

THE GROW LAB ♦ A BICENTENNIAL BALLAD ♦ SUMMER GUIDE TO READING ♦ NEW COMMENCEMENT COLORS
STAR ENTERTAINMENT ON CAMPUS ♦ INVESTMENT CLUB PAYING DIVIDENDS ♦ CLIMATE ACTION PLAN APPROVAL

Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2026



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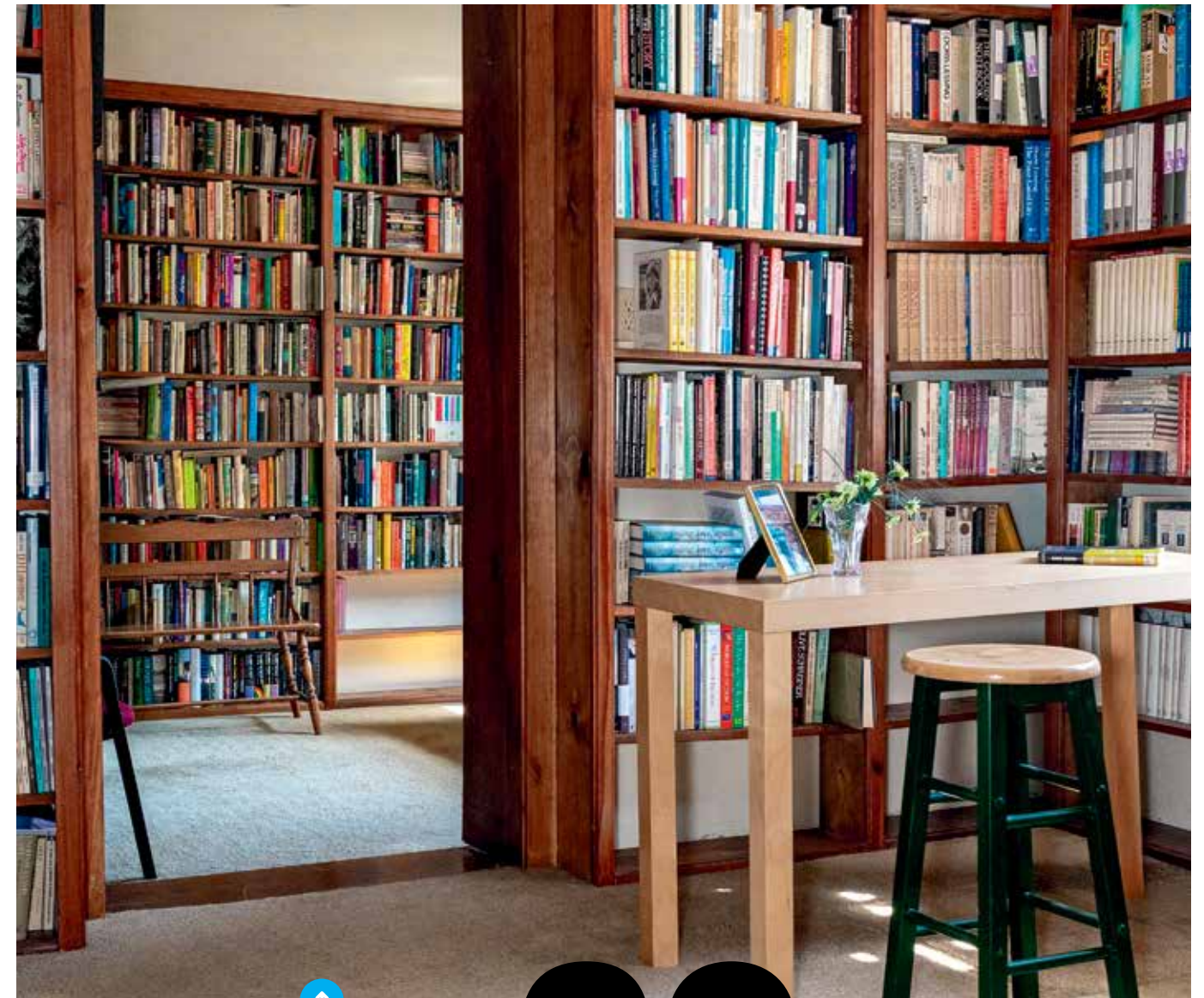


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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAQUAN ALSTON;
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THE ARTS
AT LAFAYETTE



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TICKET &
SEASON INFO



Going places

In this issue, faculty and staff contributed to a summer reading guide [“*Book bound*”] offering their latest recommendations from memoirs to science fiction. Charles A. Dana Professor Emerita of English June Schlueter, who shared what she’s reading as of late, has a portrait on p. 28 that’s worth a thousand words...or perhaps more, as she is surrounded by 15,000 books. Meanwhile, adventure was found across the Atlantic in the Marquis de Lafayette exhibition at the National Archives of France (pictured, above). Understanding other cultures is also a sentiment in the feature about globalization [“*In pursuit of a global mindset*,” p. 36]. Finally, read how students gain worldly Wall Street experience, thanks to Lafayette’s Investment Club [p. 42]. By the time the next issue of the magazine is delivered to your mailbox, the College will be wrapping up its Bicentennial celebration on campus. There’s been record-breaking interest in alumni gatherings like Reunion [p. 22] and the Maroon Club Golf Outing [p. 12], but there’s even more planned this fall with regional events [p. 8] and star-studded performances on College Hill. Find all of the information at: lafayette.edu/bicentennial. —**Amy Downey, editor, *Lafayette* magazine**

PHOTOGRAPH (MARQUIS BUST) BY JAQUAN ALSTON; (SARAH DOWNEY) BY JAMES T. GIFFEN/BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY; (KEVIN HARDY) BY ADAM ATKINSON

Sarah Downey
“*There and back again*,” p. 51

In her first article for *Lafayette*, freelance writer Sarah Downey interviewed Robert LeBuhn '88 for a Q&A about his new role as the head coach for the tennis programs. Downey is a 2025 graduate of Bucknell University; while there, she held an editorial assistant internship in Bucknell’s Office of Marketing and Communications and earned degrees in both Italian studies and political science.



Kevin Hardy

Kudos to senior graphic designer Kevin Hardy who just eclipsed 15 years within Lafayette’s Division of Communications and Marketing. Since his first contributions to the alumni magazine—way back with the Summer 2012 issue—his signature trait as a creative has been an unparalleled attention to detail. This issue, like the rest, has his precise designing throughout, whether it’s Bicentennial ads or a feature about Wall Street.



Lafayette

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2026

- Editor in Chief**
Amy Downey
- Acting Vice President, Communications & Marketing**
Scott Morse
- Assistant Vice President, Marketing**
Brittany Martin
- Creative Director**
Dale Mack P’24
- Designers**
Emily Graf, Kevin Hardy
- Photo & Video Team**
JaQuan Alston, Olivia Giralico
- Director, Digital Strategy**
Erwin Annulysse
- Digital Team**
Matthew Blackton Jr., Genamarie McCant
- Director, Advancement Communications**
Jill Spotz P’26
- Interim Content Director, Marketing Writer**
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- Content Team**
Bryan Hay, Kelly Huth, Stella Katsipoutis-Varkanis, Kathryne Keck-Harris
- Director, Athletic Communications**
Philip LaBella
- Athletic Communications Team**
Grace Royer, John Sabino, Courtney Svetik
- Assistant to the Vice President of Communications**
Terri Deily
- Website** magazine.lafayette.edu
Telephone 610-330-5120
Email lafayettetmagazine@lafayette.edu

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

State of evolution

From 1985 until her retirement this year, biology professor Nancy McCreary Waters has been a pioneer for environmental programs.

NH: After you arrived at Lafayette in 1985, you and your colleagues in the Biology Department built up learning opportunities for students.

NW: At the time, there was a single course: Organism and Environment. I updated it into our flagship ecology course. With other STEM colleagues, we began an environmental science minor.

NH: And now the College’s environmental studies program is a huge success. You created spaces for people.

NW: I’m really proud to have pushed for more laboratories,

and then having them counted appropriately in our teaching load. There were some lab courses, but few, and none field-based. Labs bring other disciplines together.

NH: It’s a real joy that we’ve named our Health Professions Network in your honor. What excites you about retirement and staying connected to the College and alumni?

NW: Alumni have a deep love for Lafayette. We partnered beautifully with the Gateway Career Center to bring these alumni connections to life.

NH: You’re a teacher and scholar, but you also sing and act. How has your artistic side been fed on this campus?

NW: A liberal arts institution fosters lots of different parts of who we are. I have always thought that maybe I brought different skills to my science because of my art.

NH: As we go into our Third Century, it’s a powerful time to talk about alignment.

NW: That’s the wonderful thing about the future of Lafayette: We aren’t just a job or school. We’re a community. I want students to think about that when they’re considering medical school, graduate school, law school, or wherever it is they land.

NH: Right. The College is an engine of opportunity and we need to make sure students unlock their potential.

NW: In HP Advising, we went from a ‘soft touch’ approach to more hands on. Why? Because with the turn of the century, students have needed more guidance to their own self-knowledge.

NH: You are described as a ‘true gem’ among faculty and a cherished friend to alumni.

NW: That is really flattering, but as a community, we carry a force greater than the sum of all the parts. There is a holistic way of valuing what each entity brings to the table.

NH: Thank you for enabling so many women, and thousands of students, to see themselves as leaders.

NW: Over the course of a 41-year career, I am grateful to contribute. The sacrifices made were truly worth it.

FOR MORE Watch the full *Third Century Conversation* at magazine.lafayette.edu/waters.



GET TO KNOW NANCY WATERS

Waters (pictured, right), the first woman in her family to attend college, studied biology at Saint Francis University and earned a Ph.D. in biology at University of Notre Dame. Recently retired, she received the Daniel L. Golden '34 Faculty Service Award in June.

EXPERTISE

Waters strongly contributed to shaping the Biology Department curriculum over the past four decades, including support for broader environmental programs, as well as neuroscience and other interdisciplinary programs.

NOTEWORTHY

The College just launched the Professor Nancy McCreary Waters Health Professions Affinity Network in recognition of her longtime advising role.

MEANINGFUL MOMENT

Waters is particularly proud of the David Nalven '88 Fund because he was a part of her first National Science Foundation grant: “His friends and family established this fund in his memory, and it has now served more than 70 fellows with summer research opportunities.”

LAST WORD

“Our identities are not unilateral. For me, this is the thing that resonates with us as human beings: We are not monolithic.”





TUNED IN

Reading about WJRH [p. 28] brought back wonderful memories of my time in the studio. Sometimes, I had to cover a number of shifts in succession, moving through genres of music (“pop,” then classical, followed by jazz) and using different voice qualities. In May 1970, in the aftermath of the Kent State shootings, we stayed on the air 24 hours. WJRH was a learning experience about the power of radio. We only had 10 watts, but wanted more! My best regards to those who continue the tradition of college radio at Lafayette.

ROBERT M. WILLIAMS-NEAL '70
Louisville, Ky.

Entering Lafayette in fall 1959 as an electrical engineering student, I was looking forward to participating in the campus radio station. However, the FCC shut the station down—I was told due to illegally increasing its power. The station never resumed while I was a student. Can someone educate me about this part of the station's history?
Mike McGrew '63

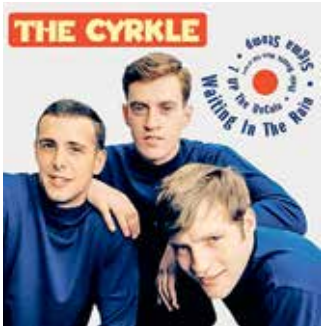


The story about WJRH's history was interesting and reminded me of when I was working in my senior executive role for ABC. We were, in 1999 or 2000, still very big in radio broadcasting, as well as TV, and I somehow learned the College radio station was in desperate need of new equipment. Maybe someone at the College had called me. It was about the same time our ABC Radio Networks was redesigning its NYC studios, and I discovered it had a lot of equipment in very good shape that it didn't need anymore. The head of engineering was a friend of mine, so together we arranged for it to be donated to WJRH. ABC Radio Networks shipped a truckload to the campus studios, where it was warmly received and soon installed.
Jeff Ruthizer '62, P'00

By fall 1964, I was working at WJRH helping Alan Novich '66, who had a radio show on the College station. It was called “Al Novich and The Sigma Stomp.” We were the Sigma chapter of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity, hence the name. Al let me help on air, introducing songs, doing ads, etc. One day Al had this brilliant idea to have call-ins from around Easton, as the station was strong enough to reach downtown, though people rarely called. At that time, some of us had phones hardwired to our rooms in the fraternity. My roommate, Harvey Lasky '65, and I had one, so Al had me call the station to make a request as “Farmer Jones,” which I did—and he ad-libbed the rest. Unfortunately for Al, the dean of students happened to be listening that day; Al was immediately banned

from the station and placed on probation. I suddenly had the whole show to myself. One of my best friends, Don Dannemann '65, was playing in the most popular band on campus, The Rhondells. In that band were Tom Dawes '65, Earl Pickens '65, Jim Maiella '65, and Marty Fried '66. Together, they became The Cyrkle [best known for their 1966 hit “Red Rubber Ball.”] Donny had a reel-to-reel tape recorder in his room and was already recording songs, double-tracking his voice and adding instruments. That fall, he wrote a song for me to use as my theme song on the station called “The Sigma Stomp.” This was unbelievably cool as I actually had my own theme song to play every day on air. We even did a remote broadcast from a store window downtown in the circle, put

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA



together by our brilliant engineer H.J. '65. Over the years, I stayed in touch with my fraternity brothers, especially Donny. I went to see him on tour with the Beatles in NYC. In 2002, an EP of extraneous recordings by The Cyrkle, including “The Sigma Stomp” and Novich's “Waiting in the Rain,” was released; it is also available on YouTube. Quite an experience for me and a lifetime of Lafayette memories.
Ken Fox '65



ON THE WEB:

“We love having the radio station on in our shop! Shoppers will say ‘What station is this?’ because it's great.”

—Yellow Balloon
Consignment Shop
in Easton

The station was my home away from home for all four years at Lafayette, starting as an overnight DJ to program director for three years. Mark Holtzman '80 and I called basketball games when Mike Bellamy '78 was ‘throwing up rainbows,’ and I got to go with him to Yankee Stadium and sit in the dugout and interview various Yankee players. I also enjoyed editing *The Rolling Paper* and organizing the voting and programming for the “Top 300” Weekend. (“Stairway to Heaven” always got the top spot!) My experience working at WJRH led directly to what I have done for the past 43 years: producing TV and radio commercials for various national brands. I may have been a government and law major, but, in practice, I was a broadcaster. Thank you, Lafayette and WJRH.
Mike Lagattuta '79

DJ Fontaine and I are still doing independent radio on WRIR 97.3 FM Richmond Community Radio in Richmond, Va. Once we caught the radio bug at WJRH, we couldn't let it go!
Tony Jordan '90

Such a great opportunity for engagement and expression. Way to endure WJRH!
Angel Mendez '82

WRITE TO US Have feedback or a story idea? Email lafayettemagazine@lafayette.edu or use the following mailing address: *Lafayette* magazine, Communications Division, Alpha Building, Easton, PA 18042. Letters published in *Lafayette* magazine should be a maximum of 250 words and may be edited for length and clarity.

Anna Georgiou '80: “I so enjoyed reading the article on WJRH and reflecting once again on my time there 1976-1980. By the way, I am the unidentified DJ shown in the opening photograph.”



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



FOR MORE
Check out the latest content from our communications team.

- › **Bicentennial Reunion**
Look back at the June weekend that welcomed a record-breaking number of returning alumni to campus.
- › **“What's Next” series**
Class of 2026 graduates share their post-Lafayette plans.
- › **Bicentennial events**
Learn about the special fall happenings that will close out the College's 200th year at lafayette.edu/bicentennial.



Lafayette College has planned additional Bicentennial regional events for 2026, taking faculty, staff, and students on the road to talk about their unique experiences and incredible achievements.

Alumni and friends will have more opportunities to gather with Leopards, learn from academic experts, and celebrate the College's 200th anniversary.

Aug. 28, 2026

"Students, Faculty, and the Power of &" at Northwestern University
Evanston, Ill.

Oct. 29, 2026

"Lafayette Legacies" at North Carolina Botanical Garden
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Nov. 6, 2026

"Lafayette Legacies" at John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
Boston



LEARN MORE
bit.ly/laf-1826



INSIDE

Noteworthy news and happenings on campus. **p. 10**—Board of Trustees names chair. **p. 11**—Record-topping Reunion and a star-studded Homecoming Weekend. **p. 12**—Bicentennial Symposium set for September.

On the Hill



Maroon in May

For the first time in Lafayette's history, graduates donned caps and gowns of a new hue.



PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK SMITH; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

LEADERSHIP

Board of Trustees chair
Jefferson W. Kirby '84, P'19,22 has been elected chair of the Board of Trustees of Lafayette College. His term began July 1, succeeding Robert Sell '84, H'18 chair of the Board of Trustees since 2018. Kirby, who received a government and law degree from Lafayette and the George Wharton Pepper Prize, is a managing member of Broadfield Capital, an investment management firm based in Morristown, N.J., and former chair of the board of Alleghany Corp. He has served as a Lafayette trustee since 2018 and previously served as a trustee 1996-2012. As part of the transition, Kirby will step down as chair of the board's Investment



Committee after serving six years in the role. "During his service on the board, Jeff has been an example of what selfless, devoted leadership looks like. His enthusiasm for Lafayette is unmatched," President Nicole Hurd says. "We count ourselves as fortunate to now have him in the role of board chair as we begin our third century." Kirby holds an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. He and his wife, Karen McCabe Kirby '87, P'19,22, reside in New Vernon, N.J.

SUSTAINABILITY

Plan gets green light
The Climate Action Plan, CAP 3.0, was presented to and unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees in May. The plan builds on CAP 2.0, released in 2019, and outlines



a road map to decrease emissions related to campus operations and activities in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035. CAP 3.0 has six main focus areas:
› Decarbonizing heating, cooling, and hot water
› Electricity solutions
› Transportation
› Waste and procurement
› Metzgar net zero plan
› Resiliency adaptation measures

STUDENT LIFE

Questlove on campus
Questlove—Academy Award-winning filmmaker, drummer, DJ, producer, director, culinary entrepreneur, *New York Times* bestselling author, and member of The Roots, Philadelphia's most influential hip-hop group—will be performing an exclusive DJ set at Lafayette College's Student Bicentennial Ball Oct. 16. The ball, one of the many events held in honor of Lafayette's 200th anniversary, is designed especially for Lafayette students to mingle with classmates, indulge in five-star food, and enjoy live entertainment on campus.



ATHLETICS

Maroon Club Hall of Fame
Five Leopards were named to the Maroon Club Hall of Fame Class of 2026-27: Whitney "Zip" Boucher '80 (lacrosse); Blake Costanzo '06 (football); Christina Giambrone '10 (softball); Loren Berkheimer Raab '00 (lacrosse and field hockey); and Jennifer Stone '04 (field hockey). Others to be inducted for their extraordinary contributions to Lafayette athletics: 1994 and 1995 men's soccer teams; and Francis A. March Jr., Class of 1881, the earliest pioneer of Lafayette athletics. All will be celebrated in November at Kirby Sports Center.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MERIS; SOLAR PANELS BY ADAM ATKINSON



A record crowd of more than 1,300 alumni returned to Easton for Bicentennial Reunion in June. Throughout the weekend, the Quad transformed into a festival of music. On Saturday evening, alumni enjoyed a high-energy set by two-time Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Maggie Rose, who delivered the performance with her bandmate Judd Fuller '83. Collectively, all Reunion classes contributed more than \$13.5 million to support the College this fiscal year.

EVENTS

Homecoming highlights
Save the date for the Rivalry football game, which will be played during Homecoming on Nov. 21 at Fisher Stadium; this weekend marks the on-campus finale of the Bicentennial celebration. Darius Rucker—Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter, musician, philanthropist, *New York Times* bestselling author, and member of iconic rock band Hootie & the Blowfish—will be performing that Friday. For more information, visit lafayette.edu/bicentennial.

COMMUNITY

'Pride of Easton'
The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce presented Lafayette with the 2026 Pride of Easton Award in June for its outstanding commitment to the region. President Nicole Hurd accepted the award alongside Pete Ruggiero P'20,'25, Lafayette trustee and president and CEO of Crayola.

During the Celebration of Leopard Leaders ceremony at Reunion in June, the College extended its gratitude to Robert E. Sell '84, H'18 for his leadership as Board of Trustees chair, a position he's held since 2018. He will continue to serve on the board for two more years.



ADVANCEMENT

Senior class gifts
This year, members of the Class of 2026 supported several initiatives at the College: athletic programs, student organizations, academic departments, and impactful spaces on campus. "We aimed to ignite a spirit of giving that will carry on after graduation," says Sophia Lombardo '26, member of the Senior Class Gift Committee.

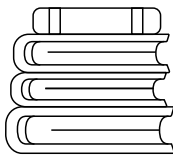
ALUMNI

Your feedback matters
The Alumni Survey will reopen in early fall, offering another opportunity to share valuable perspectives and help shape Lafayette's next chapter. Participants have a chance to win exciting prizes; surveys will be emailed via personalized links.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MERIS

RESEARCH

Goldwater Scholarships
Clara Witmer '27 and Maggie Pearce '27 have been awarded Goldwater Scholarships, one of the most prestigious and competitive undergraduate scholarships for sophomore and junior STEM majors. They are among 454 college students nationwide chosen from a pool of more than 5,000 total nominations. After graduating from Lafayette, Witmer hopes to obtain an M.D.-Ph.D. in reproductive biology and, as a physician-scientist, research the molecular mechanisms of infertility. Meanwhile, Pearce will pursue a master's degree in volcanology/petrology, with the ultimate goal to obtain a Ph.D., and teach and conduct research at the university level on volcanic systems, drivers, and eruption dynamics.



BY THE
NUMBERS
130
Number of College yearbooks now available to view online at ldr.lafayette.edu/collections/yearbooks.

BICENTENNIAL

Academic symposium

On Sept. 10-11, the College will host a Bicentennial Symposium centered on the theme of Democracy: Past, Present, and Future. The two-day event will feature 20-plus Lafayette faculty members, from over 10 departments and programs across every academic division, who will present their scholarly work in a series of interdisciplinary and wide-ranging panel discussions. The symposium will also feature plenary talks by two leading scholars of democracy:

- › H      Landemore, professor of political science at Yale University, a distinguished research fellow at the Institute for Ethics in AI, and an expert in democratic theory, political epistemology, and technology ethics.
- › Akil Reed Amar, Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University, and an expert on constitutional history, the origins of the American legal system, and the evolution of civil rights.

LEADERSHIP

Lafayette welcomes new VP

The College announced that Kristen Daily will be the new vice president of communications and marketing as of Aug. 17. Daily is an award-winning senior communications executive with demonstrated success in building high-performing teams and leading communications operations. Most recently, Daily served as associate



vice president for strategic communications and public relations at Stevens Institute of Technology, where, as a senior adviser to the president and cabinet, she guided messaging strategy, reputation management, media engagement, and crisis communications. Prior to Stevens, she held communications leadership roles at Drew University, her alma mater, where she earned a B.A. in English and theater arts.



STUDENT LIFE

Several clubs approved

It was a busy spring for Student Government, as 15 student organizations were approved for the 2026-27 academic year. In alphabetical order: BridgeEaston, a multipartisan group; Club Cheer; Club Swim; ColorStack, an inclusive club for computer science students; Como Se Dice, which has a podcast to amplify underrepresented voices; First Generation at Lafayette; Italian Club; Lafayette Applies Forecasting Community (economics); Leopards at Nite, bringing late-night entertainment (stand-up comedy, music) to the Leopard's Lair in Farinon's basement; Neuroscience Honors Society; Physics Club;

There was a record-breaking level of interest in the College's annual Maroon Club Golf Outing. Sold out by late April, 150 golfers played at Northampton Country Club raising \$134,733 for Lafayette Athletics—the most money ever raised in the signature event. Pictured (left to right): Harold "Hal" Kamine '78, P'04, '07, '11; Joe Maddon '76; Greg Durrah, assistant baseball coach; and former head baseball coach Joe Kinney P'19.



Pre-Law and Law Fraternity; Students Demand Action; Turning Point USA; and Women in Economics and Business.

ALUMNI

New spot for NYC party

The Bicentennial New York Holiday party will be held at New York Public Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building in midtown Manhattan Dec. 10. The College is excited to announce that renowned award-winning songwriter, actor, producer, and bestselling author Leslie Odom, Jr. will be performing at the celebratory event. "Leslie lit up the musical stage with his now legendary portrayal of Aaron Burr in *Hamilton*, a role in which he passionately animated a very human story in our nation's history," President Nicole Hurd says. "It's the same passion that powers Lafayette stories every day, upholding our legacy and the promises that lie ahead."



DID YOU KNOW?

Lafayette friends, families, and alumni are invited to return to Easton Oct. 23-25 for Fall Weekend 2026.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JASMIN LARA

STRATEGY

Alumni Board updates

John Mulcahy '87, P'27 is the new president of the Alumni Association Board, succeeding Fran Della Badia '91. The AAB has also unveiled a refreshed mission and newly integrated structure, approved by the Board of Trustees, to bring together regional and affinity councils under one leadership board to better serve the alumni community. To explore the new guidelines and committee opportunities, and to discover how you can get involved in this exciting next chapter, visit bit.ly/LC-ALUM.



PHOTOGRAPH BY (SWEET) RICK SMITH; (KLUG) HANNAH ALLY; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

COMMUNITY

Easton's 250th

On July 8, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was first publicly read in Philadelphia, Trenton, N.J., and on the steps of an old courthouse in the middle of Centre Square in Easton. This summer, on Easton Heritage Day, a ceremonial reenactment of the historical reading took place at the same location—now, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

ATHLETICS

Softball's breakout season

For the first time since 2012, the softball team secured a berth to the Patriot League Tournament. The program registered its highest season win total since 2009, with the following Pards notching milestones: Maggie Klug '26 (on right) broke a school record for throwing out baserunners in a season (19), ranking second all-time. Kylee Sweet '26 (below, right) belted out 15 doubles, the second most ever in a season, and 55 hits (third most in a season). Caroline Hall '28 set a single-season record with 17 doubles, and ranked second for hits in a season (56) and total bases (91). Sophia Alvarez-Backus '28 set a single-season record for saves (2) and is now the career leader (3).



RETIREMENT NEWS

Congratulations to the following faculty members on their recent retirements.



Kenneth Haug
Associate Professor,
Chemistry



Jeffrey Helm
Associate Professor,
Mechanical
Engineering



Clifford Reiter
Professor,
Mathematical
Sciences



John Shaw
Associate Professor,
Psychology



Helena Silverstein
Professor,
Government & Law



Hannah Stewart-Gambino
Professor,
Government & Law
and International
Affairs



Nancy Waters
Associate
Professor, Biology



Todd Wey
Associate
Professor, Electrical
and Computer
Engineering

IN THE NEWS

Ink for Adrienne

On May 11, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* published an op-ed by Diane Shaw, College archivist emeritus, about the historical significance of Marie Adrienne Françoise de Noailles, wife of Marquis de Lafayette. Shaw also noted the bronze bust of Adrienne, which was dedicated at the entrance of Skillman Library March 7, should be an inspiration to consider and understand the contributions of all the women who helped the United States achieve its independence.



The wrapped glass panels outside Hugel Welcome Center at Markle Hall are the latest Bicentennial accent on campus. The campus will close out its historic yearlong celebration in November at Homecoming.

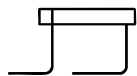


COMMENCEMENT

Art of happiness

During his speech at Lafayette's 191st Commencement, Harvard University professor, bestselling author, and happiness expert Arthur C. Brooks H'26 talked about

beginning a new journey of learning for the coming decades. "Everyone wants to be happier," he said. "These are questions that cannot be answered, but only *understood*, over the course of a life you are leading and will continue to lead."



BY THE NUMBERS

14.13

Seconds it took for John Liedtka '27 to break the school record in the 110-meter hurdles in May.

AWARDS

Société d'Honneur

Three new members were inducted into Société d'Honneur, Lafayette College's philanthropic honor society, June 4, for exceptional lifetime giving. With the newest inductees, Société now includes 160 members. The newest members include:
› Harry S. Cherken Jr., Esq. '71
› Gordon J. Macdonald P'89, G'19,'22 and Ruth M. Macdonald P'89, G'19,'22
› Douglas R. Marvin '69, P'04 and Judith A. Marvin P'04.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Winning innovations

The Dyer Center's ninth annual Big Idea Pitch Competition announced its latest wave of innovative winners.
› **Inline** (first place) by Daniel Danzinger '29 and Alex Tkachyov '29 is an AI-powered tutor that offers mentorship and guided questions to encourage independent thinking and learning.
› **Boli** (second place) by Kashif Chopra '26, Robert McClosky '26, and Liam Sawian '26 is an app to share folk stories, oral traditions, and cultural knowledge in native languages.
› **UNIPAL** (third place) by Bahadir Karabulut '26 and Abdi Kusata '26 turns college websites into a conversational experience.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON: BIRD IMAGE COURTESY OF DAVE BRANDES

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON: ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

In April, President Nicole Hurd and Bicentennial Committee co-chairs Wynne Whitman '86 and Fran Della Badia '91 presented a spray of maroon and white flowers to the resting place of the Marquis de Lafayette at Picpus Cemetery in Paris.



DISCOVERY

Bird behavior

Dave Brandes, professor of civil and environmental engineering, has a passion for wildlife photography that led him to a remarkable scientific contribution. While observing peregrine falcons last spring, Brandes captured rare images of fledglings feeding one another, a behavior known as "sibling allofeeding." Previously

documented in only two of more than 500 raptor species, this observation offers valuable new insight into bird behavior. He partnered with Mike Butler, professor of biology, to co-author a paper detailing the finding, now published in the *Journal of Raptor Research*. His photography also earned first place in the inaugural "Through the Wild Lens" photo contest at Natural Lands Trusts' Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary.

THE ARTS

A Bicentennial ballad

Kirk O'Riordan, associate professor of music and director of bands, composed a new Bicentennial song. His "Two Hundred Moments" received its premiere by the

Commencement Band as part of the prelude performed at the graduation ceremony May 23. A single-movement work for the band, three-and-a-half minutes in duration and containing exactly 200 measures, the piece is based on fragments of the alma mater and the College's fight song, "On, Lafayette!"



A

childhood love of building Legos is at the foundation of what moved Jon Tsai '28 to become a Lafayette-trained civil engineer. He recently applied those sophisticated design skills to create a detailed display model of one of the most recognizable academic buildings on campus.

Using 1,700 tiny interlocking plastic bricks that he sourced from boutique suppliers around the world, Tsai, a civil engineering major, has been working since fall 2024 on a tabletop "Pardee Hall" at the urging of his professor.

Details in his prototype are dizzying to behold from the moment he starts to delicately deconstruct the model, revealing dense layers of colorful pieces, some the size of peas. It's a kaleidoscope of engineering design.

As Tsai pops off its steep mansard roof, Pardee Hall suddenly seems like a Russian nesting doll, with ever deepening tiers of foundations and support pieces on each interior floor. From the towering chimneys and roofline dormers, to the landscaping and pillar-lined main entrance below, every contour of the iconic Second Empire edifice is captured in the 400 briquettes on each of the three floors and attic.

In Tsai's experience, engineering is always about finding the right balance



Modeling old Pardee

Jon Tsai's tabletop version of a favorite campus building is work at play.

BY BRYAN HAY

between the most practical and effective designs. "One of the biggest lessons I've learned from designing models over the past four years is how to approach seemingly impossible problems one step at a time," he says. "Creative problem-solving is essential when traditional methods reach their limits. But I have also learned there is still tremendous value in proven design techniques."

Tsai estimates that his model takes about six hours to assemble. "It's complicated, but in a good way, like a Rubik's

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAQUAN ALSTON

Cube. It's fun, simple, and complex all at once."

Mike McGuire, professor of civil and environmental engineering and department head, got to know Tsai in his ES 101 course in fall 2024, which focused on trail design around campus.

"What caught my attention was the way Jon drew on his experience designing models with interlocking bricks and used 3D modeling software to help visualize the trail design," he recalls. "That opened up a conversation. I was impressed not only by the technical skill involved, but also by his creativity, initiative, and entrepreneurial spirit."

McGuire soon learned that Tsai's other complex designs had reached an international audience. His Instagram account (@brick.naval.architecture) displays photos of his models of *The Queen Mary*, the *Space Shuttle*, and vintage battlecruisers. The French navy took notice of his work and commissioned Tsai to design a model of its icebreaker, *L'Astrolabe*. It's now for sale in the onboard gift shop.

"This has always been a side hobby for me," Tsai says. "Prof. McGuire just threw out a cool idea during one of our office hours visits and suggested pursuing something related to the upcoming Bicentennial. At the time, I wasn't so confident, but I was gaining experience with my work on the French icebreaker and decided Pardee Hall would present a satisfying challenge."

Tsai's project has been much more than simply designing a model.

McGuire says this process has required engineering design judgment, product development, international business communication, solving problems related to supply chains, engagement with College stakeholders, and project management skills that connect directly to Tsai's civil engineering coursework.

"It's made out of so many little tiny components, and the reason for this is because you want to get the shape and color of the windows as accurate as possible," Tsai says. "A major limitation of the model is that to get the number of details in such a small package, you need to use a lot of small components."

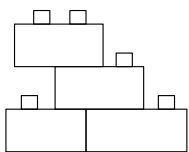
For him, this project recreating Pardee has confirmed his chosen career path as a civil engineer.

"I thought it was going to be really easy because it's just a building. You stack

things from the bottom to the top," he says, smiling. "But then it turns out you start running into scenarios where there's many sorts of individually impossible tasks that have to happen simultaneously in this model."

"If you solve one problem, you actually make other problems more impossible, and you have to balance this. It's very much one impossible task at a time," he adds. "I appreciate more how engineers do this on an advanced scale, and how Lafayette Engineering prepares you for every possibility, from design to implementation."

"This project is a wonderful example of how hands-on creative endeavors at Lafayette can produce a broad range of positive impacts, some of which may be entirely unexpected," McGuire says. "The talents and skills Jon has demonstrated, such as careful observation, spatial reasoning, iteration, patience, and attention to constructability, are the same habits that underlie strong engineering design. Everything about Jon's project reflects the hallmarks of Lafayette's civil engineering program." ■



Campus builds

As Tsai puts the final touches on his Pardee Hall model, his imagination has turned to other landmarks on College Hill. Here, he ranks what design challenge could be next for him.

1. COLTON CHAPEL
With iconic architecture, the chapel would translate very well into a physical model.

2. SOUTH COLLEGE
The residence hall would be a popular build given its significance to many students.

3. MARKLE HALL
Markle boasts a beautiful façade and is one of the first places families encounter Lafayette College.

Jon Tsai '28 creates scaled and accurate miniature models of ships, planes, and, now, an iconic campus building. —→



URGING UNDERSTANDING

Dexter Kennedy '26 leaves his mark on the campus and the hearts of its community.

BY MARGARET WILSON

Dexter Kennedy '26 promises that every conversation he's had at Lafayette has been meaningful to him—and he's had many. A psychology and art history double major, Kennedy originally came to Lafayette planning to be a therapist. Instead, he found a new path—one that builds on his talent for forging connections.

A wheelchair user, Kennedy has used his time in college to advocate for accessibility and disability awareness at home and abroad, while also getting fully immersed in campus life. From investing in the international student community and embracing new experiences in Salsa Club, to performing on stage with the Chorduroys and so much more, Kennedy can now add one more accomplishment to his list from Lafayette: 2026 George Wharton Pepper Prize winner.

How does it feel to be chosen by your community for the Pepper Prize?

It signifies that I've had some sort of impact while I'm here. I think it's really gratifying to feel a number of students have recognized me both as an individual and for the work I've done in different spaces. So many people just need to be listened to. And I try to be the person who listens to them and talks through things. The impact of this isn't very easy to concretely see, but that's where it's felt the most.

Can you talk about your time at Lafayette, and why you got so involved with so many student groups once you arrived on campus?

I was paralyzed in 2021 by a diving accident. I took a year off to learn about care services and to start figuring out my body. It was a really deep year of isolation, because all my friends had graduated high school and then had moved on to college. So when I



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAQUAN ALSTON

got to Lafayette and had the opportunity to try and feel like my old self again, I ran with it 100 percent. I found the people who cared about me, had passion or interest in different subjects, and it spiraled in the best way possible. I think that’s part of the reason I got the Pepper Prize: I have really tried to maximize my time here.

How did you personally approach living on campus and its accessibility?
During my first semester, I felt like accessibility just didn’t have to be so hard. And that’s when I emailed President Nicole Hurd, asking, ‘Can I set up a meeting with you to discuss my experience on this campus as a disabled student? Because a lot of things are difficult here.’ I had a wonderful conversation with her. And we started to do regular check-ins, and we started doing evaluations with Facilities. Eventually, ramps were added to places like South College, we added door openers to a number of buildings, and we identified some troublesome paths across campus that were either leveled or repaved. I didn’t end up getting elevators put in every building, but there’s been a lot of steps toward socialization and trying to move forward.



← When Kennedy spoke at Commencement in May, the New Jersey native praised the College’s campus community.

“Be confident enough and open enough to learn and to be exposed to the new,” Kennedy says.

How else did you increase awareness for people with disabilities?
Generally, the impact of my work is really just one-on-one conversations. I’m very open about my disability. I think a lot of people haven’t encountered young people in wheelchairs yet and don’t really know how to feel about things. I’ve seen a lot of attitude changes in my time.

You’re moving on to pursue a master’s degree in international education at New York University. What else do you want to do in your career?
I would love to work in higher education. I’m a pretty big proponent of college.

Lafayette’s ability to help me study abroad twice was major. I was in London and Amsterdam, and I went to a couple of different cities during that time. I think it was a big moment of ‘OK, if I can [navigate] this foreign city, I can figure out New York.’ I’m hoping to have more opportunities to travel the world, hopefully study abroad again in grad school, and be able to promote disability access within different countries. I want to be a world traveler and a world connector, both in New York City and abroad.

What do you want to say to your fellow students, either the ones you’ve graduated with or to prospective students who are coming to Lafayette?
My advice would be take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to you and put yourself in uncomfortable situations to grow. Truly feeling comfortable is one of the most incredible feelings in life that we can attain. This means putting yourself out there, trying different things, and giving things a shot that you might not know about. Be confident enough and open enough to learn and to be exposed to the new. And, finally, let others guide you: I have been able to make as much progress as I have through the mentors and friends I’ve had in my life—they’re the reason I’m able to be where I am. ▣

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE KUBEL



Avant-garde house

A drive-by site on campus gives artists an unexpected studio to display their work.

BY AMY DOWNEY

More than two decades ago, a small guard house was built on the southwestern section of campus on Sullivan Road near the Leopard Parking Deck. As the campus developed, the need for a security booth at that location changed, and the space remained vacant for years.

When Nestor Gil, professor of art and head of the art department, walked by it a number of times, he was drawn to the potential of the empty space. With a brick foundation, glass walls, and metal framing, he thought the unused guard house could be transformed into a place for artists to experiment and display their exhibitions.

Rebranded as gardeHouse, the name is rooted in French military origin: *avant-garde* meaning “advance guard,” serving as a link to the structure’s original purpose. The phrase, adopted into the art world to describe works that pushed new boundaries, would also be present in the themes of the various installations.

In 2016, conceptual artist Julia Buntaine was the first to take over the space: “Windows into the Mind,”

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAQUAN ALSTON

which blended art and neuroscience. The next year, media artist Ghen Zando-Dennis would use specialty inks and spray paint on clear vellum, and drawings and images of waterways; halogen lights filled the house at night.

Even more installations would follow, rotating in and out of the gardeHouse, with passersby catching glimpses of new artwork upon entering or leaving campus. In October, the installation by Juliana Soldat ’24 marked the house’s 15th project.

These displays have continued to be as vast as the artists who create them.



1.
Lily Dineen ’24 returned to campus in March and transformed the space into an “observation tank.” Images were made fuzzy with a texture of felt, a space always in motion, “festering in an environment when there is no room for separation.”

2.
Says Dineen: “In a cluttered space it is hard to decipher what is taking precedence in your life. The overwhelming presence of unfinished projects and accumulated nothings takes an unseen toll.”



3.
“Duuude (Shoot Your Shot)” was installed at the end of last year; alumna artist Emily Mackin ’24 used mesh, gauze, wire, darts, plastic, and packaging for a self-described “unflinching” exhibit.



4.
Mackin, seen here, operated in a tight space: roughly a 6x6-foot or 8x8-foot interior.

5.
The gardeHouse is an opportunity for pop-up installations by visiting artists. Visual artist and photographer Lydia Panas from the Greater Lehigh Valley will have a fall exhibition, while multi-media artist Mark Creegan, professor of art at Florida State College, Jacksonville, will display his work in the spring.

STANDING OVATION

Alumni led a memorable photo op at Bicentennial Reunion.

BY JILL SPOTZ

A record number of alumni—more than 1,300—returned to College Hill for Lafayette’s Bicentennial Reunion in June, participating in over 60 events. Alumni of all generations were represented, from the Class of 2025 celebrating its first reunion to the Class of 1951 marking 75 years since graduation.

Throughout the weekend, the Quad was transformed into a festival of music. Alumni enjoyed live performances from New Normal, The Hazmats, Sold Out Six, and Not Enough Jeffs.

Also taking the stage was two-time Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Maggie Rose. The Nashville-based performer delivered a high-energy set that carried a special Lafayette connection through her bandmate Judd Fuller ’83.

Whether returning after five years or 50, attendees shared stories and reflected on their time on College Hill. That spirit of connection was captured by Wayne Erb ’56, who shared: “I met my soon-to-be wife during my senior year. It was love at first sight! When we left the Lafayette-Lehigh football game on Nov. 17, 1956, to get married, everyone sang ‘The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi.’”

Additional memories were made on the field at Fisher Stadium during Reunion—this time, to honor the College’s Bicentennial.

What began as an idea for an aerial and commemorative photo of “200” was transformed into thoughtful planning by several staff members, the addition of a drone operator to capture images from above, driving golf carts to transport alumni to and from Fisher Stadium, and the use of a megaphone to ensure the photo shoot was a success.

Here is a closer look at all involved. ■



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MERIS



- 1 The formation needed nearly 200 alumni. Classes from the 1950s through 2025 were on the field and represented more than 70 decades.
- 2 Alumni Engagement spent six hours planning and designing the “200” grid, placing markers on the field at Fisher Stadium before the photo shoot so alumni knew where to stand.
- 3 Also there to help was John Mulcahy ’87, P’27 (pictured, gray shirt), the new Alumni Association Board president as of July 1.
- 4 Alumni Engagement, marked by their blue shirts, transported guests from the Quad to Fisher Stadium with golf carts.
- 5 Real-time images snapped from a drone approximately 150 feet in the air gave staffers on the ground a bird’s-eye view: With that helpful vantage point (and a megaphone), the crowd could be shifted into position.
- 6 Bessie N.A. Mbadugha ’96, P’29 (pictured, maroon shirt) was among those honored for their volunteer efforts earlier in the day at the Celebration of Leopard Leaders.

WHERE CURIOSITY TAKES ROOT

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS



Inside a high-tech lab in Acopian, students can experiment with soil and plant growth.



Lovingly nicknamed the “Grow Lab” and situated in the heart of Acopian Engineering Center, Prof. Robert Elliott’s Lab of the Total Ecosystem is a space where students can get their hands dirty conducting research.

In a series of 12 independently controlled growth chambers, Elliott (pictured, center) and his students manipulate environmental factors like soil nutrients and composition, temperature, light, humidity, wind speed, atmospheric gases, and more to analyze their effects on plant growth.

“Each cell is a square meter, allowing us the unique opportunity to grow substantial ecosystems and run quick experiments year-round,” says Elliott, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering. The state-of-the-art lab also features

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAQUAN ALSTON
ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

scientific instruments like anemometers (devices that measure wind speed and air flow), a wide array of organic matter and amendments, and \$40,000 worth of grow lights donated by Sollum Technologies. “It’s a really special setup, and there aren’t many comparable labs,” Elliott ’11 adds.

With this equipment and more at their disposal, students can optimize plant productivity and sustainability while pursuing a wide scope of research questions, Elliott explains. “Ultimately the goal is to learn more about ecosystems and how we can become better stewards of Earth,” he says. “Plants are intrinsically interdisciplinary, and there are so many potential applications—from environmental studies to food justice—and so many different ideas students can test and learn from in there.”

Students can take advantage of the lab through several avenues. Elliott’s ES 101: Introduction to Engineering Design course, for example, utilizes the facility for a class experiment growing basil in desert-like conditions. Others conduct independent research as EXCEL Scholars, through independent study, or for honors theses. Students can also volunteer in the lab.

For his honors thesis, civil and environmental engineering major Eli Byrnes ’26 (pictured opposite, right) spent a year comparing living soil systems with hydroponic systems to grow nutrient-rich basil indoors. “I determined the living soil system was way more sustainable,” Byrnes says, “which is important in a world where water and energy are such critical resources that we need to conserve.”

Working with Michael Bertucci, associate professor of chemistry, Byrnes found that the basil grown in the living soil system contained less nitrate—a chemical compound that occurs naturally, but can pose health risks when consumed in high levels. The Biology Department also provided Byrnes access to its autoclave, allowing him to analyze how varying amounts of living organisms in soil affect basil growth. This relationship-building across disciplines, Elliott says, is what makes operating this lab at Lafayette especially valuable.

Students test the impact of various classes of soil life (i.e., sterile, bacteria, fungi, earthworms) on plant growth.



“All the departments and professors across the College have been so generous with their time and equipment to help us explore new facets of our research,” Elliott says. “A huge strength of Lafayette is this collaborative culture and institutional support for interdisciplinary work.”

Byrnes says the opportunity to work with people outside of his discipline strengthened his project and opened up bigger scientific questions.

The freedom to design, build, and conduct a truly independent experiment in the lab was a hands-on experience like no other, he adds. “This wasn’t like any lab I had taken at Lafayette. It was one where the end goal was something I determined,” Byrnes says. “Prof. Elliott was very clear that at the end of the day, this was my

project, and he would be there to help me with whatever I wanted to do.”

That experience, he adds, has already paid off. “Just the fact that Lafayette as an undergraduate school provides these resources to students to do research to this degree is very rare,” says Byrnes, who is joining Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. as a water resources engineer in August. “Talking about this project during interviews and how it translates into the real world has proven invaluable.”

Elliott hopes the Lab of the Total Ecosystem will continue inspiring future generations of engineers. “I hope it helps students build an understanding and appreciation for all the services that ecosystems provide, but also get comfortable with approaching complex and structured problems through experimentation,” he says. Hands-on research, he adds, offers a different kind of learning from the classroom. “I want students to find something they’re curious about, and use that intellectual curiosity as motivation to learn deeply and continue cracking questions about the unknown.” ■



← Fatma ElBanna ’26 (right), a chemical engineering and international studies major, mixes substrates to create ideal base soils with Prof. Elliott.

Museum magnifique

Pards visit the National Archives
of France and spark
transatlantic scholarship.

BY AMY DOWNEY

From April through Bastille Day, *Lafayette Between France and America: History and Legend* educated museum-goers from around the world about the life, legacy, and impact of the Marquis. The free Parisian exhibition, of which the College was a major lender with more than 50 artifacts and items, proved to be a popular attraction for the museum.



← The floor plan consists of five rooms, in distinct colors, representing chapters of Lafayette's life. Here, President Nicole Hurd explores his time in America.



↑ Ana Ramirez Luhrs and Elaine Stomber '89, P'17,'21, co-directors of Special Collections and College Archives, viewed the curation during a private morning walk-through in April.



↑ A group of alumni made the trip to Paris in May, posing here on the staircase leading to the exhibition. These steps with the Frenchman's face have become a "selfie hotspot" for visitors.

← Forty second-year engineering students studying abroad in Spain and Germany received an exclusive tour.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE, FAR RIGHT) JAQUAN ALSTON



PHOTOGRAPHS BY (TOP) WINDING WAY TRAVEL; (RIGHT) CEDRIC BUFKENS SIPA

Panels about the history of Lafayette College were displayed prominently outside the exhibition entrance. →



↑ Vitrines and cases were designed to specifically show the College's objects in new ways, like the dual-glass-paneled *Hermione*.

In April, Robert E. Sell '84, H'18 observed the Bicentennial in France, visiting the National Archives with other Board of Trustees members. →



← One of the curators, Olga Ana Duhl (left) spoke on behalf of the College during a reception ahead of the opening. Later that night, she caught up with Virginie de Pusy Lafayette, a descendent of the Marquis (right).

by Madeline Marriott '24

photographs by JaQuan Alston

Book *bound*

June Schlueter, professor emerita of English, has a *legendary* home library.

Along with her husband, Paul, she once had accumulated more than 50,000 books in her house on High Street, situated across from McKelvy House. They have since whittled down their collection to 15,000, give or take, but even so, there's hardly a wall without deep brown shelves—built by the Easton Area High School woodshop instructor when the Schlueters first bought the house in the 1980s—stacked high with books.

It's common wisdom among bibliophiles that a book collection becomes a library around the 1,000-book mark. Picture a typical home library, already an impressive feat taking years for many to accumulate, then multiply it by 15, and an image of the breadth and depth of the Schlueter library begins to emerge. When you think you've hit the back of the house, down one step is another

room with a cozy chair and four walls filled with books. After wandering two floors straight out of a book lover's dream, there's still a third floor to explore.

The collection has some of everything: 20th-century encyclopedias and literary criticism, German philosophy and religious texts. And there are more than just books. Over the years, the Schlueters have amassed thousands of CDs and DVDs, and so many magazines that the ceiling underneath where they stored the collection began to crack.

The first display near the front door (and under the watchful eye of her Shakespeare poster) is her self-described “vanity shelf,” filled with the Schlueters' own publications, whether as authors, editors, or contributors. June herself is the author of eight books and the editor of nearly a dozen more, plus the author of countless essays in journals across disciplines.



In a book she co-authored in 2021, Schlueter tugs on the question of whether or not Shakespeare borrowed inspiration from other playwrights.





Before retiring in 2008, Schlueter was frequently spotted at Skillman Library. The Rare Book Room is named after her and her husband.

The books are otherwise organized both thematically and chronologically: Shakespeare and other early modern literature gets its own room in the back of the first floor; British and American literature line the walls upstairs; and entire rooms are dedicated to religion and literature and comparative literature along the front of the house's second floor.

Schlueter has been a reader for as long as she can remember, from chapter books about a rabbit finding its place in the forest to the encyclopedias on her parents' shelves.

"We all like to organize our lives according to stories, and books do it for us," Schlueter says. "The nighttime story especially puts everything in perspective for children. They're listening to a story about a lost pig or a creature, and they're also silently looking into something from their lives."

Almost all of Schlueter's reading is connected to her writing. She gets her daily dose of both in her "scriptorium"—a writing nook nestled in the corner of a light-filled porch on the side of her house. She spends her days wading through manuscripts and other old documents; her scholarship focuses on Shakespeare and other early modern English literature.

"I love the thought of discovery," Schlueter explains. "Maybe I won't discover anything, but that potential keeps me going back to the manuscripts and works others have dismissed as irrelevant. Some of them turn out to be pretty important."

When she does dabble in contemporary fiction, it's usually on the recommendation of former students

"I love the thought of discovery."

and colleagues. She recently finished *By Any Other Name*, Jodi Picoult's latest novel that follows both a modern-day playwright and a poet and musician from the Elizabethan era. Up next on her list is *The Correspondent*, Virginia Evans' breakout epistolary novel released last spring.

In retirement, the Schlueters have continued to share their love of books with the Lafayette community through their funding of the yearly Paul and June Schlueter Lecture on the Art and History of the Book since 2007.

The lecture, which occurs annually in fall in the Gendebein Room of Skillman Library, allows students to study the book as an artifact. Past guest lecturers include Mark Dimunation, chief of rare books and special collections at the Library of Congress, and Heather Wolfe, a curator of manuscripts at the Folger Shakespeare Library. [Editor's note: *The Map Thief* author Michael Blanding, who was the

2015 series lecturer, penned a feature for this issue of the magazine on p. 42.] The idea was born out of the Schlueters' shared love for the libraries they grew up visiting, Paul in Chicago and June in Garfield, N.J.

"It was a time when technology was really challenging books, so much so that people were wondering if we were going to have books in the future," Schlueter says of the genesis of the lecture series. "We wanted to do our share to keep books alive."

For those in a reading slump, who struggle to find time to read, or who don't know what to read next, Schlueter recommends finding a community of readers.

"Reading can be a solitary activity, but joining a book club or even having one person to do it with can be such an enriching experience," she says. "You can understand how people read differently than the way you do, and it can be surprising, like opening up a window where you can see something quite differently." □



A bibliophile's dozen

The latest reading recommendations from faculty and staff.

Stone and Sky

Book Title

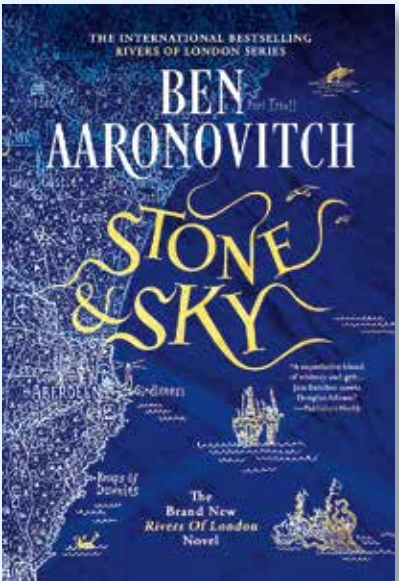
Ben Aaronovitch

Author

DAW, 2025

Fantasy, Crime Fiction

I've been waiting till summer to dive into Ben Aaronovitch's *Stone and Sky*, the latest in his *Rivers of London* series. Aaronovitch used to write for *Dr. Who*, and these books

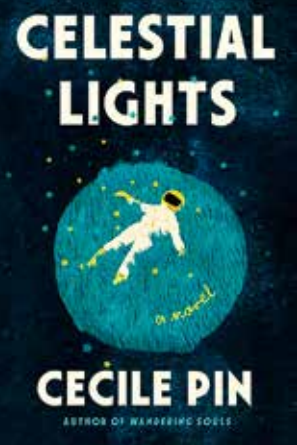


are mysteries following the adventures of a very small branch of London's Metropolitan Police in charge of magic-related crimes. The city's 13 rivers are ruled by gods descended from West African immigrants. Apprentices learn Latin, Greek, and spellwork in an old Victorian mansion maintained by... well, we're not quite sure what she is. And the head of it all drives around town in a vintage black Jag, dressed to the nines and ready to duel evildoers at a moment's notice. There's a lot of great London history, architecture, and contemporary neighborhood culture

casually slipped in, too, making this series a joyful, page-turning, nerdy romp that I've been following for a while now.

—CHRIS PHILLIPS

professor of English and department head



Celestial Lights

Book Title

Cecile Pin

Author

Henry Holt and Company, 2026

Coming of Age, Science Fiction

I would definitely recommend the last book I read: *Celestial Lights* by Cecile Pin. This novel is about a near-future crewed spaceflight to Jupiter's moon, Europa. On one level, the book is a space adventure, albeit a quiet and deeply sad one. On another level, it's a story about the costs of ambition, especially in a world where all of our great deeds seem to end up underwriting corporate profits. I just returned it to Skillman Library, so pick it up today!

—BRETT HENDRICKSON

professor of religious studies and department head

Babel

Book Title

R.F. Kuang

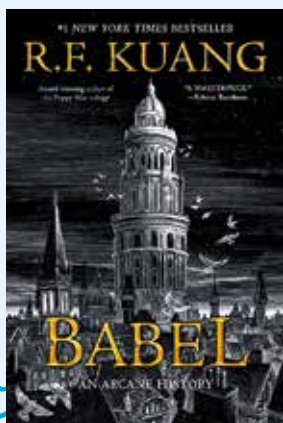
Author

Harper Voyager, 2022

Alternate History, Science Fiction

Earlier this year, I finished *Babel*. I've always loved historical fantasy, and *Babel* does an excellent job weaving together the historical backdrop of the British Empire, the industrial revolution, and colonialism with fantastical elements. While set in the 1830s, many of

the themes of *Babel* are incredibly relevant today—particularly as many of us are grappling with the implications of the age of AI and who “owns” knowledge. However, the magic and friendship keep *Babel* a page-turner. In fact, I just purchased *Katabasis*, another of Kuang’s novels (Harper Voyager, 2025), for my next summer read!



—MISSY NERINO

archivist, Special Collections and College Archives

The September House

Book Title

Carissa Orlando

Author

Berkley, 2024

Horror

I am a huge fan of horror, particularly stories about ghosts and haunted houses. When my friend suggested this book to me, I dove right in and was not disappointed. It has all the ingredients of a classic haunted house story: beautiful Victorian house, psychological twists, creepiness, and some pretty wicked ghosts.



—ANA RAMIREZ LUHRS

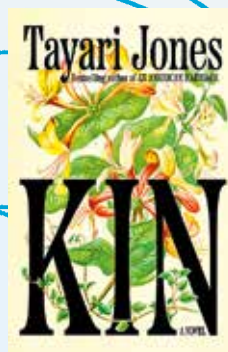
co-director of Special Collections and College Archives

Kin

Book Title

Tayari Jones

Author



Knopf, 2026

Historical Fiction

Presented through alternating perspectives, *Kin* follows two “cradle friends” as they take divergent paths as young Black women growing up in the mid-20th century American South. It is a beautiful and emotional story about love and friendship enduring through grief, joy, distance, and uncertainty.

—BRIAN TERVO

copy cataloging specialist,
Skillman Library

Packing for Mars: The Curious
Science of Life in the Void

Book Title

Mary Roach

Author

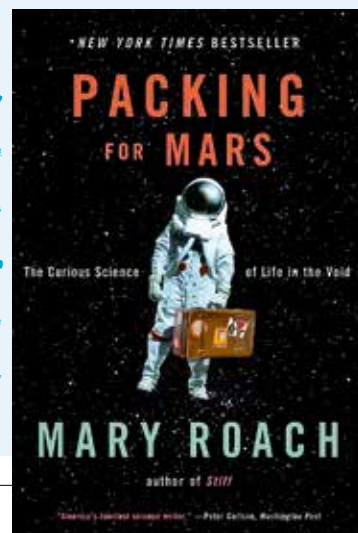
W. W. Norton & Company, 2011

Nonfiction, Humor

Mary Roach is the master of engaging nonfiction. This book, focused on the science of space travel, blends her signature humor and insight with fascinating, in-depth studies into what it really takes to travel outside the atmosphere. If you’re the type to wonder how toilets work in space, then this book is for you!

—MARGARET WILSON

interim director of content strategy and admissions
marketing, Communications Division

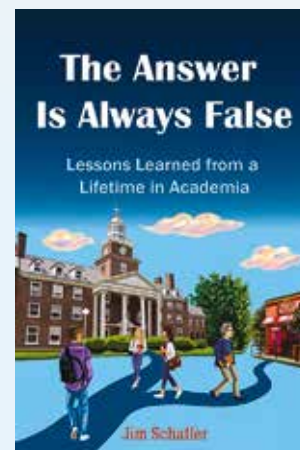


The Answer Is Always False:
Lessons Learned from a Lifetime in Academia

Book Title

Jim Schaffer

Author



Rex Press, 2026
Memoir

A fascinating new memoir by Jim Schaffer, emeritus professor of chemical and biological engineering. An outstanding faculty leader for many years, Jim’s book offers valuable insights into teaching, scholarship, and the life of Lafayette College. Readers well acquainted with Lafayette won’t usually be defeated by his tactful disguising of names mentioned.

—JAMES WOOLLEY

Frank Lee and Edna M. Smith
Professor Emeritus of English

At a time when skepticism toward higher education is high, this memoir reminds us of the unparalleled power of education to unlock a student’s full potential. Take a walk down memory lane on College Hill—maybe even recall a class with Professor Schaffer. It’s witty and inspiring, and a great reminder of the impact that Lafayette professors have had on our lives.

—LAUREN ANDERSON '04

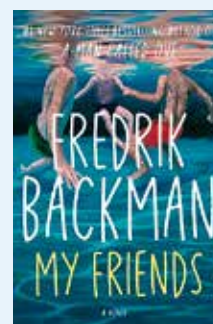
dean of faculty

My Friends

Book Title

Fredrik Backman

Author



Atria Books, 2025

Coming of Age, Fiction

Every single time I opened this book, I sobbed. The descriptions of friendship and finding peace in chaos are unbelievably beautiful and touching. I don’t think I’ve ever read a book that made me feel more than *My Friends*. If you like art and bittersweet stories, this one’s for you.

—CARINA WHITING

Admissions counselor

“

Some folks read a book a year, others a book a month, a few a book a week, and a very few read multiple books per week. (I’ve heard that Warren Buffet spends 80 percent of each day reading.) Wherever you are on the continuum, I encourage you to read just a bit more. One of the greatest gifts my parents gave me was a subscription to a book-of-the-month club when I started graduate school. Prior to that I was a couple-of-books-a-year guy (if you count CliffNotes). But then each month I received a present that I couldn’t wait to unwrap—Aristotle, Plato and Homer, Shakespeare and Chekhov, Austen, Brontë and Dickens, and my favorites, Hardy and du Maurier (I’m still infatuated with Tess and Rebecca). I couldn’t get enough, and the current book was finished long before the next one arrived.

Like all addicts, I needed more. Turns out they have these places called libraries. I stayed away from the classics, since I had a reliable supply of those. But what should I read? As an undergrad I had taken introductory courses in economics and philosophy, but I hadn’t taken them seriously. That felt like a mistake. I found those sections in the library and attacked them. I enjoyed everything I read about economics and most of what I read about moral philosophy. I was up to a book a week, and that’s the level I maintained from the age of twenty-two until I retired in 2024 at sixty-five. Now it’s closer to a book every few days (of any genre, but I struggle with poetry).

Reading is what helped me link ideas from my narrow technical world of materials engineering to the social, political, economic, environmental, and ethical issues that my students and I faced every day.

—JIM SCHAFFER
Prologue, *The Answer Is Always False*

”

Two Ships: Jamestown 1619, Plymouth 1620, and the Struggle for the Soul of America

Book Title

David S. Reynolds

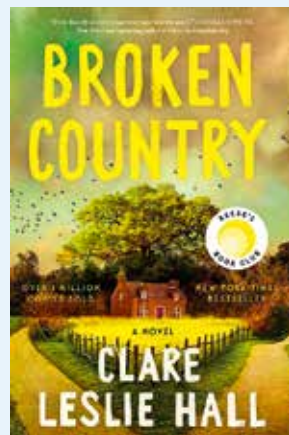
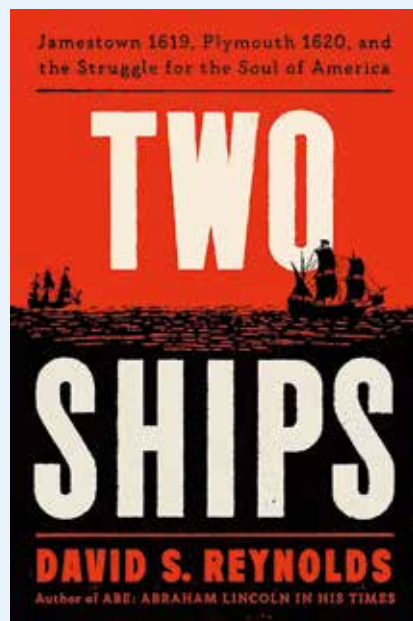
Author

Penguin Press, 2026
History, Nonfiction

This book is an engaging and important analysis of the struggle in American history between the political ideas and practices associated with the Pilgrims who arrived at Plymouth Rock in 1620 on the *Mayflower* and the Cavalier southerners in Jamestown who received the first enslaved Africans arriving on the *White Lion*. Abolitionists, including Frederick Douglass, frequently invoked the names of these two ships as symbolic of the struggle between free and slave states. After the Civil War, a Vermont newspaper wrote “the *Mayflower* and the slave ship have met in hostile combat ... The slave ship has floundered. The *Mayflower* floats in triumph.”

—JOHN KINCAID

Robert B. and Helen S. Meyner Professor
of Government and Public Service and
director of Meyner Center for the Study
of State and Local Government



Broken Country

Book Title

Clare Leslie Hall

Author

Simon & Schuster, 2025
Historical Fiction, Romantic
Suspense

This book has wonderfully flawed characters in Beth, Frank, and Gabriel, whom you really get to know and understand. No one seems thrown in here to add another character; every person plays a role in the story. Grief is at the center, from the death of a child to broken hearts, but along with that, also love and forgiveness. At just over 300 pages, it is a concise story without the filler. There are plot twists I never expected or saw coming, which make the book even better. I cried ugly tears reading this, but loved it and would highly recommend it.

—LAURA SIEGFRIED

department assistant, Government and Law

The Strength of the Few

Book Title

James Islington

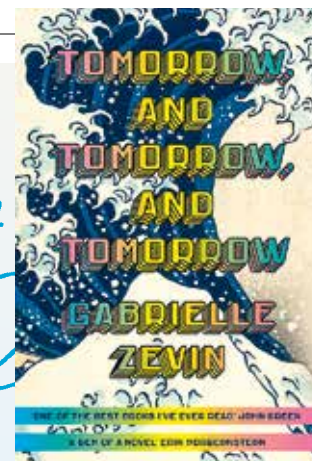
Author

S&S/Saga Press, 2025
Fantasy Action, Adventure

This is the second book in Jack Islington's *Hierarchy* trilogy, which was published late last year. It has been at the top of my reading list since then, and I have been waiting to have enough time to fully enjoy it. The first was one of my favorite recent fantasy novels, and I can't wait to jump in!

—MARK DALEY

assistant professor of chemical
and biomolecular engineering



Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow

Book Title

Gabrielle Zevin

Author

Knopf, 2022
Fiction, Coming of Age

This novel captures the exhilaration and the vexations of designing and building—whether it's the immersive video games created by the main characters, or anything—and the challenges and joys of collaboration. Utterly absorbing and wonderful to talk about with friends.

—JENN ROSSMANN

Jeffers Dean of Engineering and Baird Professor
of Mechanical Engineering

The In-Between: Unforgettable Encounters During Life's Final Moments

Book Title

Hadley Vlahos

Author

Ballantine Books, 2023
Memoir

Unfortunately, I have some experience with hospice care and believe it's an important part of life not often discussed. The stories here are about the people Hadley worked with as a hospice nurse, and I was fascinated by the care and the lengths gone to in order to make those moments the best for families and those closest, not just the patient. Although all these are end-of-life moments, the book emphasized the raw reality of life in its hardest and most dramatic moments.

—HANNAH TATU

financial aid systems and technology specialist



An ode to the independent bookstore

IN AN ERA OF CONTINUED CORPORATIZATION, THE LAFAYETTE COLLEGE STORE IS IN THE SMALL-BUT-MIGHTY GROUP THAT HAS REMAINED INDEPENDENT.

By Madeline Marriott '24

In Peter Violante's 19 years as the store's manager, the College has twice considered switching to a third-party vendor, but both times made the decision to continue operating independently.

“The biggest reason for that decision is remaining in charge of what's going on at the store and keeping in alignment with what the College is looking for,” Violante explains. “We control the pricing and which vendors and publishers we use for our merchandise. If we went to a third-party company, they would control all of that, and the store would look very different.”

The store's independence also allows for collaborations with local and national brands. During the Bicentennial, for example, the College partnered with Abercrombie & Fitch for custom merchandise and with Crayola for a Lafayette-themed crayon set.

Lafayette College Store is one of only four Patriot League school stores to remain independently operated, joining Army, Navy, and Colgate. Among 4,000-plus college stores across the country, approximately 300 are members of the Independent College Bookstore Association (ICBA). Alternatively, Barnes and Noble College, one of the industry's largest third-party vendors, operates more than 1,100 stores.

“What we have at Lafayette is definitely out of the norm,” Violante says. “The trend across colleges is to remain outsourced.”

Darrell Parry, currently the course materials coordinator, has been with the store for 25 years and has seen firsthand the evolution of its offerings.

“We used to do our textbooks in house, and we would spend the summer getting them ready in a giant section, just to send them



Lafayette's College Store at 211 McCartney Street.

back halfway through and start to get ready for the next semester,” Parry explains. “Now, students order textbooks online and pick them up in the store. That way, we're able to stock a much larger selection of trade books.”

The store, which has been on McCartney and High Streets since 2021, has fiction and non-fiction bestsellers, local authors, Easton history, and books by faculty, staff, and alumni.

“We have an entire section of alumni books,” Parry says. “I've never seen another college store be able to do that.” The section includes bestsellers like Ross Gay '96, Michael S. Schmidt '05, and David McCullough Jr. '80.

According to Violante and Parry, the store is meant to serve both the Lafayette and greater Easton communities. They host events every year from the Easton Book Festival (Parry is also the festival's president) to the College's English Club.

“We have a little bit for everyone,” Violante says. “People who want a souvenir, people who are looking for high-quality apparel, and people who want to come in and grab a book.”

For more reading recommendations, visit magazine.lafayette.edu/reading.

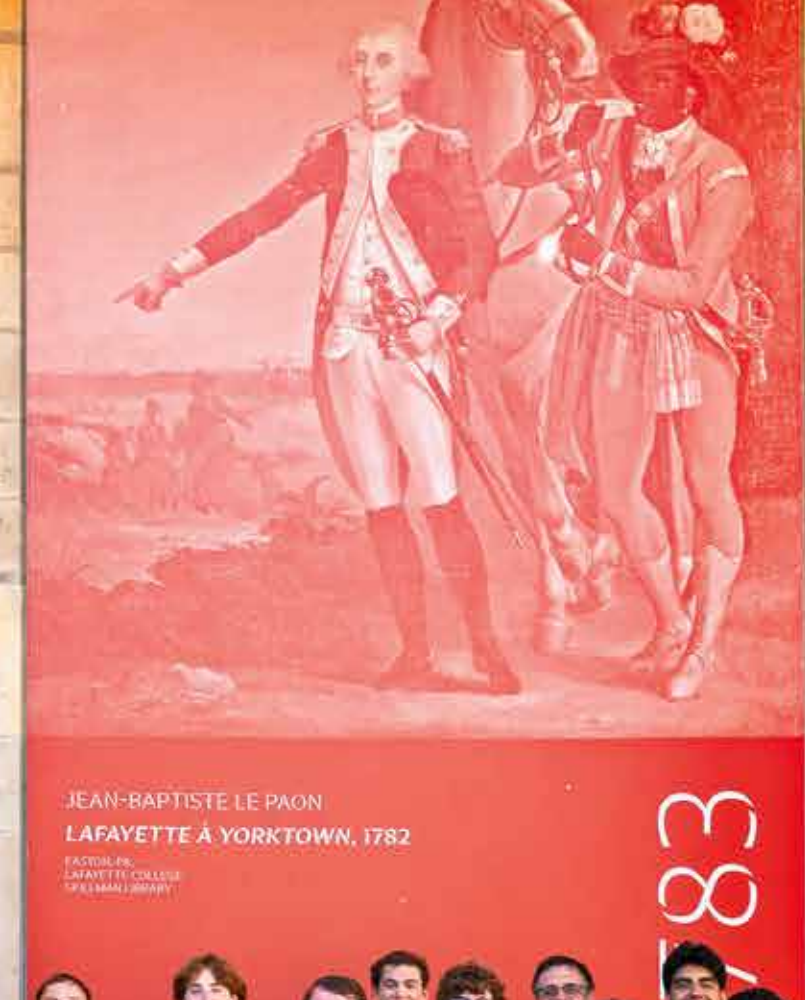
EDITED BY
AMY DOWNEY

photographs
by JaQuan
Alston

illustrations
by Mar
Hernández



In pursuit of a global mindset



In April, 40 Lafayette students sat down with five alumni at the National Archives of France for a candid discussion about globalization. The second-year engineering students were already studying abroad in Europe; half of the group arrived from Madrid with Michael Senra, associate

professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering and chair of the dual degree program in engineering and international studies, while the other half traveled in from Bonn, Germany, with Hannah Stewart-Gambino, professor of international affairs and government and law. As their spring semesters in Europe were winding down,



In conjunction with the College's Bicentennial, alumni (above and identified on p. 41) met with students in Paris.

Prof. Hannah Stewart-Gambino (right) taught a class on globalization in Bonn, Germany, this spring.

the students were offered an invitation to Paris for a special occasion: early access to the *Lafayette Between France and America: History and Legend* exhibition, of which the College loaned more than 50 artifacts and items. (For more on the exhibition, see p. 26.)

The students took turns snaking through the five-room exhibition, learning about Lafayette's legacy and impact on the American Revolution. They chatted about why the Marquis de Lafayette was one of the first true global citizens—and what he might make of the world today, from modern political systems to the heightened interconnectivity of the world. (One student suggested that the Marquis would love the concept of social media.)

By the afternoon, the group walked across the museum's courtyard and into a nearby conference room. Filing in quickly, they filled out the u-shaped table arrangement with an overflow of students perched along the windowsills. Sitting in chairs at the head of the room was the panel of alumni speakers: Linda Assante Carrasco '90, Sebastian "Benny" Crapanzano '97, P'26, Patrick Dieterich '93, Alicia Clark '11, and Gabriel Valentin '02.

Before the discussion began, Reese Michaels '28 thanked the alumni for coming. She and her peers in Bonn had been taking a course in globalization over the past few months, learning from Prof. Stewart-Gambino about global history and global systems through many lenses, including different cultures and political systems. "Through the readings and discussions, and our own personal travel, we've been

able to see the impact of globalization, economically, politically, nationally, and just in day-to-day life," Michaels said. "It's been really interesting."

The group soon embarked on more introductions, followed by a considerate conversation, thousands of miles from campus, about the power and ripple effect of a globalized world, and what it might look like for any given person in any given business. The balance of the hour was dedicated to alumni answering some questions from students.

"Globalization is something that is crucially important for Lafayette graduates, whether they're majoring in the languages, economics, or engineering," Senra said. "This is work that a whole host of individuals on Lafayette's campus are championing—having a global mindset."

From offering career advice to unpacking nuances in their worldwide industries, here's some of the best advice that was shared with students.



On left, the National Archives in Paris houses one of the largest and oldest records collections: a millenium of French history. In April, the museum hosted the group of students, faculty, and alumni from Lafayette.

Below, students considered the perceptions of the Marquis de Lafayette in the U.S. versus France.



Soft skills empower you to work anywhere in the world.

At any given time, Crapanzano, managing director at Morgan Stanley, could be traveling to Paris, London, Tokyo, São Paulo, and beyond for business. (He happened to be working at the Paris office the day he met with students.) Driven by the surge in tech, he shared that the global finance industry in which he operates is more connected than ever before.

And when different languages present a barrier, soft skills can help to unlock some key messaging that would have been otherwise lost in translation. "You don't necessarily have to know the language, but you need to pick up on cues and have vehicles to communicate," said Crapanzano, noting that cultural immersion is the best and fastest way to do this.

Active listening, paying attention to body language, and being flexible are all mutually beneficial strengths. Focus on what's being said just as much as how it's being said.

These were all habits that trilingual Valentin, who was born in France, practiced when he was a student at Lafayette in a time when there were few international students on campus. "Lafayette was my first introduction to globalization and understanding different cultures," Valentin said. While on College Hill, he studied economics and business, and Spanish; after

graduating in the early 2000s, he soon began his career in marketing, working for world-wide brands Colgate-Palmolive and Bacardi.

Leading global campaigns and teams, Valentin knows how to grasp various cultures in order to tailor—and successfully land—a specific product or messaging to different audiences. Although he's been in Paris for more than 15 years, he's also spent time living in Spain and London. "It's about understanding local things to make it global, and vice versa," Valentin said. "You cannot make something global if you don't have any idea of how people live and their experiences."

Moving up might mean moving.

Throughout the span of any career, a number of relocations, traveling roles, or positions in different cities will present themselves—and it's important to entertain them.

Dieterich's journey with globalization began immediately after graduating from Lafayette in the early '90s, when he left for Turkey to teach English for two years, and he never stopped. The international affairs major would join the Peace Corps in Cameroon for the next two years, focusing on HIV prevention, micro business, and public education, later earning a master's degree in management from Thunderbird School of Global Management.

When he started working for a sporting goods startup that made gloves for receivers in the NFL, they tapped Dieterich, who had experience working outside the United States, to visit the production facility in Pakistan and investigate an issue with production. While there, he helped move production from Pakistan to Sri Lanka. Different stops in his career have required him to move to Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and back to Turkey to start an agricultural company, and then to the south of France. Said Dieterich: "I couldn't be more international if I tried."

For more than a decade, he's been the general manager of Nuseed Europe, an Australian company based in France. "Without a doubt, having the experience of learning about different cultures, and speaking different languages, is only going to serve



Problem-Solving
"Do the work and be resourceful," Linda Assante Carrasco said. "Always bring a solution to a problem."



Critical Thinking
Being able to objectively analyze and synthesize ideas is a pillar of the liberal arts education—and of globalization.

you better as you build your career,” Dieterich said. “Companies are going to have international divisions that need someone with the expertise and knowledge and level of comfort to be able to operate in those different environments.”

You don’t necessarily have to plan on packing your bags the day after graduation, like Dieterich, but you should be open to opportunities either to travel or relocate. “Be ready to raise your hand for those opportunities while you can,” Crapanzano said. “Especially at points early in your life, and early in your career, when it is logistically easier than doing it later.”

Clark, for example, met her husband while she was doing postdoc research in Washington. He had a research opportunity in France, so she decided to join him during COVID. Professionally, she says, the move opened up a lot of opportunities that she wouldn’t have had previously. She eventually pivoted to work for an American company (in France) that published textbooks, which tapped into her mechanical engineering degree and the teaching she did during graduate school. Now, she works for an X-ray research



Networking
Deepening connections and engagement in Easton, Lehigh Valley, and the world are priorities of the College’s strategic plan.



As the world becomes more interconnected, engineers like the students above will need to embrace systemic design for complex problems.



Above, Gabriel Valentin spends extra time talking to students.

“A whole host of individuals at Lafayette are championing a global education and mindset,” Prof. Michael Senra said.



Change is constant in a global market. Be flexible and resilient.

Whether it’s politics or a pandemic, developments or crises around the world are constantly shaping business. First piece of advice? Take a deep breath. Then, reason with your head, use your experience, and get comfortable knowing this won’t be the last time things change.

facility as a software engineer, a space she said was a good example of globalization: “There are users who access the facility from all around the world, so I get to meet people from many countries all of the time.”

Assante Carrasco, whose career has been in private equity, offered that there’s value in saying “yes” far more than you say “no.” She recalled her first experience abroad, as an economics and business major with an internship at the London Stock Exchange. She and her husband, Marc, wanted other students to benefit from that same kind of enrichment and global engagement, but understood traveling costs can make it difficult. So they established the Global Learning and Community Engagement Fund in 2012, in which Lafayette scholars from all majors can apply for aid to travel in order to research their theses.

Earlier in her career, one of her first clients was the United Nations. “They really are the ultimate global organization,” she said. While the task of working with multiple foreign countries may have been daunting for some, she bought an international phrase book, learned how to say “hello” and “thank you” wherever her feet were, and never looked back. “I could have never imagined the places my career has taken me.”

“Globalization is part and parcel of the industry. You can pick any period of time in finance and there will be events that have a sizable impact,” Crapanzano said, recounting the tech bubble bursting in the early 2000s and its cascading effect. “Something would happen in the global economy, and there would be a reaction from regulators around the globe.” Over the years, Crapanzano has noticed a much more collaborative dialogue in regulating, and thinks this trend will get even stronger, making global finance feel like even a smaller world than it is today.

Adaptability is key. Due to a decline in the global spirits market, Valentin noted that many companies have been merging together, buying smaller local brands, and trying newer markets—India, for example, has the fastest growing alcohol market in the world right now. “You have to understand where the markets are and when a big market is losing,” he said. “You see the map and it’s like, ‘OK, who is doing what?’”

Lately, Clark has noticed a shift in talent recruitment, one that benefits European research. With recent challenges getting a U.S. work visa and decreased funding for U.S. research, international students are being drawn to Europe for opportunities. As a software developer at European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, she’s also anticipating a shift in the industry because AI is so efficient. “I don’t think it’s quite at a level to replace humans, and probably never will be, but it can be very useful.”

With AI accelerating and deepening globalization, Assante Carrasco mentioned two areas being impacted: the staggering early bets in AI (“People are investing at a magnitude we certainly haven’t seen before,” she explained), and the power required to support the data centers. Although the U.S. has been at the forefront of building infrastructure, there is a need for power—all kinds.

Crapanzano already sees the tech being rolled out in spaces like wealth management and portfolio assistance, but thinks it will take some time to understand its biggest effects. “We know it’s going to be an efficiency tool on a scale we haven’t seen before, but it’s a slower burn,” he said. “We have had



Communication
Even if you don’t know the language, you need to be aware of nonverbal cues and nuances in various cultures.

WORLDLY ADVICE

Introducing the alumni behind the globalization panel.



Gabriel Valentin '02
Global marketing for spirits and luxe brands



Linda Assante Carrasco '90
Institutional private market investor



Patrick Dieterich '93
General manager at Nuseed Europe



Benny Crapanzano '97, P'26
Managing director, Morgan Stanley



Alicia Clark '11
Software engineer and data scientist

“Be ready to raise your hand for opportunities,” Benny Crapanzano said.

cycles of innovation like this in the past, and there are always winners and losers who come out of it. That’s where we are now—who is going to be Meta or Facebook versus Netscape?”



Creativity
Part of being a Lafayette engineer, Hannah Stewart-Gambino said, is having a better imagination of the unknowns.

Let curiosity curate your future career.

Crapanzano’s career choice, he said, has made him a better global citizen. “It’s certainly made me more aware of things happening outside New York and outside the U.S.”

Assante Carrasco told the students the ability to communicate, and connect, across languages is so critical, but the starting point of that? Being able to think analytically.

“What’s funny about globalization is it creates a state of mind to be even more curious about your own culture,” Valentin said.

In the Paris conference room, one student asked for advice on navigating the tough job market. Valentin said to try and be patient and learn from the journey itself. For example, he didn’t know about his interest in marketing until he took a class on it at Lafayette. After he graduated and returned to Europe, he continued his studies by completing a master’s degree and an MBA in marketing. “It came together in an ephemeral way, but it took some time,” he said.

Crapanzano suggested that while the stress of finding a job right now is real, the opportunities are also greater. And oftentimes, finding a job adjacent to your goals could be just as useful. “Don’t feel pressure to find the role you’re going to love for the rest of your life—because it’s probably not going to be, right?”

Other advice from the alumni panel: Surround yourself with people whom you respect and can learn from, find something you’re passionate about.

And, above everything else, be curious about the world. **■**



'STREET' SMARTS

BY MICHAEL BLANDING

ILLUSTRATION BY
FRANZISKA BARCZYK

THROUGH LAFAYETTE'S INVESTMENT CLUB,
STUDENTS PREPARE FOR WALL STREET
CAREERS BY LEARNING TO BUY AND
SELL STOCKS WITH REAL MONEY.

On a recent Friday afternoon, Hasnat Aslam '27 stepped to the front of a lecture hall in Simon Center for Economics and Business with a pitch: Buy Uber.

Facing him were several dozen members of the student-run Lafayette Investment Club, munching on pizza as they sat ready to analyze the fundamentals of his proposition. "Uber's share price has taken a beating because of the rise of autonomous vehicles," Aslam began, standing next to his pitch partner, Lorenzo Marsili '27. "People are thinking that these ride-share companies are going to get substituted onto platforms like Waymo and Tesla."

But that thinking is wrong, he continued. Uber's significant first-mover advantage in the ride-share industry ensured it had a big enough moat to stave off competitors. "While we might not know yet who will win the AV wars, they'll want access to Uber's platform in order to gain access to customers," he said. After he and Marsili finished their pitch, the room erupted in questions: *Why would we bet on Uber over massive companies such as Google? What role did ancillary businesses such as Uber Eats play in their predictions for success?*

Aslam and Marsili firmly responded to the concerns. In fact, Uber was already heavily investing in its own AVs through partnerships with companies such as Lucid and Rivian, they reasoned. And its logistics and



“When you go to the gym, you need six months before you see muscles developing,” Aslam says, “but markets tell you immediately whether you are right or wrong. It really allows you to put your perspectives to the test.”

delivery services were already providing more revenue than ride sharing. “There are a lot of underappreciated components of the business that are going to lead to future profits,” Aslam concluded. After the discussion, students proceeded to a vote, scanning one of two QR codes projected on the screens in the front of the room to indicate a “Yes” or “No” vote on the sale.

When all the votes were tallied, Aslam and Marsili carried the day, with a commitment of \$20,000 from the club to invest in Uber stock.

The students celebrated as they made their way back to their seats, another real-world stock trade to add to Lafayette’s growing portfolio. This fall, Aslam and Marsili will become co-presidents of the club, which offers a unique opportunity for students to make hands-on investment decisions with real money as they add to a portfolio that’s grown for 80 years. “The first time I made a pitch, it was definitely nerve-wracking, because you want to get it right,” Marsili says now. “But now that we’ve been doing it for a few years, it’s more fun than anything else—just to be able to give a good pitch, explain your reasoning, and engage in good intellectual back-and-forth.”

Founded in 1946, the Lafayette Investment Club is the oldest extant student investment club in the country, growing from an initial seed of \$3,000. “What I usually say to people is we’re the oldest club in the

country, therefore we’re the weirdest,” jokes faculty adviser Michael Kelly, associate professor of economics. Investment clubs at other institutions are often tightly controlled, tied to a particular class in which students compete to make the most money through investments, or overseen by professors or MBA students. By contrast, Lafayette is entirely run by undergraduate students, who make all of the investment decisions.

Kelly follows a tradition, laid down from the beginning of the club, not to override student decisions, but rather to let them sink or swim on their own. “My role is to sit in the back of the room and make sure they don’t break the law,” Kelly says. It’s a formula that’s worked surprisingly well, as the club’s assets under management have grown to over \$1.6 million. Unlike those competitive clubs encouraging wild bets, Lafayette’s club favors a

balanced portfolio grown slowly over time (see “Asset Tracker,” opposite page). “Students take it extremely seriously,” Kelly says.

The membership of more than 150 students learn how to analyze companies and build financial models as they take turns making pitches to buy and sell stocks in a portfolio that now encompasses about 60 stocks, divided among tech, healthcare, financial, consumer, and industrial categories. The hands-on experience they gain from the experience is crucial to giving them a leg-up in interviews with Wall Street financial firms as they chart their future. “If they go into finance, they probably won’t be in charge of a portfolio again until they’re at least 15 years into their careers,” Kelly says. “This is their chance to be making the decisions.”

A solid record

The history of Lafayette Investment Club goes back to the end of World War II, when an officer named Maj. John H. Tarbell was assigned to teach GIs about finance at American Army University in Biarritz, France, to aid in their transition to a peacetime career. Tarbell was a distinguished economist, having studied at Syracuse, Cornell, and Princeton, and taught at University of Illinois; in the 1930s, he’d been among those helping to write the law to establish the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Now, a group of his soldier-students asked for help investing in the stock market, passing the hat to raise \$3,000 in seed money—equivalent to about \$50,000 today.

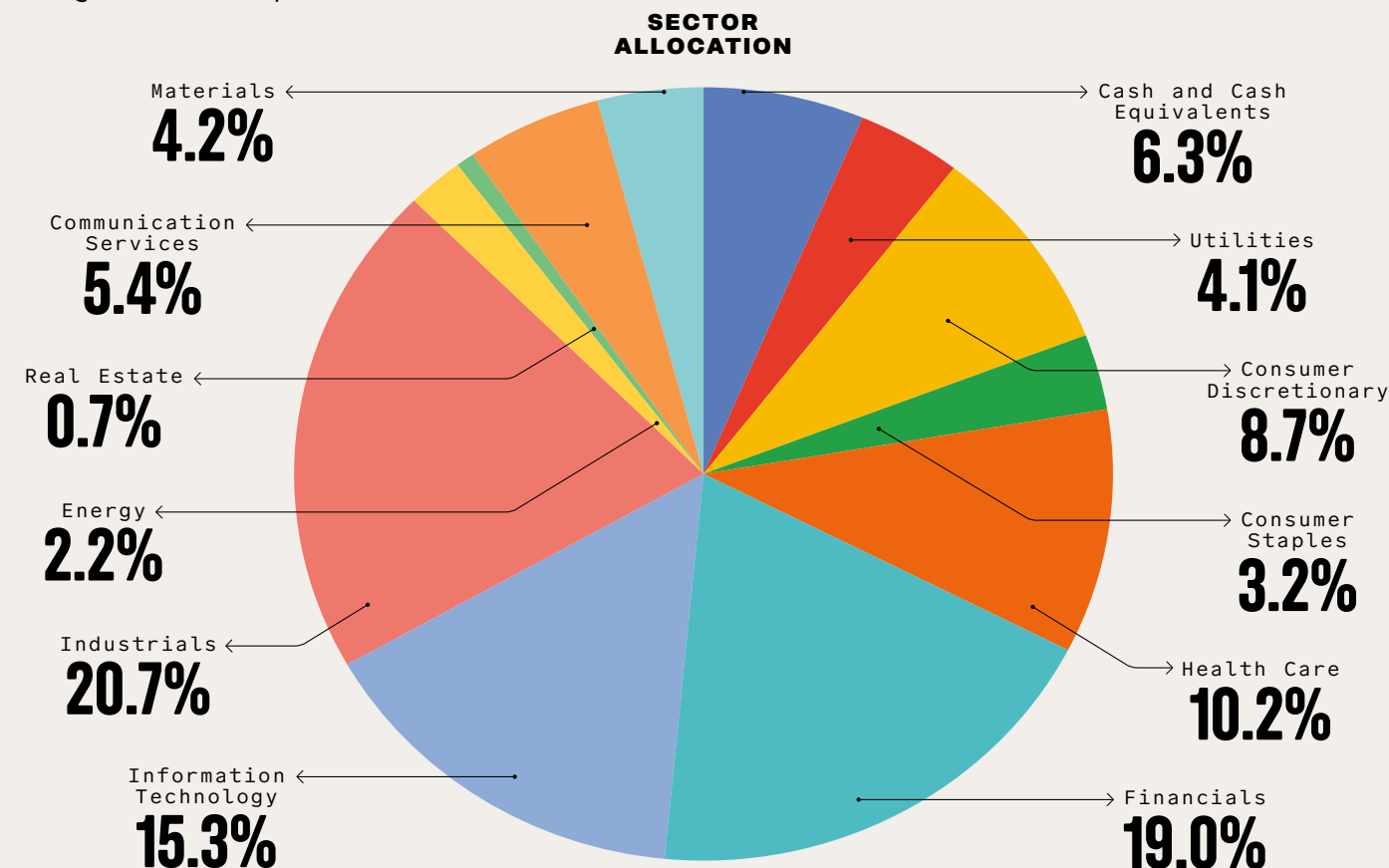
By the time they gathered the cash, however, they were sent home, back to the States. They asked Tarbell to use the funds to create a laboratory where he could “play with” the money, as he later said, and send them tips for their own investments. He took the money back to University of Illinois, but a surge in post-war admissions left him without housing. Seeing an opportunity, the dean of students at Lafayette, Frank Hunt, invited Tarbell to teach in Easton as part of a group of new hires in the economics department.

True to his word, Tarbell created the Lafayette Veterans Research Investment Foundation, purchasing his first stock through the fund in September 1946. As he made more investments, he tracked the progress and diligently reported results back to the group of veterans who had provided the initial funds. By the time he retired 20 years later, the \$3,000 had grown to \$90,000. At that point, he donated some of the money to causes including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Rhode Island, and the Guggenheim Museum—but the rest sat untouched until 1972, when he donated it to Lafayette for an investment fund to be run by students.

The new investment club chugged along for a number of years with low attendance, until a new faculty adviser, Donald Chambers, now professor emeritus of finance, came up with an idea to offer pizza at every meeting, and attendance surged. By 1995, the fund

Asset Tracker

Lafayette’s student-run Investment Club prioritizes having a well-rounded portfolio.



had \$103,000 in assets under management, including blue chips such as Coca-Cola, Dow Chemical, and Ford Motor, as well as burgeoning tech stocks including AOL and Dell Computer. With the growing dot-com boom, the portfolio rocketed to \$126,000 the following year, when *The New York Times* reported on the club. “Not bad for neophytes,” the paper said, noting students were weighing whether to buy shares in Apple Computer. (Eventually, the club did, seeing its value grow by 10 times since first purchasing it.) From there, the fund climbed steadily, clearing \$500,000 by 2016 and \$1 million by 2021, before rising to its current level of around \$1,625,000.

The club now meets for lunchtime—still being served pizza—every Friday. They start with a general overview of the market led by three or four junior members of the club, tracking earnings reports, federal reserve decisions, world events, and other factors that might impact major indexes. Afterward, a senior member might give an educational presentation on a particular financial concept, such as venture capital or initial public offerings, or an alumni guest speaker might talk about their

work. That’s followed by the main event: pitches to buy or sell stocks, led by members of the executive committee, with all members in good standing having the opportunity to vote.

In addition to being educational, the club is rewarding for students who get quick feedback on their investing acumen. “When you go to the gym, you need like six months before you see muscles developing,” Aslam says, “but markets tell you immediately whether you are right or wrong. It really allows you to put your perspectives to the test.” Despite the fact that students are risking real money, the club has safeguards in place to ensure no one investment will be too large, limiting any one buy to 3% of the total portfolio. The average buy-or-sell decision now is about \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Even so, there have been some big wins in the club’s past. One of the best was a little-known company called Intuitive Surgical, which makes laparoscopic surgery equipment and went public in 2000 for \$2 a share. “When they voted on it, I said, ‘Oh my, this company looks wildly overvalued,’” Kelly remembers. The company became a “category killer” based on the

widespread adoption of its technology, shooting up to \$350 a share over the next two decades. “It became one of the best positions in the portfolio.”

More recently, the club bought security company Palantir back in 2024 when it was trading for \$30, and sold it just over a year later at the top of its rise at \$180, a 500% gain. Similarly, the club sold half its stake in NVIDIA last fall, earning a profit of \$67,000 just before the price took a tumble. Despite those big bets, most of the club’s purchases over the years have been slow-and-steady long-term investments. “They are good about not being faddish,” Kelly says. The largest position in the portfolio is currently heavy-equipment maker

MARKET MOVERS

Since Lafayette students began investing the fund, they’ve had to navigate the unpredictability of the stock market. Here are major fluctuations from the past 50 years.

1970s

“Stagflation” with high inflation, high unemployment, and slow economic growth.

1987

“Black Monday” when Dow Jones dropped 22.6% on Oct. 19.

1997-2000

Dot-Com bubble (and bust).

1998

Long-Term Capital Management crisis.

2001

Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and temporary shutdown of markets.

2007-2009

Great Recession, the worst downturn since the Great Depression.

2010

“Flash Crash,” a \$1 trillion stock market crash that lasted about a half-hour.

2020

COVID crash, which would later recover.

2026

AI disruption.

Caterpillar, which has grown by 250% since purchase, to \$113,000. “It gets them thinking about different stocks, not just following trends.”

Of course, there have been some missteps along the way as well. Past president Blago Baychev ’12 remembers a particularly ill-timed investment in a wind company that dropped in price just after purchase. “It didn’t go well,” deadpans Baychev, who now runs a hedge fund in Florida. Even so, he argues, regardless of how a stock performs well, the practical experience of researching and defending an investment decision is priceless. “These are your first pitches—you can’t possibly claim any skill. But what sticks with you is the research you did, how you dive into the materials and filings, reading about the company and the competition, and the market.”

As an international student from Bulgaria, Baychev was initially mystified by the American financial system, coming to Lafayette right after the turmoil of the 2008 financial crash. “I was trying to figure out this thing Americans called ‘Wall Street,’” he remembers. Curious about the Investment Club, he discovered an open community of students who were eager to share. “It was a very collegial, team-based environment where students were not afraid to ask questions and share experiences,” says Baychev, who threw himself into the club, becoming president both junior and senior year—the club’s only two-time president—so much so that he jokes now that he majored in math and economics with a specialization in investment club.

An emphasis on mentoring new students is part of the spirit of the club. Outside of any competition over individual trades, students pride themselves on introducing new recruits to the arcane language of finance. “It was definitely a little intimidating at first, because a lot of the topics we talk about aren’t taught in high school,” says recent co-president Kathryn Duane ’26. “But the more I went to meetings and heard certain phrases repeated, I was able to fill in the pieces—it’s a practice-makes-perfect kind of thing.” Nervous to present at first, she took courage from more senior members who presented alongside her. “It’s easier to have confidence when you have other people by your side supporting you. It makes a big difference,” she says. Many of the students who are mentoring students now as juniors or seniors were not so long ago on the receiving end of tutelage, Kelly says. “It’s become part of the DNA of the club. Someone did this for me, so I have to make sure to do that for others.”

Preparing for Wall Street

Despite the longevity of the club, there have been some changes made over the years. Debates over divesting from fossil fuel companies and other controversial stocks, for example, led to rules within the last decade around Environmental Social Governance (ESG) requirements. While no stocks were banned outright, an ESG rating is now considered as part of the

overall decision on whether to invest in a particular stock. That factor was put to the test recently, when a student pitched buying tobacco company Philip Morris. “It ended up being a heated conversation, and eventually didn’t get passed,” Duane remembers. “It’s one example of something that might be good for the portfolio in terms of making money, but might not align ethically or morally with club members.”

Duane and co-president Valdemar Kofod-Olsen ’26 also instituted some changes to bring more structure to the club, taking attendance at the beginning of each meeting and only allowing students who have attended at least 50% of past meetings in any given year to vote. As incoming co-presidents, Aslam and Marsili are currently working to formalize the mentoring aspect, voluntarily assigning senior members to specific junior members according to their interests.

Throughout its history, the club has complemented finance classes at the school, says Kelly, who notes that students generally aren’t able to take his investment course, ECON 321, until their junior year, after they’ve taken introductory economics courses. “For many students, the club is their first introduction to finance, way before they get to me,” he says. Moreover, the hands-on nature of the club provides a different experience than the investment terminology and portfolio theory they learn in the classroom. “What they’re doing is managing risk to create return—that’s something you do with your hands, not your head. They get to think it through and then do it with real money.”

In addition to practical skills, the club also helps its members develop soft skills such as public speaking and leadership, essential to later success. Baychev remembers being club president as his first experience managing a large group of people—having to track everything from coordinating financial presentations to ordering pizza for meetings. “From a leadership perspective, it’s very similar to what I do now,” he says, “communicating with my team about what we need to do on a day-to-day basis, organizing everybody and making sure they are enabled for what they are expected to do.”

Importantly, students also learn how to deal with disappointment and rejection, Kelly says, when their pitches are voted down. “Do they walk away at that point, or do they turn around and ask, ‘What can I learn from this?’” he says. “Those life lessons are better to learn during college when the cost of failure is smaller than when you are out in the world.” For Aslam, the most important thing he learned is how to better communicate about financial information. When he was first giving pitches, he says, he was talking about deltas and price-to-earnings ratios rather than focusing on the fundamental story behind a stock. “You have to read the room,” he says. “Learning to break down my thinking into something simpler made me realize I was initially using jargon to cover a lack of understanding. You have to really think it through.”

Those early experiences have become more crucial, says Kelly, as financial firms recruit earlier and earlier in the academic process. While once firms recruited at the end of senior year, now they recruit for junior internships by sophomore year, or even the end of a student’s first year. The club helps the process—a panel of alums from NYC come in every year to provide advice on applications and interviews—and is a unique experience to talk about in interviews, giving them an edge on candidates from bigger schools. “They have

“What they’re doing is managing risk to create return—that’s something you do with your hands, not your head.”



essentially made these kinds of portfolio decisions that many of their peers, when they go out into the world, will not have made.”

David MacKnight ’94, who was recently appointed to Lafayette College’s Board of Trustees, served as a past president of the club and remembers presentations by alumni guest speakers as being crucial to his breaking into finance. “It can be a very difficult business to break into, and having people come to campus and talk about what they did and how they got there was incredibly interesting—because everybody got there a different way,” says MacKnight, whose two job offers after college were facilitated through Lafayette alumni connections. After earning an MBA at Cal Berkeley, he joined a Wall Street fund called Mason Capital, helping build it from \$60 million to \$10 billion before leaving in 2015 to start his own hedge fund, One Fin Capital, with approximately \$500 million currently under management.

Despite operating on a much larger playing field now, MacKnight hasn’t forgotten where he started from, and where he first learned to make investment decisions. When Lafayette revealed its newly renovated Simon Center for Business and Economics two years ago, MacKnight and his wife, Kristin, donated funds to establish a lab with state-of-the-art Bloomberg business terminals. (These terminals were supported by M. Alden “Al” ’60 and his wife Dorothy “Doll” Siegel.) The lab has allowed students to incorporate detailed data for economic forecasting and profitability into pitches.

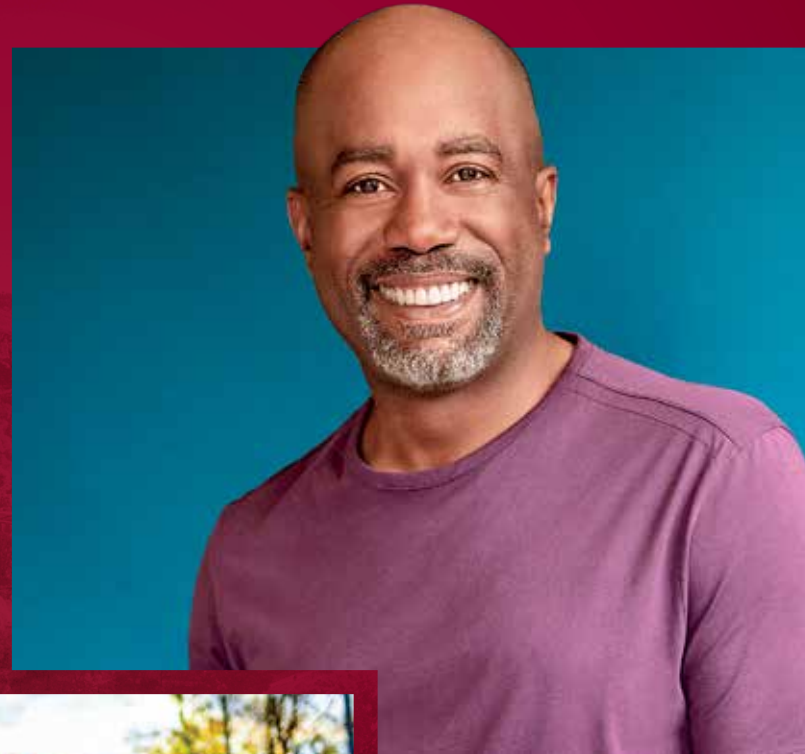
In a nod to both his own humble beginnings and those of the Lafayette Investment Club itself, MacKnight named it: J.H. Tarbell Lab. ■

WELCOME HOME

BICENTENNIAL HOMECOMING WEEKEND | NOV. 20-21, 2026

The special weekend marks the conclusion of Lafayette College's yearlong Bicentennial celebration.

Headlining the programming is a performance on the Quad by **Darius Rucker**—Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter, and musician—Friday evening. Darius Rucker first achieved multi-Platinum success as the lead singer and rhythm guitarist of Hootie & the Blowfish. Since launching his country career in 2008, he has earned four Billboard Country No. 1 albums, 10 No. 1 country radio singles, and 11 Gold, Platinum, or multi-Platinum certified hits.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Drone show

A high-tech drone show kicks off the celebratory weekend on Friday.

The Rivalry

The Leopards host Lehigh at Fisher Stadium on Saturday at 12:30 p.m., preceded by the annual alumni tailgate.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
[LAFAYETTE.EDU/BICENTENNIAL](https://lafayette.edu/bicentennial).

200 Lafayette

INSIDE

We asked alumni to share their industry expertise. **p.50**—Answering the call for civic leadership. **p. 51**—Tennis trends to try. **p. 52**—A boom in the business of women's pro sports.

Cur Non

The American Friends of Lafayette, a society dedicated to the memory of the Marquis, was founded on campus in 1932.



"Be the force that brings people together and creates solutions to help the community."

ALISON LINTAL
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
AND SPANISH, 2007



PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC FORBERGER

A CALLING IN GETTYSBURG

Newly elected Mayor Alison Lintal '07 reflects on leadership, service, and the unexpected path that led her to public office.

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS-VARKANIS

In March 2026, Alison Lintal's career took an unexpected turn. An adjunct professor in Gettysburg College's public policy department, a part-time hearing officer for Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authorities, and owner of an Iyengar yoga studio, Lintal '07 was elected mayor of Gettysburg, Pa. Now, she's at the heart of the 250th anniversary of the United States, as the borough celebrates its profound place in American history with a yearlong schedule of community events and projects.

To settle into her new position, Lintal relied on one essential skill: listening to the community members she serves. "I've been blown away by our community," says Lintal, a South Central Pennsylvania native who earned a bachelor's degree in international affairs and Spanish from Lafayette and a Juris Doctor from University of Miami School of Law.

"Everyone has different strengths and talents, and so my goal is to figure out how we as a community can bring those diverse interests together to serve and care for one another."

A former attorney in the Office of General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Chicago, Lintal is focused on issues affecting the daily lives of residents, including housing affordability, human services, and access to food and transportation. "How do we use the limited resources we have to make our community a sustainable place where people can afford to live and work? These are the types of issues that are important to me," she explains.

Here, Lintal reflects on serving at a pivotal moment in the nation's history, and how unexpected opportunities can lead to rewarding work.



Lintal, seen here on the mat in her Gettysburg yoga studio, began practicing the craft as a student on College Hill.

Stewarding a historic milestone

Best known as site of the 1863 Civil War battle and President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Gettysburg intently prepared for America250. Although Lintal stepped into office only recently, she is eager to support the residents, organizations, and volunteers who have shaped the celebration. "I feel a great honor and privilege to be in this position where people can share with me their ideas, concerns, and challenges," Lintal adds. "My biggest desire is to be present, hear everyone, offer thoughtful remarks, and serve the community with a purpose." Planned events—which Lintal explains community members have been working on for at least four years—include a reenactment of Lincoln's visit, Civil War commemorations, Independence Day festivities featuring a U.S. Army band, and a large-scale fireworks display.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC FORBERGER

The work of public service

Lintal identified leadership qualities that are critical at every level of government: dependability, accountability, and engagement. "Elected and appointed officials are accountable to the public and the residents of the community," she says. "It's important to be that force that brings people together and creates solutions that will help that community." For her, public service is rooted in showing up, listening carefully, and helping people work toward common goals.

Lessons beyond the office

Alongside her public career, Lintal has maintained a longtime commitment to Iyengar yoga, a practice she began as a Lafayette student. Over the years, this highly accessible form of yoga has helped her navigate major life transitions, from preparing for the bar exam to relocating across the country and building a family and career. "It provided a grounding, a confidence, and an ability to be present and aware so that I could align myself with my values and priorities," Lintal says.

Her dedication eventually led her to become a certified Iyengar yoga teacher and open Hidden Wisdom Yoga in Gettysburg. The principles Lintal teaches—truthfulness, moderation, contentment, self-reflection, and gratitude—extend beyond the studio. "It's something I take off the mat and into my work as mayor as well," she says.

Embracing the unexpected

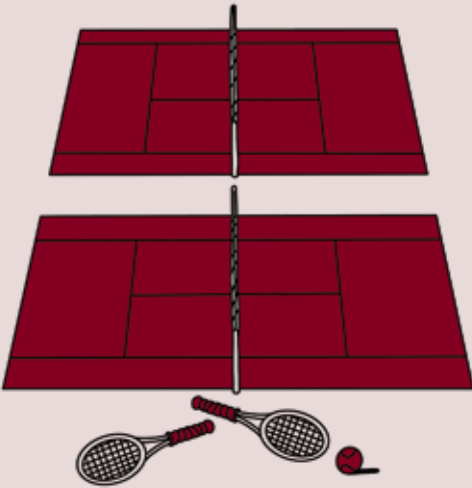
Becoming a mayor was never part of Lintal's career plan. But in accepting the opportunity to serve, she's found her calling. "It combines all of my skills in a great way," she says, noting that her legal background gives her insight into how policies impact people's day-to-day lives. The liberal arts education she received at Lafayette, she adds, gives her a broader perspective and helps shape how she navigates uncertainty. "Lafayette nurtured my love of learning, taking on new challenges, and problem-solving," she says. "That especially becomes relevant when it's directly related to issues in your community."

Her biggest piece of advice for others, she says, is to not be afraid to get involved in a variety of interests. "When you follow your purpose, you may not always know where you're going to end up, and sometimes you don't fully know what the outcome of your decisions is going to be. But you can't let fear take over. Sometimes you just have to make a move, and great things can happen." ■

There and back again

Robert LeBuhn '88 is setting the tone for the future of Lafayette tennis.

BY SARAH DOWNEY



When Robert LeBuhn '88 played tennis at Lafayette, student-athletes competed with wooden rackets just over half the square inches of racket heads today. New technology plus improved strength and conditioning have changed how the sport is played—"you really can't compare the two games," LeBuhn says—but the culture he is looking to build is reminiscent of the past. "My teammates and I pushed each other and were friends on and off the court," he says. "At Lafayette, I want to build an 'it-takes-a-village' approach, and results will follow from the culture we set."

The government and law major played on the Lafayette men's tennis team from 1983 to 1985 before studying abroad in London. After college, he worked in financial services and took a break from tennis, but

ultimately decided to return to the sport as a coach. "I think I found it easy to come back to because it's a lifetime sport," he says. Tennis took him to the high school and collegiate levels, roles that would require moves to New Jersey, Wisconsin, California, and Hawaii; he also taught racket sports at country clubs and resorts in South Carolina and Michigan.

This fall, LeBuhn will return to Lafayette as head coach of the men's and women's tennis teams. Returning to the program has allowed him to reconnect with former teammates and opponents, and be closer to his hometown in New Jersey. "It's amazing how naturally those connections came after 30, 35 years," he says. In his new role, he aims to provide student-athletes opportunities to face players they normally wouldn't by traveling to the United States

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

Tennis Association National Campus in Orlando over spring break. “We want to build a winning program and create the foundation to help the program grow.”

LeBuhn shares how the game has changed over the years, and where he thinks it’s headed.

How has tennis changed since you were playing?

The style is much more physical. Strength and conditioning programs are an available tool that didn’t exist as prominently back then. The stroke itself is different now, too. In my day, strokes were more linear, and now strokes are more low-to-high to create spin. But I think a lot of what I learned and how I played, especially on volleys and serves, can translate to these players to make them more complete.

Is there anything different about equipment today, and how does that impact how tennis is played?

Technology has had a lot to do with the changes. Larger heads have helped in terms of ball striking, and polyester strings are ‘deader’ (stiffer), which allows the players to swing much harder but still be able to keep the ball in play.

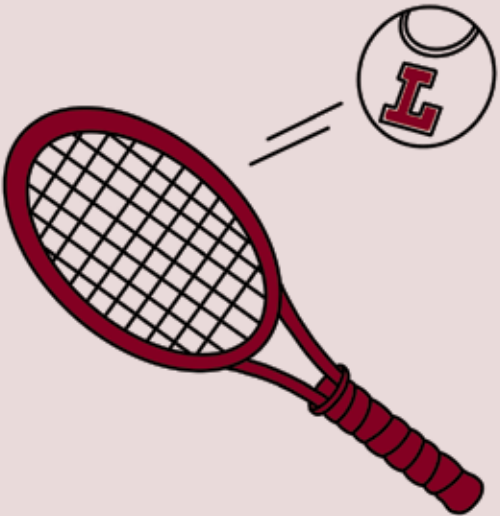
What can other racket sports teach you about playing tennis?

The techniques are different, but there’s a relative basis of improvement for all racket sports. Pickleball can really help improve your short-court game and deal with difficult placements on the court. Platform tennis teaches patience, because points can go 100 or 200 shots in play. Tennis is 90% mental, and 10% physical as you become better.

Are we seeing the end of the pickleball craze?

Pickleball is not going anywhere. It’s affordable, it’s easy to do, and you don’t need a lot of lessons to go out there and just enjoy it. Some tennis purists don’t want to pick it up, but I think it’s fun. **L**

“Players swing much harder but keep the ball in play,” LeBuhn says.



ON THE RISE

Kayla Drummond ’24 has courtside seats to an unprecedented era in women’s professional sports.

BY MADELINE MARRIOTT ’24

It’s a good time to be working in women’s professional sports: According to Deloitte Global, the women’s elite global sports market is predicted to reach at least \$3 billion in 2026, an increase of 340% since 2022, with soccer and basketball expected to be at the top of revenue-generating women’s sports.

Kayla Drummond ’24, once a forward on the women’s basketball team, has taken her talents to her hometown of Toronto—this time as a key member of the team’s staff.

Drummond is the team services coordinator for the Toronto Tempo, Canada’s first WNBA team. The Tempo are currently in the midst of their inaugural season, and Drummond has been with them since the beginning, first as a business operations intern before joining the full-time staff.

“As Canada’s first team, everything we do is a first,” Drummond says. “That’s our motto: ‘First never fades.’”

She now works behind the scenes with the operations team to address the day-to-day needs of the players and coaching staff, whether it’s scheduling appointments with nutritionists and trainers, coordinating gym time for practices, finding housing for new players arriving to the city, or handling visas and other immigration documents for international players living in Canada for the first time.

“Every day is different,” Drummond says. “It depends entirely on the logistical needs that come up for the athletes.”

Drummond, a government and law major, has seen firsthand the organization’s development from the ground up: the first press conference, the first team practice, the first regular season game. Here, she reflects on what it means to be a part of the organization and such a historical movement in women’s sports.



Why is now such an exciting time to be working in women’s professional sports?

The WNBA has completely exploded in recent years, and with this historic new collective bargaining agreement, it has the opportunity to really make some transformative changes to the league and make sure athletes are being paid what they deserve. We’re really on the front stage, joining at this time as Canada’s first team and the first international team in the history of the league.

What was your role in the critical months leading up to the launch of the season?

I had a unique journey with the team as I got to see what the Tempo was like as an organization before we even had a single player or a head coach. I was a member of the business operations team as we prepared for our expansion draft, what it would look like when we did have athletes in the market, and as we prepared for the announcements of the coaching

← The rapid WNBA expansion has a new Toronto market where Kayla Drummond works.

staff. I transitioned to my full-time role a few weeks before the athletes arrived, and that time was all hands on deck as things progressed really rapidly. It’s been amazing as a Canadian and as someone who has played basketball for my whole life to be part of a team at its inception, especially in my hometown.

What kind of passion have you seen from Toronto fans?

Our fans are incredibly loyal. There’s been so much hype around the team, and people are so excited for women’s basketball to take center stage in Toronto. We’ve had sold-out crowds, and we have great attendance for every game. Even at our preseason games and the unveiling of our court, we had loads of fans who were really excited for the team. It’s been our goal to be very much a part of the community—we always want to give back to the city that supports us so immensely. We partner with

local youth organizations and Indigenous groups, as we want to make sure we’re representing not just Toronto, but the whole country of Canada.

How have you been able to use the skills you learned during your time as a Division I athlete at Lafayette?

Having played basketball at a high level, I know what it is to be part of a team, and I understand some of the specific needs of our athletes. I’m with them every day, I travel on their bus with them, and I’m their main point of contact for a lot of things. I understand and anticipate a lot of what they go through. Being a student-athlete also taught me skills like resilience, time management, and the ability to juggle multiple projects, all of which are serving me well in my professional career. This has been my dream job, and being a Leopard really prepared me to balance everything I need to do in the role. **L**

THE WNBA KEEPS WINNING

Data points on how the league continues to trend upward.

34

Percentage increase in paid attendance from 2024 to 2025.

3

Expansion teams set to join the league by 2030.

500

Percentage increase in WNBA merchandise sales from 2024 to 2025.

6

Added games to the 2027 season, bumping the previous 44-game schedule to 50.

In All the World



FOR YOUR WALL

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



↓ A house has many lives, and this 1895 Georgian mansion is no exception. The 17-room bed and breakfast, which is Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was purchased by the College in 2023.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUAN ALSTON

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

1940s

Commie Villante '49
Villante (varsity baseball) celebrated his 98th birthday March 14. He is the author of *Me and Alphonse*, a story of a 60-year friendship between Villante and Alphonse Normandia, two New Yorkers who met in 1950 at advertising agency BBDO. The book, published in 2023, is available on Amazon.

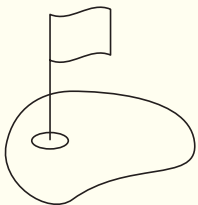
1950s

James Tolley '51
Tolley writes: “I think I was alone in representing the Class of 1951 at our 75th reunion. Even so, I am glad I went, from Sarasota, Fla., where I have lived for the past 36 years. I had a good time. I attended the Friday night 50-plus buffet dinner and sat with some folks from '55 and '56, the next oldest classes at the reunion. Stirred up memories. On Saturday, after the French breakfast on the Quad, I ‘marched’ (strolled is more like it) in the campus parade. The carrier of the class flag was a student from Kyrgyzstan! I was singled out for recognition

at the all-classes celebration in Colton Chapel. Almost embarrassing. I guess I was the oldest person attending Reunion. Lunch was in the shade of one of the beautiful, huge trees on the Quad. We don’t have these where I live, and it was hot in the tent. I managed to take a short nap back at my hotel and watched the weather reports. I did not return to campus for the big dinner because of the storm warnings. It was a nasty storm. By Sunday morning, the staff had cleaned up the debris, reset the chairs and tables, and brunch was available. The food served throughout the weekend was excellent. Plenty of restrooms nearby, important for us 96-year-olds. Golf cart transportation was ubiquitous. Car parking was convenient. The campus looked clean, green, and inviting. Everyone seemed to be having a good time. I saw no one I knew while on campus, but enjoyed talking with staff, many folks from other classes, and students. The College administration went all-out to welcome, entertain, and inform the Reunion-ers. I give them an A+. I missed seeing classmates, but I’m glad I made the trip. On to our 100th. On Lafayette!”



“See ya ‘round the Quad” is the sentiment inscripted on a bench recently dedicated to the memory of Paul O’Hea ’66. His family (pictured, clockwise) gathered for a photo there in May: Aidan Boudreaux ’26; Edwin Boudreaux P’26,’29; Morgan Boudreaux ’29; Erin O’Hea ’96,P’26,’29; Sharon O’Hea P’92,’96,G’26,’29; Christine O’Hea Pitluk ’92; and Dan Pitluk ’92.



DID YOU KNOW?

Winners of the Maroon Club Golf Outing carded 17-under-par (55). The foursome included Jim Hutnik ’78, Kyle Hutnik, Gerry Dandeneau ’70, and Coley Heydt.

1960s

John Becica '69
Becica writes: “The publication of my book, *Trail Tales, Chronicling Lafayette’s Adventures During his 1824-1825 Triumphal Tour of America*, is now in its second printing. It relates 102 stories about General Lafayette’s Tour, the trip that resulted in the founding of our College after Easton residents met him in Philadelphia. You can learn more about it and purchase

it from the American Friends of Lafayette at friendsoflafayette.wildapricot.org/Gift-Shop. All proceeds of sale benefit the American Friends of Lafayette.”

Leroy Kroll '69
Kroll writes: “In retirement after 40 years of teaching college chemistry at Taylor University in Indiana, my wife and I moved to San Antonio to be near our two children and four grandchildren, who live in San Antonio and Austin. After five years in San Antonio, we are very involved in Travis Park UMC, and in particular, its 26-year ministry to

unhoused folks in San Antonio. I am a board member of Corazon San Antonio Ministry. We provide daily meals, addiction counseling, ID recovery, and mobile medical care; in addition, I do kitchen volunteer work twice a week. We feed 250 to 300 people every day with nutritious, hot meals.”

Paul Levy '68

Levy is currently serving as executive director of the Center City Foundation, the charitable arm of the Center City District in Philadelphia. He was the founding CEO of Center City District. His current position is voluntary board member and executive director. In that position, he has simultaneously spearheaded two projects coinciding with America’s 250th anniversary. The first such project is “Revisit 1876,” intended to prompt people to look back at technological products of the 1876 Centennial Exhibit era, like Alexander Graham Bell’s telephone; the exhibition will be housed in the historical Lit Brothers building in donated space that Levy secured for the show, the entirety of which is largely funded from various other donor sources he secured. Concurrently, Levy spearheaded the first phase of the restoration of Head House Square, a Society Hill Landmark, which is also scheduled to coincide with America’s 250th celebration. The goal is to restore one of the oldest continuously run farmer’s markets in the nation and rejuvenate the area; repairs and restorations should occur by mid-summer 2026.



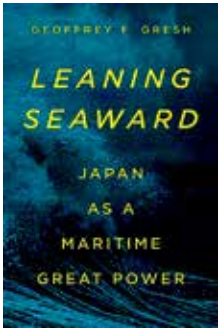
Check this

Lafayette alumni share their latest work.



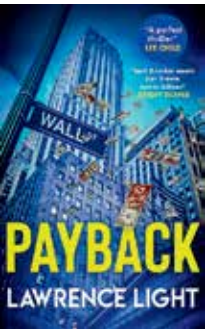
Nothing More, Nothing Less
By Lisa Dunn ’01
The Empire Publishers, April 2026

This book is an honest and vulnerable reflection about raising a daughter who has a complex disability profile. Through vignette-style storytelling, the author balances deeply emotional moments with humor, faith, and reflection.



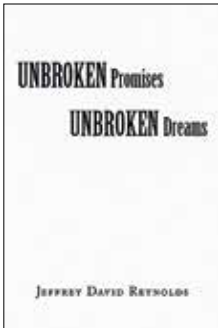
Leaning Seaward
By Geoffrey Gresh ’02
Yale University Press, May 2026

Leaning Seaward examines Japan as a comprehensive maritime power in the 21st century and considers what that status means in an age of great power competition. Throughout the book, Gresh draws critical lessons for other industrialized nations.



Payback

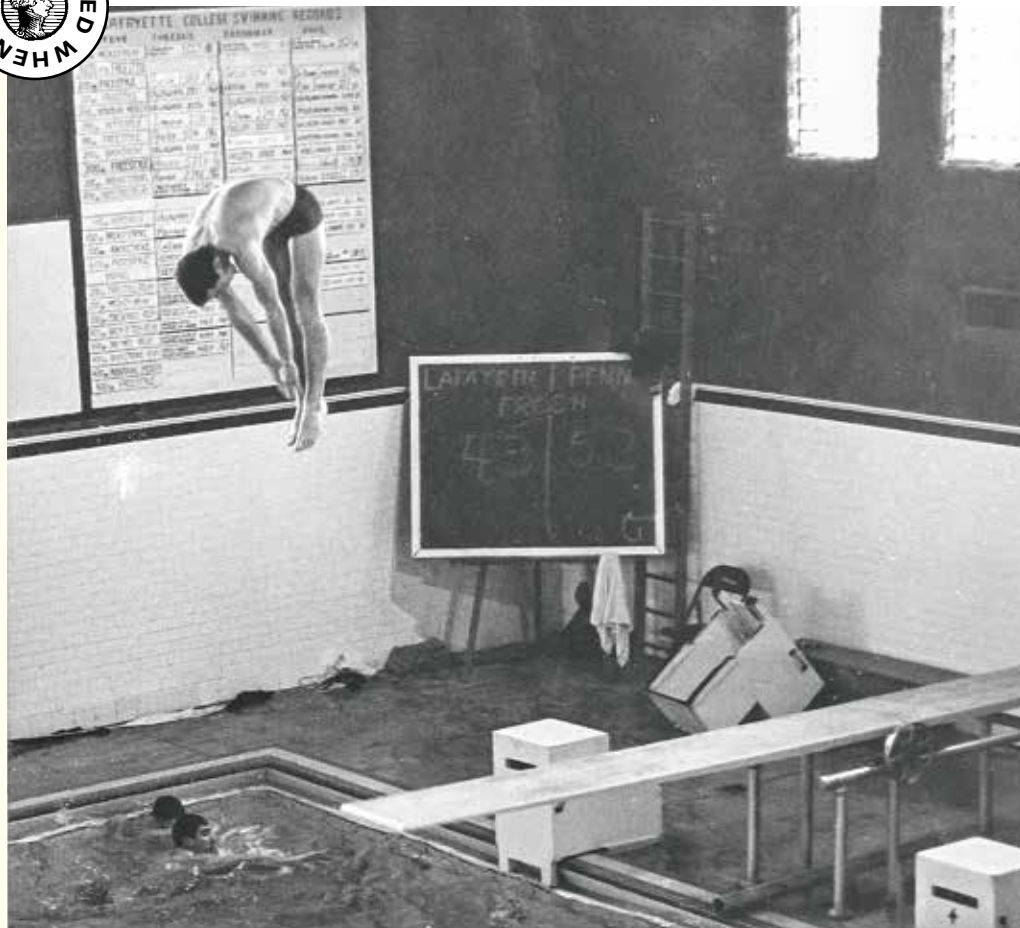
By Lawrence Light ’71
Severn House, July 2026
Award-winning financial journalist Light has written a new thriller, *Payback*, in which someone is killing New York’s billionaires, and a financial reporter teams up with the police to stop the crimes.



Unbroken Promises, Unbroken Dreams

By Jeffrey David Reynolds
iUniverse, January 2026
This coming-of-age novel is set at Lafayette against the backdrop of the Vietnam War. “The Mighty Laurence,” a high-spirited college prankster, and his friends navigate college while also developing deep social consciences.

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



In 1965, swimmers and divers took to the original pool in the back of the Alumni Memorial Gymnasium, which would later become Blair Hall. This airborne Pard was likely under the watchful eye of multisport head coach Bill Lawson, who began his 37-year coaching career that same year with the swimming and diving program at Lafayette.

Robert J. Singer '65
Singer celebrated a milestone birthday and bar mitzvah at 83. In Jewish tradition, turning 83 marks a full second lifetime, making it the perfect moment to celebrate a second bar mitzvah. Singer has been part of the Temple B'nai Abraham family in Livingston, N.J., for 46 years, but his TBA journey began

even earlier—75 years ago, when he attended clubs and scouts at TBA Newark.

John Squarcia '69
Squarcia was the recipient of the Landis Center for Community Engagement Award for Distinguished Leadership in Community-Based Teaching and/or Research.

Bill Wetmore '69
Wetmore writes: "I ran for election as a national executive vice president of the National Veterans Affairs Council, a bargaining council part of American Federation of Government Employees. I won again, as I have since 2003. I chair the grievance and arbitration committee, with five attorneys handling cases in

administrative (Article 2) and federal courts. I still like doing the work."

1970s

Chris Caine '78
Caine is living in Annapolis, Md., and still leading Mercator XXI, LLC and the NY-based Center for Global Enterprise.

John Fisher '70
Fisher writes: "My second published book is coming out next month on Amazon, Kindle, and Barnes & Noble. *Fronds of Palms* (ReaderHouse) is a collection of 32 poems with accompanying colored photographs. In the introduction, I reference how Walt Whitman was kissed on the forehead by Lafayette, and I was kissed by love of knowledge at Lafayette. Also, you may hear my 'A Declaration,' sung by national choirs. You can download this setting of The Declaration of Independence arranged to a theme by Mozart at sheetmusicplus.com under 'John W. Fisher.'"



Catherine Hanlon '79
Hanlon and Barbara Kerlavage Siegel '79 checked off a bucket list item 50 years in the making! Back in college, they were both biology majors and played lacrosse together. Then, in a sophomore year French class, they discovered they both spoke French and loved



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ARCHIVES

to ski. Hanlon writes: "We decided then we wanted to ski Chamonix in the French Alps someday. Well, 50 years later, that day finally arrived!" They skied five different mountains in the Chamonix Valley in late February and early March. They are pictured here at the top of Brevent ski area in Chamonix, French Alps. A bonus? Hanlon's brother, John, was the pilot for their flight from the U.S. to Europe.

Doug Johnston '73
Johnston (engineering) fondly remembers his time at Lafayette, where he was quarterback of the football team and a member of Theta Delta Chi. He went on to an MBA at Fairleigh Dickinson University and retired after 41 years at DuPont. Writes Johnston: "I am currently the president of my consulting business, Customer1st, supporting small business owners. I'm also on the board of The ARC of Delaware, a nonprofit that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities." He recently celebrated 52 years of marriage to his high school sweetheart and is enjoying time with their three children and three grandchildren. He's also playing golf, running, and going to the Jersey Shore.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF RODRIGO CONDEZA; ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONIO PINNA

And he's still close friends with his Lafayette roommate, Chet Benash '73.

Dennis Laich '71
Maj. Gen. (R) Laich has been named the executive director of the Eisenhower Media Network, a think tank for national security policy critics. The pillars of the EMN include: no wars of choice, reducing the DoD budget, reducing the nuclear arsenal, and protecting the environment.

Walter Mowle '72
Mowle writes: "In June 2021, Sigma Phi Chi alumni gathered for a memorial service to honor fellow member Leonard Conte '71 at Boston University. In April of this year, his son, Chris Conte, ran the 2026 Boston Marathon in honor of his dad and raised almost \$30,000 for ALS research."

Emerson Parker '71
Parker writes: "Although theoretically retired from The Sabre Group (American Airlines), I'm working pretty much full time as a union stagehand in Tulsa, Okla., where I've now lived for 40 years. I'm the head electrician for Tulsa Ballet Theater, Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, and the traveling Broadway shows presented by Celebrity Attractions in Tulsa. In my spare time (??), I'm the secretary of IATSE Local Union 354 (the stagehand local) plus I do a little computer and network consulting on the side. I've been married to Valerie for 30 years, and have plans to attend the festivities in Easton for the 55th class reunion and the 200th anniversary."

Joe Rallo '71
Rallo writes: "Barbara and I continue to travel with Smithsonian Museum Journeys, recently visiting southern Spain and Portugal. I have returned to part-time employment as a Russian subject matter expert for the Air Force Culture and Language Center. Barbara continues her watercolor painting journey with annual visits to the south of France for inspiration (and shopping!). Twenty years after graduating from Kansas, daughter Kitty has started a master's in clinical psychology at Pepperdine University and loves it. The brown and blue colors of West Texas have been softened by a relatively wet spring, enough that green has entered into the scenery. We celebrate our 17th anniversary in June!"

Alan Wallen '72
Wallen writes: "I am semiretired from the practice of real estate and real estate finance law. I was head of the real estate department at Spector Gadon and Rosen, PC (now Spector Gadon Rosen and Vinci) in Philadelphia for almost 20 years, before going in-house as general counsel with EBL&S Property Management Inc. in Philly. Although I still practice, I am fortunate to be able to pick and choose the transactions that I desire to participate in. I now spend most of my time volunteering. I taught financial literacy at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Fort Dix and FCI Fairton, as a volunteer for the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons. I also taught financial literacy to an inmate at the State Correctional Institution Phoenix in Collegeville, Pa.,



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM
Protected in Patagonia

Michael Pressman '91, global lead of The Nature Conservancy's One Conservancy Protection Initiative, helped the collaborative acquisition of 328,000-plus acres of Cochamó Valley and its surroundings. The biodiverse and breathtaking area was the missing link in nearly 4 million acres of connected and protected lands in Chilean and Argentinian Patagonia. A coalition of local and international groups, including The Nature Conservancy, raised more than \$78 million in December to purchase and permanently protect the land.

as a volunteer for the Pennsylvania Prison Society. I currently mentor and teach financial literacy to a formerly incarcerated individual as a volunteer for Hope for Prisoners. I am also a volunteer member of the State of N.J. Intensive Supervision Program Screening Board at South Woods State Prison in Bridgeton, N.J. I recently resigned from the board of the Camden County N.J. Child Placement Review Board. About two years ago, I worked with Yusuf Dahl, former director of Lafayette’s Dyer Center, in reviewing and commenting on the federal ‘Fair Future Act’ (the ‘Act’) before the Act was submitted to Congress. The Act is intended to amend the Thurmond Amendment to the Federal Housing Act by deleting the rights of housing providers to deny housing to certain individuals solely for committing crimes involving drugs, regardless of how long ago the crime was committed. I have been married to my wife, Caren, for over 47 years.”

1980s

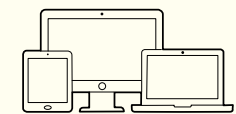
John Drabic '83
Drabic writes: “I recently volunteered to take over as class correspondent, so please send me any updates you would like to share with the Class of 1983. I hope you enjoyed the article on native plants in the Spring 2026 issue of *Lafayette*. As a volunteer Penn State Master Gardener for 25 years, I was interviewed for the article, ‘A precious time for rewilding,’ and shared photos of the native plants in our yard in Allentown. I was also interviewed this past spring

for an article in *Lehigh Valley Style* for a segment on composting since I teach composting classes to the public. I was asked to teach a program called ‘Made for the Shade’ at the Home Gardener’s Conference held at Penn State Lehigh Valley Campus this past spring. I’m very passionate about the use of native plants in all areas of gardening to help balance the loss of habitat and natural food sources for breeding birds who need caterpillars to feed their young.”

Donna Drake '86
Drake writes: “After working for Amoco/Solvay/Syensqo for 36 years, I retired on June 1 right before Reunion and will be moving from Atlanta to Hilton Head Island, S.C. Not sure what the future will bring, but I know I will continue to stay busy in the community.” She is pictured here with her husband, Furman Drake, at her retirement celebration.

John Maher '81
Maher writes: “As of June 26, I will be retired from 25 years as a high school math teacher. I begin the next chapter by heading to sunny Fort Myers, Fla.”

Robert Mahr '83
Mahr and Vicki Minturn Mahr '83 joined Ron DiBiase '83, Jayne DiBiase, Ed Stahl '83, and Barbara Dascenzo Stahl for a weekend in Apex, N.C. Mahr writes: “Ed was a gracious host as we reconnected over good food and great conversation.”



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Stephen Smetana '84
In the spring, Smetana spent an incredible month in Nepal culminating in the arrival at Everest Base Camp with his guide, Ang Dorjee Sherpa. He was able to enjoy a few days at base camp walking on the Khumbu Icefall, enjoying the magnificence of the Mt. Everest region.



1990s

Kris Doornbosch Campbell '93
Campbell, a contemporary fabric artist, had a solo show *MADE THE USA* at the Garner Arts Center in Garnerville, N.Y. The theme of the exhibit ties into the 250th anniversary of the United States of America and features large-scale cross-stitch work at 20 feet

by 30 feet by more than 65 feet. Find her work at: kriscampbellart.com.

Heidi Commins '94
Commins shared a photo taken at Lafayette College’s Kappa Kappa Gamma during Reunion. She is pictured with sorority sisters who graduated between 1994 and 1996.



Kirsten Bass Wilkins '90
Dr. Kirsten Bass Wilkins was inducted as president of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons at their annual meeting in May. She went to medical school at Johns Hopkins University and completed her general surgery residency at Duke University. She lives in New Jersey with her husband, John Wilkins '89.



Hongyi Yin '92
Yin writes: “*The Marquis of Lafayette: A Collection of Portraits of the Norman Bethune in the Eyes of the American People* was published for internal consumption in Beijing, China, on the eve of the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Horse in 2026. We extend our warmest congratulations on the Bicentennial of Lafayette College.”



2000s

Dana Bradfield '00
Bradfield writes: “Lilly Bradfield '28 and Stella Bradfield '30 met up with Nancy Johann '00 and family at College Hill Tavern before the men’s lacrosse game against Army—and what an awesome game it was! So nice to spend time together back on campus.”



Thomas Gauntner '04
Gauntner writes: “I am excited to announce my selection to the Army’s Senior Service College Fellowship for 2026-27! SSCF is a yearlong senior leader development opportunity focusing on advanced acquisition, leadership, and national security strategy preparing civilians for strategic leadership roles across the Army Enterprise.”

Tyronda Gibson Simpson '03
Simpson has joined Martha’s Table as chief development and communications officer in Washington, D.C., where she leads fundraising, strategic communications, and external affairs in support of children and families across the region. Following leadership roles at JPMorgan Chase and Fannie Mae, she is excited to reconnect with fellow Lafayette alumni working in philanthropy, communications, corporate social responsibility, and social impact, and welcomes opportunities to explore



Alumni Memoriam

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

1950 James R. Madara	1960 David B. Cornstein Jan L. Friedrich P'88 R. Allen Moulton Jr.	1971 Kirk Kissack	1979 Carol Stella Henrici P'09
1952 Melvyn G. Levy Jr.	1961 Thomas A. La Vigna Allan Dennis Williams G'13	1972 William R. Buschel Jr. Donald L. Ely Jr. Jonathan S. Jacoby Stanley A. Lalonde Jr.	1980 Robert Salasky Jr.
1954 Jack N. Graham P'86, G'23 Dr. William Rambo Vladimir V. Zernin	1962 Frederick C. Ruggles	1973 Mark Peter Maguire John B. Ward P'13	1986 Daniel M. Nickerson
1955 Frederick P. Gehle John M. Lauder	1963 Hon. Russell W. Annich Jr. David B. Jaffe Richard A. Lazarus Harry P. McCurdy Jr. Kenneth B. Tator	1974 Richard F. Engel James L. Hockenberry	1993 David Halperin
1956 Thomas C. Hays Albert J. Zarbatany	1965 Mr. Richard C. III P'02	1975 Donna Sands Fryd Kathleen J. Pilecki	1996 Jeffrey M. Andrus
1957 Glenn Erb Grube Mahlon H. Ortman Dr. M. William Schwartz	1966 Mr. Carl B. Gebhard Ronald O. Sickles	1976 Dr. Gordon L. Heminway Mindy Ferber Marks	1997 Richard Stephen Gurin
1958 Robert L. Chew Vincent Di Francesco II John A. Downes Jr. Dr. Andrew F. Farrar	1967 Jonathan C. Benedict James L. Bramick	1977 Linda T. Jackson Linda D. McDonald	2001 Gabriel B. Sashkin
1959 Harold M. Johnson	1968 Louis F. Wildstein	1978 Mr. Kendall O. Phells Dennis E. Repsher Bruce L. Taylor	2008 Scott L. Hawkins
			2028 Scott Timothy Sancyk
			FACULTY/STAFF Lorraine L. Merli Neil E. Putnam

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

partnerships and support for Martha’s Table’s mission.

Dwayne Thomas '01
Thomas reports that a movie he filmed in Virginia called *Take From Me* was released on Prime in the fall. In addition, some of his work is being featured on an online gallery called loupe art: loupeart.com/collections/dwayne-alistair.

2010s

Victoria Baker '10
Baker writes she is pleased to share that she has been accepted into the Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy Program at University of New Haven. Returning to UNH is a

meaningful milestone, having earned her master’s degree in forensic science there in 2012. She looks forward to advancing her knowledge in the growing field of forensic genetic genealogy and continuing her connection with the university that helped launch her career in forensic DNA analysis.

Amos Han '14
Han writes: “Since enrolling at Lafayette in fall 2010, I became a Lafayette sports fan right away, and continue to cheer on the Leopards and sometimes other teams where a former Lafayette athlete is playing or coaching. On May 19, 2024, I went to a University of Tampa men’s lacrosse game vs. Lenoir Rhyne University as they played in the NCAA tournament, where two Lafayette men’s lacrosse alumni and former teammates played against each other. JP Robinson ’23 played for University of Tampa and Ryan Duncan ’23 played for Lenoir Rhyne, both while in graduate school at those institutions. By complete coincidence, I crossed paths with John McGettigan ’87 at that game. While Lenoir Rhyne got the win at 15-14, it was nice to go to a game where there is a Lafayette grad on both sides.”

Dania Moctezuma '17
Moctezuma and Erik Edwards were married Oct. 12, 2025, in Chicago. They had an intimate wedding and celebrated with family and friends, including Lafayette alumni from 2018. Naomi Zucker '18 was her maid of honor.

Victoria Mulligan '16
Mulligan married the love of her life, Nabil Afzali, May 25. She was delighted to have Heather MacNeill '16, Becca Miller '16, and Lucy McKnight '16 by her side as bridesmaids (pictured).

Additional Leopards in attendance were: JJ Wanda '16, Charles Vincent '14, Hunter Greis '18, Ted Riegel '16, Benji Helbein '16, and Joe Cericola '16. Mulligan was also thrilled that Dr. Kirk O’Riordan and Holly Roadfeldt could be there on her special day. The newly married couple enjoyed their three-week honeymoon in Greece and are excited to celebrate their first wedding anniversary in Hawaii in May!

Katie Weeks '16
Weeks married Michael Di Martino (Lehigh, Class of 2017) May 30 in Warwick, N.Y., with several Lafayette and Lehigh friends in attendance.

Shira Wein '19
After two years as an assistant professor of computer science at Amherst College, Wein is starting a new position as an assistant professor in the Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Computing at University of South Florida in Tampa, Fla. She looks forward to advising graduate students on generative AI research (natural language processing) in her new role.

Brendan Dunlap '16 and Catrina Yohay '15
Yohay writes: “We’re a little late, but we recently celebrated our son’s first birthday May 21 at home in New Jersey. His name is Noah Dunlap. Mini Pard in the making!”

2020s

Livia Barclay '26
Barclay, who recently earned a bachelor’s degree in communications and public relations at Lafayette, has joined Powell Communications as an account coordinator.

Brianna Leopold '23
Leopold, an associate scientist for Pfizer and master’s student at New Jersey Institute of Technology, had the opportunity to return to campus in April as a panelist for the Lafayette College Chemistry Department Alumni Symposium. Writes Leopold: “It was incredibly rewarding to share my career journey, offer advice to current students, and reflect on how my time at Lafayette shaped the path I’m on today.”

Kyle Marrapodi '21
Marrapodi writes: “Many current students and recent grads might remember the band The Degens. We got our start playing spinnings and events at the Delta Upsilon house, Zete house, and Lafchella on the Quad. Since graduating in 2021 and 2022, we’ve spent the last few years playing everywhere from Rivals down in Easton to venues across the tristate (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut), and even down to Clemson, S.C. We recently hit a major

milestone: We officially rebranded as Bushkill—a tribute to our Easton roots—and shifted from being a cover band to releasing our first EP of original music. Check us out on Instagram @bushkillband.”

Madeline Marriott '24
Marriott is the author of *Operation Hug* (Parisian Phoenix Kittens, May 2026), a “big-hearted children’s picture book that tells the story of a pack of critter friends banding together to make a special suit so their porcupine friend can safely join their group hug. Joining the long history of children’s literature about the power of friendship, *Operation Hug* shows readers the importance of kindness and inclusion.” The book is available for purchase on Amazon.

Ainsley Jacobs Pressl '21
In March, Pressl qualified for the Olympic Trials in the marathon, which only 138 women in the country have done for this cycle. At Lafayette, her track and field accomplishments included becoming the program record holder in the outdoor 5K (17:00:39) and earning third all-time in the 10K (35:54).



Marquis Connections

Alumnae and female student-athletes at Lafayette met in April for a women’s networking night in New York City.

BY JILL SPOTZ



← The evening’s keynote speaker, Gretchen Koback Purse ’95, knows what it takes to recruit and retain top-notch employees: She is currently Chief People Officer at Equinox.



↑ Former members of Lafayette’s swimming and diving program Jane Kuntz ’15 and Abby Floyd-Jones ’14 (pictured, left to right) catch up as guests arrive.



← For the final portion of the evening, Gateway Career Center arranged seven seating areas based on career interests, setting up the alumnae to share industry advice with students.



↑ Lafayette alumnae gathered for an evening at Hudson Yards in Manhattan’s West Side to share career advice with current students.



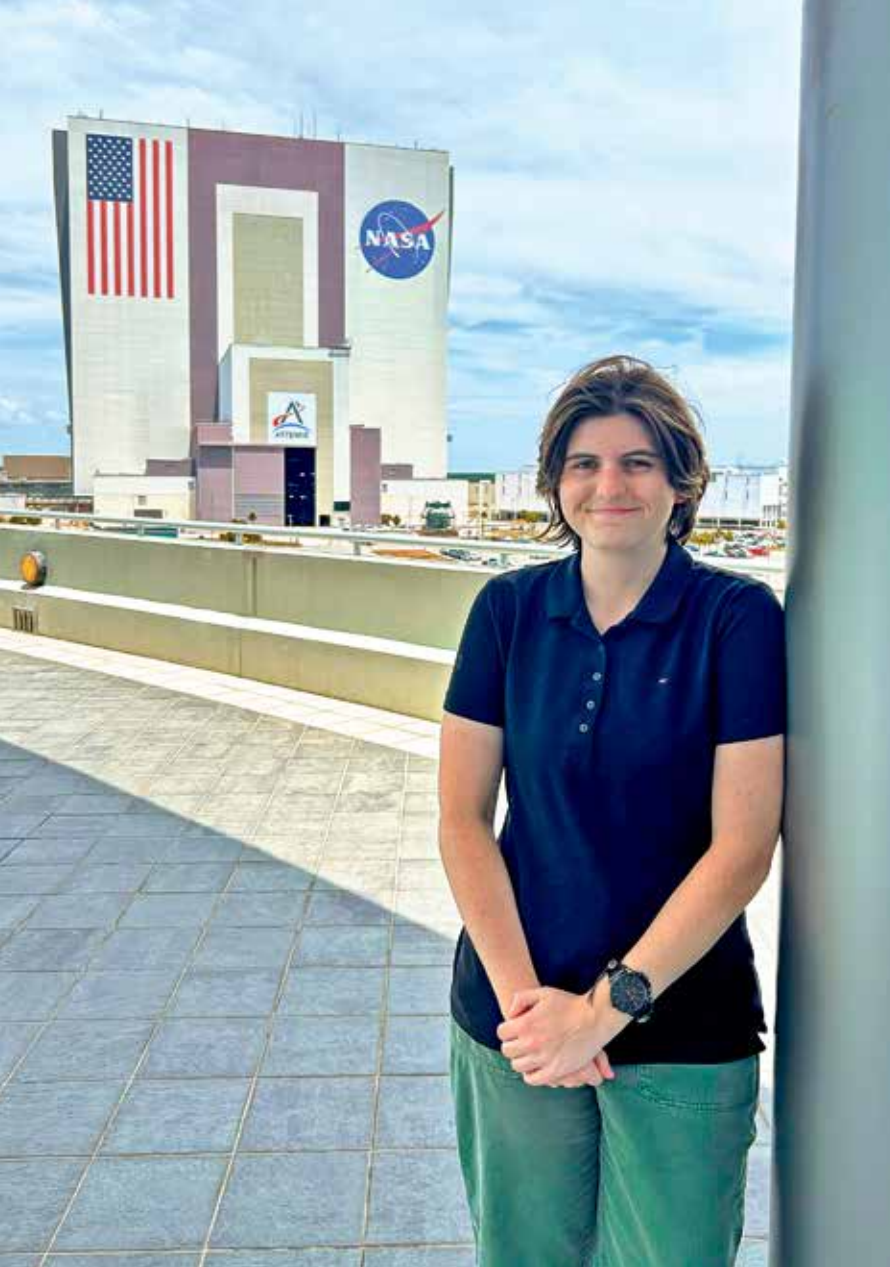
Earlier in the night, members of the volleyball team meet Lauren Pisauro ’16 (pictured, far left).



← Sherryta Freeman, director of athletics at Lafayette, welcomes the 65 student-athletes and 35 alumnae in attendance.



↑ During the breakout sessions, Lauren Jones ’09 (field hockey) answers questions from students pursuing careers in finance and banking.



● AND...

After graduating, Syd Friedman '26 landed a fluid design engineering role at Amentum, a contractor of Kennedy Space Center that supports *Artemis* space missions. The task at hand? Analyze designs and calculations of pressure valves and subsystems critical to launching rockets and sending astronauts to the moon.

The mechanical engineering major was offered this full-time position following a successful 2025 internship with Amentum. Friedman recalls the experience from last year, at one point walking hundreds of feet in the air across the “crew access arm,” or bridge, where astronauts move from the launch tower into a rocket, to take in close views of *Artemis II*. Several months later when the spacecraft launched from Cape Canaveral on April 1, Friedman watched it live from Skillman Library in awe.

“There were things I got to help with that made sure all of this was going to be as safe as possible for the astronauts,” Friedman says of their team’s focus on the fueling process. “It’s going to be hard to top.”

At the age of 21, that job was a dream realized.

When Friedman moved to Pompano Beach, Fla., in fourth grade, a passion for space science was sparked during an overnight field trip to Kennedy Space Center, where the students slept under the *Saturn V* rocket. By the following year, Friedman wanted to be an engineer—and also an author. Lafayette would be a place to explore both.

While at Lafayette, Friedman complemented the engineering core with courses in creative writing, religious studies, and philosophy—loving the latter so much it became their minor. “Studying philosophy improves your cyclical thinking and iterations of design,” Friedman says, noting how the discipline makes engineers better by strengthening problem-solving skills and increasing mental flexibility.

Outside of classes, Friedman joined the student-run theater group Marquis Players and was active with the Theater Department. They also kept writing, winning the 2026 H. MacKnight Black Poetry Competition. All of these experiences helped them develop as a person.

“There’s so much here that I want to bring into my life—being open to thinking about things in new ways, trying new experiences, and connecting with people in a variety of different ways.” ■

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SYD FRIEDMAN

FORWARD MOMENTUM

A multifaceted mechanical engineer supports NASA missions.

BY KELLY HUTH

CELEBRATE THE SEASON

NEW YORK HOLIDAY PARTY

Lafayette College’s annual holiday party will be held at New York Public Library’s flagship location in midtown Manhattan. The evening will feature a private concert by award-winning songwriter, actor, producer, and author **Leslie Odom, Jr.**

Thursday, Dec. 10, 2026 | 7 to 11 p.m.

Alumni, parents, and friends of the College are invited to join the celebration at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building located at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street.

Ticket includes hors d'oeuvres, food stations, premium open bar, and nonalcoholic beverages. Additional information, including how to purchase tickets, will be available soon on lafayette.edu/bicentennial.



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SAVE THE DATE! BICENTENNIAL HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Join alumni, families, and students on College Hill for a special Homecoming. The event-packed weekend marks the conclusion of Lafayette College's yearlong **Bicentennial celebration**.

Additional information, including registration and schedule, will be available at lafayette.edu/bicentennial.



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