

AI ON CAMPUS ♦ THE CLASS OF 1974 WOMEN ♦ NEW ESCARPMENT TRAIL
SIMON CENTER DEBUT ♦ A SPECIAL SENIOR WEEK ♦ OLYMPIAN TRIBUTE

Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2024



OFF THE GRID

An alumnus built a remote island off the coast of Brazil to be a beacon of sustainability.





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LAFAYETTE

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PHOTOGRAPH BY (TRAIL) ALFRED GREENBAUM, (STUDENTS) GENAMARIE MCCANT

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THE ARTS
AT LAFAYETTE



Lafayette alumni, and stories, are everywhere

Since many alumni enjoy spending summers exploring and traveling, it’s fitting that this issue has a number of stories that highlight the College’s global reach. “Off the grid” [p. 28] is about a rare Brazilian island with strong Lafayette ties. With the help of Mark Lebl ’94, who lives in Brazil, faculty and students recently traveled to the “Ilha dos Arvoredos” to learn about sustainability and deploy engineering ideas. While Prof. Dave Brandes was busy taking measurements on site, he also graciously took photos for the story (pictured, top left). Another feature, “Of the first order” [p. 36], recognizes the wide-ranging achievements of women in Lafayette’s Class of 1974. “In All the World,” a section devoted to alumni, shares news about Amanda Magadan Golini ’17, co-captain of the U.S. Olympic field hockey team, who is competing in the same stadium in Paris where a Pard sprinter took gold 100 years ago. Finally, in the Q&A with Natalie Beckford ’24 [p. 18], read about how the Payne Fellow saw the world at a young age and is aiming to take her career as far as possible after earning a master’s degree in international relations. —Amy Downey, editor, *Lafayette* magazine

Robert J. Bliwise ’76
“*The generative generation,*”
p. 42



Bob Bliwise, the founding editor and editor emeritus of *Duke Magazine*, spent nearly four decades at its helm, reporting on student life, research advances, and issues debated on the Durham, N.C., campus. In his most recent story for *Lafayette*, he digs into a healthy debate: What’s to learn about the opportunity—and the dilemma—of incorporating artificial intelligence into the classroom?

Alfred Greenbaum
“*Open access,*”
p. 22



After Lafayette videographer Alfred Greenbaum became a federally licensed drone pilot in October, he was able to go to great lengths—specifically, up to 400 feet above the ground—to capture College Hill. For this issue, he snapped vantage points of the new escarpment trail [p. 22], students during the total solar eclipse [p. 9], and the Northampton Street Bridge that was lit up in Lafayette colors [p. 54].

Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2024

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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.



Working in tandem

Jared Mast ’04, executive director of the Greater Easton Development Partnership (GEDP), catches up with President Nicole Hurd at the Easton Public Market to talk about the College’s evolving relationship with the city.

NH: You grew up in Easton, went to Lafayette, and are now giving back in profound ways.

JM: There was intentionality in moving home. I decided that working in my hometown, with partners that I understood—the city and the College—was what I wanted to do. And when I came back in 2012, there was already momentum to improve Easton as a college town.

NH: Let’s talk about some of your wins. Last year, the Easton Public Market was

named by *USA Today* as the top public market in the country. I’ve bought cookies there, and tacos, and flowers...

JM: We opened in 2016 and it’s been a hub for the community. People have a fondness for the mix of vendors. The shared magnetism is there’s something for everyone.

NH: When alumni are visiting, I don’t want them to just come home to campus. I want them to come home to Easton. That’s one of the goals of the strategic master plan.

JM: An alum who hasn’t been here in 20 years will be blown away by what Easton has become. Easton continues to flourish as a dining destination. But there is a food quotient that extends beyond the restaurants: Easton is a place where people care about food and coming together around food, from our farmers markets to our food festivals.

NH: I’m reminded of Robert Putnam’s book, *Bowling Alone*, and the idea that people also need these places for social connections.

JM: The entire community can regularly convene and have shared experiences here. It becomes a ritual for people.

NH: Especially with the Bicentennial coming up, we should lean into Lafayette’s beautifully democratic origin story of being founded by the citizens of Easton.

JM: Students should see themselves as part of the legacy of a citizen-initiated college, and it should be celebrated.

NH: One of the most important things is seeing the alignment and potential between the College and city.

JM: We will have a new hotel in Centre Square. The Marquis apartments, developed by J.B. Reilly ’83, will bring in more retail. There will be more public spaces and trail projects. We’re creating more youthful experiences downtown.

NH: That sense of community is part of what makes the connection between Lafayette and Easton so special.

JM: We have had successes, but there is a lot of possibility to continue to make Easton a better place for its residents, students, and visitors, which includes returning alumni.



GET TO KNOW JARED MAST

After graduating in 2004 with degrees in art and philosophy, the Easton native lived in California before returning east for graduate school.

EXPERTISE

Mast earned a master’s degree in city and regional planning from Cornell University in 2014. He has been working with GEDP since 2013, serving as its executive director for the last eight-plus years.

NOTEWORTHY

In his first GEDP project, Mast worked on the site for the Easton Public Market and evaluated feasibility and possible grant funds.

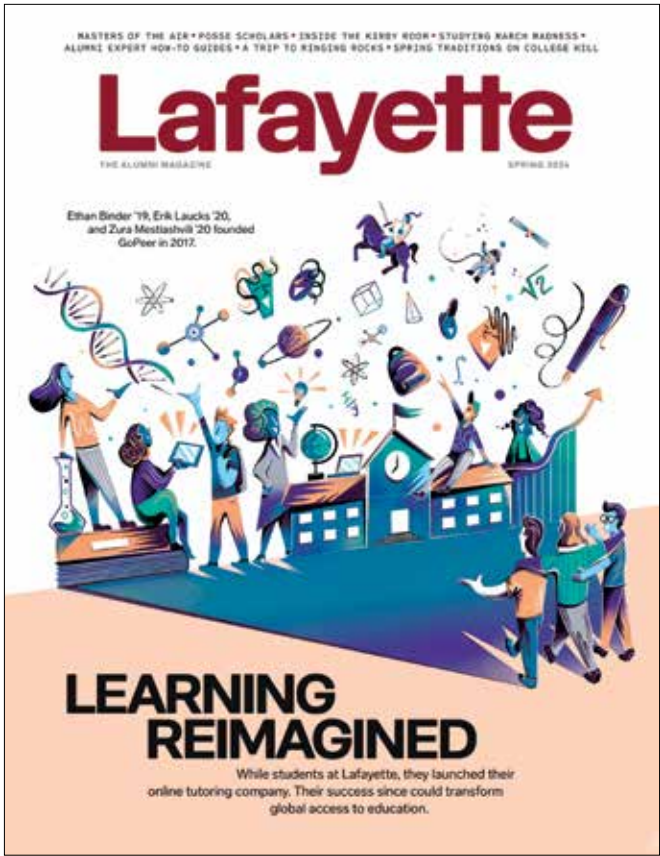
FOR FUN

An avid cyclist, Mast often traverses town by bike. He also regularly volunteers and was part of the “Connecting Beyond Lafayette” subcommittee for the College’s strategic planning process.

LAST WORD

“Our vision at GEDP is to make Easton a national model of a livable and welcoming small city.”





Special recognition
In a world where almost everything is digital, it feels incredibly rewarding to see GoPeer featured in print [*“Learning Reimagined,”* p. 42]. I have always believed in the power of education and the difference that personalized learning can make, and it’s fantastic to see our journey captured in such a tangible way. While building GoPeer and growing within Imagine Learning, we scaled our reach



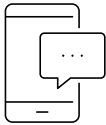
and impact from 0 to: 15 million students, 400,000 teachers, 38,000 schools, and 50% of U.S. school districts. In doing so, I’m proud that we’ve positively impacted the lives of millions of families! The magazine article captures how we are trying to do our part to help transform access to education.
Ethan Binder ’19

Geology and Ringing Rocks
Being a geology major at Lafayette was one of the best decisions I could have made. I was able to get a well-rounded education that has served me well in my professional career. Going into human resources, the technical education has—and continues to be—an advantage for me. And there was no better building on campus than Van Wickle Hall!
Meg Rose ’84

Having a look

There’s a good blend of topics in the spring issue, and it’s all well presented. I like the excellent photography and illustrations. The writing is informative and succinct. You’ve not succumbed to the “look what I can do!” with desktop publishing that can be garish; you’ve put the reader and readability first. Good going. I like the emphasis on inclusivity—that’s important today, when America is divided over many things. I also like the emphasis on connections: young and old, arts and tech, town and gown, interdisciplinary, and students, faculty, administration, alums. Keep it up.

PETER HANSON ’61
Former *Sports Illustrated* general manager, *Money* publisher, *Home Mechanix* publisher



ON THE WEB

“We were able to see the Kirby Room on the architecture tour last Family Weekend. Amazing!”

—Lou Franco

My husband, Cortney ’93, and I met and fell in love on the inaugural geology course to the Hawaiian Islands in 1991. Now our oldest son attends Lafayette and has attended the Senegal course last year and Peru this year. Such great experiences.
Mira van Roon Brand ’92



PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON
ILLUSTRATIONS BY (COVER) NICOLO CANOVA; (LETTERS) ANTONIO PINNA



Marquis in March
Thank you for the copy of the iconic photo of the Marquis near the cherry blossoms [*“In All the World,”* p. 54-55]. I remember playing touch football near Lafayette’s statue, and guarding it all night during the week we played Lehigh in football. I recall being paid 50 cents per hour. They were exciting times.
M. David Egan ’62

Thank you for sending the 8x10 ready-for-framing copy of the “Marquis in March” photograph. I know I certainly would enjoy some seasonal March temperatures right now in the midst of this unseasonably hot July. As for future releases of campus photographs, any of what I will call “the classics” are desirable: Pardee Hall, Colton Chapel, South College, Kirby Hall of Civil Rights, Van Wickle Hall, Skillman Library, and last but not least, an aerial view of the campus.
Kevin Murphy ’79

Making the most of it
I’m excited to have been in *Lafayette* magazine as a part of the “And...” series, featuring the multifaceted lives that students maintain outside of their academic involvements. This article [*“On her toes,”* p. 64] focuses on how I have been able to maintain my

internationally competitive Irish dancing career and prepare for my 10th World Championships. I feel extremely honored to be included in such a vibrant exposition of Lafayette’s community. I am so grateful for the life lessons and experiences that both my Irish dancing career and my time at Lafayette College have afforded me, and I look forward to what the future holds for me at the Quinnipiac University School of Law.
Jillian Collins ’24

Keys to success
How wonderful to see Manaka Gomi ’23 leverage both her engineering acumen and love of music [*“Within reach,”* Fall 2023, p. 60]. This is a great example of Lafayette College providing the best of both disciplines and differentiating the institution. Music is a

wonderful outlet for many. Thanks to the talent of Lafayette faculty pianist Holly Roadfeldt, and connecting with students, piano students thrive. Concert attendees enjoy the benefits of her teaching demonstrated by the proud student performers. Thanks for sharing this exciting news!
Karen Rice P’21, P’23

WRITE TO US Have feedback or a story idea? Email lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu or use the following mailing address: *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.

↙ Amanda Magadan Golini ’17, co-captain of the U.S. women’s field hockey team [*Spring 2024*, p. 56].



LAFAYETTE REUNION *Welcome Home*

This was your year!

Thanks to the hundreds of alumni who came back to Easton this summer.



NEW EVENTS
Coeducation on College Hill was celebrated at the inaugural First Women's Tea.



REUNION LAP
Classes with milestone anniversaries paraded around the Quad.



SOCIAL TIME
Alumni reconnected with friends at receptions throughout the weekend.



CAMPUS GUIDES
Lafayette hosted a hard-hat tour of the newly renovated Simon Center for Economics and Business.



KEEPING TRADITION
Alumni joined together to sing the Alma Mater on the steps of Pardee.



SERVICE SPOTLIGHT
Individual alumni volunteers were acknowledged, like Carol Coffey Tarsa '78 (pictured), who received the 2023-24 Hughes Correspondent Award.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next Reunion returns **June 6-8, 2025.**

For more information, visit reunion.lafayette.edu.

INSIDE

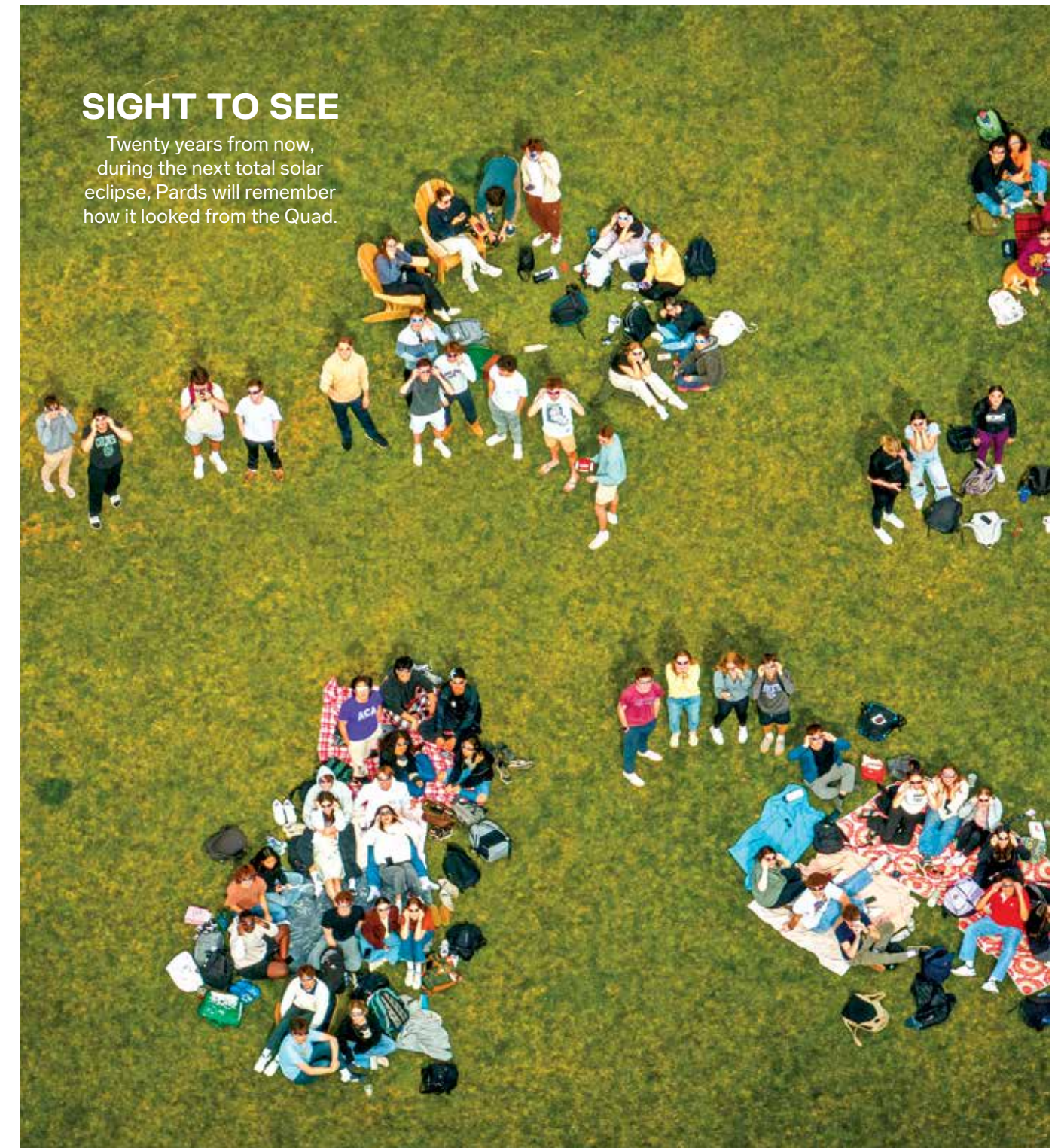
Noteworthy news and happenings on campus. **p. 10**—Updated mission and values, Laura McGrane named provost, and more. **p. 11**—Breaking ground on new lacrosse center. **p. 13**—Lafayette's 2024 Goldwater Scholars.

On the Hill



SIGHT TO SEE

Twenty years from now, during the next total solar eclipse, Pards will remember how it looked from the Quad.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALFRED GREENBAUM; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

STRATEGY

Updated mission and values statement

When the Board of Trustees met in May, it unanimously approved a new mission statement and formal expression of College values that were crafted with the extensive contributions of faculty, staff, students, and alumni. It goes into effect with the upcoming 2024-25 academic year.

Chartered in 1826, Lafayette College is dedicated to excellence in undergraduate education. Students are engaged in a transformative educational experience that bridges the liberal arts, engineering, and interdisciplinary study. The College fosters intellectual inquiry, artistic exploration, scholarship, and personal growth in a vibrant, diverse,

and inclusive community. Lafayette students become critical thinkers, creative problem-solvers, and responsible citizens of the world.

Below are the formal values articulated for the College:

- › Engaged Learning
- › Community Belonging
- › Responsible Citizenship
- › Purposeful Sustainability
- › Institutional Excellence

ON CAMPUS

Lafayette introduces new provost

After receiving more than 70 applicants from across the country, the Provost Search Committee, aided by higher ed search firm AGB Search, has selected Laura McGrane as its new provost and professor of English. McGrane, who has



previously served in the role of associate provost for strategic initiatives at Haverford College, has led a variety of college-wide strategic planning initiatives in addition to overseeing enrollment studies and institutional grants. Since 2002, McGrane has been a faculty member in Haverford College's English department, serving as

department chair from 2015 to 2018. With more than 20 years of academic and administrative experience, McGrane has proven herself to be an inspirational leader with a commitment to inclusivity in education. She started her term in July, succeeding John Meier.

IN THE NEWS

VP debate update

The Commission on Presidential Debates announced in June that it would be officially canceling its debates, including the vice presidential debate that Lafayette was poised to host in September. The College still plans to host a variety of civic and artistic events that were slated to occur on campus around the time of the VP debate.

ATHLETICS

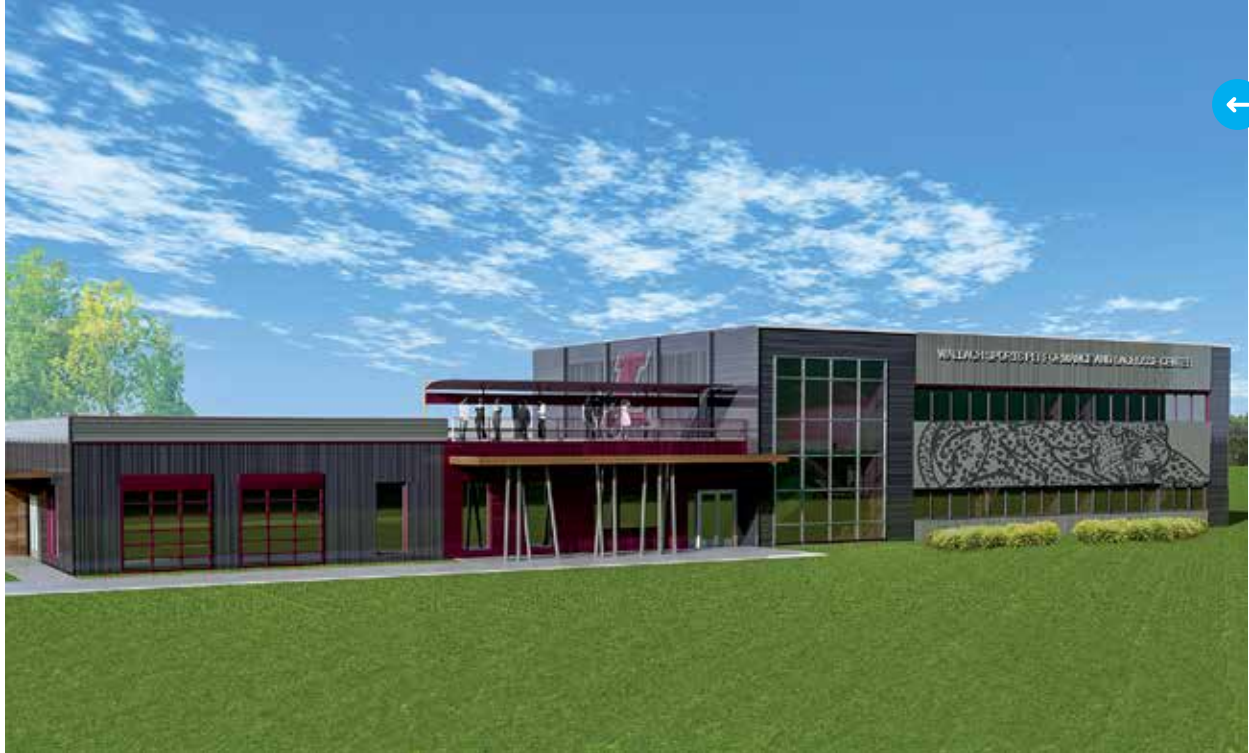
Patriot League opponent added

Beginning with the 2025 season, the University of Richmond football program will be joining the Patriot League. The Spiders become the eighth team in the league.

ALUMNI

Fit to print

As part of Lafayette's ongoing effort to be more inclusive, the College amended a policy in the spring to allow Lafayette graduates the option of displaying their preferred names on their diplomas. Students must specify their information through the Registrar's Office prior to commencement; any



Construction is underway for the new 21,900-square-foot Wallach Sports Performance and Lacrosse Center at Metzgar Fields Complex. As the future home to both lacrosse programs, the facility will also serve all Lafayette athletes as a resource for sports medicine, strength and conditioning, and nutrition.

the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, supports other research that has found people who are Black, Hispanic, heterosexual, and/or men tend to avoid mental health care for different reasons, such as the stigmas society places on it. "We have to acknowledge that there's a history of weaponizing mental illness against certain groups of people," Carlson says. Carlson, who is pursuing a master's degree in applied statistics at West Chester University, has presented the findings to academics, legislators, clinical professionals, and policymakers.

STUDENT LIFE

Going Greek

Lafayette's first multicultural fraternity, Phi Sigma Chi, held its founding line celebration on March 7. In choosing where to reveal its new members, the fraternity decided on the steps of Farinon College Center; the symbolic spot recognizes Lafayette's original Black cultural center, the Malcolm X Liberation Center, which was demolished in 1990 to make space for the construction of Farinon.

In the spring, the Association of Black Collegians revived a campus tradition by hosting the Black Arts Festival, where talented singers and musicians took the stage at Colton Chapel. The festival was last held in the '90s.



PHOTOGRAPH (FESTIVAL) BY ROSETTA SERRANO '28

changes to legal names must be in accordance with all applicable College rules and procedures as well as local, state, and federal laws.

The College is also extending the option to alumni: Any Pardis wishing to change their legal names and have their diplomas reissued may reach out to Alumni Engagement at 610-330-5040 to submit a request.

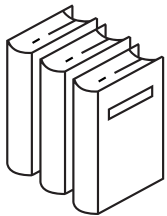
"We understand the significance of a diploma both as a document of academic achievement and as a symbol of a personally identifiable milestone," says Vice President of Inclusion Ernest Jeffries. "This policy change is a step forward in our commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive campus for students, faculty, staff, and alumni."

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON; RENDERING BY NORTH STAR

DISCOVERY

Research shows inequity in mental health care

Ainsley Carlson '24 and Adam Biener, assistant professor of economics (both pictured, below), collaborated on research that shows systemic inequalities in care for mental health—specifically, with regard to race/ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. The data, which was extracted from



BY THE NUMBERS

2,300

Number of books collected for local elementary school students through Landis Center's annual Literacy Day.



ACADEMICS

Interest in astronomy grows

Like never before, technological advancements have expanded the world’s capacity, and curiosity, to observe and understand the universe—look no further than the beautiful images produced by NASA’s largest and latest space telescope. It’s no surprise, then, that interest in astronomy has been steadily growing on campus as well. In the last two years, according to David Nice, professor of physics and department head, one-third of graduating physics majors had an astronomy concentration. “We have had a long tradition of students participating in astronomical research projects, and we are now strengthening our class offerings,” he says.

Prof. Stephanie Douglas, who joined the Lafayette faculty four years ago, has reworked observational astronomy offerings, giving both introductory and advanced students the chance—when the weather cooperates—to take in telescope observation nights at Hugel Science Center. As the intrigue on campus builds, it’s worth noting that Lafayette’s space offerings are actually part of its roots: The College offered a National Astronomy and Navigation program during the 1835-36 academic year.

EVENTS

Lafayette Fall Weekend

For the first time, Homecoming and Family Weekend will coincide on the calendar: Oct. 25-27, 2024. Catch a Saturday football game at Fisher Stadium—a key matchup versus Holy Cross—and reconnect with friends during a week-end of Pard programming.

ATHLETICS

Ballpark figures

During a March softball game, outfielder Mary Grace O’Neill ’25 set a new single-season Lafayette record with 21 stolen bases. (She passed Barb Matase ’84 and Linda Falcone Armour ’89, who had 20 stolen bases in 1984 and 1988, respectively.) O’Neill ended the season with 24 stolen bases, which was second best in the Patriot League.

The following month, the men’s baseball team delivered a memorable 10-run seventh inning against rival Lehigh, allowing the Leopards to break through a tie game and win by a final score of 13-3. In the seventh inning, Ethan Swidler ’26 (pictured), who splits time between catcher and first base, hit his seventh home run of the season; he finished the season with nine home runs and a team-best .327 batting average.



ALUMNI

Added leadership

At Lafayette’s board meeting in May, Chip Bergh ’79, H’22, who served as president and CEO of Levi Strauss & Co., was appointed to a five-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees, effective July 1, 2024.

TRENDING

Curriculum changes

Faculty made a few updates to the academic catalog. The Department of Mathematics name will be changed to the Department of Mathematical Sciences, effective this fall, in order to reflect the variety of disciplines existing within the department, including statistics, data science, and modeling.

Additionally, three new minors were approved at Lafayette:

- › **Indigenous studies**, where students learn about the history and cultures of Indigenous people in various global contexts
- › **Music technology**, focused on the application of technical tools and digital equipment in music production
- › **Electrical and computer engineering**, which blends computer science and electrical engineering to develop, optimize, and advance computer systems

A number of Lafayette classes participated in outreach events to local schools in the spring. Students of Prof. Katie Stafford, for example, visited an elementary school in Bethlehem, Pa., to read storybooks they wrote in Spanish.



DID YOU KNOW?

An outdoor classroom is being built outside Van Wickle Hall for use in geology studies.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (ASTRONOMY) NASA S JWSIT; (SWIDLER) HANNAH ALLY

THE ARTS

Special lineup

In addition to its regular season programming, The Arts at Lafayette is hosting an arts-packed week from Sept. 28 through Oct. 5, 2024, around campus. There will be a reading by award-winning novelist Susan Choi, jazz at Williams Center, local musicians playing in Porchfest, faculty



PHOTOGRAPHS BY (LAKECIA BENJAMIN) ELIZABETH LEITZELL; (BOOKS) OLIVIA GIRALICO; (SCHOLARS) ADAM ATKINSON

performances, plus a show by three-time Grammy nominee saxophonist Lakecia Benjamin. For more information, visit the-arts.lafayette.edu.

ACADEMICS

DYER Big Ideas winner

The grand prize winner of the Dyer Center’s seventh annual Big Idea Competition was Watermelon, a task and time management app developed by Kwame Otoo Appiah ’27, Joshua Williams ’24, and Eliso Morazara ’25. “The app provides what all of us in moments of stress are looking for—someone to tell us what to do. Our app will provide you with recommendations for what to work on, what order to work on them, how long to work on each task before you burn out, and realistic goals,” Appiah explained during the pitch.



2024 Goldwater Scholars

These Lafayette undergrads are among 438 scholars recognized for their research in natural sciences and mathematics.



Carter Brand ’25
Biochemistry

Brand has juggled two projects, one studying the interaction of light and neurotransmitters as a potential treatment for neurological disorders, and another on the communication mechanism of *L. plantarum* bacteria. His senior thesis project will explore the science of neurotransmitters.



Tess Stanley ’25
Neuroscience, Philosophy

Stanley’s research focuses on how gene mutations in zebrafish cilia, the hair-like structures that extend from hair cells, affects sensory hair cell development, survival, and regeneration.



Max Gianakopoulos ’25
Biochemistry

Having researched the ways in which small molecules interact with animal proteins for drug targeting, Gianakopoulos is now focusing his research on cell interactions with bacteria and how they can affect the use of antibiotics.

AWARDS

Student named civic leader

Dimitri Chernozhukov '25 was selected as a Newman Civic Fellow, an honor that recognizes students with leadership potential and commitment to creating positive change in communities. Chernozhukov, who is studying government and law, and economics, is a student director at Lafayette Votes!, the nonpartisan voter registration and education organization on campus, and also serves as president of the Lafayette College Republicans. During the midterm elections in 2022, he researched peer mobilization through a project called Peer2Power. As the 2024 election approaches, Chernozhukov notes in his personal statement, his “foremost goal remains to empower fellow students to exercise the most fundamental right of our democratic republic.”

Busy summer birds like the American robin and the smaller chipping sparrow refresh in front of Colton Chapel.



DISCOVERY

NSF grant awarded

Ryan Rosario, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, was awarded his first National Science Foundation grant for research on the mechanics of ligament and tendon failure. The



two-year \$200,000 award will go toward funding laboratory equipment and supplies, along with providing support for student-researchers to work alongside Rosario on the project. The study is the first of its kind: He'll be using a computational tool to separate the different parts that make up ligaments and tendons, rather than treat it as one homogenous structure.

SUSTAINABILITY

In favor of renewable energy

The College has partnered with NextEra Energy Resources in a large-scale solar energy project that will offset 100 percent of electricity use on campus. Eight other colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and North

Carolina—including Lehigh Valley institutions Lehigh University and Muhlenberg College—are joining together in this agreement. “Together, we’re taking a thoughtful step toward addressing climate issues and creating a more sustainable future,” says President Nicole Hurd. “It also accelerates our goal to reach carbon neutrality on our campus by 2035 as part of our Climate Action Plan.”

CELEBRATION

Bicentennial planning

Soon the College will be announcing exciting plans for Lafayette’s 200th anniversary in 2026, featuring a wide array of events to enjoy on campus and beyond. If you have ideas you haven’t shared yet, you can still do so at: lafayette.edu/bicentennial. The Bicentennial Planning and Management Group will review all suggestions.

FACULTY

Words of wisdom

Gladstone “Fluney” Hutchinson, associate professor of economics and policy studies, delivered the commencement address in May at his alma mater of SUNY Oneonta. While there, Hutchinson also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.



TRENDING

Debut of no-loan policy

New student applicants in the 2024-25 academic year will be able to benefit from the College’s no-loan policy. Announced last fall, the policy is designed to help



Some students arriving in August will be moving into the second phase of McCartney Street housing, which opens its doors after being under construction since the spring of 2023.

make a college education more affordable for lower- and middle-income students. Families with total family incomes of up to \$200,000 and typical assets for families in this income group will have their financial need met through grants and work study, without any loans. A series of videos are available at news.lafayette.edu to explain how this policy is helping to make excellent education more inclusive and accessible.

COMMUNITY

Win for the waterways

In June, an Easton-owned

dam on Bushkill Drive was demolished, ridding the local waterways of its third and final dam that was previously used for old mills. As detailed in our fall 2023 *Lafayette* feature “A Watershed Moment,” the removal of these unnecessary dams near the College will allow for the restoration of valuable freshwater mussels in the creek and improve and enhance other habitat. Last summer, the other two dams—one of them owned by Lafayette near the Karl Stirner Arts Trail—were dismantled with a hydraulic pick.

IN THE NEWS

An economist’s forecast

NPR’s *Morning Edition* reached out to Julie Smith, Frank Lee and Edna M. Smith Professor of Economics and assistant department head, for its news report on how the economy might influence Pennsylvania voters in the November presidential election. Smith added this sentiment to the conversation: People are still thinking about pre-pandemic prices, and it will take time to get used to the reality of the current consumer marketplace.

ON CAMPUS

New traditions

Lafayette incorporated new traditions at Commencement. Pepper Prize winner Remy Oktay '24 wore a medal with the image and words of the Marquis: “I read, I study, I examine, I listen, I reflect and out of all this I try to form an idea into which I put as much common sense as I can.” Then, he led the class in moving their tassels to signify earning their degrees.

LAF CLUB SPOTLIGHT

English Club



Under the guidance of Maria Cangro '24, the English Club has come back to life after being dormant for nearly five years.

The club, which is Lafayette’s oldest student club, has been a part of its extracurricular scene since the early 19th century. When it was officially welcomed back to campus last year, Cangro had a renewed purpose in mind, which was to “provide an outlet to student readers and writers that is not in a formal academic classroom.”

In addition to weekly club meetings where the ever-growing group alternates between literature discussion and creative writing workshops, they have sponsored two campus-wide poetry slams. The first event was held at Mojo 516 Café just off campus on March Street, while the second moved to President Nicole Hurd’s house to accommodate more attendees. Each

celebration of poetry drew in over 50 community members, providing a space for seasoned poets and burgeoning writers alike. One of the highlights for Cangro was when a professor decided to read at the event despite never having shared her poetry publicly before.

“Being that vulnerable in a new space with that many people is a very scary thing to do, so the fact that people are willing to overcome that fear for the sake of sharing their work with us is really meaningful to me,” Cangro says.

The club’s resurrection is fulfilling a desire for both students and community, according to Cangro.

“A space to share writing was clearly something people were craving,” Cangro says. “I’m so glad we’ve been able to provide that for the community.” —*Madeline Marriott '24*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (FLUNNEY) SUNY ONEONTA AND GERRY RAYMOND; (MCCARTNEY STREET) ADAM ATKINSON

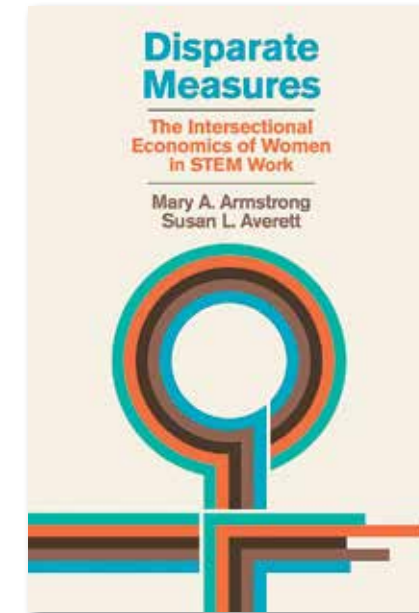
A

fter their first encounters serving together on a faculty advisory committee, Mary Armstrong and Susan Averett sensed that a professional collaboration would be inevitable.

“Susan has generously served on the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Advisory Committee for many years. Our shared time on the committee got us talking about the possibility of working together,” says Armstrong, Charles A. Dana Professor of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies and English.

In 2016, when an editor at MIT Press approached Averett, whose research includes gender and the economy, about her interest in developing a book project, her writing and research partner was obvious. “I immediately talked to Mary,” recalls Averett, Charles A. Dana Professor of Economics. “I had a similar interest in gender studies, and Mary had done a lot of work on STEM and was an expert already. We decided that maybe we could make something out of this.”

For their first co-authored book, Armstrong and Averett pitched the topic of economic inequities among diverse women in STEM fields, an area they had been talking about since 2016. It was accepted immediately by MIT Press. “We plugged away at it regularly and worked



In their first co-authored book, Profs. Mary Armstrong (Left) and Susan Averett reveal that diverse women in STEM fields do not fare as well economically as white men in the same professions.

their research. “The American Community Survey forms the backbone of our data analysis, because it’s very large,” Averett says. “It had really good information on occupation and earnings, which is key to this project. We needed a data set that was really robust, because some of the groups are small.”

When Armstrong and Averett started to develop their project, one of the things they talked about was wage gaps. “We asked ourselves what it is about STEM, particularly, that makes that wage gap important,” Armstrong says, explaining they didn’t want to just crunch data that anybody could deliver. “We wanted it in a framework that really challenged people to think about the way we laud STEM careers as a source of equity and social mobility for diverse women. But the framework reveals that we’re pulling a shell game on people, promising them STEM as the road to glory.”

Through their research, Armstrong and Averett also found that women are not represented in higher-paying STEM fields like engineering. “For example, there tend to be more women in the natural sciences, but they’re not the higher-paying STEM jobs,” Averett observes. “We uncovered so

on it weekly for years,” Averett says. Published in April, *Disparate Measures: The Intersectional Economics of Women in STEM Work* shows that diverse women in STEM fields, despite the promise and expectation of economic abundance, do not fare as well economically as white men in the same professions. “These women deserve a book that says, ‘We see you,’” Armstrong says. For their research, Armstrong and Averett turned to the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, a rich resource of vital information on the U.S. and its people.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON

In their book, they present four in-depth case studies examining Black women; American Indian and Alaska Native women; Asian and Pacific Islander women; and Hispanic women. Also included are four case studies of women who are frequently bypassed by the STEM inclusivity literature: foreign-born women, women with disabilities, queer women, and mothers.

Wage gaps for women in STEM professions, especially high-paying STEM professions, can be 45% or more compared to white men in the same fields, according to

Fast facts

Disparate Measures shares telling data about diversity in STEM.

2.7%

Black women in the U.S. who work in STEM professions, compared to 11% of non-Hispanic white men.

4%

Mothers in the U.S. working in the STEM field.

46%

Wage gap for Hispanic women who work in professional health care occupations (physicians, dentists) compared to non-Hispanic white men.

much about leadership, too. About 10% of STEM jobs are management and leadership jobs. They are by far the highest paid, and they are dominated by white men.”

The authors present *Disparate Measures* not as an academic textbook but rather a resource for Ph.D. students, policymakers, and STEM professionals who want to level the playing field. Their final chapter offers ways to think differently about STEM equity and to reexamine the promises made around STEM as a source of economic success for everyone or equity for everyone. “If you want to solve a problem, hope lies in understanding the problem better,” Armstrong offers. “And while it may be somewhat discouraging to see the depth and extent of the problem, the better you see it, the more hope there is for addressing it.” ■

Exploring the STEM gap

In new book, Profs. Armstrong and Averett examine economic inequities in STEM.

BY BRYAN HAY

A WORLD OF GOOD

With a passion for public service and international affairs, Natalie Beckford '24 is the College's first Payne Fellow.

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS

Born in Washington, D.C., Natalie Beckford was exposed to world travel from an early age. Among her experiences, she journeyed to her father's native Jamaica as a child, to China with her aunt as a middle schooler, and to Morocco and France in study abroad programs as a student at School Without Walls High School. At Lafayette, she pursued a double major in international affairs as well as religion and politics, and a minor in French. Her academic achievements and service to the community were widely recognized on College Hill. In the spring, she was awarded the Lyman Coleman Prize, presented annually to the senior who has demonstrated broad interest and superior performance in religious studies; she received the James Alexander Petrie Prize in French; and Beckford was inducted into national honor societies for international affairs, political science, and French, respectively. Now that she's graduated, she's ready for wherever the world takes her next.

Tell us about your background.

My family is rather diverse. My father is a Jamaican immigrant, and my mother is African American. I have family from Guyana. So, it's an amalgamation of different cultures. On my father's side, I'm a first-generation college student; on my mother's side, I'm a fourth-generation college student. So, when it comes to education, there's an emphasis for both sides, but they have very different and deeper meanings. For my mother's side, it's fulfilling a legacy of having Black American students go to college, since there was a point in history when Black people weren't able to do that. And for my father, it's very much pursuing an education that he didn't have the opportunity to have in Jamaica.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON





“I want to bring the human aspect back into international affairs,” Beckford says.

much more. I was able to identify how these things, dance and global education, work together. Both allowed me to learn about the world around me.

The USAID Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship is awarded to only 30 graduating college seniors

nationwide who are interested in pursuing careers in the Foreign Service—and you are one of them.

This Payne Fellowship definitely means a lot to me. I am very blessed to be funded to immediately start my chosen career. I’ll be pursuing a master’s degree in international relations at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Then, after my five years of working for USAID as a humanitarian assistance foreign service officer, I will continue to work in international affairs. I’m so excited to be able to pursue something that I have been wanting since I was 15 years old.

What are some of your highlights from College Hill?

I definitely wanted to leave Lafayette knowing that I helped improve it in some way. As the former president and senior adviser of the Association of Black Collegians, I helped rebuild ABC after the pandemic and I rewrote its constitution. Also, through Lafayette Mutual Aid, we were able to fundraise and redistribute the money back to BIPOC students to help with everyday expenses like gas and groceries. And, by tutoring students in Madagascar through Lafayette Initiative for Malagasy Education, I saw how I could help my global community.

What aspect of international affairs are you most passionate about?

I definitely want to bring the human aspect back into international affairs. That’s something that was emphasized in most of my classes—tweaking your perspective in order to be a more empathetic and understanding person. Setting aside your own biases and welcoming new experiences, lessons, and perspectives are critical to how you interact with the world. I’ve been able to do that at the College, and all of these experiences have helped me become who I am: Natalie. ■

← Beckford, a Pepper Prize finalist and Posse Scholar, received the 1974 Award in May, underscoring her dedication to women’s empowerment.

When did you get interested in foreign service?

During my freshman year of high school, my neighbors, Bob and Denise, rode my bus route in Washington, D.C. I would see them every morning on my way to school, and we started talking. They were very interested in my studies, and over time I found out they were both foreign service officers for the State Department—which was the last stop on the bus route. They told me stories about their time in places like Russia, Latvia, and Poland, and I knew right then I wanted to pursue international affairs.

You started ballet at age 5 and went on to perform on Broadway, at John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and at distinguished events for people like Michelle Obama. How did that experience shape you?

I’m a classically trained professional ballerina, but retired during my sophomore year of high school. So, going into Lafayette, I had a foundation of grit and determination. Dance made me appreciate culture, while academia made me appreciate history. In high school, we had to take AP world history for two years, and after dedicating that much time to learning about the world around me, I wanted to learn so



PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA



Open for business

More space and modern rooms define the new Simon Center for Economics and Business.

BY KELLY HUTH

In August, students get their first glimpse of the new William E. Simon Center for Economics and Business, which will house the Economics Department and Policy Studies Program.

Since construction started in fall 2022 to transform Kunkel Hall, collaboration has been the focus, says David Stifel, Charles A. Dana Professor of Economics and department head. Stifel met regularly with Audra Kahr, executive vice president, Finance and Administration, and the planning team. “They’ve been really good about consulting our department about everything in the space,” he says. “They really made it work for us.”

The bigger space accommodates a steady interest in the major at Lafayette: 20% of students currently study economics. “Students are drawn to the data skills they get, and how they can approach real-world issues with evidence-based approaches,” Stifel says. “The new facilities will help us serve our students even better.” It became imperative to develop a fitting place to study, research, and collaborate.

To brighten the existing building, Kahr says new windows were added, existing windows enlarged, and a glass curtain wall installed. Campus master plan

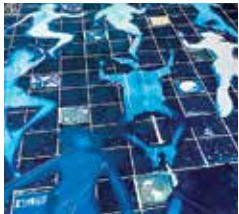
PHOTOGRAPHS BY (BUILDING) ADAM ATKINSON; (WILLIAM E. SIMON) LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES; (MONITOR, FLOWER) SHUTTERSTOCK; (CYANOTYPE) COURTESY OF KARINA SKVIRSKY

findings also reinforced a need for dedicated collaborative resources (i.e., flexible seating, whiteboards) on each floor. While students historically wanted focused, individualized spaces, that changed after the pandemic. “Every single space moving forward will have these collaborative spaces,” Kahr says. “It’s next practice—beyond best practice.”

The space also encourages interdisciplinary work; the Data Lab, for example, will offer applications for other departments such as government and law, and sociology. Here are the highlights.



1. The original Simon Center for Economics and Business was dedicated in 1986, and named for U.S. Treasury Secretary William E. Simon '52. The new space features eight modern classrooms, including labs and a 54-seat lecture hall, and 30 faculty offices.



2. A large cyanotype collage will hang in the foyer. The artwork was produced by arts and economics students under the direction of Profs. Karina Skvirsky and Sun You from the Art Department, who collected images and ideas around 21st century economics.

3. Inside the Bloomberg Lab are 12 Bloomberg terminals



for students to analyze financial risk, conduct economic research, and become Bloomberg certified before entering the job market.

4. The Data Lab's 25-seat smart classroom provides access to real-time economic and financial data through Wharton Research Data Services.

5. Sustainability and accessibility. An additional entrance with a ramp was added, as well as an outdoor study space that will be framed by a living path of mostly native blooms, thanks to the expert guidance of professor of biology Nancy McCreary Waters. The building is also expected to receive LEED silver certification.



A rededication ceremony on Oct. 4, 2024, will recognize the project's generous donor support. More info: advancement@lafayette.edu or 610-330-5037.

OPEN ACCESS

A new hike-bike trail better connects the longtime escarpment between Lafayette and City of Easton.

BY AMY DOWNEY

The historic staircase on Lafayette's south-facing hillside has been an iconic, if not arduous, part of campus since 1872. These steps—144 in total—have enabled students to climb up to College Hill. But, as many alumni might remember, it wasn't always easy.

Last fall, navigating that topography became significantly improved. Thanks to the completion of the new multimodal trail and historic step refurbishment, it's possible to travel between College Hill and downtown Easton with greater ease.

The construction project, which took about 13 months to complete, was partially funded by a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

A longer trail now traverses the steep hillside, offering a better grade that makes for a more gradual experience; it takes pedestrians an average of 5 to 10 minutes to walk up to the summit.

The pathway, at its top, is marked by the new Class of 1962 Gateway Plaza, where passersby can pause for vistas of the Delaware River and City of Easton. And, after criss-crossing down the slope toward the symbolic Class of 1926 arch, the trail features wide sections of boardwalk that strategically connect cyclists to the Karl Stirner Arts Trail.

After a successful spring planting season, the trail is thriving in vegetation and visitors. Here's an in-depth look at some of the details that went into the escarpment trail redevelopment. ■



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALFRED GREENBAUM



- 1** Thanks to the generosity of the Class of 1962, the escarpment trail includes an overlook at the top of the steps. The Class of 1962 Gateway Plaza is located next to the Civil War monument and in between Ruef and Keefe Halls.
- 2** Approximately 650 feet of existing trail was replaced and more than 1,100 feet of new trail was added to the hillside.
- 3** Trees were planted at the top of the trail, and landscaping work included more than 170 plants along the pathway, featuring shrubs and ground cover, to help prevent erosion. Daffodils, steep slope grasses, and native wildflowers also decorate the hillside.
- 4** The multimodal pathway, which remains a popular connector to the Karl Stirner Arts Trail, now has bike racks and benches for people passing through.
- 5** Installing boardwalk piers into the steep and rocky hillside was difficult: Anchors had to be drilled 4 to 6 feet deep into the bedrock.
- 6** With 22 added lampposts lightening up the pathway, the entire area is brighter and more visible.
- 7** The new elevated boardwalk consists of cast-in-place concrete piers and precast concrete beams and treads.
- 8** The trail services five of Lafayette's downtown buildings, like Buck Hall and Williams Visual Arts, and provides access to Easton dining and shopping.
- 9** Lafayette's historic 19th-century staircase, just above the arch, was refurbished as part of the project.

FOR MORE

Take a virtual tour of the trail by visiting magazine.lafayette.edu/trail.

REAL ESTATE REVIVAL

BY BRYAN HAY



Rex Ahene, professor emeritus of economics, pauses retirement to lead a Dyer Center seminar.



On a brisk February night in 2023, Rex Ahene was beaming with his customary warmth and deep enthusiasm for real estate and land economics. The Lafayette professor emeritus had retired in 2022 after

a distinguished 40-year career in the economics department, but had returned to campus to lead a new seminar he was passionate about: real estate and land policy. In retirement, Ahene says, he has the freedom to fully explore these areas—his expertise—and to engage students without limitation.

“We have so many students interested in getting into real estate in some capacity,” says Ahene, who currently serves as the Dyer Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Real Estate

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON
ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

Adviser-in-Residence. “Not everybody wants to be an investor. But the real estate sector is so interdisciplinary that it ties in very well with practically every major and every discipline that we have on campus.”

Through guest presenters from the real estate industry, many of them alumni, students received the theoretical framework and foundational skills to prepare for possible careers. “You have to give them some of the core fundamentals for them to understand how the development process works and how to determine whether an investment project is a go or not,” Ahene says.

During the seminar, experts encouraged students to consider that a successful real estate project involves much more than just pitching an exciting concept. Before any earth is moved, there needs to be comprehensive analyses on construction costs and overhead; historical review; planning and zoning board approvals; possible on-site environmental remediation; short- or long-term leases for retail tenants; and even choice of building materials.

Jack Reilly '18, project manager at City Center Investment Corp., was one of the real estate professionals sharing his knowledge with students. City Center Investment Corp., which was co-founded by longtime Lafayette trustee J.B. Reilly '83, has been instrumental in the revitalization efforts of downtown Allentown, Pa., and responsible for major mixed-use developments there.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to be at Rex’s side, supporting him and this great addition to Lafayette’s curriculum,” Jack Reilly says. “The seminar is so ‘Lafayette’ because it touches on everything—financing, accounting, business management, engineering, government and law—and it inspires students from outside of economics to think about real estate as a career and how important it is to quality of life.”

Ahene, who describes the seminar as a “real estate boot camp,” says that students quickly grasped how real estate is much different than simply investing in one-dimensional commodities. “Real estate has to function in a human context, because

INSET PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JACK REILLY



1111-13 Bushkill Drive, formerly a scrapyard, is the latest site along the Bushkill Corridor in Easton targeted for redevelopment.

it creates the spaces where we live, work, and play. It has to satisfy all those elements before it becomes an acceptable investment within the community,” Ahene says. “That’s the interesting part. You have to consider a community’s attitudes, preferences, and cultural traits to determine exactly what will work within that neighborhood.”

The seminar was so successful that it’s being offered again this upcoming semester; favorable fall weather will allow for site inspections and a more tactile experience of the complex planning behind real estate projects.

This year, students can expect to focus on VM Development Group’s plan for the Easton Iron and Metal site on Bushkill Drive (pictured, above). Lafayette has already made significant improvements along the Bushkill Corridor area, from renovating the former Hummel Lumber building in 2016 for the College’s Public



Safety and Facilities Planning departments to, more recently, transforming a 19th-century structure into a modern space for the Civil Engineering Department.

Students will assess VM Development Group’s vision for the site, which is west of these properties on Bushkill Drive and within walking distance from campus. The proposal for the former scrapyard includes home and commercial space with plans to tie in the Karl Stirner Arts Trail and an environmental education component with the City of Easton.

These opportunities also come with serious challenges, notes Ahene, like environmental remediation and ensuring concepts work with the rocky landscape and nearby arts trail. “You have these walkability, environmental, and sustainability elements,” he says, “so you can see some very interesting dynamics that come into play.” The site has great potential to further improve Bushkill Drive, adds Reilly, who is planning to participate in the seminar again this fall.

“Rex has been an invaluable asset to the real estate program, bringing extensive expertise and strong connections with alumni and the community,” says Rita Chesterton, director, Dyer Center. “Perhaps most importantly, Rex is an outstanding mentor for Lafayette students. His guidance and support empower students to grow academically and personally, providing them with a solid foundation for success.” ■

← Jack Reilly '18, project manager at City Center Investment Corp., will participate in another real estate seminar spearheaded by Ahene.

Almost alumni

In the countdown to graduation, Lafayette's senior class takes in the moments before a long-awaited ceremony.

BY GENAMARIE MCCANT

For many in the Class of 2024, this year's Commencement carried special significance. Due to the unique circumstances of the pandemic, many of the nearly 600 seniors had graduated from high school at virtual ceremonies and had their proms cancelled, making this year's commencement their first formal celebration of a major academic milestone.

So, leading up to the big day, Lafayette's 189th graduating class, which began their college journey socially distanced, enjoyed their final week together. These last moments as undergraduate students on College Hill were filled with memorable events and activities. Here are a few snapshots captured from Senior Week.



← Prof. James Schaffer, who retired after the spring semester, delivered the "Last Lecture" and led one final classroom discussion with Lafayette students.



↑ Students shuttled over to SteelStacks in Bethlehem, Pa., for the 42nd annual 100 Hours formal.



↑ Throughout the week, Pards like Julie Schramm '24 had their portraits taken at iconic campus locations.

← Seniors gathered on the Quad for "Field Day," which included yard games and outdoor inflatables.



President Nicole Hurd hosted a garden party at her home, welcoming seniors with food and refreshments. —→



↑ Seniors participated in a Commencement rehearsal, capped off with a brunch, to prepare for the ceremony.

Inside Farinon's atrium, students were provided supplies to decorate their graduation caps. —→



← During Easton Day, Lafayette seniors dined and strolled downtown, with various establishments offering discounts.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON AND GENAMARIE MCCANT

OFF

THE

GRID

In the pursuit of a fully sustainable island, the College is helping to carry out the extraordinary vision of an engineer and environmentalist who graduated from Lafayette a century ago.

by Amy Downey

PHOTOGRAPH BY REGGYS SANTOS

Technically, *the eco-adventure* started last September,

when Mark Lebl '94 reached out to Janine Block '94, assistant director of intercultural development and international student advising. Lebl was traveling to the U.S. from his home in São Paulo, Brazil, and was passing through Easton. He told Block that he wanted to meet with the Engineering Division and share a story about a Brazilian named Fernando Lee, who studied mechanical engineering and graduated from Lafayette in 1924.

Lebl grabbed coffee with Lauren Anderson '04, William Jeffers Dean of Engineering, at Mojo Café. Over the next 40 minutes, he explained how Lee, in the 1950s, had acquired a 100-year lease of an island, located off the southeastern coast of Brazil, for scientific research. The island was called *Ilha dos Arvoredos*, or an “island of thickets,” but there weren’t always trees there—the island was uninhabited and barren rock until Lee, an environmentalist with a vision, designed an entire ecosystem on it. “The island is a gem in the Atlantic Ocean,” Lebl says, “and it was made by a Lafayette alum.”

When Lee was in his 50s, he began building the paradisiacal property, which included a modest house made with reused stones from the island. He was one of the first in South America to use solar panels and had a piping mechanism on the roof to

collect rainwater. “Lee wanted to create a wholly sustainable island before we were talking about the principles of sustainability,” Anderson says. “He saw things that other people didn’t and was able to innovate in a way that we now appreciate.”

However, Lebl told Anderson that because the island has been untended since Lee passed away in 1994, parts of its infrastructure require renovation, specifically its water and energy systems.

After thinking it over, Anderson identified an opportunity. The Fund for Education Beyond the Classroom, an endowment fund established by Walter “Bud” Scherr '78, could facilitate an educational trip during spring break 2024 for students in Environment and Energy Systems Engineering, taught by David Brandes, professor of civil and environmental engineering and Walter A. Scott Chair of Integrative Engineering. “I thought his class would be the perfect playground,” Anderson says.

Guided by the Fernando Eduardo Lee Foundation and the nonprofit Instituto Nova Maré (INMAR), the class began studying the island. One course theme is systems thinking, or tackling problems with a holistic, interdisciplinary framework, making the island’s nexus of water, energy, and food a natural fit for learning. “It was an opportunity for not just the students, but also for the College of Engineering to start to build a partnership with these folks,” Brandes says.





A narrow retractable ramp

let down into the water and led guests to the dock. “It was Fernando Lee’s vision that this island was going to be a living, learning, open research laboratory,” Anderson says, explaining that meant people from all over the world could come and learn about sustainability practices and alternative energy technologies. “He has created something like a world site,” Lebl says.

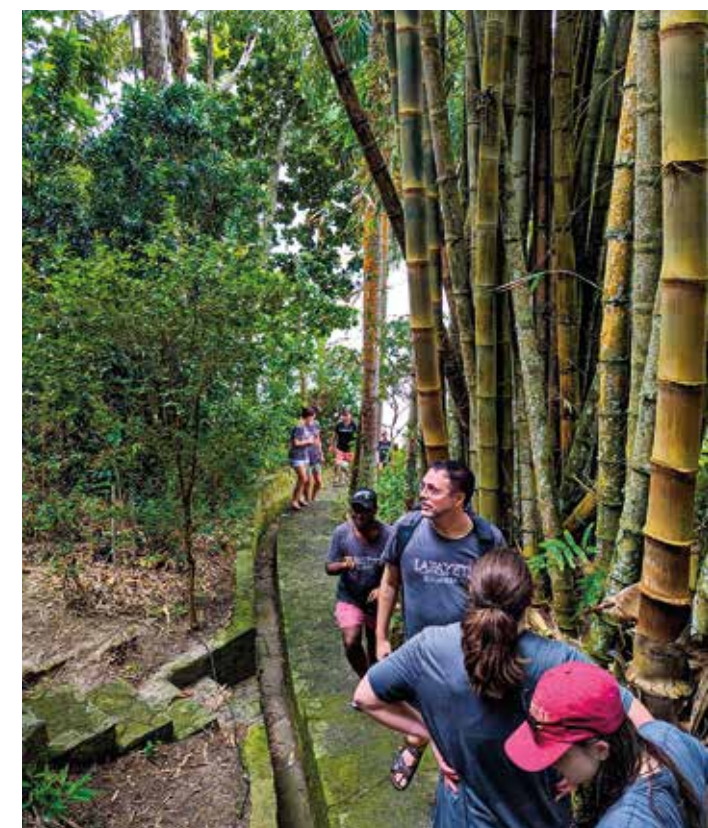
Since he was originally building on rock, Lee needed a lot of soil; he also imported erosion-resistant grass from South Korea and, over time, planted purposeful flora and fauna. He curated the landscape with palm trees for shade and wind protection, and special orchids to filter rainwater in its root system, plus fruit trees (papayas, mangoes) and a coconut grove. Birds were brought in that wouldn’t fight with each other, like chickens and pheasants. A primary source of energy was a wind turbine atop a lighthouse that converted sea breezes into electricity. “You realize how much time he took to sculpt all of these features,” Brandes says. “He was someone with a lot of vision.”

Once docked, the students took to foot and got to work. “We needed a firsthand look at all of the different pieces,” Brandes says, explaining that he was eager for students to start measuring and collecting data from all of the existing systems. Some students were tasked with checking out how wastewater was naturally filtered; other students evaluated the electricity setup with (now defunct) wind turbines and solar panels.

The most critical necessity for living on the island is having drinkable water. Currently, collected rainwater moves from a reservoir into a grotto area and is pumped into tanks, where chlorine tablets are used to treat bacteria. It’s an unreliable system— island visitors are still required to bring bottled water—so students gathered information to identify better options.

Measuring dimensions and distances was key. Variables, for example, included the vertical elevations between the water tanks and where the water is ultimately used, as well as the diameter of the pipes (narrow pipes mean more friction and less flow). “The pressure and the flow are dependent on how much gravity you have driving the system,” Brandes says.

This fall, Dean Gennosa ’25 will be taking such data and working on an independent study project under the guidance of Brandes. Through pilot testing of water-purification technologies—including UV treatment—in an Acopian lab, he’ll be treating bacteria and removing sediment, with the hopes of installing a better solution on the island. (Coming up with a final design will be the basis of his capstone course in civil engineering.) Says Brandes: “We want to make sure our technology is tested in the lab and will work as an off-grid solution.”



By revitalizing Arvoredos Island, making it a destination for ecotourism and marine research, residents on the mainland might benefit from sustainability initiatives as well, from river cleanups to pollution control. “It wouldn’t be crazy to speculate that if the island is fully running and if they have a business plan that is profitable, there would be money to reinvest in the local community,” Anderson says.

Lee’s vision and commitment to the environment has put the island in a promising position: The site has already met enough sustainability criteria that it was recently acknowledged as the first Green Key tourist attraction in the Americas.

And so, in March, a century after Lee graduated from Lafayette, eight students and three faculty members from his alma mater—Anderson, Brandes, and Prof. Michael Senra, program chair for the dual degree program in engineering and international studies—boarded a plane to Brazil.

Lebl put together the itinerary, met the group at the airport, and served as the host and translator for the trip. (“Without him, none of this would have happened,” Anderson says.)

One of their first activities was visiting the local college in Guarujá to learn more about Lee and the origins of the property. They also had a guide from INMAR, who took the group on a boat tour of mangroves in the area and a nearby impoverished fisherman’s village.

On Wednesday at 9 a.m., the group climbed into the boat for Arvoredos Island. They were joined by S. Maarit Cruz ’96, who works in the sustainability division of General Motors in Brazil, and embarked on the 15-minute ride over to the island.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY REGGYS SANTOS (TOP) AND DAVID BRANDES





Lee had used a crane

to lift materials and goods up onto the island (pictured, left, with Senra, Anderson, and Brandes). Its diesel engine is inoperable, but students determined what kind of electric motor, powered by solar energy, could get it running again. They sourced the new equipment and suggested an enclosed and secure location to protect it from tampering and weather damage.

Serving as a counterweight to the crane is the massive Phoenix, made from 70 tons of concrete, which doubles as a large-scale art sculpture (pictured, left). “Some engineers have trouble understanding how he made the Phoenix,” says Lebl, explaining that it has endured decades of weather and is still in great shape. As one of the most distinguishable features of the island, the Phoenix tower rises above arriving guests and sets the tone about the aesthetics of Lee’s design. “To me, it looked a little bit like the Concorde,” Brandes says. “For somebody to invest that much in this little private island—it was really impressive.”

Around the island are several reservoirs, each with a different shape and purpose. A rectangular tank was to store boats. Another recreational pool, for swimming, fills with seawater at high tide. There was a pond for tilapia. Students sampled and tested the water quality at each of the reservoirs.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID BRANDES



“This was a great opportunity for these students to think more about sustainable development in other settings, countries, and cultures,” Brandes says. International fieldwork, as the students learned, comes with added educational benefits like broadening perspectives, finding solutions that aren’t based in U.S. technology or engineering, and bonding with academic peers. “The students, professors, and alumni blended beautifully,” Lebl says. “I was so proud to be a part of that group.”

Having community-based learning was meaningful as well. “It’s an experience that really brings out the best in these students,” Brandes says. “They saw the importance of the work they were doing.” The hope, he adds, is that this is the start of a long-term relationship.

When the ES 303 class got back to Easton, they worked on various components of the project and presented their recommendations for improvements in May. Future steps could mean drafting business plans, participating in summer internships, or implementing the proposed engineering work.

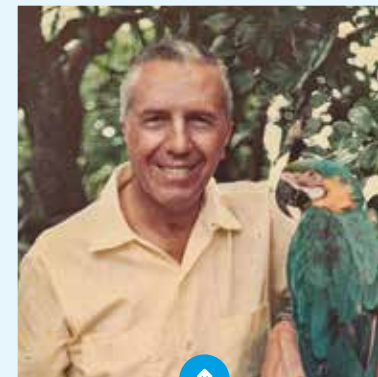
Senra already has a return trip planned for a week during January’s interim session. In addition to revisiting ongoing projects on the island, he and students will explore other sustainability work and possible lines of corporate funding around the city of São Paulo.

Anderson brought a Lafayette flag and fastened it to Lee’s lighthouse; there’s optimism about the budding partnership between the College and this island of sustainability. Says Anderson: “The experience really exemplifies what we’ve redefined as our mission and values as a college—being responsible citizens of the world and offering transformational experiences that bridge studies.”



PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAUREN ANDERSON AND DAVID BRANDES

After arriving in Brazil, faculty and students learned about Fernando Lee at the local college in Guarujá. Lee’s original engineering notes, personal collection of photos, and drafts of his biography, *The Man of the Island*—written by Lebl’s high school teacher—were brought back to Easton and donated to Skillman. —>



Who was Fernando Lee?
The environmentalist and mechanical engineer created a fully sustainable island while holding a long and esteemed career.

Lee, like many Lafayette students, was well-rounded on campus: ROTC, Shakespearean Club. “He was the liberal arts and engineering exemplar of his time,” Anderson says.

His curiosities continued after college, and his career was decorated with esteemed and wide-ranging positions in Brazil. He held executive positions for Volkswagen International and the International Bank of South America, to name a few, and was awarded a gold medal from Brazil for 50 years of engineering services to his native country. As much as he was respected for his engineering and entrepreneurial acumen, Lee was just as committed to being civic-minded and a steward of the environment. “I don’t know if it was common at the time for engineers to do that,” Anderson says. “He was an innovator and systems thinker—that’s the core of integrative engineering.”

After Lee took control of the island in 1950, he spent the next

30 years working on it in his spare time. Everything about this island was intentional, including a carved stone bench that was built to be ergonomically comfortable (pictured, above) and looked out over the crane. “He would sit there and face west toward the land,” Brandes says.

In 1960, Lafayette awarded him with an honorary degree. By the early ’80s, he was recognized as the College’s first alumni visiting fellow. Around that same time, his pioneering work on the island earned him global recognition through the Rolex International Initiative Award. That’s also when he founded the Fernando Eduardo Lee Foundation, dedicated to research for the benefit of humanity.

While he passed away at the age of 91, what he built is still growing, from the palm trees that are now huge and thriving, to the sustainability initiatives carried on by Lafayette and other groups. “He has an amazing story,” Lebl says, “not just of the island—but also of his life.”

PHOTOGRAPH (TOP RIGHT) BY DAVID BRANDES



Of the First Order



In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1974, the first fully coed graduating class at Lafayette, a look at some of the deep-rooted stories and lasting professional achievements making up the College's first females.

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS

With their arrival on campus in fall 1970, the 123 women of Lafayette's first fully coed class ushered in a new era ripe with possibilities. Led by their intrepid and pioneering spirit, they tightly wove themselves into the fabric of the College community. As they excelled across academic disciplines, established women's athletics teams, and assumed active roles in various student organizations, they laid the basis for the countless women who have continued to challenge the status quo and affect positive change on College Hill.

"We had a broad range of strengths, and an even broader sense of adventure to go where no woman had been before," says Deirdre "DeeDee" Bradbury Jacob '74. "We were a group of women who didn't take much grief—the kind that said, 'I'll see your one and raise you 20.'"

The majority of these women spent four years reshaping the Lafayette community, while some who transferred into the College in 1970 graduated earlier. These legacies didn't end on campus. After earning their degrees, Lafayette's first women proceeded to grace the workforce and society with an equally transformative power. Their successes over the last five decades have raised the standard for professionals across borders and industries.

FORGING FEMALE PATHWAYS

From shaping American foreign policy to becoming an early influence in tech, these women left a mark in male-dominated industries.



Ann Huntington Barnett '74



Jean Christoff Neitzke '74

After graduating from Lafayette, and then earning an MBA from the Wharton School of University of Pennsylvania in 1980, Ann Huntington Barnett '74 joined the manufacturing team at IBM—the same time this company was making history by being among the first to bring the personal computer, the precursor of tech as we know it, to the masses. "It was an honor to be offered a position there in those days," she says.

For Barnett, it was the start of a 31-year career with the company, which also was the preferred provider of business computers at the time. As IBM saw significant growth over the years that followed, with revenue multiplying by the billions, so did Barnett's position and influence.

"IBM was so big, and I worked for so many different divisions, that by the time I retired it was as if I had worked for 10 different companies," Barnett says. She played a prominent part in every level of the tech giant's worldwide success. Working in a factory to develop hardware and software at the outset of her tenure allowed Barnett to learn about the business from the ground up. The foundational knowledge she gained there, she says, allowed her to bring a unique insider's perspective to her subsequent roles as a manager of product pricing in Paris and of lease-offering development in England. She was eventually named CFO of IBM Global Government in 1994, and ultimately closed out her career as global director of business operations for IBM account strategic outsourcing.

In her final role, Barnett oversaw business operations for IBM's largest account—the company's internal IT department—which involved directing a team of more than 5,000 employees around the globe. "Because we had billions of dollars to spend, the implications of making that money effective and efficient for the company were big. If we figured out how to save 10%, that meant a \$100 million profit on the bottom line."

Making her name in the male-dominated

tech industry wasn't without challenge, but it was something her Lafayette experience prepared her to do: "I knew how to find common ground with the men I worked with, and that's the biggest advantage I had from being one of the few women in my class," says Barnett, who was a math major.

Her rigorous undergraduate education, she explains, proved to be an essential stepping stone along her career path as well. "When I was taking micro- and macroeconomics at Wharton, I realized we were using the same textbooks I had used at Lafayette," Barnett says, explaining she was able to drop those classes and take others because she had already studied the fundamentals. "I'm grateful Lafayette teed me up for a graduate degree and for a successful life."



Jean Christoff Neitzke '74 was in eighth grade when she found her calling. "I was visiting Washington, D.C., with my family," she recalls, "when I first heard of the foreign service. And I thought, 'This is what I want to do.'" Her dream materialized when she was hired by the Department of State in 1980—kicking off a decades-long career representing the United States at home and overseas, implementing foreign policy, and molding the next generation of foreign service officers.

In the State Department as a civil servant, Neitzke handled assessments of alternative energy resources for developing countries. She traveled to Greece and Jordan for bilateral discussions, and was a delegate to international conferences on the subject in Kenya, Thailand, and Sierra Leone.

After joining the Foreign Service in 1984, Neitzke participated in aviation route negotiations with Japan, and then was posted to London as the U.S. representative to the International Maritime Organization, focused on maritime safety issues. Her subsequent assignments included handling economic issues in

← The First Women of Lafayette Commemorative Quilt, which was designed by Liza Roos Prior Lucy '74 with memorabilia and images from peers, is stored at Skillman Library.

the Office of Canadian Affairs, as well as several posts in the Bureau of Human Resources.

“It was a privilege to be one of the faces of the U.S., because people listened to us,” explains Neitzke, who earned a master’s in international relations from London School of Economics and Political Science and a master’s in national security strategy from National War College. One of her most memorable assignments, she says, was when she served as maritime attaché at the London embassy in 1987 after the capsizing of the *MS Herald of Free Enterprise*, which claimed the lives of 193 people. “I was fortunate to be part of an international team of maritime experts, as well as other diplomats, who worked together to ensure such a tragedy would not happen again.”

From 1997 to 2000, Neitzke also led A-100, the 10-week orientation training course that all entry-level United States foreign service diplomats must take before branching out into their specialized individual roles. “About 750 new officers came in during my time running that course,” she says. “I was the first face of the foreign service they got to see.” There, her students learned skills like interacting with ambassadors and writing speeches.

When she joined the Foreign Service, Neitzke says, she was in the minority. “There were certainly women in leadership roles, but not anywhere near the number that exists today,” she says, adding that she felt prepared nevertheless. Neitzke, who was an international affairs and French double major, was also a member of the women’s basketball team, a DJ at the Lafayette radio station, a resident adviser, a student sports reporter, and a liaison for musicians visiting at the College.

But it’s her memories of studying abroad in France, as well as learning from scholars like Richard Welch, Paul Pfretzschner, Michael Glantz, and Jean-Pierre Cap, that are most enduring. “My professors were accessible and encouraging, and they kept my interest moving forward on the path I had set out on in the eighth grade,” Neitzke says. “They helped me achieve what I wanted to achieve.”

STRENGTHENING CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Projecting a better future for people, both locally and abroad.



Karen Nettler '74

If you ask Karen Nettler '74 to pinpoint the catalyst that set off her more than 40-year run as an agent of change in the city of Baltimore, she'll say it's the moment she signed up

for her first psychology course at Lafayette: “I went into college anticipating I was only going to study Spanish. But when I took Intro to Psych, I knew I wanted to work with people.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in both subjects, as well as a master’s in social work from University of Maryland, Nettler first worked as a constituent service worker for a city council member and then as a program planner in the Baltimore mayor’s office before she was hired to work in the Maryland Governor’s Office for Children and Youth. There, she engaged

with groups statewide to develop and implement programs that advocated for local children and youth—providing education and support to those facing issues like child abuse, teen pregnancy, and drug and alcohol use.

In 1989, she was brought on as deputy director at Jewish Community Services, a non-profit that offers a broad range of programs and resources to address the diverse needs of individuals, families, and communities of all backgrounds in the greater Baltimore region—including career and mental health services, financial management training, and support services for seniors, Holocaust survivors, and individuals with disabilities. A member of the executive management team for 29 years, Nettler most recently served as director of community connections—overseeing the organization’s outreach initiatives, intake services, prevention and wellness programming, and volunteer services.

“I was always passionate about helping and connecting people, and my role allowed me to do that for tens of thousands of people,” Nettler says. Her local efforts earned her the Daniel Thursz Distinguished Jewish Communal Service Award in 2011. The imprint left by her work, however, reached well beyond Baltimore: Beginning in 1995, Nettler spent time helping to establish the first Jewish community services in Odesa, Ukraine,



Deirdre Bradbury Jacob '74

where religious communities were reconstituting themselves following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. “It was a highlight of my career,” she says, “and one of the things I’m most proud of.”

Her Lafayette education also remains one of her greatest points of pride. “It’s the best decision I ever made,” Nettler says, adding that the tight bonds she formed with influential professors like Howard Gallup “made me feel like somebody, not just a number, which was important to my sense of self.” The rigorous courses she took at Lafayette allowed her to place out of courses at the graduate level.

Now retired, Nettler volunteers at a local senior center in Michigan. “The fact that the school was eager to support my vision gave me a sense I could do what I set out to do—and the determination to make an impact.”



After graduating from Lafayette a year early, Jacob got her professional start in operations at Procter & Gamble in 1973. It was during her 18 years at P&G that she became

familiar with the theory of constraints—a management philosophy introduced by Eliyahu M. Goldratt—and began to implement it for the company worldwide.

Soon after she became the managing partner, and later partner and CFO, of the Avraham Y. Goldratt Institute, where she created the firm’s strategic direction—including new product and service development, business growth plans, and leadership development—and led that work for more than 21 years. She also designed and taught courses in strategic thinking and supply chain and project management to help companies in the retail, government, technology, pharmaceutical, and biomedical industries, among others, achieve rapid global advancement.

Looking to make a more localized impact, Jacob teamed up with her husband to launch VelosCT LLC—a consulting firm focused on strategic planning, operations, and project management. She later became a co-owner of The Marketplace at Guilford Food Center, of which she also was general manager, until 2020.

Now, as the president of the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, Jacob employs her decades of experience in management to help businesses and non-profits flourish on the Connecticut shoreline. She’s been active in local economic growth by mentoring businesses and helping them with marketing and organized events. “I enjoy giving people a sense of pride, and helping them understand that, no matter their role, they are an integral part of making their organization successful,” Jacob says.

In addition to authoring multiple publications,

speaking at national and international conferences, and serving on boards for nonprofits like the Guilford Fund for Education and the Connecticut chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Jacob remains connected to her alma mater through volunteering and philanthropy. She was the first woman to be named president of Lafayette’s Alumni Association, and served as a trustee from 1985 to 1990. A diehard Leopard football fan, Jacob became the first female president of the Maroon Club in the mid ’80s, when she also was treasurer of The Graduates alumni choral group.

“At the College, and in my career and life, I always felt I could walk the path less taken,” says Jacob, who double majored in government and law and philosophy at Lafayette. Being challenged to think on the spot by professors like George Clarke, she explains, allowed her to find and use her voice. “Lafayette gave me the independence to be one of the few, the ability to be uniquely me, and the tools to be successful being uniquely me.”

Rev. Dr. Judith E. Thomson '73 donated this shirt to the College Archives; the tees were created by and for Lafayette’s new female students.



EMPOWERING THE UNDERREPRESENTED

A legacy of service, advocacy, and educating others.



Darlyne Bailey '74



Alma Scott-Buczak '74

“I want to continue to change the system to help the people,” says Darlyne Bailey ’74, who has devoted more than 30 years to a career as a leader in higher education, and even longer as a trailblazer in social work and social justice. “The individual is at the heart of it all.”

Bailey is professor emeritus and dean emeritus at the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, formerly special assistant to the president for community partnerships, at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pa. By the early ’80s, Bailey—who majored in psychology with a minor in secondary education at Lafayette—had earned an M.S. in psychiatric social work, along with a Ph.D. in organizational behavior and certificate in psychoanalytic psychotherapy.

She later co-founded a community mental health organization, where she oversaw intake and crisis intervention services. As she witnessed vulnerable populations being barred from accessing quality and effective services, Bailey expanded her focus to include finding systemwide solutions. For example, three months after receiving tenure, Bailey became dean of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. From 1994 to 2002, Bailey worked on city and federal projects to decrease infant mortality and increase services for public housing residents. In doing so, the Mandel School helped solidify Case Western as a pillar of the greater Cleveland community and beacon for the city’s social justice initiatives.

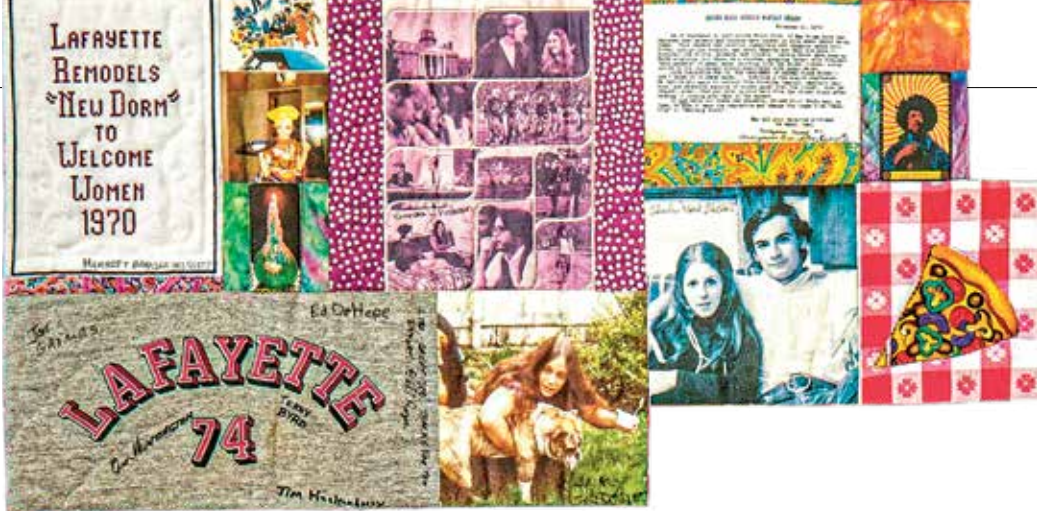
As vice president of academic affairs and dean, and later acting president of Teacher’s College at Columbia University, Bailey worked to enhance the quality of teaching and bolster teacher-retention rates at local elementary schools. In 2006, she became the first dean at a newly formed multidisciplinary college at University of Minnesota. And since assuming her positions at Bryn Mawr starting in 2009, Bailey

has helped to establish the school’s Master of Social Service and Master of Public Health dual degree program and founded its Social Justice Initiative.

Over the decades, she has served on multiple community-based and national nonprofit boards, including Lafayette’s Board of Trustees as an alumni representative. Bailey explains that being on “the margin” herself “allowed me to get in touch with my own identity and passions, empower people, and connect organizations and communities.” Bailey, who grew up in Englewood, N.J.—one of the first cities to desegregate schools—was not only one of the first women at Lafayette, but also one of only nine Black women among the 2,000 students at the College in 1970.

“Every moment of growth and exploration at Lafayette put me on the path to where I am now,” Bailey says. “The intimate environment, the fact you could spend time on the Quad with professors who were incredible human beings, and the way people like Dean David Portlock embraced students and guided us through challenges—they taught me how to be a faculty member who served alongside students to help them discover their best selves.”

Being a first-generation high school graduate and college student emboldened her to achieve even more firsts: “From Lafayette on, I had a sense of courage and humility—I could do whatever I wanted in this world, as long as I did it with love.” Bailey was named a fellow in the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s National Leadership Program, and received the 2017 National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Social Work Pioneer award and 2021 NASW-PA Phyllis Black Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1994, she became the first woman to receive Lafayette’s George Washington Kidd Class of 1836 Award for distinguished professional achievement.



← The “New Dorm” for women in 1970 carried the nickname until it was later named Ruef Hall.

the Council of Lafayette Women. She also became a member of the Board of Trustees in 2003. “Lafayette changed my life,” says Scott-Buczak, who was a first-generation college student studying economics on a full scholarship. “It gave me an opportunity, and I am indebted for what it’s done for me.”

Scott-Buczak had a full-circle moment when she became associate vice president of human resources at Lafayette in 2016. Over the last eight years, she has diligently worked to help empower employees to come to work every day excited, feeling supported, and wanting to do their best for the organization.

Being one of the first women of color on Lafayette’s campus, Scott-Buczak says, gave her the tools to excel in an unfamiliar environment. “The women of my class were surrounded by men—in my case, white men,” she explains. “There was no space I would be too timid to walk into or didn’t believe I belonged in, and that set me up for success.”

Scott-Buczak took every opportunity she could to get involved on campus. In addition to being a resident adviser, she was a McKelvy Scholar and a cheerleader. Professors like Glantz encouraged her to think deeply about issues; advisers like Dean Portlock ensured Black students had the resources they needed; and other Lafayette community members like Dean of Students Herman Kessiah helped her navigate various aspects of college life, like the yearly reapplication process for her scholarship. “They made me realize that Lafayette is a special place that helps every single student, no matter what their needs are. And I wanted to be the same for our employees.”

In 1999, in honor of her parents, Scott-Buczak and her husband established the Georgiabelle and Thomas Harrison Scott Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, a scholarship with a preference for students of economically underprivileged backgrounds who are studying in the arts. “Lafayette gave me the gift of an education that provided opportunities I otherwise wouldn’t have had,” she says. “I want to make sure Lafayette can do that for generations of students to come.” ■

Together again

The Class of 1974 celebrated its 50th anniversary at Reunion this June. The women who returned to campus were met with a memorable homecoming.



Close to 100 women, which included Pards from all decades, registered for the inaugural First Women’s Tea.



Lafayette’s first fully coed class parades around the Quad in unison.



The Class of 1974 was well represented on campus to mark its milestone anniversary.



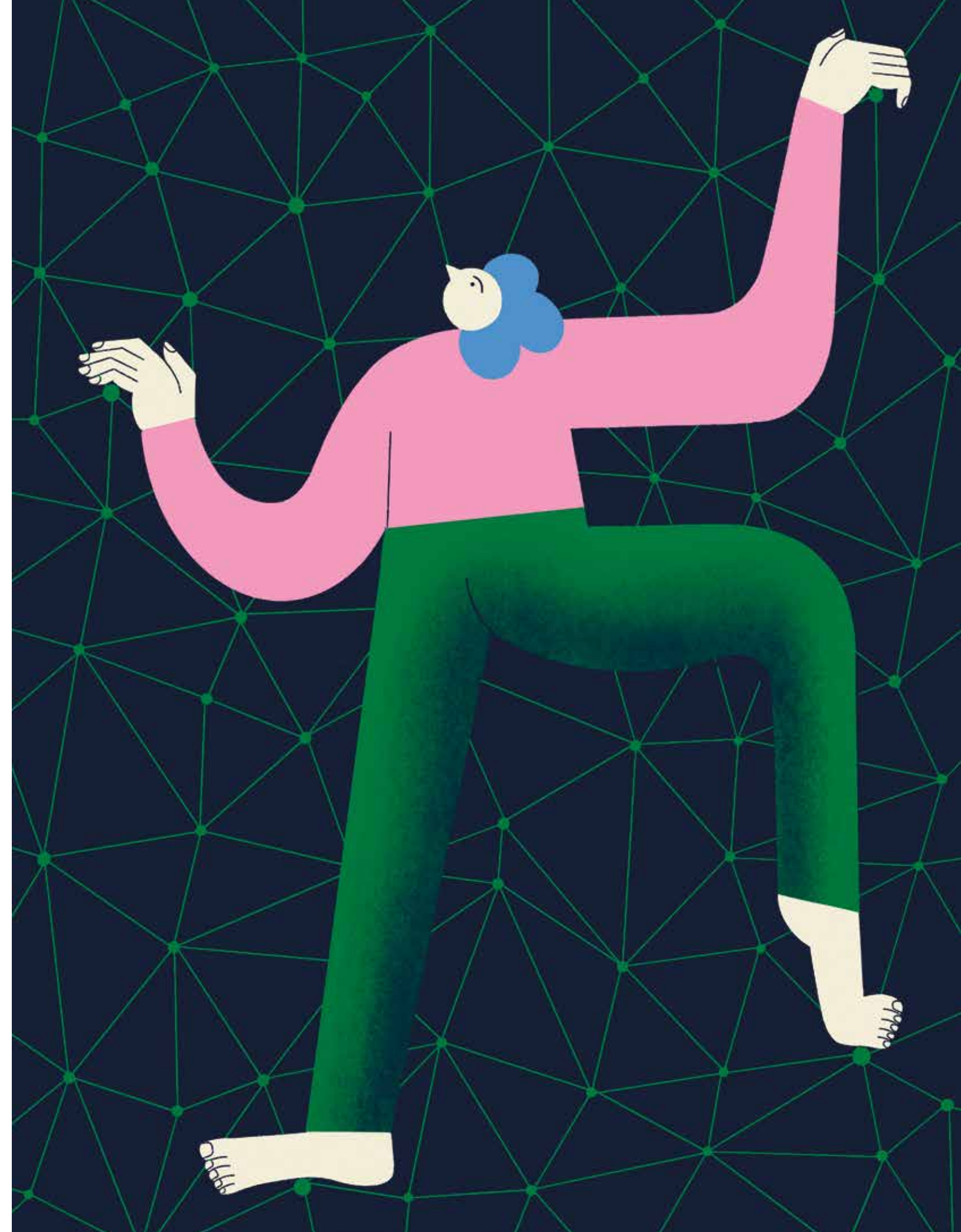
Keepsake silk scarves were distributed during this year’s First Women’s Tea.

THE GEN ERATIVE TIVE GENERATION

HOW LAFAYETTE FACULTY ARE TACKLING
THE WEIGHTY ETHICAL AND EDUCATIONAL
QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE LATEST WAVE
OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

BY ROBERT J. BLIWISSE '76

ILLUSTRATIONS BY HELENA PALLARÉS



Miles Morrison is into rock climbing. He's also into artificial intelligence. To him, those aren't disparate interests. He's drawn to a YouTube video that shows a computer-generated voice guiding a couple of climbers to perfect their forms as they scale a climbing wall. It breaks down every move: Keep your knees from flailing to the left or right. Don't roll your shoulders too widely. Stay balanced and focus on speed.

Morrison is a Lafayette junior majoring in integrative engineering. He's been working this summer with Christian López, assistant professor of computer science, on a project involving large language models (LLMs). LLMs understand and generate language; they're one iteration of AI, and they power the now-ubiquitous ChatGPT.

Their project uses digital flashcards to help people learn Python, a computer language. It's a thoroughly personalized tutorial: The very sensitive (and very nonhuman) tutor is constantly refining the flashcards so that the user gets more proficient—in this case, more Python-proficient—over time. López describes it as “adaptive complexity.”

By definition, AI is the simulation of human intelligence by computers. As a concept, it's hardly new. Back in 1950, computer scientist Alan Turing published an article with this line: “I propose to consider the question, ‘Can machines think?’”

Whether machines will ever be, or already are, thinking remains a matter of dispute among scholars. What we do know is that while AI took off several years ago, it now feels like it's taking over. According to Educause, a nonprofit that focuses on technology in higher education, within 60 days after it was introduced in November

2022, ChatGPT grew by 9,900 percent and was reaching 100 million users. Last fall was the debut of Meta AI, which promised to enhance connections and conversations on Facebook and Instagram. And, in June, Apple launched Apple Intelligence to supercharge how its products perform.

All the AI excitement has some fraught accompaniments. Also this summer, *The New York Times* looked at health-related questions addressed by AI. When asked, “How many rocks should I eat?” (with no regard for how many rocks an enthusiast like Morrison should climb), AI would sometimes answer: at least one rock a day—for vitamins and minerals.

In a nod to a healthy learning environment, Lafayette faculty passed a motion, effective last spring semester, that class syllabi must include course-specific AI policies. Additionally, a College working group created a 41-page guidebook last year on the topic of generative AI to serve as a resource for faculty and staff. (Find that at provost.lafayette.edu/policies-and-procedures.)

According to López's syllabus statement for Computers and Society, AI shouldn't be used to churn out large blocks of text or substitute original ideas. What would be permissible: leaning on the technology to help brainstorm ideas, explore counterarguments, or revise a few sentences.

“If you use an AI tool, you are required to cite your use of it in a footnote, endnote, or other detailed citation, like the way a scientist might describe an instrument they have used in an experiment,” López says on the syllabus. “If you use a language model and do not cite it, it will be considered academic dishonesty.”

López also offers what he calls a good rule of thumb: “You may use AI tools to enhance your learning; you may not use them as an opportunity to cheat yourself of the opportunity to learn.”

For Morrison, López's research-minded student, AI has a special significance. Morrison is dyslexic, and he frequently uses a text-to-speech application called Speechify, which helps him process material efficiently that he would otherwise absorb through slow reading. Challenges he has faced fueled his interest in the summer project. He likes the idea of “building tools that can enhance

the learning experience for everyone, especially those with defined setbacks.”

AI tools are a natural fit for Lafayette's Computer Science Department. López's newest colleague there is Sofia Serrano, who is joining the department this fall as an assistant professor. Her work focuses on natural language processing (NLP); NLP is a subset of AI, along with other overlapping areas like robotics and computer vision. She's interested in how NLP models work. That might involve designing methods to explain how they produce a particular piece of text or investigating what kinds of information they pick up—or fail to pick up—from the training data.

Reactions that greeted AI, for some a mixture of excitement, healthy skepticism, or trepidation, have a certain resonance with earlier innovations like Google Search, Serrano says. But there are big differences. When it draws from the web, Google Search registers the specific sources. For ChatGPT, nothing requires it to make note of sources. Some of those sources may be inauthentic; some may reflect social biases.

When ChatGPT responds to a prompt, it's basically making a prediction that hinges on the huge chunks of data it was trained on, its analysis of that data, and the search for patterns that presumably point to the right (or most probable) answer. As viewed by a language model, the collection of text sources used to train it is “just one big stew of text.”

“As an educator, I wouldn't want to see the constant suspicion that student work is being produced by a language model,” Serrano says. “If you have students who are submitting essays generated by ChatGPT, something has already gone wrong in the educational process.” Rethinking assignments is

one way to meet the challenge. The deeper response, she says, is “communicating to students what we are trying to have them learn and why we are trying to have them learn it.”

Technology-assisted learning has long been an interest for Tim Laquintano, associate professor of English and director of the College Writing Program. (In 2018,

Lafayette magazine published an article about his work.) The impact of artificial intelligence is “one of the most difficult things to assess I've ever seen,” he says. “There are incredible amounts of hype around AI, along with the hysteria.”

One of Laquintano's former students, Mia Powell '24, who also did an independent study with him, has managed

AI provides information, but humans still need to filter what is valuable. The technology should aid decisions, says Chris Shumeyko, not make them.

to navigate the hype and hysteria. She was an integrative engineering major and English minor. On the first day of class, she recalls, Laquintano had the students read two versions of a poem, one written by a human and the other by AI. The students were evenly split as they tried to identify the (human or automated) authorship.

Since graduating, Powell, who works for a utility company and who developed a love of poetry at Lafayette, has been exercising ChatGPT in her leisure time. She's discovered one limitation of the technology. “I've still not been successful at getting it to write a poem that doesn't rhyme,” she says. “I've tried a lot of different ways to work around its resistance. There's only one instance where it somewhat cooperated: The first stanza of the poem didn't rhyme, and then it went right back to rhyming the rest of the poem.”

Laquintano, who has a long-running project looking at workplace-based writing, says the technology is best suited for tasks that the user is doing over and over. “People are automating mundane, rote stuff, what might be considered the most boring parts of their job. That doesn't tend to be what college writing is.”

He also teaches AI workshops for faculty, and he has found a range of attitudes among faculty. Some have a basic curiosity about how students are taking to AI, “so



they'll play around with the technology." Some, particularly those accustomed to data-driven or computational work, are actively engaged with AI for their own research. Some, like López, are designing assignments to give students a chance to experiment with it.

There are also faculty members who don't have a need, or an interest, to apply the technology just yet. In addition to the research and teaching questions that arise, these new applications have significant ethical concerns to consider. Faculty and students might recognize the legal squishiness involved in scraping large chunks of information off the web; the environmental consequences from all the computer power that underlies the technology; and their inscrutable operating methods, with the protocols used to train them largely hidden behind "black boxes."

Laquintano has had his students interview other students about AI. The most interesting finding, he says, was that students might be using AI more as a reading technology than a writing technology. That is, they're feeding articles into the tool and having it produce summaries.

This may seem more innocuous than having the tool complete writing assignments; in his experience, students resist handing in ChatGPT-produced papers. Still, faculty might be wary of any technology-enabled shortcuts. That wariness extends to summarizing along with brainstorming, outlining, and editing. "We could say it's circumventing or short-circuiting reading practices we want students to develop. Or it's possible that summary at least prepares them to listen to a lecture."

When it comes to AI as a reading technology, Elaine Reynolds, professor of biology and neuroscience, is an early adapter. A lot of the work in her Aging and Age-Related Disease course steeps students in scientific literature. They can easily get stuck on technical discussion. AI, in her teaching, isn't just a summary-producing aid for the occasional assignment. It's a tool to boost reading comprehension.

Students will plunge into scientific readings and inevitably confront something they don't understand—for example, "PCR" (a test for identifying the presence of viruses). AI allows students to work through layers of confusion. Googling, by contrast, might send them down rabbit holes, with link after link that "may or may not contain answers, may or may not

The ultimate aim is to see the campus fully take advantage of the technology while maintaining, Charlotte Nunes stresses, "a critical awareness of its risks."

have summaries or definitions at the right level," Reynolds says.

In the end, critical analysis is key—and there's no AI shortcut to that learning goal. *Was the design of the experiment rigorous? Did the methods follow the design? Did the subjects being studied reflect an appropriate demographic?* Reynolds expects students to think through those questions. She also expects them to fully document their interactions with AI.

With the emergence of AI in higher education, as she wrote recently in a neuroscience-education journal, a timeless challenge for professors is acquiring new urgency: "How to ensure that students are provided opportunities to develop knowledge and skills, and to think critically about a course's subject matter."

In his subject, Walter Wadiak, associate professor of English, melds old and new. A medievalist, he wanted to introduce ChatGPT to Middle English, and the College's mission statement (as it read at the time) was a tempting text to play with. In the training, he "talked" to ChatGPT about a particular syntactic feature or word that would pop up in Chaucer. The model took the feedback and applied the example to the general writing task. As it churned out a Chaucer-style mission statement, bit by bit, Wadiak watched it "get better over time."

That experience gave him the idea to present the translation in class. He wanted students to ponder: *What does the Middle English version gain or lose in relation to the modern English version?* Middle English as an AI offering may "lack the conceptual

specificity of modern English," Wadiak says. Still, "a lot of students talked about how the Middle English version is more embodied, effective, and emotionally rich."

Wadiak separately asked ChatGPT to help him come up with "something a little tough to translate and relevant to our concerns." It suggested something, essentially, about itself: a statement about how digital connectivity might diminish human interaction. The students took that ChatGPT-generated statement, used ChatGPT to rework it as a text Chaucer would recognize, and critiqued the product.

"Sometimes I feel like a naïve booster," Wadiak says of AI. "I understand a little about how it works. But if we as a faculty ignore it, the students will find the least productive ways to use it. So, we can't ignore it."

"The power of liberal arts institutions comes not in simply exploring how to use technology but also in interrogating and helping to shape those uses through interdisciplinary lenses," says Provost Laura McGrane. "Lafayette is well positioned to be a leader in critical conversations about the global implications of these technologies that have an impact on everything from privacy to health care, from civic discourse to what it means to be human."

Over at Skillman Library, Charlotte Nunes, dean of libraries, is part of a campus-wide committee to see the campus fully take advantage of the technology while maintaining, she stresses, "a critical awareness of its risks." Librarians are always attuned to how information is "generated and circulated," she says, and how it is used productively and ethically. Such an effort, she adds, builds on Lafayette's strengths in digital scholarship, which encompasses everything from working with large data sets to creating multimedia projects.

Nunes, working with a colleague, has deployed AI to imagine a bigger footprint for the library: more study rooms, new "maker space" for student projects, more capacious quarters for Special Collections. Machines can't dream, so far, but they can be dream enablers.

Not long ago, many on campus may not have seen themselves as AI stakeholders. But there are plenty of converts. Caleb Gallemore, associate professor of international affairs, is typical. Students in his methods course have crafted research designs for an array of speculative projects: the impact of women-driven workers organizations; how infant mortality rates relate to education

levels; what happens to crop prices when farmers are given global phone coverage.

Those design projects all entail surveying the relevant literature. But an interdisciplinary program draws students with different academic orientations, from anthropology to economics. They may be caught in "literature bubbles," he says, meaning they may not be adept at, for example, identifying the right keywords for a particular topic. Could AI, with its analytical power, lead them to what they need to be reading?

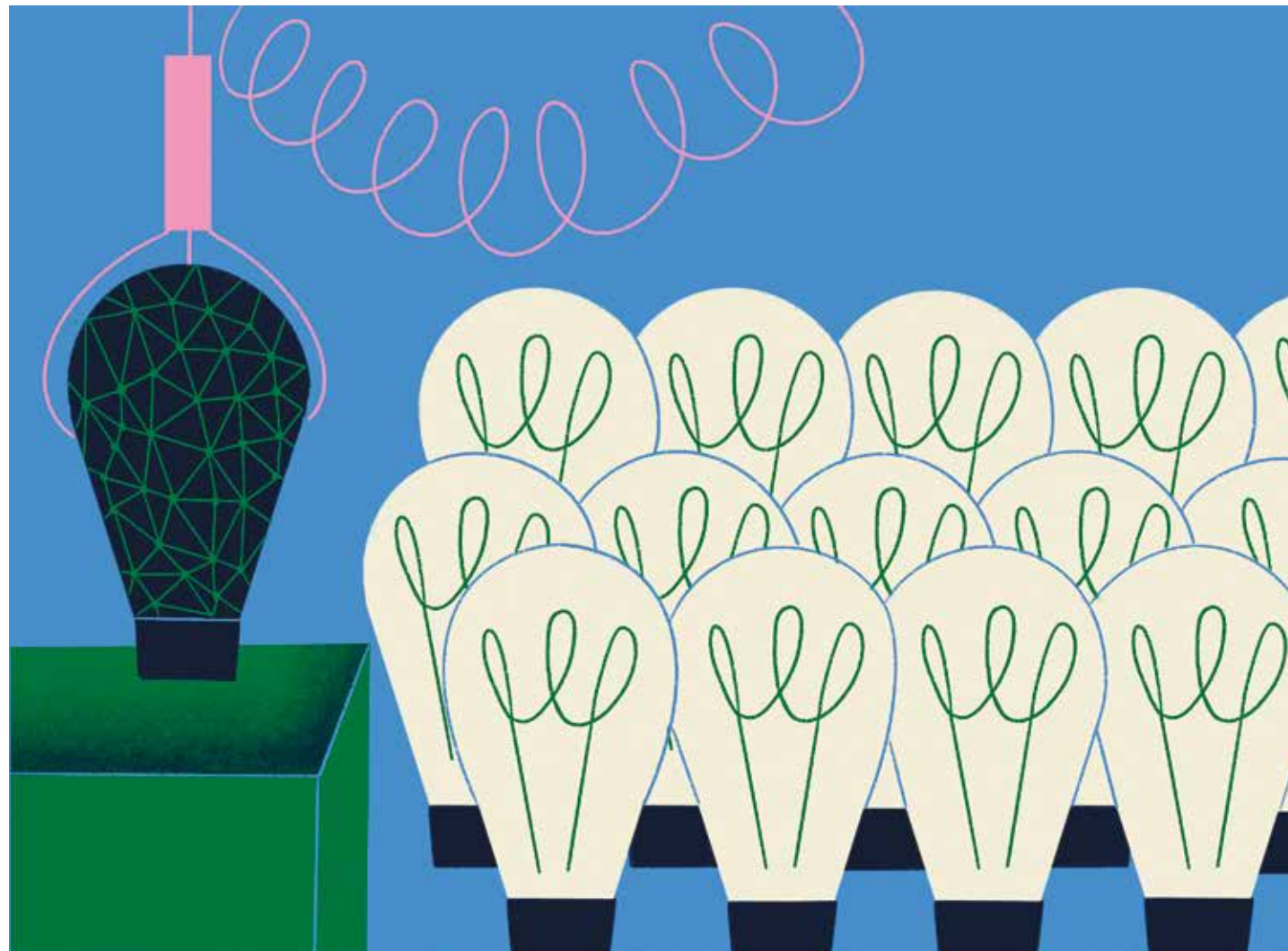
AI is already embedded in the career of Chris Shumeyko '10, who graduated with a mechanical engineering degree. After earning his Ph.D., he taught in the department for a few years. He's now a senior associate, focusing on technology, with Booz Allen Hamilton in Pittsburgh. At a recent conference, he applied his AI expertise to talk about how capturing and analyzing data through sensors and other avenues could transform one's athletic performance.

He's also worked at the Army Research Lab, where he shifted his focus from futuristic materials for military vehicles to AI predictive maintenance and logistics. A civilian example of what that means would involve packages crisscrossing the country: If something like a monster-size storm looms in one distribution center, how do you handle the complicated supply chain? AI could help anticipate the event and reroute delivery vehicles appropriately.

Shumeyko, a committed skier and past president of the U.S. Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association, grew up in upstate New York. He was frustrated by snowless winters. For his Lafayette admissions essay, he wrote about building his own snowmaking machine. Now, many ski resorts use AI to gather climate data, determine when the snow base might require a boost, and then fire up the snowmaking equipment—turning it on and off at ideal moments.

He finds that the perfect example of AI in action: "managing data, extracting what's important, orchestrating tasks." As he sees it, AI helps solve complicated problems efficiently. But "helps" is an important qualifier. "We are not creating a decision tool," he says. "We are creating a decision aid." ■

Robert J. Bliwise '76, founding editor and editor emeritus of Duke Magazine, is the author of The Pivot: One Pandemic, One University.



MAROON AND WHITE PREVIEW

EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING for the 2024 installment of the Lafayette football team. The squad returns as 2023 Patriot League champions, after a 9-3 season that surpassed the single-season win total from the previous 40 years. Preseason rankings and honors have already started to roll in as the Leopards look to hoist championship hardware once again.

PRESEASON REPORT

Eight starters return on each side of the ball, including All-Patriot League selections **Jamar Curtis** (the nation's leading returning rusher), **Ryder Langsdale**, **Dean DeNobile**, and **Elijah Steward** on offense and **Saiku White** on defense along with Patriot League Rookie of the Year **Jaylon Joseph**.

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

- › **Sept. 14 vs. Marist** 2024 home opener
- › **Oct. 12 vs. Georgetown** Community Day will feature the inaugural Food Truck Festival inside Fisher Stadium.
- › **Oct. 26 vs. Holy Cross** Homecoming Weekend and Family Weekend will take place during a key matchup between the last two Patriot League champs.
- › **Nov. 16 vs. Stonehill** The first 500 fans to enter Fisher Stadium will receive a maroon leopard print winter hat for FREE.
- › **Nov. 23 vs. Lehigh** Rivalry 160 takes the Leopards back to Bethlehem for the second straight season as Lafayette prepares to host in 2025 and 2026.

SECURE YOUR SEAT

Season tickets and single-game tickets are available through GoLeopards.com.



INSIDE

We asked alumni to share their industry expertise. **p.50**—Foodie trends and seasonal fare. **p. 51**—Tips for landing the next job opportunity. **p. 52**—Why it's a good time to talk about mental health.

Cur Non

Two hundred years ago, the Marquis embarked on his tour of America, eventually visiting each of the 24 states by carriage.



"I really enjoy going back to Lafayette and seeing how the food scene has kind of exploded in Easton."

KATHLEEN SQUIRES
ENGLISH, 1988



PHOTOGRAPH BY KEN GOODMAN

GOURMET GUIDANCE

Food writer Kathleen Squires '88 talks summer ingredients, restaurant trends, and her favorite Easton eateries.

BY MADDY SWEITZER-LAMME

When Kathleen Squires '88 graduated from Lafayette, she was armed with an English degree and a love of words. Right out of school, she took a job in book publishing and spent nearly a decade as an editor, helping authors shape and prepare their books for publication. Her undergraduate work as a peer tutor in the writing-across-the-curriculum program, helmed by Prof. Patricia Donahue, prepared her for that work. Through that program, Squires worked with engineering students and economics majors to help them improve their writing, a skill she found translated well in the real world.

"In being an editor, you have to learn how to collaborate and work with people, and do so in a tactful manner," Squires explains. "I think that program really prepared me for the kind of personal interaction element of being an editor."

Squires also worked on the *Shakespeare Bulletin* and *The Lafayette* newspaper, her first experiences with the ins and outs of writing for a deadline and building a publication. These experiences came in handy when, after about a decade in publishing, she decided to start a second career as a freelance journalist focusing on food and travel.

Since then, she's written a regular column for *The Wall Street Journal*, co-authored cookbooks, and co-produced several films, including one about James Beard. Squires, a longtime resident of New York, is also co-owner of Chef's Dinner Table in Little Italy, a culinary space that opened in 2019. She regularly hosts events and cooking classes there, as well as the occasional Lafayette alumni dinners.

These days, her work ranges from recipe development to food news reporting, and everything in



Chef's Dinner Table in New York City, co-owned by Squires, has hosted guests from Blake Lively to Pard alumni.

between. Here, she shares her picks for restaurants in Easton, recommendations for home cooking this summer, and the restaurant trends she's seeing everywhere.

Eat well in Easton

"I really enjoy going back to Lafayette now and seeing how the food scene has kind of exploded in Easton," Squires says. "The Public Market is excellent, and also the Easton Farmers' Market is still going strong. I believe it claims to be the oldest continuous farmers market in the country, dating back to the 1800s, so it's always fun to visit that and to see it grow." (See p. 5 for or more on Easton eateries.) Squires—who visited campus during Commencement in May to watch classmate Amy Herman '88 deliver the keynote

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEN GOODMAN

speech—also loves 3rd & Ferry Fish Market for seafood, Three OAK Steakhouse, and Two Rivers Brewing Company to get a taste of the local beer scene.

Expand your grilling repertoire

In the summer, Squires gets excited about grilling everything from pineapple (for sundaes, as she wrote about in her *Wall Street Journal* column last August) to more delicate vegetables like asparagus, ramps, and garlic scapes.

"You can just drizzle oil on them and put them on the grill," Squires says. "It really enhances a meat component of a meal, too." She'll also grill fruit for all kinds of uses, not just desserts.

"You can char a lemon on the grill," she suggests. "Completely dehydrate it, then put it in a food processor and turn it into a powder—you get all the essential oils of the fruit and it doesn't taste burnt; it just has a really intense fruit flavor that adds to anything you might put it on."

Green at home

"At home, one of the biggest trends is people being more mindful of waste, and their environmental impact," Squires says. "We're seeing a lot of these kinds of portable home composters, and I think people are looking at ways to use every part of everything. Whether it be every part of an animal or every part of a vegetable, people have become more educated about their own food waste."

She's also noticed a change in plant-based eating. A few years ago people were excited about products like Beyond Meat, but these days she's noticing people turn away from those replacement meats and go back to more natural substitutes, like mushrooms.

"I think a lot of people who choose not to eat meat actually lose their taste for meat," she explains. "So they don't really want a facsimile. They want to eat vegetables instead."

Restaurant trends to try

"One trend I'm seeing a lot is restaurants kind of enhancing their experiences by doing ticketed events," Squires says. "For example, I'm seeing a lot of restaurants that have their regular everyday menu, but then maybe in their private dining room on Thursdays, they're doing a special themed dinner with a guest chef. It is a way to cultivate loyalty from their customers and offer more than one experience under the same roof." ■

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

Being the best candidate

Career-minded Rebecca Wuhl '01 knows how to make job applications stand out.

BY MADELINE MARRIOTT '24



As the director of talent acquisition at Global Strategy Group (GSG), a highly regarded public relations firm that was founded in New York City, Rebecca Wuhl '01 spends her days conducting recruitment interviews for all kinds of positions from internships to executive vice presidents.

The job, along with working in recruitment and career services for two decades, has made her an expert in how to make the right impression. "It's really about making those connections with people," she says.

This is where Wuhl's Lafayette degrees in history and psychology come in handy. "I deal with people every day,"

Wuhl says. "Those majors really helped me be successful in getting my master's in psychological services and preparing for that interaction."

Wuhl's work also takes her into college classrooms and across campuses where she talks to upcoming and recent graduates, forging connections for her company and beyond. In this role with GSG, she has seen firsthand the impact that academic institutions have on potential job candidates.

"There's a huge advantage at a school like Lafayette because you're able to get really great references and hands-on experience," Wuhl says. "We hire for communications people, we hire for political research ...

so the people who have actual experience, especially at a small school, are a lot of times the people we hire.”

Ready for your next role? Here are Wuhl's tips.

LinkedIn profiles matter.

Make sure the information on your LinkedIn profile matches the experience on your resume. “A lot of employers look for detail when hiring, so to me, inconsistencies look like you didn’t even take time to proofread,” Wuhl says, explaining that you should treat your LinkedIn profile and resume like parts of a whole. “You wouldn’t turn in a final paper without references, so why apply for jobs with an incomplete LinkedIn profile?”

Take your time on cover letters.

“It’s the quality of the application versus the quantity,” she says. Search up the details of the company’s hiring team and address your cover letter, personally, to them. Ensure the skills you outline in your letter match the job description on the company’s posting. Research to understand the scope of the role—and have your cover letter reflect that. “Especially when you’re looking for an internship or an entry-level role, taking that extra time generally leads to more interviews,” she says.

Keep your personal information private.

Yes, this includes social media profiles—and definitely don’t link to your personal accounts on your resume. According to Wuhl, internet presence can be a deciding factor in competitive job searches, and making that information accessible to hiring managers is probably the biggest mistake people make on resumes. “We Google every single person before we hire,” Wuhl says. “Everyone has a right to post things, but when you’re looking for a job, keep everything private and watch where you’re commenting.”

Write a thank-you email.

If you’re wondering if post-interview thank-yous are something interviewers take into account, they absolutely are. “I would say probably half the candidates I see don’t write thank-you notes,” Wuhl says. “Google a template and put it out there. It takes 30 seconds to write it, and I guarantee other people aren’t doing it.”

“We Google every single person before we hire,” Wuhl says.



MAKING WAY FOR WELLNESS

Four years after the advent of the pandemic, mental health issues persist, but sports psychologist Jarrod Spencer ’96 says we’re opening up about it more than ever before, and that’s a good thing.

BY CHRIS QUIRK

The COVID-19 pandemic may largely be in the rearview mirror, but its psychological ramifications are still reverberating throughout the country. Despite the ongoing hardships many are enduring, Jarrod Spencer ’96 sees a kernel of promising news: The stigma around mental health may finally be evaporating across our society. “It’s the best thing that came out of the pandemic,” Spencer says. “It’s no longer a taboo topic.”

According to a recent survey of mental health practitioners by the American Psychological Association, by the end of 2023 the demand for psychologists was greater than in 2022, and the need was so acute that mental health practitioners were having difficulty seeing all the patients who needed help. The report found that cases of anxiety, trauma, stress, and depressive disorders were all higher in 2023 than the prior year, symptoms were more severe, and treatment periods were longer.

Spencer is an author, public speaker, and licensed clinical psychologist who has worked with numerous professional sports franchises, including clients in the NFL, WNBA, and other top leagues. His book and training program, *Mind of the Athlete*, delves into the psychology of sport to help athletes attain better performance; this summer, he is advising the United States wrestling team at the Olympic Games in Paris.

Spencer’s interest in sports psychology stems in part from his own time on the gridiron. During his first year at Lafayette, he played tailback for the football team that won the Patriot League title in 1992. However, after concussions sidelined his collegiate playing, he became more interested in how the mind worked. “Dr. Alan Childs was teaching a class in health psychology at the time, and I loved that class so much I got a doctorate in the discipline,” he says.



← Spencer, a sports psychologist, will advise U.S. Olympians this summer.

kindergarten, or if kids did not go out dating, there’s a delay in those skill sets.”

It’s a good time to talk

While the pandemic played a role in bringing mental well-being into the public conversation, so did some sporting events, notes Spencer. “When Naomi Osaka withdrew from the French Open, that’s when I marked the mental health stigma falling in all the sports.” Osaka, a Japanese tennis phenom who has won four Grand Slam singles titles, quit the tournament in 2021 after being fined for skipping a press conference in order, she explained at the time, to protect her mental health. “That’s when the entire world said, ‘It’s OK to not be OK,’ and from that moment forward it seems everyone has been willing to speak openly about mental health, and it’s been a beautiful thing to see.”

The impact of screens

Technology during the pandemic, as critical as it was to managing work, school, and

While many continue to deal with higher levels of post-pandemic stress and anxiety, Spencer explains why things may feel so heavy lately—and what we can do about it.

Lingering pandemic issues

According to Spencer, it’s no surprise that psychological aftershocks of the pandemic are still with us. He has noticed in particular that those who were on the front lines during the pandemic—like teachers and health care workers, for example—are now hitting the wall. “Two years later, they are now the ones saying they are really struggling with burnout and emotional fatigue,” he says. “The leaders in particular had a lot of added stress, and what I’m seeing is a delayed crash.”

The pandemic also had a particular generational effect on children and adolescents. “Whatever developmental steps they did not get properly during the pandemic can cause a significant lasting impact,” he says. “Skills children did not learn from attending

socializing, is also the source of some of the current problems, Spencer says. “For two years, we basically said to kids, you can have your phone in your room or stay up talking to your friends on Xbox. Now kids are getting dopamine from electronic interactions and aren’t learning interpersonal skills. We’ve essentially given them a drug.”

Phones are exacerbating another mental health issue, sleep deprivation. “It’s the biggest mental health concern in America, and sleep epidemic problems are directly linked to phone addiction,” Spencer says. “Changing your phone habits is the biggest piece of mental health advice I could give someone.”

First, he suggests to stop using the phone an hour before your ideal sleep time to give your brain time and space to slow down.

Also, always charge your phone away from the bed, he says, which puts the temptation to look at it out of reach. “Around 90% of people use their phone as their alarm clock,” says Spencer. “That little habit keeps the brain stimulated.”

TIME TO UNPLUG

According to 2023 Gallup polls, statistics on sleep deprivation—which Spencer calls the nation’s biggest mental health concern—are alarming.

20%

Americans who are getting fewer than five hours of sleep each night.

57%

American adults who say they’d feel better with more sleep.

4.8

Hours, on average, that teens spend on social media every day.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON

In All the World



FOR YOUR WALL

For a frame-ready 8x10 copy of this photograph, courtesy of the College, send name and mailing address to comdiv@lafayette.edu.



— A new tradition was born during Commencement weekend, as the historic Northampton Street Bridge

lit up to celebrate the neighboring graduates in Easton.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALFRED GREENBAUM

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

1950s

Frank V. Hermann '59

On Feb. 24, 2024, Hermann received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies. The award was presented at the 2024 Engineers Week Banquet held in Kaneohe, Hawaii. He is a civil engineer with 60 years of engineering experience, nearly all of which was in Hawaii and the Pacific islands centered on the design and construction of airports, taxiways, aprons, and terminals. After receiving a degree in civil engineering from Lafayette in 1959, he earned a graduate degree in urban and regional planning from University of Pennsylvania in 1963.

Hermann started his career at the Bureau of Public Roads, now the Federal Highway Administration. In December 1966, then with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), he moved to Hawaii to review the siting of the proposed new Kona Airport on Hawaii island. Keahole airport was

the starting point for his career in airport planning, design, construction, and reconstruction throughout Hawaii and the Pacific. Next, he worked on the Reef Runway at the then Honolulu International Airport, which reduced the need for planes to take off and land over Kalihi and downtown Honolulu. The Reef Runway was the first airport project of its size to get formal FAA environmental approval after the newly required Environmental Impact Statements in the 1970s. Throughout his career, Hermann worked in all aspects of commercial and military airport conceptual planning, design, construction, and reconstruction throughout the Pacific Ocean west of Hawaii and north of the equator. He is still an active contributing member on several national engineering society committees and attends via Zoom and in person. Hermann continues his active memberships in American Society of Civil Engineers, Society of Military Engineers, Transportation Research Board, and the engineers and architects of Hawaii.



Director of Athletics Sherryta Freeman (pictured, center) welcomed 140 golfers to the Maroon Club Golf Outing held at Northampton Country Club in June. Lafayette friends and alumni raised a record-breaking total revenue of nearly \$110,000 to help support the College's 23 Division I teams.



DID YOU KNOW?

Ilan Peleg, Charles A. Dana Professor of Government and Law, marks 50 years of teaching at Lafayette.

1960s

Ted Ruthizer '69

Ruthizer recently returned to campus to be the keynote speaker at the annual induction of history majors into the Lafayette chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national honor society for select college history majors. He spoke on immigration policy and the prospects for reform, a subject he knows well after almost 50 years in the field of immigration law, including 20 teaching at Columbia

PHOTOGRAPH BY COURTNEY DUPONT

Law School. "The students and faculty were great," Ruthizer writes, "and active participants in my 'seminar-style' lecture."

1970s

Michael LeWitt '70

On a recent tour, from Amsterdam to Basel, down the Rhine River, LeWitt wore his Lafayette College cap. "Four



alumni stopped me to chat about the College," LeWitt says. "Outside of a cathedral in Germany (we saw a lot), I found a bust of someone wearing a (my) Lafayette cap."

Karen Nettler '74 and Evelyn Parker Jackson '74

These two Pards met each other on a ride to Heathrow Airport. Nettler and her husband had just completed a 12-night Viking ocean cruise in Norway to see the northern lights (which they did)! As it turns out, Nettler and Jackson were staying in the same hotel in London. "It's a small world," Nettler says.

Richard Tancer '79

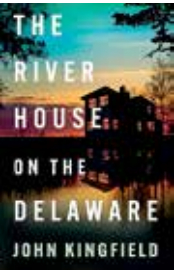
Tancer recently received an award from New Jersey Top Docs as one of this year's Top Docs. After graduating from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1984, Tancer has been a family doctor in Little Ferry, N.J., for 38 years; he's a member of the New Jersey Osteopathic Medical Society, which he served as its president from 2000-2001; and he has been actively teaching since 2008 at Touro School of Osteopathic Medicine in the family practice department and accepts students on rotation in his office.

Stanley Trout '73

Trout was featured in the current issue of *UK Magnetics Society MagNews*. The 10-questions article is a standard in this newsletter. It is half-serious and half-humorous.

Check this

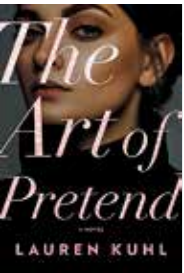
Lafayette alumni share their latest work.



The River House on the Delaware

By John Kingfield '69
Whitefox Publishing, 2024

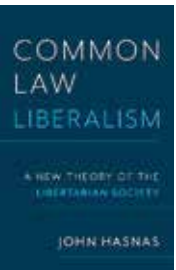
In his debut novel, Kingfield tells the fictional story of Terry Sanders, who is wrongfully charged with murder and needs to clear his name. Kingfield knows this arena well: As a Superior Court of New Jersey trial judge for 20-plus years, he also spent time as New Jersey deputy attorney general, county prosecutor, and partner in a law firm.



The Art of Pretend

By Lauren Kuhl '14
Graydon House, 2024

Kuhl's novel takes off after two longtime friends part ways. The lead character, Ren, stays behind in New York City and spends her summer agonizing about her "unremarkable" life—until a thrilling, albeit surprising, romantic relationship comes along.



Common Law Liberalism

By John Hasnas '74
Oxford University Press, 2024

Suitable for scholars and general readers, *Common Law Liberalism* suggests that the common law can provide all rules necessary for a peaceful, robust, and liberal society. Hasnas has a second book, *Questioning the Assumptions of Political Discourse: A Philosophical Analysis of Fundamental Concepts*, set to be published by Routledge next year.



The Coat Check Girl

By Laura Buchwald '92
Roan & Weatherford, 2024

The first in a three-book series, this ghost story takes place in the restaurant worlds of New York and New Orleans in the summer of 1999. Buchwald was inspired by the haunted house she grew up in, along with a spirited hangout she frequented in New York. Her follow-up novel will be set in fall of 2000.

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



President Jimmy Carter visited campus in 2013 to deliver the inaugural Robert '69 and Margaret Pastor Lecture in International Affairs. In his speech, "Reflections on Human Rights and Democracy," he discussed humanitarianism and peace onstage in front of Pardee Hall. He also acknowledged the policymaking efforts of his friend Robert Pastor (pictured, right), one of his top staffers and former White House aide.

1980s

Michael Beck '83

Beck writes, "After 40 years in Big Pharma, I retired and found a new passion: electric



bikes. Max's Electric Bikes was conceived this winter, and Max's Electric Bikes is already the largest e-bike only multi-brand retailer in the Northeast. Max's has four locations including Easton and Randolph, N.J., where I can be found. With over 300 e-bikes in inventory, Max's can get you rolling and active."

Bernie Fitzgerald '81

Fitzgerald writes, "For some 26 years now I have hosted a golf outing for an organization I co-founded in 1997, Breathing Room Foundation. Great friends from my Lafayette days attend each year. Lafayette alumni have been an invaluable part of the success of this event over the years. Two alumni are members

of the golf committee that helps organize our event." To learn more about the mission, check out breathingroomfoundation.org.

Rachel Nelson Moeller '88, P'21

Moeller writes, "As part of a work trip to Savannah, Ga., for the Girl Scouts May board meeting, I stayed a few days and had a fun weekend with Tim Moeller '88, Hayes Williams '88, and Eileen Daly Williams '88 eating and drinking our way through this awesome city—along with some history."

Loren Alexis Pierce '82

Pierce was selected to the 2024 New Jersey Super Lawyers List and included in two additional top tier rankings—Top 50: 2024 Women New Jersey Super Lawyers and Top 100: 2024 New Jersey Super Lawyers.



Margaret Rodriguez '84

Rodriguez writes, "On the weekend of April 26, we gathered in Durham, N.C., in support of Mary Kapur '84 and her husband, Nick '83. Mary is battling a brain tumor/central nervous system lymphoma. Despite these challenges, Mary is absolutely effusive about how 'buoyed' she has felt by the Lafayette family that has fully embraced her, Nick, and their four children over the past year. The many ways her Lafayette friends have come together to support her on every step of their difficult journey is simply without limit. It has reminded us of the strong and enduring Lafayette connections we

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHUCK ZOVKO

are so fortunate to enjoy as fellow alums."

Stephen Smetana '84

"It's never too late to start a bucket list," writes Smetana, who spent a couple of weeks in Africa this year and summited Mount Kilimanjaro on his birthday.



Gary Stoudt '85

Stoudt is retiring from his position as a professor of mathematics at Indiana University of Pennsylvania on June 28, 2024, after 33 years.

Art Williams '85

Williams visited Jim Siegel '84 in Sun Valley, Idaho, in February 2024.

1990s

Amanda Alpert Knight '99

Knight has joined Lumi Advisors as director of client assessment and advancement, beginning May 1, 2024. The role is responsible for working directly with clients, supporting them with a comprehensive client assessment process, as well as advising them on institutional grant opportunities and board strategies. Knight is an accomplished nonprofit executive with a track record of assessing and spearheading strategic planning, organizational improvement, and growth initiatives.



As the president and chief consultant at Alpert Educational Strategies, she advised various nonprofits, charter school networks, and organizations, driving sustainable and equitable change. Her expertise extends to cultivating growth and outcomes. With a career spanning over two decades, she has held pivotal roles such as chief executive officer at ASPIRA of Illinois, a community-based nonprofit that operates four charter schools and a youth center. Her diverse work portfolio includes Teach for America, leadership roles at Chicago Public Schools, and a number of other Chicago nonprofit organizations.

Audrey Twyman Langan '96

Langan writes that she met up with Jennifer Riddle Harding '96, Jessica Leas '96, and Kristine Zeigler '96 in San Diego in March for a long weekend of sightseeing, walking, eating, and catching up.

2000s

Stephen Chiger '01

Chiger is thrilled to announce his second book, this time a work of middle-grade fiction designed to teach media literacy skills. (Think *Encyclopedia Brown* and *The Phantom Tollbooth*.) *Gram and Gran Save the Summer* is co-authored with a dear friend, and he drew from some of his experience editing *The Lafayette*. More at stevechiger.com/gram-and-gran.



Allison Summer Colella '09 Colella, husband Joe (Penn State '06), and big sister Abigail welcomed Emily Joan on March 11, 2024.

D. Patrick Gallagher '09

Gallagher and wife Jaclyn welcomed daughter Willa Eileen Gallagher to the world in December 2023.



Dwayne A. Thomas '01

Thomas recently appeared with Melissa Joan Hart in the Lifetime movie *The Bad Guardian* directed by Claudia Myers.

2010s

Ellen Armour '18 and Kevin Albagli '18

Linda Armour '89 writes that Lafayette alumni spanning over 62 years (1960 to 2022) were on hand to celebrate the union of Armour and Albagli in Media, Pa., on April 27, 2024.

Kevin Eherts '14

Chemical engineering/international studies dual degree major Eherts is currently a technical lead for wind turbine repair deployment at GE Renewable Energy. Eherts works with engineers to develop and implement tools and processes for installing and repairing onshore wind turbines, as well as training new regions on repair capabilities.



NOMINATED FOR AN EMMY

Praise for sports documentary by Rebecca Mulford '12

A documentary produced by Rebecca Mulford for CNN was nominated for an Emmy in the 45th annual Sports Emmy Award Competition. *Blindsided*, which was acknowledged in the "Outstanding Journalism" category, is about how the story of ex-NFL player Michael Oher may have been inaccurately portrayed in the film *The Blind Side*. Mulford's documentary is available to stream on MAX.

Nick Ferenchak '10

Ferenchak, an assistant professor in the civil engineering department at University of New Mexico, was selected as director of a new \$15-million U.S. Department of Transportation university transportation center, the Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety (CPBS). The goal of CPBS is to eliminate pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and serious injuries; it pursues that goal through research, education, technology transfer, and workforce development. CPBS partner universities include San Diego State University, University of California Berkeley, University of Tennessee Knoxville, and University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. If any Lafayette alumni are interested in pursuing a graduate degree in transportation, please reach out to Ferenchak.

Renee Gallo '14 and Phil Hathaway '13

Gallo and Hathaway welcomed their daughter, Mara Gallo-Hathaway, on March 28, 2024. Born seven weeks early, Mara has already shown her strength and determination.

Amanda Magadan Golini '17

Golini will represent the United States as a member of the U.S. Women's National Field Hockey Team during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

Christine Caputo Howland '10

Howland and husband Andrew welcomed a new baby. Their new baby's name is John. He was born on Feb. 14, a Valentine's baby!

Gina Hunt '14

Hunt and husband Harrison welcomed a baby boy, Hugo, into their family in April.

Jane Kirby '19

Kirby married Michael FitzMaurice (Lehigh University) in May. Wedding guests included more than 30 Lafayette alumni, along with surprise visits from Roary the Leopard and Clutch the Mountain Hawk.

Matthew Klinewski '18 and Victoria Klinewski '18

The Klinewskis welcomed their first child, Beatrice, in March of 2024 in Milwaukee. Matthew graduated with a master's in nursing in 2023 with his future set as a family nurse practitioner. Victoria



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.



↑ One of the highlights from Reunion 2024 was when alumni groups gathered inside Colton Chapel for a new event called Reunion Rally. During the session, they learned about College updates and listened to a Q&A between President Nicole Hurd and Robert E. Sell '84, H'18, chair of the Board of Trustees. The Class of 1979, in their coordinated tie-dye shirts, were easy to spot.

graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin in May of 2024 with her eyes set on anesthesiology.

Jonathan Maschio '17 and Jessica Goodman '19

Maschio and Goodman got married at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh on Sept. 23, 2023. They were absolutely delighted to be joined by fellow Lafayette alumni as well as their loving family and friends!



James Onorevole '17

In May, Onorevole graduated from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Master of Public Administration and an M.S. in library science.

Amanda Pisetzner '10

Emmy award-winning producer, Emmy-nominated writer, and documentary storyteller Pisetzner returned to campus in April to share career advice with students and discuss *Backgrounded*, a docu-story she produced and directed for Showtime about housing inequity in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. Pisetzner currently works as a supervising producer and director at VICE News. At Lafayette, she was an English and social justice double major, whose work with the Landis Center focused on the lived experiences of low-income and incarcerated women. Pisetzner's visit centered on the interdisciplinarity of



PHOTOGRAPH BY RANDY MONCEAUX

her career through a series of discussions with students about translating English degrees into nontraditional careers.

Fabian Rogers '17

Rogers has been accepted as a fellow at the National Urban Fellowship (NUF) Master of Policy Management (MPM) Program at Georgetown University. National Urban Fellows is a leadership accelerator and talent pipeline for early to mid-career professionals committed to equity, public service, and social impact. NUF's program cultivates and prepares the social impact leaders of tomorrow by combining an interdisciplinary curriculum with practical work experience and mentoring by a senior leader to give emerging leaders the skills and network they need to successfully drive social change. During his time as a National Urban Fellow, Rogers is most interested in exploring the quantitative skills of policy analysis, data analysis, and research to supplement his stakeholder strategy development, organizing, and advocacy skills. He's looking to expand his expertise from community advocacy to direct political governance, transforming experiential knowledge into political power and preemptive community protection.

Chris Shumeyko '10

Shumeyko and Mary Kate Gladstone tied the knot on Jan. 20, 2024, in Cleveland surrounded by family, friends, and several Leopards.



Alumni Memoriam

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

1949

Floyd Charles Johnson
Ralph K. Magee

1950

Joseph C. Andress P'76,'81
Robert P. Christman
Robert N. Clark Jr. P'84
Roland Doan Jr. P'81, GP'16
Gen. Alfred M. Gray Jr.
Stephen M. Oakley

1951

Kurt O. Wassen

1952

Henry G. Conkey Jr.
Foster Q. Doan
Hugh H. Jones Jr. P'78
Dennis R. Tryon

1953

Paul D. Caravetta
Frederick M. Palfrey

1954

H. Eugene Harrison
Eugene C. McCreary
Robert C. Williams

1955

Stuart Rothkopf
Martin L. Scott
Frank Scymanski
Dr. Richard Van Blerkom

1956

E. W. "Bill" Cromey P'88
Thomas E. Purdom

1957

Gary A. Evans
Dr. Howard A. Platt
Anthony F. Presto
William E. Webster

1958

Walter W. "Bill" Meek
Charles S. "Chot" Smith

1959

Edwin J. Case

1960

Edward Stuart Kronenberg III
Joseph H. Roediger
William David Wister

1961

Dale G. Adams
Dr. Robert E. Detweiler
Roger E. Rader
John P. Santoro

1964

Dr. William A. Lampe
Douglas A. Mabon

1965

John B. Hench

1966

Joseph R. Addabbo
Robert S. Brown
Gerald W. Miller
Jeffrey K. Weigel

1967

Frank Aikman III
Jeffrey P. Weaver
Roger S. Young

1968

Robert L. Zirinsky P'95,'98

1969

Gregory A. Hutch

1970

Dr. Robert S. Meyer
C. Gregory Watts

1973

Dr. Jacek "Jack" Maria Herchold

1975

J. Scott Rickard

1977

Daniel F. Bolebruch
Kenneth Charles Fordham Jr.
Russell J. Neithammer Jr.

1980

Ellen Senkowski
Gray P'10,'12
Peter Herries
Richard J. Pistolas

1981

Robert S. Barnett
Kathleen A. Dadey
Robert A. Hough
Margaret "Ellen" Quinn

1983

Harry V. Keefe III P'12

1986

Deirdre Egan
Graham

1989

Jacqueline Stefanak

1990

Travis A. Horn

1993

Karen S. Lambert

2002

Neil J. Landwehr

FACULTY/STAFF

Kenneth E. Brader III
Joseph Shieber
Robert Thomas
John A. "Jack" Weasner Sr.

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

The couple currently reside in Pittsburgh where Chris works in artificial intelligence and Mary Kate works in child health care.

Jack Standbridge '18
Standbridge attended a family wedding on March 23, 2024, at the Annapolis Waterfront Hotel to celebrate Katherine Standbridge

and Dylan McCrea. He writes, "We took a Lafayette photo with 12 alums across three generations: Keith Standbridge '81, Lori Brightley '81, Bill

Brightley '81, Sue Duvall '81, Phil Duvall '81, Cam Warner '81, Kathy Warner '82, Marybeth Standbridge '83, Peter Standbridge '55, Jack Standbridge '18, Steve Standbridge '86, and Christine Standbridge '85.”

Hailey Votta '15
Votta, husband Travis Barr, and their son, Holden, are excited to announce a new addition to their family, Reagan Elizabeth, born on March 9. The family of four is happy and healthy. Grandfather Hugh Davidson “Dave” Barr '65 is looking forward to spending the summer with his two grandkids.

Aaron Walker '18
Walker, MPH, M.D., will be starting his residency at Rutgers University, New Jersey Medical School in internal medicine on July 1. As a Lafayette student, Walker was a member of the Forensics Society and was a national quarterfinalist (top 24 in the nation). He is the first Lafayette student to win three state oratorical championships during his collegiate career. He graduated with dual degrees in biochemistry and policy studies.



THEN & NOW

The longtime home to Theta Delta Chi fraternity on Sullivan Lane was transformed to be the History Department’s new headquarters in 2006. Named Ramer History House, after Lawrence J. '50, H '92 and Ina Lee Ramer, the Georgian-style building had four signature columns replaced, plus porch renovations, in 2022 to help preserve its charm.



Ingrid Warner Whitley '11
In January, Whitley began a new role as the president and CEO of the Park City Education Foundation, a nonprofit that funds and supports educator-powered initiatives that inspire all Park City students to reach their academic and lifelong potential.

2020s

Haley Finn '24
Finn graduated summa cum laude with a major in psychology and a minor in women, gender, and sexuality studies. During her time at Lafayette, she served as vice president of diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as director of education within the DEI department of Alpha Phi, Eta Sigma. She was also employed by the Lafayette College Writing Program as a writing associate. Finn is looking forward to working as a corporate case assistant at Nutter, where she will be able to explore the legal field in preparation for her Juris Doctor degree.



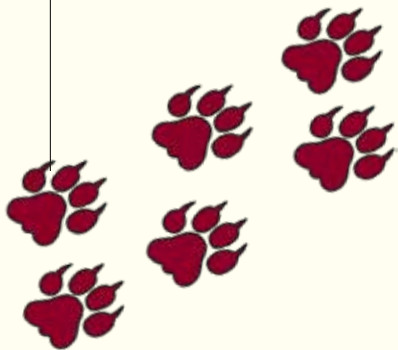
Chirag Nijjer '20
Nijjer will be joining the Google for Startups Accelerator program as a 2024 mentor. Through the program, Nijjer will be supporting the broader accelerator community on topics like growth marketing, brand development, and people/



process management. Nijjer works for Google as a Platinum Customer Success lead for some of the world’s largest brands and also is an accomplished speaker (ChiragSpeaks.com), where he presents at global conferences and creates content for his online audience of more than 60,000.

Katherine Weimann Potter '20
Potter graduated with her master’s in civil engineering from Lehigh University in May 2024. She has also completed her research on deep foundation designs developed in cohesive soils to support offshore wind energy structures and is submitting her report for journal and/or conference paper publication. This June, she will be working as a geotechnical engineer at Langan Engineering and Environmental Services Inc. and will be working on a variety of geotechnical engineering projects in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Madi Wahrmund '22 and Steven Stilianos '22
Wahrmund wrote that she and Stilianos are getting married on April 13, 2024, surrounded by fellow Lafayette alums!



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES AND ADAM ATKINSON; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

Marquis Olympian

Return of the Olympics this summer brings back the memory of Al LeConey, Class of 1923, who made history in Paris a century ago.

BY BILL LECONY

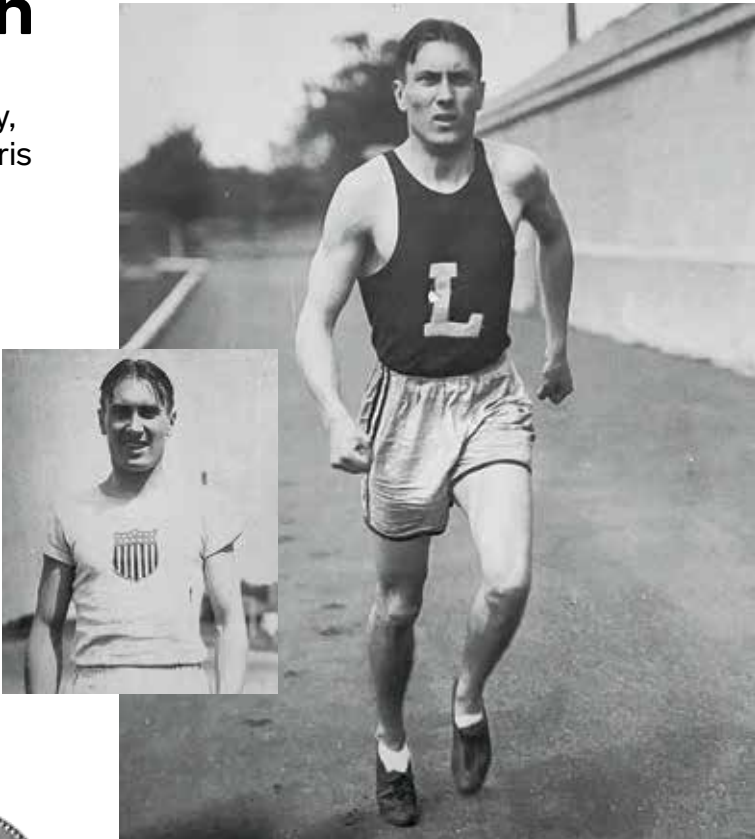
WRITE US *Who is your favorite Lafayette athlete of all time? Tell us at lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu.*

J. Alfred “Al” LeConey was a track star who won numerous college sprint titles at Lafayette. After his time on College Hill, he ran the anchor leg for the American 4x100-meter relay team at the 1924 Summer Olympics, which took the gold medal with a world record time of 41 seconds. —>



—> LeConey received an unusual honor when a picture of him in the starting blocks was used by the U.S. Post Office to develop a 3-cent stamp commemorating the 1932 Olympics. His nephew, William W. LeConey '55, wrote the following in a letter published by *Sports Illustrated* in November, 1981: “When I was a student at Lafayette before my uncle’s death in 1959, it was traditional to ask pledges at Sigma Alpha Epsilon, our mutual fraternity, to name the only living American on a postage stamp. The answer: Al LeConey.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Bill LeConey is a longtime sports and news journalist currently based in Vermont. Al LeConey is his father’s uncle.



—> A number of items related to LeConey’s achievements are housed in Lafayette’s Special Collections at Skillman Library, including the gold medal and accompanying diploma, event program, scrapbook, and a porcelain Olympic commemorative vase.



—> Al LeConey surges across the finish line at Yves-du-Manoir stadium to capture the gold medal at the 1924 Olympics. The race also included Harold Abrahams, the great British sprinter later immortalized in the 1981 Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*, which tells another story of those same Olympics. One century after LeConey’s historic win, this same stadium will welcome another U.S. Olympian from Lafayette: Amanda Magadan Golini '17, who will compete in field hockey there.



COLLECTIVE ENDEAVORS

Through innovative work on several engineering projects, Remy Oktay '24 has redefined the typical learning experience.

BY MARGARET WILSON

● AND...

From the outside, it appears as if Remy Oktay '24 is a one-person powerhouse.


After all, the engineering studies and environmental studies double major and data science minor has completed an impressive number of projects during his time at Lafayette. At the start of his education, he spent around 2,000 hours converting a school bus into a tiny home outfitted with modular cabinets, a composting toilet, and solar panels to power appliances and electronics. In 2022, he conducted what's presumed to be the first electric plane flyover of a sporting event—at the 158th Rivalry home game versus the Mountain Hawks, no less—and installed a new kind of tree swing throughout campus to celebrate Earth Month. As the 2024 George Wharton Pepper Prize winner, Oktay has made it clear he knows how to get a project done.

But the signature of Oktay's work is what you can't see: Collaboration is at the heart of every endeavor. Oktay understands that he's not working in a vacuum.

"I just really enjoy the process of taking an idea, taking that little wave, and bumping it up against other people's little tiny waves until you make a bigger wave," Oktay says. "And then you execute the project, and you reflect on it and eventually come up with a new idea. I really like that process of innovating, acting, and reflecting."

Oktay knew from the outset he wanted to go to a school that combined the technical aspects of engineering with the collaborative nature of liberal arts.

"I never saw myself as a rote engineer, in the very defined use of the term," Oktay says. "I always saw myself as someone who had an understanding of engineering and the ability to apply it to whatever problem I might be facing." As a Creative and Performing Arts Scholar and Dyer Center Innovation Lead, he brings engineering prowess, environmentalism, and social consciousness to his work.

After graduation, he began working with the Lafayette Patent Program on the next phase of his tree swings. Oktay is planning to patent the technology and launch a company that will bring them to other campuses and green spaces across the country. 

FOR MORE *Learn about Oktay's plane project and see his Fisher Stadium flyover at magazine.lafayette.edu/plane.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON

Stay Connected with Classmates!

Join alumni from around the world and across generations who are celebrating new jobs, exciting career news, awards, marriages, births and so much more on classnotes.lafayette.edu.



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!



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OCTOBER 25-27, 2024

SAVE THE DATE!

This fall, **Homecoming 2024** and **Family Weekend** are taking place at one special time. Join alumni, families, and students during the inaugural Fall Weekend on College Hill.

Additional information, including registration and schedule, will be available later this summer.
