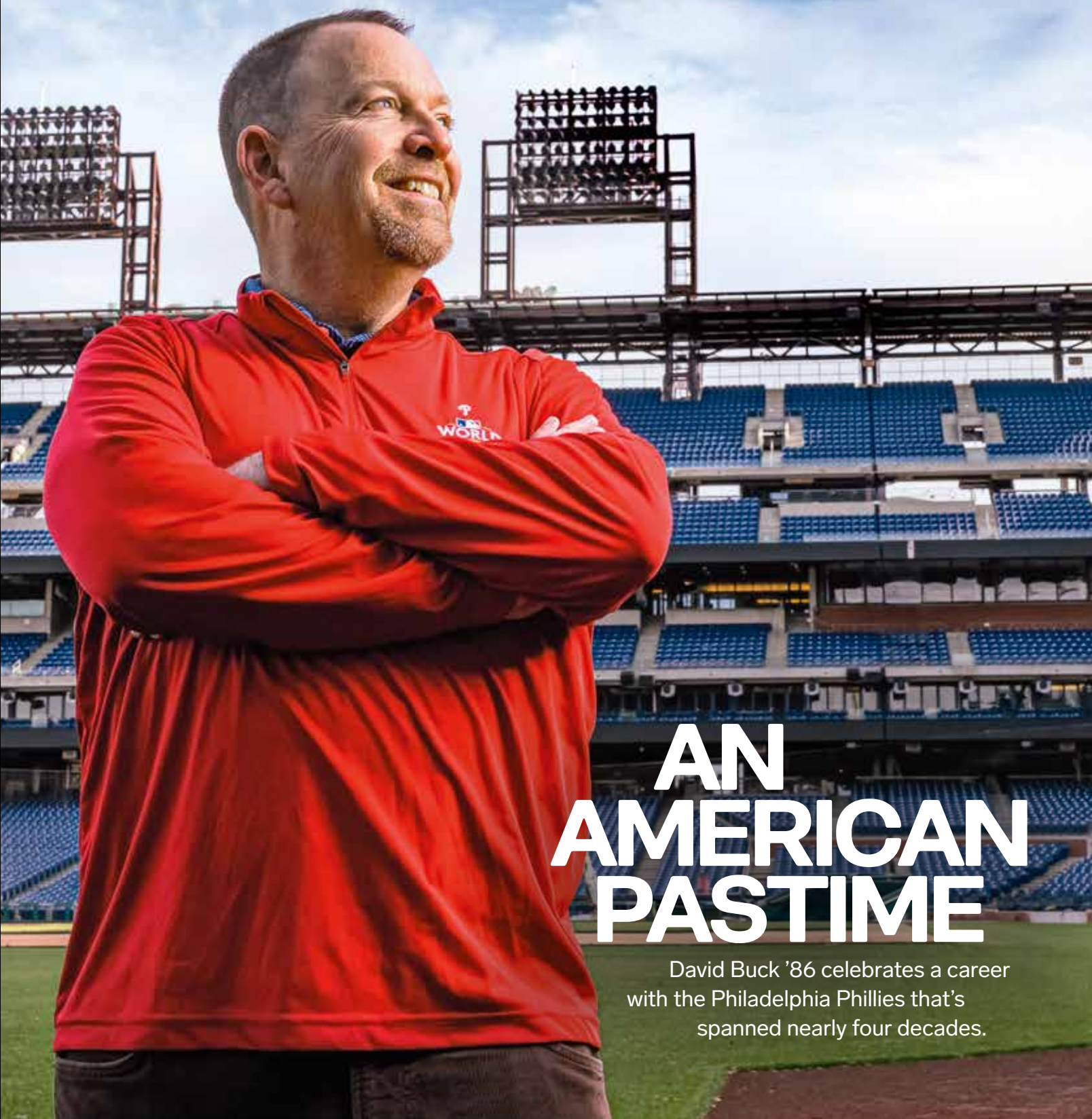


FROM NEPAL, WITH LOVE ♦ FLUNEY HUTCHINSON'S WEST BALTIMORE PROJECT ♦ 2025 TRAVEL TRENDS
RECORD LAF APPLICATIONS ♦ STUDENT SIDE HUSTLES ♦ EV INDUSTRY INSIGHTS ♦ STAR PARD SPRINTER

Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING 2025



AN AMERICAN PASTIME

David Buck '86 celebrates a career
with the Philadelphia Phillies that's
spanned nearly four decades.

THE **BICENTENNIAL** OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

The College will soon be celebrating 200 years, and we invite you to be part of the exciting plans to commemorate this historic anniversary. Special programs and activities will be taking place through fall 2026, beginning with an array of campus events **Sept. 26-28, 2025**.

See the plans today and learn about new announcements as they emerge at lafayette.edu/bicentennial.



LAFAYETTE

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SPRING 2025



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AN AMERICAN PASTIME
After spending his career with the Phillies, David Buck '86 reflects on the evolving business of baseball.

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COVER PHOTO AND THIS PAGE ADAM ATKINSON

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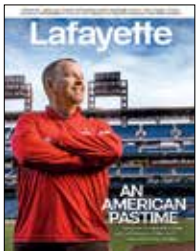
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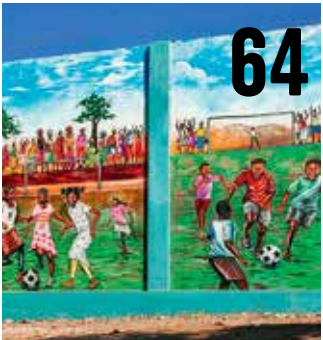
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David Buck '86 most recently served as the Philadelphia club's executive vice president.



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON; (MURAL) JOSEY MLANGO; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA



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LAFAYETTE



Points of intersection

While editing this issue, I noticed stories intertwining. It started with highlighting winter externships [p. 13] where Lafayette students have a chance to take in the work of others. Hosting externs, like many alumni do, was something that David Buck ’86 felt strongly about: Over the years with the Philadelphia Phillies, he welcomed a total of 34 students to shadow him. In Buck’s profile, “An American pastime” [p. 28], he recalls checking out a ballpark blueprint in Baltimore’s Camden Yards. Coincidentally, Gladstone “Fluney” Hutchinson also found inspiration there through the Economic Empowerment and Global Learning Project [p. 42]. When Adam Atkinson, director of photography and videography, joined Hutchinson for a West Baltimore tour in February, he snapped a photo of the intersection bearing the College’s namesake (above). One mile away from that spot is Edgar Allan Poe’s former home, where he did a lot of writing. As explained on p. 49, Poe served as a lookout during the Marquis de Lafayette’s Farewell Tour. (More about celebrating the tour on p. 21.) This “magazine matrix” wasn’t intentional, or perfect, but a reminder nonetheless about the fun of finding connections. —Amy Downey, editor, *Lafayette* magazine

David Gambacorta
“An American pastime,” p. 28



As an investigative reporter and editor at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, David Gambacorta is more than familiar with the Philly sports scene. (Gambacorta also worked as a *Philadelphia* magazine senior reporter and *Philadelphia Daily News* staff writer.) In his feature about David Buck ’86 and the Phillies, he explores Buck’s career arc alongside the evolving business of baseball.

Emily Graf
“West Baltimore rising” p. 42



For the opening spread of “West Baltimore rising,” Lafayette College graphic designer Emily Graf selected Adam Atkinson’s landscape shot of a critical, if not complex, crossroads in Charm City: Pennsylvania and North avenues. By utilizing two full pages of the magazine to display the street photography, Graf offers readers instant access to see the cityscape.

Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING 2025

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Forward together

Chip Bergh ’79, H’22 is the first guest on the new “Third Century Conversations” podcast.

NH: Welcome back to campus, and to this gorgeous new podcast studio in Skillman Library. You spent the morning talking to faculty and students—why did you decide to come back?
CB: As I stepped down from being CEO at Levi’s, I’ve been reflecting on life experiences. Lafayette has a special place in my heart because of the impact it had on me. I benefited from a liberal arts education and learning in an interdisciplinary way, and that’s stayed with me.

NH: As a CEO, trustee, and somebody who loves the College, how do you think we should go into Lafayette’s Bicentennial and third century?
CB: The world is moving very quickly, and the pace of innovation is accelerating. I ran a company that is more than 170 years old. We’ve been making blue jeans for a long time, and a big piece of our [longevity] was innovation. If we don’t disrupt ourselves, we will be disrupted.

NH: We just had the biggest first-year application pool in College history, which is exciting. But, to your point, we can’t rest on our laurels.
CB: This is why I’m so excited about the strategic plan—it boldly asserts that we need to change.
NH: What are you most excited about in the strategic plan?
CB: The pillar around technology and democracy, because each one of those, independently, I can get pretty excited about, but it’s the combination of the two of them together that is very important.

NH: When thinking about technology and democracy in a liberal arts context, isn’t it our obligation to deliver an education that allows students to be critical thinkers?
CB: If students can leave here with a sense of purpose, then that has enormous spillover. There’s an importance to moral leadership and having a strong ethical backbone.

NH: Our teachers are really teacher-scholars. You see that in the Bergh Family Fellows Program—not only do they mentor, but they are bringing students into their cutting-edge research.
CB: Yes, these faculty members are committed to research and breaking new ground. We should power that through the capital campaign, and through the strategic plan. We have an opportunity to really distance ourselves.

NH: Sometimes, when people think of liberal arts colleges, they think of them as small. But I think of them as having an oversized impact. Our alumni live lives of purpose.
CB: I’m a “brand guy,” and I think about Lafayette as a “brand” and how much value it creates. My degree took me far beyond anything I ever expected I was going to do when I left the school. I am so grateful for it. We are the institution that we are because we have not been afraid to innovate.

NH: We are putting some real flags in the ground with the strategic plan. It’s bold, but if we do it together we can accomplish something amazing at this inflection moment.
CB: I’m all in.



GET TO KNOW CHIP BERGH ’79 H’22

In 2011, Bergh joined Levi Strauss & Co. as president and CEO, before retiring in 2024. Prior to that, he spent nearly 30 years at Procter & Gamble. After graduating from Lafayette, the U.S. Army officer was stationed in West Germany at the height of the Cold War. In 2019, *Fortune* magazine named Bergh one of the “World’s Greatest Leaders.”

EXPERTISE
Brand management, general management, and executive leadership.

NOTEWORTHY
In 2022, Bergh and his wife, Juliet, contributed \$5.25 million to start the Bergh Family Fellows program, an initiative to improve student access to experiential learning opportunities, including study abroad, research, and internships.

FOR FUN
Bergh, who holds a degree in international affairs, is a senior lecturer at Harvard Business School. He’s also chairman of the board at HP.

TUNE IN
Listen to Bergh’s full interview at news.lafayette.edu/third-century-conversations.





LEOPARD'S PRINT

I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed “A Leopard’s legacy” [*Fall 2024, p. 42*]. Bryan Hay’s catchy opening lines of “spots, swagger, and stealth” coupled with Diane Shaw’s note of the “Lafayette Leopard” alliterative properties caught my literary attention. That Hay tracked down 90-year-old alum Richard Faust ’56 and three others to get their perspectives on playing “Roary” added historical and personal touches. The piece shows us that school spirit is still alive and flourishing among Lafayette fans and friends.

ARTHUR GOLDSMITH '71
Denmark, Maine

I was the Leopard from fall 1985 through spring 1986. The fall was my off-season for track and field, and the cheerleaders ran an ad in the school paper seeking a Leopard. I was their sole response and got the job. In fall 1985, the marching band did a song from *Superman*, and I donned the cape and ran around Fisher Field during the performance. Otherwise,



I was interacting with fans, students, and alumni during football games. In addition to supporting the cheers for their pyramids, I was the base. I annoyed opposing mascots, especially “Bucky the Bison” from Bucknell. That fall 1985 season, I traveled with the team and cheerleaders to Annapolis, Md., for a game against Navy. The Midshipmen tried to kidnap me to pass me up the stands but thought better of it when they realized I was a 6-foot-4-inch track athlete. They took a majorette instead. That spring, the baseball team invited the Philly Phanatic to Metzgar Fields between games of a doubleheader. I attempted to play the Phanatic’s foil, but was no match against him and that ATV. After my year in the suit, the suit was then donned by John Wilkins ’89.
Mark H. Plager '87

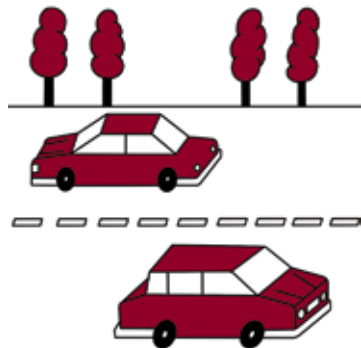
Picture perfect

Thank you very much for the photo of the leopard statue [*“In All the World,” p. 54*]. My son is a junior at Lafayette, and I frame those photos and give them to him.
Tracey Mondul

Garden oasis

I read the Fall 2024 issue of *Lafayette* magazine and article titled “Outdoor wonder” [*p. 49*] about Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Fla.,

and its CEO Jennifer Ozdoba Rominiecki ’95. I’ve lived in Sarasota since January 2023, and Selby is one of my favorite local attractions. I’ve enjoyed bringing my family members to Selby when they visit me from northern New Jersey. I did not hesitate to try out its restaurant, The Green Orchid, as it is 100% powered by solar energy. I have taken sustainability-related courses during my time at Lafayette including EGRS 352: Energy Technology and the

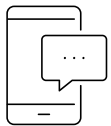


PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MARK PLAGER '87
ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

Modern World and VAST 203: Sustainability of Built Systems, and this would have been a great topic for discussion for these classes. I was happy to learn that Jennifer is a Lafayette alumna.
Amos Han '14

Congrats Jennifer and Selby Gardens team on this recognition! I am a local Lafayette alum in Sarasota, Fla., and we have been members and proud supporters of Selby Gardens for over a decade.
Jeff Gundersen '68

1974 Lafayette grad, Florida transplant, and member of the Selby Gardens here. So proud of Jennifer and what she’s done with Selby! She’s been incredible through so many challenges, always ending up with a great result. Congrats, Jennifer!
Michele Boardman Grimes '74



ON THE WEB

I had Prof. Rosie Bukics in the early 1980s, and she was a terrific teacher and adviser. Congratulations and enjoy retirement!

-Tracy Haines Gibley '84

The dangers of gambling

Thank you for the article “Exploring the odds” [*Fall 2024, p. 16*] by Madeline Marriott. I came across *Lafayette* magazine in the waiting area of a VA hospital. It is an excellent article and very eye-opening relative to the impact of sports betting on college student-athletes.
Terry Krysl

The barrage of ads on TV, radio, and social media offering “free” hundreds of dollars on small winning bets is clearly designed to hook kids. I acknowledge that not all college students will have an interest in sports betting, but some definitely will. Love this idea for a course and will definitely recommend my son take it.
Jennifer Ellen Oliver-Goodwin



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.

Bill Tucker ’81 writes: “As we celebrate the Leopard, this photo from Homecoming 1989 of my wife, Barb Strasburg Tucker ’84, and my then 3-year-old son, Nick Tucker ’08, is one of my favorites.”



PHOTOGRAPH (LEOPARD) COURTESY OF BILL TUCKER '81; (LOTTERY) ADAM ATKINSON



FOR MORE
Check out the latest content from news.lafayette.edu

- › **Faculty research**
Prof. Susan Averett explores how Daylight Saving Time affects mental health.
- › **Beyond the classroom**
Ellie Spencer ’26 and Kate Marrs ’26 search for Alaskan fossils with Prof. Dave Sunderlin.
- › **Academic life**
Wall Street work inside the new J.H. Tarbell Lab on campus.



PATRIOT LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the Lafayette field hockey team on its 2024 conference title.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



Lineke Spaans '25 named Lafayette field hockey's first-ever First Team All-American



100th career victory for Head Coach **Jennifer Stone '04**

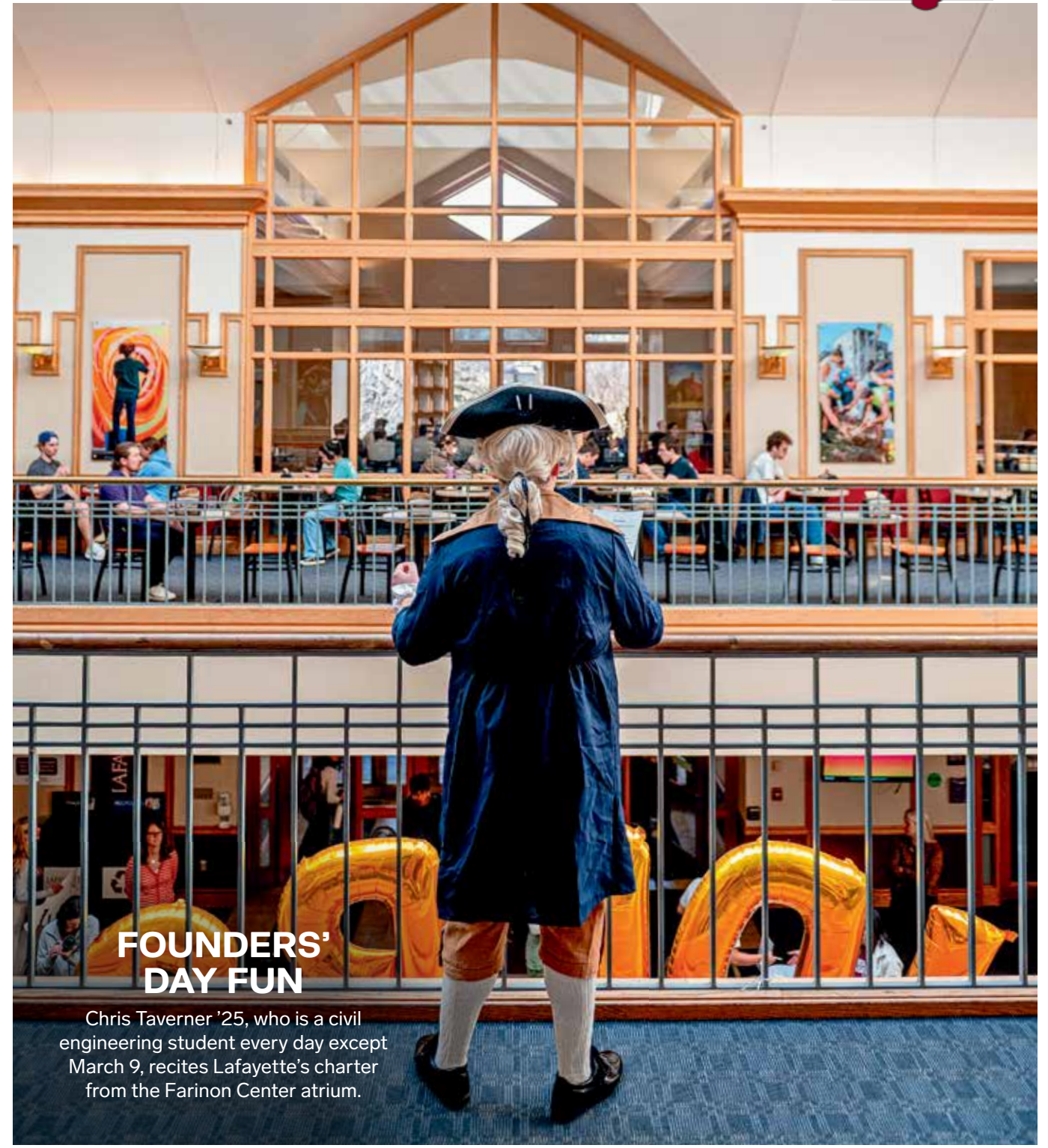
- ▶ First-round playoff berth to the 2024 Division I Field Hockey Championship
- ▶ Program ranked No. 21 in the nation
- ▶ Four Leopards earned NFCA DI All-Mideast Region honors
- ▶ Six All-Patriot League selections, the highest in the conference

INSIDE

Noteworthy news and happenings on campus. **p. 10**—Alumni endow professorship, gift \$5 million. **p. 11**—Field hockey's Patriot League championship and first All-American. **p. 15**—Record-breaking College applications.



On the Hill



FOUNDERS' DAY FUN

Chris Taverner '25, who is a civil engineering student every day except March 9, recites Lafayette's charter from the Farinon Center atrium.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON

ACADEMICS

New professorship announced

The Birle Family Endowed Professorship in Interdisciplinary Scholarship and Research was recently established to strengthen the College’s already robust interdisciplinary opportunities—a key pillar of Lafayette’s strategic plan and academic mission. “Our hope is that this professorship will create opportunities for faculty and students to collaborate in new ways, explore research between disciplines, and create solutions for our communities,” says Jim Birle Jr. ’83, P’16, who has served as a member of Lafayette’s Board of Trustees since 2008. “We are inspired by the vision in the strategic plan that builds on and elevates this distinctive strength of the College.”

COMMENCEMENT

MK Asante ’04 named speaker

Bestselling author, award-winning filmmaker, recording artist, and distinguished professor MK Asante ’04 will deliver the keynote address for Lafayette’s 190th Commencement ceremony for the Class of 2025, May 24. “It is my honor to welcome distinguished alumnus MK Asante home as our Commencement speaker,” President Hurd says. “He has an extraordinary gift for inspiring others through language, music, and storytelling, and we are eager to have him back on campus to help empower our graduates as they begin an exciting new chapter of their own life stories.”



AWARDS

Fulbright praise

Lafayette has been ranked among the colleges and universities producing the most U.S. Fulbright students for the 2024-25 academic year, according to a February announcement by the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The awardees are:
› Johnathan Cresson ’24, English teaching assistantship (ETA) in Austria
› Evaline Bearce ’24, ETA in Germany
› Skye Loures ’24, ETA in North Macedonia
› Stefano Mancini ’20, ETA in Mexico
› Mariama Bah ’24, independent research in Brazil
› Elias Podber ’24, research and teaching English in Austria

LEADERSHIP

VP for Communications and Marketing

Kathryn Meier was hired as Lafayette’s new Vice President for Communications and Marketing, effective March 31. Her 20 years of leadership experience in higher education include recent roles at Drexel University and more than 15 years across different colleges and academic departments at her alma mater, University of Delaware. Since 2023, she has served as Vice Dean in the College of Engineering at Drexel University, and throughout her career, Meier has earned a reputation as an innovative strategist. In her new role with Lafayette, Meier will provide vision, leadership, and direction for communications and marketing strategies and programs that align with and advance the College’s mission and priorities.



SAVE THE DATE

Friday night lights

Lafayette football will compete under the lights at Fisher Stadium in the Leopards’ home opener versus Columbia University on Friday, Sept. 19. The last time College Hill hosted a night game was during the 2018 season.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF ASANTE; MEIER; REILLY



A March roundtable celebrated the recent scholarly and creative works of three faculty members: Lauren Meyers (psychology), Sun You (art), and Sayoran Chin (economics). Their presentations were followed by a Q&A moderated by Provost Laura McGrane.

J.B. Reilly ’83, P’16, 18 and wife, Kathleen P’16, 18, recently committed a \$5 million gift to bolster the impact of “Becoming Lafayette: A Vision for Our Third Century,” Lafayette’s new strategic plan. “We want to lift the plan’s tremendous promise for our students and take to another level the education I so valued as an undergraduate,” Reilly says.



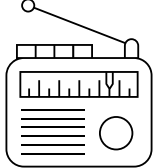
BUILDINGS

LEED recognition

McCartney II has officially achieved a LEED Silver certification for sustainable building design and construction, an internationally recognized award based on U.S. Green Building Council ratings. The residence hall, which opened in 2024, has 53 suites and 166 beds, with 34 four-bedroom suites, two three-bedroom suites, seven two-bedroom suites, and 10 singles.



PHOTOGRAPH BY (FACULTY, MCCARTNEY) ADAM ATKINSON; (SPAANS) RICK SMITH



DID YOU KNOW?

The “JRH” in Radio Lafayette’s WJRH call letters is in honor of James Renwick Hogg, Class of 1878, the donor of Hogg Hall.



ATHLETICS

First All-American

Senior midfielder Lineke Spaans (pictured) was named Lafayette field hockey’s first-ever First Team All-American, following the National Field Hockey Coaches Association’s (NFHCA) announcement of 48 Division I student-athletes as 2024 NFHCA All-Americans. The 2024 Patriot League champions closed out the season with their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2012.

DISCOVERY

Women in chemistry

Jaly Chimbo Macancela ’26 and a group of Lafayette College students recently established a chapter of Iota Sigma Pi, the national honor society for women in chemistry, in the Lehigh Valley. Iota Sigma Pi advances women in chemistry by providing leadership, mentoring, and networking opportunities. “As a first-generation student, I grew up without role models in higher education and have faced moments when my ideas were overlooked. This is why fostering an inclusive and supportive scientific community is so important,” Chimbo Macancela says. Future events may include a career panel and research poster session to prepare for the American Chemical Society spring conference.

FACULTY

Retirement news

Simon Cameron Long Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, P.E., Mary Roth is set to retire this year. Roth '83 has many accomplishments at Lafayette, including being the first female graduate to receive a tenured position at the College (1999); first female department head in engineering (2003); and first female chaired professor in engineering (2006).



COMMUNITY

Singing for good

In January, Michaela McCusker '27 founded the Firth Center Youth Choir in Phillipsburg, N.J., for kids in second through eighth grades. McCusker has long wanted to find a way to use her love of music to help the community; after learning about children's literacy issues—for example, only one of three Pennsylvania students are proficient in reading by fourth grade—she wanted to leverage music education. By reading sheet music, analyzing lyrics, and practicing unfamiliar words during weekly meetings, McCusker hopes the nontraditional approach will help local students with both reading and singing skills.

ATHLETICS

Senior hoops highlights

Guard Abby Antognoli '25 became the 21st player in Lafayette women's basketball history to reach 1,000 points after a three-point bucket

from the corner in Lafayette's matchup against Monmouth in early December. The Bayhead, N.J., economics major capped her career with 1,301 points and 357 assists, ranking her ninth in all-time scoring and fifth in assists.

Justin Vander Baan '25 (pictured) was honored as the Patriot League Men's Basketball Defensive Player of the Year. The Northbridge, Mass., native blocked 82 shots in 2024-25, ranking him third in the nation in blocks per game at the conclusion of the Leopards' season. The psychology major finished his career second in Lafayette history for blocks (191).

Both Antognoli and Vander Baan earned Academic All-Patriot League Team honors.



TECHNOLOGY

ITS podcast returns

Tune in to some tech talk with "Coffee Break," a recently relaunched podcast from Lafayette College's information technology services division. The podcast, now hosted by instructional technologist Chelsea Emrick and web developer Jim Nicnick, covers innovations and topics in the tech sphere at Lafayette, other institutions, and beyond. Listen to all episodes at: sites.lafayette.edu/coffeebreak.

Lafayette swimming and diving teams broke 17 school records (11 individual, six relay) at the 2025 Patriot League Championships. Kurtis Campbell '25 led with four individual marks while becoming the first Leopard since 2020 to crack the 1:40 time barrier in the 200 freestyle. Other Pardos who nabbed a pair of individual records include Peter Kawash '25 (200 IM, 100 back) and Maggie Ivie '25 (200 back, 200 free).



FACULTY

CAREER Award

Hydrologist Christa Kelleher '08, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, has received a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) award, the agency's most prestigious recognition of early-career faculty. The five-year \$489,451 award, which starts March 15, will support Kelleher's research documenting stream temperatures in the Delaware River watershed. The NSF CAREER grant "makes me feel like my research is recognized and valued by peers, and that my engagement of undergraduate researchers is valued by my research community," Kelleher says.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Wall Street Journal ranked Lafayette among the top liberal arts colleges in the Northeast in November.

PHOTOGRAPH BY (VANDER BAAN) HANNAH ALLY; (ROTH, KELLEHER) ADAM ATKINSON

FOUNDERS' DAY

Cheers to 199 years

Last month, Farinon was bustling as the on-campus community celebrated the College's founding anniversary. Across the country, Lafayette alumni gathered at 22 Wine and Dine 3/9 events to connect with other Pardos and remember their time on College Hill.



PHOTOGRAPH BY (FARINON, EXTERNSHIPS) ADAM ATKINSON; (FINK) GEOFFREY BERLINER

THE ARTS

Photo exhibit

The work of photographer Larry Fink is honored in a memorial exhibition, *In the Spirit of Empathy*, on view at Kirby Art Study Center located inside the Williams Center of the Arts through May 25. This exhibition was planned to coincide with his latest book launch, however he passed away in 2023. Fink has made Eastern Pennsylvania home since the 1970s; on campus in 2020, Fink discussed his work and the power of photography, saying that "no one person is more important than any other."



Externship recap

In January, hundreds of Lafayette students spent time in offices near and far to get a better understanding of industries. Here's what some had to say about Gateway Career Center's annual externship.



"I was interested in seeing the variety of art present. Having the chance to ask good questions to Deanna Evans '13 was a really cool experience."

—Ethan Riddle '25
Deanna Evans Projects
Tribeca, New York City

"This experience reaffirmed my decision to attend law school and pursue a career in civil rights litigation."

—Francesca Stix '25
Law Offices of Mark L. Goldstone '81 / Washington, D.C.



"My host, Lucy Kade '22, was incredible in giving us a well-rounded experience where we got to see many different jobs within the postproduction space."

—Isabella Gaglione '25
NBC Universal
Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

"I learned what kinds of things are important to me in a work environment."

—Zach Dickman '27
FMI Manufacturer in Allentown, Pa.



"My favorite part was getting to talk to Hon. Douglas Reichley '83 about his time through law school, serving at the federal level, and then going back to a judicial position."

—Liliana Roginski '25
Lehigh Valley Court of Common Pleas in Allentown, Pa.

FOR MORE Read the full story about student externship experiences by visiting: news.lafayette.edu/2025externships



IN THE MEDIA

PBS debut

The six-part docuseries called *The Class*, which was executive produced by actor Daveed Diggs and President Nicole Hurd, began airing on PBS in March. The series follows six students in the graduating class of 2021 at Deer Valley High School in Antioch, Calif., as they navigate challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The students are guided by the College Advising Corps, an organization founded by Hurd, which places recent

President Nicole Hurd led a panel discussion with faculty, staff, and local leaders from the arts and business sectors during the Nov. 20 visit by members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Tourism, Recreation & Economic Development Committee.



college graduates in underserved high schools to help steward students through the college application process.

EVENTS

Athletics golf outing

Save the date for the annual Maroon Club golf outing, June 16 at Northampton

Country Club in Easton, Pa. Last year, Lafayette friends and alumni raised a record-breaking total revenue of nearly \$110,000 to help support the College's 23 Division I teams. For more information or to register, reach out to Dan Cason, assistant athletic director for advancement, at casond@lafayette.edu or 610-330-5039.

BY THE NUMBERS

8

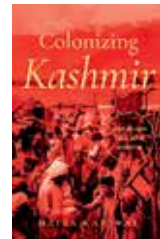
Number of electric vehicle charging stations on campus, with six of them located at Markle Parking Deck.

(THE CLASS) PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THREE FRAME MEDIA; (PRESIDENT HURD) ADAM ATKINSON; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

BOOKS

Faculty praise

Hafsa Kanjwal, associate professor of history, has been awarded the Bernard S. Cohen Prize for the "best first book on South Asia" by the Association for Asian Studies. Kanjwal's book, *Colonizing Kashmir*:



State-Building under India Occupation, was published in July 2023 by Stanford University Press. This year, she will begin her sabbatical to work on the research and writing for her new book, *Islam, Decolonization, and the Question of Kashmir*.

Kanjwal's latest research delves into the limits and possibilities of constructions of indigeneity in South and Central Asia, especially in the Muslim-majority region of Kashmir. As the keynote speaker delivering the Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Faculty Lecture on April 1, Kanjwal will highlight how strategic claims of indigeneity serve to justify military occupation, land grabs, and displacement.

IN THE NEWS

McDonogh Voice

A profile written about Brianna Braswell '16, associate director of admissions at Lafayette, is featured in the latest edition of *McDonogh Voice*. As a first-generation student who had to navigate the college admissions process for the first time, Braswell knows that establishing connections can set students up for success throughout their

"McKelvy Moss" is one of 18 colors dreamed up in the College's "Pantone Palette." To see more fun names like "Quad Burnt Orange" and "Pardee Peach," search for Lafayette College on Instagram, LinkedIn, and other social media platforms.



lives. "Everyone wants to belong. It's an innate need," says Braswell, who began working at Lafayette in 2016. "I think students are starting to focus on where they feel and find that fit."

Find Braswell's story, along with student and alumni profiles, by visiting: mcdonogh.lafayette.edu/issues.

THE ARTS

Poetry in nature

Three students in Prof. Sarah Appelhans' senior capstone seminar, "Engineering and Society," designed a new Karl Stirner Arts Trail exhibit that merges technology, art, nature, and wellness in a way the Easton community has never seen before. Eva Drotch '25, Don Bosco Haingura '25, and Emily Mastroly '25 spent the semester creating a blueprint for the Spoken Word Project—an art installation intended to showcase, and encourage trail visitors to interact with, poetry. Poets across Lafayette's campus, the Lehigh Valley, and the country will have the opportunity to submit their work to be shared with the general public.



ADMISSIONS

Future Leopards

A record-breaking 10,544 first-year applications were submitted for fall 2025 admission to Lafayette, marking the largest applicant pool in the institution's history.

ALUMNI

Dyer survey

The Dyer Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship wants to hear from alumni. By participating in the *Dyer Center Mentorship and Engagement Survey*, Pards can foster the next generation of visionaries by being a guest speaker, running a workshop, judging competitions, and mentoring students. The survey is found at: dyer.lafayette.edu/alumni-involvement.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON

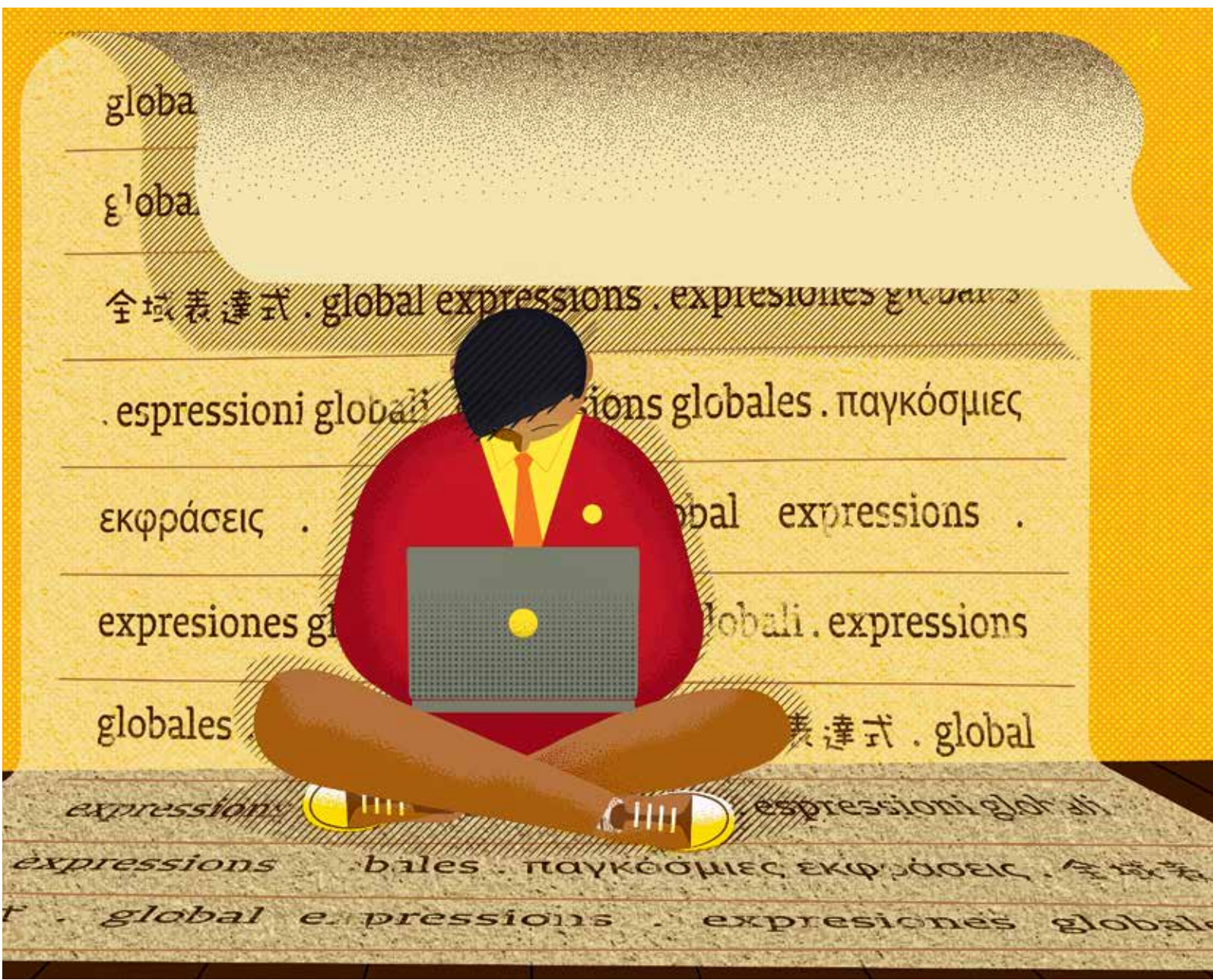
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irector of the College’s English for Academic Purposes Center Tingting Kang recognizes the distinct value of an institution’s multicultural and international communities. In the fall, Lafayette had undergraduate students from 47 different countries enrolled. “It is truly a privilege to have such a diverse group of people on campus,” Kang says.

With support from Tim H. Cox, dean of advising and co-curricular programs, Kang established *Global Expressions: Writing Beyond the Mother Tongue* in 2022 to celebrate these voices. The project is an online platform (found at sites.lafayette.edu/ge) that serves to celebrate multiculturalism and multilingualism by inviting students to write about their personal experiences studying in the United States, or abroad in another country.

Kang and her partners instituted the concept as an annual writing contest to draw the interest of both students and faculty. Kang also received support from the College administration and President Nicole Hurd, who participates on the judges’ panel.

Students provide each version of their writing: one submitted in English and another translated into the student’s second, third, or fourth language. Both versions are published side by side. While



Meaning and translation

How the *Global Expressions* project is amplifying the voices of multilingual students.

BY KATLYN CLARKE

the goal is to create an increased sense of belonging for people who speak the same languages, it also gives readers the chance to experience new languages for the first time. So far, 12 different languages are highlighted on the website, including French, Chinese, and Swahili; nearly 50 unique stories have been published, some by repeat contributors. Kang describes the project as a true “multicultural exchange,” noting that some students who submit to *Global Expressions* are not international students.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY FRANCESCO ZORZI AND ANTONIO PINNA

Jiayu “Angel” Yan ’28, intended theater and economics major, remembers when she received her offer letter from Lafayette. She swiftly began researching international student resources—and saw *Global Expressions* online.

When Yan arrived from China, she attended workshops hosted by the English for Academic Purposes Center, where she met Kang. “We realized many American students don’t know what international students and faculty have been through,” Yan says. “I think this project is a great

way to show them what our lives were like, and how they are now.”

Prompts for this year’s *Global Expressions* contest include discussing one perception of the U.S. or any study-abroad country—and how that perception changed once immersed in the culture. Another writing prompt is to describe a memorable cultural exchange experience with someone from a different country.

Areeb Atheeqe ’25, math-economics major, won the 2024 writing contest for his piece, “From the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic—A Journey of Education and Self-Discovery.” (He submitted his writing in English and Sinhala.) In his essay, Atheeqe recalls the intricacies of his arrival to Lafayette. “Despite having never experienced feelings of self-consciousness before, my ‘accent’ made me feel uneasy at times,” Atheeqe wrote. “I found myself having to think and carefully enunciate every word.”

He first learned about *Global Expressions* after enrolling in Kang’s academic writing course. “I read through some past submissions and was thinking, ‘I could do this too,’” Atheeqe says. “I’m not really fluent in writing my native language, although I can speak fluently. It was good practice.”

Now, Yan and Atheeqe work closely with Kang as they embark on the next iteration of *Global Expressions*, a podcast. The concept is to continue the conversation, and to have international and multilingual students interview international faculty.

“I hope that international students, faculty, and staff can exchange their experiences in terms of cultural adjustment, studying abroad, and leaving the U.S.,” Kang says. “By showcasing our international faculty and staff success, it also helps students learn more from those who can be role models.”

Ten faculty members have already signed up, along with more than a dozen student interviewers. The first episode is planned to air in April; Yan is working behind the scenes with Kang on getting a website together and setting up the interviews in Skillman Library’s podcast studio. “Exposing students to different faculty members is important,” Atheeqe says, “so maybe they’ll think, ‘I should connect with that professor.’”

Students are looking forward to asking faculty members about their experiences coming to the U.S., and how they found a sense of home. “I see myself being a part of the project through my senior year,” Yan says. “We’re just getting started.”

As the energy builds, Kang is happy to see *Global Expressions* interconnect the Lafayette community. “When people come here from other parts of the world, sometimes they prefer to mingle with their specific ethnicity or nationality,” Atheeqe adds. “I think they miss out by doing that.” The online platform and forthcoming podcast are both opportunities to embrace different cultures from across the globe, with feet firmly planted at Lafayette. ■

READ THE STORIES



A MAIDEN VOYAGE

Last year, Chris Byrnes '26 made Lafayette history as the first Leopard to earn a Voyager Scholarship. This spring, he embarks on a journey to East Asia.

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS

Having never before ventured beyond U.S. borders, Chris Byrnes '26 recently set off on the journey of a lifetime: two semesters in East Asia. The government and law and Asian studies double major earned a Freeman Award for Study in Asia, which is helping to fund his current spring semester abroad.

And, thanks to being named as the College's first recipient of the Voyager Scholarship, the Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service, he'll be able to extend the trip and spend his summer there.

As one of 100 students from 44 states and territories to be named a Voyager in 2024, Byrnes will receive \$10,000 (and an additional \$4,200 from Airbnb to cover the cost of living) for his East Asian travels, as well as up to \$50,000 in "last dollar" financial aid across his junior and senior years at Lafayette.

The benefits extend beyond his time in college, as he'll also receive \$2,000 per year toward Airbnb for the next 10 years after graduation to continue his travel experiences and learning.

"I'm excited to immerse myself in another culture, interact with new people, and see the world from a perspective other than my own," Byrnes says, adding that he's grateful to expand his horizons. "That's how I want to characterize my life and my work." Here's how he's charting out his big trip—and his future.

Give us a glimpse into your itinerary.

In addition to taking intensive Korean courses at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea, I'll be conducting field research for my thesis there and in Okinawa, Japan. That will involve visiting American military bases to interview U.S. and local military officials, think tank personnel, and anti-base activists to collect data. My thesis will analyze how America's



PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON

commitment to its alliances overseas affects the political frames held by the U.S., Korean, and Japanese governments and anti-basers.

None of this would be possible without the support of Lafayette’s professors and alumni network. Government and law professor Seo-Hyun Park, my thesis adviser, helped me conceptualize my summer research project—some of the ideas were inspired by Park’s book, *Sovereignty and Status in East Asian International Relations*. Brandon Cochenour ’03, a science director at the Office of Naval Research Global in Tokyo, also helped me establish U.S. Embassy connections in Seoul that were integral to travel plans.

What is your personal connection to the region?

My father served as a Marine, and I’ll be visiting the same places he was stationed some 40 years ago. I remember him showing me photos and telling stories about his time in South Korea and Okinawa when I was a kid. It will be interesting to walk in his footsteps—in a different capacity—and see how things have transformed since then.

How has research led you up to this point?

I’ve worked with Andrew Clarke, assistant professor of government and law, in his Gov Lab researching evidence-based policymaking, and I’ve co-written a research paper with him about bipartisan Congressional factions. I’ve done experimental research with Dylan Groves, assistant professor of government and law, measuring the political attitudes of college students in Tanzania, and I was a research assistant for Daniel Markovits ’20, a Ph.D. student in Columbia



← Taking in Seoul at night—this is Myeongdong, a popular shopping neighborhood close to where Byrnes lives.

“I’m excited to interact with new people and see the world from a perspective other than my own,” says Chris Byrnes.

You’re also the College’s first Marquis de Lafayette Fellow in Special Collections and College Archives. What did that project mean to you?

I worked on the Marquis de Lafayette collection for three years. I combed through hundreds of artifacts that date back to his return tour and about 300 original letters he wrote to various individuals, including George Washington. Diving into this piece of College and U.S. history showed me the significance of ordinary people’s voices. That’s something I’m going to take with me abroad.

You also visited the White House in November 2024. What was that like?

Amazing. Professor of Sociology Caroline Lee was invited as a panelist to discuss her research, and I tagged along. It was so informative being able to have conversations with other student voter activists.

What goals do you have for the years ahead?

I want to be a public servant in the U.S. government, perhaps in international security. I’m considering Washington, D.C., after Lafayette, whether I’m working or going to graduate school. I hope to use research that takes the perspective of ordinary people to change policies, and inspire a more holistic approach to international politics and foreign policy. ■

University’s department of political science.

Many of the topics I’ve studied have real-world impacts, and all these experiences—in both one-on-one and bigger group settings—have encouraged me to think more about evidence-based policymaking and a career in public service.

What other campus experiences have helped fine-tune your world outlook?

As a McKelvy Scholar, I’ve engaged in discourse with peers on various issues, which has advanced my passion for public service. The McKelvy House is a space where, through regular discussions, we can express our views while also being challenged. Additionally, I’m the co-director of Lafayette Votes, of which I’ve been a member since 2023, helping campus community members complete the voter registration process. I’ve also become active in nationwide voter turnout efforts through the nonprofit Every Vote Counts. All of this has taught me how to navigate situations in a civil, mature, and intellectual way, and to view the world from different perspectives. Those skills are going to be crucial to my studies overseas.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY (TOP) HOLYMADE; (VIRGINIE DE PUSY LAFAYETTE) COURTESY OF SUBJECT; (ORCHESTRA) ORCHESTRE NATIONAL AUVERGNE RHONE ALPES; (ZEHETMAIR) WOLFGANG SCHMIDT; (BEETHOVAN ART) WIKI COMMONS.

The nation’s guest

Campus sets the stage for a special performance dedicated to the Marquis de Lafayette.

BY AMY DOWNEY

Since last August, cities across the country have been paying tribute to Lafayette’s Farewell Tour through hundreds of events, from exhibits in Baton Rouge—“The Biggest Celebrity of His Time”—to reenactments of the Marquis in a horse-drawn carriage down Main Street in Suffolk, Va., where spectators were advised that period attire was “admired, but not required.”

The College has its own celebration on April 27, when musicians from the French National Orchestra of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes will put on a special performance at Williams Center for the Arts. Called *The Lafayette Musical & Immersive Bicentennial Tour*, the program is more than music—it’s also a visual journey, with an accompanying video element that retraces the route of the Marquis de Lafayette as he crisscrossed 24 states in 13 months.

During his Farewell Tour, 200 years ago, the Marquis attended balls and parades in his honor, visited battlefields where he fought, and reunited with former presidents and comrades from the Continental

Army. Throughout April, the orchestra is scheduled to perform in some of those same key cities—South Carolina’s Charleston Music Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., to name a few—while ending the U.S. tour with a symbolic stop in Easton, Pa. “The program was created for this moment in time,” says Ty Furman, director of the Performance Series at Lafayette, “and we are thrilled to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

To purchase tickets to *The Lafayette Musical & Immersive Bicentennial Tour*, visit williamscenter.lafayette.edu/lafayette-tour.



1. Virginie de Pusy Lafayette, a direct descendant of the Marquis de Lafayette, is the official ambassador of the tour project. Ahead of each performance, she is scheduled to speak about the heritage and legacy of her famous great-great-grandfather. After the Easton program, Virginie will join orchestra members and concert attendees for a reception hosted by the College.



2. The 120-minute concert kicks off with a display of sounds and lights that tells the story of the Marquis de Lafayette.

3. Principal conductor Thomas Zehetmair, an internationally acclaimed Austrian violinist, composed a new work especially for the program: *Passacaglia, Burlesque, and Chorale for String Orchestra*.



4. Some of the compositions for this program include those by classical music icons Beethoven and Mozart.



5. The ensemble hails from the same region as the Marquis’ birthplace, called the Auvergne region in central France. It is also the first French orchestra to create a fully free accessible digital label; its work has been streamed more than 400,000 times in at least 160 countries.



GONE GIRL

Star short sprinter
Ida Moczerniuk '27 shows
no signs of slowing down.
BY AMY DOWNEY

In just two years of competing on the Lafayette track and field team, Ida (pronounced “Ee-da”) Moczerniuk has already broken multiple Leopard sprinting records—and continues to lap her own times. Currently, the sprinter holds the 60-meter, 100-meter, and indoor 200-meter records; she wants to chase down the outdoor 200-meter record this spring.

The earliest record she broke was a memorable one: During her first year, in a tight 60-meter indoor Rivalry race, she edged out Lehigh and set a school record with a time of 7.72 seconds. She’s also proud of her latest 200-meter run at the Patriot League Indoor Track and Field Championships in March, when she beat out the 24.71-second record by Devin Smith ’16 after getting a PR of 24.60 seconds. (While there, she also nabbed first place in the 60-meter dash with a new PR.)

“Being in the Patriot League, I want to make sure that teams do not underestimate us,” Moczerniuk says. “I want to grow with my team and change the rhetoric through my races.” After her spring season ends with the Pardes, she’ll fly to Poland and compete in the Polish U23 Championships in July. (Moczerniuk, a dual citizen, was born there but grew up in the U.S.; she fluently reads, writes, and speaks the language.) Her summer goal is to have a 200-meter time that qualifies her for the 2025 European Athletics U23 Championships.

The 19-year-old biology major took to the Metzgar Campus track to share her tips about how to fly on two feet. ■



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON;
PHOTO COMPOSITE BY DALE WACK



- 1 About an hour before every race, Ida Moczerniuk readies herself by visualizing her sprinting goals. “There’s a lot of mental preparation that goes into my execution,” Moczerniuk says. “I take that aspect of my race very seriously.”
- 2 The block start is arguably the most important part of the performance. Moczerniuk says it’s when she unlocks her proper stance and mental strength: “Very often, it boils down to one word—*push*.”
- 3 In this position, with her head down, she completes key checkpoints: laying out hands, flattening her back, and making sure both knees are locked into right angles.
- 4 “Exploding from the blocks is all about displacement with your hips,” she says. “I’m trying to push my hips out as far as I can.”
- 5 Where Moczerniuk can make the most impact is with her first five steps, in which she tries to cover the most ground possible. “It’s a little bit counterintuitive because you have to be patient,” she says, “and you don’t want to be patient when you’re running fast.”
- 6 Once she hits her stride, she dials into the positioning of her arms, making sure her elbows are tucked in.
- 7 Moczerniuk is at her best when she focuses on her own pace—not her competition. “I’m there to race against me,” Moczerniuk says. “At this point, I’m enjoying running and pushing toward the finish line.”

LEVELING UP

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS



When students design computer games, they learn about coding—and critical thinking.

When they first set foot in the classroom, most students in Prof. Lauren Biernacki's Computer Gaming course have never written a single line of code. By the end of the semester, however,

they walk out having created multiple full-fledged computer games.

By engaging in a series of interactive experiences and challenges throughout the spring, CS 104 students aren't just improving their coding abilities. They're developing essential problem-solving skills and tactics they can carry with them in whatever educational, life, or career paths they may choose to follow.

Computer science merges the creative, technical, and logical, says Biernacki, assistant professor of electrical and

computer engineering. "It's a lot like solving a puzzle while also bringing an artistic vision to life," she says. And since playing games is an intrinsically fun activity, she adds, it's easy to get students excited, motivated, and invested in the material.

With their widespread applicability and appeal to students of all majors, courses like Computer Gaming are now more in demand than ever, Biernacki says. CS 104 is offered in both spring and fall semesters (other sections are taught by Christian López, assistant professor of computer science), and is one of two introductory programming courses at Lafayette.

With each iteration, CS 104 attracts an increasingly diverse group of scholars—ranging from computer science majors who are intently pursuing careers in software engineering, to students who simply want to explore a new creative outlet. "Having such a wide variety of students from different disciplines—from economics and engineering to biology and philosophy—looking at the same problems from their distinct perspectives makes for some truly engaging conversations and really cool projects," Biernacki says.

"Game building feels like painting or making a film in some ways," says Liu, a dual major in film and media studies as well as English. "It's a lot of experimenting and adjusting factors to get the effect you want, and I get to utilize my working knowledge of coding, animation, and different computer programs in a way that engages my love for art and storytelling." Liu, who will graduate in 2025, came across the course while searching for a way to satisfy a science requirement for graduation that didn't involve a traditional lab space.

At the outset of the course, Biernacki introduces students to fundamental computer programming concepts, including code writing and user interaction. She also challenges students with weekly "quests," or smaller programming activities. "Students select from a menu of exercises and earn points for each quest they complete, so it's like a gamified view of homework," Biernacki says.

Student projects were based on video game classics like Tetris, Donkey Kong, and Space Invaders, plus newer ones like Flappy Bird and Doodle Jump.



Rather than a traditional computer lab, Biernacki's students use their personal laptops and free downloaded software to create each of their projects, allowing them to access their work anywhere.

Throughout the semester, she guides her students through three more complex game-development projects based on arcade classics Snake, Blackjack, and Root Beer Tapper, which increase in difficulty as the semester progresses. Whereas quests require students to write about 50 lines of code, these multilayered projects can involve writing up to several hundred. "The instructions get more vague as we get closer to the end of each project," Biernacki says, "and that enables students to apply their creativity and critical thinking skills."

The class culminates in a final project, in which students either work independently or team up in small groups to design and build another classic video game of their own choosing. "At the end, they can look back at this tangible, playable game they created entirely from nothing."

To round out the experience, students present their work at the end-of-semester Computer Gaming Showcase (pictured opposite and above), where Lafayette staff, faculty, students, and family members are invited to demo the games. "It's really exciting, especially for those of my students who have never programmed anything before," Biernacki says. It also

helps students identify and patch up any errors in their coding, much like game testing does for developers prior to a game's release.

One resource utilized in the course that makes it particularly successful, Biernacki adds, is the Academic Resource Hub, which provides students with academic support from fellow student mentors who have previously taken CS 104. The mentors, called Mentored Student Group Leaders, attend lecture sessions, facilitate guided study groups outside of the classroom, and help answer students' questions as they work through errors or new concepts. "Getting help from a peer who can work closely with them through something they're stuck on is very valuable to students," Biernacki says.

Aside from building confidence in their programming abilities and understanding of modern technology, Biernacki aims to help her Computer Gaming students develop a more logical and team-oriented approach to problem-solving that they can apply to all areas of life. "There are many different ways to implement something in computer science," she says. "Following a logical series of steps, reasoning through challenges, and working with people with different strengths, backgrounds, and expertise are essential when it comes to working toward better, more efficient solutions—in both the computer science field and the real world." ■

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LISA GABEL
ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

Student side hustles

Turning personal talents into small businesses.

BY AMY DOWNEY

After noticing many students on campus who had small businesses and passion projects—custom beaded bracelets, printed stickers, and self-published literature, to name a few—Jahi Heath '25 and Dina Azar '25 co-founded the Side Hustle Community in 2023. Since then, and in collaboration with the Dyer Center, this network of about 35 students has been growing its success through various fairs, business workshops, and group brainstorming sessions.

While Heath, an engineering studies major, started a clothing line, Azar is a self-taught nail technician. “I can tap into my artistic side at Lafayette while majoring in something else,” says Azar, who is studying international affairs. “It feels like a creative outlet.” Contact dyercenter@lafayette.edu to learn more.



← Side Hustle Fairs have been taking place inside Farinon, where students can table with their goods and mingle with potential student customers.



↑ Azar started doing nails as a sophomore and usually books one appointment every day, with maybe more on the weekends. “I’ve learned I get to control my profits,” she says.



↑ Ari Ismail '26 offers freelance photography and videography, from graduation portraits and LinkedIn headshots to campus events like the Latin American Dance Showcase at Colton Chapel (pictured).

← As for Azar's salon services, she sticks to manicures; Gel-X sets are popular among her college customers.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON; (DANCERS) ARI ISMAIL; (SACOTINGO) KEVIN DODARD; DYER CENTER



Chris Nappo '27, a double major in engineering studies and studio art, has been creating functional ceramics (mugs, bowls) for more than five years. —→



↑ Lately, Nappo's favorite pots to make are *chawans* and *yunomis*, or tea bowls and teacups: “I’m drawn to the elegant forms and organic surfaces of East Asian teaware.”

Black Rose Haven clothing line by Jahi Heath, found at the College Store, was designed to showcase the artistic work of Black artists. —↓



← Being a first-generation student, Virginia Sacotingo '25 designed a notebook, called the College Girl Planner, and kept the guidelines simple: no more than five tasks a day. Says Sacotingo, “It’s all about living an intentional lifestyle.”



AN

BY DAVID GAMBACORTA

AMERICAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADAM ATKINSON

PASTIME

DAVID BUCK '86, FORMER EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES,
REFLECTS ON A JOURNEY IN PROFESSIONAL
BASEBALL THAT SPANNED NEARLY FOUR DECADES.



On a Saturday evening in October 1993, an office phone began to ring inside Philadelphia’s cavernous Veterans Stadium. David “Dave” Buck ’86, a young member of the team’s marketing department, lifted the receiver to his ear and heard the voice of Bill Giles, the Phillies’ owner.

Giles explained that he’d just had a conversation with Ed Rendell, the city’s boisterous, sports-obsessed mayor. After a decade of fielding mostly losing teams, the Phillies—now led by a lovable band of Major League All-Stars, including Lenny Dykstra, Darren Daulton, John Kruk, and Curt Schilling—had made a stunning march to the playoffs and were on the cusp of appearing in the World Series.

Rendell had an urgent request: He wanted the team to produce an oversized Phillies cap to fit atop the 37-foot-tall statue of William Penn that loomed over City Hall. Giles was blunt. “You have to get it done,” he told Buck.

Buck was momentarily stunned. The city was not awash in shops selling accessories for 27-ton sculptures, and the Phillies didn’t have a stash of cartoonishly large props. Besides, Buck primarily sold advertising; he could have protested that this task didn’t quite fit his job description.

Years earlier, though, as an undergrad at Lafayette, Buck had learned to be open-minded. That spirit had compelled him to seek a job with the Phillies before he’d even graduated, and had been the key to a rewarding career with the team he’d rooted for as a boy.

No giant hat? No problem. Buck leafed through the Yellow Pages and found a phone number for Dave Moscinski, a designer who built elaborate costumes for Mummers clubs in South Philadelphia. Moscinski was able to craft a 7-foot-high Phillies cap made of chicken wire, steel rods, and red fabric, which was planted on Billy Penn’s bronze head.

The Phillies went on to lose the World Series to the Toronto Blue Jays. But for Buck, the Billy Penn cap adventure became another in a long succession of memorable experiences he collected while working for the Phillies.

In early January, after 38 years with the team—the final eight of which he spent as executive vice

president—Buck retired. He estimates that he attended about 2,600 games during his decades with the club. Some were thrilling, others heartbreaking. After all this time with the Phillies, his departure from the organization will be gradual; for the 2025 season, he will step into the role as a consultant. By the time this magazine lands in mailboxes, his tan will have already faded from spring training in Clearwater, Fla.

Buck muses that it will take time to adjust to not having so much of his life tethered to the rhythms and routines of a baseball season. “I think opening day is going to feel really different,” he says. “It’ll be nice to be able to turn the game off and not stress. I would be amazed sometimes at how upset I would get over a baseball game.”

↑ — The Phillies topped more than 3 million fans in the 2024 regular season and enjoyed the second highest attendance in Major League Baseball, just behind the Los Angeles Dodgers.



Bowa, catcher Bob Boone, and first baseman Pete Rose. In 1980, those players propelled the team to its first World Series championship. Two years later, in 1982, Buck began attending Lafayette College.

He devoured books, enjoyed writing, and majored in history, but was unsure if those interests added up to a career path. Then fate intervened—over a plate of spaghetti. In 1985, Buck’s parents invited him and a friend, fellow Lafayette student Bill Casey, to their house for dinner. While driving from campus to Montgomery County, Casey ’85 explained that he had landed a job in finance and asked Buck what he planned to do with his life.

“I don’t know what I’m going to do,” Buck told him.

“Well, you love sports,” Casey said. “Why don’t you work for a sports team?”

“Opening day is going to feel really different,” says Buck, who is retiring after nearly four decades with the Phillies organization.

Buck mulled over Casey’s suggestion while they ate; he later wrote letters to the Flyers and Phillies, asking if they had any job openings. The Phillies responded and offered Buck an internship in ticket sales. A year later, the team hired him for a full-time position. “If we hadn’t had that spaghetti dinner,” Buck says, “I don’t know what would have happened.”

At the beginning of his career, teams still printed individual tickets to every game, a far cry from modern fans’ ability to buy, sell, and transfer digital tickets in mere seconds with smartphone apps. Buck recalls sitting inside a call center at the Vet and gazing at a wall ticker that relayed how many fans were waiting on hold. If a ticket buyer wanted to use a credit card, Buck says, “you’d have to call the bank to get an authorization code for the credit card. If they bought tickets to four games, you’d have to call four different times.”

Co-workers treated Buck with extraordinary warmth; he soon realized that many had mistakenly believed he was related to J. Mahlon “Jim” Buck Jr., Class of 1921, William “Bill” C. Buck ’50, and Alexander K. “Whip” Buck ’53—co-owners of the Phillies. As an undergrad, he knew about the family’s extensive support of Lafayette but was unaware of their connection

Do you believe in magic?

Philadelphia’s pro sports teams—the Phillies, Eagles, Flyers, and Sixers—held a special allure for Buck when he was growing up in Wyndmoor, Pa. In April 1971, the turnstiles opened to brand-new Veterans Stadium, and Buck’s family drove nearly an hour to attend the first baseball game, which saw the Phillies host the Montreal Expos.

Fifty-four years later, Buck still remembers trekking up concrete ramps that led from the parking lot to the stadium’s concourses, and then catching an initial glimpse of the sprawling AstroTurf field. The Phillies would spend much of the ’70s assembling a collection of franchise icons: future Hall of Famers Mike Schmidt and Steve Carlton, gritty shortstop Larry

to the Phillies. Despite the shared name, he was not part of the Buck family. “I’ve gone back to the Mayflower to try and find a connection,” he laughs, “and there’s no connection.”

His early years with the organization proved to be a moment of difficult transition for the franchise. The team lost 82 games in 1987, the first of six consecutive losing seasons. That sour spell wasn’t broken until 1993, when that group of colorful veteran players carried the team on an improbable run to the World Series, capturing the city’s affections along the way.

“It was completely unexpected,” Buck says. “We had this thing called ‘rally ties,’ where we would throw our ties over our shoulders. Everyone did it, and the team had a long winning streak.”

Serendipity seemed to be everywhere, even in Buck’s corner in marketing. Yellow Pages officials committed a Phillies-inspired advertising campaign after learning that Buck had used their directory to find a designer to build Billy Penn’s giant red cap.

Buck’s star continued to ascend within the organization; in 1999, he was named vice president of advertising. On the field, though, the Phillies were again muddling through a string of losing seasons. Entire sections of the Vet sat empty during games, as fans grew tired of underperforming rosters and the stadium itself, which sometimes literally crumbled beneath their feet.

The business of baseball was simultaneously undergoing a shift. It wasn’t enough anymore for teams to just host a game and expect people to show up. To become relevant—and profitable again—the Phillies had to pivot into a new era. It was time to consider a different business model.

“It was all hands on deck and design meeting after design meeting,” Buck says about building Citizens Bank Park, “and it was just fun.”

Movin’ on up

Ninety-nine miles to Philadelphia’s south sat a Major League Baseball blueprint: Baltimore’s Camden Yards. Opened in 1992, the Orioles’ baseball-only ballpark had cast a spell on fans, players, and executives alike.

With open views of the city’s skyline, food offerings that went beyond peanuts and Cracker Jack, and a natural grass playing field, the ballpark was an enchanting place to spend a few hours, a stark contrast to the Vet’s closed-off concrete bowl and punishing artificial turf field.

The Phillies assured fans—and advertising partners with whom Buck worked closely—they would build their own magical stadium and invest significant money on player salaries to become a winning franchise once more.

Buck was part of a core group of a half-dozen or so executives, including David Montgomery and Bill Giles, who studied Baltimore’s success and were

responsible for bringing the Phillies’ dream of a new ballpark to life. “It was all hands on deck and design meeting after design meeting,” Buck says, “and it was just fun.”

In December 2002, the team signed Jim Thome, a Hall of Fame-bound slugging first baseman, to symbolize their rebirth: The staggering \$85 million contract launched one of the most successful stretches in franchise history, right off the bat. Six months later in June 2003, Buck negotiated a deal that was just as significant, convincing Citizens Bank to pay the Phillies \$95 million for the naming rights to their new ballpark. “It was exhilarating, difficult, tiring, and still brings a smile to my face when I think about it,” Buck says.

A year later, the Phillies opened Citizens Bank Park on a chilly April afternoon. Visitors were instantly won over by the more intimate ballpark, its view of the city’s skyline, and a towering neon Liberty Bell that lit up and clanged whenever a Phillies player clubbed a homerun. Fans responded to other details that Buck helped shape, like a centerfield alley that included food from local restaurants and a robust team store.



Buck said he and his colleagues felt an enormous sense of pride for having made good on the team’s promise to its fan base.

Even better days were ahead. The Phillies developed their best core of players in a generation, from Chase Utley and Jimmy Rollins to Ryan Howard and Cole Hamels, and made the playoffs in 2007; that same year, Buck was promoted to senior vice president of marketing. In 2008, the team won the World Series, their first championship since 1980—when Buck was still in high school. An estimated 1.5 million people attended the parade that trundled through the city.

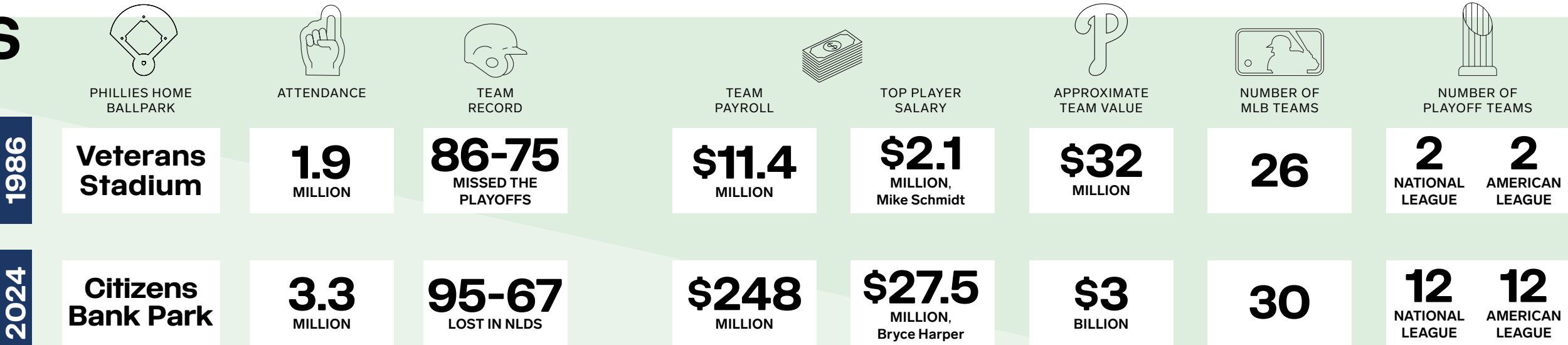
↑ The Phillies brought home hardware during Buck’s career, thanks to appearances in four different World Series championship games. Their most recent run to the finals happened in 2022.

BALLPARK FIGURES

There is a sort of romantic notion about Major League Baseball’s connection to its past, a sense that the game your grandparents watched isn’t much different than the one you enjoy in 2025.

But the business of baseball has evolved quite a bit, and Dave Buck had a front-row seat for some of those changes during his nearly four-decade career with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Here is a glimpse at the past and present, viewed through Buck’s first season with the team, as an intern in ticket sales in 1986, and his final one, as an executive vice president in 2024.



Over the —> years, Buck has hosted 34 Lafayette students through the College's annual externship program. Pictured: Jean Regnier '23 and Julia Roman '23 with Buck in 2023.



"I remember someone asking me, 'What does '08 mean to you?' I had been there 20 years and didn't have a lot of winning seasons, and now we had made it. It kind of changed my whole outlook on my career."

Hope for the future

Once the Phillies were on more solid footing, Buck's thoughts drifted back to Lafayette. He attributed part of his success in baseball to lessons he learned in college about navigating an adult world and wanted to pay that wisdom forward.

In 2010, he began hosting an externship program at Citizens Bank Park for Lafayette students. "The school taught me how to interact with people," Buck says, "which is probably the most important thing that anyone can learn."

Each January, on two days, a handful of students were given an extensive tour of the ballpark and

introduced to officials working throughout the organization. The visits also included a stop in Buck's office, where students could peruse an old map of Lafayette's campus.

Lindsey Quigley '20 had grown up a die-hard Phillies fan. So when the Abington, Pa., native learned about the externship program

with Buck, she was intrigued. She had never given any thought to working in sports. And like many young students, she found it difficult to apply for internships with a resume that, at the time, included just a few part-time jobs.

Quigley participated in the externship in 2018 and was awed by the insider access she was given to Citizens Bank Park. "To be in the clubhouse where the team celebrated the World Series was surreal," she

says. "But it sparked an interest in what it's like to work behind the scenes of a multibillion dollar sports organization." A year later, she landed an internship with NBCSports.

After graduating, Quigley was hired by Comcast, where she now works as political engagement senior specialist. Buck, she says, taught students "your career can also be something you're really passionate about. That was one of my biggest takeaways from the experience."

In total, Buck has hosted 34 Lafayette students at Citizens Bank Park. "Alumni engagement is so very valuable to the overall Lafayette community," says Alexis Leon, assistant director for experiential learning at Lafayette's Gateway Career Center. "And it's exactly what allows us to enjoy the long tenure we have with this premier externship program."

Courtney Campbell '25, a math and economics major, participated in the externship in January 2024. Campbell says she was struck by the arc of Buck's career with the Phillies, which had begun, essentially, on a whim. "It was helpful hearing about the importance of keeping your options open," she says. "I'm graduating this semester and starting to look at jobs. It's just helpful knowing that no matter what I decide, postgrad, to go with the flow a little."

Buck's role with the Phillies never stopped growing. He was part of a two-year negotiation with Comcast for the rights to the team's television broadcasts, which culminated, in 2014, with a 25-year deal worth a reported \$2.5 billion. Three years later, he was promoted to executive vice president.

In an emailed statement, John Middleton, the Phillies' managing partner and chief executive officer, cited a list of Buck's contributions to the team, from



<— Among his contributions during the time with the Phillies organization, Buck negotiated a \$95 million agreement with Citizens Bank in 2003 for the naming rights to its 43,500-seat ballpark.

risen by more than 10%. Buck predicts that more changes are on the horizon.

"I believe, in a few years, there are going to be 15 different tiles on my screen, and I'm just going to pick whatever game I want to watch, and it's not going to matter about television territories," he says. "I'll be able to watch on my computer or on my phone, because people have shorter attention spans, and they want to watch games when they want to."

Buck won't have to fret over the fine details of that next revolution or base-

ball's All-Star Game, which is set to return to Philadelphia in 2026 for the first time in 30 years. He started to feel, in recent years, that his time with the Phillies was drawing to a natural close. Buoyed by a new generation of star players, the organization recently celebrated its 20th anniversary at Citizens Bank Park, has been enjoying playoff appearance runs, and now boasts the second-highest payroll in baseball.

A perfect time, in other words, for Buck to step away and finally plan some summer trips to the shore. Toward the end of December, the Phillies held an office party for employees inside Citizens Bank Park. Buck cleared out his office and packed away old photos; memories of his time with the club—good and bad seasons, giant hats, relationships that grew like the ivy on the ballpark's centerfield batter's eye—wheeled through his mind like a carousel.

"A co-worker said to me that morning, 'I know we don't interact a lot, but it was always reassuring to me you were here in your office, looking out for us,'" Buck recalls. "That made me feel really good."

Once the sport implemented a pitch clock in 2023, average game times dropped to two hours and 36 minutes, and attendance and viewership figures have

secured agreements with Comcast and Citizens Bank, to developing fan-favorite ballpark attractions like The Yard, an interactive mini ball field for children, and Pass and Stow, the pub area. Middleton also praised Buck for serving on the boards of the Committee of 70, which focuses on good government, and the Police Athletic League. "Dave embodies the spirit and heart of our team," Middleton said.

As the business of baseball evolved, the team had to grapple with the latest shifts in consumer preferences. In 2016, for example, the average time of an MLB game swelled to more than three hours, and attendance and viewership numbers across the sport began to fall. "I used to get home at 11:15 most nights," Buck notes. Sometimes, when weekend games in the summer lagged, from his ballpark office he gazed wistfully at the nearby Walt Whitman Bridge, where motorists were driving toward the Jersey Shore.

Once the sport implemented a pitch clock in 2023, average game times dropped to two hours and 36 minutes, and attendance and viewership figures have

Shova Malla '22 and Upendra Pandey '23
were shaped by their childhoods
in Nepal—and the people who
dedicated their lives to service.

Found family

By Margaret Wilson
Illustrations by
Franziska Barczyk

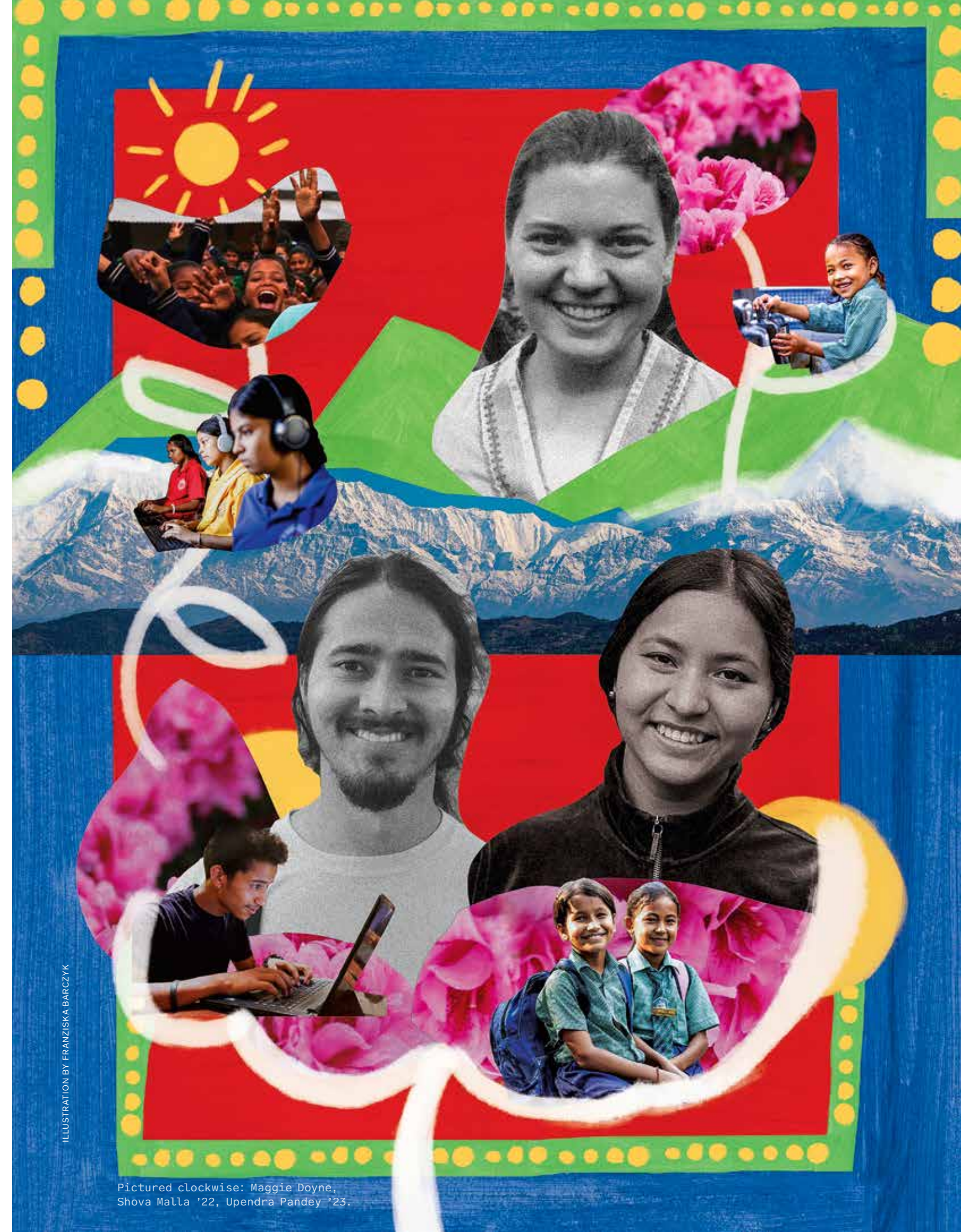


ILLUSTRATION BY FRANZISKA BARCZYK

Pictured clockwise: Maggie Doyne,
Shova Malla '22, Upendra Pandey '23.

Somewhere in the mountains of Nepal,

there’s a flower, bursting through the earth.

In the district of Surkhet, where Shova Malla ’22 grew up at the Kopila Valley Children’s Home, a similar promise for something beautiful has been growing for nearly 20 years. Kopila, which means “flower bud” in Nepali, was chosen by co-founder Maggie Doyne to represent hope in a place that had seen so much poverty and war.

When she arrived in Nepal two decades ago, Doyne was an 18-year-old American on a gap year exploring the world. What she found, instead, was the harsh reality of life in Nepal: a country emerging from a civil war that had displaced thousands, an orphanhood crisis leaving children to fend for themselves, and an education system inaccessible to even the most destitute.

Working with Malla’s uncle, Tope Malla, on the ground in Nepal, Doyne gave up the idea of college for herself. Instead, she contributed her life savings to their new dream, building Kopila Valley Children’s Home. In a new documentary titled *Between the Mountain and the Sky*, which has been making its way around film festivals worldwide, viewers get a firsthand look at their journey and the joy and power of Kopila Valley.

What Doyne and Tope built was a loving home, a groundbreaking educational institution, and a global nonprofit organization that has created a new way of life for hundreds of Nepali children.

As the first generation to live and learn at Kopila Valley, Malla, like her classmates, accelerated. She eventually landed at an institution 7,000 miles away: Lafayette.

Growing up, Malla and her family were among those displaced by a decades-long civil war in Nepal between the Maoists and government forces. When Maoist soldiers took up residence in their home, they sought refuge in India. Doyne first met Tope volunteering at an orphanage there in 2005; the Malla family encouraged Doyne to learn more about Nepal, where she visited the next year. It was then and there that Doyne realized the depth of poverty.

Her philanthropy started with one child, noticed by Doyne breaking rocks in a riverbed, who needed the equivalent of five American dollars to attend the local school. Doyne sponsored the girl’s education, but soon realized that Nepal’s crisis was larger than learning—thousands of children were left without family ties across the country due to illness, poverty, and war.

Together, Tope and Doyne built the home from the ground up, establishing connections and partners in the local Surkhet community. They began working to obtain guardianship for children who had lost their family or could not be taken care of by their family, moving them into the Children’s Home for a chance at a more stable life.

Malla’s parents started working at Kopila Valley, allowing her and her siblings to be some of the first to move into the Children’s Home. “I’ve been there from the very beginning,” Malla says. “I’ve seen it from nothing to where it is now, and it’s just mind-blowing.” After the opening of the Children’s Home, Doyne opened the Kopila Valley School, as well as a Women’s Center.



↑ Kopila Valley School’s new campus, opened in 2019, is the greenest school in Nepal, featuring solar power, water filtration, and sustainable architecture.



↑ The well-rounded curriculum includes courses from English and math to social studies and computers. Students learn through immersive and interactive teaching methods.



← Kopila Valley is building a support group of mentors, friends, caregivers, and volunteers, including Maggie Doyne and Tope Malla (pictured, top center).

Toward the end of *Between the Mountain and the Sky*,

a former resident of Kopila Valley moves into his American dorm room. He expresses to the camera that this achievement, in his culture, is the equivalent of skipping five generations.

For the Nepali, as for so many facing hardship around the world, it takes generations to build financial and societal wealth. Twenty percent of people in Nepal lived below the poverty line in 2023, and many women and girls are forced into early marriage in order to survive. The ability to attend college or pursue careers abroad is a far-reaching dream for many children born in this century.

“Higher education is very inaccessible to people because of where their families come from,” Malla says. “Their families don’t have wealth because they’re farmers and their land is up in the mountains, which is of no real value. So I think they have to make a really difficult choice: ‘Do I study, or do I start working and help support my family?’”

By providing a loving and stable home, comprehensive education, and the ability to be free from stressors of poverty, Doyme has put the children under her care, including Malla and Pandey, on a metaphorical rocketship.

“I believe that communities know how to solve their own problems,” says Doyme, attributing their success to the Nepali people and her co-founder, Tope, along with the local team of teachers and caregivers. “I understood from day one that I don’t have what it takes as an outsider to solve these complex problems.”

Through Kopila Valley School and its parent nonprofit, BlinkNow, Doyme brought knowledge and access to resources to the process—and contributed what made the most difference: dedication and love.

“I lead a lot through the lens of motherhood,” she says. “When children have their human rights met, all the other multidimensional issues surrounding poverty, violence, hunger, and protection of women and kids, immediately change.”

In other words, the fundamental power in having a family. “Even if we didn’t have a lot, we had everything,” Malla says. “The sense of closeness was just so beautiful because despite all the things that make us different, we are a family.”

An international volunteer at Kopila Valley first planted the seed for Malla to take the leap across the ocean to attend college.

“She was like ‘If you work hard, you’ll make it. We’ll have a plan,’” Malla says. After traveling to the capital city of Kathmandu for her English language certification, Malla began narrowing down her college applications.

There was already a connection with Lafayette, as Thea Dekker ’22, daughter of BlinkNow chief of staff Ruth

Dekker, had already been accepted there. Dekker had visited Kopila Valley numerous times as a teenager, bonding with Malla and the other adolescent girls and forming a Women’s Empowerment Group that still runs today.

The power of that relationship and the inclusive nature of Lafayette’s international student body and programs convinced Malla to commit to Lafayette.

“I remember the day I got my acceptance. It was during a monsoon in Surkhet with three days of severe thunderstorms and rain, and we didn’t have electricity because the poles were down,” Malla says. “I knew the decision had come out, but I didn’t know the results yet. It was the best news ever.”

The following year, Pandey also decided to apply to Lafayette.

“I had one person who could tell me what it was like there, so it was easier for me to learn about the College,” Pandey says. “Being accepted was a big deal. At least where I’m from, it’s a big deal to get a scholarship and come to the United States to get an education.”

Dekker notes that the intimate size of Lafayette and its community-oriented environment helped with the transition. “The admissions counselors who worked with Shova and Upendra were really open to hearing their full stories,” says Dekker, “and how much they had worked to have the opportunity to go to school in the United States.”

The influence of Kopila Valley ran both ways. The experiences gained in Nepal encouraged Dekker to give back during her time at Lafayette, where she majored in international affairs and psychology, and got involved

with programs like Lafayette Initiative for Malagasy Education. “I had the opportunity to learn so much gratitude,” says Dekker.

Over the years, the Lafayette community has continued to have strong ties to BlinkNow. The Kirby family, who have been alumni and generous supporters of the College for generations, have found a worthy cause in the nonprofit.

Dillard ’81 and Adrienne Kirby were first introduced to Doyme’s work when their son saw her speak at his middle school in New Jersey, nearly 18 years ago. (Doyme is originally from Morris County, N.J.) The Kirbys were impressed by Doyme’s tenacity.

“Maggie’s passion, intellect, and focus as a young woman were unique. Over time, she has developed into an astute CEO of a multimillion budgeted operation,” Kirby says. “She has never forgotten her roots in Mendham, N.J., nor many of the friends who supported her early and continue to do so today.”

While accepting her award for CNN “Hero of the Year” in 2015, Doyme said, “We cannot lose sight of the task at hand.” To that end, she funnels energy and support across the ocean into ensuring her kids become the best version of themselves. “They become the change agents,” Doyme says. “You can break out of that cycle of poverty, and you’ve got a generation of kids who were loved, nurtured, educated, and who are in turn caring for the community and the next generation of kids.”

Malla, who double majored in economics and environmental studies, now works in executive search for the climate tech and industrial sectors in New York City. Pandey, who came to Lafayette to study psychology, fell in love with film during his studies and is employed at a marketing agency in Bethlehem, Pa. Other residents of Kopila Valley have attended schools across the United States and the globe, while many are giving back to their community in Nepal. One graduate is studying to be the first OB-GYN in the region, while another is a member of the national soccer team.

Malla’s heart is never far away from Kopila Valley and the next generation.

“The part that never leaves me is Nepal, and the kids in Nepal. That connection will never go away,” Malla says.

For those who are inspired to follow in Doyme’s humanitarian footsteps, she has one piece of advice: “Find what breaks your heart,” Doyme says. “Go there, and try to do something.”

Learn more about BlinkNow and Kopila Valley at blinknow.org. Between the Mountain and the Sky will be released digitally in 2025.

Hometown premiere

In November 2024, a private screening of *Between the Mountain and the Sky* in Morristown, N.J., brought Malla’s worlds together. Malla and her brother, Dipak, emceed the special fundraiser for BlinkNow, with many of her Lafayette friends, including Pandey and Dekker, in attendance.

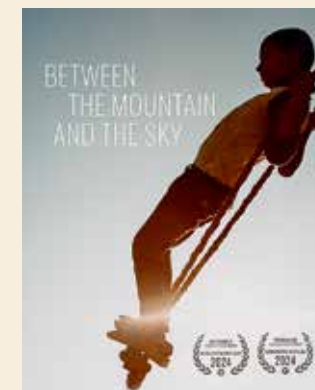
“It was really powerful, seeing the way that Shova and Upendra’s friends showed up at the movie premiere

and really sought to understand where they came from,” says Doyme, who attended the screening with her husband, Jeremy Power Regimbal, who directed the film. “By the end of the night, I looked out on the dance floor and there were about 30 Lafayette alumni dancing traditional Nepali folk.”

The event sold out the 1,300-seat venue and raised around \$680,000 to support BlinkNow, welcoming many of Doyme’s hometown connections to witness this testament to her work. The event was sponsored by Dillard ’81 and Adrienne Kirby, as well as other generous benefactors.

“What this film may ultimately mean for BlinkNow and its mission—bringing awareness and support via the largest global audience possible—is huge,” Kirby said in a toast to attendees at the event.

“I always try to represent Kopila and Lafayette wherever I go, because without those places, I wouldn’t be where I am today,” Malla says.



A standing ovation for the documentary premiere in New Jersey, attended by Tope and Doyme, plus Shova Malla ’22 and her brother Dipak.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BLINKNOW FOUNDATION

PROF. GLADSTONE
“FLUNEY” HUTCHINSON
AND LAFAYETTE’S
ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT
AND GLOBAL LEARNING
PROJECT INSPIRE
HOPE IN CHARM CITY.

RISING BALTIMORE WEST

Growing up in Kingston, Jamaica, Gladstone “Fluney” Hutchinson developed what would become a karmic bond with Baltimore.

In his youth, between soccer matches, he and his friends would listen endlessly to Nina Simone’s hardscrabble lyrics in her song “Baltimore” as covered by the 1960s Jamaican reggae vocal group The Tamlins.

*Hard times in the city
In a hard town by the sea
Ain’t nowhere to run to
There ain’t nothin’ here for free*

“When I grew up in Jamaica, this was the No. 1 song. This was our song,” says Hutchinson, associate professor of economics and policy

studies and Whitman Family Director of the Gladstone Whitman ’49 Endowment Funds.

The haunting lyrics would stay with him as his life and career progressed. He moved to the United States in the late 1970s after receiving a soccer scholarship at State University of New York at Oneonta, where he studied economics and business. After his graduate work at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., he landed his academic position at Lafayette in 1992.

From there, Hutchinson helped burnish an international reputation for Lafayette College by founding its Economic Empowerment and Global Learning Project (EEGLP) in 2007.

By partnering with well-established civic organizations and bringing together faculty, students, and alumni from varied disciplines,

BY
BRYAN HAY

PHOTOGRAPHS
BY ADAM
ATKINSON



the organization has helped reestablish economic autonomy in Appalachia, Honduras, and Jamaica, as well as in New Orleans after the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. As director general of the Planning Institute in Jamaica, Hutchinson was charged with implementing Vision 2030, the country's long-term plan for a competitive economy, secure and sustainable environments, and a future for Jamaicans to enjoy social and economic prosperity. In 2013, he was named a nation builder, receiving a Medal of Appreciation from the prime minister.

Five years ago, the Arch Social Club of Baltimore, one of the oldest African American social clubs in the nation, approached Hutchinson and retired Stanford University economist Donald Harris about developing a strategy to bring about social and economic redress to Charm City. The club has long been a hub for the African American community to come together for programs promoting economic, social, and cultural growth, and it was a natural incubator to light a revival. There's a busy metro station at its doorstep, and its striking Beaux Arts architecture, decorative Corinthian columns, and a pair of bas-relief muses on its facade radiate hope and optimism.

West Baltimore, where the club is located, comprises about 175 city blocks

of hope, even with its lingering scars from the unrest following the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 and the death of Freddie Gray while in Baltimore police custody a decade ago.

Despite this, and in the face of the drug trafficking and crime, there are streets of West Baltimore lined with churches, schools, and even brownstones ornamented with bay windows, terracotta designs, and spires. While there is poverty, and so much loss, a rich history remains.



The "Wall of Pride" mural (above) celebrates the heritage of West Baltimore. On right, community leaders Denise Griffin Johnson (front) and Marion Blackwell walk through a familiar neighborhood.



heart of the neighborhood on North and Pennsylvania avenues, replete with galleries featuring Smithsonian exhibits to celebrate the neighborhood's culture and civic voice; a theater for Baltimore playwrights, spoken word artists, and musical performances; a Black heritage reception hall; and a community meeting and learning space. EEGLP is also working with the West North Avenue Development Authority, the funding agency established by the State of Maryland to support economic growth in the neighborhoods of West Baltimore, for a small business center, storefronts, and commercial spaces.

New plans were also envisioned for the U.S. 40 "Highway to Nowhere," a 1.4-mile stretch of freeway left unfinished in the 1970s. (The project infamously divided West Baltimore neighborhoods and displaced residents, leaving behind a lasting concrete scar.) In January, Maryland's congressional delegation announced the allocation of more than \$85 million in federal funding to reconnect these neighborhoods to the city's business district; EEGLP also made recommendations for

that area including a museum and performance center, plus a STEAM-based school for leadership and innovation.

"What I like most is being able to integrate the foundational cultural presence in West Baltimore and aligning it with how economic development can happen. It makes a statement that development should be more about people and not products," says Denise Griffin Johnson, former executive director of the Arch Social Community Network and project leader. "Dr. Hutchinson and his students showed us how those two frameworks, culture and economics, can come together."

A lifelong resident of West Baltimore who grew up during racial segregation, Johnson remembers what was once a "wholeness" to the neighborhood. "You knew your professionals, you knew your teachers, you knew everybody who lived together," she says. "And then, over time, as integration happened, people chose to leave, and things just completely started to go downhill. I kind of looked up and asked what happened to my community?"

This is the same place that, in the 1920s, jazz great Cab Calloway grew up in a row-house on Druid Hill Avenue and received his musical training. It's also the former home of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, who attended elementary school in the Upton neighborhood of West Baltimore during racial segregation.

There is a lot of inspiration in a hard town by the sea.

Seeding a renaissance

Over the last several years, Hutchinson, his wife, Ute Schumacher, visiting professor of economics, and his Lafayette students participating in EEGLP have been positioning West Baltimore for a renaissance.

Hutchinson's EEGLP projects stand apart from most other economic development initiatives because they avoid a "we knew best" posture. Instead, they involve input and collaboration from key stakeholders and offer more of a gentle hand-on-the-shoulder approach to reawaken and remind residents of possibilities. Through a series of structured and unstructured

conversations, they build trust and recognize the potential in latent cultural assets often already in place.

Early on in the West Baltimore project, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Hutchinson, Schumacher, and the Whitman fellows met twice a week over Zoom with community stakeholders; they delivered their first virtual presentation in October 2020. Building on that mutual trust, West Baltimore later invited the Lafayette students into its barber shops, art galleries, parks, official business places, schools, and eating establishments for honest conversations about the community's aspirations. As part of the highly interdisciplinary group, Lafayette engineering students used satellite imagery to monitor traffic flows throughout Baltimore and Maryland, and confirmed their findings in frequent meetings with Baltimore officials.

As a result of the group's work, a few foundational pillars were identified to guide the redevelopment of West Baltimore: heritage, culture, and agency.

In its final report, the EEGLP suggested a reimagined corridor in the cultural



Established in 1905, the Arch Social Club is widely considered the epicenter of West Baltimore's comeback.



Baltimore has always been a beacon for Gladstone "Fluney" Hutchinson, who developed what would be a lifelong attachment to the city while growing up in Jamaica.

Grace Boghosian '25, a Whitman scholar who's majoring in economics and French, spent two years on the EEGLP project team. Now, she explains, their recommendations are in the hands of the West Baltimore community. "We collected a lot of data and supported this community without going in and telling them what to do," Boghosian stresses. "Because in order for change to actually occur, the community has to want to do it, and they have to want to do it their way and how they see fit."

Hutchinson describes the approach as "reawakening their best promise" in West Baltimore and breaking through the sys-

temic disorders of social mobility, where poverty reinforces itself in that ecosystem. encounter in which all spoke freely of the community's concerns, hopes, and aspirations," noting how the open conversations provided a framework to awaken West Baltimore. Now, she says, residents are inspired to think about the real value in their cultural heritage.

Weightless humility

Khalid Al-Motaery '23, who served as student captain on the West Baltimore project and joined Hutchinson in summer 2021, says the project taught him the importance of humility.

"I remember Prof. Hutchinson talking

learn from the person in front of you, you actually perform better professionally," he says. "We had that mindset when we went into West Baltimore. We went there to help the community rebuild economically and socially, not to parachute in like some consultants who professed to have all of the right answers."

When Johnson gazes out of the windows from the Arch Social Club, she envisions a West Baltimore with vibrant business and cultural corridors "filled with people who feel good about the community that they inhabit."

When she engaged the EEGLP and Profs. Hutchinson and Harris, she knew in the moment she had a team that would work tirelessly on the behalf of the neighborhood.

"At our initial meeting, we ended up with a room full of people. I was not expecting that at all," Johnson recalls. "For me, as a person on the ground organizing work, the project was phenomenal. Because who would expect this level of intensity and knowledge invested in West Baltimore?"

Another person on the ground is Kyara Uqdah '11 (economics in business), who founded and operates the Baltimore real estate company Charm City Buyers with her husband, Khalil Uqdah. They recently received a \$250,000 grant from the West North Avenue Development Authority, which will provide seed money to rehab vacant row homes and provide affordable housing for employees of Coppin State University, one of the partners in the EEGLP's project.

"We're known for taking quintessential Baltimore properties that have fallen into disrepair and turning them back into beautiful homes," Uqdah says. "We're excited to do the same thing in West Baltimore, which had been disinvested in for so many years, and blow off the dust and highlight those buildings in and around the North Avenue corridor."

West Baltimore and its rich history tend to get overlooked, she notes.

"From entrepreneurship to the arts and everywhere in between, there's tons of culture in West Baltimore," Uqdah says. "Projects such as the one Prof. Hutchinson has led gives these stories a platform. There's no shortage of charm in West Baltimore, just like the rest of the city."

As Boghosian prepares to enter the professional world later this year at BlackRock Inc., a multinational investment company, she already knows that her EEGLP experience will be a guiding light: "We made a



Left: The West Baltimore MARC train station, part of Amtrak's new Frederick Douglass Tunnel Program. Below: A mural along Martha's Place recovery center for women was installed with 3,000 one-inch-square porcelain tiles.



Jim Hamlin opened The Avenue Bakery in 2011 to try and bring people back to Baltimore's historic Pennsylvania Avenue. The bakery, beloved for its homemade rolls, also pays tribute to the city's African American heritage throughout the store.

temic disorders of social mobility, where poverty reinforces itself in that ecosystem.

"Dr. Hutchinson and his students have reminded me, and others, that this is my place of belonging, where I am comfortable, where I am connected," Johnson says. "Our aspirations have been documented. We have a vision."

Marion Blackwell of the Historic Marble Hill Community Association, a resident of West Baltimore since 1970 and a member of the project team, agrees with Johnson's assessment. She expressed her thanks to the EEGLP team for its "innovative knowledge-discovery process."

Blackwell describes her experiences with Lafayette and EEGLP as an "energized

about the importance of being weightless as a learner," he says. "When you come to a situation, you try to be as objective and humble as you can and not bring in your perceptions about the people. It's about learning from others, knowing other people have experiences that will definitely help you."

Now an analyst within the strategic assignment section of the Public Investment Fund, Saudi Arabia's influential sovereign wealth fund, Al-Motaery has tapped into his West Baltimore experience to support Saudi Arabia's goal of getting 50% of its electricity from renewable energy by 2030.

"The work really impacted me. When you are humble, when you admit not knowing everything, when you say you want to

recommendation through a very personal partnership with this community," she says. "We didn't want to take away the beautiful moments they've already created."

Al-Motaery shares the optimism and remembers walking through West Baltimore with Hutchinson, Schumacher, and his fellow Whitman scholars. "I remember just standing there and saying, 'you know, it's really great that we're part of this,'" he says. "People want their community to become better."

The experience taught him the value in being able to imagine on behalf of a city, and to create hope. "It was a true blessing to be a part of it," he says. "I really hope that other students at Lafayette are also exposed to these kinds of meaningful experiences."

Boghosian immediately recognized imperishable hope when she encountered West Baltimore businesses that have not just withstood all of the turmoil—but also evolved to become centers of trust and security among residents. Specifically, a salon and barber shop come to mind. "You can sense the outpouring of love and care in these places," she says. Behind these storefronts are people who, for example, take in kids when their parents can't care for them. Says Boghosian: "Community leaders will help anchor this redevelopment. We heard gut-wrenching stories, but to see people building this strong social network is truly remarkable and inspiring."



"WE HEARD GUT-WRENCHING STORIES, BUT TO SEE PEOPLE BUILDING THIS STRONG SOCIAL NETWORK IS TRULY REMARKABLE AND INSPIRING," SAYS GRACE BOGHOSIAN '25.

The same kind of optimism, and strategy, is expected from the newest EEGLP project that has just begun in Moldova to help support its goal to join the European Union, establish free markets, and—as a former Soviet state—firmly claim its sovereignty. This country marks Lafayette's first project in Europe.

Even though the Baltimore project has wrapped, Hutchinson won't be leaving Charm City anytime soon. He now owns a second home there and visits as often as he can, the "Baltimore" song always ringing in his ears.

"Here I am, still working in West Baltimore and Kingston at the same time. That's the story, right?" Hutchinson laughs. "In many ways, these cities are exactly alike, in terms of their challenges. They're the same kind of port cities, with many of the same kind of stories. And they share the same dreams of securing a prosperous future based on economic empowerment." ■

Be Part of the Conversation

- 🔗 PUBLISH CAREER NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- 🔗 SHARE LIFE EVENTS AND MILESTONES
- 🔗 CATCH UP ON CLASS COLUMNS

Photograph by Ed Mulholland



DaRon Gilbert '23 inks deal
The former safety for the Leopards signed a futures contract with the Detroit Lions in January.



“After 27 years, the chase is over!”
—Tyler Vernon '00, who was married to Casey Schlaybaugh '01 in May 2024. They were engaged in Kirby Hall, Room 107, where they first met.



Award-winning food and travel writer **Kathleen Squires '88** joined *The New York Times* as a staff writer for Wirecutter, where she covers all things kitchen and food.



Last summer, **Dr. Catherine Hanlon '79** studied reef biology and restoration in Cozumel, Mexico.

Submit a Class Note

The Class Notes website is easy to use and mobile friendly. Alumni updates submitted online will also be considered for inclusion in the next issue of *Lafayette* magazine. ▶



LAFAYETTE

INSIDE

We asked alumni to share their industry expertise. **p.50**—Electric vehicle insights. **p. 51**—Crossword clues from a puzzle editor. **p. 52**—Travel trends to try in 2025.

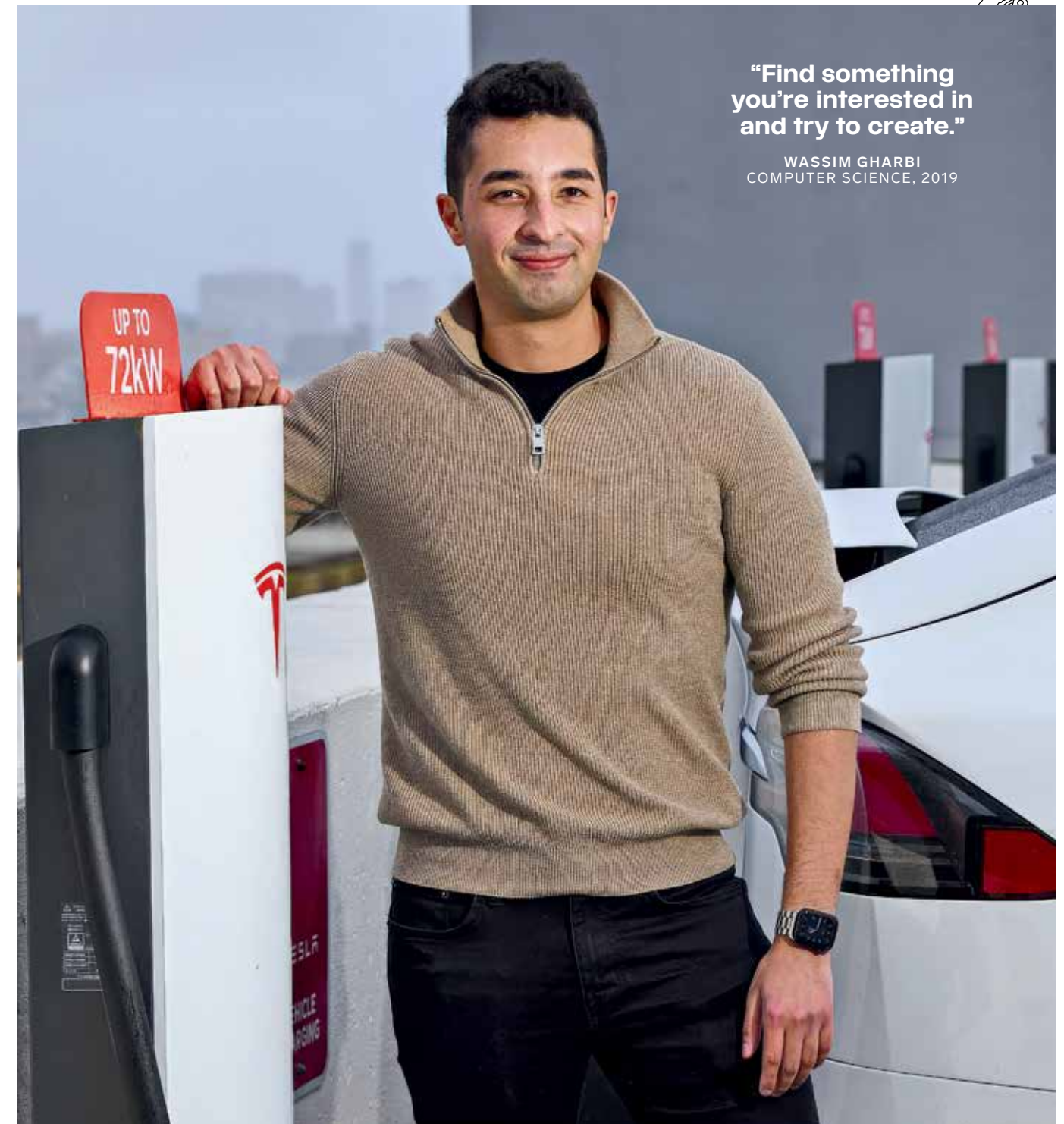
Cur Non

In 1824, while visiting Richmond, Va., the Marquis was greeted by a 15-year-old Edgar Allan Poe, who was part of the junior honor guard. The house where Poe stood guard is now the Poe Museum.



“Find something you’re interested in and try to create.”

WASSIM GHARBI
COMPUTER SCIENCE, 2019



PHOTOGRAPH BY GABRIELA HASBUN

HARNESSING ENERGY

Software engineer
Wassim Gharbi '19
takes us inside the world of
Silicon Valley.

BY AMY DOWNEY

After graduating with a degree in computer science—and completing two Google internships as a student, one on each coast of the United States—Wassim Gharbi '19 moved to California to work as a software engineer at Google. Shortly after arriving, he created a startup within the company by developing a social video app for people who wanted to share quick instructional content like DIY home projects, makeup tutorials, and easy cooking recipes. Tangi Quick Videos feels like a more informative and inspirational version of TikTok; it was eventually acquired by Google Search.

Gharbi then moved to the self-driving division at Lyft in 2021. After just a few months of him being there—and in true Silicon Valley fashion—his division was then acquired by a subsidiary of Toyota. In that software engineering role, Gharbi analyzed the self-driving car's camera feeds, surrounding obstacles, maps, and GPS data to monitor how the autonomous vehicles were performing. "What I created was a bit like a Bloomberg Terminal for the self-driving car," Gharbi says. "The engineers would be able to see if anything went wrong during the drive."

Now, as a senior software engineer for Tesla, he oversees a visualization team in Palo Alto, Calif. The team focuses on energy at both the residential and industrial levels. So, understanding how Tesla batteries perform—be it for electric cars, home batteries, or other products on the market—might mean analyzing drops in voltage, or what happens when batteries operate under certain conditions. "I create tools that other engineers use to potentially dive into issues whenever they happen," Gharbi says.

Although the electric vehicle and clean energy markets continue to grow year after year, Gharbi says that Tesla still operates like a startup. "It feels very engineering focused, and that's what I like about it," he says. "Everyone from the senior director to the



After earning a computer science degree, Gharbi has been employed by tech giants including Google and Tesla.

first-time intern is empowered to make and own their decisions."

Here, the software engineer talks about the biggest buzz in his world of tech.

The race for autonomous vehicles

"People think driverless cars are in the distant future, but it's already happening here in San Francisco," says Gharbi, explaining that city dwellers have been embracing the 24-hour ease of getting picked up and dropped off by them. (Last year, Google's driverless car, Waymo, completed more than 4 million paid trips in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Austin.)

Gharbi expects the robotaxi market and the infrastructure built around it—like wireless charging stations to power these vehicles—to surge. In October, Tesla revealed its own plans for a two-seater Robotaxi, plus a larger Robovan.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GABRIELA HASBUN

On-demand energy

When Hurricane Helene knocked out power across the U.S. in the fall, electric vehicles with bidirectional charging made headlines for helping to keep lights on and refrigerators running in homes.

Tesla is also developing Virtual Power Plants, in which owners of a Tesla Powerwall battery can send excess stored energy back to their local grid for distribution—something that might be valuable when demand is high.

The robots are coming

New Scientist revealed there could be a "robotic boom" this year with thousands of humanoid robots entering warehouses, factories, and homes. Tesla is set to produce a number of "Optimus" units, something that has the potential to transform manufacturing. As for the home, bots like these could be used for tasks like folding laundry and watering plants.

An engineer and entrepreneur

While in Silicon Valley, Gharbi co-founded a digital forensics company called CoreViz to analyze crime scene evidence through AI and computer vision—the first of its kind in the U.S. The prototype, which is currently being piloted with Madera County Sheriff's Office, can evaluate images of shoe imprints left behind to make a match. With the capability to also collect evidence through a mobile app, the technology automates what is still considered a very manual and time-consuming process for law enforcement and other agencies. CoreViz is currently seeking an

investment round to commercialize its technology and expand it to video surveillance, vehicle and suspect recognition, and object identification such as the specific makes and models of cars.

Advice for students

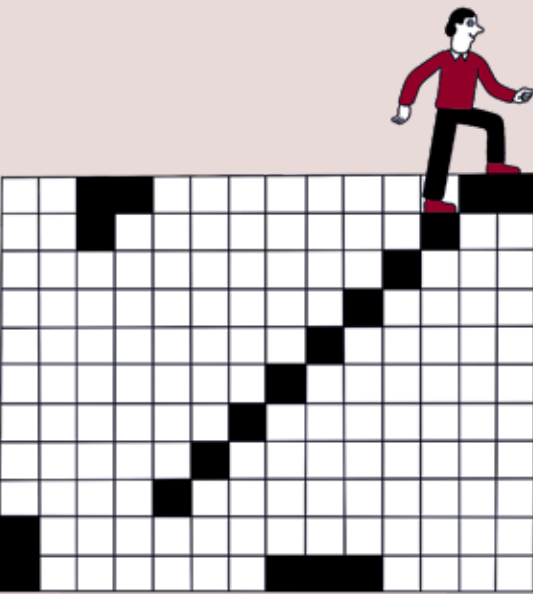
Gharbi says that college students should be doing their best to find a way to differentiate themselves in today's crowded software engineering market. For him, that meant staying busy with personal side projects during college, like when he engineered a people-counting sensor to track how many guests were entering and leaving the Lafayette Recreation Center. (Students on his app could then anticipate how busy the facility was at any given time.) "Find something you're interested in and try to create," he says. "Even if you struggle at first, that learning process translates very well into what you will do full time." ■

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

Boosting brain teasers

Get clued in to your puzzling potential,
thanks to Rachel Garland '22.

BY MADELINE MARRIOTT '24



If you've ever grabbed a book of puzzles to pass the time, Rachel Garland '22 might have had a hand in crafting the clues. As a puzzle editor at Kappa Publishing Group in Blue Bell, Pa., Garland spends her days working out the finer details of the company's games with a focus on crossword puzzles.

The bulk of her role is editing and modernizing clues from their database, including ensuring the references are suited to a contemporary audience. The company recently entered the custom license space and now works on content with partners like Disney.

Garland, who loves puzzles

of all kinds, believes the best crosswords are the ones with consistent themes, giving them structure and references that, however difficult, make sense to the reader.

"It's frustrating for me and for a lot of other people when it feels like there's no chance to figure something out because you just haven't heard of it," she says. "People think of crosswords as esoteric or as having weird references, and that's definitely true sometimes, but the best crosswords are ones made with attention to what's relevant at the time."

Want to improve your puzzle game? Here are Garland's expert tips.

Move on from clues that stump you.

Rather than spending too much time on tricky clues, Garland recommends bypassing the ones that give you trouble.

“Especially on your first time through, if you’re stuck, just move on,” she says. “Fill in some more letters, and maybe it will make it easier.”

Her preferred technique when moving through a crossword is to take it one section at a time—rather than go through all of the “across” clues followed by those in the “down” portion, focus on filling in as many letters as possible in a particular portion of the puzzle.

Look out for “crossword-ese.”

According to Garland, there are clues that repeat because of their convenient length and common letters. Unexpected celebrities like actor Omar Epps and artist/singer Yoko Ono make frequent appearances, as well as acronyms and abbreviations for government agencies.

“One way to get better at crosswords is to do a lot of them, and you’ll start to pick up on patterns and things that recur,” she says.

Find the threads.

Even if a puzzle doesn’t have an explicit theme, there may be ways to narrow down the type of references you can look for.

“If a puzzle references a movie that came out in 2024, you can probably expect to see other contemporary references as well,” she says. “If it’s referencing older things, you don’t have to focus on things that just came out.”

Have fun with it.

Garland hopes people remember that puzzles are supposed to be fun. And, whether it’s the Saturday crossword in *The New York Times* or a quick try at Wordle, Garland says puzzling is a healthy habit.

“If you do a puzzle every day, even one of the simpler ones, it’s good for you to use your brain in that way,” she says. “Social media is such easy content—you don’t have to think too hard to consume it. Doing something like a puzzle will push you.” ■

“Do a lot of them,” Garland says, “and you’ll start to pick up on patterns.”



PLAN THE NEXT EXCURSION

Tori Almeida '17 wants to help people travel better.

BY KELLY HUTH

“During the pandemic, while many people were understandably cautious about travel, I saw an opportunity to explore safely,” Tori Almeida says. “I began with long-term stays in U.S. cities like Nashville, then expanded to the Caribbean, Europe, Thailand, and beyond.”

These experiences, along with Almeida’s travels growing up with her family, broadened her global perspective and encouraged her to channel this passion into something tangible. Last year, she launched her own travel planning business, Travel with Tori, as a way to help others create meaningful experiences and achieve their travel goals. As part of a bigger organization called Fora Travel, she and other agents focus on creating personalized experiences for clients, making travel experiences seamless, and finding hidden value while booking trips.

“What began as a way to share my expertise has grown into a thriving business,” Almeida says. “I’ve built strong relationships with hotels and expanded my client base by offering insider knowledge that elevates each trip.” She explains that booking hotels through her doesn’t need to cost clients any more than booking directly—plus, her personalized service often comes with exclusive perks like upgrades, complimentary breakfasts, spa credits, and other discounts.

Here, Almeida shares some of the biggest trends and tips in the travel industry for 2025.

How are travel habits changing?

Almeida says the pandemic reshaped how we think about travel. Solo trips, small group travel, and guided tours have all gained in popularity: “People are seeking more curated and meaningful experiences, whether it’s connecting with others on a solo journey or immersing themselves in the local culture with an expert guide.”



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TORI ALMEIDA '17

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

Why do analysts have an optimistic outlook for the travel industry in 2025?

“The pandemic created significant uncertainty around travel, but each year we’ve seen improvement,” Almeida says. “People are eager to explore again, and the industry has rebounded to pre-pandemic levels. Airlines are operating at full capacity, and new properties are opening worldwide, signaling strong demand.”

Which travel trends will shape the year?

Travelers are gravitating toward boutique hotels—smaller, unique properties offering personalized

← Almeida’s extensive travel history includes exploring Bangkok, Thailand.

stays. There’s also a big draw for wellness and athletic retreats, with resorts tailoring experiences to health goals. (Think yoga, tennis, or fitness retreats.)

Almeida notices a shift toward trips that combine work and travel, with clients looking for long-term stays to allow remote work with exploration.

She notes noctourism is a new trend that will continue to grow. Evening boat tours or extended museum hours offer a way to experience a destination when less crowded.

Will we see more “pop culture” travel?

Absolutely, says Almeida, adding that she’s had clients request stays at properties featured in hit shows such as *Emily in Paris* and *The White Lotus*. Last year, major concerts like Taylor Swift’s Eras Tour had fans flocking to far-flung cities to see their favorite artists—with some sightseeing built into the itinerary as well. “For trips like these, working with a travel adviser can help navigate the logistics, from securing the best hotels to planning transportation, making the experience seamless and enjoyable,” Almeida says.

Airfare advice

When it comes to airfare, remember to maximize your points, whether redeeming airline miles or from loyalty programs through hotels and credit cards. “Using points to book flights can offer incredible value, sometimes upgrading your experience for the same cost as an economy ticket,” she says.

Also, many airlines now offer flexible bookings, eliminating fees for changes. Says Almeida: “This has encouraged travelers to book further in advance without worrying about potential disruptions.” ■

Follow Tori’s travels at: [Instagram.com/tori.almeida](https://www.instagram.com/tori.almeida)

PACK THE BAGS

Almeida’s preferred choices for a customized experience

1.

Coastal getaway

Greece, Croatia, and the southern coast of Portugal offer stunning seaside escapes, natural beauty, and charming coastal towns.

2.

Urban exploration

Ireland, Scotland, and parts of England have it all: rich history, vibrant nightlife, and unique cultural experiences.

3.

Traveling with the family

Mexico’s all-inclusive resorts offer kid-friendly amenities ideal for longer vacations.

4.

Weekend trips

Upstate New York, the Berkshires, or the Caribbean.

ON THE WEB

Head to magazine.lafayette.edu/tori to see Almeida’s itinerary for a trip back to Lafayette’s campus.

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.



↙ Sunrise meets the middle of the Watson Hall cupola, as Lafayette students within the residence

welcome another glorious day on College Hill.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALFRED GREENBAUM

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

1950s

Glenn Fatzinger '57

In November, the Fairfax County History Commission awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award to Fatzinger—a historian, educator, and active local civil servant. Congressman Gerry Connolly also inserted Fatzinger’s name in the Congressional Record for the award. At Lafayette, he studied history and was an ROTC graduate. He later earned a master’s degree in history from Penn State University, followed by an Ed.D. degree from George Washington University. After his military assignments, his professional career includes significant contributions to the federal government by having served as a civilian historian for the U.S. Air Force; an education specialist at the Army Engineer School and Fort Belvoir; and a writer-editor for the U.S. Army Intelligence and Threat Analysis Center. He is an avid trumpet player and former member of the Lafayette College Band under Dr. John Raymond. He is also very involved as a retiree with the Mount Vernon Estate, especially in celebrating the Marquis de Lafayette’s 1824-1825 famous hero tour of the metropolitan Washington area.

1960s

Stuart Green '63

Green is a professor of orthopedic surgery at University of California, Irvine. He has written or co-authored five books including his latest, *Intramedullary Limb Lengthening*. Green has a quarterly column called “Art in Science” in the journal *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research* and is on the editorial board of *AAOS NOW*, the newsletter of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Green writes: “I was the first American to visit Dr. G. A. Ilizarov in Siberia, USSR, who discovered how to lengthen bones. I’m the co-inventor of a self-elongating device to lengthen bones called the PRECICE Nail. My wife, Adrienne, enjoyed the party we had when I lived in Watson Hall. We now have two children and five grandchildren, one already a civil engineer, and the others heading soon to college.”

Mike Greenberger '67

Greenberger writes: “After almost 25 years in D.C. private law practice interspersed with federal government stints at the



After earning a master’s degree in marine science from Hawaii Pacific University in May 2023, Katie Stevens '16 was hired as a project manager at the HPU Center for Marine Debris Research, overseeing a project that pays fishers to remove plastic derelict fishing gear from the ocean around Hawaii. As of January, the project had removed over 100,000 pounds of plastic from the ocean.



DID YOU KNOW?

Lafayette alumni live in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, plus 115 foreign countries around the world.

Department of Justice (last serving as Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General) and at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, in 2001 I began what is now a 24-year stint as a law school professor at University of Maryland Carey School of Law. Simultaneously, while serving as a law professor, in May 2002 I founded the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security (CHHS), serving as its director. CHHS is an academic consulting entity with a staff of nearly 30 that advises state and local governments on counterterrorism and

emergency management issues. In 2024, I stepped down as the CHHS director, but I am continuing as an active professor on the law school faculty. Over the years, I have taught a wide array of courses, and now teach a law course on cryptocurrency and another course on financial derivatives.”

Bill McLure '63

McLure writes, “Anna and I moved to Laurel Lake retirement community in Hudson, Ohio, last year. We survived the pain of downsizing and are getting used to a ‘hotel’-like environment.”

Duncan O’Dwyer ’60

Rochester Business Journal has selected O’Dwyer as a 2024 Icon Honors recipient. Icon Honors recognizes Rochester, N.Y., business leaders, over age 60, for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership within and outside their fields. The honorees have moved their businesses and Rochester forward by growing jobs and making a difference in the community. To be eligible for Icon Honors, honorees must have a long-standing commitment to the Rochester business community and significant professional accomplishments through innovation and leadership. Honorees must also be champions of their industries and demonstrate a sustained commitment to community service. They may be in the workforce or retired, and must hold or have held senior management-level positions with significant authority in decision-making for their organizations.

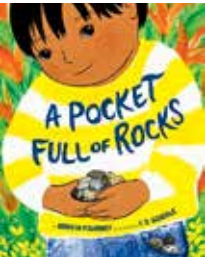
Arthur Topilow '63

Topilow writes: “Although retired from patient care, I continue to enjoy running a pre-medical student program at my local hospital, Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, N.J. I have 10 students for the months of June and July who do chart research and write medical papers, some of which get published in medical journals. The program has been sponsored by my friend, the late Herbert R. Axelrod. I continue to play piano in jazz concerts, race my sailboat, sail my iceboat, and fly my radio-controlled model airplanes. My wife and I enjoy my two married sons and four grandchildren. One son, grandson, and I are planning a sailing trip to the British Virgin Islands in March.”

Check this

Lafayette alumni share their latest work.

BY KATLYN CLARKE



A Pocket Full of Rocks

By Kristin McGinn Mahoney '95

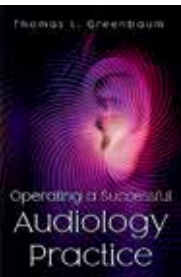
Knopf, 2025
In her fourth children’s novel, Mahoney highlights the wonders of everyday life. *A Pocket Full of Rocks* focuses on how a child’s creativity can transform their perspective, and suddenly simple objects become adored. Mahoney teaches about observation, appreciation, and the importance of imagination.



Best Beloved

By Tyler Bamford '12

Naval History and Heritage Command, 2024
Dr. Tyler Bamford is a military historian with the U.S. Navy’s Naval History and Heritage Command. In his co-edited book, he shares correspondences of hope and struggle, extracted from dozens of personal letters that Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, honorary Lafayette degree recipient, wrote to his wife.



Operating a Successful Audiology Practice

By Tom Greenbaum '64

Thomas L. Greenbaum, 2024
Greenbaum equips audiologists with the first fully comprehensive guide to running a successful practice, from effective business planning to an overall marketing strategy. More than 50 years in consulting brought Greenbaum to writing his ninth book.



The Making of Modern Corporate Finance

By Donald H. Chew Jr. '73

Columbia Business School Publishing, 2025
In his forthcoming book, Dr. Donald Chew asks and answers pressing questions about the U.S. stock market and its efficiencies. He underscores how breakthroughs in corporate finance, evaluated by scholars and practitioners, have improved people’s lives by contributing to social welfare.

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



There's much to learn about this College Bookstore scene from the '70s. Was the basement of South College always this busy? What's the story behind that cool leopard statue peeking out beside the register? Is it possible something was purchased for only 25 cents? If you know the answer to any of these burning questions—or recognize any of these students—let us know: lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu.

Bert Zarins '63

In December, Zarins wrote: "I just returned from Ukraine. With the help of volunteers from Latvia, our Latvian Medical Foundation delivered two ambulances, two Medevac vehicles, and medical and surgical equipment. We visited soldiers on the front line in Kupyansk and came within 3 kilometers of the Russian border. We heard

artillery fire close by and air-raid sirens warning of incoming Russian missiles."

1970s

Rick Beltram '73

Beltram writes that in December his agricultural mission project in the

Dominican Republic completed its first harvest. With this project, he has sought to support a stronger middle class in the country by helping local families establish agricultural businesses. With the December avocado harvest, Rick writes: "We were able to employ about 20 folks who otherwise would not have had a 2024 income." They

planned to harvest plantains in March; he's also expanding the project's land holdings and anticipates having a much larger crop this year.

Back at home in South Carolina, Beltram continues with his day job (food service equipment) and various local activities, including serving as president of the local Kiwanis Club. In March, he helped host the Lafayette baseball banquet when the team had a weekend series with Davidson. Ralph Roberts '73 and Wendy Mayer Roberts '75 handled most of the logistics for this event.

Eugene "Gene" Kelsey '79

Kelsey celebrated the wedding of his son Adam Kelsey at Bell Works in Holmdel, N.J., in October. In attendance were longtime friends and KDR fraternity brothers Steven Kaplan '79, John Amorosa '79, and Edward Amaducci '79.



Richard Mayer '73

Mayer competed at Dubai's 50s+ World Champs, finishing sixth of 43 (70s) after initially being seeded No. 35. He is now No. 14 world-ranked!



1980s

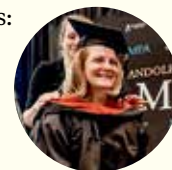
Paul Aaroe '85

Aaroe writes: "I am proud to announce that Paul Morris Aaroe III recently passed the bar of Pennsylvania and has joined the firm of Aaroe Law Offices, PC, in Easton, Pa.,

joining his parents Nancy Aaroe, Esq., and myself, in our firm. Paul is the nephew of Bradford R. Day '69, brother of Georgene 'Annie' Aaroe '14, and grandson of Judge and Col. Paul Morris Aaroe '35. Paul graduated from Bethlehem Catholic High School and participated in the four-time state champion wrestling team. He wrestled for Ursinus College and matriculated to Indiana University of Pennsylvania, then got his J.D. at Delaware Law School. He has worked with our office for several years and has already hit the ground running!"

Cary Barbor '86

Barbor writes: "I graduated with my MFA in fiction writing from Randolph College in Lynchburg, Va., in January. I continue work on the novel I started there. And I'm still a reporter and host of an author interview show for the NPR station in Fort Myers, Fla., WGPU-FM."



Anders Berg '84

Berg writes: "After 40 years of employment, I retired from Sandvik in Kennewick, Wash., and returned to our home in Fair Play, S.C., where I accepted a position as quality manager with Halton MEI USA



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF POTTERY BARN; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

Inc., located in Piedmont, S.C. Halton is a family-owned Finnish company specializing in HVAC solutions for sustainable environments. They are the global technology leader in demanding indoor air solutions across industries: food service, health care, public spaces, marine, offshore, and more. We moved into our new facility at the beginning of August, started production at the end of August, and achieved ISO 9001:2015 certification at the end of December."

Francey Kanengiser Burke '80

Burke writes, "I have spent my career after Lafayette as the director of special events and community relations at our family dealership, Burke Motor Group in Cape May County, N.J. I was recently honored to be recognized by Subaru of America as No. 1 in the entire U.S., out of over 630 Subaru retailers, for community endeavors and testimonials."

Robert Edwards '85

In his new book, *Resisting the Right: How to Survive the Gathering Storm* (OR Books, 2024), Edwards, a former U.S. Army intelligence officer, assesses the threat, likely scenarios, and how a right-wing autocracy can be combated using political action, civil disobedience, economics, cyberspace, traditional media, social media, the arts, and even our personal relationships. Edwards writes, "At a time when the future of American democracy teeters on a cliff's edge, the urgency of *Resisting the Right* could not be more acute."

Nina Campo Flood '83

After less than a year running the Timberland brand in EMEA, Flood relocated to New Hampshire as Timberland's global brand president. "As one of the top female executives in the footwear industry, Flood prides herself on sharing her knowledge and experience with other future leaders," *Footwear News* stated in a 2024 article on Flood. She told the outlet, "Never 'fake it 'til you make it.' Do the work. Be the real deal. And be confident—remember, you have earned your seat at the table."

Diane Gaglia Gottschalk '84

Sigma Kappa friends from the Class of '84 reunited for their annual pre-Thanksgiving luncheon, which was hosted by Nancy Gallagher '84 at The Ridge at Back Brook in Ringoes, N.J., Oct. 20, 2024. In attendance were: Kris Huber Rudisill '84, Maureen Davis Bibeau '84, Daphne Ferenczi Galvin '84, Nancy Bennett Gallagher '84, and Gottschalk. Gottschalk writes: "We enjoyed the afternoon sun on the patio as we gathered around a bottle of Mystic Bond champaigne. We shared memories, caught up on family activities, were treated to a fabulous gourmet lunch, and continued our tradition of exchanging Sigma Kappa or leopard-themed gifts. We look forward to this event each year!"

Earlier in the year, on Aug. 17, Gottschalk celebrated the marriage of Kris and Frank Rudisill's daughter, Jocilyn, to Michael O'Brien at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Absecon, N.J., and wedding reception at Blue Heron Pines Golf Club in Egg Harbor City, N.J. Says Gottschalk, "It was great to have so many Pardes join Kris to help celebrate,



ON THE SHELVES

Kravet LLC designs for Pottery Barn

The fabric and furnishings business Kravet LLC, where Ellen Kravet Burke '76 is executive vice president, recently collaborated with Pottery Barn for a limited-edition collection. The collection reimagines some of Kravet's most iconic prints and patterns pulled from its extensive archives: damask pillowcases with French knots; classic striped pillows; and cheery Ikat picture frames. Kravet has operated as a family business for five generations; Burke joined the company in 1985.

especially since Frank graduated from Lehigh! A good time was had by all!”

Elizabeth Holmes ’87
Holmes was on campus in November to attend a lecture in the Class of 1961 International Speaker Series, where they honored her late father, Ronald E. Geesey ’61, for his role in founding the series. Writes Holmes: “The fall colors were in their full glory. I enjoyed talking to current students and was surprised to learn that they still say ‘Who’s spinning tonight?’ to ask where the parties are! I caught up with Wendy Hilkenes Rees ’87 over Thanksgiving weekend at brunch, which was cooked by her husband, David. It still amazes me that our time at Lafayette was 37 years ago and that we have grown-up kids.”

John Moser ’81
Moser writes: “I have recently accepted a leadership position at The Lodge at Woodloch, one of the highest rated destination spas in the country. We are conveniently located in the Poconos and have our sister family and golf resorts next door. If you have never been, add it to your list. It is beautiful here, and you will not be disappointed!”



Fred Raffetto ’87
Raffetto, who was a city attorney for Asbury Park, N.J., for more than 20 years, was appointed as a judge of the New Jersey State Tax Court in Trenton, N.J., in December. During his time representing the city, key laws were passed such as affordable housing, rent control, and workforce development; he was also pivotal in redevelopment and

helping Asbury Park become the first municipality in New Jersey to allow same-sex marriages. Raffetto received his law degree from Seton Hall University in 1991 and has been working at the law firm of Hill Wallack in Red Bank, N.J.

Lt. Gen. Stuart Risch ’84
Risch retired in September 2024—after 40 total years of service—as the judge advocate general, or senior uniformed lawyer, of the U.S. Army. During his tenure as the Army’s top lawyer, Risch led the activities of the JAG Corps’ 10,000 military and civilian attorneys and paralegals worldwide, in addition to acting as the senior military legal adviser to the civilian Secretary of the Army and the 4-Star Army Chief of Staff. Risch, a Lafayette ROTC graduate, was commissioned into the Army in 1984 and entered active duty with the JAG Corps in 1988, serving in a succession of leadership roles throughout his military career. His service includes multiple combat tours of duty in Iraq (1990), Kuwait (2004), and Saudi Arabia (2010), and his military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Randi Weiss ’88
Arnold & Porter announced that Weiss has been promoted as the firm’s chief business development and marketing officer. Weiss will oversee strategic initiatives that deepen client engagement, boost market visibility, and drive business growth. She has three decades of experience in legal and professional services marketing and



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served as the firm’s director of business development for the past eight years, where she directed and managed business growth activities for many of the firm’s regulatory and litigation practices.

1990s

Jeannine Anckaitis ’93
Anckaitis is the executive director of a nonprofit that just won Eastern PA Youth Soccer’s Service to Community Award. Youth Development United is an extracurricular program facilitating access to healthy options and encouraging healthy habits for children in underserved communities like Chester, Pa. The extended program, which includes martial arts, dance, nature-based activities, and other offerings, launched in fall 2021, built from the success of its long-standing soccer program, Chester Upland Youth Soccer.



Marisa De Zego ’98
De Zego is marrying her passions for teaching and fitness by opening a boutique barre studio in Mount Kisco, N.Y., this summer. If you are interested in being a part of her teaching or welcome staff, please connect via LinkedIn (Marisa De Zego).



Thomas Dunlap ’94
Dunlap writes: “I enjoyed teaching Lafayette engineering students last fall. The students were incredibly engaged,

Richard Andreski Jr. ’96
As CEO and president of Trinity Metro in Fort Worth, Texas, Andreski and the work of his agency were showcased on NBC Dallas Fort-Worth, Channel 5 in January. For more than 40 years, Trinity Metro has been providing a variety of public transit services in Fort Worth, Texas. Watch the clip at nbcdfw.com.

Kim Gronquist Dennison ’94
Dennison lives in Randolph, N.J., with husband Greg Dennison ’93, daughter Jules, who is a sophomore in high school, and their 90-pound “lap dog” named Aja. After 16 years in many roles at Fairleigh Dickinson University, she got her real estate license and has been actively working as a realtor for more than five years, specializing in Morris, Essex, Union, and Somerset Counties.

In her Class of 1994 column, Dennison writes about the great turnout for the 30th reunion in June: “It was so fun having KDR open for the day. Onto our 35th!”

learning and handling legal concepts that are confusing to many lawyers. It is a strange and wonderful thing to be back on a much changed campus, which I suppose is to be expected after 30 years. I suspect none of my classmates (including myself) ever saw this future me!”

Jennifer Lilore Huesman ’91
Huesman was in touch to say she and Maureen McShane Morse ’91, Nicole Feinsinger Milstead ’91, and Julie Longo Shoemaker ’91 met in Charleston, S.C., for a fun reunion in October.

Whelan Mahoney ’94
After 20-plus years in media ad sales, Mahoney has successfully transitioned to a new line of work at Trinity Solar, as a solar sales professional for residential homeowners. Says Mahoney, “It brings me joy to be helping folks save money while helping the planet!”

Brian Waerig ’94
Waerig writes that he is still living in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., with his wife, two sons, and their super cute dog. He is a partner at the Law Firm of Susanin Wildman and Brennan, along with being in the thick of college searches, high school sports, and driver’s licenses.

2000s

David Clements ’06
Clements writes that he “recently purchased an Audi R8, because ‘life is short.’”



Alumni Memoriam

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

1948 Dr. Warren O. Groves	1957 Capt. Carl M. Albero, USN, Ret. Raymond H. Collins Dr. Raymond L. Milhous Howard C. Morgan P’81, G’21	1964 Richard P. Dahlgren James McGovern Donald P. Palmer	1976 Dr. E. Gary Lamsback P’13 Michael D. Tryon
1949 James C. O’Hara John H. Young P’74,76, G’17	1958 Raymond H. McIntosh	1966 Harold E. Huber Paul B. O’Hea P’92,96, G’26	1977 Paul P. Cherney P’15
1950 James B. Mahan Jr. Abram C. Parker E. Crosby Willet	1959 Dr. Gilbert Brinckerhoff E. Lawrence Gogolin Jr. Donald Martini Erwin W. Notter Robert E. Sanderson Richard T. Schlough John T. Sterling Jerry C. Turnauer Brooks Von Arx P’87, G’13	1968 Dr. Marshall D. Kramer P’06	1978 Lucky H. Yaple
1952 Rev. Robert B. Sheldon Frank V. Smith Jr.	1969 John R. Howland James A. Shellenberger	1980 Stephanie B. Flanagan	1984 Paul J. Green Robert “Bob” Edward Nelson
1953 Carl P. Arbogast George F. Groves Jules F. Halm P’85,87 John H. Herbruck David C. Hubinger Edward D. Smith	1970 Francis Allan Clarke Peter G. Halstead John E. Kehoe William T. Kellow Appleton Kent Rossetter III	1985 Mark A. Rossi Jr. Linda Scholl Schumacher	1989 James M. Njeru
1954 Charles A. Divine Jr. Frank Scangarella P’76,80, G’08 Marlin B. Stewart Edward I. Strouse	1962 Bruce A. Vakiener W. Barry Wright	1991 William R. Parks Jr.	1998 Nicholas J. Pokoluk
1955 Dr. Richard J. Pawelski Hon. William H. Rufe III P’79,81,84, G’12,13,27	1963 James H. Craiglow Dr. Edward H. Eisele III Robert W. Larmour W. Kenneth Price Dr. Dominic A. Viscomi P’91,94	2001 Karen L. Dolnik	2002 Donald A. Stewart
1956 Frederick F. Hunt Rev. Dr. Donald L. Mitchell Jr. Dr. Irwin M. Pasternak	1972 Brian Douglas Cole Lance D. Williams	FACULTY/STAFF Bonnie J. Robbins Carolynn Van Dyke Dr. Hal Wissel	
	1973 David A. Dubow Ross E. Fishbough		
	1974 Dr. Barry R. Seidman P’05		
	1975 Richard T. Burns Thomas W. Carr		

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

Richard Connors '06
Connors and his family are still thriving in Grand Junction, Colo. In August, he started a new job with SGM Inc. as a land survey technician. Recently, he and his wife, Patrice, welcomed a second baby girl to the family, Danica Joe Connors, born Jan. 31.

Lauren Giordani '06
Arnold & Porter announced that Giordani was appointed as the firm's first chief practice innovation officer. Giordani will be creating a systematic, formalized approach to driving innovation throughout the firm. For the past 10 years, Giordani has served as director of practice management, overseeing a team responsible for the firm's operations, staffing needs, and technology and resource priorities.

Lauren Moses Specht '02
Specht writes: "Steve and I moved to the French Alps, near the town of Annecy! It's a dream come true for us. Thankfully our three boys are adjusting to a French-speaking school. I retired from the U.S. Navy, having done health care as a physician assistant for 20 years. I'm thankful to be enjoying time with family in a beautiful country."



2010s

Rob Delaney '12
Carrick Capital Partners, a growth-oriented investment firm focused on software and software-enabled



businesses, located in San Francisco and Newport Beach, Calif., has promoted Delaney to managing director and partner. Delaney joined Carrick in 2018 as a senior associate and was quickly promoted to vice president and soon after, director. During his tenure at Carrick, he has been responsible for sourcing and originating new deal opportunities, and executing and implementing investments leveraging Carrick's thematic sourcing specialty and "Approach to Build Value." Prior to joining Carrick, he earned his MBA from Harvard Business School. Delaney started his career at Accenture after graduating from Lafayette, where he was captain of the basketball team.

Elena Esch '18
Esch is pursuing a dual M.D./Ph.D. degree at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, a top 16 medical school in the country, where she is part of a groundbreaking \$46 million ARPA-H grant focused on restoring vision to the blind through eye transplantation. "I am proud to contribute to this transformative work," Esch says.

Marie Garofalo Imaizumi '10
Imaizumi and her husband, Kirk, welcomed daughter Giada Emiko Imaizumi Oct. 27 in Indio, Calif. They are enjoying this exciting new chapter as a family of three.



Bennett Kaplan '19 and Julia Ciciarelli '19
Class of 2019 graduates Kaplan and Ciciarelli were married Sept. 28 in Charlotte, N.C., surrounded by friends, family, and fellow Pardis!

Melissa Kastner Krublitz '11
Krublitz and her husband, Ross, welcomed their third child, Shoshana, Jan. 18, 2024. Big sisters Channah and Bayla are smitten with their little sister.



Nicolette Reilly '16 and Brendan Malone '15
Reilly and Malone were married June 22.

Victoria Walters '14 and Paul Weston '14
Walters and Weston welcomed their first child, Quinn Joanne Walters-Weston, July 26.



Brandy West '17 and Chris Miller '17
West and Miller were married Sept. 27 in Newport, R.I., surrounded by fellow alumni including West's brother, Brian West '12, and sister, Coty West '16.

2020s

Samantha Bluvol '21 and Bryce Currie '20
Bluvol writes that she and Currie got engaged in May and took some of their engagement photos at Lafayette.



Maria Bossert '23
Bossert conducted 10 months of qualitative research through the Fulbright program in Nepal. Her

research was partnered with the Tharu Cultural Museum and Research Center in Chitwan, Nepal, where she worked closely with the local community to carry out ethnographic research about how environmental change has impacted Tharu traditional ecological knowledge over time. Additionally, during summer 2024, Bossert was a science educator, Alaska Geographic, at Denali National Park and Preserve.

Daphna Fertil '22
Fertil, of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, was selected as an honorable mention for the Rising Black Scientists Awards. The awards provide financial support for promising U.S. African American scientists in the U.S. to create opportunities for professional development. Fertil studied chemical engineering at Lafayette and is preparing to pursue a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering.

Katelin Seber '23
Seber recently started her journey in law at Columbia Law School. She's interested in international law but is open to other varieties and exploring what Columbia has to offer. Her program is about three years long, and her aim is to end up at a big law firm and ultimately go in-house.

Michael Sun '23
Sun is at New York Law School, where is he specializing in intellectual property and focusing on trademark and copyright litigation.

Jillian Turkmany '20 and Paulius Zalyis '19
Turkmany and Zalyis celebrated their wedding in Encinitas, Calif., July 13 with a crew of Leopards.

Marquis Scouts

Alumnae show their support for Lafayette's inaugural Girl Scout Badge Day.

Prof. Lauren Anderson '04, William A. Jeffers Dean of Engineering, organized four sessions in Acopian Engineering Center for scouts to earn Automotive Design and Engineering badges. Working closely with engineering students, Daisies and Brownies learned about the engineering design process, then built vehicles with recycled materials (water bottles, caps) before testing their cars to see how fast, and far, they could go.



Sixty Girl Scouts from the Lehigh Valley and eastern Pennsylvania explored campus on a Saturday in February. Instructional technologist Chris Tomik '03 helped organize the day, along with Kelly Huth, assistant director, internal and community communications, and Jodi Fowler, associate director, civic leadership. Tomik, a local Girl Scout leader, brought her Daisies to earn engineering badges.



Badges offered included an interdisciplinary mix—Coding, College Knowledge, STEM Career Exploration, and Truth Seeker. Rachel Nelson Moeller '88, P'21, a Lafayette retiree and manager of governance at Girl Scouts of the USA, congratulated Lafayette for creating the event, offering scouts a chance to build skills and confidence. "As someone deeply committed to the Lafayette and Girl Scouting missions, I am so proud of this partnership and look forward to next year!"



Lafayette students also volunteered their time and expertise to help scouts grades K-12 earn two badges, including former Girl Scouts Grace Trautwein '26, Katie Simpson '26, and Megan Dursema '26. Dursema, pictured left, co-led a session on Financial Independence with Wanos Bahiru '25 for 11th and 12th graders.



For the Cadettes, former troop leader Elaine Stomber '89, P'17, 21 co-designed a Book Artist session with Skillman Library colleagues Ana Ramirez Luhrs and Elizabeth Sica.

FOR MORE Check out photos and a recap of the day at news.lafayette.edu/scouts.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON; (BOOKS, CAR) KELLY HUTH



BRING INTO PLAY

Honoring a legacy
through the game of soccer.

BY MADELINE MARRIOTT '24

● AND...

During his life, Michael Bloom '16 was passionate about bringing the joy of play to children around the world.

A soccer player during his time at Lafayette, Michael understood the transformative power of the game as an outlet and community unifier. When he and his wife, Madeleine Hart Bloom '16 (pictured), were deciding what to give to a community in Haiti, he didn't just want to send the staples—he wanted them to have soccer balls too. "He understood what it meant to be truly charitable," Madeleine says. "He saw the value in the joy of play."

After Michael's 2023 passing, when Madeleine was considering where to direct people to donate in lieu of funeral flowers, money for soccer balls just made sense. The outpouring of support, particularly from the Lafayette community, made her realize she could establish something bigger: the Michael G. Bloom Foundation.

In conjunction with another nonprofit group, Northbound Foundation, they've already completed a brand-new soccer field in Tanzania, with plans for future fields across the continent and beyond.

Named Furaha Field after the Swahili word for "joy," the pitch has become a primary recreational space for the nearby village of 7,000 people. It has solar lights for playing at night, bleachers for the community to watch, and a retaining wall—decorated with a mural by a local artist—to keep games away from the road. Says Madeleine: "It's about giving these children, especially girls in the village who haven't been given the same opportunities, the chance to play in a safe place."

She notes that even before the kids had a soccer ball at their feet, they were rolling around on the new field. "We take for granted having something like grass to play on in our country," Madeleine explains. "They were so happy."

Pards have been instrumental in keeping Michael's memory alive. A fundraiser in Central Park last fall, organized by Michael's former Lafayette teammates Nick Villani '16, Dante Piccolo '17, and Ryan Egan '17, gathered dozens of alumni. Funds raised from that event will be used to acknowledge Michael's legacy through signage at Gummesson Grounds this spring. 📍

Learn more about the foundation at michaelgbloomfoundation.org.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KATIE CHALLO AND JOSEY MLANGO



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