

LAF TURNS 200 ♦ NEW FINANCE MINOR ♦ U.S. SOCCER MANIA ♦ ADRIENNE STATUE DEBUT  
FOUNDERS' WEEK 2026 ♦ NATIVE LANDSCAPING GROWS ♦ RECORD-BREAKING APPLICATIONS

# Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING 2026



## LAFAYETTE RADIO

Broadcasting from the basement of Hogg Hall, where students at WJRH are still spinnin' the hits.



Mechanical engineering major Laura Chin '28 was among 200 students who participated in career externships this winter. Chin spent time at Acopian Power Supplies, where she shadowed company president and Lafayette Trustee Alex Karapetian '04.

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SPRING 2026



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PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON

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HERMIONE PHOTOGRAPH BY JAGUAN ALSTON;  
TOP PHOTOGRAPH BY ASHLI TRUCHON NOVAK

# 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.*

200 1,826 1,926 2,026

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

## WIN PRIZES



#LafayetteCollege200



## Lafayette is 200!

Lafayette officially celebrated its Bicentennial on March 9, and the College community has been making the most of its special year: lively educational programming, feel-good events across the world, new maroon caps and gowns for Commencement, and an impressive lineup of guests and lecturers on campus. In February, Lin-Manuel Miranda (pictured, above, with the commemorative issue of the alumni magazine) spoke to a packed crowd inside Colton Chapel for the Jones Visiting Lecture Series [p. 21]. Meanwhile, the Marquis de Lafayette historical interpreter dropped by to read the charter and take to the Quad on horseback during Founders' Week [p. 26]. From Los Angeles to Miami, we spotted you at Bicentennial regional events [p. 63]. One of the biggest library collections will be loaned to the National Archives of France for an exhibition starting this month; see how it (very carefully) got there on p. 22. In addition to continuing Bicentennial coverage, this issue features a memory-inducing oral history about the beloved WJRH [p. 28], a trend piece on native landscaping [p. 36], and a look at soccer in America today [p. 42].

—Amy Downey, editor, *Lafayette* magazine

**Madeline Marriott '24**  
"Lafayette Radio,"  
p. 28



Madeline Marriott '24 is a freelance journalist, poet, and independent bookseller from outside Philadelphia. In her oral history about 80 years of WJRH, she taps into the ethos for the student-run radio station: The English major, co-valedictorian, and former editor of *The Lafayette* also co-hosted a "newspaper recap" WJRH radio show during her time at Lafayette.

**JaQuan Alston**



Cinematographer and photographer JaQuan Alston has been capturing the College since 2020, and shifted from Athletics to the Communications and Marketing Division last year. His range is exemplified throughout this issue from an interior portrait of President Nicole Hurd [p. 8] to documenting students and the radio station inside Hogg Hall [p. 28] and picturesque exterior building shots like Farinon in winter [p. 54].

# Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING 2026

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## Creative direction

President Nicole Hurd and Crayola's president and CEO Pete Ruggiero P'20,'25 meet during Founders' Week to applaud innovation and acknowledge Easton on the rise.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

**NH:** You have two children who graduated from Lafayette. What are you most proud of in terms of their experience here?

**PR:** Lafayette teaches students to think creatively. It's a different mindset, one of left-and-right-brain thinking that is so unique.

**NH:** Your children had some incredible faculty members such as Justin Corvino, Mark Crain, Mike McGuire ... What was that mentorship like?

**PR:** My wife, Lisa, and I are so grateful for that experience. The professors take such

ownership in the success of their students. This is a special place.

**NH:** Another special place for you is right down the street at Crayola, where you've been for 29 years.

**PR:** The global brand Crayola means so much to so many people through creativity, smiles, fun, color, and family.

**NH:** Crayola is such a complementary brand to Lafayette. We have academic rigor on this campus, and we do it with joy and creativity.

**PR:** There's no greater time where the need for creative thinking and collaboration is so necessary for success. The speed and pace of business is only accelerating in this world.

**NH:** As a trustee, you've been on some committees that really impact the stewardship of the College—facilities and infrastructure, audit, financial policy. How do you feel about where we are at this moment?

**PR:** The recent strong credit ratings by Moody's and Standard and Poor's are something that people need to be really proud of at the College. At Crayola, we say this is 'distinguished financial performance.' We work through the challenges, and we get to the right place.

**NH:** Like any great brand, or any great institution, you keep innovating and thinking about how to be better.

**PR:** We launched Crayola Studios in 2023 and the Hollywood producers who visit stay at the Lafayette Inn. We give them tours of the manufacturing facility, the secret lab two minutes from campus on Bushkill Creek, and the Crayola Experience.

**NH:** What does it mean to be doing this global work from Easton?

**PR:** Easton is a great city that's transformed, and we have the same transformation happening at this College. After being on the board for nine years, I know the vision for the College's future. The next century is so much better than the first two—and the first two were rather remarkable.

**FOR MORE** Watch the full interview at [magazine.lafayette.edu/ruggiero](http://magazine.lafayette.edu/ruggiero).



### GET TO KNOW PETE RUGGIERO

Ruggiero studied accounting at Villanova University before earning an MBA from Lehigh University. Since joining Crayola in 1997, he's worked in operations, sourcing, supply chain, and European business roles; Ruggiero was named president and CEO in 2024. He's been a trustee member at the College since 2017.

#### EXPERTISE

In January, Ruggiero was added to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's board of directors.

#### NOTEWORTHY

Ruggiero was key to the College's collaboration with Crayola and custom Bicentennial crayons (pictured, below).

#### IN THE FAMILY

Daughter Katrina Ruggiero Spigner '20, now at Deloitte, studied policy studies and economics and played volleyball at Lafayette. Son Daniel Ruggiero '25 majored in civil engineering, minored in music, and is pursuing a master's in geotechnical engineering.

#### LAST WORD

"We never forget where we're from, no matter where we are in the world."





## ADRIENNE ADORED

Thank you for the detailed story in “The French Marchioness” [p. 42]. I have been reading up on Adrienne since hearing about the statue coming. I loved hearing how Audrey Fleck brought her to life. It’s a wonderfully thoughtful story and was a great read! I even got a few pictures of my daughter Olivia Slamm ’29 and her friends with Adrienne on campus.

**NICOLE PAUZANO P’29**  
Perkasie, Pa.

### Newspaper delivery

It was good to see the picture of *The Lafayette* office in the Bicentennial issue [p. 58]. I started as a reporter in fall 1963 and worked my way up to be the editor for 1966-67. I spent a lot of time in that office. I suspect this photo was taken in late fall 1964. The newspaper’s office was in the northeast corner of the basement of Hogg Hall. This photo is taken from behind the news desk, the area where



the editors mostly worked. On the left is Rich Steinmann ’66, news editor. To his right are Mike Ulan ’67, associate in news, and Barry Gaines ’67, staff writer. I am pretty sure that Jim Herzig ’66, managing editor, is seated with his back to the camera. Based on another photo in the 1965 *Melange*, I think I am behind the black typewriter.

*The Lafayette* was then published twice a week, on Tuesday and Friday. Steinmann was news editor for the Friday issue, so this photo was probably taken on a Wednesday night as we put the paper’s Friday issue together. At the end of the evening all the copy for the next issue would be taken downtown to Correll Printing on Ferry Street. This is a task I performed many times, very late into the night, frequently

stopping at the old Lafayette Diner at the foot of the hill for a cup of coffee and piece of pie before beginning my climb up the steps back to campus. The next day we would get page proofs, and they would

be returned that night so the paper could be printed and delivered by dinner time on publication day. It was all great fun and one of the most valuable experiences of my life.  
*Phil Eppard ’67*



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

How often does one open up a glossy magazine, see a picture of the back of your head, with a caption that basically says, “Who is that man?” Well, this is a question I am surely qualified to answer! It’s me and I am now 81 with considerably less hair. After graduating from Harvard Law School, I gave up law to write music full time and, as an entrepreneur, formed three film production companies plus a marketing consulting company for creatively driven firms. In “retirement,” I’m still writing music—10 songs were published in the past two years—and have three grandchildren living six minutes away. Life has had more ups than downs, and there’s never been a moment of boredom. The highlight—49 years with my wonderful lifelong partner, Margaret Herzig.

*Jim Herzig ’66*



ON THE WEB:

“Spectacular job—love these images by Rick Smith!”

—Chuck Zovko

### Peleg appreciation

Prof. Ilan Peleg [Fall 2025, p. 18] influenced my desire to work in international arenas and taught me about leveraging knowledge, insight, and historical perspectives to drive outcomes. Diplomacy and communications skills were literally lifesaving when I was in the military, and I still use them today in business.  
*Denise Natali Paine ’87*

### Choosing own adventure

I enjoyed reading about Scott Shelley’s travels [“Chasing 193,” Summer 2025]. At Lafayette, I traveled to six countries through college programs. I, too, was at that watering hole at the Etosha Pan on page 40! I had found the program through Augsburg University’s Center for Global Education. After lots of paperwork and wearing the carpet thin in front of Dean Hutchinson and Cy

Fleck’s offices, it was approved. I always value that international experience.

*Meghan Oakley-Henning ’04*

### Editor’s note

An error was made in Class Notes on p. 62. It should have read that Kelli Mucci wed Justin Kutzman on Aug. 16 [Fall 2025]. Sarah Mucci Rivera ’11 is married to Gabriel Rivera ’10.

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

James Lynch ’95 writes: “What a gift—both to Lafayette and to generations of students. Thank you, Dr. Peleg, for your extraordinary leadership and service, and for the care you brought to the classroom.”



PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK SMITH



### FOR MORE

Check out the latest Lafayette content from around the web.

#### › Philanthropy

Inspiring “Stories of Impact” can be found at [advancement.lafayette.edu/stories](http://advancement.lafayette.edu/stories).

#### › Pard Q&As

Get to know student-athletes in the “Between the Spots” series at [goleopards.com](http://goleopards.com).

#### › Bicentennial buzz

Never miss an update about special events this anniversary year at [lafayette.edu/bicentennial](http://lafayette.edu/bicentennial).

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# PATRIOT LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Lafayette men's soccer team on its eighth Patriot League title.

## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



Head coach **Dennis Bohn**, who reached his 200th career win in September, is one of three coaches in conference history to capture at least four league titles.



Goalie, captain, and Patriot League Tournament MVP **Eric Axtman '26** finished the season with 1,911 minutes played, the fourth highest among NCAA soccer goalies in 2025.

In front of a record-setting crowd, Lafayette (No. 6) defeated Lehigh (No. 2) in penalty kicks during the championship match in November. The program is now tied with Colgate for the most titles in conference history.

### INSIDE

Noteworthy news and happenings on campus. **p. 10**—New finance minor, plus record-breaking applications. **p. 11**—Lin-Manuel Miranda stops by campus. **p. 14**—Spotlight on the student Real Estate Club.

# On the Hill



## ADRIENNE ARRIVES

Diane Shaw, College archivist emeritus, admires the Marquise de Lafayette. Sculpted for the Bicentennial, it was unveiled March 7.



PHOTOGRAPH OF STATUE BY ASHLI TRUCHON NOVAK; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

LAFAYETTE  
**Founders' Day**  
EST. 1826 MARCH 9

**BICENTENNIAL**

**Lafayette is 200!**

The College celebrated its Bicentennial anniversary during Founders' Week from March 7 to 12. To read up on some of the festivities, visit the recap on p. 26, and stay ahead on future events by bookmarking [lafayette.edu/bicentennial](http://lafayette.edu/bicentennial).

**ADMISSIONS**

**Class of 2030**

A record-breaking 10,900 first-year applications were submitted for fall 2026 admission, marking the largest applicant pool in Lafayette's history.

**ACADEMICS**

**New finance minor**

Lafayette has introduced an interdisciplinary minor in finance to its academic catalog, allowing students from all backgrounds to explore a field that intersects just about every discipline offered at the College. The new minor consists of a minimum of six courses: two in economics, one each in ethics, skills, and applications, and a capstone; the inclusion of ethics is a distinguishing factor for Lafayette's program.

"Many people who will be leaders in their fields, be they government leaders or nonprofit or for-profit leaders, need to understand finance and be able to use these tools to advance and achieve their goals," says Michael Kelly, associate professor of economics, who

is one of the instructors for the minor's foundation courses. "We developed this interdisciplinary minor for our students in our liberal arts framework, making it a distinctive, broadly accessible program.

The minor, which will ultimately replace the College's Certificate of Financial Policy and Analysis, is available to students beginning with the Class of 2029.



**COMMENCEMENT**

**Happiness expert**

Harvard professor and bestselling author Arthur C. Brooks will deliver the keynote address for Lafayette's 191st Commencement ceremony. Brooks, one of the world's leading experts on happiness, is a professor at the Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School. He has published 15 books, including the 2023 *New York Times* hit *Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier*, a guide that deploys both scientific research and personal wisdom toward four pillars of happiness: family, friendship, work, and faith.



**AWARDS**

**Fulbright figures**

For the eighth time since 2009-2010, Lafayette has ranked among the top colleges and universities producing the most U.S. Fulbright students, according to the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Upon completion of their Fulbright year, grantees receive 12 months of federal noncompetitive eligibility when applying for federal government jobs. Here are Lafayette's Fulbright student grantees named for the 2025-26 academic year:

- › Rylee Bordwick '25 *English Teaching Assistantship (ETA), Romania*
- › Alexa Jindal '25 *ETA, Taiwan*
- › Ani Khachadourian '25 *ETA, Czech Republic*
- › Olivia Puzio '25 *ETA, Poland*
- › Shreya Suresh '25 *Open Study/Research, India*

PHOTOGRAPH BY (MONVOISIN) JAQUAN ALSTON; (SIMON) ADAM ATKINSON; (BROOKS) JENNY SHERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY



On Feb. 28, Williams Center for the Arts held the premiere of *The Language of Sight*, celebrating Lafayette's first Black graduate, David K. McDonogh. The play was written by award-winning playwright Judy Tate and co-produced by Richard Koplin '64.

**IN THE NEWS**

**Zebrafish and lab sensors**

Tamara Stawicki, associate professor of neuroscience, was featured in a Feb. 4 article in *Nature*, a weekly peer-reviewed journal covering science and technology, about the convenient and valuable use of sensors to automate continuous data collection, something that's become commonplace in labs.

Stawicki, who uses zebrafish to help understand human hearing loss, explains that having access to a monitoring app can help scientists keep an eye on the lab even when they aren't there. Smart technology can watch for equipment failure, for example, or reorder lab supplies. In the middle of one night last summer, the neuroscientist (pictured below, right) was alerted on her phone that temperatures had dropped in her lab, posing a risk to the 1,000 zebrafish there. However, because she was notified, she made it to the lab in time to turn on space heaters.



During Founders' Week, Lafayette hosted special guest Consul General of France Caroline Monvoisin (pictured below on right) to celebrate the heritage of the College's namesake and the nation of France. While on campus, she had an exclusive tour of the collection of artifacts.



**LECTURE**

**Lin-Manuel Miranda creates buzz**

As part of the Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Visiting Lecture Series, a discussion with President Nicole Hurd and Lin-Manuel Miranda titled "Opportunity and Art: A Conversation with Lin-Manuel Miranda" was held inside a packed Kamine Gymnasium Feb. 12. Miranda's professional journey and the breadth of his creative expertise exemplify the goals of the lecture series, which

PHOTOGRAPH BY (LIN-MANUEL) RICK SMITH; (PLAY, ZEBRAFISH) JAQUAN ALSTON

helps Lafayette students engage with inspirational figures of extraordinary accomplishment. "Lin-Manuel Miranda's passion, creativity, and commitment to inclusivity has forever changed not only musical theater, but the way we look at art," said Hurd. "His achievements on and off the stage have exemplified the kind of lasting impact that dedication, drive, and a powerful voice can bring to the world."

Upon arriving on campus, Miranda posted on Instagram, "Alright @lafayettecollege, let's do this. Happy 200." The post received 1.3 million views, was liked more than 93,000 times, and has 104,000 total interactions (and counting)—likely making it the College's highest-performing post in history. For more on Miranda's visit, turn to p. 21.



**BY THE NUMBERS**

**13,367**

Attendance at the sold-out Lafayette-Lehigh game at Fisher Stadium on Nov. 22.

STRATEGY

**Credit rating, leadership reaffirmed**

Lafayette's strong credit rating was reaffirmed by Standard & Poor's and Moody's. Impacting the strong ratings, says President Nicole Hurd, is the responsible, well-planned financial stewardship documented in the Strategic Plan, Campus Master Plan, and enrollment strategies. Moody's noted that Lafayette's continued high rating reflects an "excellent brand" as a selective undergraduate institution with substantial financial reserves, robust liquidity, strong operating performance, and prudent management. Standard & Poor's cited the College's solid selectivity, graduation and retention rates, stable enrollment trend, faculty with a high terminal degree rate, and experienced senior management team. On a related note, the College announced that Audra Kahr, EVP for finance and administration, was renewed in her role through 2030.

ALUMNI

**Reunion ready**

Lafayette's Bicentennial Reunion will take place June 5 to 7. Classes ending with 6 or 1 will celebrate milestone reunions, and Class of 2025 will have its first, but all alumni are invited to return to campus to rediscover favorite traditions and experience exciting new ones. Added this year: "ReunionFest" featuring live music on the Quad from noon to 11 p.m. on Saturday. For more information about the schedule and to register, visit [reunion.lafayette.edu](http://reunion.lafayette.edu).



IN THE NEWS

**Easton makes Top 10**

Culture, charm, quality health care, and a reasonable cost of living were all factors that landed Easton on AARP's top 10 places to retire in the United States. In the December/January issue of the magazine, Easton was one of just two cities in the Northeast—the other, Montpelier, Vt.—to make the list. The write-up noted Karl Stirner Arts Trail and the proximity to big cities like New York City and Philadelphia, and cited that Easton had 116 days of "perfect weather" every year.

CAMPUS LIFE

**Bill Nye takes your questions**

Renowned scientist, inventor, author, and television personality Bill Nye was invited to campus for the 2026 Founders' Day speaker series (formerly called the Senior Speaker series) on March 30. The Emmy Award-winning host of *Bill Nye the Science Guy*, and *Bill Nye Saves the World*, was interviewed by Jenn Rossmann, Jeffers Dean of Engineering and Baird Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Made possible through the Class of 1963



Looking at all of the neat rows and formulas exploring the solubility of molecules, the dry erase boards inside Rockwell Building are hard at work—just like this focused student.

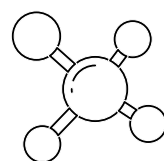


Guest Speaker Fund and Lafayette Activities Forum (LAF), the event had so much interest it had to move to a bigger location in Kirby Sports Center. Students were also encouraged to submit questions ahead of the event for Nye to address. "We thought hosting Bill Nye would be an incredible opportunity for the campus to engage with important scientific topics while feeling a sense of nostalgia from our days watching his videos in elementary school," said Elizabeth Miller '26, LAF president.

FACULTY

**Honoring Ed Kerns**

Faculty, arts professionals, and former students—many of whom are now artists and educators—gathered March 21 at Buck Hall to pay tribute to the late Edward J. Kerns (pictured in 2022, below) and engage in the panel: "Kerns, The Quintessential Liberal Arts Educator." Following a cocktail reception, a *Young Frankenstein* screening was held inside Landis Cinema.



DID YOU KNOW?

Prof. Melissa Gordon '11 received the prestigious Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award for working to make polymers safer and more durable.

PHOTOGRAPH BY (EASTON, KERNS) ADAM ATKINSON; (ROCKWELL) JAQUAN ALSTON

ATHLETICS

**Contract extension**

John Troxell, the Fred M. Kirby II '42 Head Football Coach, signed an extension that will keep him at the helm of the Leopards' program through 2031. Troxell '94, who took over in December 2021, has mentored 38 All-Patriot League selections, including the 2022 Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year and 2023 Rookie of the Year while overseeing six All-America selections. "Coach Troxell has consistently raised the bar since taking over our football program," said Director of Athletics Sherryta Freeman.



PHOTOGRAPH BY (COMMENCEMENT, TROXELL) ADAM ATKINSON

TRENDING

**Commencement colors**

In a nod to the uniqueness of the Bicentennial year, students at the 2026 Commencement this May will be wearing maroon caps and gowns instead of the black color from years past. The regalia will also be adorned with tassels and charms featuring the College's "200" logo to commemorate the milestone anniversary.



**Spring things**

Some of the enrichment opportunities that Bicentennial academic grants have unlocked this semester.

BY AMY DOWNEY



An April 25 chemistry program will feature keynote speakers Dr. Laneta Dorflinger '75, the first woman to receive a Lafayette chemistry degree, and Prof. Roger Egolf of Penn State, author of *The History of Chemical Education at Lafayette College*.



A French and Francophone Film Festival airs acclaimed movies over several weeks this spring, free and open to the Lafayette community, to explore topics on identity, society, and imagination.



A weeklong residency with Sasha Perera (a.k.a. Perera Elsewhere), a Berlin-based experimental musician and producer, in April will drive conversations around creative practice, entrepreneurship, and music technology.



On April 15, the Max Kade Distinguished Lecture in German Studies brought Prof. Friederike Baer, a historian who specializes in the American Revolution, to campus.

ADVANCEMENT

### Maroon Club Excellence Fund

In October, Lafayette Athletics announced the debut of the Maroon Club Excellence Fund. In an increasingly competitive college sports environment, the ability to meet new and emerging needs of student-athletes is paramount. The new fund supports Lafayette's 625 student-athletes by backing department-wide initiatives such as nutrition for fuel and recovery; programming like leadership training; sports psychology; and wearable technology to monitor performance. Donors can now choose to elevate all sports through a gift to the Maroon Club Excellence Fund or direct 100 percent of their gift to their favorite team through the Maroon Club. For more information, contact Joe Samaritano '91 at 610-330-5047 or Dan Cason at 610-330-5039.

On March 6, both the baseball and men's lacrosse teams upset nationally ranked teams. The baseball team defeated No. 13 NC State, 11-6, in Raleigh, N.C., while the men's lacrosse squad took down previously unbeaten No. 8/9 Army, 10-9, at Fisher Stadium.



ALUMNI

#### NYC Holiday Party

Award-winning songwriter, actor, producer, and author Leslie Odom Jr. will perform at the Bicentennial New York Holiday Party, Dec. 10, 2026, held at New York Public Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building in midtown Manhattan.

EVENTS

#### Athletics golf outing

The annual Maroon Club golf outing, sponsored by Lehigh Valley Health Network, is set for June 22 at Northampton Country Club in Easton, Pa. For more information or to register, reach out to Dan Cason at casond@lafayette.edu or 610-330-5039.

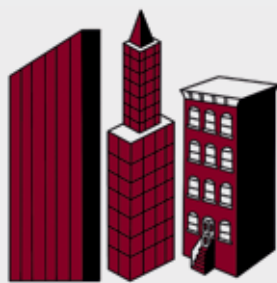
BY THE NUMBERS

10

Number of years William C. Buck Hall, on Williams Arts Campus, will celebrate this fall.

LAF CLUB SPOTLIGHT

## Real Estate Club



The Lafayette Real Estate Club, founded in October 2023 by Imaan Ali '26, has quickly become one of the most dynamic preprofessional clubs on campus. Double majoring in computer science and economics with a data science minor, Ali was inspired to launch this club after taking a real estate investment course with Rex Ahene, Professor Emeritus of Economics, in her first year.

Ali recognized a gap in structured opportunities for students curious about real estate, so she set out to build a space rooted in mentorship, accessibility, and hands-on learning. "The biggest thing is to provide access and opportunities. That's always been my goal, and I want that to continue."

What began as meetings with fewer than 10 students has grown into a community of more than 80 registered members. The club's mission is to educate students on the real estate industry and create pathways, regardless of prior experience, to explore

aspects of the industry from investment and development to private equity and construction.

Ali puts an emphasis on hands-on engagement and industry exposure. Last fall, she was proud to organize an alumni networking event at JLL in New York City, offering students direct access to professionals and insight into the field.

Alumni connections have been central to the success and growth of the club. Benjamin Fisher '25 presented to the group about "How to Buy Your First Investment Property," and Mathew Pezon '10 spoke about building long-term real estate and wealth. Guidance from faculty members like Prof. Ahene has only strengthened the club's foundation.

As Ali prepares to graduate this spring, she is working toward creating an alumni advisory platform with the goal of providing direct access for alumni and students alike.

—Livia Barclay '26

STUDENT LIFE

#### Pickleball rally

In recent years, Recreation Services has been folding pickleball events into its lineup of intramural offerings. There was a pickleball doubles tournament this February boasting team names like the "Dill Pickles," alongside a schedule of other popular recreational sports for students like dodgeball, volleyball, kickball, flag football, and futsal.



COMMUNITY

#### Downtown Easton's newest building

The Confluence apartments will be opening downtown in May, but some engineering students were already given access to the 274-unit building. Throughout the fall semester, students in Introduction to Architectural Engineering heard guest lectures from key players in the development of The Confluence including J.B. Reilly '83, P'16,18, founder and CEO of prominent real estate development firm City Center Group, and his son, Jack Reilly '18, senior project manager. City Center Group has headed other Lehigh Valley revitalization initiatives—including The Marquis luxury apartments, which sit mere steps away from The Confluence. The class also met with Andrew Miller '04, executive vice president of North Star Construction Management Inc., for site tours.

Hailey Messer '26 (pictured, right) flexed her economics major and English minor this January during an externship in trade sales at Scholastic in New York City.



EVENTS

#### The Bicentennial Tour

In celebration of Lafayette's 200th year, connect with the College community through a fitness challenge designed for all interests and abilities. The challenge ends Sept. 6, on the Marquis de Lafayette's birthday. More info: lafayette.edu/bicentennial/tour.



THE ARTS

#### Upcoming season

The Lafayette Theater Department's upcoming season for 2026-27 includes: › an outdoor moonlight adaptation inspired by Edgar Allan Poe › *Between the Lines*, a new musical based on the novel by Jodi Picoult and Samantha Von Leer › return of the Fringe Festival

HISTORY

#### Early letters digitized

Special Collections and College Archives has digitized 201 letters written between 1777 and 1792 by the Marquis to George Washington. For more than 80 years, Lafayette has the largest single repository of letters written and sent by

Lafayette to Washington, from the earliest ones written as a young officer during the American Revolution, to the 1790 letter from his restive homeland that included the key to the Bastille. "Lafayette grows up over the course of this correspondence," says Nora Zimmerman, digital archivist and head of repository. Inspired by the College's Bicentennial, the collection is now more accessible globally to historians, researchers, students, and history enthusiasts. Find the letters at: ldr.lafayette.edu/collections/mdl-letters.

ATHLETICS

#### Fast track

Senior Quinn Worrell '26 surpassed the school record in the indoor mile, crossing the finish line at 4:07.98, in January at Navy. Worrell beat out the 4:09.45 performance by Ryan Stasiowski '11, which has been at the top since 2011.

Later in the season, in 21.48 seconds, Alexander Caba '27 broke the 200-meter record that Kyle Clayton '10 has held since 2010 (21.65 seconds).

TRADITION

#### Lacrosse hits 100 years

The men's lacrosse program celebrated its 100th year on March 20 with a special alumni day. More than 50 former student-athletes traveled back to campus for an open house and reception at the new Wallach Sports Performance and Lacrosse Center, and to cheer on the current squad as they competed against Navy. In a weeklong fundraising challenge in honor of its anniversary, the program raised \$110,000.

# A

**Admittedly**, Addison Moore '27 has a good deal on his plate. While pursuing a dual major in government and law plus anthropology and sociology, he's also simultaneously running a nonprofit called Up Next Teens. And, in November, the 20-year-old spent a few months campaigning for a seat in his local government—and won.

Now serving the town through the Representative Town Meeting (RTM), Moore is part of a legislative body in Westport, Conn., that appropriates funds, manages budgets, and creates local laws. The RTM is divided into nine districts, each with four representatives; to earn this spot, Moore had to be one of the top four vote-getters among six candidates and unseat an incumbent. Election Day, he recalls, was the most exciting and stressful day of his life—he didn't believe the results at first. "I just feel very deeply honored that the town entrusted me with this opportunity."

Moore says he often hears people say they have an issue they want solved but have absolutely no idea how to go about it, or whom to talk to regarding the confusing government structure. In 2024, prior to his RTM role he served as a commissioner on Westport's Department of Human Services Commission, which was the first time he got to see fully behind



Addison Moore '27 began his first term on his town's legislative body in December. At 20 years old, he is the youngest member serving his town.

relieve food insecurity in Connecticut. To date, Up Next Teens has grown to multiple chapters and includes 300 teen volunteers.

What's more, these roles in Easton and Connecticut work in tandem for Moore to achieve his academic and civic goals. "So much of what I'm doing at Lafayette and what I'm doing in Westport are not mutually exclusive," he says. His nonprofit experience, for example, was recently applied at Lafayette, when he repurposed unused dining dollars for those in need in Easton. Last year, this "Swipe it Forward" campaign raised enough money to distribute 150 prepared meals for nonprofit ProJeCt of Easton.

Moore adds that being a student at Lafayette was a tremendous asset during his campaign. Through his studies, he analyzed the effectiveness of different campaign tactics, leading his team to focus on talking to people, knocking on doors, and making personal connections with constituents. Every time he knocked on a door, he followed up by sending a handwritten note.

In the final weeks of his campaign, Moore even pulled all-nighters with his team to finish the stack of letters. That move proved pivotal, with voters thanking him for these notes on Election Day.

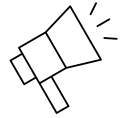
Textbooks from Govt 215: Campaigns and Elections and coursework from independent studies with Andrew Clarke, associate professor of government and law,

inspired and shaped his campaign strategy. "*The Campaign Manager* was like my Bible," he says. "There are literally pages that are falling out of it with how much I read it and went back to it."

He also credits the support from family, his girlfriend Analise Draghi '25, and student volunteers from Up Next Teens who brought energy and excitement to the campaign, distributed yard signs, and planned fundraisers.

For now, on Tuesdays, Moore will attend class in Easton, drive home, and apply lessons learned that evening in an RTM meeting. "I really want to make sure I am able to do the best job I can—both as a student at Lafayette and also as a representative for the people of this town and of my community, which I really deeply love."

No matter the place on the political spectrum, notes Moore, there is no question that right now is a pivotal time in American history: "This moment—right now—really matters. Even if it's on a super local level, I think it is important to try and make sure people feel they are really, really involved inside of our local government." ■



**YOUNG ENERGY**  
Fifteen of his 18 campaign volunteers were under age 22.



**PERSONAL TOUCH**  
Moore wrote 1,500 handwritten thank-you cards to constituents.



**BUDGET FRIENDLY**  
His team raised over \$5,000 for his campaign.

Moore (pictured, middle) is joined by supporters during his campaign for RTM in Westport, Conn.



## Blazing campaign trails

After winning a local government seat in November, Addison Moore '27 has been dedicating efforts to civic duties.

BY KELLY HUTH

the scenes. "That's when I decided I love this," he says, realizing he wanted to run for office and there was a real space for him in town.

With this new role, he'll need to split time between campus and Connecticut, but this is something he's already worked into his routine: Since his first year at Lafayette, he's been traveling home one to two times each week for work with his nonprofit, Up Next Teens, which he founded as a high school student in 2021. The organization hosts fundraisers to

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF ADDISON MOORE

# DRIVEN FOR SAFETY

Engineering psychologist Michael Nees talks about taking a human-centered mindset to avoid blind spots in design.

BY BRIANNA MIRON '26

**E**very time he turns a doorknob, walks up a flight of stairs, or starts a car, psychology professor Michael Nees is assessing how well their designers might have anticipated human behavior. As an expert in human factors and engineering psychology, Nees understands the role of psychology in creating a “system”; in fact, it has the potential to influence every step of a user’s interaction with it.

At Lafayette, Nees encourages students from both psychology and engineering backgrounds to take this human-centered approach to analyzing the world around them. In his Human Factors, Perception, and Cognition Lab, he and a team of students investigate how to maximize driver responsiveness and examine situations in which companies dismiss functional shortcomings as “user error.” Relatedly, his courses on human factors and technology explore how humans impact—and are impacted by—the many kinds of system design.

Nees’ research, coursework, and participation in interdisciplinary conferences like InCabin, an annual industry conference for automotive engineers in Detroit, demonstrate his drive to push for design decisions that maximize sensibility, accessibility, and safety in products.

**This summer, you’ll be giving a workshop at the InCabin conference to address a recent comeback of buttons, knobs, and switches in vehicles as opposed to touchscreens. What differences have you been observing in the way people interact with these features?**

The trend has been to cram touchscreens into every car, so things that used to have physical knobs are now buried three clicks into a touchscreen. Many



PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK SMITH

drivers don't like this, and it's also not safe. Touchscreens keep your eyes off the road for much longer. With something like a knob, you can reach out and have some kind of muscle memory for where it is and receive that tactile feedback.

**You've also presented about how vehicular auditory alerts, or the noises we hear in cars, are specifically designed to get our attention.**

In the past 15 years, a lot of the way we build sounds into cars has been driven by what sorts of features automakers have been able to automate—these, in turn, warrant new pieces of information being presented to the driver. For example, once there were systems that could detect a forward collision was about to happen, we needed a sound to communicate this warning to drivers.

**With technology evolving so rapidly, are there any concerns with how these new features influence human behavior?**

People start engaging in more risky behavior when you add automated safety features to cars like adaptive cruise control and automatic emergency braking. I did a study a few years ago where one person said they were more likely to eat foods that required a spoon once they had a car with adaptive cruise control and lane-centering steering. So we have to think

**Nees says to ask questions like, "Who was this built for and who was this not built for, and why is it that way?"**

about making the compromise between using the amazing technology we have that can prevent accidents, but also not putting it out there in a way we know humans will misuse it.

**How should we tackle these instances where there seems to be a gap between what psychological research indicates regarding safety and what we are seeing on the market?**

Part of going to conferences like InCabin is to engage with people from the automotive industry and present my research in a way that makes sense to them. There has been a culture of not taking this stuff seriously until something goes wrong. One of

the quotes I use in my Human Factors class is by Ralf Speth, the former CEO of Jaguar Land Rover. He said, 'If you think good design is expensive, you should look at the cost of bad design.' But I do think there's more awareness than there used to be at major tech companies and auto manufacturers of the importance of this all. They have people who are working on these problems, and the field's in a much better spot than it was a couple generations ago.

**What sort of projects are you working on in your 300-level lab course, Human Factors and Engineering Psychology?**

It looks a lot different from a typical psychology lab. I'm trying to give students an experience that is very applied, so I teach different methods in engineering psychology that human factors specialists use out in the field. For the final group project, students choose any system and perform a holistic analysis in order to make various recommendations for how you could improve its design.

**How does your capstone course, Disabilities and Assistive Technology, address the importance of engineering that accounts for all humans?**

I encourage students to look at the world and engineering around them and ask questions like, 'Who was this built for and who was it not built for, and why is it that way?' When you start to ask these questions and think in this human-centered design mode, you notice a lot of stuff you didn't notice before, especially if you're one of those people for whom a lot of technology has historically been designed. I learn a lot from my students in these discussions, and I'm constantly being shown different ways to think about things from the personal experiences and perspectives they bring into class. ■

← Nees asks his students to analyze driving research like forward collisions.



PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK SMITH



PHOTOGRAPHS BY (TOP) RICK SMITH; (WESLEYAN) NONO901/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; (SONDHEIM) CHUCK ZOVKO

## Lafayette, Center Stage

*Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda talks writing, mentors, and bringing the Marquis to life.

BY MARGARET WILSON

**Stepping out to speak** with President Nicole Hurd, Lin-Manuel Miranda presented the Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Visiting Lecture to an energized audience inside Kamine Gym on Feb. 12.

Miranda, best known as the creator and star of the award-winning Broadway musicals *Hamilton* and *In the Heights*, as well as composer for Disney's *Moana* and *Encanto*, has been creating art from a young age. This driving force to put his voice into the world has, in a little more than a decade, cemented him as one of the most impactful artists of a generation.

Miranda introduced the Marquis de Lafayette to a new generation by giving him a crucial and beloved role in *Hamilton*, which, in turn, forever shaped Miranda's own career. "Thank you for what your namesake has done for me," Miranda told the College crowd. "I knew I would be here someday. I'm very glad I'm here today—and happy birthday!"

During the hour, Miranda shared encouragement for anyone trying to find their own creative voice, and emphasized the impact of mentors. With his unique style and storytelling about immigrants

and first-generation students, his discussion was grounded in striving for greatness. Punctuated by cheers from the excited audience for everything from arts funding to Puerto Rico represented on the global stage, he closed out the lecture with a rendition of "Immigrants, we get the job done," a popular exchange between the Marquis and Alexander Hamilton.

To Hurd, Miranda was an ideal candidate to discuss democracy and dialogue, upholding excellence, and bringing opportunity to the world: "When you allow other people to see themselves in spaces they haven't seen themselves in before, that's an act of love."



**1.** Miranda made his directorial debut adapting Jonathan Larson's *Tick, Tick... Boom!*, a musical about creative struggle that begs the question: *Is making art without the promise of success worth it?* "It was clarifying for me," said Miranda. "I remember thinking 'Yeah, I'm cool with that.'"

**2.** A graduate of Wesleyan College, Miranda was drawn to the passionate dialogue pervasive in liberal arts: "I wanted to be where people are so excited about what they're learning that class runs over and no one even blinks."



**3.** When asked why he lifted up the Marquis in *Hamilton*, he replied that Lafayette was "ahead of the curve" among peers when it related to human rights and abolition, and had a wanderlust for battle and justice.

**4.** Miranda built a meaningful relationship with one of his creative heroes, composer Stephen Sondheim, who delivered the Jones Visiting Lecture at Lafayette in 2011. Sondheim encouraged Miranda to take the risk of writing *Hamilton* and provided essential notes on the process.



**5.** "Rewriting is writing," Miranda said. He advised that "no lightning of inspiration strikes perfectly." Instead, an artist's job is to fall in love with making the work better—even if that means multiple drafts.



**FOR MORE**  
The full lecture is available for view at [lafayette.edu/linmanuel](http://lafayette.edu/linmanuel).

# PREPPING FOR PARIS

The collection of Lafayette artifacts recently loaned to the National Archives of France is ready for the world to see.

BY AMY DOWNEY

**N**early three years ago, Olga Anna Duhl, Oliver Edwin Williams Professor of Languages, sent a proposal for an exhibit to the National Archives of France. *Lafayette between France and America: History and Legend* would show the many sides of the “hero of two worlds,” particularly during his time in America. While the Libraries had smaller domestic loans in the past, this would become the biggest and most involved loan to date. When it was approved, co-directors of Special Collections and College Archives, Elaine Stomber '89, P'17,'21 and Ana Ramirez Luhrs, began coordinating details with Duhl and staff.

“Once we got the go-ahead, those of us who work in Special Collections began identifying which objects would support the exhibition,” Stomber says, “We worked with the team at the National Archives in Paris to determine how exactly the exhibition would be laid out, and gave suggestions for other items that might be borrowed from French collections.”

The exhibit, displayed in both French and English, will be free to the public. The installation includes more than 50 College pieces (letters to George Washington, paintings, Farewell Tour memorabilia), plus 60-some items sourced from Versailles to La Grange, Lafayette’s home.

A few days ahead of the exhibit opening on April 1, Stomber and other colleagues were on-site to check out the installation; likewise, they’ll head back to the museum before the exhibit wraps up on Bastille Day to help develop the deinstallation plan.

But before the campus collection could touch down in Paris, it needed to be carefully packed up and shipped from Easton. Here’s more of how these treasured items left for the international stage. 📦



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON; INSET PHOTOGRAPH BY ELAINE STOMBER '89 P'17 P'21



- 1** *Hermione* was the most complicated item to pack. Due to the delicate sails, a variety of foam supports were eventually built within a much larger crate so the ship wouldn't shift.
- 2** Packers from New York company Crozier Fine Arts were on-site in Special Collections and Archives for about two full days in December to complete the job. “Luckily for us, they just opened a Paris office last year,” says Stomber.
- 3** Lafayette’s collection—typically stored in the College’s climate-controlled vault—was transported in custom Crozier trucks and facilities to maintain temperature and humidity.
- 4** Updated appraisals were required for each object before they could be in transit.
- 5** Materials will go through a condition reporting process four times: the moment they were packed in Easton; once they came out of the crates in Paris; when the exhibit closes in July; and after the items return to campus.
- 6** A special flight took the collection from JFK to Charles de Gaulle, where Crozier processed items through international customs.
- 7** Although dimensions and photographs of the items were sent to curators in advance, the installation couldn't be built until all of the items had arrived and were physically assessed.

# ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE CITY

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS



Students in Prof. Matthew DeMaio's course use Downtown Easton as a living, breathing classroom.



**W**ith their towering buildings and bustling streets, cities have long been a symbol of modern life and innovation, and a beacon of opportunity. But how do urban spaces shape the identity, daily

life, and sense of community for those who live in them? How does big-town life influence culture, and vice versa? In Prof. Matthew DeMaio's Anthropology of the City course, students take on the role of anthropologists to dig into these kinds of questions—using Downtown Easton as their main research subject.

"Cities are dynamic, and the people in them are so heterogeneous," says DeMaio, assistant professor of anthropology, who has taught the course the last two semesters. "I provide my students with the

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAQUAN ALSTON  
ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

means to open up their analytical eyes to the everyday, and to the contemporary methods anthropologists use to study cities—like interviews, observation, mapping, and archival work."

To do this, DeMaio (pictured speaking, opposite page) engages his A&S 233 students with in-classroom readings, discussions, and workshops that challenge them to think like anthropologists. He also teaches them how to use tools of the trade such as ArcGIS StoryMaps, an online platform that utilizes maps, photos, video, and other digital media to bring stories to life.

But learning isn't confined to the lecture hall: Anthropology of the City students also have the opportunity to step out of the College Hill neighborhood, walk in the footsteps of anthropologists, and explore not only the profession but also the historic city right in their backyard.

During this course, Easton becomes an educational playground; students gain hands-on experience through anthropological methods including field note writing, ethnographic observation, and gathering and interpreting data.

The class also takes a field trip to the Easton Area Public Library (EAPL) on Church Street, organized with the help of Ana Ramirez Luhrs, co-director of Special Collections and College Archives. While there, students are introduced to the local archives and plethora of resources available to them. Since 1811—years before the College was founded in 1826—the library has served the community as a hub for promoting literacy, advancing lifelong learning, and supporting active and informed citizens.

"Expanding beyond classroom walls shows students that anthropological work doesn't have to be done halfway around the world—you can do it right here and see it with your own eyes," DeMaio says. "It opens them up to a new perspective on the area where they live, which they might not know much about."

Heather Reyes '26, a double major in women's, gender, and sexuality studies as well as anthropology and sociology,

Rory Morgan, assistant at the Marx Local History Room, describes genealogical records housed at Easton Area Public Library.



says exploring the city's archives was the highlight of her experience when she took the course in spring 2025. "It made me feel connected to Easton's community," she says, adding that it also introduced her to archival research, which she didn't have experience with before.

The EAPL trip kicks off the course's final project, which calls on students to select a downtown space or building—such as the Easton Public Market, Crayola Factory, or Centre Square—and draw on training they gleaned from the course to delve into the story of the space's past and present.

"The project helped me gain analytical skills, and using ArcGIS to create and present taught me how to communicate research in a way that's accessible and

meaningful," says Reyes, who chose the Easton Cemetery as her research topic. "I was able to view the cemetery not just as a burial site, but as a living archive that tells the story of the values of Easton community members, the change within the landscape, and more."

She adds that the broadened perspective from the course will be useful to her in the future, as she hopes to do student advocacy work in higher education. "Because I aspire to work with students who come from different backgrounds, being able to think about cities in different ways and how they connect to people's identities and sense of belonging will be critical to being able to interact with students and help them transition into college life," Reyes says.

"Anthropology is a discipline that demands that students collect data by various means and analyze it through a range of complex, engaging, and difficult but enlightening theories and conceptual approaches, and then make arguments based on that data," DeMaio adds. "That set of skills—thinking critically and making decisions—is useful whether you want to do anthropological work or not. And that's what we do in this class." ■



← Students scrolled through the catalog of newspapers and historical records from the Easton area.

# 200 years young

Lafayette's Bicentennial anniversary March 9 was met with an extended Founders' Week celebration.

BY JILL SPOTZ

Two hundred years of Lafayette spirit was channeled in March during an epic Founders' Week celebration. From history-rich lectures and art installations to heartfelt gratitude and national and international gatherings, the Lafayette community celebrated the College's founding with fanfare during this Bicentennial year. Here's a sampling of the moments that made this milestone unforgettable.



← 200 notes, all of which offered gratitude to fellow Lafayette community members, were written by students, faculty, and staff.



↑ Not too far from where classes were held in the College's early years, Northampton Street Bridge glowed maroon on the Delaware River.



↑ Historical interpreter Mark Schneider was on campus to attend the Adrienne statue reveal, participate in a Q&A at Colton Chapel, and take to the Quad on horseback.

← The Council of Lafayette Women Conference showcased the remarkable talent within the College's community.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ASHLI TRUCHON NOVAK; BRIDGE AERIAL BY ALFRED GREENBAUM



JAPAN PHOTOGRAPH BY ARNO ALARCON '06



← In addition to this statue reveal of Adrienne de Noailles outside Skillman Library, there was a panel discussion about her legacy and the process of creating the bust.

There was a collective painting project featuring canvases of iconic Lafayette landmarks; the mural was conceived and completed by Isabel Sorrells '23. →



↑ "200 Years, 200 Cheers" events were held in 26 locations across the U.S. and internationally as alumni gathered and shared favorite Lafayette memories, like these Pardis in Japan.

"Lafayette and the Struggle for Human Rights" lecture was presented by Lloyd Kramer, Professor Emeritus of History, UNC-Chapel Hill. →



# RADIO



Above, the studio is one of a few rooms in Hogg Hall's basement occupied by WJRH.

At right, math and economics major Amber Kapadia '28 plugs in her playlist for the very first time.



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS; JAQUAN ALSTON

Imagine Lafayette in 1946—the new post-war world. As the year went on, headlines from the student newspaper were published with growing optimism: “R.O.T.C No Longer Required” and “Possibility of New Social Era Opened by Interfraternity Dance” to, in November, “Students’ Plan for Radio Station Underway.” Only a handful of other colleges had student radio stations at that time; just a decade prior, Brown University successfully experimented with stringing wires from dorm to dorm to relay messages and recorded music.

The first official broadcast of Lafayette’s WJRH would occur the following fall on Oct. 1, 1947, in Hogg Hall. Call letters “JRH” were assigned to recognize James Renwick Hogg, the donor and namesake of the building, which has remained the station’s longtime home. With a half-dozen microphones, two turntables, and \$1,500 of war surplus equipment donated by the electrical engineering and physics departments, Radio Lafayette was born on 90.5 FM, with “Songs at Seven” broadcast over the campus airwaves for four hours in the evening.

From *The Lafayette* in May 1947: “The studio is complete with acoustic-tiled ceilings and partitions, draped walls, glass panel, and cork floors ... Great things are anticipated of Radio Lafayette, WJRH.” By 1948, the FCC had introduced noncommercial education licenses for low-watt college radio stations. Original WJRH members

Raymond DePuy '50, Jerome Alenick '49, and George Menkart '50 worked to build the foundation by testing the station’s early technology, launching an advertising sales campaign, and enhancing the programming.

Over the years, the studio, filled with new and rapidly changing technology, became a hub for engineering students itching to get their hands on the machinery and music lovers waiting for their turn to control the airwaves.

**EIGHTY YEARS AFTER AIRWAVES WERE APPROVED, WJRH 104.9 FM REMAINS ONE OF THE FEW STUDENT-RUN STATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.**

Station pioneers such as E. Joseph Mosbrook '56 would discover a love for jazz and journalism in college, eventually leveraging that experience into an enduring and remarkable career for both in Cleveland. Throughout the '50s and '60s, the station battled growing pains as the small-but-dedicated group of students tried to expand the signal’s reach first to the corners of campus and then across College Hill and into downtown Easton.

These decades would have some of everything: a move from the third floor of Hogg Hall to its basement, program diversification and leadership changes, FCC criticism and battling for funding, a mandate for a frequency change to 104.9 FM, technology upgrades, and sports broadcasts. The one common thread through it all, though, is the dedication of its DJs and engineers, making WJRH one of the oldest student-run college radio stations in the country.

BY  
MADELINE  
MARRIOTT '24



Above, records and landlines may be of yesteryear, but DJs continue to be original influencers.

At left, WJRH managers give the station a final sign-off on this iconic Hogg Hall wall.

# LAFAYETTE

## GROOVY DEEP CUTS

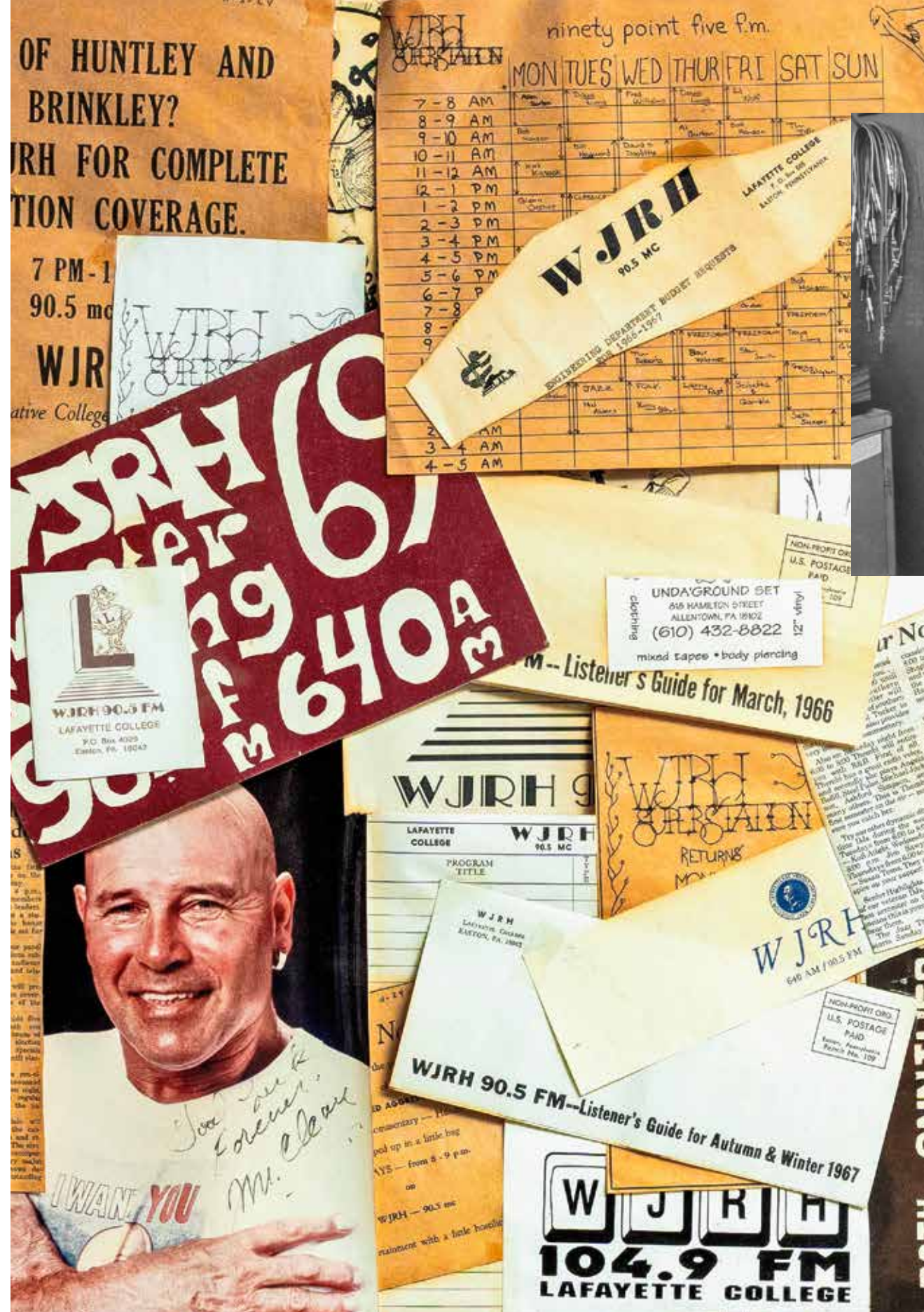
When Larry Fast '73 arrived on College Hill, WJRH was a 10-watt, 10-hour-a-day operation. This quickly changed in the 1970s.

**Larry Fast '73:** At first, I was an engineer behind the console, not getting to pick the records I wanted to play or anything like that. At that time, the station was playing 'Top 40' and pop hits—the things you would hear on commercial radio.

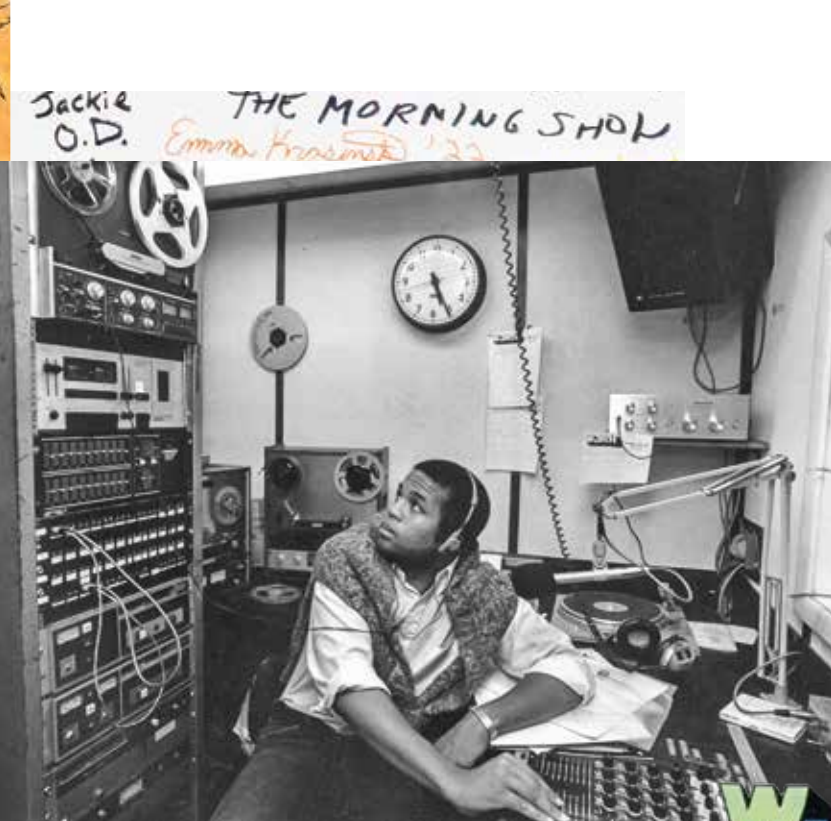
**Frank Urbaniak '75:** I had a very standard collection of records coming into college. I first wanted to join the marching band, but when I realized that wasn't for me, I tried out the radio station, and everything changed.

**Fast:** The big transition happened in late April of 1970—the second semester of my freshman year—when President Nixon and his team ordered a covert invasion into Cambodia from Vietnam, and campuses across the country exploded in protest. There was an all-campus strike, and when the National Guard killed four students at Kent State, that kicked everything up to an even higher level. At that time, a lot of college radio stations linked up over what was then called the 'long lines on the Bell Telephone system' to create an intercampus link, forming a network to tell us what was happening on all of the campuses. We became kind of a regional hub for other campuses in the Lehigh Valley, and we started to expand to stay on air as long as there was input coming in from the network. A skeleton crew of volunteers stayed to run the station over the summer, which was rare in the college radio world, and 24-hour programming kicked off in the fall of that year. We also continued to provide our own music programming, which started to get a little wilder as something called progressive rock was coming out of the U.K.

**Urbaniak:** When I got to WJRH, there was a whole library of records I had never heard before sent by record companies. I would take piles and listen to them, and that's how we first discovered bands like Yes and Genesis. I wanted to start pushing people to expand what they were listening to, because at the time, everyone was playing the 'Top 40' hits you'd hear



A bulletin board hanging at the station is a time capsule undisturbed.



At left, WJRH's student sound engineers have always been critical to the cause, especially while adapting to rapidly changing technology.

Below left, sample records, or "promos," are still being sent to the station today.

Below, the WJRH call letters are in honor of James Renwick Hogg, the donor of Hogg Hall.



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS; LARRY FAST; JAQUAN ALSTON

on the radio. We realized if we wanted to meet the bands and learn more about what they liked to expand our horizons further, we'd have to have publicity, so we started a publication called *The Rolling Paper*.

**Fast:** We wanted it to be like a mini *Rolling Stone*. We'd write reviews and include the records we were sent, because we wanted record labels to know that when they sent us material, it was getting programmed.

**Urbaniak:** Record companies started sending us notices, telling us when bands were playing nearby and asking us if we would like passes—we saw Genesis at the Lincoln Center in their U.S. debut, saw Billy Joel right when 'Piano Man' came out at a private concert for 100 people; we saw The

Eagles as an opener before they had one of the bestselling records of all time. We even had the privilege of becoming friends with some of the musicians. I still have a stack of letters from Rick Wakeman of Yes when he sent me test pressings of his first solo album. I loved everything we were doing. It was so incredible to see so many shows like that.

**Fast:** We lived and breathed that station. Every day, Frank and I, and a few others, would convene during our lunch break, pick up some sandwiches on March Street, and go through the new issue of *Billboard* and the new record packages that had come in from the labels. We were just making it up as we went along, and later, when I worked at professional radio stations, it turns out this was exactly what they did.



Top of page: Staff DJ Alan Friedman '75 reads a weekly music paper in the WJRH office, likely during a daily lunchtime staff meeting.

Above, Susan Toms Berry '84 and Jonathan Fishbein '83 served as back-to-back general managers of WJRH in the early '80s.

Above, right: Students recently painted a mural of a WJRH record inside the studio.

Opposite page: WJRH's freeform radio format empowers volunteers, like Asa Arnot '29, to have control over programming. The "soundtrack to the Lafayette experience," however, requires funding from the College and individual donors in order to operate.

## SEGUE TO SPORTS

With the station established as a name in the music world and block programming being introduced, some students in the 1980s turned their focus toward another facet of popular radio: sports broadcasting. The decade was bookended by big names in the sports world. Mark Holtzman '80, current vice president of non-baseball sports events for the New York Yankees, kicked things off with the founding of the College Radio Network, and Beth Mowins '89, trailblazing play-by-play announcer and the first woman to call a nationally televised NFL game, closed out the decade by talking with other athletes over the radio waves.

**Mark Holtzman '80:** I always wanted to get into sports—my next-door neighbor growing up was Phil Rizzuto, Yankees shortstop and broadcaster. Everyone told me there were a lot of smart people with good voices who wanted to get into sports broadcasting, so what I needed was a point of difference.

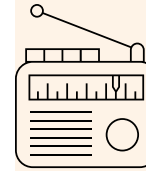
**Beth Mowins '89:** I knew from a young age what I wanted to be: a sportscaster. I was always encouraged to get experience on the radio while I got my degree in English, and that's where WJRH came in.

**Holtzman:** By my sophomore year, I was calling football and men's basketball games. The genesis of the College Radio Network was my relationship with Phil Rizzuto. He was able to get me press passes to go on the field for WJRH and talk to some Yankees players, which was unheard of at the time. A few people said to me that they were really valuable interviews, so I got in contact with other college radio stations to pick up the

interviews and play them on air. I ended up broadcasting to as many as 25 college radio stations, and I was able to get press passes for the Phillies and other teams. We built up a little network where students from other schools were participating as well. I interviewed some of the greats: Pete Rose, Reggie Jackson, Mickey Rivers.

**Mowins:** I had a radio show that was a blend of a couple of things I loved. I was really into rock 'n' roll—Van Halen, AC/DC, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin—and all the supercharged music we were playing at the gym. In between songs, I'd bring in other athletes, and we'd talk sports. It was a great way to get familiar with radio systems and 'getting reps,' or spending as much time as you can honing the craft. I learned how to be succinct and ask people questions that led to better answers. It was the first place I saw in practice that 'how' and 'why' questions are the best when interviewing someone, and this has stuck with me for my entire career. My first job out of college was working at a radio station as a news director and sports director, so WJRH was a great launchpad for me.

**Holtzman:** I also had a radio show called 'Call The Boss,' which I think was the first call-in show on the station. People could



## STREAMING WORLDWIDE

In addition to catching WJRH on 104.9 FM around Lehigh Valley and parts of New Jersey, listeners can stream the station from anywhere at anytime: Just go to [wjrh.org](http://wjrh.org) and look for the play button at the top of the homepage. Since students are in class during the day, the station has a "robo DJ" to fill in for those hours, playing favorite music from preset student playlists.

## 1990s BOOM

The 1990s were all about growth and diversification for WJRH. The station grew to more than 100 DJs, with new types of programming popping up each semester, drawing attention from the local community.

**Tinabeth Piña '93:** I first got involved in WJRH because I was interested in working in television, and Lafayette didn't have a communications major. I called myself DJ Sabor, or DJ Flavor, and my tagline was 'Trayendo a tus hogares lindos temas musicales, para el placer de todos,' which translates to 'Bringing beautiful music into your homes for everyone to enjoy.' I played a variety of Latin music, including merengue, cumbia, and salsa. Spanish was one of my majors and something I was interested in developing, so I would go back and forth between English and Spanish while DJ-ing.

**Donna Barsamian Sirounian '92:** My show was called the 'Daring Donna Show' because I dared to be different. I modeled the show off of WLIR 92.7 out on Long Island, a local show that's no longer in existence, but it was the time when groups like Duran Duran, The Police, and David Bowie weren't mainstream yet. I played some New



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS; LARRY FAST; JAQUAN ALSTON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAQUAN ALSTON

Wave music, but there were semesters I focused entirely on reggae, which wasn't being played much at the time.

**Piña:** My show was a mid-afternoon spot, which I fit in between my classes and track practice. I had people from campus and even from the local jail asking me to play certain songs, and, of course, my mom was listening and correcting my Spanish grammar.

**Barsamian Sirounian:** I was a DJ all four years and worked my way up to general manager my senior year. I remember starting off with a late weeknight slot, which eventually progressed to one during the day when a lot of people were listening. We moved to a new space in Hogg Hall the summer before my senior year, and we spent that year trying to extend our reach and increase our promotion. There were semesters when our entire schedule was full with shows.

**Piña:** From what I remember, it was the first bilingual program on the radio there or even in the immediate Lehigh Valley area—I don't remember any Spanish music being played before that. My goal was to explore my interests while expanding the understanding of Hispanic culture on campus.

**Barsamian Sirounian:** It was also an era of changing technology. At first, we primarily used cassette tapes and would record songs from the radio if we couldn't find them elsewhere. By the time I was a senior, CDs were the main way of playing music.

## LAUNCH INTO 21st CENTURY

From September 2023 to January 2025—a period of 18 months, or three full semesters—the radio waves of WJRH were silent. Student leadership was working tirelessly behind the scenes to get the station up and running with an eye toward longevity and accessibility.

**Tess Stanley '25:** We always had radios playing in our house growing up. My dad is a radio enthusiast and was my main source of discovering new music as a kid. My dad

also spoke so fondly of being part of the college radio scene when he was in school, and when I was looking at colleges, I knew I wanted to find one with its own radio station—this was actually its own box on my spreadsheet during my college search.

**Eva Donato '26:** I grew up in a very musical community in Woodstock, N.Y. I was always listening to the radio, and my dad is a musician himself. I always knew that when I went to college, I was going to be part of the radio station.

**Stanley:** I got involved during my first semester and fell in love with it immediately. It was so fun to have an hour dedicated to music, but also dedicated to expressing myself just for me.

**Donato:** I kept getting more involved in my four years, and now I'm the general manager. I listen to so many artists, and I'm influenced by so many different people.

**Jen Parsons '26:** When he was at Lafayette, my brother [Tom Parsons '15] was a part of the radio station, and he still listens today—it means just as much to him as it does to me. My show is called 'Jenny on the Thursday Block,' and I play everything from Fleetwood Mac to current indie pop, both from the record collection my dad gave to me and from the catalog we have available.

**Donato:** In between songs, I'll pop in and say who showed me the song, or what it reminds me of, and if there's anything interesting I found out about the artist. Sometimes, I have my friends on the show, and we'll just talk about music in our lives.

**Stanley:** In fall 2023, there were a lot of challenges. When we had issues in the past, we were always fixing things temporarily, and volunteer students did our best to figure out what we could. Ultimately, the issues outweighed the amount of effort we as students were able to put in to fix it—it was like a Jenga tower of pieces that eventually tumbled over. As general manager, I was very sad to make the decision to completely go off the air, and it wasn't something I took lightly, but we needed to pause and dedicate our resources to getting back on the radio the right way.



WJRH station manager Eva Donato '26, from Woodstock, N.Y., grew up with music everywhere.



Above right, music director Kendal Davis '26 (far right) shares an appreciation for The Beach Boys with the WJRH leadership team.

Above, the station's robust record collection is in the process of being digitized.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAQUAN ALSTON

**Donato:** Tess made it her project to remake the station from scratch. The issue was we didn't have the funding, so Tess dedicated herself to going to Student Government meetings, speaking to people across campus, meeting with IT and the deans, and working really hard for a year and a half to get it back up and running. We now have a new board and a new streaming platform called PlayIt Live where we have a whole music library built up by our engineers, and it's more reliable and easy to maneuver. We hooked up record players to the system so people can play records and have them broadcasted, and we're in the process of doing the same with CDs.

**Stanley:** It was a difficult period, but I'm happy it turned out the way it did. We hired two engineers (both named Scott),

and worked closely with some amazing people in the IT department to create a new website for streaming.

**Parsons:** Like physical media, college radio and independent radio are important to the culture of a time and a place. WJRH is vital to the culture of music, the culture of Lafayette, and the culture of Easton. It's an avenue of expression.

**Stanley:** I hope the station remains a space for creative students from across disciplines to just have a moment to themselves and share what they've been listening to or what they've been thinking about. In an age where you can just skip over music or pick the exact song you want to hear, radio is a medium that forces you to slow down and maybe discover something new. ■

How Lafayette alumni and the College  
are helping to restore ecosystems—

one native plant at a time.



## A precious time *for* rewilding

When John Drabic '83 strolls through his backyard, it's typical for him to encounter wildlife at every turn. Deer and their fawns nibbling on his black raspberry bush. Chestnut-sided warblers flitting about Eastern redbud trees. Caterpillars transforming into monarch butterflies amongst his milkweed. Creatures from foxes and rabbits to salamanders and newts dashing through northern sea grass.

Over the past decade, Drabic has intentionally transformed his outdoor space into a refuge for mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. The property is even certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a wildlife habitat and registered in the Homegrown National Park program. Hearing a description conjures up images of rolling acres deep in the countryside. When, in fact, he lives only 2 miles from Center City in Allentown—the third largest city in Pennsylvania.

There is one major reason why such biodiversity thrives there: “My entire backyard is landscaped in native plants,” says Drabic, a Penn State master gardener of 25 years, whose career in environmental health and safety has spanned more than four decades.

by *Stella Katsipoutis-Varkanis*



## In John Drabic's garden

Recognized for its sustainability, his green space has a water feature, veggie garden, and plenty of pollinators.



Goldenrod



Monarch chrysalis



Wild petunias



Rhododendrons

Native plants, Drabic explains, are foundational to a healthy environment and ecosystem. They support wildlife, which is increasingly stressed by human population growth, development, and the widespread use of non-native plants in residential and commercial landscaping. Beyond providing food and shelter, indigenous plants bolster biodiversity and increase resilience to environmental threats like pollution and climate change.

"In Pennsylvania alone, native oak trees support more than 500 species of caterpillars," Drabic explains. "And 96 percent of birds rely on insects, particularly caterpillars, to provide food for their young." Replace those oaks with a non-native tree, however, and those links of the food supply chain become stressed or collapse. Bradford pear trees, for instance, have become ubiquitous across the United States, but they offer little ecological value for the food web. "You might as well have a statue instead," Drabic says.

What's worse, non-native plants pose another risk: invasiveness. Some species spread aggressively, displacing local habitats and decimating the wildlife that lives there in the process. And once they're established, invasive plants can be both difficult and costly to remove.

Over time, the collective consequences of these manmade decisions are severe. A 2019 landmark study by *Science* revealed that nearly 3 billion birds in North America had vanished since 1970: "The results, from the most comprehensive inventory ever done of North American birds, point to ecosystems in disarray because of habitat loss and other factors that have yet to be pinned down," researchers say.

The 2025 U.S. State of the Birds, a report produced by leading science and conservation organizations, says there is still an alarming and widespread decline of American bird populations across all mainland and marine habitats: More than one-third of U.S. bird species are of high or moderate conservation concern.

Residential and commercial development is intensifying the problem. According to Homegrown National Park, lawns—which are virtually useless to the environment—cover more than 40 million acres in the U.S. Just half of that area is nearly equal to the total acreage of 20 U.S. national parks. As diverse ecosystems are replaced with grass, these lawns significantly contribute to biodiversity loss. Meanwhile, urban and suburban infrastructure, with expansive layers of

rooftops and pavement, eliminate habitat and exacerbate flooding because it prevents water from being absorbed into the soil.

Rick Ziska '07 has witnessed these effects firsthand in Orlando, Fla. "Builders are plowing into the ground, digging up plants that were naturally here for thousands of years. They're putting up thousands of homes, and throwing in plants from big box stores that don't belong here and don't provide us anything," says Ziska, owner and founder of Wildscape Designs, a landscaping company specializing in native-focused design.

In Florida, many homeowners' associations require the use of non-native St. Augustine grass, he adds, a species ill-suited to the state's natural conditions. Maintaining it year-round often requires the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and heavy irrigation. This, in turn, is taxing on the local drinking water supply—and municipalities face higher costs to treat runoff contaminated with chemicals.

"This has been going on for 30 to 40 years, and it isn't working," Ziska says. "We need to start the education process, and understand that there are other solutions."

The environmental and ecological blow can be softened, he says, with more thoughtful, intentional landscaping choices. "We're a growing population, and we need spaces to live—but we can construct those spaces more intelligently. It doesn't take much effort, and incentives could help homeowners and developers see that."

### Rethinking the way we grow, growing the way we think

Look around your neighborhood and you might notice some properties embracing this movement: A 2022 survey commissioned by the National Wildlife Federation, in partnership with the National Gardening Association, reported 25% of people are specifically choosing native plants, an increase from 17% in 2020.

Environmental benefits aren't the only reason homeowners and businesses are making the switch back to native plants. Indigenous species are genetically adapted to local climates and conditions, allowing them to thrive without requiring excessive amounts of water or synthetics for support. As a result, native landscapes reduce human exposure to harmful chemicals while conserving water.

They can also save a property owner time and money on maintenance and services. With the proper planning and placement, native plants require minimal

manpower to look their best. "There's no such thing as no maintenance," Ziska says. "Plants are living things, and you're always going to be interacting with your yard. But native plants eliminate unnecessary maintenance. It's a completely different experience to just walk around your yard with a pruner in hand, versus needing a hedge trimmer, weedwhacker, or lawn mower to take care of it." And with the wide range of native species that are available, he adds, native landscapes can be just as aesthetically pleasing and visually striking as non-native ones.

Drabic and Ziska explain that demand for native plants is steadily rising, driven by increased consumer awareness and legislative requirements. "Pennsylvania has a list of plants nurseries can no longer sell because they're invasive," Drabic says. Carrying a wider selection of native plant species is becoming a prevailing practice for nurseries, adds Ziska, who has also noticed a marked increase in consumer interest in his business over the last year and a half. "I get notes of appreciation from my customers all the time, and that just confirms what we're doing is on the



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN DRABIC '83, WILDSCAPE DESIGNS

right path, and we're striking a chord here," Ziska says. "And once enough people start experiencing the benefits, it becomes a no-brainer for others to follow along."

More and more HOAs are also reevaluating their landscaping requirements, Ziska says. He's been working closely with

homeowners' associations across Central Florida, providing them with insights on the advantages of native-focused landscaping, and helping to lead boots-on-the-ground implementation in common and public spaces. "I'm excited to work with different municipalities, agencies, and HOAs to help change the rhetoric," he says.

### A campus commitment

Through policies and goals, campus projects, and research and education, Lafayette College is also doing its part to promote sustainable landscaping and ecosystem management. "The College has a significant number of acres and green space that have the potential to impact our local ecosystem, and we recognize we have a role to play," says Samantha Comas, sustainability outreach and engagement manager.

Lafayette's Sustainable Landscaping Policy requires the use of native species for all new plantings and renovations on campus. It also mandates the removal of existing invasive species, and the



On left, brown- and black-eyed Susans flank the water feature in Drabic's backyard in Allentown, Pa.

As seen above, Wildscape Designs in Central Florida creates sanctuaries that are intentional about pollinators, biodiversity, and climate resilience.



Rosy-pink flowers of the redbud trees bloom in early spring and are a rich food source for bees at a time when pollen and nectar are scarce. By fall, its seed pods are eaten by birds and squirrels.

on a daily basis how we model the values we hold,” says Waters, who also served as a consultant for the native landscaping located outside the Simon Center for Economics and Business. “One of the things I talk about with students is their responsibility to use their knowledge about things like invasives and natives to become advocates for their community. If we lose native specimens, it’s a loss for future generations too.”

The Office of Sustainability is currently developing Lafayette’s Climate Action Plan 3.0, an updated version of its Climate Action Plan, which will help guide the College as it works toward its commitment to reaching carbon neutrality by 2035. Increased campus resiliency is a main focus, as are natural strategies for supporting the ecosystem—such as utilizing trees to provide cooling, improving runoff in parking lots, and more. “It’s really exciting to see how native plants can help Lafayette reach these goals,” Comas says.

The results, Ziska says, can be instant. “When we’re working on people’s yards, the animals and insects come out of the woodwork and are drawn directly to the plants we’re using—even while the plants are still sitting on the driveway as we work. They sense it and know that it’s there. It’s truly amazing.”

But there’s another magical quality that natives can bring, Ziska adds, and it’s enjoying peace and comfort of your own backyard. His mission is to connect people with nature through their outdoor spaces, which can completely change their emotional well-being: “There is something therapeutic about picking flowers to display on your kitchen counter, or watching your kids chase butterflies in your garden. The more we can integrate local species into our outdoor areas, the more vibrant a life we can create—both for ourselves and the world around us.”

reduction of pesticide and herbicide use. The College’s commitment to these sustainable practices is visible across campus in spaces like the Fisher Field bioretention pond, March Field pollinator garden, and the 50-foot buffer of native plants beside LaFarm. Each supports local pollinators, such as butterflies and bees, along with birds and other wildlife.

Many classes have used these and other campus spaces as a living laboratory for learning and research. A new course called Land Acts, taught by Prof. Kyle Keeler, is both culturally and agriculturally conscious of the native crops grown in eastern Pennsylvania’s soil and climate. Crops such as tobacco, coneflowers, beans, corn, and squash were planted at LaFarm last spring by Keeler’s class; in November, the seeds were harvested and shipped to the Delaware Nation of Oklahoma—returning food to the Lenape who were forced to relocate from the region in the 19th century. Elsewhere at LaFarm, Prof. Mike Butler and his students are exploring preferred nesting materials in bird habitats. (See opposite page to read about these bird boxes, plus Butler’s new bird research funded by the National Science Foundation.)

Nancy Waters, associate professor of biology, seeded a milkweed habitat with her students in 2010 at the margins of what would later become LaFarm. Used in both teaching and research projects over the years, it enables education in biodiversity and the plight of the monarch butterfly population. “It’s important to consider

## Three tips to get started this spring, from a master gardener.

1. Consult national resources like the National Wildlife Federation ([nativeplantfinder.nwf.org](http://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org)) or Homegrown National Park ([homegrownnationalpark.org](http://homegrownnationalpark.org)) to identify indigenous plants and species by ZIP code.

2. Visit local nurseries for guidance. LaFarm’s spring plant sale May 8-10 will have student-grown varieties. Native plants are also widely available online as seeds, plugs, or bare-root stock.

3. Drabic says 80%-85% of any given landscape should be native plants: “No matter what kind of property you have, give back to nature.”

# Nesting at Metzgar

AT THE CENTER OF RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT METZGAR ARE COMMON SONGBIRDS IN NORTH AMERICA THAT HAVE LEARNED TO ADAPT THEIR HABITATS TO LIVE ALONGSIDE HUMANS.

By Selma O’Malley ’26

Metzgar Fields Athletic Complex has many purposes, but for Biology Department head Mike Butler and his students, it’s used for field research to tend to house sparrows.

“We’re out there Saturdays, Sundays, all of the time,” says Butler, an organismal biologist. “We just pay attention, and we go when the birds go.”

Butler’s research students, Melania Brown ’28, Rebecca Capone ’26, Sean Drahouzal ’26, Bianca Hall ’27, and Kendrick McWilliams ’28, spent last summer taking shifts to refill eight vertical flats, each lined with colorful faux bird feathers and rectangular pieces of plastic. The structures are spaced throughout the property with laser precision, thanks to the collaboration with Civil and Environmental Engineering Department head Mike McGuire.

Through this project, house sparrows were offered different options for nest materials. “Spoiler alert—they choose feathers,” Butler says. “We had to replace all the feathers almost every time.”

Students also recorded the biological data from hundreds of sparrows populating the 83 nest boxes in the area. They checked boxes, weighed eggs, measured and banded nestlings, collected blood samples, and more. Brown’s favorite responsibility was banding, fitting each nestling with a small electronic bracelet for tracking. “This gave me an opportunity to explore fieldwork,” Brown, a biology major, says. “Just learning how to handle a living, breathing bird and get it to do what you need to do was definitely difficult.”

Brown also learned about the importance of data accuracy and integrity. Having a big group



Melania Brown ’28 records data and coordinates tasks with other team members.

of students—the largest Butler has ever had at Lafayette—was beneficial. “Sometimes it’s easy for stuff to get missed, but with five pairs of eyes, someone is bound to catch it,” Capone says. “So that’s very helpful to make sure we’re all keeping each other accountable.”

“It would be impossible for me to do this alone,” Butler says. “I depend upon teamwork and collaboration.”

These birds at Metzgar are the focus of Butler’s ongoing research to investigate how and why house sparrows select nest materials—and, perhaps, the positive consequences for their offspring in the nests. “Feathers actually seem to be helpful in terms of [improving] the number of [surviving] fledglings and growth rates, but they still put trash in the nests anyway,” Butler says. “So, are they putting trash in there because they like it or because they don’t differentiate between the two?”

After the birds fledged, students dissected every nest to separate out feathers, trash, and the rest of the materials: shirt labels, Powerbar wrappers, dog hair. Butler says this trash

doesn’t seem to be good for house sparrows. As of early spring semester, students are still collecting data, and will continue to meticulously dissect the 180 nests from the year before. Meanwhile, the vertical flats will likely be retired in favor of carefully placed nesting materials in the grass, allowing for greater accessibility.

The student team is also pursuing an independent research project of its own: comparing the rate of nestling feeding by parents to nestling growth rates and outcomes. (There are cameras on-site for observations.) Butler is happy his students will learn even more about experimental design, dataset construction, and thinking through what information they need.

In February, Butler began his first awarded National Science Foundation grant to continue his research with birds, adding fake “spy eggs” to the picture.

In collaboration with former engineering professor Jon Wallace, Butler is creating a model for a 3D-printed house sparrow egg—no bigger than a thumbnail, or about 2.2-by-1.5



Rebecca Capone ’26 checks a nest box for breeding activity.



House sparrows nesting in plant material, trash, and faux orange feathers.

centimeters—stuffed with a thermal sensor, rechargeable wireless battery, computer board, and bluetooth communication. “It’ll measure the temperature inside the nest without getting removed by the parents,” he says. A problem many bird biologists encounter, Butler explains, is their subjects’ response to unwelcome additions to their nest. These new model eggs not only limit interference, but also reduce complex technological infrastructure and cost. Scientists have tried faux eggs before, just not at this size.

The eggs will allow Butler to compare nest temperature to the number of eggs and pieces of trash present in the nest, then examine how that impacts nesting development. This stems from the research of Jenny Minnick ’17 and Brooke Weiss ’24, who examined 3D-printed eggs and trash in nests for their honors theses, respectively. While the name for the eggs is still in the works, Butler knows the potential: “The goal is to maybe patent it, then give it away so other researchers can use this technology.”

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN DRABIC '83; JAQUAN ALSTON



With the World Cup taking over North American cities this summer, a very soccer-obsessed United States readies for its latest surge in the sport.

# FUTBOLY FOR EVER

By CHRIS QUIRK

Illustrations by María Corte

# IN THE SUMMER OF 1989,

World Cup hopes for the United States men's soccer team were dimming. Lackluster performances against regional opponents Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago made for an uphill climb for the team to reach the prestigious tournament in Italy the following year.

But there was even more on the line than earning a prized ticket to the quadrennial soccer extravaganza: The United States had been selected as host for the 1994 World Cup despite not having qualified since 1950. It was a controversial decision, but the sport was showing green shoots in the U.S., and the infrastructure and commercial possibilities were appealing. As hosts, the U.S. had an automatic berth for 1994, but to justify the world's faith—and as a point of pride—the U.S. team desperately wanted to make it to the 1990 tournament on their own power.

One thing the team needed more than anything was competitive friendly matches to sharpen their game. Richard Groff '68 had a plan. "I was very fortunate that the president of U.S. Soccer at the time was from Pennsylvania and a friend of mine," he says. Groff, currently a commissioner in Adult Amateur Soccer, has held numerous positions in U.S. Soccer—the nation's governing body for soccer—including treasurer. "I remember being in St. Louis at the time, and 6,000 people showed up for a game. I thought it was a disgrace. So, I suggested to the president, 'Let's do a match in Philadelphia.' He said I didn't know what I was doing, but I told him to trust me."

Groff invited Dnepr, a club team based in Ukraine that was reigning league champions of the U.S.S.R., to play the U.S. team on a Friday night in August 1989 at University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Field in West Philadelphia.

With a little creative marketing—Groff billed the event as an "America vs. Russia smackdown"—his plan worked. Televised on TNT, it drew more than 43,000 fans, the most that had attended a soccer match in the U.S. since the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984. The U.S. beat Dnepr that night, 1-0, on a turf field that still had football lines visible.

The U.S. went on to qualify for the 1990 World Cup with a wonder goal by Paul Caligiuri in its final match, and made it to Italy. At home in 1994, the team exceeded expectations with a victory over a highly regarded Colombian squad and made it out of the group stage. Meanwhile, the U.S. women's team had won the first women's World Cup in 1991, the start of decades of dominance for them.

Soccer, it seemed, was on an inevitable rise to rival football, baseball, and basketball in the pantheon of our nation's sport.

It's been a longer haul than many anticipated, but with thriving men's and women's domestic leagues and the United States co-hosting this summer's World Cup alongside Canada and Mexico, it could be soccer's moment to hit new heights—and if it does, it will be in part a result of efforts by hardworking Lafayette alumni, some, like Groff, who have dedicated their careers to bringing soccer into the mainstream.

Soccer, football, or the "jogo bonito" (beautiful game) as Brazilians call it, is by a large margin the world's foremost sport in terms of viewership. It is estimated that in 2022 the monthlong World Cup tournament garnered 5 billion viewers.

In the U.S., NBCUniversal—where Jose Garriga '95 has been vice president of NBC Sports & Telemundo global sports sales for a decade—will be showing all Spanish-language broadcasts of the 2026 World Cup on Telemundo and other platforms. NBC also shows the wildly popular English Premier League matches to



American audiences, and streaming giant Netflix has locked in the domestic broadcast rights for the next two women's World Cups in 2027 and 2031.

In January, a headline in *The Economist* bled, "America is now the biggest market for international football." The magazine cited a survey that landed soccer third on the list of self-declared favorite sports in the U.S., only behind American football and basketball—and slightly surpassing baseball.

## With thriving domestic leagues and the United States co-hosting the World Cup, it could be soccer's moment to hit new heights.

A major reason for soccer's growth in the U.S. has been Major League Soccer, the men's professional league launched in 1996, two years after the first World Cup in the United States. Brad Pursel '95 has been with the organization nearly the entire time, joining MLS for its second season. Three decades on, the league has 30 teams and is breaking attendance records, as domestic viewership for this past season surged 30% over 2024. "That was a big jump," says Pursel, explaining that they were the first professional league to go all-in with one streaming partner—Apple, no less. "Our fan base skews very young," Pursel adds, "and I think we're the most tech-savvy fan group of all the pro sports leagues, which is one of the reasons Apple was very interested in partnering with us." With the start of the 2026 season in February, MLS has become even more accessible thanks to Apple TV folding all games into its regular programming, so no separate subscription is necessary.

Pursel is the senior vice president of competition planning and scheduling at MLS, where his responsibility is to coordinate not just MLS games, but how the MLS season intersects with other global tournaments. "Every summer there is a major international competition for soccer, whether it's a World Cup, a Gold Cup, or the European championships," Pursel notes. "A number of our players are called up by the national teams and are playing in those competitions. We're growing and getting better, and we're acquiring more and more top-notch players from around the world."

Those players include Lionel Messi, maybe the best to ever play the game, but also Thomas Müller of Germany, Sergio Busquets of Spain, and French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris, all World Cup winners with their home countries. "Messi and others are opening the door for players to come over, and because the level of play has risen so much, MLS now gives players the opportunity to play in one of the top leagues in the world," Pursel says. "The style and quality of our game is direct and physical. Players are fast and athletic, and our league has close to the most goals per game. That's the kind of play we want to see."

### WORLD CUP ON CAMPUS

For the past several years, the International Students Association has organized its own "World Cup" inside Kirby's indoor soccer courts. Held during ISA Extravaganza Week in late March, the soccer tournament is made up of teams organized by the global regions with which students identify. Last year, more than 50 players formed eight teams, representing approximately 25 countries from North America, South America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. "This event is meaningful because soccer, or football, is one of the single greatest unifying things we have seen in human history," says Paolo Garcia '27, president of ISA. Garcia, who is half-Filipino, competes for Team Asia—the group that won the tournament last year (pictured, below). "It is the most popular sport in the world, and despite our individual cultural differences, it gives our diverse Lafayette community the chance to unite over our shared love for the sport, whether you're there to play or cheer your team on."



Back row: Kashif Chopra '26, Paolo Garcia '27, Nathan Dinh '25, and Seyha Khom '25. Front row: Areeb Atheequ '25 and Claire Coker '27.

Kelly Fitzgerald Lorenzo '07 says another huge draw of MLS is the in-stadium experience. Lorenzo is senior director of media commercial operations and started with MLS soon after graduating from Lafayette. "It's one of the best sports experiences, for sure," she says. "All the clubs work really hard to engage the local culture; there are all kinds of tifos [large banners unfurled in the stands] and fan rituals at games."

That fan experience is magnetic, Pursel says. "We have 25 soccer-specific stadiums. They're beautiful buildings and have great atmospheres. We know that if people come to the game, even if they aren't huge soccer fans, they will want to come back and spread the word."

MLS is gaining popularity with international audiences as well, in part because of stars the league has been able to attract. "A lot of the international interest is player-driven," Lorenzo says. "When Son Heung-Min, the former star for Tottenham Hotspur, joined Los Angeles Football Club, we saw explosive growth in our viewership and social media engagement in Korea. We saw the same thing in Germany when Thomas Müller signed with Vancouver."

And now, the upcoming World Cup offers a massive opportunity for those who love the game and are working to develop it in the U.S. to break through to another level of visibility and popularity. With more than 100 games, the 2026 tournament, kicking off June 11 and finishing with the championship final July 19 in East Rutherford, N.J.—less than 90 minutes from Lafayette's campus—is set to be the biggest in history.

World Cup match atmospheres are unparalleled, in part because of the international pageantry, but also because the chance to play on the global stage is so precious. In the four years between every World Cup, at least 200 national teams play grueling continental qualifying tournaments that can last two years or more, and upsets are frequent. After more than two decades of success, the U.S. men missed out on the 2018 World Cup, and even perennial powers like Italy and the Netherlands have failed to qualify for recent World Cups. The 2026 edition will feature four nations that have never before played in the World Cup.

Like any major sport, soccer has a complex history. Abraham Tapiwa Seda, assistant professor of history, understands this and developed a popular course called *The Beautiful Game: A Global History of Soccer*. In it, Seda covers the origins of the game, as well as the political and economic aspects of the sport. "People assume soccer originated in England, but there's a hidden history of our ancient ancestors playing games very similar to modern-day soccer," Seda says.

## "In January, a headline in *The Economist* blared, 'America is now the biggest market for international football.'"

What the Football Association in England did in the 19th century, says Seda, was formalize the game. The British also successfully transported their version of the game to the colonial world in a way that has left a lasting legacy. "These colonial spaces in turn aren't just passive recipients of the game; they experiment with it in ways that transform the game. There's an economic component as well. Many of my favorite players, who are Brazilian, grew up in the *favelas*, and soccer was a chance to make something of their lives. You play differently under those conditions."

With World Cup matches being played in five MLS stadiums, and 15 venues being used for training by national teams, Lorenzo and Pursel have been working to create maximum synergy with the World Cup to engage current fans and win over new ones. "We're going to have watch parties and different opportunities for MLS fans to come out," Lorenzo says. "And while we always see a huge increase in soccer interest after a World Cup, there's also a dip, so how do we avoid that and keep momentum going and people interested?"

Part of the World Cup spectacle is the unveiling of the uniforms, which often have imagery or references of unique significance to each nation. Matt Lancor '88, vice president of sales for lifestyle at PUMA, is a leader at his company in preparing for the big event. (The brand already sponsors some of the best players in the world: Neymar Jr., plus U.S. stars Christian Pulisic and Weston McKennie, to name a few.)

PUMA will be sponsoring uniforms—or "kits" in soccer parlance—for 10 teams competing in this World Cup, meaning about 20% of the total teams in the event will be in their apparel. "This summer, if there's a World Cup game on the television, there's a good chance it will be a PUMA team," Lancor says. "It's going to be powerful."

It's no surprise to find such a large contingent of Lafayette grads and former players working at the highest level of soccer. The sport has a storied history at the College. "If you look at a lot of our signs and uniforms, they say 'Established 1913.' Our team is older than some Premier League teams," says Dennis Bohn, coach of Lafayette's men's soccer team for the past 25 seasons. "An Irish immigrant living in Easton started the team. He was dribbling a ball on the Quad, some



The majority of the 30 Major League Soccer teams play in soccer-specific stadiums, where fans have stellar views.

kids saw him, jumped in, and later convinced the administration to form a soccer team." The Irishman, David Paul, was the first coach. In the century-plus that followed, Lafayette's program—like the United States'—has enjoyed continued growth.

Groff, Lancor, Lorenzo, and Pursel all played a full four years on Lafayette varsity squads. Tom Neale '92 won an MLS Cup Championship as general manager of the San Jose Earthquakes. More recently, Griffin Huff '25 and Alex Sutton '22 both played professionally in the MLS Next Pro league, with Huff currently under contract with the Chattanooga Football Club.

In September, Bohn eclipsed 200 career wins at Lafayette and would lead the Leopards to one of the program's greatest seasons ever, capturing the Patriot League title on Lehigh's home turf in a thrilling finish that went to a penalty shootout. The win would advance the team to the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

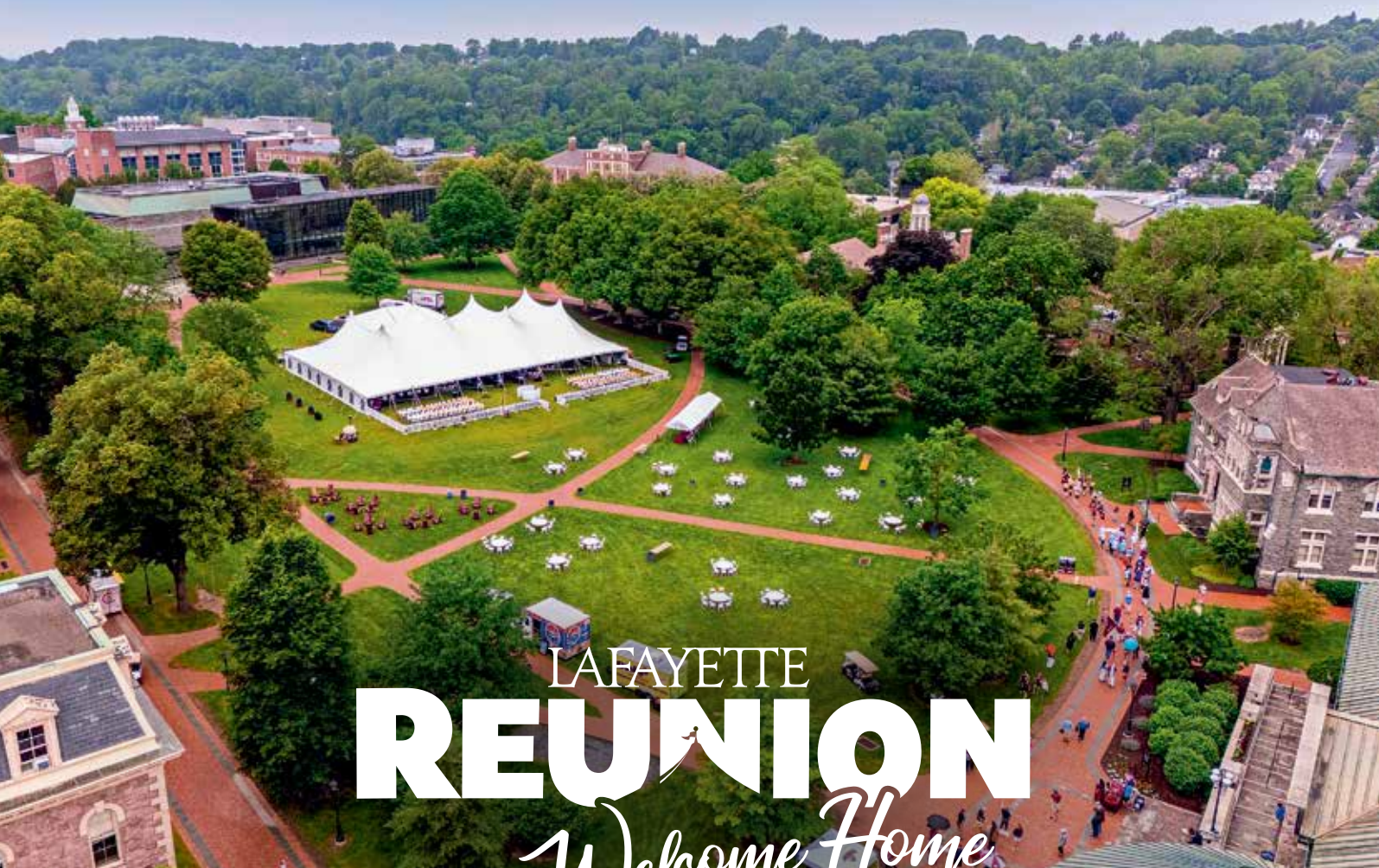
"As coach, we've won five championships, and I love them all, but this one was a special moment in the program's history and my career."

For all of this excitement on the pitch, from the Patriot League to the pros, a question lingers for sports communities across the country: Will the United States ever become a true soccer nation?

According to Groff, we already have. "In 1990, we had two sponsors, Budweiser and Adidas, and now we have 60. We draw 11,000 fans for an amateur match in Annapolis," he says. "We've got 3 million registered youth players and 300,000 adults. We have both high-level professional teams and 2,000 elite amateur teams. We're not at the level of the NFL, but we are, as they say in Europe, a football country." ■

*It's your year. Come home to celebrate.*

LAFAYETTE'S BICENTENNIAL REUNION | JUNE 5-7, 2026



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**INSIDE**

We asked alumni to share their industry expertise. **p.50**—Doing your part to reduce food waste. **p. 51**—A financial adviser looks at the year ahead. **p. 52**—What lighting might be doing to your health..

# Cur Non

At the College's 175th Commencement ceremony in 2010, the Marquis de Lafayette posthumously received an honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service.



**"I repeatedly asked myself how I could make a contribution that would outlast me."**

**JEFF YORZYK**  
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, 1992



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF HELLOFRESH

# GREENER PASTURES

Senior director of sustainability at HelloFresh Jeff Yorzyk '92 wants to fix the food waste problem in America.

BY AMY DOWNEY

Jeff Yorzyk grew up canoeing and camping on the Connecticut River in northern Massachusetts with his family, establishing from an early age an appreciation and comfortability with the outdoors.

When he enrolled at Lafayette in the late '80s, environmental engineering wasn't available at the College—or anywhere, for that matter—but there was an environmental interest group on campus. At one point, conservation activist Lou Gold was invited to speak about old growth forest loss. “He said environmentalism isn't a spectator sport,” Yorzyk recalls. “And that was a call to action for me. It influenced my choice to focus my career on the environment and, eventually, sustainability.”

Yorzyk would earn a chemical engineering degree, arming him with an understanding of how industry affects the environment. A liberal arts setting programmed him to think about problems differently and ask broader questions, specifically in engineering and the environment.

While on a six-day hike in the Colorado mountains in 1999, Yorzyk wrote down a question in his journal that would serve as a compass throughout his career: *What would it take to get in front of waste before it happens?* After spending some time in the environmental field, he earned a master's in environmental science and engineering, and an MBA, and was hired by a sustainability consulting firm in 2003. “I found my way to an emerging career space that didn't exist when I graduated,” he says.

Over the years, his consultant expertise would support government agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Then, a decade ago, he came onto the meal kit scene in the U.S., and has been the senior director of sustainability at HelloFresh based in Boulder, Colo., since 2016.



Subscription-based meal kits (pictured, above) are as varied as the customer's tastes and needs.

Yorzyk, who was recently named chair of Lafayette's Sustainability Alumni Affinity Network, weighs in on America's food waste problem—and what to do about it.

#### Why is food waste in America such an issue?

Food waste is such a big issue because it's happening at the same time as widespread food insecurity. Statistics show that 40% of the food supply is wasted, mainly because of distribution inefficiency. There are 48 million people facing food insecurity in the United States—with 14 million of them being children—yet we throw away more food than any other country. Food waste is the one-two punch of sustainability. We waste an environmental investment that's made at the farm level to create the food, and then it goes to the landfill, creating methane and greenhouse gasses.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF HELLOFRESH

#### How are you trying to prevent food waste at HelloFresh?

My team is relentless on minimizing food waste from our operations. If food is edible, we donate it to local charities and food banks. At the end of 2025, 90% of HelloFresh's food waste is diverted from landfill. If it's not edible, then we're trying to get it into composting or anaerobic digestion, which creates biogas. We reduced our food waste going to landfill by 78% in the last five years by partnering across the business.

#### How can meal kits help?

The impact of pre-portioning food and planning meals is really substantial. We did an in-home food waste study back in 2019 that demonstrated an approximate 45% reduction in food waste related to making dinner from our U.S. customers. We then did a product Life Cycle Assessment and showed that between the food waste and more efficient logistics—people aren't driving back and forth to a grocery store, for example—we actually reduce the carbon footprint of a dinner meal by 31%.

#### Why is planning meals so valuable?

It makes sure you avoid buying food you don't need and you buy the appropriate portion size. Really think about produce and perishable items, and don't overbuy in the first place. That source control, and not letting things go bad in the fridge, is inherent to the meal kit model.

#### What else can consumers do?

Understand that 'best-by' dates do not mean 'bad after.' These dates are really creating a lot more food waste than is appropriate. Depending on the product, there's flexibility. We certainly have to exercise caution with perishable items, but we also have to exercise judgment. And then, finally, eat your leftovers. Food belongs in people, not in landfills.

#### Sustainability wasn't a field when you graduated. What advice do you have for people interested in this space?

My career evolved in ways I couldn't have predicted, and things I did previously became useful in ways I never would have expected. I created my career path by repeatedly asking myself how I could make a positive impact on the world—contributions that would outlast me. This field is so broad, it can be daunting, and there are a lot of entry points that aren't obvious. The key is finding an intersection between what you're passionate about and what you're good at, and seeking to make a positive impact. ■

# Make a Plan for Your Money

Alex Merriman '16 talks retirement planning, financial literacy, and safely making big purchases.

BY MADELINE MARRIOTT '24



Alex Merriman '16 is also known by his other moniker: the Financial Painter. That's his persona on LinkedIn, where he combines his passion for art with his work as a financial adviser at Valor Investments and Planning in Easton, Pa.

After studying studio art under Ed Kerns at Lafayette, Merriman worked in retail management and insurance sales before landing at Valor, where his advising includes investment management, estate and tax planning, and cash flow analysis.

His approach includes building connections with his clients, understanding the *why* of their goals before helping them plan for the *how*. “For me to build genuine connections with people at work, I have to tell them who I am, and that includes my art,” he says.

“And to put together a good comprehensive financial plan, I have to figure out who they are and why they want what they want to build it the right way for them.”

Because of his background, part of his expertise is helping creatives with the business side of their affairs. “It can be really difficult for creative people to build businesses for themselves, but as I met more and more people those conversations became easier for me because I could offer up information about myself and my business, and it took off from there,” he says.

Outside the office, he has continued to paint. He works primarily in gestural and color field abstraction, and runs the Colors for Cancer fundraiser, which has featured local artists and raised over \$10,000 for pancreatic cancer research over the last five years.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

**What's a common misconception about saving for retirement?**

One of the most common things I see is people in a 'waiting until they can retire' mindset—and being more reactive rather than proactive to their goals. Retirement is something you can work toward at any time during your life, either by yourself or with the assistance of others.

**What's a piece of financial intelligence that's important to pass along to kids today?**

Pay attention to your money. Too many people only take financial inventory when there is a disruption, like a car breaking down, a medical expense, or a family emergency. Know your cashflow and give every dollar a purpose.

**With continued rising costs in the economy, how can someone feel confident in making a major purchase right now?**

Confidence around major purchases comes from organizing your money into proper buckets and being disciplined in not spending money from buckets assigned to different goals. Don't overextend yourself. Build a system. If something you've

worked on will suffer at the expense of a 'major purchase,' you have to step back and evaluate if it's the right time to move on this opportunity or project.

For example, if you've been saving money for an emergency fund and you see a house that you love pop up on Zillow, stop. Technically you have the money for a down payment; however, that money is for your emergency fund and depleting your savings could leave you in a worse spot after making the biggest purchase of your life. The idea here is to set a solid foundation of how money flows into and out of your household, organizing money around your goals.

**What financial bright spots do you anticipate for 2026?**

There are more opportunities than ever to take advantage of emerging technology and global economic growth. However, this does not mean you abandon logic and reason for economic gain. There will always be financial bright spots, so don't feel like you're missing your chance to benefit. Setting a solid foundation allows you the opportunity to take risks without tearing down everything you've built.



# LIGHTING THE WAY

Megan Jones '10 explains how circadian-aligned lighting can enhance employee well-being, strengthen organizational performance, and make for healthier workplaces.

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS

**B**rightening our world isn't the only purpose of light. Depending on its source—natural or artificial—light has the power to either feed or deplete the human body of the energy it needs to function at its best. As head of business development and marketing at Earthlight.app, Megan Jones '10 helps organizations understand how intentional lighting choices in the built environment impact both employee well-being and the bottom line. "Companies will often go for the lowest-cost or highest-energy-efficiency lighting solution without looking at the human part of the equation," Jones says. Natural light is crucial to regulating the human circadian rhythm—the body's natural sleep-wake cycle—and heavily influences physical, mental, and cognitive health. Adversely, prolonged exposure to standard industrial lighting such as fluorescent or LED fixtures can disrupt that rhythm; potentially, this might lead to negative effects on employee health and productivity—and higher health insurance costs for employers.

Earthlight.app offers a solution to this challenge: circadian health and compliance software for the lighting, architectural, and engineering industries. "The software helps companies evaluate their current lighting and determine the best solution for their goals," Jones says.

Here, Jones explains how reimagining workplace lighting can create brighter experiences for employees and employers alike.

**What we know about workplace lighting**

A 2018 Future Workplace study found that more than one-third of employees feel they don't get enough natural light at work. Nearly half reported feeling tired, and 43% said they felt gloomy because of insufficient light. "Even offices with sunny windows often fail to make up for how bad it is for you to be



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MEGAN JONES

under those artificial lights all day," Jones says. Less time in the sunshine puts a strain on sleep, thought processing, reaction time, mood, and more. Over time, these effects can increase fatigue-related errors, absenteeism, health care needs, and turnover—all without employers considering that lighting might be a contributing factor.

Jones argues that workplace lighting shouldn't be viewed as aesthetic infrastructure but as a strategic investment in performance, satisfaction, and risk reduction. "Designing our built environment around our needs and best interests as humans should become standard practice," she says.

**On calculating health and happiness**

One solution is circadian-aligned lighting—a lighting system designed to simulate the sun's 24-hour cycle and work in tandem with the body's internal clock. Jones says 2024 research in *SLEEP*, a journal dedicated to sleep and circadian science, shows that circadian-aligned lighting can increase vigilance,

← Jones says that science is still catching up to the effects of modern lighting.

alertness, and overall work performance. It also improves mental health by nearly 14% and extends sleep by an average of 52 minutes per night.

"Improved sleep alone significantly reduces the risk for developing chronic conditions like diabetes and obesity," Jones says. In addition to helping to strengthen the immune system, "it allows us to function at a higher level, feel more engaged, and make fewer errors," while also boosting cognition and working memory.

**Screen exposure makes things worse**

Artificial lighting isn't the only thing throwing off the tempo of our internal clocks. Prolonged exposure to high-energy blue light emitted by screens can contribute to issues ranging from vision impairment to sleep disruption. (The National Library of Medicine reports that Americans are averaging more than five hours per day

on digital devices.) In addition to monitoring screen time, Jones recommends switching devices to red or warmer light settings in the evening. "And try not to use electronics right before you go to sleep," she adds. "Give yourself a window of time to wind down."

**Rethink the home office**

Remote workers often have greater control over the lighting conditions in their home office. Positioning your workstation near a sunny window is an effective first step, Jones says. Light therapy lamps can also help.

**Getting outside is best medicine**

The National Library of Medicine also reports that Americans now spend more than 90% of their time indoors. "Whenever possible, go out for a walk in the morning or during your lunch break," Jones says. "Getting the right kind and amount of light doesn't just help us see better—it feeds our bodies to live and work better." ■

**CIRCADIAN RHYTHM FIGURES**

Insights from a 2025 study by Stanford Medicine scientists.

**1. Daily "resets" are important.** At 24 hours and 12 minutes, the average human circadian cycle actually runs slightly longer than a full day, requiring it to be "reset" with environmental cues like outdoor light.

**2. People may have different needs.** Roughly 15% of the population are early risers; they tend to have circadian rhythms shorter than 24 hours.

**3. Reconsidering Daylight Savings Time.** Eliminating seasonal clock changes could benefit circadian health. According to the study, permanent standard time could prevent about 300,000 strokes and 2.6 million obesity cases.

# 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).



While it wasn't officially the coldest or snowiest winter in Easton's history—the '90s were pretty

unrelenting, as many alumni might remember—the campus had its fill of chill and, luckily, some stunning scenery.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON

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

## 1950s

### Gerald Fleischner '59

After 40 years as a physician and faculty member at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and a further 25 years of lecturing at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Arizona, I have decided to retire from teaching. I currently live in Tucson, Ariz., am a widower after a wonderful marriage to Judy, who put up with my lifelong devotion to science, my family, and my patients. I was fortunate in choosing Einstein over Boston University for my graduate training in liver and GI specialties. At Einstein, I was trained by Dr. John B. Robbins and Dr. Irwin Arias in molecular biology and immunology. I was in Robbins' laboratory when he made the first of his eight vaccines (the first against haemophilus influenzae type b). He and Arias helped me purify two hepatic cell receptors for organic ions and delineate their function and cellular locations. This latter work earned me a NIH career development award in 1971 and set me on my academic career as an independent scientist. I currently spend the majority of my time reading about all the science

and medicine I can fit into my schedule. At Lafayette College, the two professors who most set me on my life's work were Dr. W.W. Watt and Dr. L. Stableford. My daughter, Cecelia, son Jeff, and my granddaughter, Mollie, attended Lafayette College.

## 1960s

### Edward Auble '61

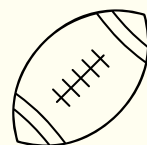
Auble writes: "For those classmates not keeping track, we will be celebrating our 65th reunion June 5-7 on campus, in conjunction with our alma mater's 200th. Please take some time to review the College's offerings for the weekend. Think of the classmates you would hope to meet on campus, as well as other folks. And please contact, say, three other grads to encourage their attendance. The personal touch can pay great dividends! A phone call, if possible."

### Bradford Day '69

Day had a great time at the annual Rivalry game versus "that other school," cheering on the Leopards in a close and exciting game, along with his wife, Becky, and daughter Tammy (Class



↑ 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, was the keynote speaker at the 2026 Council of Lafayette Women Conference in March.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Chris Partridge '02, formerly a linebacker and captain for the Pards, was part of the Super Bowl LX winning Seattle Seahawks coaching staff.

of 1991), and her husband, Evan. Day writes, "Traveling in April of 2026 on our third Viking River cruise to Budapest and then in June to Hong Kong for an International Lions Club convention."

### Fred Day '63

Day's family was there rooting for the Leopards at the Lafayette/Lehigh game. Son Graham Day '99 and wife Kelly with daughters Annabel and Adeline, also daughter Ann Day Saperstein '01 and



PHOTOGRAPH BY ASHLI TRUCHON NOVAK

husband Mike with sons Henry and Doug. Pictured (opposite page) with Roary, the Lafayette Leopard.

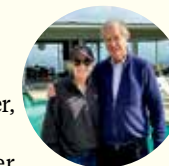
### Richard Koplin '64

Koplin writes: "Busy year. Remain co-director of the Cataract Surgical Service at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai while simultaneously pursuing development of a remote digital pharma startup. Importantly, I'd like to thank Seth Meskin '96, Kevin Koplin '91, Jon Weiss '94, Barbara Levy '77 (and families) for their contribution to the play, *The Language of Sight*, that

is our gift to the Lafayette College Bicentennial and based on the story of our first Black graduate, David K. McDonogh (Class of 1844), an enslaved young man from New Orleans. It is produced by my daughter Russell Arden Koplin and premiered at Williams Center for the Arts."

### Ted Ruthizer '69

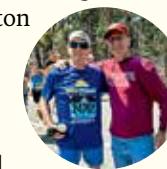
Ruthizer writes: "My Los Angeles granddaughter, Olivia, celebrated her bat mitzvah in late January. It was a joyous occasion, and Jane and I were so happy to attend and share in the pride. Jane and I will be celebrating our 56th anniversary in April. We continue to live both on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and also in the gorgeous Hudson Valley, where we have a weekend house. My old roommate, Rob McGarrah '69, and I are in touch regularly. Together we mourn the loss of our dear friend Michael Greenberger '67, whom we first met when we became members of Soles Hall, where Michael was president. Michael had a very distinguished career as a lawyer, high-ranking official in the Clinton administration and as a law professor at University of Maryland." Pictured: the Ruthizers visiting the famous glass Stahl House high in the Hollywood Hills in Los Angeles.



## 1970s

### Chauncey Browning '77

Ran the Boston Marathon in April 2025 and who should I meet around mile 13 but Rich Benner '78, Lafayette track and field teammate!



### Steven Goldberg '75

Goldberg is currently chairman of medicine and cardiology at Optum NY, where he sits on national advisory committees helping to create medical quality standards for 24 million patients across the country in 30 large groups of which, in New York, they are the largest. He has also become active in medical research, now a principal investigator working with chairman of Stanford University and Mount Sinai NY on cardiac prevention trials in diabetics. In addition to his three children, they now have two grandchildren including a new baby girl from daughter Stacey, also a Lafayette alum.

### Wayne Gray '72

Gray writes: "Having now retired from my last position as the 'retired Professor Emeritus' for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, my wife and I plus Max (our very large French poodle), loaded a few remaining items into our car as the moving van took our belongings to our new home in Portland, Ore. Backing up a number of years before becoming a Professor Emeritus, I was a McKelvy Scholar at Lafayette, where I met and became friends with other McKelvy Scholars including Jeff Pugh, who has

become a very dear friend. Jeff was one year behind me but we did catch up with each other as he became an Oregon lawyer and I went off to grad school at UC Berkeley. In any case, there are many years between 'then and now,' and I won't bother to discuss or enumerate them all. I will say, however, that while at Lafayette I was deeply influenced by Prof. Burt Cohen. Burt's intellectual 'teeth marks' on my intellectual soul still remain, and the various scholarly ways of thinking about the world that he nourished still persist."

### Henry Halpern '77

Halpern is retiring from full-time work in early 2026 after 45 years as a petroleum geochemist. He purchased a home in Oahu, Hawaii, and is excited to begin the next phase there. He looks forward to lots of walking, biking, and some consulting to stay mentally sharp. He would love to hear from classmates and friends!

### William "Bill" Hoffman '77

Hoffman and his wife are both retired and living primarily in Philadelphia and also spend time in Brigantine, N.J. They are very lucky to have their three daughters living in Philadelphia, so they see them quite often. Bill and Lisa became grandparents Aug. 8, courtesy of their daughter, Erika, and her husband, Aaron, with the birth of Austin Robbins Hoffman-Holly!

### J. Stevens Hurlbut '79

On Feb. 13, Hurlbut was inducted into the Fairleigh Dickinson University Athletics Hall of Fame. Hurlbut served as the university's director of athletics from 1998 to 2002,



**1975 marked the 50th anniversary** of the founding of Alpha Phi Omega coed service fraternity at Lafayette. Student members were busy as usual that year, directing traffic for move-in weekend, raising funds for a new student center, and volunteering with local Boy Scout programs. Chapters from all over the country even visited campus to celebrate the milestone. Now 100 years old, APO is the largest organization of its kind.

overseeing 18 varsity sports and implementing FDU's first full-time academic support staff for student-athletes. Under his leadership, women's soccer and women's bowling programs were added and, in 1999, the FDU Athletics Hall of Fame was established. Family in attendance for the ceremony included sister-in-law Betsy Huston Fadem '76.

**H. "Ross" Lambert '73**

Lambert writes: "I am enjoying retirement from periodontics and implant dentistry. I am currently representing a Swedish company, here in the U.S., with some proprietary anti-inflammation products."



Diane Jerome Lambert '73 is also enjoying retirement after a long career as a first grade teacher and 10-year career as director of corporate outreach at Monroe College in New Rochelle and the Bronx. We are now living in central Connecticut near Glastonbury from May to October and in Boynton Beach, Fla., for the winter. And... die-hard Eagles fans!"

**Michael Margello '77**

Margello reports that he and wife Sharon celebrated his 70th with a trip to Sedona, Ariz., this past November: "Breathtaking, especially to a guy who has never seen the west!" Pictured is the view from the hotel balcony.



**Francis Minotto '71**

Minotto writes: "Kathie and I became great-grandparents on Oct. 2, welcoming great-grandson Zayden Reed to our family. His family lives in Georgetown, Del. Zayden is the son of our granddaughter Kylie and Zion Reed. We are very excited for the new addition to our family. I am recovering from back surgery, L4/L5 fusion and decompression. Kathie is doing well and is active in our new 55 community. We attended the home football games this year and are sponsoring a football player. On a personal note, I have prostate cancer and am currently undergoing treatment. Looks like radiation therapy begins in January as I am currently in hormone therapy."

**Fran Mustaro '72**

A happy reunion of football teammates from 1972—including Jamie Muntz '72, Dave Kenep '72, Mike Donnelly '72, Jack Bourger '71, and Fran Mustaro '72—occurred at the Lehigh game on the Hill. Mustaro writes, "These friends celebrated over 50 years of continued hearty fellowship. Sadly, one of our number, Dave Kenep '72,



died unexpectedly five days later. Never forget!"

**Peter Newman '73**

In honor of the College's March 9 anniversary, Newman, Howie Zaharoff '73, and Bob Zirlin '73 went to New Orleans and toasted the Marquis de Lafayette at Antoine's Restaurant in the French Quarter.



**Robert Schmitt '79**

Schmitt writes: "There is a new sign in Greenwich, Conn., marking the historic site of Gen. Israel Putnam's escape from the British in 1779. The sign is at the historic Putnam cottage on the Post Road just up the hill from where I live. Gen. Lafayette visited this site to honor Gen. Putnam, one of George Washington's most trusted generals."



**Mindy Stern '76**

Stern received the New York State Bar Association Real Property Law Section's 2026 Professionalism Award.

**Carol Tarsa '78**

Tarsa writes, "It was a fun gathering at University of Texas when the Leopard men's basketball team played the UT Longhorns!"

**1980s**

**Diane Gottschalk '84**

Gottschalk writes: "Sigma Kappa friends from the Class of '84 reunited for their annual seasonal luncheon Oct. 12. Hosted by Nancy Gallagher at The Ridge at Back Brook in Ringoes, N.J., we enjoyed a festive fall lunch and exchanged leopard-themed gifts. Just when we thought we had every leopard-themed gadget under the sun, among our gifts exchanged we were surprised with a leopard print 'MayDay' car safety hammer and leopard print bedsheets! Lots of creative stories emerged as we crafted ways we would use both the safety hammer and bedsheets if we were stranded in a storm on the drive home that evening. We are always guaranteed lots of laughs, sharing old memories and creating new ones. Blessed to have this wonderful group of friends! Attending: Kris Huber Rudisill '84, Nancy Bennett Gallagher '84, Diane Gaglia Gottschalk, Maureen Davis Bibeau '84, Paula Polgardy Kumpf '84. Missing from the day: Daphne Ferenczi Galvin '84, who was on a fabulous Portugal trip with other Sigma Kappa sisters!"



**Elizabeth Geesey Holmes '87**

Holmes retired early from her position as research and instruction librarian at the Naval War College Library in Newport, R.I., in mid-September. At the end of September, she and Jim welcomed their first grandchild, baby Hazel. Holmes writes: "Being a grandparent is truly amazing. I haven't felt love like this since our daughter was born. I was so glad to have lots of free time to spend with my daughter and Hazel this fall since I was no longer working! I'm keeping busy singing in Providence Singers and in my church choir, and I joined a new book club, which is part of the national Well Read Mom organization, and am learning to play Mahjong. All pretty ordinary and middle class—LOL. I drive by Lafayette frequently on my way to visit my daughter, so the College is on my mind more than it has been. Maybe I'll make it to a reunion someday."



**John Moser '81**

Moser writes, "I am the general manager of The Lodge at Woodloch in the Poconos! Rated one of the top destination spas in the country with a top golf course, Woodloch Springs, across the street. Great place for Pards to relax."



**Paul Mraz '89**

Mraz, CEO of Fziomed Inc., shared that the company recently surpassed treating one million patients



**HISTORIC ENCOUNTER**

Bob '83 and Vicki Minturn Mahr '83 meet the Marquis de Lafayette.

The Mahrs went to Williamsburg, Va., on Feb. 21 with their granddaughter, Sloane, and spent some time chatting with the Marquis. "Lafayette said he was excited about going to campus to help celebrate the College's 200th anniversary," Bob says. "He told us he would be there for the dedication of a statue of his wife. In complete character, and in full French accent, he noted he appreciated the statue as 'she is so often overlooked and had supported him tremendously.' He was also excited as it would be his first time at the College."

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF POTTERY BARN; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES

worldwide across its product portfolio in 50-plus countries. Fziomed is a recognized global leader in postsurgical adhesion prevention that manufactures and commercializes best-in-class surgical biomaterials used by clinicians to improve patient outcomes in spine, tendon, nerve, abdominal, pelvic, and intrauterine procedures.

## 1990s

### Melissa Carnahan Ellis '98

Ellis writes: "Fourteen KKG sisters, currently residing in seven different states, recently met up in Arizona to celebrate a milestone birthday: Melissa Carnahan Ellis '98, Kristen Janiak Goggin '98, Caroline French Fajolle '98, Kirsten Lapple Jervis '98, Lauren Howe Cuneo '98, Cory Taylor McKee '98, Maureen McGloughlin Levelis '98, Amanda Martin Sheehan '98, Heather Thompson Votava '98, Susan Falco Dunphy '98, Melissa Hermann Noon '98, Kirsten Blakeman Macfarland '98, Jenny Pazymino Davis '98, and Megan McGowan '98. The weekend overflowed with laughter and joy reliving wonderful memories from our Lafayette days. Even Lambros made an appearance... on custom trucker hats!"



### Micki Kaplan '97

On Dec. 6, Lafayette alumni gathered for the 50th birthday of Mark Platt '98 in Morris Plains, N.J., including:



(back row) Chris Erickson '03, Curt Keefer '01, John Leffler '01, David Kramer '98, Kaplan, Constantine Andre '96; (front row) Chris Gonnella '99, Mark Platt, Charles Weiner '00, Rachel Platt '00.

### Stephen Konya '96

Konya writes, "Met up with several Pardis for Rivalry 161 including John Squarcia '69, Brandon Troup '95, Brian Kline '97, Wes Lobo '98, Clay Lodovice '97, Chris Cosgrove '98, Todd Feder '99, Jill Feder '99, Andrew Anastor '14, and Mike Squarcia P'22."

### Laura Lundgren '98

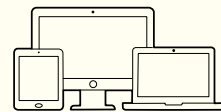
Lundgren was promoted to chief marketing officer at Scholastic.

### Maria Sigmond '90

My brother, Leif Sigmond Jr., was named partner-in-charge of BakerHostetler's Chicago office. A great interview with him was published Oct. 20 ("How I Made Office Managing Partner") on law.com.

### Kathy Sonier '91

Following a passion, Sonier and her husband, Michael, invested in and co-founded a baseball bat company, Delano Bat Company, along with four other co-founders. After several bootstrapped years of product development and brand-building, Delano's flagship bat, The Original Gamer™, launched in December 2025 and has been selling out drops ever since. Awarded "Honorable Mention" by online influencers, The Baseball Bat Bros, The OG has been used by high school, college, adult league, and even



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entertainment league players with high praise. The bat is fueled by a patented design and process to bring better performance and forgiveness to a traditional wood bat. The Soniers are responsible for marketing and business development of the brand and have grown its followers and subscriber base with user-generated content and guerrilla marketing. Writes Sonier, "It's been a fun pivot from Corporate America and a great way to spend retirement."

## 2000s

### Nkosi Aberdeen '06

I attained my Doctor of Philosophy in religion. Also, I am now a certified soccer coach: I attained the "Professional Diploma in Football Coach" from FC Barcelona's Education Division. I dream to be an assistant soccer coach and comparative religion lecturer at my alma mater, Lafayette College.

### Katie Miervaldis Bourque '07

Recently promoted to Sr. Director of Athlete Relations at OneTeam Partners, Bourque continues to work on the frontlines of the college NIL landscape bringing over 300 college athletes sponsorship opportunities over the last two years. She lives in central Connecticut with her husband, two daughters, and rescue pup, Fritz.

### Heather Slugaski Finn '09

Finn writes, "We welcomed a baby girl, Claire Frances, in May!"



### D. "Patrick" Gallagher '09

Gallagher writes, "We welcomed our daughter, Sadie Cohen Gallagher, to the world Sept. 9."



### Tyronda Gibson '03

Big news from Ty—I was officially a candidate for the cover of Ms. *Health and Fitness* magazine! I'm a proud math and economics alumna and excited to represent our amazing Lafayette community! More information: mshealthandfit.com.



### Abigail Frueh Size '04

Size writes: "A group of Marquis Players alumni recently reunited to see the Broadway revival of *Chess*—the very same show the organization produced back in spring 2001—celebrating a full-circle moment of shared memories, music,

and lifelong connection: Amy Stewart Sonin '01; Mike McFadden '04; Shannon Sullivan McFadden '04; Gaurav Gangoli '01; Donielle Gangoli '01; Courtney De Thomas-Shapiro '02; Abigail Frueh Size '04; Nate Loneragan '04; and Scott Wynne '02."

### Zachary Zamore '09

Caplin & Drysdale welcomed Zachary A. Zamore as an associate in the firm's International Tax practice group. Zamore's practice focuses on advising businesses and high-net-worth individuals on a broad range of complex domestic and international tax issues with a particular focus on domestic and cross-border transactions and the formation and management of, and investments by, private funds. Prior to joining, Zamore practiced international tax at two firms in New York City. He earned his J.D. from George Washington University School of Law where he was a Thurgood Marshall Scholar. He attended New York University Law School's Graduate Tax Program.

## 2010s

### David Bednar '17

Bednar, who was a top closer for the New York Yankees last season, including during their deep playoff run, signed a one-year contract with the organization in January. He was also named a member of Team USA for the 2026 World Baseball Classic in March; this was



# Alumni Memoriam

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

### 1948

Walter W. Hauser

### 1950

John D. Bennett Jr. P'84

### 1951

John H. Gross  
Ralph D. Stampone

### 1952

Abram P. Hays Jr.  
Rev. Arthur W. Nelson P'78

### 1953

Ralph M. Pidcock  
William J. Santo

### 1954

Gary Adams  
Robert A. Aiello  
Donald C. Smith

### 1955

Ronald D. Hochman  
Donald W. Lees  
Peter T. Standbridge  
P'81'86, G'18

### 1956

Dr. John M. Anascavage  
George H. Bartlett  
William Edward Glenney

### 1957

Robert J. Burcin  
P'80, G'16  
Malcolm R. Fossett Jr.  
Richard H. Morgan, M.D.  
Dr. John Henry Smith  
George L. Tiger Sr. P'81, G'13

### 1958

Warren R. Bechtel  
Robert L. Chew  
Raymond T. Hersh  
Raymond T. Pearson Jr.

### 1959

Thomas W. Hosking  
James F. Mallay  
Dr. Perry H. Rahn

### 1960

Stanley A. Bochenski  
William G. Crawford  
Tadashi C. Matsumoto  
John H. Saeger

### 1961

William F. Remaly  
Neville Harold Simpson

### 1962

Carl L. Barton

### 1963

Irwin S. Davison  
Robert B. Dinnerman  
Dr. Bruce Allan Miller

### 1964

Thomas R. Davis  
Stephen H. Green  
Alan R. Griffith G'22

### 1965

Paul W.K. Freeland  
Ronald S. Levitt  
Ivo Ucovich

### 1966

Robert Stone  
Wolcott

### 1967

Dr. Marc A. Clachko P'93,'98  
I. Michael Greenberger

### 1968

Richard F. Bailey  
Steven W. Boswell  
Robert H. Fiedler P'91,'94  
William R. Siebert

### 1969

Maynard S. Beal  
Dr. Paul Nicholas Van Loan  
James J. Royer

### 1972

Lincoln W. Craighead Jr.  
Jeffrey G. Gilbert  
David G. Kenepp

### 1973

Charles A. Bender Jr.

### 1974

Richard F. Engel  
Robert A. Jacob

### 1975

Joel Miller  
Raymond J. Nika

### 1976

John J. Churla  
Peter B. Merrill  
Lori G. Rubin

### 1980

Lisa A. Falcone

### 1981

Lisa Anderson  
Flanagan

### 1986

Dr. Lee R. Wrubel

### 1987

Anthony J. Rotondo

### 1989

Paul A. Verderber

### 1991

Keith W. Myers

### 1992

John M. MacDougall  
William A. Shaw  
Elizabeth B. Wroblewski

### 1993

Anusuya Balasundaram, MD  
Cortney C. Brand P'25

### 1994

Waddhana D. Nuon

### 1997

Richard Gurin

### 1998

Genine Darrough  
Schwartz

### 2021

Anna Esme DeVault

### FACULTY/STAFF

George W. Moyer  
Susan Niles  
Susan P. O'Connor  
JeNell M. Padilla

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.

the second consecutive tournament selection for the right-handed pitcher. Bednar, whose nickname in the clubhouse is “The Bear,” competed in back-to-back elimination games, helping the United States beat Canada and the Dominican Republic, and advance the team to the championship game against Venezuela.

**Carolyn Cabrey '12**  
Cabrey married Charles Kang (UVA alum, Class of 2014) Nov. 22. They currently reside in Old Town Alexandria.

**John (Jack) T. Cigno '14**  
Pullman & Comley announced that Cigno joined the firm as an associate in the Labor, Employment Law, and Employee Benefits practice, with a focus on defending employers against a wide variety of employment litigation claims and providing preventive advice and counseling on diverse workplace matters. He is based in Pullman & Comley's Bridgeport office.



**Amos Han '14**  
Han writes: “I feel the need to share this story about how kindness is contagious. I have a friend outside Lafayette, whom I will keep anonymous, who has been very kind to me including comforting me on chat when Lafayette football lost to Lehigh in 2024. I am emotionally touched by this friend to the point that on the day of this friend's recent birthday, I decided to pay it forward by being kind to others. First, I made a triple-digit donation to Lafayette football in

tribute to head coach John Troxell '94, who then reached out to me about how much the tribute meant to him. Second, later that day, I went to a local Korean BBQ restaurant in downtown Sarasota called The Bulgogi House, where I left a very kind note appreciating their hard work, on top of a larger tip; I was informed at a later date that this was a major conversation topic within the restaurant's staff. And finally, I decided to be kind to myself that day by minimizing and avoiding settings I have been frustrated with, such as grocery store parking lots.”

**Erin Kersten Mastria '16 and Michael Mastria '16**  
Erin writes: “My husband, Michael, and I recently returned to the Lehigh Valley and purchased our first home in Lower Saucon. After completing his anesthesiology residency and fellowship, Michael has begun his role as an attending physician at St. Luke's. I recently finished my master's degree in nursing and will be joining Lehigh Valley Health Network as a nurse practitioner. We are grateful to be back in the community that first brought us together and are excited for this new chapter!”

**Heather Phillips '12 and Peter Phillips '13**  
The Phillips family is delighted to announce the birth of their son, Owen, in April. His big sisters, Taylor (3) and Cameron (2), absolutely adore their new little brother.

**Brandi Porter '13**  
Porter is part of the all-female cast in the *Suffs* Broadway production, which goes through August, and

stars in the role of Dudley Malone. The Tony Award-winning musical addresses the women's suffrage movement. This is Porter's third time on Broadway.

**Joseph '16 and Jillian Rothschild '16**

The Rothschild family welcomed Fiona Joan Rothschild into the world this past November!



**Rachel Tenney '18**

Tenney writes: “This October, I married Sarah Rost in Northampton, Mass., with my dear friend—and college roommate—Marissa Laws '18 by my side. Kyla Dewey Metzger '18 and Sara Mikovic Stankewicz '18 were also in attendance. Just 30 days later, I successfully defended my dissertation, titled ‘Nitrogen Transformation and Removal in Facultative Wastewater Pond Systems: Environmental Controls, Microbial Ecology, and Opportunities for Process Optimization,’ completing my Ph.D. in civil engineering from University of Minnesota.”



**Anjali Toole '14 and TJ Toole '16**

The Tooles and their daughter Eliza welcomed baby Hannah Louise into their family Oct. 10.



## 2020s

**Daniel Ackerly '21 and Maura DiGuglielmo Ackerly '21**

Ackerly and DiGuglielmo were married Sept. 13 with many friends from Lafayette in attendance.

**Samantha Bluvol '21 and Bryce Currie '20**

Bluvol and Currie were married Oct. 11, 2025, at Crystal Point Yacht Club in Point Pleasant, N.J. They were surrounded by family and friends including a group of fellow Leopards!



**Sarah Frankel '21**

Frankel's *Everyman, A Morality Play*—a modern adaptation of *Everyman* that she wrote and performed while at Lafayette—was performed in November at State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota.



**Robert Gillies '24**

Gillies writes: “I'd like to share that I've started a role as a design and in-service engineer with the V-22 Peculiar Support Equipment Branch of NAWCAD (Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division). Soon I will be engaging in a rotation where I will work as a test site engineer for the EMALS (Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System) program, used on the Ford Class Carriers.”



## Marquis Celebrations

A look at the Bicentennial regional events that have been making their way around the country and Lafayette communities since October.



← The most recent regional event was held March 19 at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles.

In California, Eric Hupe, → assistant professor of art history (pictured, left), highlighted arts accessibility by way of virtual reality, showing the group, including David Fraser '69 (right), how headsets can transport people to experience art history sites around the world.



↑ Mentorship between head baseball coach A.J. Miller '11 (pictured, above) and Charles A. Dana Professor of Economics Susan Averett was the theme of the luncheon discussion held in February at University of Miami's Watsco Center. Afterward, the group took in a sunny baseball doubleheader between the Leopards and Hurricanes.

In the College's first → installment of regional events, more than 150 members of the West Coast community gathered at Oregon State University, even taking in a football game over the weekend—the farthest west the Leopards program has ever traveled in 144 seasons.



← Grace Moser '24, presidential fellow (pictured, left), assists alumni arriving in Austin last November.



↑ At the George Washington Presidential Library in October, guests learned about the special relationship between Washington and Lafayette, and received an advance look at the Lafayette exhibition taking place in Paris now through July 14.

**FOR MORE** More cities will be hosting regional events in 2026; stay in the know at [lafayette.edu/bicentennial](http://lafayette.edu/bicentennial).

PHOTOGRAPHS: LA BY JAMI FERREIRA; MIAMI BY ERIC GOLDSTEIN; OREGON STATE BY RICK SMITH; AUSTIN BY BRANDON MCKINNEY; GW LIBRARY BY LISSA RYAN



## MENTOR FOR STUDENTS

Jennifer Schroeder '15 is bettering the D.C. public school system and earning accolades along the way.

BY MADELINE MARRIOTT '24

● AND...

**M**iddle school science educator Jennifer Schroeder takes her students outside the classroom and into the community so they can consider the places that science might intersect with their lives. Rather than sitting through a lesson about littering, for example, her students get their hands dirty, seeing for themselves just how—and where—discarded trash makes its way into the water system.

Schroeder discovered her love of science when she was in seventh grade, ultimately going on to study biology at Lafayette. After graduation, she spent two years working for Teach for America in the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore areas, before earning her master's degree in education from Johns Hopkins University.

Recently, Schroeder spearheaded changes to the district-wide curriculum within D.C. Public Schools, working to prioritize growth of students from all backgrounds. "I serve a lot of students with language barriers and students from all different economic situations," says Schroeder, who was both a D.C. Posse Scholar and track-and-field athlete while at Lafayette. "We want to implement this curriculum in a way that ensures they can all access it and all retain information."

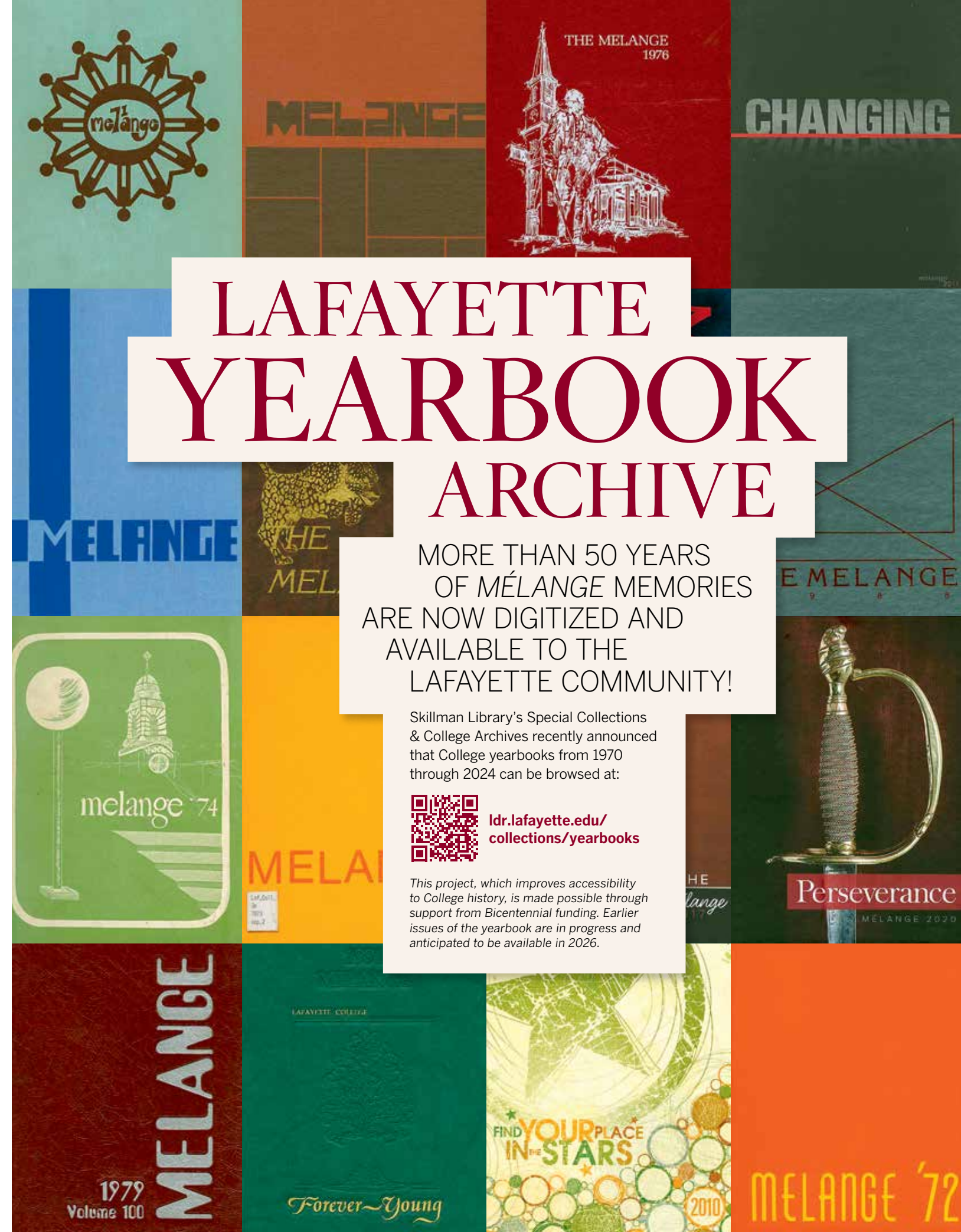
She has opened doors for her students to explore their passions, bringing to her school a culinary arts program, a business academy, and a chapter of DC SCORES, a nonprofit that focuses on both sports and poetry. Students stay busy yearlong, whether it's through soccer practice and a poetry slam in the fall or a service project in the spring.

"We help students not only to be active, but to become well-rounded, amazing human beings," she says.

These efforts have earned Schroeder recognition in her community and nationwide. Last year, she won the Excellence in Teaching Award, one of the highest honors in her school system. She is also the 2025 recipient of the Posse Foundation's Ainslie Alumni Achievement Award, chosen from among nearly 30,000 Posse alumni across the country, for demonstrating incredible leadership and success while giving back to the world.

"My Posse cohort challenged thinking and gave each other a safe space. We are still each other's biggest fans to this day," Schroeder says. "It's important to me to be able to give back." 

PHOTOGRAPH BY DIGITAL GLASS PHOTOGRAPHY



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