickory, red oak, birch, and hemlocks, in the foothills of the Pocono Mountains. In all, the property has 80 ponds that support the growth of brook, brown, rainbow, golden rainbow, and tiger trout. Aware of the heritage he has inherited, Bartosh reached out to a nearby neighbor, Dan Bauer, professor emeritus of anthropology, to



Scaling up

Lafayette’s Tech Clinic
modernizes a third-generation
trout hatchery near the Poconos.

BY BRYAN HAY

investigate ways to make the operation more sustainable.

Bauer enlisted the Technology Clinic, which he founded in 1988 to encourage students from diverse academic disciplines to work together on imaginative solutions for outside clients. “Whenever we’re dealing with the theoretical, we need to see how that works in a real-world setting,” Bauer says. “It is always more complex than it sounds like in class. With the Tech Clinic, you’re looking at challenges with interdisciplinary eyes and are more likely to come up with something that is

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON



Above, a bucket of rainbow trout roe, or eggs, ready to grow. Pictured left, Bartosh's son, Jameson, checks on the incubation jars inside the hatch house.

new while connecting with the community." Green-Walk has been one of Bauer's favorite projects because it deals with wider environmental issues such as minimizing carbon impacts and developing sustainable business practices.

Joining Bauer throughout this past year were Christopher Ruebeck, associate professor of economics, and a team of students: Tara Amidon '25 (international affairs and government & law); Wanos Bahiru '25 (mathematics and economics); Rylee Bordwick '25 (anthropology & sociology and environmental studies); Angela Busheska '25 (electrical engineering and computer science); and Sean Walshe '25 (civil engineering). "We're thinking very specifically about how we can have the most impact on this business and the environment as possible," Ruebeck says.

Last spring, the team welded together a water wheel made from a deconstructed 55-gallon steel drum and installed it on one of the raceways, connecting it to an alternator and battery to generate and store green energy. A new website also was developed to promote Green-Walk's environmental initiatives as well as its products and services, and offer a virtual tour of the hatchery. And, in January, the group delivered a 65-page business report that detailed its recommendations, which included solar panels.

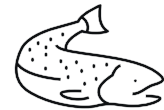
Inside the board-and-batten hatch house, Busheska and Walshe work on the alarm system, zeroing in on an inexpensive Wi-Fi-enabled infrastructure that receives signals from pressure sensors in the pump and automatically notifies Bartosh if a failure occurs. Between water-wheel welding

and assisting on the pump alarm, Walshe is enjoying the multidisciplinary teamwork. "Jumping back and forth between all of these tasks shows how all of these academic areas complement each other," he says. "Civil engineering, electrical engineering, math, economics, the humanities, it just all ties together when you look at a project from a high level."

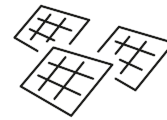
Busheska, too, appreciates how the Tech Clinic leverages diverse perspectives. "You have two professors and five students with different backgrounds in the conversation," she says, "and we're here on the ground, outside of the classroom, helping improve this family business."

Meanwhile, Bahiru has enjoyed understanding Green-Walk's unique business case as she developed the new website. "I'm seeing how this business works from the inside out and what makes it attractive to clients," she says. And Bordwick and Amidon, who assessed the solar energy component and assisted with the website, embrace the holistic side of the project. "This was not about how to make more money or get more clients," Bordwick offers. "It was truly about doing something good for the planet and future generations."

Thankful for the the support, Bartosh envisions his trout hatchery as an outdoor classroom. "I've watched the eyes of Lafayette's students light up when they think of the many possibilities here," he says. "My grandfather would be proud." ▣



PRODUCTION
Green-Walk Trout Hatchery expects to produce about 100,000 trout this year.



SOLAR POWER
The Tech Clinic has recommended installing rooftop, standing, floating, and bridge solar panels to help offset electricity bills—or \$3,000 a month—and reduce its carbon footprint.



HYDROELECTRIC POWER
The Lafayette-installed water wheel generates electricity 24 hours per day and is able to charge the hatchery's vehicles. More water wheels are planned in roughly 20 other raceways.

Baby rainbow trout take a swim in one of the hatchery's spring-fed holding ponds.



ART IMITATES LIFE

Jolie Saint Vil '27 celebrates her Haitian heritage through family legacy painting.

BY GENAMARIE MCCANT

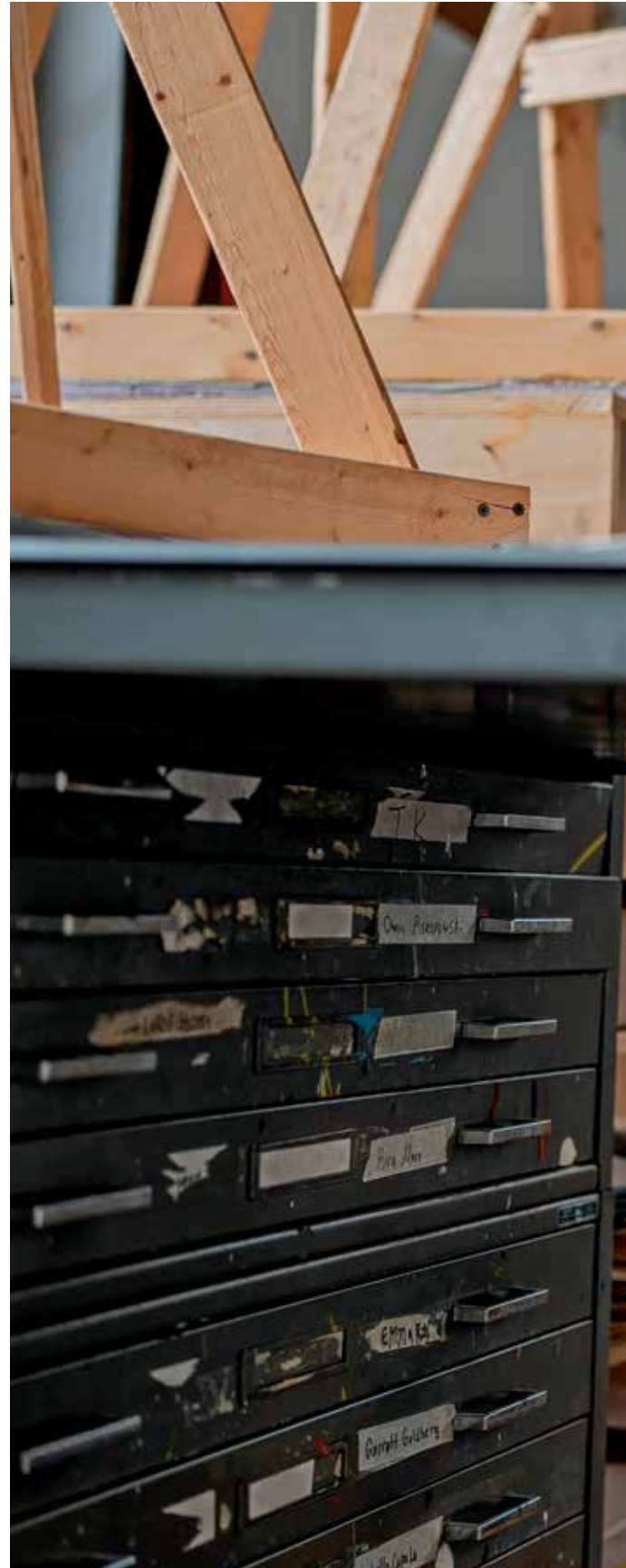
For first-year student and art major Jolie Saint Vil '27, her sanctuary is Williams Visual Arts Center. It's more than just studio space to practice her craft of painting portraits—it's where she's both connecting with her past and dreaming up goals for her future.

Saint Vil, who grew up in New York, was determined from a young age to preserve the memories and ancestral stories of her Haitian ancestors, as there are few photographs and reminders of her heritage. Through painting her relatives, she is able to provide a timeless extension of her family's history, and her own, to be passed down for generations.

We spoke with Saint Vil about her passion for family legacy painting, what makes this form of artwork so powerful, and how the College is contributing to her development as an emerging artist.

Why were you drawn to family legacy painting?

I have always loved stories and storytelling. As I grew up, this fascination shifted to my own family history and stories. I would want to know everything about the people in my family's photos, and as an only child, I felt like it was my responsibility to ask questions and remember my family's stories in order to pass them down. As my painting skills developed and I thought about what I wanted to paint, I envisioned these stories and how I wanted to tell them. My paintings help me think about all of the people that came before me and will come after me. It brings



PHOTOGRAPH BY GENAMARIE MCCANT



me closer to the people I love. I want to visualize the experiences of the nameless or invisible, starting with the Haitian side of my own family.

What makes legacy artwork so powerful?

Legacy artwork can convey pride and value to a group of people. It's an interesting case of double consciousness. My work explores the parts of stories intentionally left out by society, like the innocence and joy of childhood, which is so often unacknowledged when depicting Black families. With my art I aim to shift the perspective on what or who is considered "portrait-worthy" and what aspects of their lived experiences are highlighted. Our family is proud, and it is so important to me that the world sees just how amazing we are: hardworking, intelligent, talented, and strong. I created a painting of my dad and his two older brothers during my senior year of high school titled *Fres Saint Vil Yo*. It was my first large-scale painting, and the subject matter is rare—it is one of very few pictures of my dad and his brothers as kids. The exhibition of this piece created a special moment for my family where they could see themselves and feel proud; it also led to them sharing childhood memories that I've never heard before.

“My paintings act as a way for me to remember my ancestors and be remembered by the world,” says Saint Vil, who is eager to also learn printmaking at Lafayette.



Tell us about the painting of your late grandmother (pictured).

My grandma was incredibly humble and hardworking. She sacrificed her life and left her children behind in Haiti, so that she could work and send money back for them. She wanted them to get a good education and then come to America for a chance at a better life. The picture I used for reference is one that I saw at my uncle's house. When I saw it, I immediately knew that I had to paint it. I had never seen a picture of her where she looked so beautiful and sure of herself, and I wanted to immortalize that picture for my family and make it as big as her presence. This is one of my biggest pieces at 8 feet tall and 4 feet wide. I used the heart symbol of Erzulie Dantòr, who is the Haitian spirit of motherhood and love, and incorporated pink and white as an homage to her colors.

What are some of your painting methods?

Bright colors are important to my work. I try to reflect the emotion of the work through the background colors. I often use bright warm colors because they create tenderness and warmth, which is exactly what I want in a painting of people I love. I have recently started to incorporate Haitian voodoo symbols because I believe it's a crucial part of appreciating Haitian culture.

Who are your biggest art influences?

American painters Kehinde Wiley and Barkley L. Hendricks use their art to transform societal perceptions and celebrate the beauty and joy that comes with being Black. When I see paintings like theirs, it makes me want to keep striving to celebrate my legacy. I am also inspired by artists like Levoy Exil who keep Haitian tradition alive.

Where do you find art inspiration on campus?

The collection of Faith Ringgold prints in the printmaking studio—I read her book *Tar Beach* when I was a little girl. I also love Williams Center for the Arts. I am often there, including at its weekly figure drawing class that's open to the Easton community. It's such a wonderful place to take time for myself, create my work, and be in my element. 📍



← In a large-scale tribute to her grandmother, Saint Vil used the Haitian vèvè, or heart, to symbolize love.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY (PAUL BARCLAY) ADAM ATKINSON, (CEMETERY) ADAM ATKINSON, (QUILL) SHUTTERSTOCK, (JAMES HENRY COFFIN) LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES, (CORNET) SHUTTERSTOCK, (STATE THEATRE) DUTCHTREAT/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Local legacy

Paul Barclay, professor of history, is working to preserve the names and stories behind Easton Cemetery.

BY BRYAN HAY

Motivated by a long-standing interest in Easton’s past, Paul Barclay joined the board of directors of Easton Cemetery in November 2022, offering his research skills to document a treasury of stories behind thousands of names, dates, and epitaphs etched on modest headstones and elaborate memorials.

Inside the cemetery’s Victorian-era office on the northern end of Seventh Street in Easton’s West Ward, Barclay is regularly found leafing through brittle leather-bound 19th-century internment records, many written with impeccable pen-and-ink strokes, and other dusty files and ledgers in need of proper curation. He works alongside the Geology Department’s John Wilson, in addition to Skillman Library’s Ana Ramírez Luhrs, Caleb Gallemore of the International Affairs Program, and student research assistants Andrew Bowsher ’24 and Ella Clabaugh ’25.

Their goal is to digitize the history of this important burial ground and make its information more accessible online. They expect to complete a beta version

of a digitized map this year. “What’s fascinating is how the grave markers indicate the socioeconomic spread of this community,” says Barclay, explaining that each location offers a story. “It’s just like being among the living. Some of us live on Park Avenue; some of us lack fixed addresses of any kind.”

Established in 1849 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, Easton Cemetery is considered one of the earliest and best surviving examples of a parklike cemetery in the Lehigh Valley. Take a stroll around the historic property with these five things in mind. ▣



1.

Covering 84 sloping wooded acres, the cemetery is Easton’s largest green space. The property holds more than 42,000 gravesites, but is also used as an arboretum, outdoor sculpture garden, and trail system for Easton community members.



2.

More than 30 of Lafayette College’s forebears, Revolutionary War veterans, and other influencers of early America—like George Taylor, who signed the Declaration of Independence—rest here.



3.

The obelisk-shaped tombstone of James Henry Coffin, who came to Lafayette College in 1846 as a pioneering meteorologist affiliated with the new Smithsonian Institute, has Earth engraved on it.



4.

A grand memorial in “Section S” honors composer Thomas Coates, who is considered to be a founder of band music in America. He led Pomp’s Cornet Band, which served the 47th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment when the Civil War broke out.



5.

A simple headstone marks the resting place of John Frederic Osterstock, who once managed the State Theatre in Easton. His ghost is said to haunt the State, and his legacy lives on as the namesake for the theater’s annual Freddy Awards.

THE KIRBY ROOM

Step into this hidden space on campus and be transported back to the turn of the 20th century.

BY KELLY HUTH

The Kirby Room, added to Van Wickle Hall in 1939, offers a rare glimpse into the Gilded Age. But finding it is challenging. The room is entirely concealed from view, the entrance tucked inside a geology lab.

The hidden space contains Fred Morgan Kirby's office and library, designed in 1906 by interior designer Theodore Hofstatter for Kirby's Wilkes-Barre, Pa., home. His books, furniture, artwork, fireplace, and desk were transferred from his home to campus. Kirby was known for his five-and-dime stores, which he merged with Frank Woolworth's business in 1912 to become part of the F.W. Woolworth Company.

According to *The Lafayette Alumnus* in October 1939, "We owe the room to the generosity of trustee Allan P. Kirby '15, as a gift in memory of his mother." (See the portrait of Jessie Amelia Kirby, right, which sits on a bookshelf near the room entrance.) It was part of the Van Wickle expansion project, which doubled the capacity of the library at the time.

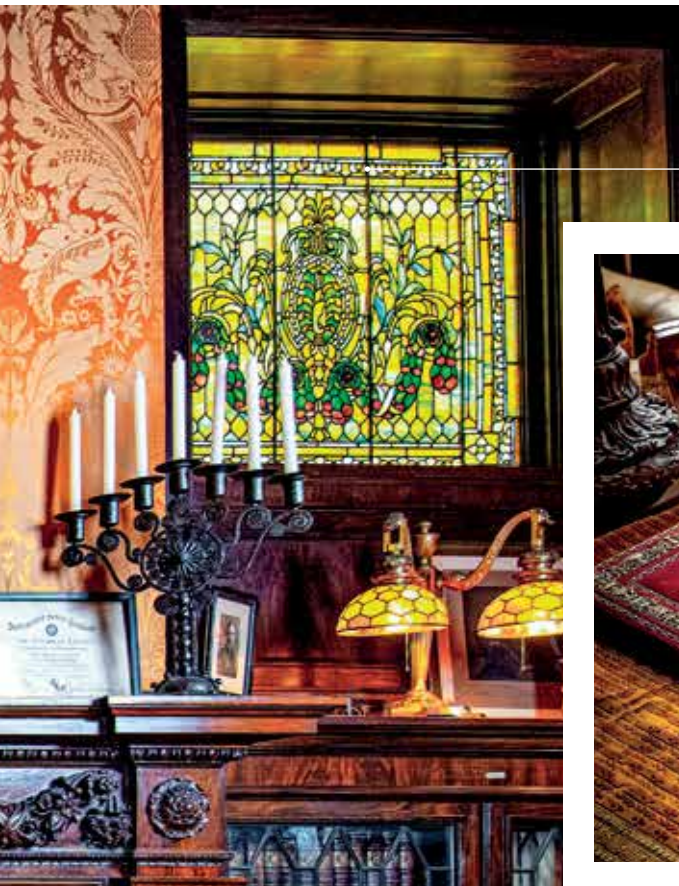
Maurice Luker, executive director, corporate, foundation, and government relations, says the room is a treasured time capsule that demonstrates a remarkable connection between a family and a college that began with Allan's enrollment in fall 1911. "We're incredibly lucky that support has continued through five generations of the Kirby family," Luker says.

Rico Reyes, director of Lafayette Art Galleries, says the room reflects the Gilded Age, noting Kirby's affinity for the neo-classical style evidenced in the room's pillars, scrolls, and egg-and-dart motifs. "It's like history stood still," Reyes says.

Here, we share highlights from the tucked-away treasure. **■**



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON



Maurice Luker notes the room's windows look out to Kirby Hall of Civil Rights, which was donated by Fred Morgan Kirby in 1929.



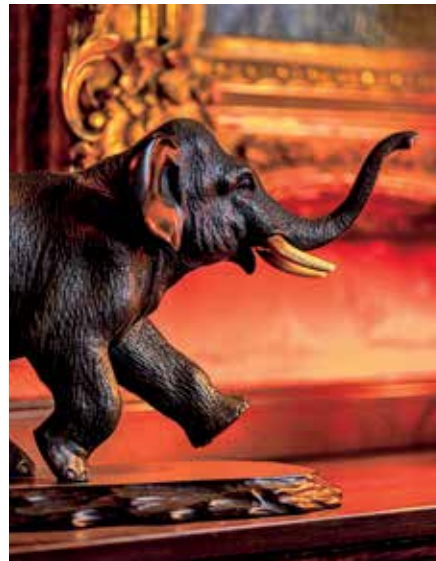
← A velvet folio and matching letter holder sit on the desk as Fred Morgan Kirby might once have used them.



↑ Intricate wood carvings throughout the room feature swags of leaves and fruits, conveying abundance and prosperity. Similar design elements echo through the room to give the space a cohesive look. "There's a German term for it, 'Gesamtkunstwerk,' which means "The whole thing is a work of art," Luker says. "From the furnishings to the walls, the floors to the lights—everything is designed to be one very impressive effect."



↑ Elephants travel in tight-knit groups and are recognized as a symbol for family. They appear often in Kirby spaces around campus, Reyes says. The elephant is even included on the Kirby family crest.



The ingenious 19th-century leather "patent furniture" couch features drop arms, so the sides can recline.



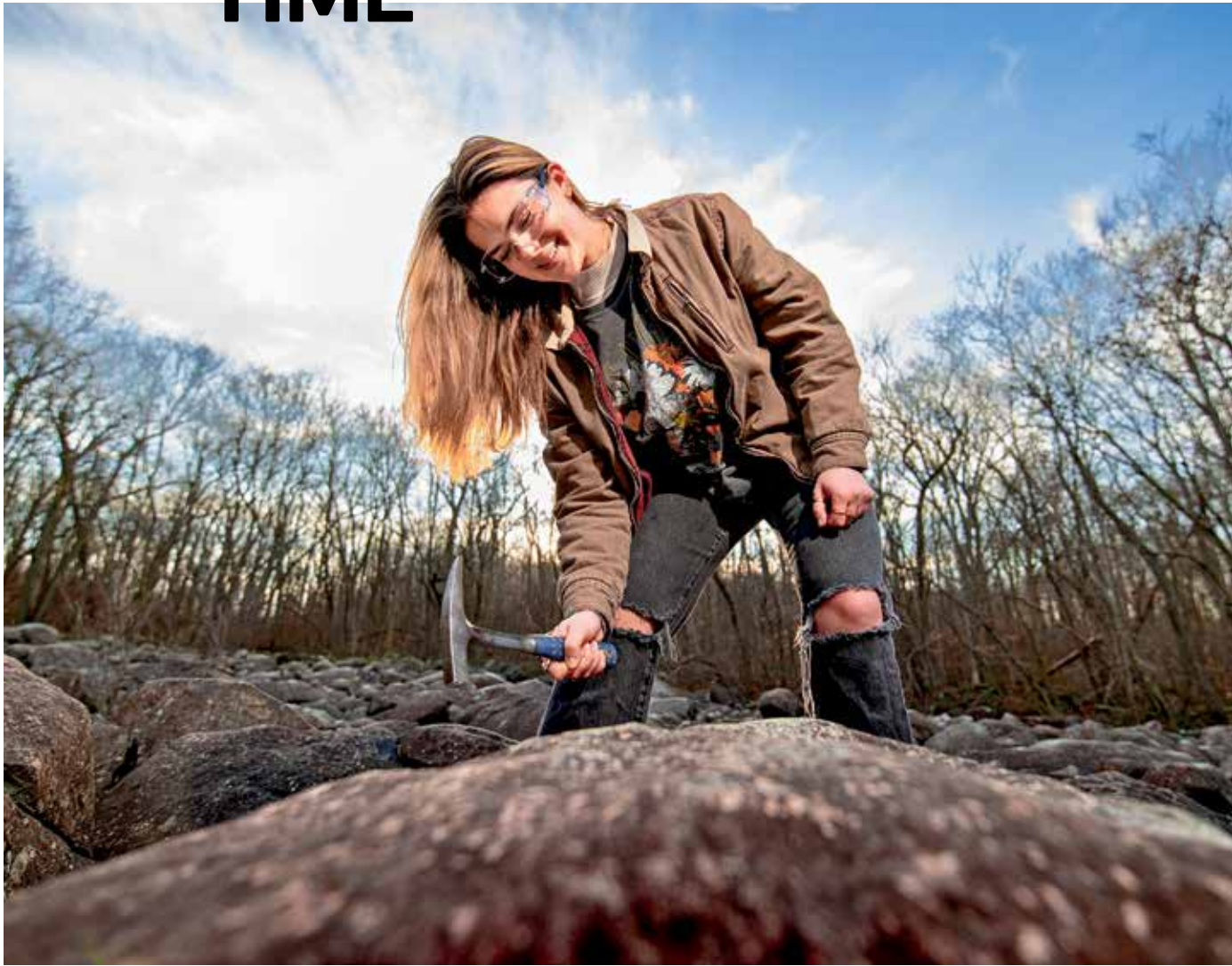
SEE INSIDE

Due to the delicate artifacts, the room is rarely opened, but—thanks to a 3D model scanned by Eric Hupe, assistant professor of art history—can now be explored virtually at magazine.lafayette.edu/kirbyroom.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

BY MADELINE MARRIOTT '24



Lafayette continues its tradition of geological expeditions to Ringing Rocks Park.



Professor Dave Sunderlin's GEOL 130 class, Dinosaur, Darwin, and Deep Time, is all about the journey—both across the Lehigh Valley and billions of years of geologic time. “The course is context for

everything that people experience as they walk around the planet,” Sunderlin says. According to Sunderlin, there are fewer places better to take in eras-long geologic history than Ringing Rocks Park in Upper Black Eddy, Pa. “I can’t imagine a geologist who’s based in Easton not going to Ringing Rocks,” Sunderlin says. “There are lots of little spots that have great examples for teaching, but are also really important for the history of geology on the continent.” In November, Sunderlin and his students made the trip to Ringing

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON
ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA



Rocks—about a 30-minute drive south of campus—to catch a glimpse of this history for themselves.

“We look at sedimentary rocks there that have a big fault through them, which suggests that there was a spreading or extension,” Sunderlin explains. “Faults happen when there are shifts in tectonic plates and, in this case, the shift had to do with the initial pulling apart of Africa from North America.” One of these faults eventually became the Atlantic Ocean during the breakup of Pangea. Trips to Ringing Rocks engage all senses—the name of the park comes from the most well-known feature of the boulder field, where visitors can strike the rocks and listen for a chime-like ring. Sunderlin believes these expeditions help students envision themselves and their environment, from the breakup of Pangea to the Ice Ages to present day.

The class then trekked to a rare place where budding geologists can see all three types of rock in one location: sedimentary layers at the base of a waterfall, “cooked” sedimentary rocks that have become metamorphic rocks, and the igneous rocks that are responsible for heating them. “You can see sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rocks in the same picture frame, which is really a rare thing to see in the world,” Sunderlin says.

Harvest Gil ’25, a geology major who’s visited Ringing Rocks several times, remembers the impact of Sunderlin’s introductory geology course. The class, which she took during her first semester on College Hill, changed the trajectory of her studies. “I wanted to pursue more of a natural history and evolutionary studies path,” says Gil, who was originally an environmental science major. “Since becoming a geology major, I have seen the world in such a raw and rich way. Being in such a geologically rich environment has been a blessing, and we couldn’t do the things we do without on-site experience.”

While serving as Sunderlin’s teaching assistant for two of her visits to Ringing Rocks, Gil has seen the expedition have the same impact on her students. “One of my



Professor Dave Sunderlin explains faulting in the 200 million-year-old rocks found in Upper Black Eddy, Pa.

favorite memories has been watching my students work to understand why deposited rocks are where they are and what their environment of deposition was,” she recalls. Becca Mitchell ’24, who worked as Sunderlin’s teaching assistant in the fall, also enjoyed observing students explore the seven-acre field of massive boulders. “People get excited about geology without realizing it,” she says. “Students go crazy hitting the rocks with rock hammers and climbing all over the rock field.”

The College’s relationship with the park stretches back over a century. Sunderlin has taken his students to the site every year since his arrival at the College in 2006. Lawrence Malinconico, associate

professor of geology and geophysics, has done the same since joining the faculty in 1989, along with several years of guided “Family Weekend” tours of the location. According to Malinconico, faculty-led class trips can be traced back to as early as 1964, when former professor Richard Faas brought his students there (and even advised a student writing a thesis about why the rocks ring). And, in 1913, the student newspaper mentions trips to Ringing Rocks as a feature of early student life at Lafayette.

The hands-on learning experience that Ringing Rocks provides brings the discipline of geology alive for students. “Within geology, a lot of the ideas that we’re trying to get across are conveyed and taught better when you’re not in a place that’s inside, but instead when you’re outside amongst the rocks in the puzzle itself,” Sunderlin says. “This shared experience of being out in the field with other people with curiosity all over the place is really bonding, and I think it’s a really valuable experience for students.”

Did you visit Ringing Rocks? Tell us about it at lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu.

FOR MORE To watch a short video from the trip, visit magazine.lafayette.edu/rocks.



← A sample of red mudrock that was deposited in an ancient lake at the time Pangea started to split.

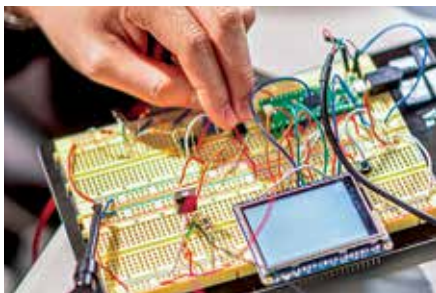
Beyond books

For many professors within the Engineering Division, the day's schedule reflects their dynamic approach to teaching.

BY AMY DOWNEY

When it comes to engineering education, faculty take a creative approach to engage students in practical problem-solving. Step inside Acopian Engineering Center, and you'll find professors instructing in classrooms, conducting research in labs, advising on student projects in maker spaces, and guiding students as they bring ideas to life in the workshop. Some immersive learning experiences venture farther, working with equipment outdoors on campus, or conducting fieldwork in the Lehigh Valley. Here's a sampling of observations from their schedules.

Inside Acopian, electrical and computer engineering professors lead students in hands-on learning.



↑ Dave Brandes and integrative engineering students review a report on the Metzgar carbon neutrality project a few miles north of campus.



↑ Christa Kelleher '08, who teaches courses about surveying and land development, takes students outside to try their hand at the equipment.

← Melissa Gordon '11 works closely with students who contribute to her award-winning research in the polymer lab.

Some of the mechanical engineering facilities, as seen here with Daniel Sabatino at the helm, include wind tunnel simulations. —>



↑ Ben Cohen, who teaches the First-Year Seminar “Ten Ways to Know Nature,” digs into crops, and sustainability, at LaFarm.

In integrative engineering, Alex Brown explains a concept in Robotics Systems and Design. ↘



← For more than 20 years, Steve Kurtz has guided perennially elite steel bridge teams, including several national championship-winning teams.

THE POSSE EFFECT

For more than 20 years, The Posse Foundation has empowered hundreds of Lafayette students to harness their leadership potential—and change the face of the campus, the country, and the world.

by Stella Katsipoutis-Varkanis

illustrations by Sol Cotti





Savanna Touré '21 flipped on the television to quell her anticipation of the phone call—a call that, if she received it, would alter the course of her life. Then, the initial ring pierced the air. On the other end of the receiver, she heard, “You got it. You got Posse.”

With that news in November 2016, Touré landed a spot as a member of the Lafayette Posse D.C. 11 cohort and earned a full-tuition scholarship. She also became a part of a much larger network that has set 13,000 students across the U.S. on the path to success since its founding 35 years ago.

“That was the opportunity I had been dreaming of, the validation of years of hard work,” says Touré, who, since high school, dreamt of studying medicine and conducting biomedical research. “In that moment—with my mom by my side, with our financial worries starting to dwindle, and with new opportunities on the horizon—my world was suddenly full of endless possibilities.”



The Posse Foundation got its start in New York City in 1989, when its founder and president, Deborah Bial, was working for a youth organization providing leadership workshops to students.

“At the time, so many smart students from the area were going to college and dropping out six months later,” Bial says. “And one of those students said to me, ‘I never would’ve dropped out of college if I’d had my posse with me.’”

That sparked Bial’s idea to partner with colleges and universities throughout the country to identify high school students with extraordinary academic



and leadership potential, but who may struggle financially or without a supportive network away from home. These Posse Scholars would earn full-tuition, merit-based scholarships and be placed at schools in diverse teams of 10 students—their “Posse.”

The ultimate goal, Bial says, is to position these scholars as not just leaders in their chosen academic fields, but also as catalysts for positive change within their various campus communities. “We’re deliberately working to build a leadership network for the country that represents the diversity of the American population,” she says, explaining that Posse does not screen for race, need, or gender. “We solely admit students based on their talent, excellence, and potential to succeed.” Considering those qualifications, the foundation still draws a pool that is 80% Black and Latinx; more than 50% first-generation college students; and a majority that is, economically, from the lowest socioeconomic quartile. “That really says something,” Bial says.

Posse Scholars at Lafayette are supported in many ways to set them up for success: In addition to being offered full-tuition scholarships, they can rely on mentors and a peer network throughout their college journeys.



“It was the opportunity I had been dreaming of, the validation of years of hard work,” says Savanna Touré ’21. “My world was suddenly full of endless possibilities.”

program, some schools, like Lafayette, affiliate with two. (Lafayette recruits cohorts from both New York City and Washington, D.C.)

Lafayette’s inaugural cohort, Posse N.Y. 1, arrived on College Hill in fall 2002 after then-president Arthur Rothkopf and a team of administrators decided to commit to the program. “They saw this as a new approach to reach students who wouldn’t normally think of applying to Lafayette,” says Wendy Hill, director of Hanson Center for Inclusive STEM Education at Lafayette, who served as Posse liaison from 2009 to 2014. The program thrived at the College, and Posse D.C. 1 was added shortly thereafter in fall 2006.

Over the course of the last two decades, about 400 Posse alumni have graduated from Lafayette, having earned approximately \$78 million in scholarships from the College, Bial estimates. That, she explains, is thanks to the undertaking of the Lafayette administrations that have continued to commit to diversity in higher education. “President Nicole Hurd is an expert in understanding issues of access to higher education and executing ideas that would equal the playing field for students from different backgrounds,” Bial says, referring to Hurd’s decades-long career as the founder and CEO of College Advising Corps—the country’s largest college access program serving low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented high school students—prior to her becoming Lafayette’s 18th president. “To partner with her is special for us.”

Hurd says Bial’s shared commitment to student success and the work she has championed through The Posse Foundation has been an inspiration to her for many years: “The College has greatly benefited from the intelligence, resilience, and leadership of Posse Scholars for over two decades,” Hurd says, adding that the partnership with the foundation has truly been a gift to the Lafayette community. “We are strengthened by their contributions to the College while on campus, and their leadership in their professions and communities after graduation.”

What makes Posse and Lafayette a complementary fit, says Tim Cox—dean of advising and co-curricular

Posse Scholars nationwide have collectively been awarded \$2.24 billion in scholarships and have graduated at a staggering rate of 90%. And the transformative power of Posse reverberates long after scholars have a diploma in hand: Of those who graduated more than 10 years ago, at least 80% are in a higher economic class now than when they were growing up.

The Posse class matriculating in fall 2025 will be the largest one to date: 920 students will be selected from the more than 17,000 who will be interviewed. (For more on the selection process, see sidebar, p. 33.) Currently, the foundation has 67 higher education institutions on its roster of partners, which Tristan Thompson ’13—a Lafayette Posse alumnus who is now program director of the foundation’s Los Angeles chapter—says are “doing the hard work of ensuring that their schools are reflective of what leadership should look like in this country.”

Posse recruits from more than 20 cities across the country; while most schools partner with one

programs, who also is the College’s current Posse liaison—is that the mission of Posse aligns with that of Lafayette. “Lafayette’s mission highlights the importance of the free exchange of ideas, of having students look at their own cultures in relation to those of others and develop themselves into constructive members of society,” Cox says. “That’s exactly what Posse does.”



On College Hill, as at Posse’s campus partners across the nation, Posse Scholars are commonly found at the helm of various student organizations and activities: Here, they’re resident advisers, Student Government presidents, D.Y.E.R. Fellows, orientation leaders, writing associates, and CaPA Fellows. Several have been Pepper Prize winners. “At any given time, there are 80 Posse Scholars at Lafayette. I would say they make up half of our student organization leaders,” says Robert Young ’14, who served as director of intercultural development and a Posse mentor at Lafayette for the past several years. Young also is a Lafayette Posse D.C. 5 Scholar.

They have a history of excelling in the classroom as well. Touré became the first student in the College’s history to be awarded a Truman Scholarship,

in addition to being a Barry Goldwater Foundation Scholar and an EXCEL Scholar. She later completed a graduate research fellowship at the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education studying breast cancer disparities. Currently, Touré is a research technician at Duke Human Vaccine Institute, working with other scientists to develop the HIV-1 and universal pan-coronavirus vaccines.

Basit Balogun ’21, a Posse N.Y. Scholar who achieved a superb academic record and dean’s list honors as a computer science major, landed a prestigious internship during his junior year at Goldman Sachs’ engineering division—where he now works full time as a quantitative strategist. Eline Pellicano ’24—who currently serves as president of the Lafayette African and Caribbean Student Association and as a resident adviser—has taken abroad her research on the experiences of women immigrants several times to Senegal and London as a Gilman Scholar, Assante-Carrasco Fund recipient, and Bergh Family Fellow. After Lafayette, she hopes to attend graduate school—like nearly half of all Posse grads choose to do—and eventually pursue a career in advocating for international human rights.

Lafayette Posse graduates have gone on to leave their mark on virtually every sector—from medicine to law, arts to education, business to government, and beyond. “I don’t know a single Posse Scholar who is looking for an opportunity after they graduate,” Young says. “They already know their next steps to impact the world, because they’ve already been doing it.” Nationwide, scholars are on a promising trajectory to success: Nearly 10% of Posse alumni are in a CEO/president, C-suite, or executive-level role just six or more years after graduating.

Rasheim Donaldson ’06 is an esteemed attorney who recently earned the New York City Bar Association’s Municipal Affairs Award for his outstanding achievements with the NYC Law Department. Donaldson has been a passionate advocate for justice since he was a teenager at Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem. “While I was in high school, I didn’t love all that was around me,” he says. “A lot of

LEARNING AT LAF

By the numbers, a look at two-plus decades of the Posse program on College Hill.



2002

The year that Lafayette’s inaugural cohort, Posse N.Y. 1, arrived on campus in the fall.

\$78 million

Approximate total scholarships, to date, Posse Scholars have earned from the College.

2

Number of cities that the College recruits from: New York and D.C.

400

Estimated number of Posse alumni who have graduated from Lafayette

80

Number of estimated Posse Scholars currently enrolled in the College

3,000

Approximate number of Posse Scholar applicants Lafayette receives each year

people who came from high-need neighborhoods weren't fully in control of their circumstances because of the lack of access to resources."

Donaldson came to Lafayette as a member of the College's first Posse cohort, Posse N.Y. 1, and says he initially experienced some culture shock. Being a member of the inaugural Posse class also came with its own set of challenges: Donaldson says he and his fellow scholars felt a heightened pressure to succeed on campus. "We were expected to be high-performing and meet a certain standard," he says, explaining that only motivated them further. "We worked even harder to demonstrate our talent and show the larger community what Posse is all about." In addition to being a manager of Lafayette's men's basketball team during his first year, he later served as a resident adviser, president of the Association of Black Collegians, and a member of Brothers of Lafayette.

And soon, there was growth. Through his studies as an anthropology and sociology major, he discovered his interest in law. He volunteered for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Easton, where he saw the effects of domestic violence and poverty. And, he says, through opportunities to study abroad in Kenya and Tanzania, and to help feed the homeless in San Francisco during an Alternative Spring Break trip, he discovered himself as he immersed himself in the experiences of others. "It was empowering," Donaldson says, "and I'm deeply grateful to Lafayette and The Posse Foundation for identifying me as someone to invest in."

After graduating, Donaldson earned a J.D. degree from Wake Forest University and a Master of Laws from Temple University Beasley School of Law. He went on to serve as assistant district attorney at the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, and as deputy borough chief of the New York City Law Department. After 10 years handling criminal cases, Donaldson shifted to a career as a personal injury attorney at Grey & Grey LLP, where he now advocates for victims of negligence.

He has also served as a mentor for New York City students who are interested in pursuing careers in the legal arena. "There's a great need for diverse lawyers," he says. "And I want to create opportunities and pipelines for others to explore the field and achieve their dreams."



Many alumni scholars credit their Posse mentors for having helped guide them through the ups and downs of college life and prepare them for the real world after graduation. Some are so inspired by the support that they go on to become mentors themselves.

As the oldest of her siblings, and as a member of an immigrant Jamaican family who came to the U.S. seeking a better life, Terese Brown '07 felt a responsibility to accomplish every dream her parents had, and to make her family proud. While attending the High

Rare recognition

Every year, the College receives interest from approximately 3,000 potential Posse Scholars from D.C. and N.Y., but the road to landing at Lafayette is challenging.

In order for a high school student to be considered for a Posse Scholarship, they must first be nominated in their junior year by a guidance counselor, teacher, community leader, or Posse alum. Then, in the fall of their senior year, nominated students are invited to take part in a monthslong, three-part interview process that utilizes a unique evaluation method called the Dynamic Assessment Process, or DAP, which is a process that Posse specifically designed to zero in on students' intrinsic leadership abilities, teamwork skills, and drive to succeed.

Deborah Bial adds that because each student has to both apply to their selected school through the regular admissions process and make it through DAP, the college application process for students vying for a Posse Scholarship is even more rigorous.

"In the first round, you're in a big room with thousands of students, and you're asked to work with them to complete various assessments," Robert Young says. He explains that those invited to the second round will visit the office of the city's Posse chapter to fill out college and financial aid materials; identify preferences for partner schools; and complete more assessments.

If invited to the third, and final, round, students will interview with representatives from the school they're matched with, including admissions representatives and Posse mentors and liaisons. The school is then responsible for selecting only 10 students per cohort. "It's a tough decision to make," Tim Cox says. "These students are often at the top of their class, highly involved in their communities and high schools, and they're all eager to come to Lafayette."

School of Fashion Industries in Manhattan, Brown sought undergraduate opportunities that would allow her to gain practical business know-how while exercising her love for fashion. Brown earned a scholarship at Lafayette as part of Posse N.Y. 2, where she connected with Gladstone "Fluney" Hutchinson, associate professor of economics, who also hailed from Jamaica.

Brown, who majored in economics and business as well as studio art, says her Posse mentors, Profs. Liz McMahon and Gary Gordon, were pivotal to her college experience. "They taught me how to advocate for myself and bring to light issues of race, class, and privilege," she says. "They helped my Posse navigate tough conversations about racism and stereotypes."

Following her time at Lafayette, Brown earned a fashion design degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology before founding Terese Sydonna, a luxury

The Posse experience

Just a few of the ways Posse Scholars get special support during their time at Lafayette.



PRE-COLLEGE PREP

Newly selected Posse Scholars go through intensive programming—called Pre-Collegiate Training—from January to August of their senior year of high school, during which they are prepared by Posse trainers to matriculate at their colleges. The experience, which requires weekly two-hour workshops, gets them acclimated to school before they set foot on campus: learning expectations, meeting mentors, and building a community with their cohort.

MENTOR MEETINGS

Posse mentors are typically tenured faculty who meet weekly with their assigned cohorts, and biweekly for one-on-ones with individual cohort members. Eline Pellicano says that her mentor, Prof. Cliff Reiter, always reminded her she was at Lafayette for a reason: “That coaching through the struggle was something I could always fall back on.”

RETREATS

Each spring, Lafayette’s cohorts and staff, as well as guests from the Lafayette community, spend a weekend off campus during PossePlus Retreats. “It gives our students a chance to talk about real-world political, social, and educational issues,” Tim Cox says. “And then we get to bring those ideas back to campus and share them with others.”

POSSE’S CAREER PROGRAM

Scholars have access to professional development training and events, and vast and tightly interconnected alumni networks, as well as internship, fellowship, and job opportunities across industries.

GRADUATION

In addition to attending commencement with their entire graduating class, Posse seniors take part in their own graduation ceremony at Lafayette. Tristan Thompson describes it as a crowning moment for the entire Posse community.

womenswear collection, in 2011. Since then, her brand has been sold at exclusive retailers and is empowering professional women to be authentic—something she felt was lacking in corporate America. “I noticed women were facing incredible insecurity. There wasn’t a lot of freedom to wear your natural hair as a Black woman or wear pieces that identified with your personal style,” Brown says. “I vowed to give professional women a voice.”

Brown serves as a mentor for high school and undergraduate students interested in the fashion industry, and for Lafayette students through the McDonogh Network. “It’s crucial for me to support others the same way Liz, Gary, and The Posse Foundation supported me,” she says.

Kyvory Henderson ’12—who majored in engineering studies and played defensive end for the Leopards—says he owes much of his success at Lafayette to the support he received from his fellow Posse D.C. 3 Scholars and mentors, Profs. Larry Malinconico and Gordon, specifically how to balance a demanding schedule as a student-athlete.

As the son of a U.S. Army officer who served in Desert Storm, Henderson moved around the globe during his childhood. Originally born in Germany, Henderson eventually settled in Glen Burnie, Md. He was a standout student and athlete at North County High School, where he earned a 4.0 GPA and was an All-County football player.

Lafayette’s Engineering Department, rigorous academics, and intimate class sizes made the College a desirable choice for him. And, after his guidance counselor nominated him for a Posse Scholarship, it was also within reach. “It was a place where I could thrive and explore,” he says. “Posse opened the door for me to go to a school that my family and I would not have been able to afford on our own.”

It also set him on the path to a career in developing equipment that improves safety for athletes, military personnel, astronauts, and more. (“I was always interested in the intersection between engineering

“One of the most beautiful things about Posse is when you’re a part of it, you’re a part of a bigger story,” says Tristan Thompson ’13, Posse alumnus and a program director for The Posse Foundation.



↑ Lafayette Posse N.Y. 1 in 2002 (from left): Richie Adomako, Jasmin Ampaw, Stefany Feliciano, Jocelyn Vargas, Ibrahima Bah, Jhenelle Andrade, Nurrani Ali, Valerie Vieira, Verrion Wright, Yang Feng Zheng, Rasheim Donaldson.

Valerie Melson '17 at graduation, a Posse Scholar and the first Black female to win the Pepper Prize at Lafayette. →



↑ Seen at last year's PossePlus Retreat: Posse liaison Tim Cox (top, center) with Posse mentors and professors (clockwise, from top right): Trent Gaugler, Rachel Goshgarian, Rob Young '14, Wendy Wilson-Fall, and Cliff Reiter.

and biology,” Henderson says.) Henderson earned a master’s in project management from University of Virginia after graduating from Lafayette. Now, he is the director of business development at Diversified Technical Systems Inc. in Seal Beach, Calif., a hardware technology firm. “I am one of the only people of color in my field, and I take pride in trying to get others who look like me into this space,” he says. Henderson, who is in his final year of working toward his MBA at California State University, Long Beach, is paying it forward: He has served as a mentor for Posse, has delivered lectures at higher ed institutions across the country, and is a donor to Lafayette’s robotics and football teams. He and his mother established the Henderson Scholarship at his high school, which is awarded annually to a student-athlete of color who is interested in pursuing a college education in a STEM-related field. “For me,” he says, “it always goes back to leaving the world a little bit better than I found it.”

Mentors are equally impacted by their relationships with their Posse cohorts: Malinconico—associate professor of geology and geophysics, who has been a mentor since 2008—says his interactions with his Posse students have been an eye-opening experience. “Being a mentor has made me sensitive to the issues

and social inequities faced by our students of color and first-generation students,” he says. “It also has made me more aware of the preparation that some students in my courses may or may not have had prior to coming to Lafayette.”



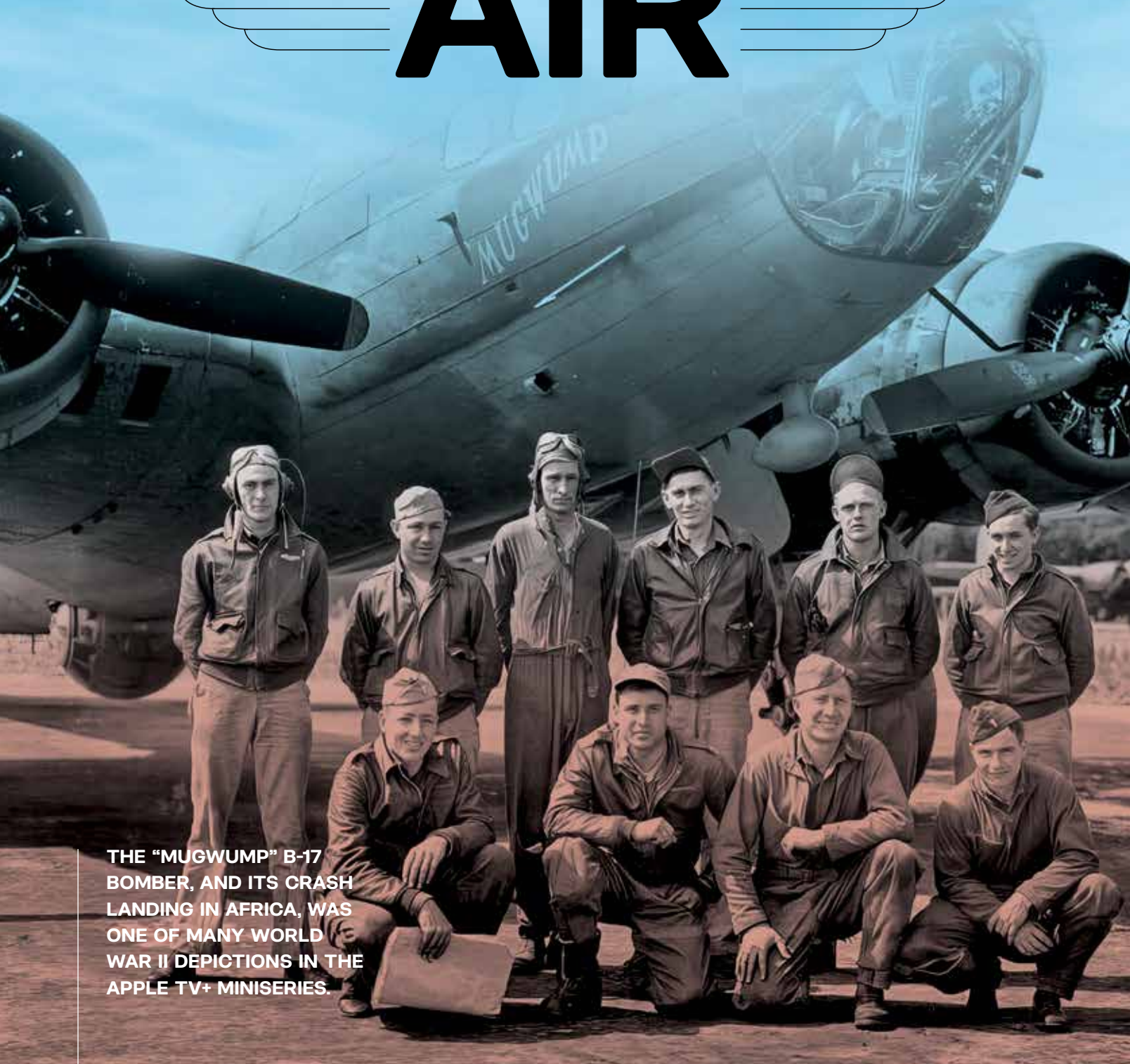
Many scholars form bonds that last a lifetime, not only with their own cohort, but also with the cohorts that come before and after them.

“Posse is a generational organization,” Pellicano says. “Scholars who were older than me coached me through the basics of being a college student.” Her own cohort, she says, is her chosen family.

Thompson—who still keeps in touch with his Posse mates more than a decade after graduating—tries to impart on current scholars that there will always be a level of shared understanding that ties cohorts together.

“One of the most beautiful things about Posse is, when you’re a part of it, you’re a part of a bigger story,” Thompson says. “We live by the mantra ‘Posse love,’ because it’s a very real thing shared among the people in this organization. And that’s something that can’t be bought.”

MASTERS OF THE AIR



THE "MUGWUMP" B-17 BOMBER, AND ITS CRASH LANDING IN AFRICA, WAS ONE OF MANY WORLD WAR II DEPICTIONS IN THE APPLE TV+ MINISERIES.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY (MUGWUMP) HUNDREDDTH BOMB GROUP ARCHIVES, HISTORIAN, MICHAEL FALEY; (DONALD L. MILLAR) AUSTIN MEDINA

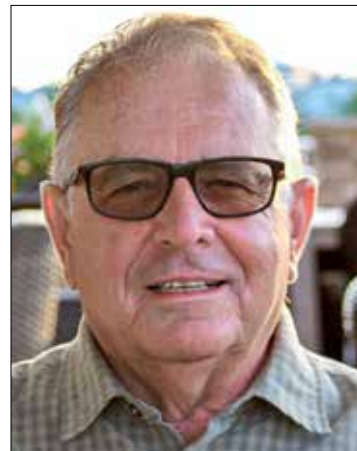
THE BOOK BY AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN DONALD L. MILLER, JOHN HENRY MACCRACKEN PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY, INSPIRED THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED WORLD WAR II MINISERIES.

Before its remarkable global premiere on Apple TV+ in January, *Masters of the Air*, adapted from Miller’s book *Masters of the Air: America’s Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War Against Nazi Germany*, had been developed for more than a decade by executive producers Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks, and Gary Goetzman—the same creatives behind the acclaimed World War II war dramas *Band of Brothers* and *The Pacific*. (It was worth the wait, as the show’s debut was the most-watched series launch in Apple TV+ history.) *Masters of the Air* follows the lead of big-budget productions: high-tech visual effects, star-studded performances, and elaborate sets.

Miller’s book, which was published by Simon & Schuster in 2007, shares the stories of individuals who courageously left U.S. soil to fight, and fly, in formation at 25,000 feet in the sky. In the early 2000s, Miller turned to Lafayette EXCEL Scholars like Katherine Blair Mulready ’04

and Lauren Sheldon ’04 to identify these veterans and document their firsthand accounts. More recently, EXCEL Scholars Matthew Ryan ’18, Emily Koenig ’18, and James Onorevole ’17 worked with Miller on the Apple TV+ adaptation by pitching storylines, locations, and resources for television. For Onorevole, who studied history and civil engineering at Lafayette, the experience inspired and redefined his outlook on research. “Dr. Miller imbues his retelling of history with narratives centered around people because nothing is more relatable and engaging than the human experience,” he says.

In the following excerpt from the prologue, “The Bloody Hundredth,” Miller (pictured, below) introduces several American wartime heroes from the 100th Bomb Group, including Maj. Gale “Buck” Cleven, Maj. John “Bucky” Egan, and Lt. Col. Harry Crosby while detailing the emotional and—for far too many—fateful toll of serving in the Eighth Air Force’s efforts during World War II.



Until Allied armies entered Germany in the final months of the war, strategic bombing would be the only battle fought inside the Nazi homeland.

The Eighth Air Force had been sent to England to join this ever accelerating bombing campaign, which would be the longest battle of World War II. It had begun combat operations in August 1942, in support of the British effort but with a different plan and purpose. The key to it was the top secret Norden bombsight, developed by Navy scientists in the early 1930s. Pilots like Johnny Egan had tested it in the high, sparkling skies of the American West and put their bombs on sand targets with spectacular accuracy, some bombardiers claiming they could place a single bomb in a pickle barrel from 20,000

feet. The Norden bombsight would make high-altitude bombing both more effective and more humane, Air Force leaders insisted. Cities could now be hit with surgical precision, their munitions mills destroyed with minimal damage to civilian lives and property.

The Eighth Air Force was the proving instrument of “pickle-barrel” bombing. With death-dealing machines like the Flying Fortress and the equally formidable Consolidated B-24 Liberator, the war could be won,

the theorists of bomber warfare argued, without a World War I-style massacre on the ground or great loss of life in the air. This untested idea appealed to an American public that was wary of long wars, but less aware that combat always confounds theory.

Daylight strategic bombing could be done by bombers alone, without fighter planes to shield them. This was the unshakable conviction of Brig. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, the former fighter pilot that Carl Spaatz had picked to head the Eighth Air Force’s bomber operations. Flying in tight formations—forming self-defending “combat boxes”—the



↑ A gunner tests the equipment in the ball turret, which was one of the most cramped, and dangerous, spots for airmen in the B-17.

bombers, Eaker believed, would have the massed firepower to muscle their way to the target.

Johnny Egan believed in strategic bombing, but he didn’t believe this. He had entered the air war when Ira Eaker began sending his bomber fleets deep into Germany, without fighter escorts, for at that time no single engine plane had the range to accompany the heavies all the way to these distant targets and back. In the summer of 1943, Johnny Egan lost a lot of friends to the Luftwaffe.

There were ten men in the crew of an Eighth Air Force heavy bomber. The pilot and his co-pilot sat in the cockpit, side by side; the navigator and bombardier were just below, in the plane’s transparent Plexiglas nose; and directly behind the pilot was the flight engineer, who doubled as the top turret gunner. Further back in the plane, in a separate compartment, was the radio operator, who manned

a top-side machine gun; and at mid-ship there were two waist gunners and a ball turret gunner, who sat in a revolving Plexiglas bubble that hung—fearfully vulnerable—from the underside of the fuselage. In an isolated compartment in the back of the plane was the tail gunner, perched on an oversized bicycle seat. Every position in the plane was

← Maj. John C. Egan, in his signature sheepskin jacket, was the group’s operations officer before flying on a dozen missions.



The new Norden bombsight improved accuracy of high-altitude bombing.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (BOMBSIGHT) CREATIVE COMMONS; (BALL TURRET) NATIONAL ARCHIVES; COLLEGE PARK, MD; (MAJOR JOHN EGAN) HUNDRETH BOMB GROUP ARCHIVES; HISTORIAN, MICHAEL FALEY



← The Boeing B-17, or Flying Fortress, first took flight in 1935. Here, the 100th Bomb Group flies them toward Germany in 1945.

Maj. Gale W. Clevon on July 10, 1943. A few months later, the pilot had to bail out over Germany and was held as a prisoner of war. →

vulnerable; there were no foxholes in the sky. Along with German and American submarine crews and the Luftwaffe pilots they met in combat, American and British bomber boys had the most dangerous job in the war. In October 1943, fewer than one out of four Eighth Air Force crew members could expect to complete his tour of duty: twenty-five combat missions. The statistics were discomfiting. Two-thirds of the men could expect to die in combat or be captured by the enemy. And 17 percent would either be wounded seriously, suffer a disabling mental breakdown, or die in a violent air accident over English soil. Only 14 percent of fliers assigned to Major Egan's Bomb Group when it arrived in England in May 1943 made it to their twenty-fifth mission. By the end of the war, the Eighth Air Force would have more fatal casualties—26,000—than the entire United States Marine Corps. Seventy-seven percent of the Americans who flew against the Reich before D-Day would wind up as casualties.

As commander of the Hundredth's 418th Squadron, Johnny Egan flew with his men on all the tough missions. When his boys went into danger, he wanted to face it with them. "Anyone who flies operationally is crazy," Egan confided to Sgt. Saul Levitt, a radioman in his squadron who was later injured in a base accident and transferred to the staff of *Yank* magazine, an army publication. "And then," says Levitt, "he proceeded to be crazy and fly operationally. And no milk runs...."

When his "boy-men," as Egan called them, went down in flaming planes, he wrote home to their wives and mothers. "These were not file letters," Levitt remembered. "It was the Major's idea they should be written in long-hand to indicate a personal touch, and there are no copies of these letters. He never said anything much about that. The letters were between him and the families involved."



Major Egan was short and skinny as a stick, barely 140 pounds, with thick black hair, combed into a pompadour, black eyes, and a pencil-thin mustache. His trademarks were a white fleece-lined flying jacket and an idiomatic manner of speaking, a street-wise style borrowed from writer Damon Runyon. At twenty-seven, he was one of the "ancients" of the outfit, but "I can out-drink any of you children," he would tease the fresh-faced members of his squadron. On nights that he wasn't scheduled to fly the next day, he would jump into a jeep and head for his "local," where he'd gather at the bar with a gang of Irish laborers and sing ballads until the taps ran dry or the tired publican tossed them out.

When Egan was carousing, his best friend was usually in the sack. Major Gale W. Clevon's pleasures were simple. He liked ice cream, cantaloupe, and English war movies; and he was loyal to a girl back home named Marge. He lived to fly and, with Egan,



← Lt. Col. Harry Crosby (second from right) was promoted to lead navigator for the entire 100th Bomb Group. Crosby finished the war as one of the military's top navigators.

was one of the “House of Lords of flying men.” His boyhood friends had called him “Cleve,” but Egan, his inseparable pal since their days together in flight training in the States, renamed him “Buck” because he looked like a kid named Buck that Egan knew back in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The name stuck. “I never liked it, but I’ve been Buck ever since,” Clevon said sixty years later, after he earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and a Ph.D. in interplanetary physics.

Lean, stoop-shouldered Gale Clevon grew up in the hardscrabble oil country north of Casper, Wyoming, and worked his way through the University of Wyoming as a roughneck on a drilling crew. With his officer’s cap cocked on the side of his head and a toothpick dangling from his mouth, he looked like a tough guy, but “he had a heart as big as Texas and was all for his men,” one of his fliers described him. He was extravagantly alive and was easily the best storyteller on the base.

A squadron commander at age twenty-four, he became a home-front hero when he was featured in a *Saturday Evening Post* story of the Regensburg Raid by Lt. Col. Beirne Lay, Jr., later the co-author, with Sy Bartlett, of *Twelve O’Clock High!*, the finest novel and movie to come out of the European air war. The Regensburg-Schweinfurt mission of August 17, 1943, was the biggest, most disastrous American air operation up to that time. Sixty bombers and nearly 600 men were lost. It was a “double strike” against the aircraft factories of Regensburg and the

“THEIR FEAR WASN’T AS GREAT AS OURS, AND THEREFORE WAS MORE DANGEROUS,” SAYS MAJOR GALE W. CLEVEN ABOUT YOUNG AIRMEN WHO HADN’T FLOWN YET. “THEY FEARED THE UNKNOWN. WE FEARED THE KNOWN.”

ball bearing plants of Schweinfurt, both industrial powerhouses protected by one of the most formidable aerial defense systems in the world. Beirne Lay was flying with the Hundredth that day as an observer in a Fortress called *Piccadilly Lilly*, and in the fire and chaos of battle he saw Clevon, in the vulnerable low squadron—the so-called Coffin Corner, the last and lowest group in the bomber stream—“living through his finest hour.” With his plane being shredded by enemy fighters, Clevon’s co-pilot panicked and prepared to bail out. “Confronted with structure damage, partial loss of control, fire in the air and serious injuries to personnel, and faced with fresh waves of fighters still rising to the attack, [Clevon] was justified in abandoning ship,” Lay wrote. But he ordered his co-pilot to stay put. “His words were heard over the interphone and had a magical effect on the crew. They stuck to their guns. The B-17 kept on.”

Beirne Lay recommended Clevon for the Medal of Honor. “I didn’t get it and I didn’t deserve it,” Clevon said. He did receive the Distinguished Service Cross but never went to London to pick it up. “Medal, hell, I needed an aspirin,” he commented long afterward. “So I remain undecorated.”

The story of Clevon on the Regensburg raid “electrified the base,” recalled Harry H. Crosby, a navigator in Egan’s 418th Squadron. Johnny Egan had also fought well that day. Asked how he survived, he quipped, “I carried two rosaries, two good luck medals, and a \$2 bill off of which I had chewed a corner for each of my missions. I also wore my sweater backwards and my good luck jacket.”

Others were not so fortunate. The Hundredth lost ninety men.

Casualties piled up at an alarming rate that summer, too fast for the men to keep track of them. One replacement crewman arrived at Thorpe Abbots in time for a late meal, went to bed in his new bunk, and was lost the next morning over Germany. No one got his name. He was thereafter known as “the man who came to dinner.”



← Flying Fortresses in staggered formation over Bremen, Germany.



← From the top of a control tower in England, men scan the skies in hopes of seeing aircrafts returning to the base from a mission.

One bomber's heavy damage to its Plexiglas nose, along with holes in the fuselage. →



With so many of their friends dying, the men of the Hundredth badly needed heroes. At the officers club, young fliers gathered around Clevon and Egan and “watched the two fly missions with their hands,” Crosby wrote in his memoir of the air war. “Enlisted men adored them,” and pilots wanted to fly the way they did. With their dashing white scarves and crushed “fifty-mission caps,” they were characters right out of *I Wanted Wings*, another Beirne Lay book, and the Hollywood film based on it, which inspired thousands of young men to join the Army Air Corps. They even talked like Hollywood. The first time Crosby set eyes on Clevon was at the officers club. “For some reason he wanted to talk to me, and he said, ‘Taxi over here Lieutenant.’”

Clevon liked the young replacements but worried about their untested bravado. “Their fear wasn’t as great as ours, and therefore was more dangerous. They feared the unknown. We feared the known.”

On the morning of October 8, 1943, an hour or so before Johnny Egan stepped on the train that brought him to London on his first leave from Thorpe Abbots, Buck Clevon took off for Bremen and didn’t return. Three Luftwaffe fighters flew out of the sun and tore into his Fortress, knocking out three engines, blowing holes in the tail and nose, sheering off a good part of the left wing, and setting the cockpit on fire. The situation hopeless, Clevon ordered the crew to jump. He was the last man out of the plane. When he jumped, the bomber was only about 2,000 feet from the ground.

This was at 3:15 P.M., about the time Johnny Egan would have been checking into his London hotel. Hanging from his parachute, Clevon saw he was going to land near a small farmhouse “and faster than I wanted to.” Swinging in his chute to avoid the house, he spun out of control and went flying through the open back door and into the kitchen, knocking over furniture and a small iron stove. The farmer’s wife

and daughter began screaming hysterically, and in a flash, the farmer had a pitchfork pressed against Clevon’s chest. “In my pitiful high school German, I tried to convince him I was a good guy. He wasn’t buying it.”

That night, some of the men in Clevon’s squadron who had survived the Bremen mission walked to a village pub and got extravagantly drunk. “None of them could believe he was gone,” said Sgt. Jack Sheridan, another member of Clevon’s squadron. If Clevon “the invincible” couldn’t make it, who could? But as Sheridan noted, “missing men don’t stop a war.”

The next morning, over a hotel breakfast of fried eggs and a double Scotch, Johnny Egan read the headlines in the London *Times*, “Eighth Air Force Loses 30 Fortresses Over Bremen.” He sprang out of his chair and rushed to a phone to call the base. With wartime security tight, the conversation was in code. “How did the game go,” he asked. Clevon had gone down swinging, he was told. Silence. Pulling himself together, Egan asked, “Does the team have a game scheduled for tomorrow?”

“Yes,” came the reply.

“I want to pitch.” ■

A new edition of Miller’s *Masters of the Air* was released in January and is available at simonandschuster.com.

LEARNING



IN 2017, THREE LAFAYETTE STUDENTS LAUNCHED THEIR COMPANY, GOPEER, WHILE IN COLLEGE. THEY HOPED TO IMPROVE TUTORING SERVICES FOR KIDS, KINDERGARTEN THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. THIS YEAR, THOSE SAME PARDS LANDED ON THE *FORBES* "30 UNDER 30" LIST FOR THESE CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION. HERE'S THE STORY OF HOW THEY AIM TO REVOLUTIONIZE THE LEARNING INDUSTRY.



BY
GEORGE SPENCER

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
NICOLÒ CANOVA

REIMAGINED

The way Erik Laucks '20 remembers it, in early 2017, a student was approaching programmers on campus with an idea for a company. He was even asking first-year computer science majors, like Laucks and Zura Mestiashvili '20, if they would like to help him build a website.

Laucks and Mestiashvili weren't initially convinced about the pitch from economics major Ethan Binder '19. "Everyone had a million-dollar app idea they thought was going to the moon," he recalls. There was such a craze for all things internet-related that Laucks, from Lebanon, Pa., says he even received unsolicited pitches from parents of classmates.

Eventually they would reconsider the business idea. Binder, who came to Lafayette from Providence, R.I., was both persistent and passionate. "All students should have easy and affordable access to a college student," he says, recalling a time when his younger brother struggled with high school math until a Brown University student took him under his wing. Not only did his brother's math scores improve, but he also felt inspired, as if he were being mentored by a role model. Because, in the end, he was.

Binder saw the existing tutoring industry as dysfunctional, because many families in need, unfortunately, couldn't afford the expensive fees. What's more, he felt that college students could, and should, be earning more for their work. Finally, there was an issue with accessibility to the services. How, for example, could a college student majoring in math easily connect with a sixth grader who needed



WE HAD TO TAKE A COMPLEX PROBLEM AND SIMPLIFY IT SO IT WOULD BE AN INCREDIBLE USER EXPERIENCE.

algebra help? There had to be a better way, thought Binder.

The entrepreneurs admired Apple's clean design aesthetic and its easy-to-use functionality. "We needed to build a product that students, tutors, and parents would love and trust," Binder says. "We had to take a complex problem and simplify it so it would be an incredible user experience."

FAST START

GoPeer's memorable moments in just seven years of business.

2015

Ethan Binder '19 starts college at Lafayette.

2016

Binder meets first-year students Zura Mestiashvili '20 and Erik Laucks '20 and discusses new business idea to improve access to tutors.

2017

The trio decides to work together; they launch company and website gopeer.org.

2018

Binder participates in two business accelerators located in New England; GoPeer expands presence to more than 50 college campuses.

2019

GoPeer wins Lafayette's Bergh Startup Accelerator program. Founders spend the summer expanding the business.

They start to raise funds; over the next several years, they will raise nearly \$5 million.



That’s how the germ of the idea emerged for what would become his wildly successful online tutoring and test prep company called GoPeer. Founded at Lafayette, the business was nurtured by the Big Idea Pitch Competition and Bergh Startup Accelerator at the Dyer Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. In its first three years, the dormitory-based company raised \$4.8 million.

After graduating from Lafayette, the founders continued to grow GoPeer and benefited undeniably—and unpredictably—from the online learning movement brought on by the pandemic. By 2020,

when COVID-19 hit, they were all confident that GoPeer would be an ongoing profitable venture, as the pandemic only accelerated what they had been doing. “We saw huge, huge spikes in usage,” Binder says.

In 2022, Imagine Learning, one of the nation’s largest education technology companies, purchased it for an undisclosed sum. Prior to its sale, GoPeer had reached 16,000 students in 48 states in five years. Today, as a part of Imagine, it has the potential to help 15 million students in that company’s 38,000 K-12 school ecosystem.

“GoPeer is definitely the biggest success story to come out of the Dyer Center,” says its director, Rita Chesterton. “We are a connecting hub for students. We’re planting seeds for them to go out into the world and become entrepreneurs.”

One day, while sitting together in class, Laucks had asked Mestiashvili if a student with a business idea had approached him about some freelance work; they decided to meet Binder at Skillman Café and hear what he had to say.

They came away excited. “No one else’s pitches had much substance,” Laucks says. “Ethan came very prepared. That was the big difference. Other people were throwing ideas at the wall.” Binder didn’t just have a notion for a business. He was so convinced he was onto something special he had already crafted a 20-page business plan. He had even sketched out what the website would look like down to where every button would be located, something that also impressed Laucks and Mestiashvili. “Ethan combined that passion with a humble approach,” says Mike Summers, associate vice president of Lafayette’s Gateway Career Center. “That made people want to help him.”

Over Starbucks coffee in the library common room, the chemistry felt good as they

looked out onto the Quad. “I thought he was a really nice person—and driven,” recalls Mestiashvili, who grew up in Tbilisi, capital of the Eastern European nation of Georgia. Later, after playing pingpong in the Allan P. Kirby Sports Center, they sensed the potential in working together. They played hard. They played fair. And all three understood the tutoring world needed some help.

Mestiashvili had been tutored in high school. He knew from experience how difficult it was to find someone good who was also within budget. He and Laucks had gigs at Lafayette’s tutoring center, now known as the Academic Resource Hub; they knew that college students would jump at the opportunity to make decent money by way of tutoring.

At first, the goal was to build a website. Nothing more. A few weeks of work. Neither Laucks nor Mestiashvili asked Binder how much he was going to pay them. Soon, it became clearer and clearer they were going to do more than coding. Together, they began building a business, not a one-off website, and in May 2017, they incorporated their venture. “I always believed it would take all of us to build something truly special,” Binder says. “I was excited about doing that with them. I couldn’t do it by myself. Erik and Zura couldn’t do it by themselves. We needed each other to turn this plan into something incredibly special that was going to make a dent in the world.”

The founders saw themselves as equals, something Binder insisted on, a principle

2020

Company experiences 260% spike in traffic due to the pandemic and shift to online learning.

2021

GoPeer opens an office in Boston with 15 employees to accommodate its growth.

2022

GoPeer debuts new mobile app.

Imagine Learning, one of the nation’s largest education technology companies, purchases GoPeer in August for an undisclosed sum.

2023

Since 2019, founders have consistently grown the company between 200% to 600%.

2024

GoPeer is on track to reach and impact over 15 million students.



that was supported by them evenly splitting its shares: Binder would be chief executive officer, Mestiashvili became chief technology officer, and Laucks was chief information officer.

Having two technical people and one business leader made sense. Ethan, for example, excels at talking to people and presenting ideas and big pictures. “Zura is an incredibly gifted programmer and engineer,” Laucks says. “We have different specialties in tech and engineering that let us bounce off each other a lot.”

While Laucks and Mestiashvili burned the late-night oil and slammed out millions of lines of code, Binder did all things non-engineering that involved product growth and operations. He hit the road to New England, having won entry to the 2018 and 2019 MassChallenge Accelerator, an elite program that seeks to match company founders with financial backing.

“I probably pitched the company to 300 to 400 investors,” Binder says. When he wasn’t trying to win over well-heeled, gimlet-eyed investors, he did grunt work. He posted flyers on Boston campuses to recruit tutors. He visited public schools and gave administrators “free lesson” vouchers for students.

During his junior and senior years, he made the five-hour Easton-Boston commute in his nearly 20-year-old black Volvo S60 at least once a week—often more frequently. Ever industrious, Binder had bought the sedan with money he had saved from summer jobs in high school. It already had 90,000 miles on it; these trips to Boston, plus other business-related travel for GoPeer, added another 100,000 miles. Binder used these hours in the car to his best advantage. He fired up business success audio books like *Never Split the Difference*, *The Lean Startup*, and *Measure What Matters*, along with several others.

Wayne Barz remembers Binder’s work ethic. As chief investment officer of Ben

**WE SAW AN
OPPORTUNITY
IN LINE WITH
OUR VISION
AND MISSION
TO MAKE HIGH-
QUALITY LEARNING
ACCESSIBLE FOR
ALL STUDENTS.**

Franklin Technology Partners, he oversees a team that makes direct investments in high-tech startups from northeastern Pennsylvania. For a decade, he was also an adjunct professor at the College, where he taught a Monday and Wednesday night course on how to build a company.

“After class on Monday, Ethan would commute home to Rhode Island and work on the business in Boston. Then he’d come back on Wednesday. He did that for 14 weeks,” Barz says. “He’s a very earnest, quiet guy but passionate and driven. He was focused on being able to help low- and moderate-income kids. I don’t think he was in it to be a billionaire.”

Like Binder, Laucks also felt that there was more to GoPeer than the bottom line. “Some people get into starting a company purely trying to make a bunch of money. I’m not discounting that,” he says, but for him the desire to crush problems and do good work ruled the day. Although there was never a time when something felt unsolvable, says Laucks, there were difficult times when they needed some direction or money for, say, staffing or marketing. “What energized me to find solutions to those problems was how much I believed in what we were building,” he says.

When times got tough, Binder was resilient. He referred to something venture capitalist Paul Graham once said about how to survive as a startup: Be like a “cockroach,” because if you can operate as lean as possible, and be willing to face any challenge, you’ll never die. And that was what they did—even despite additional hurdles of juggling classes and, in Binder’s case,

playing varsity tennis. “We did whatever we could to move forward,” he says. Despite the pressures of launching a business in college, the entrepreneurs say that being in the ed-tech sector redoubled their commitment to their schoolwork.

They built a digital classroom—think Zoom, but with a digital whiteboard, says Binder—with a code editor, a note editor, and a tutor-student matching system within the platform. “We had to be able to pair college students with K-12 students at scale,” says Binder. “We are not just a tutoring company. We built the engine to power tutoring and to allow college students to run their own businesses.”

In different ways, Binder and Laucks spread the GoPeer message on campus. Binder habitually wore a blue T-shirt emblazoned with the GoPeer logo. (“I wore it so much that the print started to wear off,” he says.)

Meanwhile, Laucks set up shop in his “office,” a cozy chair by the newspaper office in the back of Farinon. To help him focus and avoid small talk, he rarely took off his Sony headphones. “I coded day in and day out until public safety would come to close the building at two in the morning and kick me out,” he says, explaining sometimes he would clock 12-hour shifts of working on the website. “People called it my ‘office.’ Some administrators asked me if I was going to take the chair with me when I graduated.”

Spring 2018 marked a turning point. GoPeer participated in the Dyer Center’s Big Idea Competition in which students pitch business ideas to judges from local alumni and business communities. They placed second. “We recognized their hustle,” says Jolene Cardassi, Dyer’s marketing coordinator. “We were confident they would make significant progress.” Building on that recognition, GoPeer then earned a spot in the Bergh Startup Accelerator program. Each member received a \$5,000 stipend and could live on campus so they could focus 100 percent on their business.

LESSONS LEARNED



We asked GoPeer’s founders what the experience of starting a company while at Lafayette taught them. Here’s what they said.

It wasn’t long before the company took off. In GoPeer’s first four years, its revenues grew 200 to 600 percent year over year. But there were times they had to adapt. “We had to reshape, remodel, and pivot the company to a more sustainable online learning model,” Laucks says. Now, with a monthly subscription to GoPeer, parents can hire talented tutors for \$20 an hour and college students can rely on a steady source of kids to teach.

To accommodate growth, they opened a Boston office and employed 15 staffers. Then, in 2022, Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Imagine Learning came along. “We saw an opportunity in line with our vision and mission to make high-quality learning accessible for all students. We had helped 16,000 students, but Imagine had access to 15 million students. It had the distribution GoPeer didn’t have,” Binder says. This year, the Pards landed on the *Forbes* “30 Under 30” list for their contributions to education—with, it seems, far bigger impact ahead.

“It’s unusual for entrepreneurs to find their idea while still in college,” Chesterton says. “Nobody judges Dyer’s success on the number of students who graduate with successful ventures. It’s based on how we move the needle in making our students more entrepreneurial. If you have this entrepreneurial mindset, you can go much further in your career.” Binder notes that had he not attended Lafayette, he might not have ever embarked on this journey. “Lafayette offered a unique environment that allowed me to excel academically while also delving into entrepreneurship,” he says. “That has significantly shaped my life.”

Pictured in Skillman, from left to right: Binder, Mestiashvili, and Laucks. The trio is seen together again in 2022 when GoPeer was acquired.



Going from zero to one can be one of the most challenging parts of building a company. You don’t need to wait for everything to be perfect to start selling the product.

Ethan Binder '19

It’s really hard. Do it only if you are passionate about what you are trying to solve.

Zura Mestiashvili '20

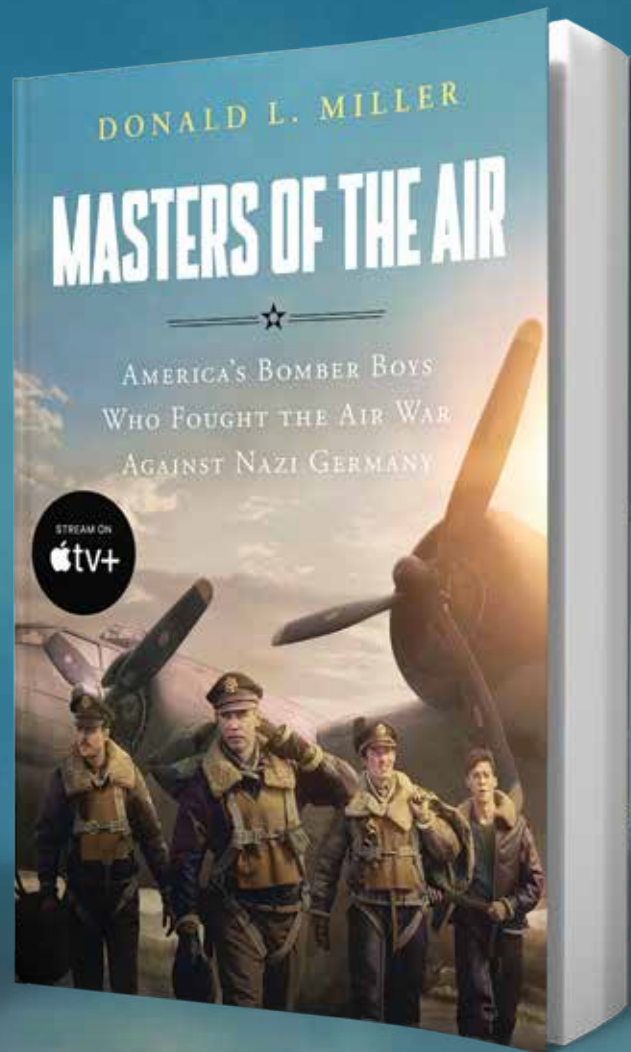
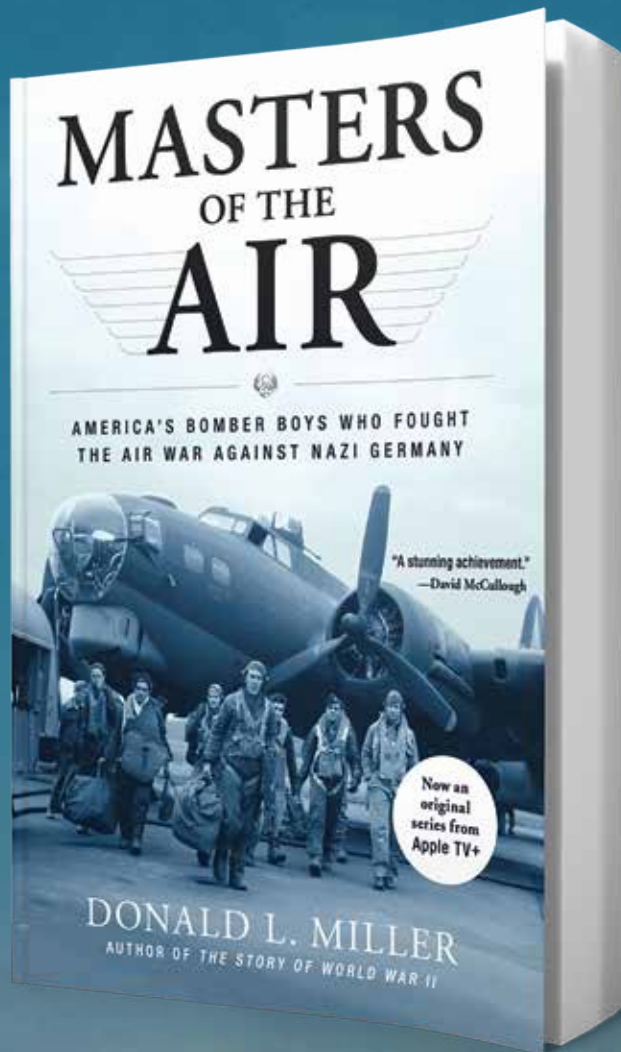
Build something you believe in, regardless of what field it is, whether it’s a tech company or some other type of company. I’ve met a lot of founders over the years—the ones who are the most successful and most fulfilled are those who have a passion for what they’re doing.

Erik Laucks '20



CONGRATULATIONS TO DONALD L. MILLER!

MASTERS OF THE AIR IS NOW A MAJOR APPLE TV+ SERIES!



Donald L. Miller is the John Henry MacCracken Professor Emeritus of History at Lafayette College and author of 10 books, including *Vicksburg*, *Supreme City*, *City of the Century*, and *Masters of the Air*, now a television series by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. He has hosted, co-produced, or served as historical consultant for more than 30 television documentaries and has written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other publications.

INSIDE

We asked alumni to share their industry expertise. **p.50**—Invest at any age with confidence. **p. 51**—The data science steering March Madness. **p. 52**—Interior design advice on how to love where you live.

Cur Non

Two centuries ago, in a letter dated May 14, 1824, the Marquis de Lafayette wrote that America was “the land of genuine freedom.”



“Most people don’t realize that investing is like going on a roller coaster. But you can choose what kind of roller coaster you go on.”

ANDY GUPTA
ECONOMICS, 2000



PHOTOGRAPH BY KEN RICHARDSON

EMBRACE A NEW MONEY MINDSET

Andy Gupta '00 helps female investors get comfortable with the market and build stronger financial futures.

BY BRYAN HAY

When Andy Gupta graduated from Lafayette in 2000, Wall Street was abuzz with a stock buying frenzy as he started working as an investment banker with Goldman Sachs in New York.

Armed with his economics degree and recommendations from Rosie Bukics, Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Professor of Economics, and Dan Bauer, professor emeritus of anthropology, he accelerated his early success by moving to Australia, where he continued with investment banking, then returned to the U.S. and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School. After Harvard, he worked in private equity and a hedge fund in Boston for 14 years until 2021, when the pandemic halted everything.

His wife, a neuropsychologist, gave him something to think about during the global slowdown. “She would talk about how she saved a life or made a difference with a person,” he recalls. “I had my MBA from Harvard and several years of experience on Wall Street putting together billion-dollar deals. Sounds pretty fascinating, but I began asking if my life had purpose.”

Born and raised in Mumbai, Gupta recalled how his mother and other women in India experienced gender inequality, especially regarding financial independence. He also reflected on his humble beginnings, unable to afford bedsheets in college, and what it meant to change his future. As a result, in 2021 Gupta started Anyone Can Invest Now, a 10-week stock market investing course held over Zoom. Although designed primarily for women, it's open to anyone interested in building financial portfolios. Here, he shares a few guiding principles for investing strategically.

Gupta connects with his clients from his home office based in Cambridge, Mass.



Ask yourself what matters

The first part of Gupta's mission in teaching people how to successfully invest is taking them through a seven-step series of personal questions designed to reach a very intimate response on an individual's financial goals. He asks about why a person wants financial independence until a revelation is achieved. For example, a client may want to be able to help friends and family members in need, something his parents couldn't do because of unexpected health setbacks. Identifying these priorities, Gupta says, can help budding investors define their financial goals.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEN RICHARDSON

Be willing to move with the market

“Cash in the bank is guaranteed to lose you money because it doesn’t keep pace with inflation,” Gupta says. “Picture two Lafayette alums, both 25, earning \$150,000 for the rest of their careers. They tuck away \$25,000 a year. One, let’s call her Natasha, invests wisely at a 7% average return, through market ups and downs. The other, we’ll call him Prince, opts for the safety of a bank’s 1%. Fast forward to retirement. Natasha’s sitting on a mountain of wealth, \$5 million, while Prince has saved \$1 million. After inflation, Natasha’s still got \$3 million, or three times as much as she put in. Prince has \$750,000, losing a quarter of what he put in. This is the foundation of generational wealth. And it didn’t require earning the big bucks.”

Calculate the right amount of risk

“Most people don’t realize that investing is like going on a roller coaster. But you can choose what kind of roller coaster you go on,” Gupta says. When he graduated from Lafayette, he could take on some risk because he was in his early 20s: With 40 to 50 years of investing ahead of him, it was easier to ride out and absorb market crashes. “But now that I’m 46, I have intentionally gone on a smaller roller coaster, because while I still have many years ahead of me, I want a smoother ride,” Gupta says. Those in their 60s, he adds, will want to choose a path with lower risk—having more of the less risky bonds, for example, which are still paying 5% a year.

Diversify, diversify, diversify

The holy grail of investing? According to Gupta, it’s very simple: Invest in five to 10 solid diversified funds—by having several different funds, you aren’t relying on just one to perform when market conditions fluctuate. “This allows the investor to cut risk by 50% to 80% without potentially giving up returns,” Gupta says. “Investing in single stocks can be frustrating, like a wild goose chase.”

In other words, building wealth isn’t about picking the next Tesla or Microsoft. “Instead, pick funds that don’t move together like global equities; fixed income; income proxies; gold; and commodities,” he says. Gupta, who is not a financial adviser, adds that you should always consult your financial and tax advisers before making any investments. ■

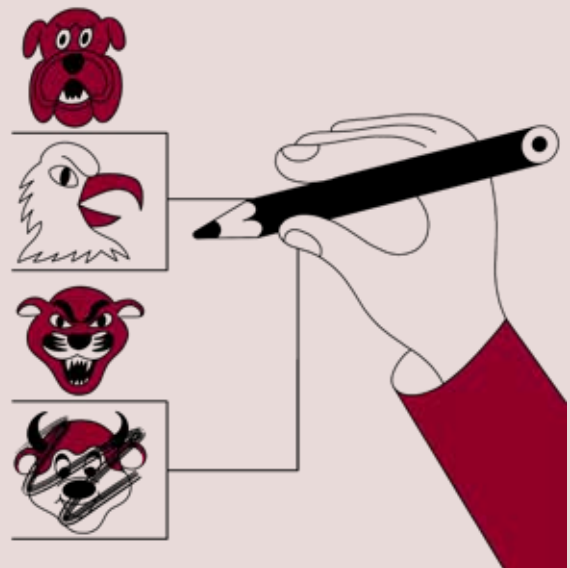


ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

March Madness Bracketology

Ross Coleman '22 helps make sense of the very unpredictable NCAA basketball tournament.

BY AMY DOWNEY



Regardless of how your 2024 March Madness bracket shaped up, there’s much to learn from the data, says Ross Coleman '22, an algorithmic trading analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in New York.

In 2022, Coleman—who majored in mathematics and economics, minored in data science, and was president of the Sports Analysts at Lafayette club—wrote an EXCEL Scholar paper to measure how college basketball teams were overrated or underrated. Titled “Using Statistical Modeling Techniques to Predict the March Madness Tournament,” his findings resulted in a playoff bracket that boasted 85% success.

Studying historical data can help determine potential winning and losing patterns. For example, there’s an “ineffectiveness” to being the No. 1 overall seed, says Coleman, or being the defending champion. (History shows that neither position is a slam dunk—although UConn was a repeat winner this spring.) “March Madness has a perfect name, because it genuinely is madness,” Coleman says. “Every year, there are at least a dozen games in the tournament that make everyone dumbfounded.”

Coleman is always intrigued to see the madness unfold. In 2023, a No. 16 seed beat a No. 1 seed; there weren’t any No. 1 seeds in the Elite Eight; nor were there any Top 3 seeds in

the Final Four. "Last year was perhaps the most unexpected bracket ever," he says. "Was that an anomaly, or is this the new norm?" It may be unpredictable, but Coleman shares some insights on winning strategies.

Don't fixate on finding a "Cinderella" story.

"Every year, people try to pick the unexpected team to do much better than their seed suggested," Coleman says. "It rarely works out." Through his statistical analysis, Coleman sought to identify a "Cinderella" story—or when a low-seed team makes a deep run—and he says the results were met with little reward. "I had more success choosing which teams are worse than their seed shows, and will lose earlier than expected," Coleman says. What might be worthwhile, he offers, is tuning in to college basketball experts, like those on ESPN, who are critical of overrated teams, like last year's University of Arizona squad that lost in the first round.

X factors will affect results.

Certain statistics can be solid indicators of a team's success: conference losses, opponent points per game, the assists-to-turnovers ratio, etc. But there's another factor that's difficult to predict: humanity. "Injuries, momentum, and emotion cannot be marked on a spreadsheet," says Coleman, who played tennis for the Pards. "This is what prevents my analysis from reaching that perfect bracket."

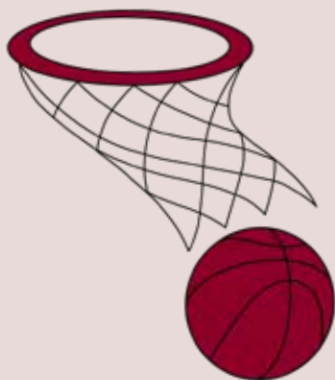
The champion matters more.

Predicting the champion is arguably the most important boost to your bracket. With the winner in hand, that guarantees seven games and at least 10% of the entire bracket. "My analysis heavily focused on predicting which teams would make it to the latest rounds in the tournament," Coleman says.

And about that perfect bracket ...

Odds of a perfect bracket are astronomically slim—at least "a million different permutations when reducing it to realistic brackets," he explains—so manage expectations. In fact, Coleman notes that achieving even 60% of the correct picks will result in one of the best brackets of the year. According to the NCAA, there's never been a perfect bracket in tournament history, but there's always a chance: "I will always believe that a perfect bracket can, and will, be made at some point," Coleman says.

According to Coleman, achieving even 60% of the correct picks will result in one of the best brackets of the year.



LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

With a rough economy and housing market encouraging people to stay put, interior designer Nina Patterson '15 offers budget-friendly style tips to make you fall for your space.

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS

The steady high of interest rates, home prices, and cost of living over recent years has many Americans thinking twice about springing for a new home: According to the U.S. Census, the total number of people in the U.S. who moved in 2023 dropped 9% from 2022.

"Everyone strives for that perfect dream home, but if that's not feasible for the near term, then it's truly important to love where you currently live," says Nina Patterson '15, co-founder and design principal of Two 7 Interiors. "You spend about 30% of your life sleeping in your bedroom, and at least another 20% just living in your home—so how you feel in that space has a huge impact on your overall emotional well-being."

And as a bicoastal interior designer whose projects have ranged from a 15,000-square-foot new-build Malibu compound to an NYC pied-à-terre, Patterson has learned about environments people can feel good in—no costly renovations necessary. "Making small investments in your space can entirely change your mood when you walk through your front door," says Patterson, who earned an associate's degree in interior design at Parsons School of Design in New York and has worked for award-winning luxury firms like Marmol Radziner and Groves & Co. before starting her business. Here, she shares affordable home-styling tips to fall in love with where you are right now.

Old is new

Vintage sourcing—that is, scouring antique or thrift shops for secondhand furniture and decor—is a trick designers use for charming and cozy vibes on a budget. "You can find amazing quality pieces that have withstood the test of time, often at a less expensive price than stocked furniture," Patterson says. She adds that "vintage sourcing creates a lived-in look that feels intentionally curated rather than straight

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA



← A one-bedroom New York City apartment that Patterson redesigned.

IN VOGUE

Patterson shares which interior design trends will define 2024.

1.

Add color. Bold hues like maroon and deep purple, plus browns, blues, and greens are in.

2.

Shift from “open concept” to intimate. Give each space an individual identity.

3.

Play with natural materials and patinated metals in decor. The results look used, but rich. “It tells a story,” Patterson says.

4.

Mix up textures. Create eye-catching contrast with different surface materials like plaster walls, wood grain cabinetry, or stone countertops. For textiles, opt for patterns versus solids.

5.

Go for “quiet luxury.” Craft an ambience of understated elegance with items like dark paneling, traditional furniture shapes, one-of-a-kind pieces, detailed plumbing fixtures, and wallpaper.

throughout your abode with less commitment by accessorizing with low-cost items like pillows, throw blankets, lamps, or artwork.

Organize, and then organize some more

Get rid of any items out of which you don't get much joy or use. “The more organized and clean your home is, the less anxiety and stress you will feel,” she says. When you're spring cleaning, opt to donate or sell whatever decorative pieces you can.

Revisit the lighting

Brightening up a room with lighting—natural or otherwise—can immediately elevate your spirits and style. “Hardwiring new lights into your house can be expensive, but there are alternatives like plug-in sconces or remote-controlled LED light bulbs that give the same visual impact at a fraction of the cost,” Patterson says. Don't forget about window treatments: “Without them, your home can feel quite stark,” she explains. “Including something like a sheer

Roman shade can offer light diffusion, privacy, and an added layer of warmth.”

Make yourself at home

“Your home is a reflection of you—the more satisfied you are with how it shows off your personality, the happier you'll be in it,” Patterson says. Let the character traits you're most proud of shine through in your decor by being “thoughtful and intentional about the things that bring you happiness, and how you can add purpose to them.” For example, if you're an avid skier, Patterson suggests displaying your ski passes in a tasteful matted frame. “It's all about defining what you want your story to look like—and how you want people to experience it when they walk into your home.” ■

out of a catalog or online resource,” and accessories like mirrors, art, or ceramics “can add personality to the space with unique textures, patterns, and color.”

Phase out all-white looks

Whether you're haunted by '80s-style kitchen cabinets or just want to give drab living room walls a pick-me-up, a fresh coat of paint is still the most cost-effective way to breathe new life into your home's sore spots—and, Patterson says, consider mixing in some vibrant tones. “Color is going to be more encouraged to differentiate interior spaces in 2024,” Patterson says. “We're moving away from all-white palettes and into more robust neutrals—think chocolate browns and rich maroons.” If you're not ready to try out new hues, infuse more subtle pops of color

In All the World



FOR YOUR WALL

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



There is no better signal that spring has arrived on campus—or anywhere, for that matter—than the



blooming backdrop of cherry blossoms. We'll call this scene The Marquis in March.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM NIKINSON

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

Maxwell E. Davison '54

Davison, from Allentown, Pa., served for many years as Judge of the Lehigh County



Court of Common Pleas for the State of Pennsylvania and retired from the bench in 1990. He then resumed his practice as a lawyer until the end of last year, retiring from a life of law at the age of 89! Having finally fully retired, the county raised his portrait at the Lehigh Valley Courthouse in July. The ceremony was led by Chief Judge Brian Johnson, and, along with Davison's family, many former judges and colleagues were in attendance.

Eugene Peters '51

Hon. Eugene J. Peters, 95 years old, is still working full time at his firm in architectural engineering design. He has spent time in Saudi Arabia in search of design venues. He is a former two-term mayor of Scranton and an avid hunter, including caribou in the Alaskan tundra. Peters is a man of great

faith and gratitude. He is the last of 17 children of Lebanese immigrants. He has five children and six grandchildren, and is married to Margarite Calorico.

William H. A. Williams '59

As author of *Ireland's Great Famine, Britain's Great Failure*, Williams has posted a 13-part podcast on Ireland's Great Famine of the 1840s. Episodes are available at www.wv3-creative.com/famine175.

1960s

Frank Bason '65

Bason writes, "Past 80 but still going strong. We get to the U.S., as a rule, every summer and stay in a cottage in Haddam, Conn. We have two sons, Christian and Peter, both of whom live in Copenhagen with their families. Five grandchildren. The picture shows one of them during an airplane ride with granddad."



↑ Amanda Magadan Golini '17 (pictured, left) is going for gold. In January, she and the U.S. Women's National Field Hockey Team punched their ticket to compete in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. The midfielder, who is from Randolph, N.J., is co-captain of the squad.

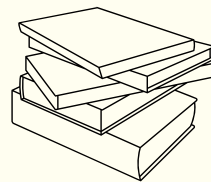
1970s

Bonnie Butler '79

After retiring from Rutgers University at the conclusion of the spring 2023 semester, Butler is enjoying life on the farm and traveling. Butler recently took a cycling tour of Puglia, Italy, and then met up with family for a tour of Sicily. A good time with great food!

Richard Danks '72

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning



DID YOU KNOW?

The College Archives maintains a trove of historical photos, publications, and memorabilia. Have a question or want to share a photo? Email archives@lafayette.edu.



together with my Lafayette basketball teammate Henry Horne '75 and Dr. Tom Davis (our coach at Lafayette). Henry made the trip to Iowa City and spent the night with me, and the next day we visited Coach Davis at his home. Great memories."

Allen Haddad '78

Congratulations to Allen and Janet Haddad, recipients of the 2023 Danny Hatch Class of 1904 award, for their exceptional support of Lafayette Athletics. The Hatch Award was established by the Lafayette Alumni of the Lehigh Valley (formerly the Easton Area Alumni Club) to honor consummate boosters of Lafayette sports.

R. William Hard '71

In November 2023, Hard dedicated a new nursing lab at Montgomery College, Montgomery County, Md. Honoring his late wife's memory, the new facility is known as the Pamela Hard, RN, Nursing Lab. The lab will enable the college to provide clinical training to students before they work in hospitals. The dedication was attended by family and close friends.

Hard lives in Potomac, Md., and has three children and nine grandchildren.

Bill Hayes '71

Hayes has announced that he has stepped down as CEO of Kish Bancorp and subsidiary Kish Bank, after 40 years in that role. He's succeeded by son Greg Hayes '00, who became president and CEO on July 1. Greg had previously held the title of president and chief operating officer. Kish Bank has \$1.5 billion in assets with offices across central Pennsylvania and a lending team in northeastern Ohio. Greg resides in State

Engineers has awarded Fellow membership status to Richard Danks, P.E. The award was presented at the winter meeting in Chicago in January 2024.

Frank DiLeo '75

DiLeo writes: "We recently returned from France and visiting son David, who plays professional basketball there. We watched him play and toured Paris and Normandy as well as other interesting places. Unfortunately, we didn't get to visit the gravesite of General Lafayette. A couple of months ago, I enjoyed getting

Check this

Lafayette alumni share their latest work.



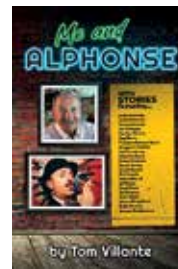
smART

By Amy E. Herman '88
Simon & Schuster, 2023
Use your eyes to boost your brain, says *New York Times* bestselling author Herman. (She's also Lafayette's 2024 Commencement speaker.) By deciphering art like paintings and sculptures, one can learn to process information and develop practical applications out in the real world.



U.S. Go Home: The U.S. Military in France, 1945-1968

By M. David Egan '62
Schiffer Publishing, 2022
Egan, author of seven books on architecture and two on military history, co-wrote this latest one about the U.S. military in France during the Cold War. After ROTC commissioning in college, Egan was stationed in northeastern France from 1962-64. *U.S. Go Home* is based on research at 50 international archives and more than 400 interviews.



Me and Alphonse
By Carmelo "Tom" Villante '49

Available on Amazon
Me and Alphonse is the story of a 60-year friendship between Villante and Alphonse Normandia, two New Yorkers who met in 1950 at advertising agency BBDO. They share memories, and photos, involving legends and celebrities from Joe DiMaggio to Marilyn Monroe.



From Incarceration to Repatriation

By Susan Grunewald '11
Cornell University Press, 2024
Grunewald's book, to be published in July, documents the stories of nearly 1.5 million German POWs held by the Soviet Union during and after World War II. Grunewald is an assistant professor of 20th-century European history at Louisiana State University.

Have a published book, podcast, or exhibit to share?
Email lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu.



Skillman opened 60 years ago, along with these card catalog drawers. A few cabinets still exist in the library—they now live in the Special Collections and College Archives workroom—and contain information for rare books in the department. “The original cards contain special notes about each book that weren’t always migrated to the digital catalog record,” says Elaine McCluskey Stomber ’89 P’17, P’21, who recalls filing these as a library assistant in 1985.

College with wife Meghan and son Aidan, 13, daughter Sarah, 9, and son Declan, 5. Bill, who also resides in State College with his wife of 52 years, Connie, will remain engaged at Kish as executive chairman. Bill is also the father of Maggie Hayes Ladd ’97, of Midlothian, Va. Maggie is the mother of Anderson, 13.

Richard Mayer ’73

In January, Mayer won national 70s bronze beating the current world 70s champion in fencing; it was the first step to rejoining the national 50s+ team.

Mike McClintock ’71

During Alumni Reunion Weekend, the Pennsylvania Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta

Theta fraternity celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding at the House built in 1908 (now Scott Hall). Among the 50 participants were classmate brothers Mike McClintock, Barry Shabbick ’71, Gordon Moser ’71, and Dennis Laich ’71.

Chris Wain ’73

An intriguing encore career for some Class of 1973 members? Writing a book, says class correspondent Chris Wain: “Don Chew ’73 has one in the works on the innovations in corporate finance and microeconomics over the past five or so decades; Bob Zirlin ’73 is starting one on artificial intelligence; and Mark Sankey ’73 is working on books on environmental sustainability and marriage (separate topics, he says).” Read about these, and more class news, on LeopardLink: tinyurl.com/1973-Column-2024.

1980s

Michi Calcagno ’87

After more than 20 years in telecom while residing in California, Calcagno now works for the Japan America Society of North Carolina as executive director. Calcagno joined fellow classmates Becky Schein Shermer ’87, MaryBeth Maciag Bayle ’87, and Marty Clarke ’87, along with about 30 folks, to cheer on the Leopards versus Lehigh at a telecast party.

Elizabeth “Beth” Holmes ’87

Holmes is living in Barrington, R.I., with husband of 35 years, Jim Holmes. She is still working as a librarian at the U.S. Naval War College, and singing with the Providence Singers. They celebrated a family milestone event in 2023: the wedding of daughter Emma Holmes. She married Joseph Colletti in September at All Hallows



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Church in Snow Hill, Md., with the reception afterward at the house of her dad, Ronald Geesey '61. "It was a wonderful ceremony and great chance to celebrate with family and friends, including a few Lafayette friends," she says.

Dan Huffenus '86

After practicing law for 29 years, Huffenus retired in April 2023 from the Charlotte office of Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, where he had a nationally recognized real estate finance practice and held numerous leadership positions. Shortly thereafter, he and his wife, Valery, decided to pick up stakes and relocate to Asheville. "We're still getting settled, but so far are really enjoying life in the mountains," he says. Their oldest, Danielle, who lives nearby, is engaged, and they're busy planning a 2024 wedding.

Sally Lou Loveman '84

Loveman writes, "We had the best time with Andrea Josephson Sullivan '84 and Pete Sullivan '82 to celebrate the wedding of their son Jack and his bride, Emma, in Morocco!"

G. "Rob" Lyles '86

Lyles was inducted into the Maroon Club Hall of Fame for tennis accomplishments with the 1983 tennis team. By the time he graduated, as captain, Lyles won the ECCS in both singles and doubles.

David "Dave" Schwager '84

Schwager was named vice chair of the real estate litigation committee of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

1990s

Kim Hart Hein '90

Hein wrote that Claudine Lilien '90 organized an unforgettable weekend in Charleston with 26 amazing women from the Class of 1990 and a few fellow Pards they met along the way. Susana Espirito Baird '90 said it so well: "Whether we were good friends in college or after, roommates, sisters, or mere buddies from afar, we all share an amazing bond in common. We all attended that little...tiny...College on the Hill at a time where the most amazing memories were made."

Kimberly Garwood Mages '93

Central Clinic Behavioral Health announced that its board of trustees has selected Kimberly Mages, Ph.D., as its new president and CEO, effective Jan. 2, 2024. Dr. Mages, a fixture within the organization for the last 15 years, emerged as the top candidate to lead the oldest outpatient mental health clinic west of the Alleghenies. Dr. Mages has devoted her nearly 30-year career to helping nonprofit organizations spearhead development, create partnerships, implement effective training, and ensure financial success. She lives in the greater Cincinnati area with her husband and their pets, and enjoys spending time with their two sons and four grandchildren.

Jennifer Polovetsky '97

Polovetsky has joined Duane Morris LLP as a partner in the firm's Real Estate Practice

Group in its New York office. Prior to joining Duane Morris, Polovetsky was chair of the eminent domain practice at Herrick, Feinstein LLP.

Mark Suffredini '93

Suffredini and Dr. Reza Kermani welcomed their new baby boy, Abraham S. Kermani, June 17, 2023.

2000s

Matt Bartle '05

Bartle welcomed the opening of a new brew pub in South Hero, Vt., which he has been involved in creating. Last fall, he and wife Kristen completed a thru-hike of the Long Trail in 22 days. The Bartles continue to raise their three children in Vermont, enjoying all that it has to offer inside and out.

Jared Doucette '06

Last year, Doucette finished his master's in public administration at Northeastern University; he then made a career change as an internal organizer for SEIU Local 888. "I am excited to be working in labor relations as I believe in the cause, and every day my hard work impacts people's lives," he says. On Dec. 15, 2023, Doucette was married to wife Meredith with many Leopards in attendance.

Jonathan Farrar '07

Farrar writes that he joined buddies from "517 March Street" and "634 Monroe" including Brandon Benjamin '06, Steve Caruso '06, Nate Durning '06, Matt Root '06, Brian Laverty '07, and Ben Lee '06 in Ft. Lauderdale for a reunion—the first time since 2017.



ENTREPRENEUR IN THE NEWS

Justin Kamine '11
tops *USA Today* list

Planet-forward entrepreneur Kamine, who has founded several eco-conscious companies like MEND Nutrition, was identified by *USA Today* as one of its "Top 5 Entrepreneurs to Watch out for in 2024." From the release: "*His undeterred focus on large-scale environmental challenges has positioned him as a global thought leader in bringing sustainable technologies to scale.*"



Jill Carey Hall '09

Congrats to Hall and her husband, Mark. They welcomed a baby girl, Joelle, this fall. She joins big sister Mina, 3.



Karolina Janasek '07

Bryan Abessi '07 and Janasek recently celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary. Bryan is an ophthalmologist with his own practice in Branchburg, N.J., while Karolina is a practicing pediatrician in Morristown, N.J. They are keeping busy with their two kids.

Art '01 and Liz Westgate Lathers '01

The Lathers family (Art, Liz, Alden, and Bay) completed an epic cross-country RV trip last summer: over 9,000 miles, 22 states, and 15 national parks. Art and Liz enjoyed an 11-week sabbatical from their work in the pharmaceutical industry. A summer well lived!

Amy Mahon '00

Reich Asset Management LLC announced that Mahon has been named an equity partner of the firm. Mahon has been with the firm since its inception as director of operations and marketing, and over the past 13 years has been instrumental in its growth. Appointed to the Kestra Staff Advisory Council in 2020, Mahon serves among an elite group of service professionals across the country providing feedback to Kestra Financial, which serves to enhance operational efficiencies and the overall client experience. She also serves on Kestra's Technology Council. In addition, Mahon

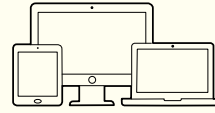
is the current chairwoman of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce in New Jersey and has agreed to serve an extended three-year term.

Ashley Elizabeth Morin '09

Morin welcomed baby girl Jordan Elizabeth Miller Nov. 14, 2023.

Dave Nelson '06

Nelson is director of annual and leadership giving at Xaverian Brothers High School, and recently released a podcast titled "A Man's Need for God," which includes guests like Matt Hasselbeck and Devin McCourty, among others.



STAY CONNECTED!

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

Mark Panny '10 and Lauren Menges '08

On Jan. 21, 2023, Menges and Panny welcomed their son, Roger James. They currently reside in Durham, N.C.



Alexandra Sippin Rau '08 and Andrew Rau '08

The Raus welcomed a baby girl, Evelyn Alexandra, June 25, 2023. She joins brothers Carson, 8, and Vincent, 6, in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Simmone Taitt '04

Taitt, founder and CEO of Poppy Seed Health, an on-demand resource for maternal mental health, returned to Lafayette March 23. She was the keynote speaker at the annual Council of Lafayette Women conference at the College. Since the launch of Poppy Seed Health, Taitt's company has become a trusted resource to support women's emotional and mental health in connection with pregnancy, postpartum, and loss support.



↑ The College would like to thank Michael Weisburger '82 (pictured, left) for fulfilling his term as Alumni Association Board President. "Weissy" will be succeeded by Francine "Fran" Della Badia '91 (pictured, right). Della Badia, who has been vice president of the board since 2023, will begin her two-year term as president on July 1, 2024.

2010s

Alex Farina '15

Farina and Cassie Apgar '16 married with several Lafayette friends in attendance.

Michelle "Shelly" Hock '11

Hock recently completed her Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction from University of Virginia and her M.A.

in English literature from Middlebury College. She is currently working as a postdoctoral research associate in the School of Education at UVA, where she teaches and conducts research in teacher education, gifted education, and classroom assessment.

Kathleen Jordan '13

Jordan (now Kathleen McCalla) married Caleb McCalla



May 21, 2023, in Greenville, S.C. They celebrated their marriage with an intimate outdoor ceremony, joined by family and fellow local Lafayette alumni Ellen Hughes LaFave '13 and Hannah Komar Stanley '13. In October 2022, Kathleen and Caleb purchased their first home together in Greenville, where Caleb works at GE and Kathleen works for Clemson University.

Kaitlyn Koch '15

Koch (now Kaitlyn Williams) married Tyler Williams Aug. 19, 2023, at the Woodstone Country Club in Danielsville, Pa. They celebrated their marriage with her fellow Lafayette classmates Brittany Broderick '15 (maid of honor), Bridget Rauch '15, Mary Higgins Leff '15, Michael Leff '15, KB Brown '15, Candice Harty '12, Matt Morris '15, Emily Crawford '15, and Kris Meehan '15. Her father and brother, Donald Koch '92 and Andrew Koch '12 (groomsman), were also in attendance.

Ellen Hughes LaFave '13

LaFave and husband had a baby girl June 28, 2023. Her name is Rosalie Romeli LaFave.

Alumni Memoriam

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

1943

Dr. Calvin E. Eells

1945

Rev. Robert L. Bast

1946

Rev. Frederick A. Magley

1947

Hugh M. Forman

1949

George F. Ney
Karl R. Schroeder

1950

John L. Fitzgerald Jr.
John J. MacVeigh III
Ronald J. Stott

1951

Salvatore J. Boscia

1952

John D. Bonisese GP'07
Albert "Al" Cinelli
George W. Cochrane
Peter C. Henry

1953

Lt. Col. David Lee Brown
William J. Murgas

1954

Carl H. Distenfeld
Robert A. Heyman
Leo R. Knapp Jr.
Kenneth S. Sweet Jr.

1955

Hon. James C. Hogan P'84
James W. Karcher
Dr. Bruce K. Leinweber
Donald Simpson
Edward "Ted" Atkinson
Twining Jr.

1956

Gayle Parker P'86
Frederic Rockwell Walker

1957

William P. Gano III
Raymond "Ray" Bradley
Jacoby P'81
Arthur J. Smith

1958

Donald H. Covey
Peter R. Wells
James F. Wild Sr. P'84
Martin P. Zanotti

1959

Andrew "Andy" George Green
William J. Kennedy P'84
Frederick LeDonne
Andrew Pelshe

1960

Roger W. Flartey
Dr. John M. Parsons P'91
David C. Saalfrank Sr.
David H. Williams

1961

Ronald L. Smith
James R. Westkott

1962

Richard S. Gilbert
Victor M. Muschell P'90
Hon. John J. Rufe

1963

Charles H. Booraem
Alan J. Feldman
Fred B. Gutwillig P'94
Thorold G. Smith Jr.
Lawrence H. Tittmore

1964

Walter C. Beamer
Wayne H. Bilder

1965

Howard N. Heller
Joseph E. Klarberg

1966

Rev. G. Clayton Ames III

1967

Stephen R. Brainard

1969

Henry "Hank" B. Smith

1970

William B. Dudyshyn
Richard E. Gordon
Frederick V. Grady

1971

Donald R. Lane

1972

Eugene R. Deisher

1976

Kevin J. Canavan

1978

Robert Collins III

1979

Andre David Carrington

1982

Enrique F. Malaret

1986

Matthias J. Jahl

1987

Jennifer L. Reed Sheridan

1991

Susan Appel Robbins

1994

Bryan R. Snyder

1999

Perry R. Moose

2000

Amy Broadway Saggiomo

2006

Andrew D. Aster
Kathryn E. Brown Fenstermaker

Faculty/Staff

Terese Heidenwolf
Joe Hindelang

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

Chris LaTempa '10

Last summer, LaTempa started a new role as director of college counseling at Moorestown Friends School in Moorestown, N.J.

Marissa Liebman '14

Captain Marissa Liebman was selected for promotion to major after concluding a second successful company command. She just

completed her transition into a new position as a data scientist for the Army.

Caitlin Lowery '10

Lowery successfully defended her dissertation July 7, 2023. She received her Ph.D. in nutrition with a minor in epidemiology from Gillings School of Global Public Health at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests center on policy approaches to prevent chronic disease, promote health and well-being, and reduce health disparities. She is currently a National Poverty Fellow in residence at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.



John Moors '13

Moors was recently made aerospace and defense applications support lead at Diversified Technical Systems, based in Southern California. His new role supports clients in their ground-based, atmospheric, and space-bound missions. This past October, he gave a lecture on "Principles of Data Acquisition" at the International Telemetry

Conference. Moors is lucky to work alongside Kyvory Henderson '12, who was recently featured in the Lafayette McDonogh Network article "Kyvory Henderson '12 engineers an impressive career." Outside of engineering, Moors continues to pursue acting in both voice-over and short-form sketches. As the improv community begins to rebuild after many theaters closed during the pandemic, he hopes to soon return to the stage.

Heather Keefe Phillips '12

Heather and Peter Phillips '13 welcomed a baby girl, Cameron, Aug. 22. She joins sister Taylor in Chatham, N.J.

Anna Raymond '18 and Luke Smith '18

Smith and Raymond tied the knot Nov. 11, 2023, with fellow Leopards by their sides!

Fabian Rogers '17

Since leaving Lafayette, Rogers has entered the space of advocacy. He advises



New York State Sen. Jabari Brisport on legislative matters and community concerns, focusing on the role of existing and emerging technologies in communities. This includes political education seminars, town halls, and more to educate the general public, lawmakers, activists, and other stakeholders. Most recently, he contributed to expanding the White House Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights and an Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI. Rogers is now applying to fellowships and master's degree programs so that he can continue to champion the role of technology and improve equity in a global space.

Aaron Walker '18

Walker is a fourth-year medical student at Temple University's campus at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem. He previously earned a master's in public health at Thomas Jefferson University in 2019 and is in the midst of interviewing for residencies in internal medicine en route to a career in cardiology. He will find

out where the next stop along his career path will take him on Match Day, in March 2024.

2020s

Kara Lyn Moran '22

Moran attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai in December, participating in the Yale University and Episcopal Church Delegations. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in environmental science at Yale School of the Environment, focusing on the intersection of faith and sustainability. While at the conference, Moran spoke on a panel about intergenerational responses to climate change.

Allie Soper '23

In December, Teen Vogue published Soper's article, "What to Say When Someone Dies: 5 Supportive Texts You Can Send."

THE BICENTENNIAL IS COMING.

SHARE
YOUR
IDEAS!

Lafayette will celebrate its Bicentennial in 2026. **Share your suggestions** on how to make this anniversary an unforgettable once-in-a-lifetime event.



Marquis Traditions

A look at some of Lafayette's signature spring events, old and new.

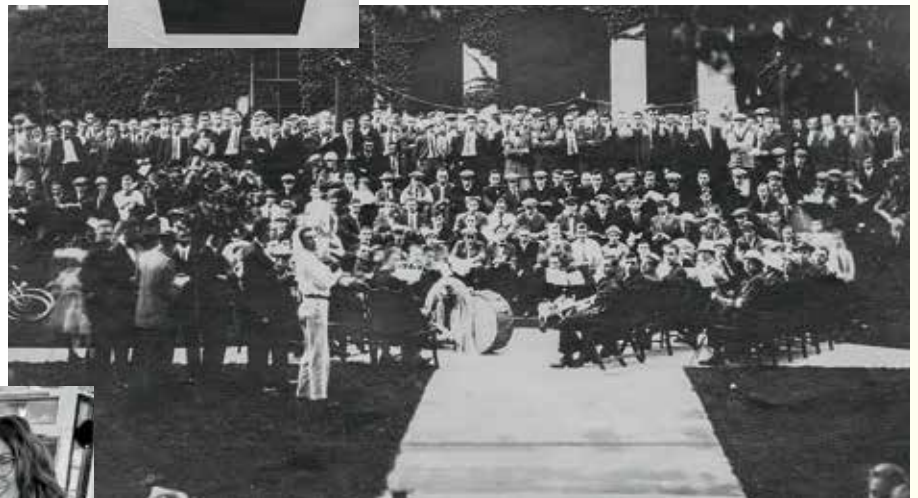
BY KELLY HUTH

WRITE US *What's your favorite Laf tradition this time of year? Share them at classnotes@lafayette.edu.*

← Following final calculus classes in the 19th century, sophomores burned their math books on the Quad, says Elaine Stomber '89 P'17, P'21, co-director of Special Collections and College Archives and College Archivist. The Cremation of Calculus took on a life of its own: Some students held parades afterwards, while others created plays about it (see playbooks, left). The tradition perished around 1900.



Since 2011, alumni chapters across the U.S. and in countries around the world have hosted Wine 3/9 events. These coast-to-coast toasts to Lafayette honor March 9, 1826, the date the governor of Pennsylvania signed the charter that established the College. Every March, Wine 3/9 events are held in dozens of locations from Denver (pictured) to Dallas. →



↑ Alumni have gathered to sing the alma mater at Pardee for generations. In the 1890s, students would stand on the steps at twilight to sing in harmony, Stomber notes. This scene inspired Walter Stier, Class of 1884, to write the words to the alma mater: "We'll gather by the twilight's glow, in front of old Pardee." Singing the alma mater on Pardee Hall steps became a revered tradition for alumni during Reunion in the mid-20th century, a tradition that continues today.



↑ Since 1982, seniors counted down to Commencement with a 100 Nights spring formal set 100 days before graduation. (It's complemented by 1,000 Nights, a fall formal for first-year students.) After COVID-19, the formal was renamed 100 Hours and moved to May. However, seniors still mark 100 Nights with a champagne toast in February.



← The George Wharton Pepper Prize is a coveted honor established in 1923 by Sen. George Wharton Pepper H'22, and bestowed upon a senior "who most nearly represents the Lafayette ideal." Pictured is John H. Longaker 1923, the first Pepper Prize winner. Just over a century later, the tradition continues: Seniors can apply or be nominated, and the winner is honored with a chance to speak at Commencement.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (CALCULUS: PARDEE STEPS; JOHN LONGAKER) LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES. (100 NIGHTS) DOUGLAS KILPATRICK/ZOVKO PHOTOGRAPHY LLC. (WINE 3/9) SUBMITTED BY MIRA VAN ROON BRAND '92, P'25



● AND...

Three nights a week, psychology major Jillian Collins '24 makes the three-hour trip from Easton to Long Island, trains for three hours in her dance studio, then turns around and drives right back to campus.

It's hard work, but it's paying off: The intense practice regimen has made her a three-time national champion and six-time New England regional champion in Irish dance. In March, Collins, who is from Ridgefield, Conn., left school and traveled to Glasgow, Scotland, to compete in her 10th World Championship. (Last year, she placed fourth.)

Although her commute to Long Island is taxing, it's offset by support on College Hill. "School is important to me, and dance is important to me," Collins says. "And there are a lot of people in the administration who want to help, because part of what makes Lafayette so vibrant is how multifaceted the students are."

In addition to serving as an Office of Admissions tour guide and senior interviewer for prospective students, Collins works as an associate facilities supervisor for Recreation Services. She also has leading roles in two of the Psychology Department's research labs; one maps the effectiveness of teaching art in virtual reality, and the other looks at mental health trends in neurodiverse populations.

The latter, which takes place in the neurodiversity lab of Jessie Greenlee, assistant professor of psychology, is closely related to Collins' interest in special education law and, specifically, disability advocacy. This work is rooted in the relationship with her younger brother, who is neurodiverse. And, this is why, despite a busy schedule, Collins is also studying for law school in the fall. "My hope is to make sure that the people who are most marginalized by society are being fought for and getting the accommodations and accessibility that they deserve," Collins says.

While pursuing her career, Collins is keeping dance in her life. She's becoming certified to teach Irish dance and wants to eventually judge these same competitions. Says Collins: "Dance is such a cornerstone of who I am that I can't ever let go." ■

FOR MORE To see Collins perform, visit magazine.lafayette.edu/jillian-collins to watch a short video.

ON HER TOES

Irish dancer Jillian Collins '24 competes for a world title during her final semester on College Hill.

BY MADELINE MARRIOTT '24

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON

Stay Connected with Classmates!



Visit classnotes.lafayette.edu to share your accomplishments, news, and photos—and read those of your Pard friends. The Class Notes website is easy to use and mobile-friendly. Alumni updates that are submitted online will also be considered for inclusion in the next issue of *Lafayette* magazine.



SHARE
YOUR
NEWS!



LAFAYETTE

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Communications Division
One South Third St., Sixth Floor
Easton, PA 18042-1775

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lancaster, PA
Permit No. 161

LAFAYETTE REUNION

Welcome Home

May 31-June 2, 2024
reunion.lafayette.edu

This is your year! REGISTER FOR REUNION TODAY.

Are you a Lafayette alum from a class ending in 4 or 9? Or are you an alum who wants to reconnect with campus, visit with friends and mentors, and celebrate shared history in Easton? If you answered yes, then this is your year to come back home for Reunion Weekend!

Reunion Weekend will take place May 31-June 2 and feature special receptions, faculty and staff presentations, class dinners, and more. All alumni are welcome to attend.

To see a full schedule of events and register, visit reunion.lafayette.edu.