

THE BICENTENNIAL ISSUE

# Lafayette

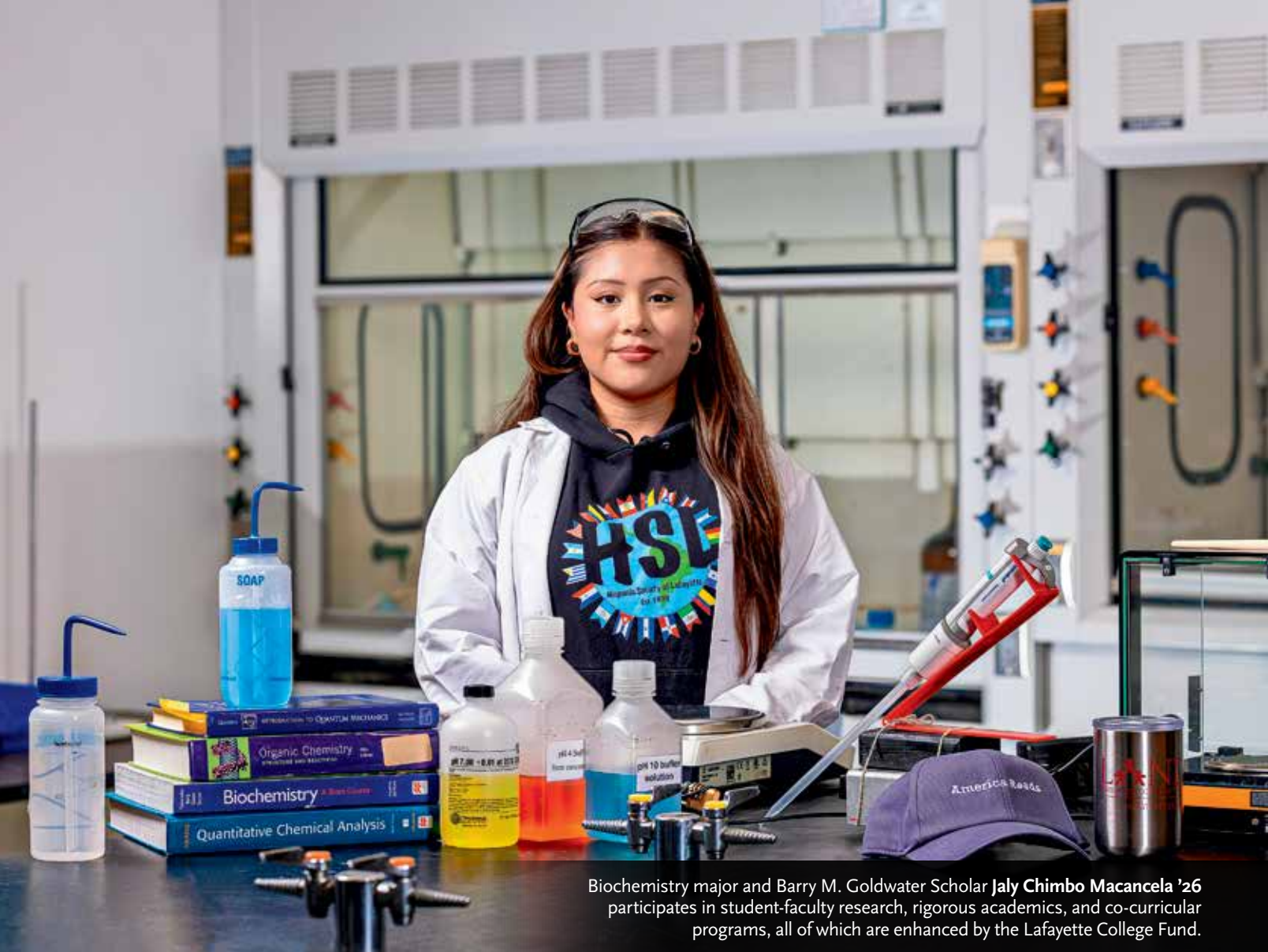
THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

FALL 2025

AHEAD OF  
OUR TIME







Biochemistry major and Barry M. Goldwater Scholar **Jaly Chimbo Macancela '26** participates in student-faculty research, rigorous academics, and co-curricular programs, all of which are enhanced by the Lafayette College Fund.

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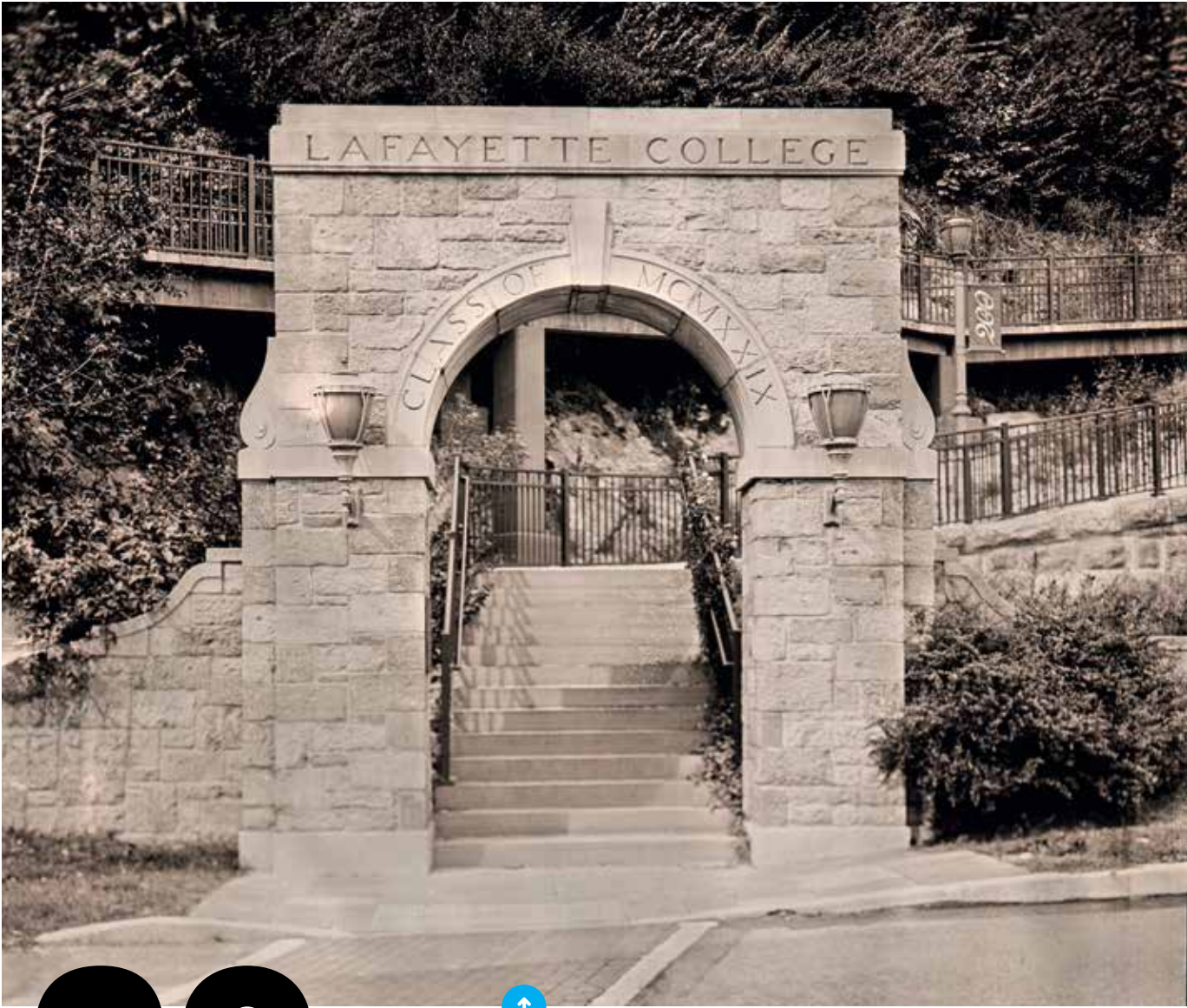


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Built with stones from a 19th-century campus observatory, the Class of 1929 Arch is a timeless gateway to College Hill.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK SMITH



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A bustling College Hill pictured on the first alumni magazine from 1930 inspired the cover of this Bicentennial issue.

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# THE BICENTENNIAL TOUR

WITH PRESIDENT HURD

A FITNESS CHALLENGE FOR ALL INTERESTS AND ABILITIES, PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO RUN, WALK, BIKE, SWIM, AND MOVE THROUGHOUT 2026. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SPECIAL PELOTON SESSIONS WITH PRESIDENT NICOLE HURD.

LET'S GO!  
LAFAYETTE

200  
1,826  
1,926  
2,026

Log minutes at specific intervals that tie back to the College's history and

WIN PRIZES



#LafayetteCollege200

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (1826) MATT SMITH; (CRAYOLA) JAQUAN ALSTON. ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA.





# History never ends

“What a pleasure to be here today,” Virginie de Pusy Lafayette, a direct descendant of the Marquis, wrote in a College guest book at the Chateau Chavaniac in April. “A place named for my ancestor, the most famous of my ancestors, Lafayette! History never ends, and legacy has to be shared with younger generations.” The seventh-generation relative of the Marquis is one of many special voices included [p. 5] in this Bicentennial issue of the magazine. On p. 49, Riley Temple ’71 reflects on how valuable it is to study the arts and humanities. We hear from Daveed Diggs [p. 28], who famously portrayed Lafayette on Broadway, and are moved by the spirit of Lafayette’s wife, Adrienne [p. 42]. You’ll find Q&As with our alumna archivist [p. 53] and the longest at-service professor on campus, now in his 52nd year of teaching [p. 18]. We celebrate The Rivalry on p. 51 (a series the Pards hold an 82-73-5 lead, by the way) and commissioned a poem, “200 Years,” by Lee Upton [p. 64]. As we move into 2026, we fit as much of our heritage and values into these pages. Definitely impossible, but surely worthy of trying. Happy 200th, Lafayette! —Amy Downey, editor, *Lafayette* magazine

Lee Upton  
“200 Years,”  
p. 64



Lee Upton, Emerita Francis A. March Professor of English and Writer-in-Residence, penned a poem about time: two decades of it. Her poetry has been in *The New Republic*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Poetry*, *The New Yorker*, and *Best American Poetry*. She is the author of 17 books, including the comic novel *Tabitha*, *Get Up* (2024), a semifinalist for the 2026 Thurber Prize for American Humor.

Rick Smith  
“Living history,”  
p. 28



Rick Smith has spent two decades capturing Lafayette’s athletic life through his lens. Beyond sports, the photographer practices the 19th-century wet-plate collodion process; he brings this fine art approach to the portraiture in “Living history” on p. 28. The series of photographs taken with his camera (pictured, top) took one year to complete, deliberately slowing down time on College Hill.

# Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

FALL 2025

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# Lasting legacy

President Nicole Hurd welcomed Virginie de Pusy Lafayette, a direct descendant of the Marquis, during a special campus visit in April.

**NH:** Welcome to Lafayette. I’m particularly grateful to be with you at Chateau Chavaniac, a retreat just north of campus, built by Allan P. Kirby ’15 and named after your ancestor’s birthplace in France.  
**VPL:** Thank you. I feel honored to be invited.

**NH:** As you walked through campus, how did it feel to see Lafayette memorialized?  
**VPL:** ‘Lafayette’ is a fitting name for the College because Lafayette was young when he came to America, and he embodied the best of youth

with his values. I went to Skillman Library and was very impressed—I loved to see his letters.

**NH:** You’ve been interested in your genealogy since you were a teenager, correct?  
**VPL:** My parents’ house [in Auvergne, France] had a room of Lafayette memorabilia. It was dedicated in 1976 by Kenneth Rush, the United States Ambassador to France. I was a tour guide there between the ages of 16 and 18 and met hundreds of visitors.

**NH:** When you speak about the Marquis, what do you always make sure to share?  
**VPL:** Since we talk more about the French Revolution in France, I want people to be aware of Lafayette’s role in the American War of Independence. There is a link between both because he was a great humanist.

**NH:** As a history major myself, I appreciate the incredible lineage you have in your family.  
**VPL:** Yes, and I was so glad to be chosen as an ambassador for the recent anniversary events of Lafayette’s 1824-25 Farewell Tour in America, because it was the first time a female descendant had been honored in this way.

**NH:** We are also captured by Lafayette’s wife, Adrienne, whose wisdom and grace shaped nations. As part of our Bicentennial celebrations, we will be unveiling a bust of her on campus in the spring.  
**VPL:** The first time I came across her biography, I was 14. I feel close to Adrienne because she had a spiritual life. You must always find strength—faith is essential.

**NH:** One of the things we encourage at Lafayette is the phrase ‘Cur Non,’ which is part of your family’s crest. I’m curious if you share that philosophy?  
**VPL:** Yes, of course. Lafayette knew how to listen to himself and follow his deepest convictions. If you have an idea, put it into action. Do not hesitate to take your chance.

**FOR MORE** Watch the interview between President Hurd and Virginie de Pusy Lafayette at [magazine.lafayette.edu/descendant](https://magazine.lafayette.edu/descendant).



## GET TO KNOW VIRGINIE DE PUSY LAFAYETTE

Virginie (pictured, right) is a seventh-generation direct descendant of the Marquis de Lafayette. She is a patron of the Lafayette Order in the Auvergne region of France.

**EXPERTISE**  
She is active with stateside organizations such as The American Friends of Lafayette and National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

**NOTEWORTHY**  
As the official ambassador of the 2025 orchestra series, *The Lafayette Musical & Immersive Bicentennial Tour*, Virginie was on campus in April for its final performance, held at Williams Center for the Arts.

**MAKING HISTORY**  
While paying respects at George Washington’s grave on Aug. 12, 2024, she met and bonded with a descendant of James Armistead Lafayette.

**LAST WORD**  
“When you’re the descendant of a man who wanted to change the world, your whole life is about wanting to do good around you.”







# POWERFUL TESTAMENT

Regarding “Easton to the stars” [*Summer 2025*, p. 28], my first contact with Acopian was when they provided a power supply for my Lafayette honors project in physics under Prof. Les Erich. As a grad student, I used Acopian Power Supplies for several experiments. As a faculty member, I often had my students use them. When I was a visiting engineer at NASA, they were used in a space communications project. A great Pard tradition!

**DR. LADIMER NAGURNEY '72**  
Professor Emeritus at University of Hartford

Great family history and accomplishments. You make us all proud Pards.  
*Robert Goldstein '80*

**Kirby Library shines**  
Loved the pic of Kirby Library in *Lafayette* [p. 54]. I worked as the night librarian my senior year in 1972-73. Amazed at how similar it still looks, the only difference I see is the lack of green leather mission-style reading chairs in each alcove.  
*Richard Y. Flanagan '73*



I love the photo of Kirby Library that was offered in the summer issue of *Lafayette* alumni magazine. It's a gorgeous library, and I fondly recall my days there studying or waiting for my next Gov Law class.  
*Erika Ulring '03*

Thank you very much for offering a copy of this photograph to the Lafayette community. While the room has been updated and restored since I spent many hours there in the first half of the 1960s, the photo brings to life many memories. I look forward to having this remembrance of my days at Lafayette.  
*David Allen '65*

I spent many hours studying in this beautiful, quiet reading room of the Kirby Library during my four years at Lafayette.  
*Jim Oberdick '63*

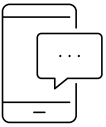


PHOTOGRAPH (KIRBY) BY JAQUAN ALSTON; (SPACE) NASA, ESA, THE HUBBLE HERITAGE TEAM; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

The Kirby Library was where I spent a huge portion of my academic hours at Lafayette. I have always considered it to be one of the most beautiful rooms I've ever seen.  
*Gilbert E. Schill Jr. '68*



**Rivalry memories**  
For an upcoming feature in *Lafayette* magazine: We want your memories of Lafayette-Lehigh Rivalry! Are you at the football game every year? Is there a highlight-reel play that you remember? Do you have a game day tradition, whether it's wearing a lucky hat or sitting with the same friends? Share your story and it will be considered for publication: [lafayettetmagazine@lafayette.edu](mailto:lafayettetmagazine@lafayette.edu).



ON THE WEB:

“Always an honor to be mentioned next to such amazing people in *Lafayette* alumni magazine.”

—Carrie Lyn Strong '99

**Alumni wedding of McElhone and McClain**  
Many congratulations to a lovely couple [*In All the World*, p. 56]! My hubby and I met at Lafayette in 1999 and have been together ever since.  
*Jessica Swarr '03*

Congratulations from one half of another Lafayette couple: Class of 1992, married 30 years and counting!  
*Holly Epstein Ojalvo '92*



**Summer reading**  
I just want to congratulate your team on one of the greatest looking and most interesting alumni issues I've seen [*Summer 2025*]. A truly professional effort.  
*Bob Jarvis '66*



**WRITE TO US** Have feedback or a story idea? Email [lafayettetmagazine@lafayette.edu](mailto:lafayettetmagazine@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.

Andrew Pohlmann P'29 writes: “Great to see the 200-year-old brand Lafayette College working with Abercrombie & Fitch. I am sure my daughter will be standing in line for this new merch when she arrives on campus.”



PHOTOGRAPHS (WEDDING) BY CASSIE CASTELLAW; (LEOPARD) JAQUAN ALSTON; (SOUVENIR) THOMAS HENGGE; (A&F) GENAMARIE MCCANT



**FOR MORE**  
Check out the latest content from [news.lafayette.edu](https://news.lafayette.edu)

- ▶ **#LafayetteCollege200**  
Share your social media snaps through 2026 with the unique Bicentennial hashtag.
- ▶ **Mentorship series**  
Visit some of the partnerships on campus that have tailored the Lafayette experience.
- ▶ **“Celebrating faculty”**  
Learn more about their expertise and expectations in these online Q&As.



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1826 • 2026

## INSIDE

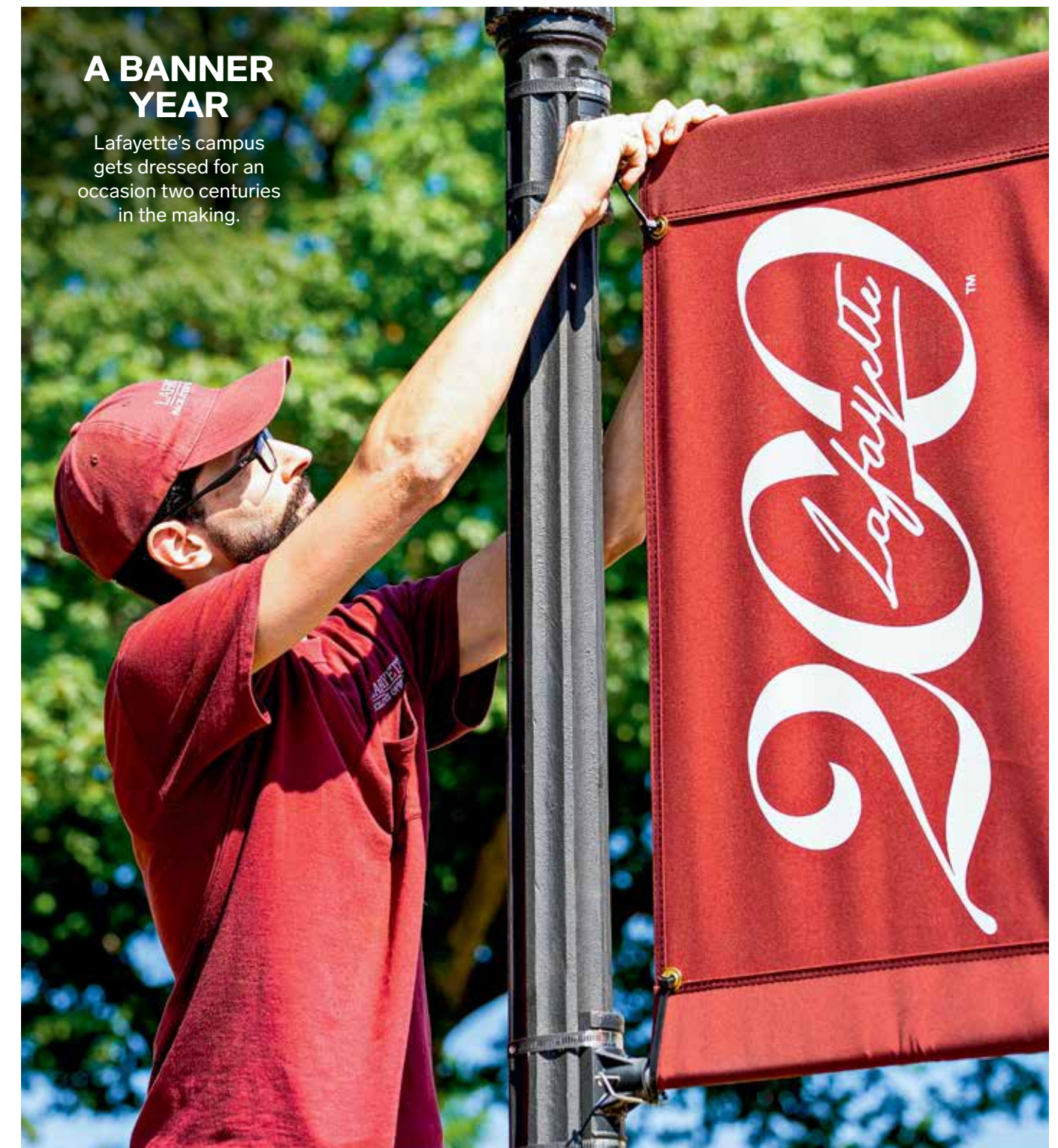
Noteworthy news and happenings on campus. **p. 10**—Laf tops rankings, names endowed positions. **p. 11**—September's Bicentennial Kickoff and Fall Weekend, lacrosse gets new home, and more. **p. 13**—Burpee's Marquis Marigolds; Martin Guitar's backstage tour.



# On the Hill

## A BANNER YEAR

Lafayette's campus  
gets dressed for an  
occasion two centuries  
in the making.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON



IN THE NEWS

Top rankings

As Lafayette enters its Bicentennial year, the College continues to receive national recognition. The areas where Lafayette continuously excels—academics, career services, financial aid, and school value—were recently acknowledged on respected “Best Colleges” lists of 2026. A few of the highlights:

- › **#30** (tie) Best National Liberal Arts Colleges in the United States *U.S. News & World Report*
- › **#7** Best Career Services *The Princeton Review*
- › **#7** Great Financial Aid *The Princeton Review*
- › **#15** Most Engaged in Community Service *The Princeton Review*

For a full roundup of the rankings, visit [news.lafayette.edu/2026rankings](https://news.lafayette.edu/2026rankings).

ATHLETICS

Field hockey flourishes

The program’s first three games of the season heralded a three-game shutout. Deeper into September, the Maroon and White knocked off rival Lehigh and No. 16 Penn State. By early November, the team beat Bucknell 2-1 to advance to the Patriot League Championship game for the third-straight season, before falling to No. 4 Boston University. Adding to field hockey’s exciting season was a memorable Homecoming, in which members of the 2024 Patriot League Championship squad received their rings and were recognized on the field during the football game.



GIFT

Strategic plan

David Lomet ’61 has made a key investment to the strategic plan, directly assisting the launch of the initiative “Democracy and Its Technologies.” Lomet spent 25-plus years at Microsoft Research, founding and managing the database research group; published 125-plus papers; holds 67 patents; and is a National Academy of Engineering member. “His commitment exemplifies the powerful role alumni play in shaping the future of liberal arts education,” Provost Laura McGrane says. “This funding helps us explore the complex intersections of democracy, technology, and society in relation to profound questions about information, cultural production, and what it means to be human.”

ENGINEERING

Accreditation earned

Lafayette College’s Integrative Engineering program, established in 2019, has earned ABET accreditation, effective as of its first graduates in 2023. The program is the first new B.S. engineering degree at Lafayette to be accredited in over a century, blending engineering, liberal arts, and interdisciplinary study with focus areas in bioengineering, robotics, and environment and energy.

FACULTY

New positions

The following professors were named to endowed positions:



**Christa Kelleher ’08**  
*Kate and Walter A. Scott ’59 Scholar in Engineering*



**Melissa Galloway**  
*John D. & Frances H. Larkin Scholar of Chemistry*



**Alessandro Giovannelli**  
*James Renwick Hogg Professor in Mental and Moral Philosophy*



March Field never looked so elegant as it did for the Marquis Founders Dinner, held Saturday night of Bicentennial Kickoff and Fall Weekend. For more coverage, turn to p. 63.

As part of Bicentennial programming, a reception took place at the George Washington Presidential Library in Mount Vernon, Va., on Oct. 22. The evening included presentations and discussions about the College’s namesake and his confidante, President George Washington.



PHOTOGRAPH BY (RING) OLIVIA GIRALICO; (MOUNT VERNON) LISSA RYAN; (FACULTY) JAQUAN ALSTON

BUILDINGS

Wallach debut

A dedication was held in October for the new Wallach Sports Performance and Lacrosse Center located at Metzgar Fields Athletic Complex. With the support of a lead gift from Andrew ’95 and Dina Opici Wallach ’95, the two-story facility is a resource for all student-athletes. For more information, turn to p. 22.



PHOTOGRAPH BY (BICENTENNIAL) RICK SMITH; (WALLACH) MARCUS LEBRON PHOTO & VIDEO; (NASA) RICK SMITH

LEADERSHIP

President’s contract extended

The Board of Trustees has extended President Nicole Hurd’s contract through June 2030. Since becoming the College’s 18th president in 2021, Hurd’s leadership has helped applications surge 28% to a historic high, while major initiatives have expanded access, funding, and global engagement.

CELEBRATION

School spirit

The College Store has a special selection of Bicentennial merchandise in stock, from small “200” stickers to Lafayette-branded Abercrombie & Fitch sweatshirts. Shipping is available; visit [collegestore.lafayette.edu](https://collegestore.lafayette.edu).

BY THE NUMBERS

5,000

Approximate number of alumni, parents, and friends who attended Bicentennial Kickoff and Fall Weekend in September.







DISCOVERY

Improving quality of life

Earlier in the year, Lafayette engineering students presented projects enhancing independence for people with mobility challenges. One project, a self-driving wheelchair built in Acopian (pictured, above), functions like a self-driving vehicle that follows predefined routes; the technology serves those with significant mobility limitations, requiring no pushing or joystick control. Another team developed a smart living environment that enables users to operate household devices through accessible panels and voice commands.

AWARDS

Six join Maroon Club Hall of Fame

Six Leopard legends will be enshrined in the Maroon Club Hall of Fame Class of 2025-26 on Nov. 21 at Kirby Sports Center. Penny Ferency-Bermender '91 (volleyball, track and field); James Conrad '07 (baseball); Deanna DiCrocce '13 (field hockey); Mike Joseph '88 (football); Matt Lancor '88 (soccer); and the late Bill Lawson (multisport coach) will be celebrated for their extraordinary contributions to Lafayette athletics.

ON CAMPUS

Global Resource Lounge

The Office of Advising and Co-Curricular Programs announced the opening of the Global Resource Lounge, a space dedicated to celebrating and supporting Lafayette's international community. Located in Jenks Hall, Room 100, the lounge is open daily and available to reserve for cultural and inclusive gatherings.

TECHNOLOGY

Visualizing concepts better

Learning is a little easier, thanks to EXCEL Scholar Mita Crane '26 (below, left) and Prof. Chris Ruebeck (below, right). This summer, Crane enhanced the market simulation software used in Ruebeck's Industrial Organization course. Crane, an economics and policy studies major, designed a new visual interface to help students better interpret data and connect theory to real-world market behavior; by combining creativity with coding expertise, abstract concepts are transformed into dynamic visuals. Their collaboration reflects Lafayette's dedication to immersive, hands-on learning that empowers students to apply their technical and analytical skills in meaningful, innovative ways.



Lafayette has partnered with leading home gardening brand Burpee on packages of "Marquis Marigold" seeds. "2026 will be special for Lafayette and Burpee," says Jamie Mattikow '86, Burpee president and CEO. "We are thrilled to bring some beauty and excitement to our alumni as we celebrate the College's 200th anniversary." Available for purchase at the College Store.

AWARDS

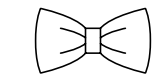
Tau Beta Pi praise

Lafayette marks its 10th straight year of Tau Beta Pi scholarship earners. Seniors Sophia "Bella" Harrill, Owen Paschke, Kashif Chopra, and Aidan Rose were honored for excellence in academics, leadership, and service, contributing to research, entrepreneurship, and campus life while upholding the highest ideals of the engineering profession.

ATHLETICS

Kente Edwards pulls away

Lafayette football is a threat once again in the Patriot League, due in large part to the running game headed by Kente Edwards '27. On Sept. 13, versus Georgetown, the economics major ran 19 times for 255 yards and four scores—a performance that earned him one of his three consecutive Patriot League Offensive Player of the Week honors. By early November, the tailback led the Patriot League in rushing yards (1,032) and rushing touchdowns (15) through ten games.



DID YOU KNOW?

A Bicentennial gala is being planned for students in 2026; festivities are set to take place on the Quad.

PHOTOGRAPH BY (WHEELCHAIR AND RUEBECK) JAQUAN ALSTON; (BURPEE) OLIVIA GIRALICO

GERMAN

A day that honored 200 years

The Department of Languages and Literary Studies organized a day of lectures honoring Lafayette's 200-year connection to German Studies. Established as one of the first disciplines, the language was taught to students in the College's first year and remains enshrined in Article X of our charter, mandating "a Professorship of the German Language." The September symposium celebrated the contributions of Professor Emerita Margarete Lamb-Faffelberger's 33 years of developing German Studies at the College and her stewardship of the Max Kade Center.

PHOTOGRAPH BY (KIRBY) ZACK FERENO; (MARTIN GUITAR) MATT BEDNARSKY

FACILITIES

New Kirby court

A state-of-the-art hardwood flooring system was installed in Kirby Sports Center this summer, giving the arena a bold look. The new playing surface for the basketball and volleyball programs features a large logo at midcourt and is framed by a Leopard-patterned border.



Sounds of music

Students get backstage pass to historic Martin Guitar facility.

BY AMY DOWNEY



Lafayette students had the opportunity to visit the legendary Martin Guitars Factory in nearby Nazareth, Pa., in September, thanks to an educational trip planned by the Dyer Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.



Founded in New York City in 1833, Martin Guitars relocated to Lehigh Valley in 1839. Their guitars have been strummed around Civil War campfires and heard throughout the generations, from Johnny Cash's iconic all-black D-35 to John Mayer's signature acoustic-electric guitar.



While there for a few hours, Lafayette students gained a zoomed-in perspective on the company's production, learning how pieces of wood move through construction, assembly, polish, and play.



They also explored the on-site museum, which houses nearly two centuries of guitar history, including the earliest known Martin guitar. Before leaving, students made time to strum the timeless instruments.





LECTURE

French politics

As the keynote speaker delivering the Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Faculty Lecture on Nov. 5, associate professor of history Caroline Séquin discussed France’s use of legal and extra-legal policies to prevent the formation of interracial marriages. Séquin’s lecture topic is inspired by her first (and prize-winning) book, *Desiring Whiteness: A Racial History of Prostitution in France and Colonial Senegal*; her research seeks to show how the management of the intimate has been deeply intertwined with racialized

→ An October reception and football game at Oregon State University kicked off the “Students, Faculty, and the Power of &” Bicentennial series. The event welcomed 150-plus members of the College community to Corvallis, Ore., where they learned about mentoring and the student-athlete experience.



projects of governance. “To this day, there is a lot of reluctance to talk about race and racism in France,” she says. “Yet it is essential to understand how despite France’s reputation and self-perception as a race-blind nation, racial beliefs and prejudice have shaped France’s laws and institutions.”

COMMUNITY

Girl Scouts Badge Day

Easton-area Girl Scouts were invited to Lafayette College in November for Girl Scout Badge Day 2025. Scouts explored badges in Coding, Space Science, Art and Design, and more, guided by the College’s students, faculty, and staff.

BY THE  
NUMBERS  
**5,700**  
Total number of community service hours volunteered by Lafayette student-athletes.

AWARDS

CASE kudos

*Lafayette* magazine has earned a Best of District II Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education for its 2024 issues (spring, summer, and fall) in the category of Alumni/General Interest for four-year colleges and universities.

ON CAMPUS

Improving course affordability

Skillman Library’s Course Affordability Initiative has surpassed \$200,000 in student savings. Established in 2018, the program awards grants to help faculty explore and implement Open Educational Resources, promoting equity and accessibility while easing student financial burdens.

BICENTENNIAL

Pards in Texas

In the second installment of “Students, Faculty, and the Power of &,” Lafayette alumni and friends were invited to Austin, Texas, on Nov. 8 to learn about the student-athlete experience during a luncheon before cheering on men’s basketball against the University of Texas.

THE ARTS

So fetch

Marquis Players, the student-run musical theater group that donates proceeds to local organizations, announced its spring musical, *Mean Girls*. Expect Tina Fey’s 2004 American teen comedy to be adapted with modern elements (think: rumors spreading on social media).

Three pieces from the College art collection appear in the latest project by filmmakers Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt: a 12-hour, six-part documentary called *The American Revolution*, premiering on PBS in November. On campus, Williams Center for the Arts hosted a reception to screen clips and have a panel (pictured, below) discuss the film.



ATHLETICS

Women’s soccer strikes

A 2-1 win over Lehigh in late October marked the 100th career victory for head coach Mick Statham and a clinched berth to the 2025 Patriot League Tournament. In the first round of post-season play, the Pards beat Holy Cross in penalty kicks. The season ended against Boston University in the tournament semifinal; the last time they advanced that far was in 2016.



DID YOU KNOW?

Lafayette’s Climate Action Plan 3.0 is expected to be finalized by May, working toward goals of achieving carbon neutrality by 2035.



EVENTS

The Bicentennial Tour with President Hurd

In celebration of Lafayette’s 200th year, connect with the College community through a fitness challenge designed for all interests and abilities. Participants can win prizes by running, walking, swimming, biking, and moving throughout 2026. Stay tuned for future announcements about special pop-up events with President Nicole Hurd. For more information: [lafayette.edu/bicentennial/tour](https://lafayette.edu/bicentennial/tour).

PHOTOGRAPH BY (OREGON) SHEA WIDERMAN; (ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA)

PHOTOGRAPH BY (KEN BURNS) HENRY HUNG; (SOCCER) RICK SMITH



# A

**ssociate professor** of geology Tamara Carley (pictured inset, far left) has been to Iceland more than a dozen times in the course of her research on volcanoes. But this summer, on her latest voyage, she found herself exploring and learning in new ways, right alongside her students.

As part of her research trip to study subglacial magma systems, sponsored by a National Science Foundation grant awarded in 2022, Carley and her team of students needed to access a remote Icelandic volcano inaccessible by the roads or boats or hiking trails they're accustomed to using.

The only solution was to take to the skies. Carley and two of her research students, Victoria Andreo '27 and Maggie Pearce '27 (pictured inset, back left and center), traveled by helicopter—a new experience for the trio—to reach the peak. They were joined by a collaborator and student from Illinois State University. “It was a grand adventure for all of us,” Carley says.

Carley's research focuses on *igneous petrology*, a discipline concerned with the behavior of magma bodies and volcanic systems. On this trip, Carley was studying volcanoes that lie *underneath* Iceland's largest ice cap, Vatnajökull. Carley, who has spent years considering the complex interactions between volcanic activity and



the world the Lafayette team will have forever.

“It's transformative to go into these environments and be immersed in the landscapes we're studying,” Carley says.

Upon returning to Easton, the group brought back samples of volcanic rock to analyze; they are looking for *rhyolite*, a type of igneous rock that suggests a volcanic system is capable of explosive eruptions. By utilizing tools like the X-ray fluorescence spectrometer in Van Wickle Hall, and the scanning electron microscope in Rockwell Integrated Sciences Center, further research can decipher the rocks' histories. Carley's on-campus research group, RUMBLE—Research Unit on Magma, Bubbles, Lava, and Eruptions—worked on sample processing, analysis, mineral separation, and writing conference abstracts.

“I had been part of Dr. Carley's research group since last semester, which gave me the opportunity to hear about what my peers were researching,” Andreo, a summer EXCEL Scholar, says. “The work they were doing on Iceland's geology was so incredible, so to be able to see these places in person and put my peers' research in context was an amazing experience.”

Inviting Lafayette's undergraduates into the research process is a critical part of scholarship, says Carley: “It's some of the

most important work I can do as an educator. There's just nothing that can compare to being on the ground in the environment we're studying. When I'm in Iceland, I can teach about rocks, I can teach about minerals, I can talk about processes, and everything is just laid out in front of us in a way that we try to make very real and very immediate in the classroom.”

Additional collaboration took place with on-campus partners who ensured students were safe within these experiences an ocean away from campus. Carley credits Mary Ellen Jackson and the Lafayette Office of Sponsored Research with advocating for the project, which included helicopter travel, and helping to coordinate insurance, liability, and other logistics.

Carley's work also complements the College's study abroad experience: She co-teaches GEOL 180: Iceland: Geology and Natural History of a Young Island, an interim session during the summer that explores the geological processes of the country. She also co-teaches interim classes on the flanks of volcanoes in New Zealand (GEOL 140) and Italy (INDS 201).

The value of a global perspective, echoing in many ways the mission of the Marquis de Lafayette's journey to America and beyond, is an essential part of Carley's teaching: “There's nothing that compares with being out in the world.” ■

Carley uses a portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometer to measure the composition of volcanic rocks: “By conducting analyses in the field, we can be strategic about the samples we bring home.” —



## To scale new heights

Crossing ice caps and unexplored peaks  
in pursuit of knowledge.

BY MARGARET WILSON

climate change, notes that these systems are now becoming visible due to melting ice and retreating glaciers.

“It's alarming how much ice loss is happening presently. It's significant for the volcanic systems, because as you lose ice, you're releasing pressure on the ground below,” Carley says, explaining the effects are similar to popping a cork. “There's a hypothesis that significant ice loss might destabilize magmatic systems and cause more eruptions.” As such, geologists like Carley are trying to find creative ways to

gather evidence from these mostly inaccessible subglacial volcanoes.

“It was incredible to see the subglacial volcano from a different perspective, one that few people get to see,” Andreo says. “It was even cooler to walk on rock exposures people have likely not been to yet.” Since these rock exposures were new to the naked eye, they were also unnamed; Carley's team has been collaborating with representatives from the Natural Science Institute of Iceland to name the mountain peaks, a lasting impact on

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TAMARA CARLEY



# PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT

Government and law professor  
Ilan Peleg reflects on his  
50-plus years at Lafayette.

BY BRYAN HAY

**E**verything about Ilan Peleg is so very familiar. A flash of his infectious smile when he grasps the silver mace, leading the academic procession at Lafayette's Commencement and Convocation. His spontaneous discussions on campus with students about geopolitics. Even his unwavering presence at concerts inside Williams Center for the Arts.

Peleg, Charles A. Dana Professor of Government and Law, has embraced the riches of academic life at Lafayette College since the day he arrived on campus in 1974.

As a Middle East expert, Peleg is in demand to give talks and media interviews. He's also a prolific author, co-author, and editor of papers and books on international topics.

Recognition from Lafayette has included numerous prizes and awards, including one named in his honor, the annual Ilan Peleg Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award, endowed in 2023 by Chip '79, H'22 and Juliet Bergh to recognize a faculty member who has done exceptional work mentoring and supporting students. The College, in 2021, also established the Robert Weiner and Ilan Peleg Chair in Jewish Studies, which has received widespread support from alumni.

Born in Tel Aviv, Peleg was raised in a kibbutz, which taught him commitment to the needs of the community, a value system that has guided his entire life.

Here, Lafayette's longest-serving full professor among the current faculty body reflects on his interests, career, and observations at Lafayette.



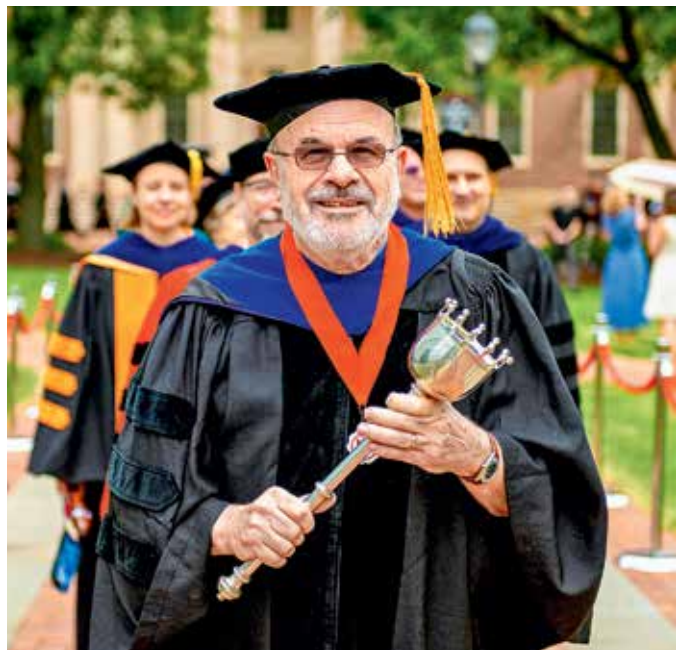
PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK SMITH



**By your expression, you clearly relish the role of mace bearer. What goes through your mind as you lead the academic procession?**  
It's very honorific to know that I'm representing the institution as a whole, which is very, very important. When the students come through, you have a tremendous amount of feelings. You remember them when they were 17 or 18 years old and think about how much so many of them have changed. They arrived on campus almost as children, and they're coming out as men and women.

**What originally attracted you to Lafayette?**  
I completed my Ph.D. at Northwestern University in 1974. It was a difficult job market because this was immediately after the 1973 war in the Middle East and an oil embargo. I asked my adviser, who grew up in Roseto, a community with a strong Italian heritage north of Easton, what he knew about Lafayette. He described it as a phenomenal place and told me it was a dream of every Italian woman in Roseto to send her son to Lafayette. I applied, gave two presentations, and, as I got back home to Chicago, received a phone call from the department head, offering me a position and two weeks to make a decision. I said, 'I don't need two weeks.' I knew this would be a great match. And I never changed my mind.

**What are some qualities of Lafayette students that you most admire?**  
Our students are balanced in their way of life. They work hard, they study hard, and they have career goals. They're very sociable. We get a very good group of youngsters at this institution, and many of them develop a very deep commitment to Lafayette.



← Lafayette tradition: Peleg leads the academic procession during Commencement and Convocation.

**“Our students are balanced in their way of life,” says Ilan Peleg.**



**You are a fixture at classical music concerts at Williams Center for the Arts and known for your seating rituals. When did you acquire your interest in classical music?**

I have all sorts of idiosyncratic, even eccentric, forms of behavior. Since the age of 13 or 14, I have been a self-defined classical music fanatic, studying violin and viola. I love the period between Beethoven and Mahler. At the Williams Center, I usually sit in Row B on the left. From this position, I can see the pianist's hands [when there is a pianist]. Moreover, in Row B there is enough light from the stage, so that I can read my scores.

One of my habits is to go to a concert in every city I visit. On Sept. 13, for example, I was in Berlin for a conference, so in the evening I attended a performance of the legendary Berlin Philharmonic, with the score of Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" on my lap, of course. My other hobby is travel, a good one to have as a professor of international politics. And soccer.

**Representing more than a quarter of Lafayette's 200 years, what do you think about the Bicentennial?**

I hope we take this time to get to know our namesake even better. The Marquis de Lafayette was really a very interesting man. He had a very strong sense of what was right and what was not, notably his position on enslaved Africans in America. He was the only man who looked George Washington in the eye and said, 'What you Americans are doing is wrong.' And as we know, George Washington was very authoritative, a tall man for his period. People did not challenge him. But he and Lafayette had a special relationship that allowed for frank exchanges.

**What has most inspired you over the decades?**

The close relationships between Lafayette professors and students stand out. When students first arrive here, the role of a professor in their life, and mentorships, become very meaningful for them. Through the years, I've developed many special relationships with students. The best of all is when they come knocking on my door after 30 years. I've not seen them in so long, and they bring their sons or daughters to campus to meet me. This is really gratifying. ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY OLIVIA GIRALICO. ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA



## College colors

Crayola creates celebratory crayons in honor of Lafayette's Bicentennial.

BY AMY DOWNEY

**This fall, Crayola**, a longtime neighbor of the College in Easton, rolled out four new crayons inspired by the Bicentennial: Marquis Maroon, Cur Non Royal, Golden Leopard, and Day on the Quad. The project marks the latest—and most colorful—collaboration between the two entities that have shared a history of growing alongside each other in Lehigh Valley.

When Crayola first began producing crayons near campus in 1903, the College was already established. That same year, the community rallied together in rowboats due to record-setting flooding at the foot of College Hill. Later, they would persevere through the Great Depression, and bleak effects of wartime that impacted both college enrollment and manufacturing.

During Easton's downtown revitalization in the '90s, Crayola and Lafayette College were two of the first to invest in the area. When the original Crayola Factory opened in Centre Square in 1996, students were among its new patrons. Now called the Crayola Experience, seniors have been offered a chance to explore the attractions before graduating.

Over the years, Lafayette students have spent time in the production facility from internships to career days. As recently as March, Peter Ruggiero P'20'25, Crayola president and CEO and member of Lafayette's

Board of Trustees, hosted a Policy Studies class there, where students learned about growth strategy for the next quarter-century. Alumni work at Crayola, too, some boasting long and esteemed careers.

"We are grateful to Crayola for joining our 200th anniversary," President Nicole Hurd said. "Having this cherished Easton company by our side adds to our momentous yearlong celebration."



1.

**"The Birthplace of Crayola"** along Bushkill Creek shows where the Binney & Smith mill originally produced slate school pencils in 1900.

2.

**The "Crayola" name is Marquis-approved:** In French, *craie* means "chalk" while *ola*, a prefix for "oily," refers to the quality of the paraffin wax.



3.

**Lafayette's custom colors** are in 64-packs for sale at the College Store ([collegestore.lafayette.edu](http://collegestore.lafayette.edu)); smaller 4-packs will be available at campus events throughout 2026.

4.

**Pamela Pearson '94, director of commercialization specialization solutions at Crayola,**

was excited to lead this Bicentennial project. She joined Crayola as a staff accountant in 1986 and has held numerous roles in nearly 40 years with the company.



5.

**Nearly 3 billion crayons** are molded every year in Easton. Crayola engineers (and patent holders) like Eric Silvanage '95, have improved the process with time: "I never would have thought when I was graduating from Lafayette that my path would have landed me right up the road, engineering the automation powering the future of such an iconic brand."



**FOR MORE**

Watch the crayons being made at [lafayette.edu/crayola](http://lafayette.edu/crayola).



# FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

The Wallach Sports Performance and Lacrosse Center is unveiled at Metzgar.

BY AMY DOWNEY

Lafayette student-athletes have a sleek new resource in the Wallach Sports Performance and Lacrosse Center that opened this fall at the Metzgar Fields Athletic Complex.

At nearly 22,000 square feet, the field-house offers Pards a top-notch strength and performance training area, stocked nutrition station, and sports medicine facilities. For the Maroon and White lacrosse programs, the two-story building also houses a film room, office spaces for the coaches and staff, and locker rooms with generous storage for equipment.

Committing the lead gift for the project were Dina Opici Wallach '95 and Andrew Wallach '95 (pictured, inset); additional contributors include the F.M. Kirby Foundation Inc., in honor of Jeff '84, P'19'22 and Karen Kirby '87, P'19'22. This development at Metzgar—230 College-owned acres located a few miles north of campus—is the latest example of how physical spaces will evolve as part of Lafayette's campus master plan.

The multimillion-dollar facility arrives at a particularly meaningful time for the men's lacrosse program: This academic year, the team is celebrating its 100th anniversary, giving student-athletes even more reason to reflect on the squads before them, like the 30-plus men who showed up on the Quad for the first practice a century ago.

"This isn't just a facility—it is a symbol of belief, a visual testament to the commitment to our student-athletes, and the vision for our athletic programs," said Director of Athletics Sherryta Freeman at the building's dedication in September. "The Wallach Sports Performance and Lacrosse Center gives our student-athletes a place where they will find their strength and build a legacy." ■



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALFRED GREENBAUM;  
INSET PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON



- 1 Wallach is in a key spot for Division I teams, including baseball, cross country, field hockey, soccer, softball, and track and field, that practice and compete at Metzgar.
- 2 The College was intentional about its visibility along Sullivan Trail: Passersby will see a full-bodied Leopard on the facade and a glowing maroon "L" at dusk.
- 3 Available to all student-athletes, the 5,000-square-foot strength and performance center is outfitted with 12 full racks accompanied by Perch technology and iPads to track and guide workouts, plus exercise machines and a 20-yard turf surface for year-round agility training.
- 4 Inside the sports medicine area is a special hydrotherapy room with a 471-gallon tub—used for full cold-water submersion—and a whirlpool for extremity treatment.
- 5 Separate men's and women's lacrosse lounges give students a space to socialize or study with ground-level views of the playing fields.
- 6 A covered outdoor balcony presents an unrivaled view of the Metzgar Campus.
- 7 The roll-up garage door is an extension of the gym, but also allows for a compelling field entrance on game days.



# NATURE OF THINKING

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS



An introductory psychology course also gives students a rare chance for interactive lab work.



**W**ith a full roster of 160 registered students nearly every semester, Introduction to Psychological Science is one of the largest classes offered at Lafayette.

And there's good reason why, at any given time, at least 30 additional students are on the waitlist for this introductory course: Lafayette is one of few higher-ed institutions in the country to offer it with a dedicated laboratory component. Because the College houses the Psychology Department within the natural sciences division rather than social sciences—rare, particularly for liberal arts colleges—the in-lab experience is just as vital to this curriculum as it is for courses like biology, chemistry, and physics.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAQUAN ALSTON  
ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

Although psychology is a popular major at Lafayette, the majority of students taking this course study other disciplines: Only about one in five students enrolled in PSYC 110 over the last decade has gone on to earn a psychology degree—for many, says John Shaw, associate professor of psychology (pictured, far left), this might be the only psych course they ever take.

Serving two distinct audiences can be complex, says Jennifer Talarico, Marshall R. Metzgar Professor of Psychology and department head. In a single semester, for example, two faculty members each teach a lecture section, while two laboratory instructors—along with several student psychology lab assistants (PLAs)—simultaneously run a total of eight lab sections.

The lecture segment of PSYC 110 takes place in the auditorium of Oechsle Hall, the largest lecture hall on campus, and introduces students to foundational concepts of psychology. For Shaw, who has been teaching PSYC 110 sections for the last 29 years, it's important that students understand the real-world applications of psychological concepts and theories. "I want students to gain life skills that will help them in college and beyond," Shaw says. "It's important to me to empower students to make good choices throughout their lives."

Madeline Tallman '24, who took the course with Shaw in her sophomore year at Lafayette and is now a second-year law student at Syracuse University, recalls Shaw's humorous in-class demonstrations, illustrative examples he drew from his own experiences as a lawyer (before teaching at Lafayette), and the effort he demonstrated to get to know each of his students. "Taking this course is what made me want to be a psychology major," she says. Shaw, who also was Tallman's honors thesis adviser, assisted her with her law school applications.

In the laboratory, students put their classroom learning into practice. Each week, students work in groups to conduct small-scale surveys and research projects—like dissecting cow eyeballs to examine the relationship between

During lectures (left), the class learns about early contributions to psychology, like B.F. Skinner's conditioning principles. Through the course's lab component (right), students get hands-on experience in the scientific method.



biological structures and psychological function. The semester culminates in a larger final group project, in which students design their own experiments, collect and interpret data, write about their findings in a lab report, and present their research to peers. "Students gain hands-on experience in the scientific method," Talarico says.

They're also learning the importance of thoughtful study design, careful measurement, ethical considerations with human research participants, and communication, adds Jessica Redding, laboratory coordinator (pictured, above), who teaches labs and designs the curriculum. "They get a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into all the research they're reading about in class."

To help ensure labs run smoothly, PLAs—who are junior and senior psychology majors—are also available to provide student support (e.g., assisting with projects, holding office hours, and presenting lesson materials). Tallman, who worked as a PLA for four semesters during her time at Lafayette, says the role allowed her to inspire other students to further pursue the study of psychology, just as Shaw did for her.

The experience of teaching a course with such a distinctive structure and diverse student makeup is equally rewarding for

its faculty and instructors. "I've taught intro to psych at other institutions, and it was nothing like this," says Redding. "You get to learn about students' different backgrounds, interests, and experiences. For me, it's the most unique part about teaching at Lafayette."

Shaw, who is set to retire after this academic year, is especially grateful for the support the course has received from both the College and alumni—from the state-of-the-art instructional and research facilities in Oechsle Hall (built thanks to the generosity of Walter '57 and Christa Oechsle), to material and instructional resources. "The College and the department's dedication to teaching PSYC 110 the way we do is something very special," he says.

Simply walking away with a deeper understanding of self and others after closing the book on the class, Talarico says, is a win for any student—and any major. "Whether you're an engineer, a doctor, or a government employee, everything you do impacts humans in one way or another," she says. "And so, if we can think systematically and critically about the world around us, and use that to become engaged citizens and lifelong thinkers, that's as wonderful an outcome as any from this course." ■



# The music makers

Lafayette students are among 21st-century composers, creating sounds that evolve with time.

BY BEBE YAFFE '26

Through gifts from Ario Pardee, Lafayette became a school of arts, science, and engineering in 1866. In a variety of ways, students on campus continue to explore one of the traditional pillars of liberal arts: music.

There are modern twists, of course. Last year's launch of the sound engineering minor, which was funded by the Arts and Technology Grant, for example, helps students learn how to bridge classical music with digital innovation. And through Akiva Zamcheck, assistant professor of music, electronic workshops and humanities courses explore the intersections of music, media, and politics.

College Hill is alive with the sound of music. Here is a sampling of how experimental compositions are being crafted and practiced today.



← Individual practice rooms with pianos in Williams Center for the Arts can be reserved for students to hone their art.



↑ Edgar Lin '26 discovered composition as a sophomore; private lessons offered on campus have helped him develop and perform new classical and contemporary works.



↑ Computer science and French double major Jackson Eshbaugh '27 is a composer who plays sliding trombone. "I feel very lucky," Eshbaugh says about having a supportive music community at Lafayette.

← Violinist Audrey Kurtz '28, the music director for Cadence vocal group, has played arrangements made by peers.

PHOTOGRAPHS (YORK, ESHBAUGH, LIN) BY ADAM ATKINSON; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

(ZAMCHECK, ROOM) JAQUAN ALSTON; (HERCIK) GENAMARIE MCCANT



Songwriting flourished for singer and lyricist Lillian Hercik '27 (or "Lily Moss") in an English poetry course, as she embraced words often avoided. →

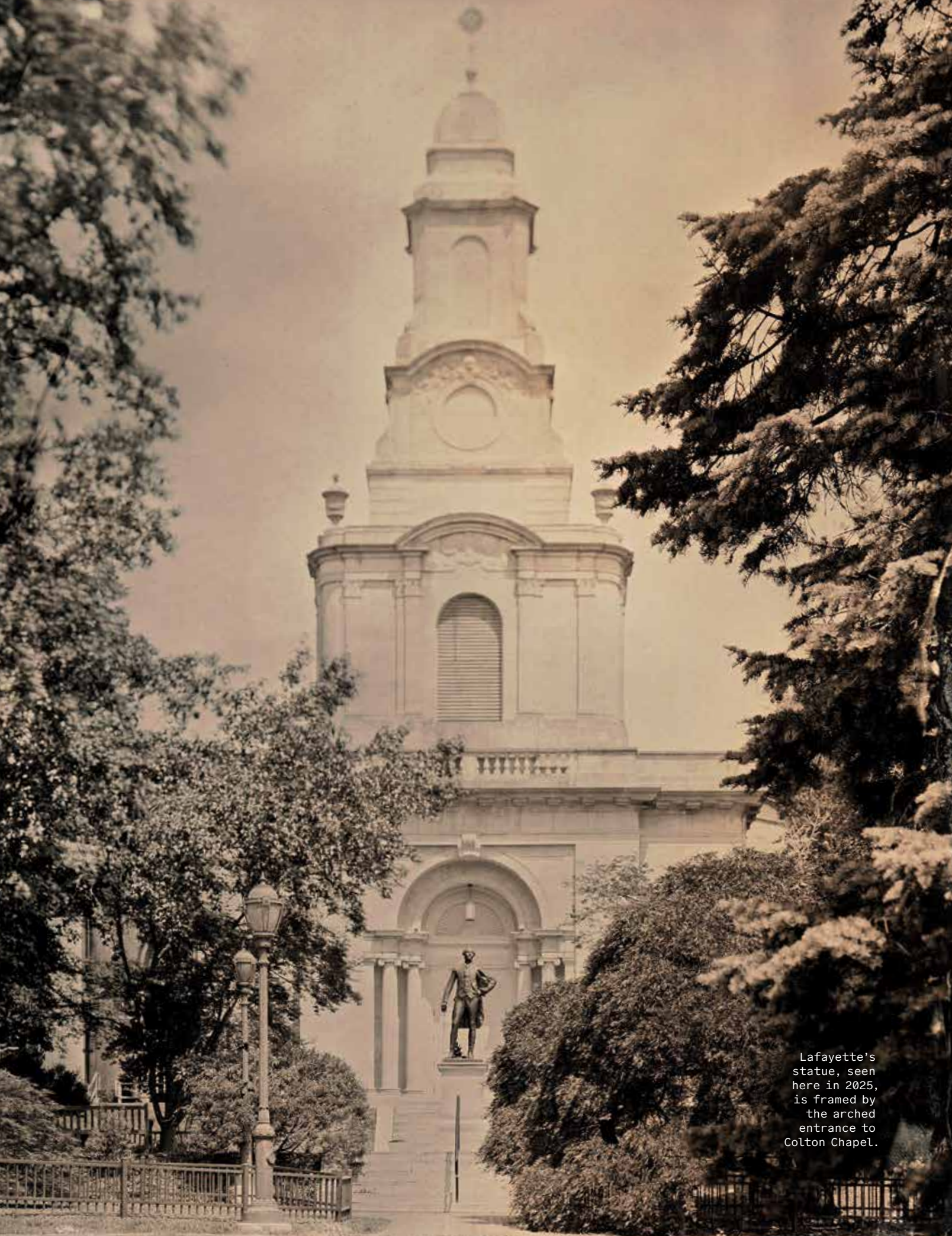


Owen York '26, a CaPA scholar and music major, fuses classical composition with electronic and digital music. The resulting sound? Innovative, rhythmically rich tunes. →



← Akiva Zamcheck, an experimental musician and assistant professor of music, collaborates with students as co-creators.





Lafayette's statue, seen here in 2025, is framed by the arched entrance to Colton Chapel.



The causes and qualities of the Marquis de Lafayette continue to draw scholarly and public interest. They also reflect the ideals of our College.

# Living history

What was it about the Marquis de Lafayette that made him a college's namesake—and a character in a hit Broadway musical? A decade or so ago, Daveed Diggs was aware that Lafayette was a key French figure in the American Revolution. "That was about it," he says today.

Then Diggs earned the role of Lafayette, and of Thomas Jefferson, in the original cast of *Hamilton*. In "Guns and Ships," rapping at a reported 6.3 words per second—hardly the fastest rapping of his career, he notes—Diggs introduced the Marquis de Lafayette as a secret weapon in the Revolutionary cause: "He's constantly confusin', confoundin' the British henchmen./Ev'ryone give it up for America's favorite fighting Frenchman/Lafayette!"

Lafayette! As its Bicentennial approaches, why should the College identify with or even care about the fighting Frenchman? The United States has a long history of naming colleges for donors or for "Great Americans," says Charles Dorn, a

historian of education at Bowdoin College in Maine, which awarded an honorary degree to the Marquis de Lafayette. "It's pretty unusual for an institution to be named after an admired foreigner," he adds.

"What we tend to forget today is that the Marquis de Lafayette was for some time considered almost equal to Washington as 'the' hero of the American Revolution. At the time Lafayette College was founded, in 1826, many Americans were still foreign-born, the country was multilingual,

by  
**Robert J.  
Bliwise**  
'76

*photography by Rick Smith*



and the kind of national fervor we're used to today did not exist. Americans simply had little problem crediting a foreigner with the Revolution's success."

Diggs, the rapping Marquis de Lafayette, who was tutored along with the rest of the cast by *Alexander Hamilton* biographer Ron Chernow, certainly sees him as credit-worthy. Lafayette embodied the idea that "passions are worth pursuing and the things that seem important to you, that seem right for you, are worth fighting for," he says. Then there was his eagerness to learn about the world, along with his desire to apply his learning to service—in particular, to the Revolutionary War, where a young foreign-born aristocrat had to earn his standing.

“The things that seem important to you, that seem right for you, are worth fighting for.”

"And by all accounts, he was kind. People seemed to like the guy. That's important to me." Were he around at the time, Diggs says he definitely would have turned out for Lafayette's 1824-25 triumphant return to America, which became known as the Farewell Tour. Lafayette visited each of the then-24 states, taking in more of America than any of the homegrown Founding Fathers. A stop in Philadelphia drew James Madison Porter, whose father had served with Lafayette at the Battle of Brandywine Creek. Porter and some 200 of his fellow Eastonians journeyed down the Delaware River for the welcome. Later, Porter called for a meeting in Easton's Centre Square, where the attendees agreed to the founding

of a college out of respect for "the talents, virtues, and signal service of General La Fayette in the great cause of Freedom."

Over the centuries, the admiration hasn't diminished, a fact pointed out by Mike Duncan, author of *Hero of Two Worlds: The Marquis de Lafayette in the Age of Revolution*. Speaking at the College this past February, he said there are plenty of reasons for seeing the Marquis as a figure who belongs not just to history but to the present day as well. (Duncan was giving the Lafayette College Libraries' annual John L. Hatfield '67 Lecture, which brings a prominent author to campus for a public lecture and to meet with students.)

The values Lafayette represented are important. He modeled the sort of questions we should want to be asking of ourselves: *Who do I want to be? How do I want to interact with the world?*

As Duncan told the campus audience in Hugel Science Center, Lafayette "was born into a life of extraordinary privilege as a member of the nobility. The easiest thing for him to have done would have been absolutely nothing. But that was not the Marquis de Lafayette."

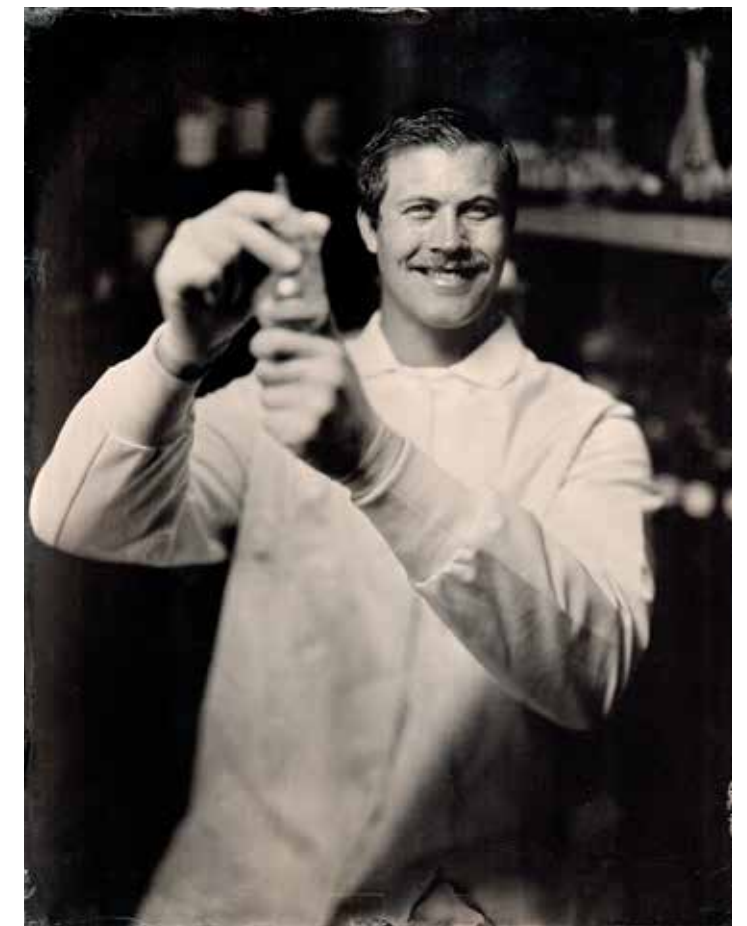
According to Duncan, Lafayette harbored the sort of ambition that wasn't aimless. "He would not just do anything to be famous. He wanted to do things for the greater good." He was not a philosopher, or someone with a pronounced contemplative manner. But he absolutely was someone invested in a life of action—a life captured in his family motto, "*Cur Non?*" or "Why Not?"

"When he saw injustice," as Duncan put it, he would summon the courage to "make the world a better place."

Making the world a better place fed right into a program put on, five years ago, by The American Friends of Lafayette. It was titled "Character Matters: Perceptions of Lafayette and Lessons for our Time." (According to the organization, there are approximately 80 cities, counties, townships, and towns in the U.S. that take their names from Lafayette or his longtime home, La Grange; there are countless streets, squares, statues, and parks, as well as a mountain and a lake named for him. And, of course, one college.)

One of the presenters, historian Lloyd Kramer of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, observed that Lafayette's "decency and commitments to the 'public good' were valuable human traits that

Since 1923, students who embody the Lafayette ideal are named George Wharton Pepper Prize winners. Last year's recipient was Tyler Roberts '25 (in a Hugel Science Center lab, below), a biochemistry and neuroscience double major who aspires to be a physician. He was also a student-athlete, volunteer EMT in Easton, and EXCEL Scholar in chemistry.



Sherryta Freeman made history in 2018 as the first woman of color appointed as the director of athletics at Lafayette, tasked with overseeing the College's 23 Division I programs. In October, the NCAA named her to a four-year term as a member of the Division I Football Championship Subdivision Oversight Committee, leveraging her expertise to advance and shape the future of the sport.

Americans recognized and appreciated during his lifetime—and traits that many Americans would like to see again in our contemporary political culture."

Kramer added that "Lafayette always supported the development of constitutional institutions," including free speech, a free press, and freedom of religion. He introduced a proposal for a Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen in the National Assembly during the first weeks of the French Revolution; he and his wife, Adrienne, were among the first Parisians to join the French Society of the Friends of Blacks, an antislavery organization; he supported free-thinking women who agitated for a more robust set of rights; and he promoted independence movements for countries around the world.

Lafayette's ability to work across divides, in Kramer's view, makes him exemplary for our own polarized time. "He became influential during the American Revolution as he mediated between the Americans and the French, and he continued to interpret or explain the cultural values and ideas of each national group throughout his later life.

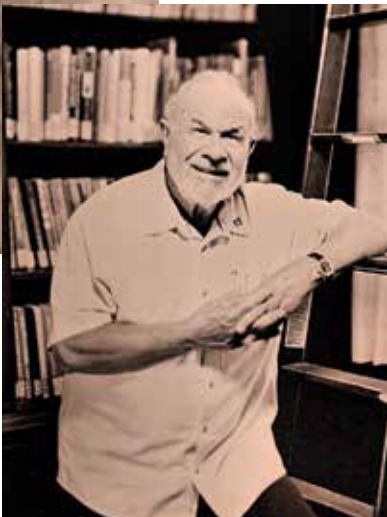
"Equally important, the Revolutionary political conflicts in France pushed him toward a mediating 'middle way' within his own national culture. During the French Revolution, for example, Lafayette tried to protect the rights of people on both the political left and the political right. He faced the huge challenge of being a strong principled public leader who actually stood in the lonely middle of the political spectrum."



“Lafayette was considered the family school,” says Meena Hosaisy ’27. In a long legacy of Pardes, 11 family members have enrolled since 1922, some even marrying classmates. Among them, it was her late grandfather, Hart Rufe III ’55, who sparked her passion for law. “He often reminded me that a lawyer is an ‘architect with words,’ and to take as many English classes as possible,” she says. Now a double major in government and law and English, Hosaisy sits outside Van Wick Hall, a building that once served as the College library for her grandfather and other relatives.



Inside the Kirby Hall of Civil Rights is Ilan Peleg, the Charles A. Dana Professor of Government and Law. For more than 50 years, Peleg has taught thousands of students; an award in his name was established last year by one of them, Chip Bergh ’79, H’22, to acknowledge Lafayette faculty who excel at mentoring. To read more about Peleg, see p. 18.



One place to find the Marquis de Lafayette as a promoter of the public good is the College’s collection of historical materials. They include original letters from Lafayette to George Washington, many of which were written during the American Revolution.

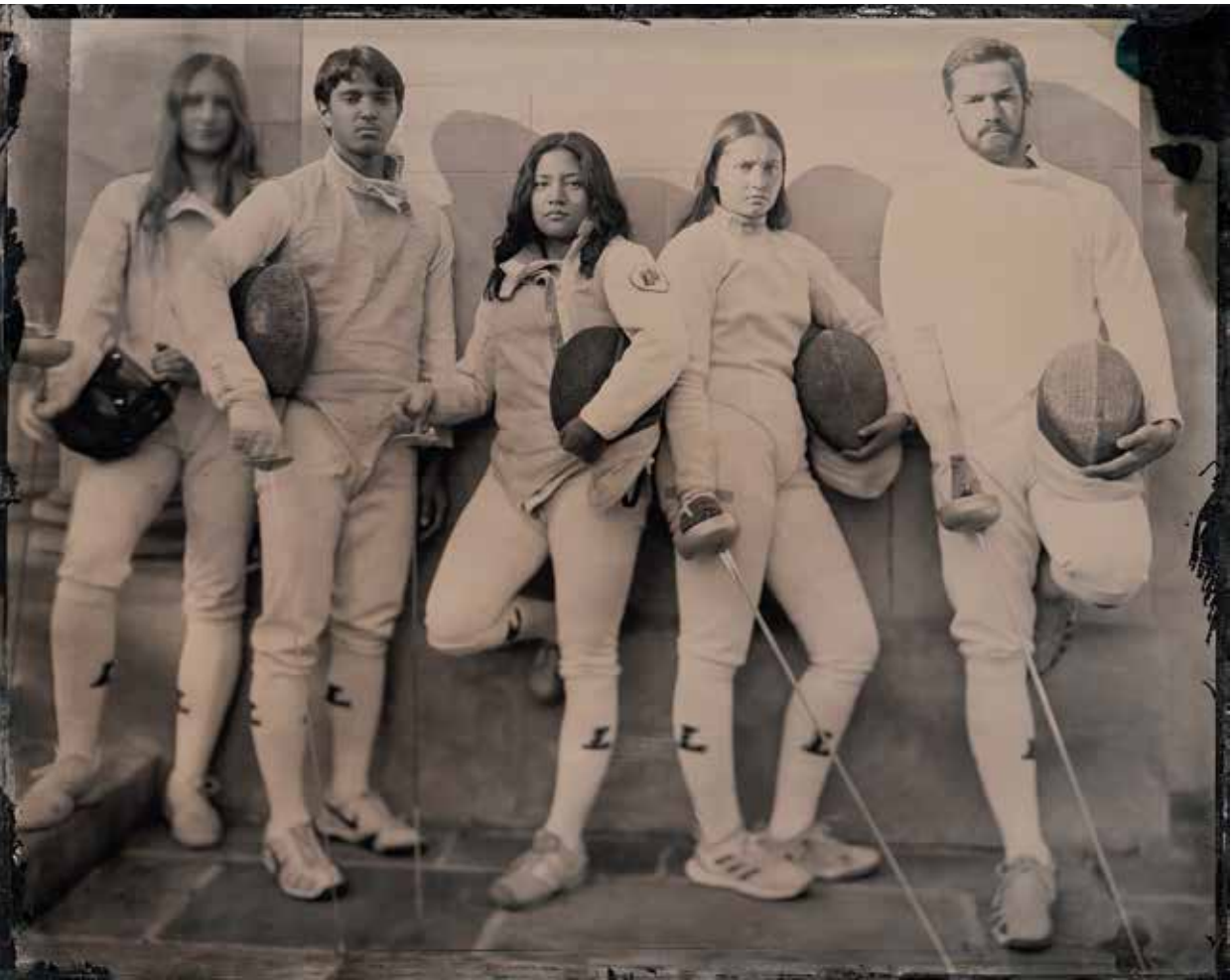
In one letter, from 1783, he proposed a demonstration project: “Let us unite in purchasing a small estate where we may try the experiment to free the Negroes.” Washington delivered a gentle turndown. For his part, Lafayette would purchase two plantations in the French colony of Cayenne, now French Guiana, located on the northeastern coast of South America. Some 70 enslaved people came with the purchase; Lafayette began to pay them and to provide schooling. The aim was to prepare them for eventual emancipation.

That letter was one of the inspirations for an exhibition, *A True Friend of the Cause: Lafayette and the Antislavery Movement*. The exhibition opened in late 2016 at New York’s Grolier Club, the oldest bibliophile society in the country. It was co-curated by Diane Shaw, then-director of Special Collections and College Archives, and Olga Anna Duhl, Oliver Edwin Williams Professor of Languages. Duhl’s research focuses on late medieval and early Renaissance French literature, theater, rhetoric, translation, and textual criticism—and the Marquis de Lafayette.

Lafayette was always against slavery, according to Duhl. “He couldn’t process the idea that America, the land of liberty, would promote slavery. In his mind, this was a great paradox.” His South American plan inspired at least one admirer, the Scottish abolitionist and feminist Frances Wright, who joined Lafayette on his Farewell Tour in America. She later conceived a community in the Tennessee wilderness where enslaved persons would perform labor and earn their freedom; Lafayette was a trustee of the enterprise.

Lafayette’s efforts, like Wright’s, didn’t have much staying power. He lost all of his property during the French Revolution. But it was a striking example, for the times, of a desire to pave an uncharted path.

Duhl is now collaborating on another



Strategic thinking is required for fencing, one of the extracurriculars that gained interest on American campuses like Lafayette in the late 19th century. Pardes still practice the ancient art: The College had 16 fencers (9 men, 7 women) at the NCAA Regional Championships in March.

exhibition, *Lafayette Between France and America: History and Legend*, set for the National Archives of France from next April through Bastille Day, July 14. The exhibition will include about 114 pieces, some 50 of which will be from the College’s collection. Among them: memorabilia from the Farewell Tour; three paintings depicting Lafayette; and a model of the *Hermione*, the ship that carried him across the Atlantic for the third time. Plus, Lafayette’s letters to George Washington, among them the letter proposing the antislavery property.

The College’s co-directors of Special Collections and College Archives, Elaine Stomber ’89, P’17,’21 and Ana Ramirez Luhrs, have been working with Duhl on the Paris exhibition. Luhrs curated an earlier campus-based exhibition drawn

Lafayette modeled the sort of questions we should want to be asking of ourselves: *Who do I want to be? How do I want to interact with the world?*

exclusively from the College’s collections. All of the objects carried some sort of representation of Lafayette and testified to his “exalted” status, Luhrs says, as a returning hero: printed invitations, medallions, scarves, snuff boxes, plates, platters, a spyglass, a pipe.

For the College, Luhrs is essentially the curator of all things Marquis de Lafayette. In the letters, he comes across as someone who was always inquisitive, always applying his virtues to a disordered world, and always interrogating conventional assumptions. Meaning he hewed to “*Cur Non?*”

Lafayette clearly clung to that family motto. A recent donation to Special Collections comes from the personal library of the Marquis: an eight-volume account of a fellow French aristocrat’s



travels through the northern U.S.—a much earlier and geographically shortened version of Lafayette’s Farewell Tour. The title page of each volume has “*Cur Non?*” stamped on it.

The letters are likewise a big part of the portfolio for library colleague Nora Zimmerman, digital archivist and repository librarian at Lafayette. Zimmerman recently wrapped up the project of digitizing the letters to Washington. There’s Lafayette writing from Valley Forge in 1777, from Boston Harbor in 1780, from New York in 1784, from Paris in 1792, and much else across time and geography—nearly 150 letters in all.

“You can see him grow up and mature,” Zimmerman says. “In his youthful letters to Washington, he’s a sassy firebrand. And he keeps that fire in his belly for idealistic causes. He sees that things are so calcified, in terms of the social and political order. He senses that through the spread of what we would call ‘Enlightenment values,’ a new world is being created.”

The image of Lafayette as a sassy firebrand has a certain appeal for Peter Godziela ’25, a graduate of Lafayette College and Lafayette Elementary School in his hometown of Chatham, N.J. For *Facing Lafayette: Man, Myth, Image*, a campus exhibition that runs through the fall semester, he helped contextualize representations of the Marquis de Lafayette from the College’s holdings.

Several works depict Lafayette in his American Revolutionary War phase. A much later one shows him in a prison cell with Adrienne and their two daughters. (For more on Adrienne, turn to p. 42.) With Lafayette’s involvement in the American and French Revolutions, Austrian authorities had viewed him as a threat to their own monarchy. Among the College’s Special Collections items

is the sword he was bearing as he was captured by them.

That range of life experiences and emotional states—youthful optimism as he

looked to adventures ahead, unbroken determination in dark times—makes him an inspiration, Godziela says. “What does it mean to be successful? What does it mean

to be driven by idealism, to stand by the things you believe in, and at the same time to be putting yourself out in the world?”

All of which is to wonder: What does “*Cur Non?*” mean in the life of Lafayette College? To Nicole Hurd, Lafayette’s president, it’s “a beautiful call to action.” (Hurd is a close friend of *Hamilton*’s Daveed Diggs, who has twice visited the campus and is a board member of the College Advising Corps, which Hurd founded.) “It fits an academic institution well. The undergraduate years should be animated by curiosity, whether that curiosity drives a student to write a poem or to mix solutions in a chemistry lab.”

Hurd likes the “and” conjunction, as in liberal arts “and” engineering, or academics “and” athletics. “*Cur Non?*” fits right into her system. “It calls for both theory and practice. Academic rigor is a huge part of what characterizes a place like this. But then there’s the application of knowledge.”

“*Cur Non?*” is also an organizing question for how to live a life, she

says. “Why not be bold? Why not work to heal this world? Why not go places where people haven’t gone before?”

The College’s namesake “lived a life of service, a life of impact, and that’s very much part of our DNA as an institution. It’s about embracing something bigger than yourself. What an incredible example for our students.”

That institutional DNA helps define the College’s concept of its future. The recently adopted strategic plan calls for closer connections to the city of Easton, whose citizens founded the College in gratitude to the fighting Frenchman. The plan also identifies as a key theme the study of democracy and its technologies, including how to support “democratic practices and discourse.” In Hurd’s view, the Marquis would eagerly join in such an enterprise.

Above all else, she sees in the story of the Marquis an illustration of a consequential life, in all its complexities. “We hope our students will thrive and blossom,” she says. “We also hope that they will be challenged. Hard things are part of growth, part of the journey.” ■

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

“Why not be bold?  
Why not work  
to heal this world?  
Why not go places  
where people haven’t  
gone before?”

## Authenticity matters

### WHY WE PHOTOGRAPHED THIS STORY WITH AN OLD-FASHIONED TECHNIQUE

When we learned that the world’s oldest surviving camera-made photograph, “View from the Window at Le Gras,” was taken in France around the same year as the founding of Lafayette, we were inspired to show campus, as we know it today, through an antique lens.

Wet-plate photography, popularized in the mid-19th century, is a multistep process that involves glass plates, chemical baths, long exposures, cooperative lighting, and access to a portable darkroom. It also requires patient subjects, as each portrait takes 15 minutes to process.

This series of scenes took one year to complete by photographer Rick Smith. He nearly pauses time, at least for a little while, to permanently preserve our dear Lafayette.

—Amy Downey

To see more behind-the-scenes photos, visit [magazine.lafayette.edu/wetplate](http://magazine.lafayette.edu/wetplate).



For more than 150 years, the President’s House on Cattell Street has been home to the leaders of Lafayette. President Nicole Hurd (pictured on the porch) was named the 18th president of the College in July 2021; her contract was recently renewed by the Board of Trustees through August 2030.



Left to right, photographer Rick Smith explains the wet-plate process to Meena Hosaisy ’27 as her image slowly appears from light exposure.





PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF (QUAD LIGHTING) ADAM ATKINSON; LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Reflecting on (at least) 200 of the most impactful moments, people, and spaces to shape Lafayette over the past two centuries.

EDITED BY AMY DOWNEY  
With research by Katlyn Clarke, Madeline Marriott '24, and Bebe Yaffe '26  
Illustrations by Verónica Grech



MOMENTS THAT MADE US

Starting with the origin story, on **March 9, 1826**, the citizens of Easton received a charter establishing Lafayette College. **Nine acres**, on a hill across from Easton, would be purchased in 1832 (pictured), soon called “**College Hill**.” On May 9, 1832, classes officially began in a **rented farmhouse** on the south bank of the Lehigh River; a total of **43 students** learned about math and the

classics. Several years later, **Aaron O. Hoff** would become a member of the Class of 1836, and the College’s first African American student. With gifts from **Ario Pardee** in 1866, Lafayette grew into a place of **arts, science, and engineering**. In 1876, the College’s president William Cassady Cattell recommended a **revised name** for the institution: “La Fayette” would be adapted to



“Lafayette.” Interest in the College would **continue to grow** with enrollment passing 500 in 1910 and reaching 1,000 in the 1920s. When student council voted on a college mascot in 1924, it chose a **Leopard** for school spirit; a century later, “**Roary**” remains the only big cat of its kind in Division I. Between 1929 and

1930, Fred Morgan Kirby established the **Kirby Hall of Civil Rights**—the first U.S. collegiate building dedicated to government, law, and civil rights. The student body further diversified when the **first women** enrolled in 1970. For the first-year class entering this fall, the College fielded the **largest applicant pool** in its history.

**Best old traditions**  
Singing on Pardee steps; Lafayette-Lehigh Rivalry Week; 100 Nights and 1,000 Nights; George Wharton Pepper Prize winners; Last Lecture for seniors.

**Best new traditions**  
Cord and Sword Ceremony; 100 Hours; Quad Lighting (below); Northampton Street Bridge in maroon LEDs for Commencement; decorating graduation caps.



“The most fascinating expedition I’ve ever made is the one I’ll make tomorrow.”

EXPLORER JACQUES-YVES COUSTEAU SAID WHILE AT LAFAYETTE IN 1991.

19TH CENTURY PRESIDENTS

**George Junkin**  
1832–1841, 1844–1848  
As the first president of Lafayette College, he and 43 students comprised Lafayette’s original student body.



**John William Yeomans**  
1841–1844  
Oversaw the administration of the College, served on the Board of Trustees, and taught (Moral and Mental Philosophy, Evidences of Christianity).

**Charles William Nassau**  
1849–1850  
Faced an enrollment drop from 82 to 25; applied to the Presbyterian synod in Philadelphia for financial help.

**Daniel V. McLean**  
1850–1857  
Administrator and fundraiser of the College’s early years. Notably, he attempted to raise money to improve the College’s academic standards by selling scholarship certificates.

**George Wilson McPhail**  
1857–1863  
Named Francis A. March as the nation’s first English professor.

**William Cassady Cattell**  
1863–1883  
Saved the school from bankruptcy with Ario Pardee and oversaw development of Pardee Hall, President’s House, a new “scientific department,” and more.



**James Hall Mason Knox**  
1883–1890  
First to live in the President’s House.

**Ethelbert Dudley Warfield**  
1891–1914  
Served during growing global tensions.



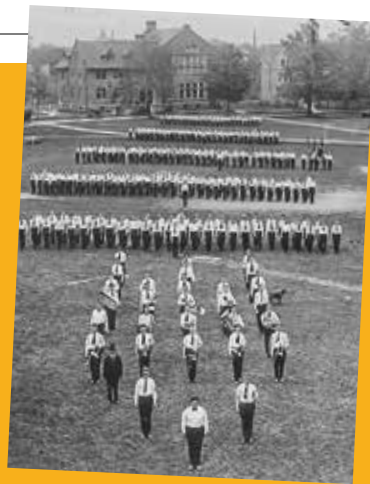
## MOMENTS THAT MOVED US

● On Sept. 22, 1836, Lafayette issued its **first diploma** to George Washington Kidd. Fraternity **DKE** arrived in 1855. **The Lafayette-Lehigh Rivalry** kicked off in 1884. **Pardee** was destroyed by fire, twice, but restored in 1899. In April 1917, Lafayette became a **military training camp** known as Camp Lafayette (pictured) with military drills on the Quad. On June 16, 1945, at the 110th Commencement, the **alma mater** was recorded in Colton Chapel. (Listen to

it at [ldr.lafayette.edu](http://ldr.lafayette.edu).) In 1947, **WJRH** call letters were assigned. The College declined a bid to the 1949 Sun Bowl when David Showell '51 was banned; "**The Greatest Game They Never Played**" was a catalyst for desegregation policies in college sports. Students founded the **Association of Black Collegians** in January 1969, elevating change and conversations around race on campus. President K. Roald Bergethon

cut a 15-layer maroon-and-white **sesquicentennial cake** on March 9, 1976. As females joined the faculty, **Rosie Bukics** began teaching economics in 1980; she is the longest-serving female faculty member in College history. In 1996, student club **FLAGB** raised awareness and support for LGBTQIA+ community. At 16-feet

high, the stainless steel **Transcendence** was installed near Skillman in 2008; the sculpture by Melvin Edwards honors **David Kearney McDonogh**, our first African American graduate. In 2013, the College's **first female president**, Alison Byerly, was named. During the **2024 presidential election**, students waited in line for five hours to vote.



## SO YOU WANT TO...

### Hit the books

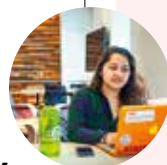
- > A spot at one of the Kirby Library tables
- > Inside the wood-paneled Global Salon of Oechsle
- > Any of Skillman's quiet areas or private "noise canceling" rooms

### Stay off the beaten path

- > Underground walkway connecting Acopian and Rockwell
- > The Kirby Room, hidden inside a Van Wickle computer lab
- > The gardens of McKelvy House (pictured) and President's House
- > On the 3-acre grounds at LaFarm

### Exercise, but make it fun

- > The escarpment's hike-bike path
- > Nature fix along the Karl Stirner Arts Trail
- > Kirby's indoor climbing wall
- > In and around Fisher Stadium
- > The Bicentennial Tour with President Hurd
- > College Hill strolls



## 20TH CENTURY PRESIDENTS

### John Henry MacCracken

1915–1926

The first president who wasn't a minister.

### William Mather Lewis

1927–1945

Led Lafayette through the Depression and World War II; brought military training programs to campus.

### Ralph Cooper Hutchison

1945–1957

Hutchison, Class of 1918, was the first alumnus to serve as president.

### K. Roald Bergethon

1958–1978

His 20-year tenure included the construction of Skillman Library, Kunkel Hall, and Kirby Fieldhouse, and in 1970, the enrollment of women for the first time. The late College historian Albert Gendebien '34 described Bergethon's tenure as "a golden time in the history of the College."



### David Ellis

1978–1990

The College increased its endowment to more than \$200 million, built Williams Center for the Arts, and joined what would become the Patriot League.



### Robert I. Rotberg

1990–1993

Scholar on conflict and conflict prevention in the developing world; served as president of World Peace Foundation after leaving Lafayette.

### Arthur J. Rothkopf

1993–2005

Initially hired as interim president, Rothkopf began a \$213 million capital campaign and construction renaissance. At the time, the College also saw rising SAT scores, the Marquis Scholars program, and two new areas of study: neuroscience and Africana studies.



## "Why Not?"

# ROLL PARDS

One dozen post-seasons that we're still talking about—and those who helped to achieve them.

BY JOHN SABINO

### ● March 7, 1987

Women's basketball won the ECC title with a 60-58 victory over Lehigh in Hempstead, New York. Led by **Maureen McManus '87**, **Stacey Cagenello '87**, **Beth Mowins '89**, and legendary head coach **Pat Fisher**, this was the second of three recorded conference titles in program history.

### ● Nov. 16, 2003

Men's soccer notched its fifth Patriot League Championship, beating Lehigh 2-0 thanks to goals by **Ralph Rapuano '04** and **Matt Battiste '04**. It was the first championship under the helm of head coach **Dennis Bohn**. This fall, Bohn eclipsed 200 career wins.

### ● May 13, 2007

Baseball won its first Patriot League title at Kamene Stadium, sweeping Army, under head coach **Joe Kinney**. This was the first time playing in the NCAA regionals since 1980; **Mike Raible '07** was named the Patriot League Tournament MVP, finishing with a .429 average and five runs batted in.

### ● March 11, 2015

Men's basketball clinched its third Patriot League Championship under the helm of longtime head coach **Fran O'Hanlon**. The victory marked the first time in league history that the tournament champion was not the one or two seed. Leading the way was guard **Nick Lindner '17**, with 25 points, during the 65-63 victory over American.

### ● Nov. 1, 2016

Women's soccer defeated Lehigh 1-0 in the first round of the Patriot League Tournament. Midfielder **Joanna Scotti '17** headed in the game winning goal in the 109th minute of the double overtime on a corner kick from **Kaelin King '17**.

### ● April 28, 2019

Golfer **Will Halamandaris '20** secured the individual Patriot League Championship title at the Seven Oaks Golf Club in Hamilton, N.Y.

### ● Nov. 18, 2023

Under head coach **John Troxell '94**, Lafayette finished off a nine-win regular season and the program's 700th victory in the best way imaginable, beating Lehigh 49-21 to capture a Patriot League title and a triumph in Rivalry 159.

### ● Sept. 7, 2024

Led by **Abby Nieporte '25** and **Carol Ulichney '26**, the women's volleyball team defeated its first-ever Power Four opponent, Virginia Tech.

### ● Nov. 9, 2024

Field hockey clinched its first Patriot League Championship since 2012. In October of that same year, head coach **Jennifer Stone '04** notched her 100th career win.

### ● March 2, 2025

Fencing's **Antonie Mannes '25** placed first in the MACFA Championship, winning the individual title in the epee; this was Lafayette's first MACFA title win in more than 20 years.

### ● April 5, 2025

Men's tennis secured its first-ever playoff win, a victory over Boston University.

### ● April 29, 2025

Scoring from **Nicholas Blalock '28**, **Joseph Duggan '28**, and **Liam Sargent '25** led men's lacrosse to its first-ever program playoff win, beating Navy by a final score of 9-5.

## Founders and builders

### James Henry Coffin

Professor and mathematician who developed the field of meteorology.

### Dr. Traill Green

Physician and chemistry professor who donated \$15,000 in 1864 to create a college observatory, called the Star Barn, that housed his own large telescope.

### Aaron O. Hoff

First African American student to attend Lafayette College.

### Francis A. March

First professor of the English language and literature in America who taught at Lafayette for more than 50 years. March was also the College's first librarian.

### Ario Pardee

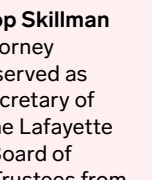
The industrialist gifted \$100,000 to establish a curriculum in 1866, followed by another \$200,000 for Pardee Hall.

### James Madison Porter

Founder of Lafayette College and first president of its Board of Trustees; grandson James Madison Porter III designed the Northampton Street Bridge.

### David Bishop Skillman

Easton attorney who served as secretary of the Lafayette Board of Trustees from 1915 to 1957.



PHOTOGRAPHS (PRESIDENTS, QUAD) COURTESY OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Lafayette field hockey hoists the 2024 Patriot League trophy.







## THAT LAFAYETTE JOIE DE VIVRE

### Sights and sounds

- > Looking out the top of Markle Parking Deck
- > Easton vistas from the Class of 1962 Gateway Plaza
- > Watching the latest performance on stage at Williams Center for the Arts
- > Acopian's glass-enclosed fifth-floor classrooms
- > Easton Farmers' Market, the longest running open-air market in the country



### Feel like a kid again

- > On the swings around campus, especially near Ramer History House
- > A few scoops from Owowcow Creamery
- > Text threads with classmates leading up to Reunion
- > Booking a room at the nostalgic Lafayette Inn

### Catch up with classmates

- > Lounge areas around Rockwell
- > Warming up by the Leopard's Lair fireplace in the Farinon basement
- > Easton Public Market with croissants and coffee



## IF YOU BUILD IT

Newer spaces on campus that inspire us



+ **Portlock Black Cultural Center**, which was moved to its new location at 41 McCartney Street and extensively renovated in 2022, supports students of color.



+ **Simon Center for Business and Economics**, opened last fall semester, houses the economics department and policy studies program, Bloomberg terminals, and a 54-seat lecture hall.



+ **Acopian Engineering Center**, with a foundation from 1952, has seen upgrades over time. Most recently: The 2022 expansion of 18,000 square feet of learning space and smart classrooms.



+ **Van Wickle's outdoor classroom** is a new terrace on the south side of Van Wickle Hall, fitted with an outdoor video monitor, slate chalkboard, and student seating for an academic experience that's both high tech and al fresco.



+ **Rockwell Integrated Sciences Center** earned LEED Platinum ratings in 2020. Inside is the Dyer Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, plus the Hanson Center, one of two Inclusive STEM Education Centers in the nation.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF (ROCKWELL) ROBERT BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY; (WILLIAMS CENTER) TAIKOPROJECT; (KARL STIRNER ARTS TRAIL) ANDY SMITH; (CAMPUS P. 38, 40, 41) ADAM ATKINSON, LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF (SELFIE) GENAMARIE MCCANT



+ **Dyer's Makerspace**, a destination for entrepreneurs and doers since 2020. Students have access to 3D printers, hand tools, a laser engraver, and more resources to create.



+ **Lavender Lane**, Lafayette's first "gender-inclusive, living-learning house" was established in 2022 as a home for LGBTQIA+ students and allies.

## MOMENTS TO MOTIVATE US

● 2026 ushers in excitement for the entire Easton community. **Lehigh Valley 250** celebrates the history of our surrounding areas with yearlong events. **Karl Stirner Arts Trail**, led by executive director and curator Jim Toia, has a proposed major expansion; poets Ross Gay '96 and Yolanda Wisner '98 are also involved with projects. **Alpha Phi Omega**, founded at Lafayette 100

years ago, is set to receive an obelisk in downtown Scott Park. Alumni and friends can head to Miami for the next installment of "Students, Faculty, and the Power of &" on Feb. 20. On campus, look for: **Bicentennial exhibitions** curated at Skillman Library; **special grants** offered for Bicentennial-related research and projects (pictured); **Abercrombie & Fitch's** exclusive

Bicentennial merch being worn; and the first spring season at **Wallach Sports Performance and Lacrosse Center** at Metzgar Campus. In March is the **2026 Council of Lafayette Women Conference** and installation of the **Adrienne statue**, followed by a weeklong celebration of all things Marquis for **Founders' Week**. The **191st Commencement**

takes place late spring, as does the long blooming season of **Marquis Marigolds**, thanks to the College's partnership with Burpee Seeds. By fall, there will be a **Bicentennial symposium** on campus; Fisher Stadium will host the **2026 Lafayette-Lehigh Rivalry Game** for the second consecutive year; and a **Bicentennial gala** for students will be held on the Quad.



## In your words

When students and alumni were asked to describe Lafayette in one word, here's what they said:

**LIFE-CHANGING, SUPPORTIVE, TRANSFORMATIVE, ENDURING, HEIGHTENING, HOME, OPPORTUNITY, ENCHANTING, WELCOMING, NURTURING, DYNAMIC, BELONGING, FAMILY, REWARDING, IMMERSIVE, VIBRANT, STIMULATING, AND MEMORABLE.**



### SMALL TOWN, BIG NAMES

*Some of the notable visitors to stop by College Hill over the years*

Presidents Jimmy Carter, Rutherford B. Hayes; musicians Bruce Springsteen, Dave Matthews Band, The Grateful Dead, Smokey Robinson, and Martha and the Vandellas; actors Tom Hanks, Steve Martin; and activists Jane Goodall, Gloria Steinem.

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Five strategic priority areas for "Becoming Lafayette: A Vision for Our Third Century"

1. Building Into the "And": Liberal Arts, Engineering, and Interdisciplinarity
2. Democracy and Its Technologies: History, Design, and Civic Practice
3. Experience and Collaboration: Easton, the Lehigh Valley, and the Globe
4. Cultivating Connections: Inclusivity, Belonging, and Stewardship
5. Strengthening Our Infrastructure: People, Process, and Place



**"If you aim low, the concern is you might hit the mark."**

**JOE MADDON '76**  
AUTHOR AND  
BASEBALL MANAGER  
WHO BROKE THE  
CHICAGO CUBS WORLD  
SERIES 108-YEAR-OLD  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
DROUGHT

### CAMPUS PHOTO OPS

**Where to take the best selfies**  
> Standing by the new "1826" sculpture (see p. 2)  
> On Skillman steps with the Quad as a backdrop  
> Hugging the Leopard statue  
> Outside Farinon with classmates during Reunion  
> Along High Street near Markle Hall  
> While the sun sets around Rockwell



### CLASSIC CLASSES

Hundreds of courses and seminars, thousands of students, and countless lessons. Were you in class with any of these Laf profs?

**Principles of Economics**, Rex Ahene  
**East Asia's Last Dynasties**, Paul Barclay  
**Financial Theory and Analysis**, Rosie Bukics  
**Theater and Social Justice**, Mary Jo Lodge  
**International Politics**, Seo-Hyun Park

**Introduction to Engineering**, Mary Roth '83  
**Shakespeare**, June Schlueter, Ian Smith  
**Political Sociology**, Howard Schneiderman  
**Dinosaurs, Darwin, and Deep Time**, David Sunderlin  
**Literary Questions**, Suzanne Westfall

### 21ST CENTURY PRESIDENTS

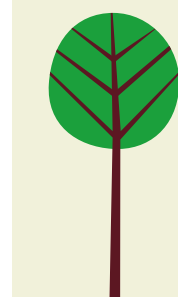
**Daniel Weiss**  
*2005–2013*  
Williams Arts Campus at the base of College Hill developed at this time; Lafayette's black box theater in Buck Hall is named after Weiss, who is an art historian, and his wife, Sandra.



**Alison Byerly**  
*2013–2021*  
The first female to lead as president of the once all-male college; she was also at the helm during the global COVID-19 crisis. "Lafayette is a place that asks you to seek an ideal, and live up to it," Byerly said in her first Commencement address to students.



**Nicole Farmer Hurd**  
*2021–Present*  
Since becoming the College's 18th president in 2021, Hurd has elevated Lafayette's national reputation: Applications have surged to a historic high, and major initiatives have expanded access, funding, and global engagement. In August, the Board of Trustees voted to extend Hurd's contract through 2030. **L**



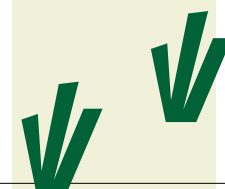
### THE QUAD BY THE SEASONS

**Fall**  
Adirondack chairs and foliage; tables at the Student Involvement Fair.

**Winter**  
Snowball fights and white lights.

**Spring**  
Students playing live music; rows of seats for Commencement ceremony.

**Summer**  
Reunion with classmates under the tent; movies with the Easton community.







# The French Marchioness

When artist Audrey Flack taught at the College a decade ago, she learned about the remarkable—yet often untold—story of Lafayette’s wife, Adrienne. Enamored by Adrienne’s spirit, Flack worked to honor her through a bronze sculpture, set to be installed on campus during the spring semester.

BY BRYAN HAY

**D**uring her residency at Lafayette in spring 2015, American artist Audrey Flack couldn’t help but notice all of the grand imagery devoted to the College’s namesake.

The bronze-cast Marquis de Lafayette, standing with youthful confidence in full 18th-century military regalia at the south entrance of Colton Chapel, sword drawn and tipped downward, his ribboned tricorn hat tucked at his side. And there was another statue, of similar posture, in light-colored limestone at the back of Hogg Hall. The major general’s presence appeared in portraits, busts, statuettes, and signage in academic and administrative buildings across campus.

As she walked the campus, Flack, known for her deep concern with the historical place of women and their

representations in the arts, noted the absence of works dedicated to Lafayette’s wife, Marie Adrienne Françoise de Noailles.

The French noblewoman, born in 1759, married the College’s namesake in 1774; Madame de Lafayette would make a lifelong commitment to the cause of human rights, just as the Marquis did.

Married 33 years, the couple worked in partnership to help abolish slavery and establish social justice and religious freedoms. They survived separate imprisonments, hundreds of miles apart during the French Revolution, and with Adrienne’s tenacity after her release found their way back to each other.

Their lives were with purpose, each one establishing their own rightful place in history.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM ATKINSON

In creating the clay mold of Adrienne, artist Audrey Flack studied iconic images supplied to her from Skillman Library’s Special Collections. Flack meticulously considered every detail: the curl of her hair, the contours of her nose, the angle of her head, and the graceful sweep of her 18th-century bodice.



**TRANSCENDENT CONNECTIONS**

Flack, then in her 80s, grew so interested in Adrienne’s life that she went to Special Collections to search archival information and view historical images.

Her fascination with Adrienne would develop into an obsession, drawing in key experts of the Lafayette community who helped to support this late-career surge in creativity. Returning home to Manhattan after serving as the Richard A. ’64 and Rissa W. Grossman Artist in Residence on campus, Flack, revered for pioneering public sculptures and photo-realist paintings, had become so engrossed in Madame de Lafayette that she immediately created a clay bust of her. She later turned this work (pictured on right) into a self-portrait, a sign of her identification with Adrienne.

In December 2023, Robert Mattison, Metzgar Professor of Art History Emeritus, who helped bring Flack to Lafayette, arranged a meeting between the artist and President Nicole Hurd, sensing they’d enjoy each other’s shared interest in sainted women and sainted mystics, an area of academic focus for President Hurd, who has a Ph.D. in religious studies. Mattison also wanted her to see the clay model and consider including the work as part of the College’s Bicentennial celebration.

An immediate personal and intellectual connection between them blossomed as they talked in Flack’s Upper West Side apartment, as if they’d known each other for years. “The same energy and light you see in her art was revealed in her spirit,” Hurd recalls. During the hourslong meeting, they engaged in deep conversation about the feminine and the divine.

That meeting ultimately led to the Bicentennial Art Commission to pursue a much bigger dedication to Adrienne: a bronze bust, 42 inches tall and 36 inches wide, and weighing 350 pounds.

Based on iconic images of Adrienne and biographies of her life from the Special Collections and College Archives, Flack last year completed a maquette of Adrienne, who is represented in her 20s, eyes gazing downward, in the early years of her marriage to Lafayette. She worked on the bust at all hours of the day while communicating regularly with Mattison, a friend and confidant for decades.



Flack, pictured in the Experimental Printmaking Institute in 2015, presents an early clay model of Adrienne. She would later transform this bust into a self-portrait.

He’d often receive lengthy midnight emails from Flack describing her creative thoughts and processes, including a particularly touching one excerpted here: “Dear Bob, I had to stop, tear myself away from Adrienne and jot down my thoughts. Last night she let me sleep, the two nights before she woke me up at 2:30 in the morning telling me what to do. I feel like

I’m channeling her. The collar above her bodice needed to be extended, and she needed shoulders. By 4:30 a.m., I had blocked out a rough version of shoulders and draped collar, but then, of course, she needed arms. By 8:30 in the morning, I could see she was in good enough shape for me to let go and get some rest. The entire process is exhausting, yet it’s extremely exhilarating when a work of art gets to this state, where every mark, touch, accent, dent, curve, twist of the lip, look of the eye, matters! The whole piece comes alive. That’s what happens when you hit it. She sings!”

Flack’s commitment to accuracy in her depiction of the young Marquise was remarkable. “She

studied every representation of Adrienne I could locate in published sources and engravings from our collections,” says Elaine Stomber ’89, P’17’21, co-director of Special Collections and College Archives and College Archivist. “The curl of her hair, the design of her bodice, and the shape of her nose were carefully considered and reworked countless times.”

The piece would become Flack’s last major work before she died, at age 93, in June 2024. Flack continued to communicate regularly with her Lafayette College colleagues as she refined her sculpture, right up until the end. Before Flack’s passing, the project was transferred, per her wishes, to sculptor Brian Booth Craig, Flack’s longtime assistant, who specializes in bronze. Now ready for final casting, the bust will be installed in the area of

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHIKO OKAYA

Skillman Library and unveiled during the Council of Lafayette Women Conference March 7, a biannual event celebrating the contributions of women to the College.

**GILBERT AND ADRIENNE**

When the time came for the powerful Duc d’Ayen, scion of the House of Noailles, to consider potential husbands of acceptable means and social status for his five smart, independent, and highly educated daughters, he already had an eye on Gilbert du Motier—better known as the Marquis de Lafayette. An orphan by the time he was 13 in 1770, Lafayette was already in the King’s Musketeers and came from a long line of French patricians.

Diane Shaw, College Archivist Emeritus, who has written and spoken on Adrienne’s life, says it was a perfect match for contracted 18th-century nuptials among French nobles. And so, the duke arranged for his second daughter, Adrienne, to marry Lafayette, even though his wife, the Duchesse d’Ayen, didn’t think much of the lad, seeing him as cold and aloof and far too young to marry.

Her opinion of the young Lafayette quickly evolved, as she discovered in him “the most active spirit, the firmest character, and the most passionate soul.” In fact, Shaw says, the duchess spilled the news about the engagement early, much to Adrienne’s delight. The couple married April 11, 1774, at the family’s estate in Paris. Adrienne was 14, Lafayette 16.

“It was a love match, and she clearly adored him,” even though the union represented a step down in social position for Adrienne, Shaw says, describing the immense wealth of Adrienne’s family. “The family home, which still stands in Paris, takes up several blocks.”

After receiving a promotion to captain in his father-in-law’s regiment and the birth of the couple’s first child, Lafayette sailed off to fight in the American Revolution. A heartbroken Adrienne, pregnant with their second child, described her husband’s decision to leave without notice as a “cruel departure.”



Perhaps mindful of his impulsive actions, Lafayette took time to write to Adrienne, often keeping things light. Shaw always smiles at his amusing letters dismissing the leg wound he received at the Battle of Brandywine while recuperating with the Moravians in Bethlehem.

She adds that, as time passed after the war in America, the couple became involved in the antislavery movement and purchased a plantation at Cayenne in the French colony of Guyana in South America. “Lafayette wanted to try an experiment that would lead to the gradual emancipation of enslaved Africans,” Shaw notes. “Adrienne was part of that, too, and deserves credit for supporting

it. As the French Revolution started to absorb Lafayette, she took over corresponding with the plantation managers and made arrangements with a local seminary to care for the religious welfare of the enslaved people. Adrienne also supported Lafayette’s efforts to secure rights for French Protestants.”

Returning to a restive Paris, Lafayette, affectionately known as “father-provider,” oversaw the police and military, while Adrienne, called “universal mother,” organized collections for the poor and mourned those who perished in the storming of the Bastille.

Shaw notes that Lafayette’s support of a constitutional monarchy ran afoul of the more radical leaders of the revolution and he was forced to flee France in late summer 1792. He had hoped to reach England, but the Austrians, at war with France, captured him at the Belgian border. He was jailed for nearly five years.

Adrienne soon faced peril herself and was arrested in 1792 and jailed in 1793 during

the Reign of Terror, Shaw says, noting that her grandmother, mother, and her sister were executed. Only intervention from Gouverneur Morris, the U.S. minister to France, spared Adrienne from the guillotine. On release from prison in 1795, she immediately made plans to seek her husband’s freedom.



Above: Adrienne de Noailles de Lafayette.

Below: An engraving by Eberhard Siegfried Henne depicts Adrienne and daughters embracing Lafayette in prison.

ILLUSTRATIONS TOP: GETTY IMAGES; BOTTOM: LAFAYETTE COLLEGE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



Mattison points to a dramatic engraving of Adrienne’s reunion with her husband in Olmütz prison in Moravia (now the Czech Republic), where Lafayette was being held by Austrian authorities. Adrienne and their two daughters had chosen to accept imprisonment during his last two years of captivity to be by his side. “Audrey recognized the poignancy of this scene as she worked on her sculpture. It captures Adrienne’s sense of dignity, propriety, strong intellect, and place in history,” he says.

“The Lafayette family became celebrated internationally as the prisoners of Olmütz until 1797 when Napoleon Bonaparte negotiated the family’s release,” Shaw says.

While in captivity, Adrienne secretly penned a memoir about her late mother by writing in the margins of another volume, using toothpicks and ink. When she was released and returned to France, she found a press to privately print a select number of copies of the manuscript in 1800. (There are only two known copies in the United States, and Lafayette College owns one of them.)

Unfortunately, the poor conditions Adrienne experienced in the Olmütz fortress ultimately led to her permanent decline in health. She died on Christmas Eve 1807, surrounded by her family. Her final words were for Lafayette: “I am yours alone.”

In a letter to his old friend, the writer, Madame de Staël, Lafayette wrote “the incomparable woman whom I married when I was 16 and she was 14 was so deeply fused into my existence that it was necessary to have lost her in order to know what part of myself would cease to live.”

### “I CAN HEAR HER VOICE.”

In his remote studio near East Stroudsburg, Pa., Craig spent much of the summer finalizing the clay mold and preparing it for the foundry where molten bronze will fill a crucible for the final pour.

Using Flack’s wood-handled shaping tools, each bearing her name and with a patina from years of use, he would make



Sculptor Brian Booth Craig, Flack’s longtime assistant, holds her memoir, *With Darkness Came Stars*. Craig specializes in the bronze medium and is tasked with the final pouring.

the gentlest of strokes to shape a lock of hair or lace on Adrienne’s gown.

He first met Flack in 1994, when he was a graduate student. Familiar with her every instinct, he completed her final work of art with the utmost sensitivity.

“I’ve been having conversations with her the whole time,” he says. “I can hear her voice, which has guided me. One of

the challenges we face with this project is that we have very few source materials about what Adrienne looked like, which is OK, because Audrey had a way of really encapsulating the spirit of the person.”

Craig remembers Flack telling him with urgency about how he would have to finish her work on his own, without her oversight, never considering that she may have been sensing her end.

“Audrey was a prominent fixture in the art world for more than 60 years. I could only assume she’d be around forever,” he says, stepping away from the final clay mold. “In these final months working on Adrienne, it hits me—this is the last time I will get to work with Audrey. But what an honor to shepherd this through to the end, a significant work that will hopefully speak to generations of students and anyone in its presence at Lafayette.”

“This magnificent final work by Audrey Flack allows us to commemorate Adrienne Lafayette and her strength and courage in the face of hardship, and think about what she means for Lafayette College and what it meant for the Marquis to have Adrienne as his wife,” Hurd says. “This sculpture serves as inspiration for the role of women at Lafayette and in the greater world. As we lift up the

Marquis de Lafayette as the inspiration for the founding of the College, we also lift up Adrienne and Audrey, and their contributions. It is an incredibly important historic and artistic moment.”

In all of her research on Madame de Lafayette, Shaw says it’s her courage and care for people that stand out as virtues that should be admired and emulated today.

“Despite her privileged upbringing, she was a modest, warm, and loving person with a spine of steel,” Shaw says. “She stared death in the face, and after her own incarceration went to save the man who stood for liberty and human rights. It’s no surprise that everyone who studies Adrienne is moved by her remarkable life story. And now she will have a permanent place on the campus.” ■

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM ATKINSON



Above: Students from Prof. Nestor Gil’s sculpture class took an excursion to Craig’s studio near East Stroudsburg, Pa., to learn about the Adrienne project.

Below: Flack’s lasting mark.



## WHY BRONZE?

Bronze has been used by sculptors for thousands of years, ever since the ancient Greeks and Romans recognized the versatility of the alloy to create public works of art to honor its most important military and political figures.

Artists working on outdoor statues have historically turned to bronze, a mix of predominately copper with tin and zinc, because of its strength and its anti-corrosive properties, making it resistant to the ravages of weather. It’s malleable and easy to cast, sculpt, and clean, and can last for thousands of years.

Artist Audrey Flack’s sculpture of Marie Adrienne Françoise de Noailles first came to life in bronze form in April with the casting of the smaller 25-pound model at Independent Casting Inc., a fine art foundry in Philadelphia. They’ve produced bronze artwork on other figures from history, including George Washington, Frederick Douglass, and Clara Barton.

Bronze ingots were placed in a graphite crucible, heated to 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit as foundry staff in heavily padded protective aprons tipped the vessel and poured bright, silky molten bronze with the consistency of whole milk into a ceramic mold. The steady work was performed on a floor covered with sand, to catch any dripping of molten bronze. Fiery liquid filled the space as a distinct smell of burnt metal lifted in the air. As the mold was broken, the bronze was released as a brownish hue and awaited final polishing after its cooling.





# THE ARTS AT LAFAYETTE



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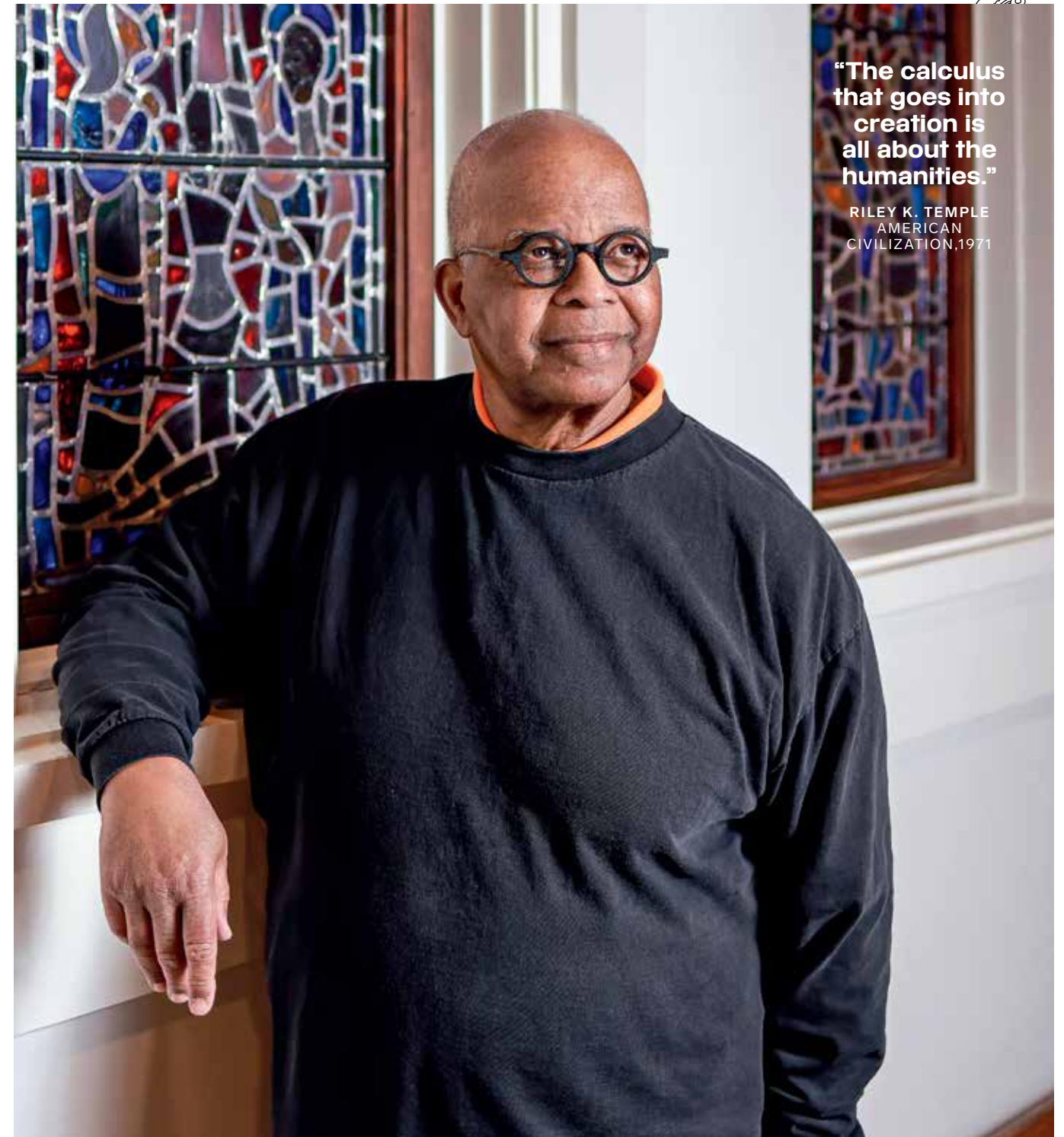
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### INSIDE

We asked alumni to share their industry expertise. **p.50**—Champion the arts and humanities. **p. 51**—Embrace the Rivalry. **p. 52**—All to learn from preserving history.

# Cur Non

More places in the United States are named after the Marquis de Lafayette than after any other foreign figure.



**“The calculus that goes into creation is all about the humanities.”**

RILEY K. TEMPLE  
AMERICAN  
CIVILIZATION, 1971

PHOTOGRAPH BY TONY POWELL



# A LOVE OF LEARNING

Riley K. Temple '71 reflects on the value of studying arts and humanities at an institution like Lafayette.

BY MADELINE MARRIOTT '24

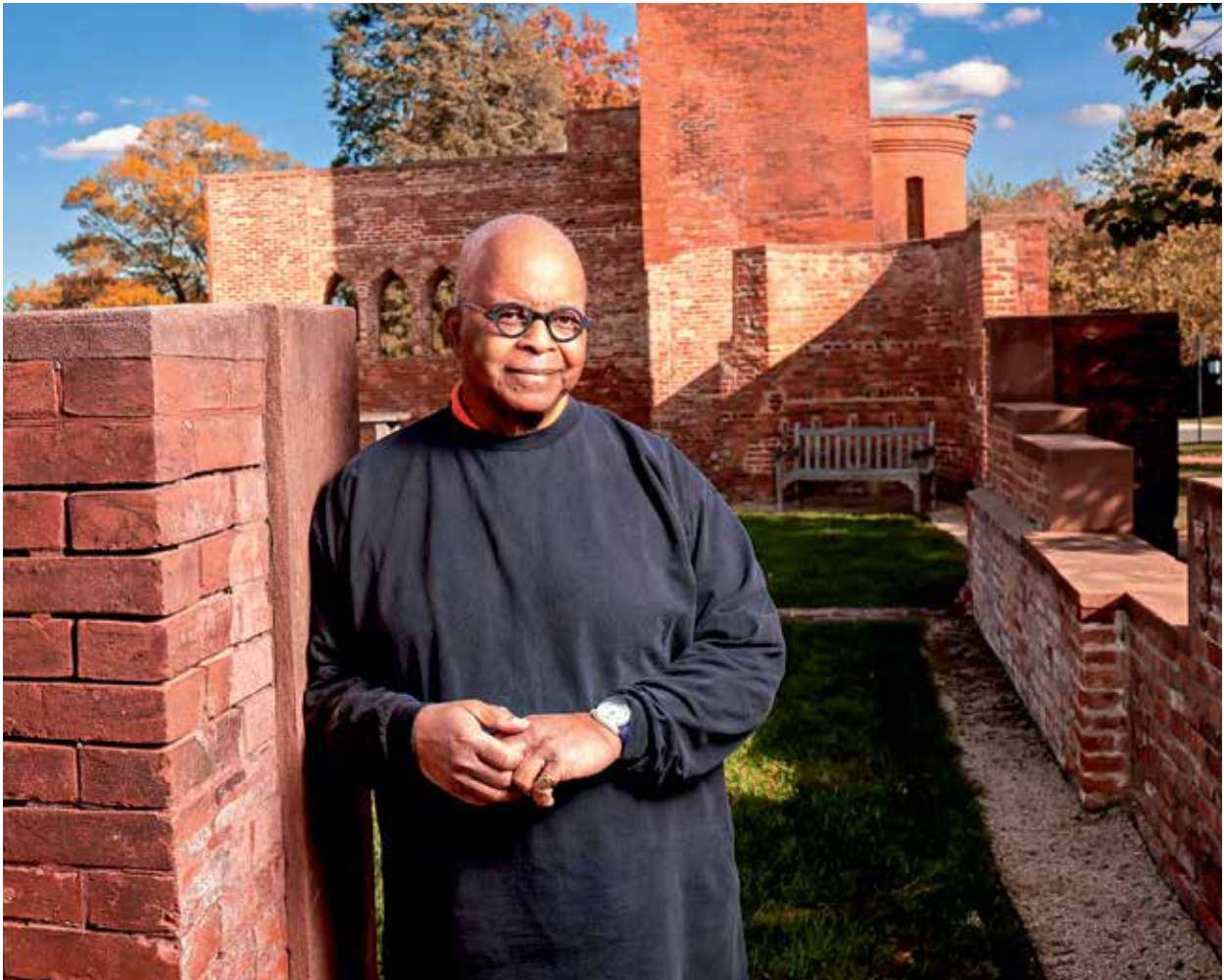
Riley K. Temple grew up in the segregated public school system of Richmond, Va., surrounded by its rich history and vibrant Black community. His time at Lafayette saw seismic shifts in the culture, both nationally and on campus, as the country reeled from the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy. “The College was changing tremendously,” he explains. “It became more of a place for intellectual experimentation, which I took full advantage of.”

After graduating from Lafayette as one of only 10 Black students in his class, Temple moved on to Georgetown University’s law program, leading to a decades-long career in telecommunications law. He worked for the likes of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Senate Judiciary Committee, RCA Global Communications, and Senate Commerce Committee before entering private practice for 35 years.

He simultaneously stayed involved at the College; he served on the Board of Trustees for 15 years, including roles as secretary and vice chair. He has endowed funds for causes like visiting arts lecturers, named in honor of his parents, and study abroad opportunities. An arts prize, awarded annually by the Association of Black Collegians in Temple’s name, recognizes artistic citizenship among students.

Even after retiring from telecommunications, Temple was far from finished with his education. In 2009, he started to pursue a theology degree at Virginia Theological Seminary. Spurred by a long-standing interest in history, he has spent the last five years working in the seminary’s archives, expanding their African American Episcopal Historical Collection.

Here, Temple reflects on arts and humanities, his time at Lafayette, and joys of continued education.



Historic chapel ruins, now an outdoor space for contemplation, on the grounds of Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va.

**When you were a student at Lafayette, was there someone who influenced how you thought about the humanities?**

I was in a course called The Black Man in American Civilization. We were reading some of the great novels, one of which was *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison. Our professor had us clear our calendars one day because we were going to have Ellison in class with us. The novel is expansive, epic, complicated, and full of dazzling imagery, and we wanted to make sense of that with him. He took a drag off his cigarette—we were all smoking at the time—and said, “You’re asking me all these questions about my characters. You know, I only created them. They take on a life of their own, and how you see them is as authentic, as important, as how I see them.” That, to me, was an epiphany.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TONY POWELL

**What are some of the most valuable “soft skills” honed when studying the humanities?**

The principal value of studying the humanities at a place like Lafayette is that you develop critical thinking skills, and for those who are so inclined, you awaken a love of learning. At a National Archives event, I was once seated next to a man who planned out the Washington, D.C., metro station locations. Think of what you would have to know about humanity to be able to do that. I asked him what he was reading at the time of the design, and he said “poetry.” We study the humanities because it helps us to understand we’re not alone. The calculus that goes into creation is all about the humanities.

**You support a fund that helps students take faculty-led courses abroad. How does experiential learning like this differ from that of the traditional classroom?** After I finished school, I traveled extensively, and my cognitive awareness was heightened and broadened. My creativity was fueled by what I experienced. You can only get perspective on certain things, like the country, when you leave it.

**You’ve increased accessibility to the arts on campus. Why is that important to you?** I wanted to recreate the experience I had with Ellison of having someone in the field interact with our students. We’ve had some of the great African American artists of our time—David Driskell, Sam Gilliam, William T. Williams, Mel Edwards, who did the *Transcendence* sculpture on campus—work with students on making and printing their paintings. I’m proud of that.

**In 2002, you co-founded a professional Black theater company called the Kenny Leon True Colors Theatre Company, which is based in Atlanta. How is art a vital tool for strengthening communities?**

Zelda Fichandler, founder and artistic director of the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., once said to me, “The artist owes nothing except being honest and pursuing the limits of the imagination.” Artists see in ways we usually don’t see, so they act as a mirror to what’s happening around us. It’s the vision of the artist that interprets this for their communities.

**You earned a master’s in theological studies in 2014. What advice do you have for anyone thinking about pursuing passions later in life?** Follow the wisdom of your heart. Make room for the vagaries and the desires. Make room for serendipity.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

## Keeping tradition

Robert E. Sell '84, H'18, chair of the Board of the Trustees, attends his 59th Lafayette-Lehigh Rivalry Game this November.



Born in Easton, Bob Sell’s younger years were spent on College Hill, growing up alongside the children of faculty.

He doesn’t remember his first Rivalry matchup—his father, Richard Sell '60, took him over to Lehigh’s Taylor Stadium on Nov. 17, 1962, at the age of 10 months—but that game as an infant marked the beginning of what would become a long history of supporting Lafayette in college football’s most-played and longest continuous rivalry.

The many Rivalries that Sell enjoyed throughout his teenage years were followed by even more games during his time as an economics and business major. After graduation, a career at Accenture led him to New York, proving to be a proximity that allowed him to be in the stands for the last 39 consecutive Rivalries. In

2018, Sell would retire as group chief executive of Accenture’s communications, media, and technology operating group; that same year, he was elected for his first term as chairman of Lafayette’s Board of Trustees.

Per *Sports Illustrated*, attending The Rivalry is “something you have to do once in your life.” Dedicated fans, such as Sell, witness moments of College history writing itself every year. In 1992, for example, Sell cheered on his cousin, running back Erik Marsh '95, who rushed 251 yards to help the Pards edge the Mountain Hawks by just three points—this was one of two years Marsh would win The Rivalry MVP. “It was just a spectacular memory,” Sell says. “My whole family was there.”

As Sell looks to next year’s 162nd meeting, held at Fisher Stadium during the Bicentennial year, here’s his best advice on going to the game.



**Make a day of it—home or away**

Sell explains that the scenery around Fisher and Goodman stadiums in November shows off some of the best that Pennsylvania has to offer, so take time to enjoy the entire experience. He is among the first of fans to arrive at every Rivalry (typically, at 6:30 in the morning) and, after the final whistle blows, he and his friends make a point to linger before heading home.

**The more the merrier**

Over the years, Sell has planned game day gatherings ranging from a dozen to more than 100 people; the multigenerational group also includes guests who aren't alumni—even, yes, Lehigh graduates. Since Sell has organized just as many Rivalry tailgates in Bethlehem, he knows those working in Lehigh's ticketing office just as well as Lafayette's. He suggests purchasing tickets in blocks so that groups can stay together in the stands.

**Superstitions allowed**

Sell routinely carries the same maroon blanket into each Rivalry, an heirloom he's held onto since he was six. "We only

use it at this game, once a year," Sell says. He's in good company with the lucky accessories: Acquaintance Peter Newman '73, who has been to more than 50 Rivalry games, always wears the same scarf that he bought in the College Store in 1971.

**Be part of history**

The Rivalry is history in the making, especially during a Bicentennial, and Sell hopes the students embrace it. From witnessing Taylor Stadium's last game in 1987—"It was brutally cold with a windchill below zero and still sold out," he recalls—to spending a weekend in New York for Rivalry 150, where nearly 50,000 fans packed Yankee Stadium, Sell describes events like these as once in a lifetime.

*Have you been to 50 or more Rivalry games? Let us know at [lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu](mailto:lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu).*

**"Winning this game can salve a lot of wounds," Sell says.**



# PRESERVE LIKE AN ARCHIVIST

Elaine Stomber '89, P'17,'21 is as much a part of the College's history as the College is of hers.

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS

**"T**he reason I am where I am today is because of Lafayette," says Stomber, co-director of Special Collections and College Archives (SCCA), and College archivist.

Stomber, who majored in English and art, began her training as an undergraduate research assistant managing Lafayette's historical image collection. The College offered her a role in 1989—project archivist on the College's Marquis de Lafayette collections, working alongside her mentor (and now-retired College archivist), Diane Windham Shaw.

After later stints as archivist at the American Philosophical Society Library and The Cloisters (a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art), Stomber returned to her alma mater in 2000. The opportunity to manage the papers of artist Howard Chandler Christy and Sen. Jeanette Reibman, plus the master print collection of artist Helen Frank, she says, was one of the best in her career—because it confirmed that the annals of Lafayette history are precisely where her passion lies.

Named Lafayette's third archivist in 2017 and co-director of SCCA in 2023, Stomber stewards the College's most precious artifacts and historical memories. "I'm fortunate to be able to share the knowledge I've accumulated over the years about the institution with our community and the world," she says.

Here, she dives into what it means to be a keeper of institutional memory.

**Artifacts are for hands-on learning**

Stomber oversees three major collections at Lafayette: rare books, manuscripts (personal papers of individuals like the Marquis de Lafayette), and the College Archives (institutional records). One thing she loves about her job, she says, is partnering with faculty to integrate these primary resources into classroom teaching and learning.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON

"There's nothing like students seeing physical artifacts firsthand and using that information as part of their research," she says. "It's an experience they just can't get from Google." More and more faculty, she adds, are designing assignments around SCCA resources that aren't digitally published—specifically because they're not searchable via the internet or AI.

"In these cases, students have to directly engage with the materials to complete the assignment," Stomber explains. "This presents great opportunities for collaboration and experiential instruction."

**Lafayette is a global source of knowledge**

Stomber is also tasked with ensuring Lafayette's resources can be accessed beyond the campus community. "Researchers around the U.S. and world are using our collections," she says. "Digitization is key to sharing them widely and reaching a larger audience."

The Lafayette Digital Repository (LDR) currently houses 21,015 works. She explains they are working to enhance Lafayette's digital photograph collection;

← "There's value in looking back," Elaine Stomber says.

historical College publications like the Commencement program and *The Melange* will also become available and searchable in the LDR by the end of the Bicentennial year.

**Bicentennial ready**

One of the highlights of her role is developing exhibitions and programming around Lafayette's Bicentennial. As a participant in the Bicentennial Planning and Management Group, chair of the Academic Affairs Task Force for the Bicentennial, and member of the Scientific Committee for the Archives Nationales exhibition in Paris in 2026, Stomber has been instrumental in the historic commemoration.

In Skillman Library, for example, Stomber has installed three exhibitions that tell the College's 200-year story. (They are on display throughout 2026.) During the Bicentennial Kickoff, she created a pop-up exhibit with some of Lafayette's most valuable treasures, which

will make their way to the National Archives of France in the spring for a larger overseas exhibition. "This was the perfect opportunity for those who are unable to travel to Paris to see our Marquis de Lafayette collections as well as some of the earliest records of the founding of the College," Stomber says.

**Improving campus culture for the future**

As archivist for the Lafayette College Queer Archives Project, Stomber is dedicated to documenting the voices of underrepresented groups in the College archives, improving campus climate, and contributing to LGBTQIA+ studies at Lafayette. She's also an active member in the Lafayette Libraries' working group for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

It's important for any institution, she explains, to look back and preserve the stories of previous generations. "We can learn from our mistakes and successes," she says. "It empowers us to make critical changes for not only the current generations, but also those to come." ■

**A FEW OF HER FAVORITE THINGS**

**1.** The earliest known photo of Lafayette College, dating back to 1858, which features the original "College Edifice."

**2.** A letter written in code by the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington during the American Revolution—one of many letters that hold the handwriting of both Lafayette and Washington in the same document.

**3.** A letter written by five College students, dated June 30, 1832, hoping to notify the Marquis de Lafayette about the young college being named after him. It was found in a Paris antique shop in 1932.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA



# 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](mailto:comdiv@lafayette.edu).



South College, now a popular residence hall, was the first edifice constructed at Lafayette.

“On May 1, 1834, with great pomp and ceremony, the building was dedicated to its lofty purpose,” wrote David B. Skillman.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN B. HAYMOND



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

## 1950s

### Dick Garnett '56

Garnett writes: “Following graduation, I served two years as an ensign in the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. My wife, Suzanne, and I married in '59 and shortly thereafter began our 39-year Shell career. Our many moves included Pleasantville, N.Y.; Morris Plains, N.J.; Baltimore, Md.; East Setauket, Long Island; many moves in and out of Houston; plus three years in London involving frequent worldwide travel. We enjoyed all the moves, but one unfortunate consequence is that we missed many of our class reunions. I have, however, closely followed our Class Notes and *Lafayette* alumni magazine and am pleased to serve as our class correspondent. Please forward any information you would like included in future columns: [thergarnetts@aol.com](mailto:thergarnetts@aol.com). Let's get reacquainted!”

### William Rambo '54

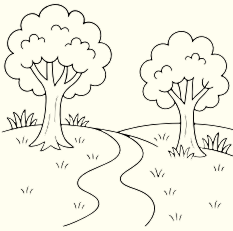
Rambo writes: “I followed my father's and older brother's path to Penn Medical School,



and then trained in general surgery at Harvard (Boston Deaconess and Boston City hospitals). During that period, I met and married my first wife, Sara. Her South Carolina roots and family led my professional path to the Medical University of S.C. in Charleston, where I was a professor of surgery for almost 40 years. We had four children, now all grown, and spent a sabbatical year in Uganda, where I continued teaching at Mulago Hospital in Kampala. I actually met Idi Amin! Sadly, Sara died about 10 years after our return, unrelated to that trip. I continued on in my surgical faculty work at the medical school and was blessed to meet a wonderful OB-GYN resident, Lydia Engelhardt, at the hospital where I served as chief of surgery. We've now been married almost 42 years, have 12 grandchildren, and anticipate/hope for some great-grands in the not-too-distant future. In retirement, we volunteered overseas via World Medical Mission for the following 15 years. We made dozens of trips, mostly for months at a time and mostly on the African continent, but also to Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh. It was a real blessing for us both to do that. And now we are in our second retirement and enjoying life in South Carolina.”



John Wardell '50 was recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal, one of America's highest civilian honors, during a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol. The 99-year-old, who lives in New Jersey, is one of five surviving World War II Army Ranger veterans. “We trained hard, worked with determination, and took on missions others thought were impossible,” Wardell said in June. “Our motto has withstood the test of time, and always will—Rangers lead the way!”



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Easton Cemetery recently installed historical markers with QR codes for the notable Lafayette professors, founders, presidents, and alumni buried there.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GETTY NEWS

### Donald Seip '50

Seip celebrated his 100th birthday May 27, 2025. He attended Lafayette on the GI Bill after serving in the U.S. Navy on the *USS Goss Destroyer Escort* in the Pacific. After his service during WWII, and his honorable discharge in May 1946, he married Sarah Miller. They lived on campus at 29 Sullivan Village and eventually had two children. On graduation day, Seip received a job offer via telegram from Leeds & Northrup Co., a precision instrumentation company in Philadelphia. He began his 38-year career there as a spec writer and moved into various

positions in electric power, as well as the international marketing division. Later in his career, he went back to school in the evenings to earn his MBA. He and Sarah were married for nearly 75 years before her passing in 2021; together, they have three children. Seip is an avid stationary biker—riding 30 minutes every day—and, when weather permits, walks a quarter-mile outside. He also enjoys swimming, racquetball, and family trips to Cape May Point, N.J. He is devoted to studying the Bible and has served as a Sunday school teacher, guest preacher, and on church council.

## 1960s

### Marshall Gluck '65

Gluck writes: “For those who attended our 60th reunion this past June, I hope you had an enjoyable time on campus and had an opportunity to see old friends and professors. If any of you want to forward me your recollections of Reunion weekend, please do so: [mgluck@leechtishman.com](mailto:mgluck@leechtishman.com). Hopefully, I will hear some good news from some of you for my next column.”

### Keiichi Ohara '67

Ohara writes:

“I turned 81 years young this July. Living in Tokyo and getting together with some alumni working in Tokyo/Japan. I am completely retired after working for Gulf Oil and American Soybean Association in Japan. Was back in Easton for the 50th reunion in 2017. Hope to revisit Easton for the 60th reunion in 2027. I am very proud of the Bicentennial celebration in 2026!”



### Jim Turner '67

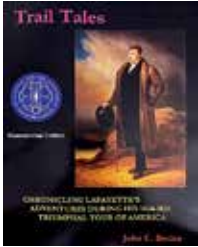
At the Visitor Information Center in Estes Park, Colo., Tom Campbell '76 (left) received some much needed advice from Turner (right) regarding trails to hike, roads to travel, and, of course, some shopping. Campbell writes: “Another Lafayette grad who has risen to great heights—7,522 feet, to be exact!”



## Check this

Lafayette alumni share their latest work.

BY BEBE YAFFE '26



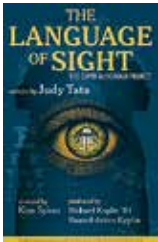
**Trail Tales: Chronicling Lafayette's Adventures During His 1824-1825 Triumphant Tour of America**  
*John Becica '69*  
*Lafayette Alliance Incorporated, 2023*

After taking in a Lafayette Libraries presentation about the Marquis, Becica spent decades learning more about the Revolutionary hero. In addition to publishing this collection of stories, Becica is involved with The American Friends of Lafayette and the Lafayette Trail Project.



**“From Paper to Silk: Decoding the Lafayette Hermès Scarf”**  
*Tracy Hart '77*  
*The World of Hermès Scarves, carredeparis.me*

In an online exclusive, Hart details how she collaborated with Hermès, American artist Kermit Oliver, and Lafayette College archivists to create a limited-edition carré in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette's 250th birthday in 2007. Rich with detail, the timeless red-bordered silk masterpiece merges fashion and history.



**The Language of Sight: The David McDonogh Project**  
*Co-produced by Richard Koplin '64*  
*Presented by the Performance Series at Williams Center for the Arts, Feb. 28, 2026*

A new play written by Judy Tate, directed by Kim Sykes, and co-produced by Koplin and Russel Arden spotlights David McDonogh, Lafayette's first Black graduate and the nation's first Black eye doctor.

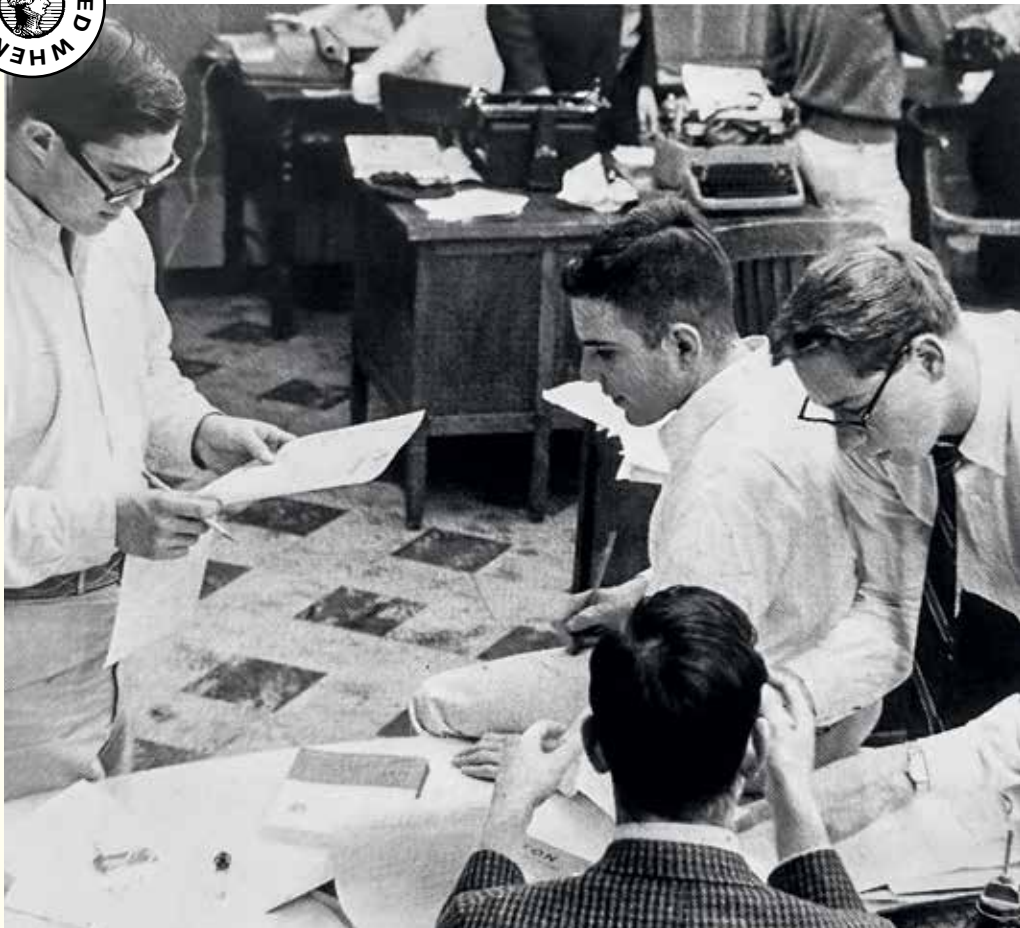


**The Biography of a College**  
*David Bishop Skillman, Class of 1913*  
*Lafayette College, 1932*

Easton attorney David Bishop Skillman authored two volumes of history in *The Biography of a College*. His landmark work documents Lafayette College's first hundred years, from its founding in 1826 through the 1920s, creating a definitive account of its formative years and enduring legacy.

*Have a published book, podcast, or exhibit to share? Email [lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu](mailto:lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu).*





**It's been 155 years** since the oldest college newspaper in Pennsylvania was first established. For the exception of hiatuses during World War II and the pandemic, *The Lafayette* has been continuously in print since 1870. Our writers want to learn more about this newsroom image from the late '60s—let us know the who, what, when, where, and why at [lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu](mailto:lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu).

## 1970s

### Dan Benedict '73

Benedict writes that he and Mary are retired in Lowville, N.Y., about an hour north of Syracuse. They've had lots of fun following their grandchildren through high school and college.

### Dr. Joe Bolil '78

After six years as a professor at Creighton University School of Dentistry in Omaha, Neb., Dr. Bolil plans to retire. Bolil, wife Janine, and son Wes are planning to move back east to Richmond, Va., to be closer to their adult children and two granddaughters, ages 2 and 4. In Bolil's words: "Onto the next adventure!"

### Tom Campbell '76

Campbell writes: "Lafayette College rugby alumni gathered at Kirby Sports Center Sept. 13, celebrating 53 years since the club's founding. Organized by Andrew Riebe '85 and Dennis Gillooly '83, alumni met to reminisce about games, catch up on current events, and discuss rugby at Lafayette with the current men's and

women's players. Those in attendance included 'Founding Fathers' Tom Campbell '76 and Dave McNaughton '76 (who flew in from Germany for the event), plus Tom Sullivan '80, Rick Nawalinski '77, Jim Fisher '77, George Thibeault '77, Jaun Jarrett '81, and John Barisich '76. More alumni events are being planned."

### Don Giegerich '73

Don and Carol Giegerich have awakened a travel bug: They've taken a land/sea cruise trip to Alaska and their first European cruise on the Rhine River from Amsterdam to Basel, Switzerland. Don also organized a travel group in their community in Crossville, Tenn., and the group grew to over 200 members within four months. Next up: a trip to Italy with friends from Tennessee.



### Joe Harpster '73

Harpster retired in February after working for 50 years for five different banks. He's hoping to see many classmates at Homecoming or the Lafayette-Lehigh football game this fall.

### John Hasnas '74

In June, Hasnas published his newest book, *Questioning the Assumptions of Political Discourse*, with Routledge Press. This joins the 2024 publication of his book *Common Law Liberalism*, with Oxford University Press.

### William Hayes '71

Penn State's Renaissance Fund, which recognizes outstanding community members and provides scholarship support to students, has selected Bill

and Connie Hayes as 2025 honorees. Bill graduated with a bachelor's degree in American civilization, followed by degrees and certificates from the Graduate School of Banking at Northwestern University, Stonier Graduate School of Banking, and the Advanced School of Banking at Bucknell University, and has served four years of active duty with the U.S. Coast Guard. Alongside his achievements, Bill has made volunteerism and community service a top priority. They were celebrated in State College Nov. 11.

### Steve Herstein '73

Herstein retired from Kaiser, the HMO, in 2014 after a career in information technology. Since then, he has moved his music hobby from guitar to ukulele: "I've found it to be a wonderful social outlet as well as a musical one. Strum groups have popped up all over the country. Many of the people I've met have become good friends. And, it's quite indescribable to hear 30 70-year-olds strumming and singing 'Honkey Tonk Woman.'"

### Hon. Thomas J. LaConte '70

Cole Schotz is pleased to announce the return of the Honorable Thomas J. LaConte (Ret.) as Of Counsel, following a 20-year tenure as a New Jersey Superior Court judge. Judge LaConte will contribute to the firm's Alternative Dispute Resolution and litigation support services. Based in the firm's Hackensack, N.J., office, Judge LaConte will focus on mediating and arbitrating a wide variety of civil disputes, including construction litigation, corporate and commercial disputes, contract issues, and matters involving municipal

and local governments. Judge LaConte most recently served on the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division in the Passaic Vicinage and presided over countless civil trials, evidentiary hearings, and dispositive motions until his retirement in June. Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge LaConte spent more than 30 years at Cole Schotz, where he was a trusted authority on construction and commercial litigation.

### Donald Landry '75

The University of Florida board of trustees appointed Dr. Landry as interim president of University of Florida. He is chair emeritus of Columbia University's Department of Medicine, an internationally renowned physician-scientist, president of the American Academy of Sciences and Letters, and recipient of the Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second-highest civilian honor. The term began Sept. 1, 2025.

### Rich Leder '78

Leder writes: "I've been a professional fiction writer for 35 years now. Lots of movies in Hollywood. Nine novels in North Carolina. I attribute much of my success to the training I received as an English literature major. Prof. William Watt was instrumental in the complicated internal calculus that led me to becoming a writer. I studied Chaucer with Prof. Donald McCluskey '36. Prof. James Lusardi '55 taught me Shakespeare. Prof. James Vitelli taught me to pay attention to the language, and to pay attention in general. In retrospect, paying attention was a pretty



important lesson. All those smart, generous men live in my mind to this day." Leder's latest novel, *Extraterrestrial Noir*, is available on Amazon and [richleder.com](http://richleder.com).

### Michael LeWitt '70

LeWitt writes: "We recently visited the Atwood House Museum, a lovely historical house in Chatham. On our tour, we ran into Ellis Finger, retired director of Williams Center for the Arts, and had a pleasant time catching up. Additionally, I watched a video on prolific author Joseph Lincoln; one of the narrators in the biopic was Bob Heppe '70, the local expert on Lincoln and a docent at the museum. Bob, a retired tax and estate lawyer, has made the most of his retirement with a host of civic responsibilities and activities! We recently attended the Pacific Northwest wedding of our younger daughter, Rachel, Class of 2013, and saw many of her Lafayette friends."

### Michael Margello '77

Margello writes: "Calling all Class of '77 classmates! I am back as your class correspondent, and I have missed you all. Believe it or not, we are less than two years away from our 50th reunion! More details to follow, but start planning now for the first weekend in June 2027. I hope to see you there, and please send me your updates: [michael@margellolaw.com](mailto:michael@margellolaw.com)."

### Fran Minotto '71

Minotto writes: "Kathie and I moved to a wonderful 55-plus community in Douglassville, Pa. It was a great move for us both. The grandchildren are growing up too fast: one in pre-K, one in kindergarten, one at



### CLOSING TIME

Leopard makes an impression with the most decorated team in baseball.

Yankees right-handed reliever David Bednar '17 had the first post-season save of his Major League Baseball career against the Red Sox on Oct. 1. He would go on to close the final game of that series and make two additional saves against the Blue Jays in the 2025 ALDS. Bednar, drafted by the Padres in 2016, was playing for the Pirates before being acquired by New York and general manager Brian Cashman P'27 in July.



Delaware State University, and another who is going to be giving us our first great-grandson in October. For the Class of 1971, the 200th anniversary coincides with our 55th reunion. Hoping to see members of the last all-male class at Lafayette.”

**Jim Roberts ’73**  
Roberts writes that he remains in close touch with several Lafayette friends from the East Coast, despite living in Winter Park, Colo. Among them are Joel Nemec ’73, Phil Gocke ’73, Les Wurfel ’73, and Ellsworth Whiteman ’73. “I try to get back east at least once per year, and it always includes getting together with one or more of them.”

**Kenneth Ross ’74**  
During a recent visit to Paris, Ross made a trip to Picpus Cemetery to pay his respects to the College’s namesake, General Marquis de Lafayette. He noted that this cemetery is tiny, nondescript, and difficult to locate.



**Scott Spitzer ’73**  
Spitzer has been elected to the board of supervisors of Fiddler’s Creek Community Development District 2. The CDD is a special-purpose government entity and taxing district in Naples, Fla., to plan, finance, construct, and manage community services and facilities.

**Carol Tarsa ’78**  
Tarsa writes: “A summer party at the Brigantine home of Jim ’78 and Sue Valenti ’80 has become a yearly tradition, with the guest list growing larger every year. It was a beautiful day at the Jersey shore with great food and friends, including Phi Delta Theta brothers and their wives. I hope the summer of 2025 has been a safe and happy one for everyone.”

## 1980s

**Susan Sheehan Lee ’80**  
Lee writes: “We had a fantastic weekend for our 45th reunion. The campus looks great, and we all raved about the campus-provided housing

in the new dorm (not the New Dorm). Charlie Daniel ’80 and his wife, Melissa, were there in between stops all over the world. Joanne Boorujy Catudal ’80 flew in from Houston to meet up with Sallie Howell ’80, Vicki Braun McCall ’80, and Eileen Schunk Ryan ’80. So fun to see this group together again (especially in the Rock Room at Chi Phi!). Eileen was in from Delray Beach, Fla., where she and her husband occasionally see other Leopards in their community. Sallie also splits her time between Florida and Connecticut with her husband, Tim Osborne ’82. Jane Beers Zboray ’80 was there, as was Marybeth McDevitt ’80, who is now happily retired. Amanda Sawyer Bruno ’80 attended on Saturday, as did Margie Lusch-Steinbrenner ’80, who is still teaching German near Atlanta, Ga. Tim Gerhart ’80 was in from the Pittsburgh area where he owns an engineering firm. As always, Erica Bonime ’80 kept me laughing throughout the weekend with all the things she remembered from our college times.”

### STAY CONNECTED!

Be part of the conversation. Share your professional accomplishments and personal news through our mobile-friendly platform.



**Lesley Kraut Schwarzman ’84**

Schwarzman and family celebrated their childhood home’s 250th birthday in August in Ewing Township, N.J. “Boxwood” was built in 1775 along the Delaware River. Guests wore Revolutionary attire with George and Martha Washington, Betsy Ross, and the Marquis joining the fun; Schwarzman was at her finest as Adrienne, Lafayette’s wife. Sue DeRitis Hanratty ’84, Diane Gaglia Gottschalk ’84, and Nancy Bennett Gallagher ’84 also attended.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY (REUNION) MERIS; (ARCHIVE) LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES; IMAGE COMPOSITE BY DALE MACK; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

**THEN & NOW**  
There is perhaps no building more iconic on Lafayette’s campus than Pardee Hall. Revered enough to be celebrated in the lyrics of our alma mater and still the cherished destination for classmates at every Reunion. How lucky are we that the same view from the 19th century (on left) is what is seen today (on right)? Magnificent stone walls survive, even better with time.



**David Seiple ’89**  
On LeopardLink, Seiple wrote “One Hundred Years Ago Today, August 12, 1925: A Tribute to Lafayette College Student Larimore ‘Larry’ Foster.”

**Thomas Shafer ’83**  
Shafer writes: “I was elected to the city council of Hayden, Idaho, and sworn in January 2024. It is a four-year term. At the municipal level, our council makes consequential decisions regarding growth, development planning, and land use. We make sure citizens’ taxes are well and efficiently spent. I also care that freedoms and property rights of each and every resident are respected above all else. After 2020—a year that redefined what ‘participatory government’ means to Americans—I decided to get involved. Otherwise, who am I to complain?”

**Tracy Roberts Walker ’89**  
Walker, outreach manager at HearingLife, writes: “HearingLife is part of a larger company called Demant, and has been in business since 1904. The vision for our company is, and has been for just over 120 years, to help people hear better. We have 600 clinics within the U.S. and offer free hearing assessments.”

## 1990s

**Gail Molloy ’93**  
Molloy writes: “I’ve had the pleasure of spending tons of time on campus this year, as my son, Taylor Vlachich ’28, is now a Leopard! What an exciting time to be a student, with a year of Bicentennial



celebrations. Much has changed on the Hill and in town. It’s all so revitalized. If you haven’t visited recently, you need to get there ASAP!”

**Jennifer Pierce ’98**  
Jen and Clay Pierce built an HVAC business in South Jersey, which was sold to private equity, and subsequently sold to Ace Hardware. She now works with the Ace Hardware team to bring Ace Hardware Home Services to every

state in the country as vice president of integrations.

## 2000s

**Lisa Kopacka ’06**  
Kopacka writes: “My husband, Matt, and I welcomed our first child



into this world in August 2024. Her name is Clara Luna Kopacka. Secondly, this July, we moved back to China. This



# Alumni Memoriam

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

<b>1938</b> Joseph Yantz Strohman	<b>1958</b> Carl E. Denzler Dr. David E. Hutchison Paul O. Koether Rabe F. Marsh III P’92 Henry W. Steel	<b>1966</b> Richard M. Konover	<b>1974</b> William D. Joseph Robert D. Kilbanks
<b>1950</b> Atlee W. Robinson John Macey Siergiej	<b>1959</b> Bruce L. Castor P’83, G’14 William C. Conger	<b>1967</b> William Jasper Charles Judson Lawson III Arthur E. Tooze Jr.	<b>1975</b> William E. Dentler
<b>1951</b> Bruce L. Castor P’83, G’14 William C. Conger	<b>1960</b> Philip D. Bollman Jr. P’81, G’11’12’17 Pastor Charles M. Lee Jr. Alan S. Readinger Ronald J. Walsh	<b>1968</b> Dr. Alan R. Beckenstein David J. Oberholzer	<b>1977</b> Philip C. Hamlin Kathleen H. Lucas
<b>1953</b> Robert C. Robertson Jr.	<b>1961</b> Peter W. Bretsky Jr. John W. Stanhope	<b>1969</b> William L. Serrill	<b>1979</b> Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Blair
<b>1954</b> Arthur L. Cox P’81 James N. Grace II P’86 Ralph E. Rossheim	<b>1964</b> John M. Colton III William “Bill” M. McLure	<b>1970</b> Steven T. Greene P’12 Richard J. Merwarth	<b>1980</b> Edmond H. Atiyeh
<b>1955</b> Thomas F. McGrail P’90, G’18	<b>1965</b> John W. MacDougall P’92	<b>1971</b> Robert J. Stanger	<b>1984</b> Maureen Kelly McLaughlin
<b>1956</b> Martin E. Miller		<b>1972</b> Robert J. Hitchens Jr. P’95 Rodney K. Smith	<b>1987</b> James J. Koniszewski
<b>1957</b> Herbert E. Pessin Lewis A. Wein		<b>1973</b> Douglas E. Brown F. Mark Fucci Andrew J. Toth	<b>1994</b> John F. Tim
			<b>2014</b> Charlotte Hatch Mansfield
			<b>FACULTY/STAFF</b> Edward J. Kerns

Death notices may be emailed to [classnotes@lafayette.edu](mailto:classnotes@lafayette.edu) or sent to Lafayette magazine, Communications Division, Alpha Building, Easton, PA 18042.



time we came to Shenzhen to work at Avenues: The World School, Shenzhen.”

**Shoshana Cohen Stopek ’00**  
Stopek writes: “Reconnecting with classmates and soaking up all the Leopard pride made Reunion weekend truly unforgettable. A lovely surprise? Spotting five of my books at the campus store (*Hammock for Two*; *Sometimes Cows Wear Polka Dots*; *Friendsgiving: The Official Guide to Hosting, Roasting & Celebrating with Friends*; *FRIENDS: The One About You*; and *FRIENDS: The Television Series*)! Seeing them at my alma mater, where I studied creative writing and dreamed about being an author felt pretty magical. I was honored to be in such inspiring company with fellow alumni authors.” [shoshanastopek.com/books](http://shoshanastopek.com/books).



**Dwayne Thomas ’01**  
Thomas is part of a show called *Julius X* presenting at the Folger Theatre in D.C. ([folger.edu](http://folger.edu)). Additionally, a movie he filmed in Virginia called *Take From Me* released on Amazon Prime Video in August. [loupeart.com/collections/dwayne-alistair](http://loupeart.com/collections/dwayne-alistair).

## 2010s

**Thomas Benjamin ’12**  
Benjamin is vice president, institutional research, analytics and campus technologies at Lorain



County Community College, July 1, after nine years of service in progressing roles in institutional research. During his tenure, the college received national recognition as a leader in student success.

**Melissa Bressner ’16**  
After serving at the U.S. Agency for International Development, Bressner has transitioned into a new role in the Rockefeller Foundation’s Office of Grants Management in New York. Bressner is thrilled to continue her passion for impact-driven work and contribute to the foundation’s global mission.

**Amanda Smith Butler ’10**  
Butler and her family moved to Medford, N.J., this summer. They look forward to being closer to campus to partake in many Lafayette events, especially women’s basketball games!

**Scott Eskilsen ’14**  
Eskilsen will be starting his gastroenterology advanced endoscopy fellowship at Duke University Medical Center in July 2026.

**Susan Grunewald ’11**  
After teaching three years at Louisiana State University, Dr. Grunewald is an assistant professor of European history at Southern New Hampshire University.

**Amos Han ’14**  
Han traveled to Hungary, Serbia, and Romania in June.

**Lillian Kennedy ’19 and Seth Anderson ’20**  
Kennedy and Anderson were married this June in Mystic, Conn., with 25 Lafayette alumni in attendance! Jon Abel ’20, Mary Kate Brunk ’20, and Molly

LaPoint ’21 were members of the wedding party. The couple recently moved to the Boston area, working in AEC Industry software and civil engineering, respectively, and spends their time hiking, skiing, and paddleboarding all around New England.

**Chris LaTempa ’10**  
Over the summer, LaTempa, Taylor Miller ’13, and daughter Gianna met up with Dan Smith ’10, his wife, Karen, and daughter Cora for a Twins game. The kids got to run the bases after the game, “but if we’re being honest, Chris and Dan probably enjoyed that part even more than the kids did!”

**Robert Lo Giudice ’13**  
Lo Giudice has been selected as a finalist for the Compliance Rising Star Special Award at the 2025 Vixio Global Regulatory Awards. Currently serving as senior manager of regulatory compliance and incident reporting at BetMGM in Jersey City, N.J., Lo Giudice oversees investigation processes for regulatory noncompliance across BetMGM’s iGaming platform, online sportsbook, and retail operations while maintaining relationships with regulators nationwide.

**Rachel Marbaker ’19**  
Marbaker received her Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from University of Colorado Boulder. Her dissertation was titled “The



persistence of motor learning in effortful conditions.”

**Sarah Mucci ’11**  
Mucci married Justin Kutzman, a long-standing facilities operations employee of Lafayette, Aug. 16. The couple wed in an intimate ceremony in the New York Finger Lakes and honeymooned in Iceland.

**Abigail Stefanides ’16 and Dr. Gregory Biggiani ’16**  
Stefanides, former field hockey member, married Dr. Biggiani, former men’s soccer member, June 7, 2025.



**Anda Totoreanu ’15**  
Totoreanu and James Dean Erwin III met in 2018 and will be celebrating their wedding next July in the Hudson River Valley.



## 2020s

**Eyljah ( E.J.) Stephens ’21**  
Stephens returns to Lafayette men’s basketball program as the director of basketball operations. In the Maroon and White, he competed in more than 103 contests, totaling 1,017 points, 307 rebounds, and 175 assists.



## Marquis Kickoff

Alumni made up many of the 5,000 guests who came back in September for the Bicentennial Kickoff and Fall Weekend.

BY BRITTANY MARTIN

**WRITE US** *Were you at any weekend events? Share your memories at [classnotes@lafayette.edu](mailto:classnotes@lafayette.edu)*

*Inside the greenhouse at LaFarm, Rebekah Fodale ’23 savored a locally sourced meal featuring ingredients grown just steps away.*



*At Research@200, Zoey Zou ’26 shares her poster from the Mathematical Sciences Department with John Mulcahy ’87, P’27.*



*At the Marquis Society Dinner, Wynne Whitman ’86, trustee and co-chair of the Bicentennial Planning Committee, spoke about impactful partnerships with alumni-led companies, including Abercrombie & Fitch, Burpee, and Crayola.*



*Saturday’s La Fête Lafayette Tailgate offered a French culinary experience, jazz music, artists, and hot air balloon lifts.*



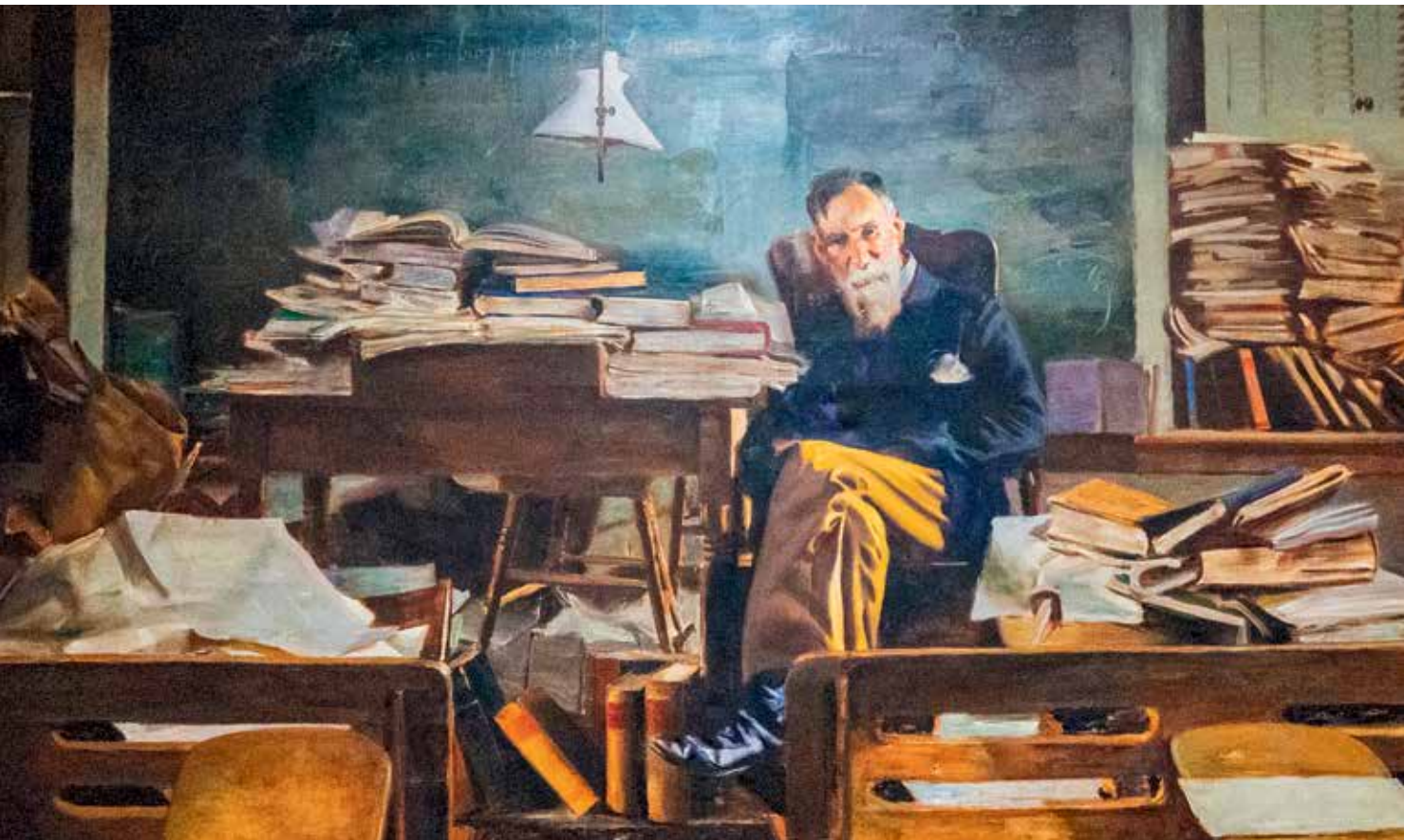
*Diana Dobin Kauppinen ’93 embraces daughter Rose Kauppinen ’29 at the Legacy Brunch and Pinning Ceremony.*



*Artifacts and items from Special Collections & College Archives, like the model of L’Hermione, are tangible testaments to Lafayette’s founding.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (LEGACY, RESEARCH, DINNER) RICK SMITH; (LIBRARY) HENRY HUNG; (BALLOON, LAFARM) MATT SMITH





PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON

# 200 YEARS

is not so much  
to the glass sponge or  
the bowhead whale or  
the deep-sea tubeworm or  
the yew tree or  
the Great Basin bristlecone pine or  
the Greenland shark, the latter possibly  
enduring as long  
as three centuries, yet reaching  
maturity—at last!—only after  
100 to 150 years.  
But then, for comparison, consider  
the mayfly—  
one day is its span.  
As for us: When is time ever enough?  
In the portrait we have of Francis A. March,  
what a wonderful wreck his office is:  
papers and books piled high and leaning,  
everything about to avalanche.

Look at him leaning too,  
this brilliant lexicographer and polymath.  
Given his example, no one should ever  
be embarrassed  
by what a mess their office is.  
A dictionary is not a patient thing—  
it's always widening,  
then furiously turning back,  
tracking roots and branches.  
But how relaxed Francis A. March  
looks in his portrait,  
legs crossed, handkerchief blooming  
from his pocket, books stacked  
near to collapse but ready to hand.  
He knows full well what time must  
give and take.  
For once, he lets the words wait.

—Lee Upton



*In 1857, Francis A. March, the founder of English studies at Lafayette, became the first Professor of English Language and Literature anywhere in the United States or Europe. His portrait (pictured, above) by Albert Murray hangs in an alcove on the third floor of Pardee Hall.*

*Lee Upton is Lafayette's Emerita Francis A. March Professor of English and Writer-in-Residence. Her poetry has been published in The New Republic, Atlantic Monthly, Poetry, The New Yorker, and in three editions of Best American Poetry. She is the author of 17 books.*



Council of  
**LAFAYETTE**  
WOMEN

# The Lafayette Legacy: WOMEN LEADING CHANGE

2026 Conference  
March 7, 2026  
Lafayette College

**Return to campus** for a day of inspiration, connection, and empowerment. Attend thought-provoking alumni panels and educational breakout discussions during this signature CLW event, which also offers the opportunity to build lasting relationships within Lafayette's expansive women's network. The 2026 conference will feature keynote speaker **Susan Fox '88**, executive vice president and head of U.S. government relations at The Walt Disney Company and vice chair of the College's Board of Trustees, along with a special dedication and installation of the Adrienne de La Fayette sculpture commissioned by the College in honor of the Bicentennial.



Visit **LeopardLink** to learn more about the Council of Lafayette Women and register for the public event.







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# Thank You!

## *Bring the* **ROAR**

Your generosity in November made Lafayette's weeklong giving challenge a roaring success.

Since 2017, **Bring the Roar** has surpassed **\$6 million** in support of Lafayette students and programs from more than **22,000 donors**.

### **EXTEND THE IMPACT**

There's still time to support Lafayette by Dec. 31.

