

# Hill to Home



VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1 • NEWS FOR PARENTS FROM COLLEGE HILL • FALL 2011

## Mikhail Gorbachev Visits Lafayette



**Mikhail Gorbachev**, the former leader of the Soviet Union who ended Communist rule in Eastern Europe and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, delivered a major address titled “Perspectives on Global Change” in October at Allan P. Kirby Sports Center.

Gorbachev discussed his policies of *perestroika* (governmental restructuring) and *glasnost* (political openness), the fall of the Soviet Union, and his role in ending the Cold War.

“The [Geneva] summit was an amazing event that is still engraved in my memory. In less than three days at that summit, we made enormous progress and started to build initial trust,” he said. “It was madness to continue the arms race. Only through terrible mistrust was it allowed to continue.”

Gorbachev’s visit to Lafayette celebrated the upcoming center for global education made possible by the support of **Walter Oechsle ’57** and his wife, **Christa**.

“Connecting the classroom to the world outside our walls is at the core of the College’s mission,” says Lafayette President **Daniel H. Weiss**. “We are immensely grateful to Walter and Christa

Oechsle for their exemplary dedication, vision, and generosity that are enabling the College to broaden the global dimension of our educational offerings.

“This initiative reflects our commitment to a curriculum that meets the needs of our students and graduates in a complex, rapidly changing world,” Weiss adds. “We are honored that Mikhail Gorbachev, a towering international figure who played a courageous and pivotal role in transforming our world, played a role as we launch our new center at Lafayette.”

The Oechsle Center for Global Education will be housed in a new academic building with faculty offices, seminar rooms, and state-of-the-art classrooms with international connectivity, in addition to space for public lectures and dialogue about global issues. Building on the College’s historic strengths, a significantly revised major in international affairs will be the core of the global education program. The curriculum also will include study-abroad courses, a capstone experience, and community-based learning.

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## Nurture Nature Center Opens in Downtown Easton

**The Nurture Nature Center**, a new multi-purpose facility with a science theatre and exhibit center, opened in downtown Easton in September at 516 Northampton Street.

The Science on a Sphere (SOS) exhibit—a dynamic, animated globe that is a noted tourist attraction and educational tool—is the centerpiece exhibit which will help educate the public about flooding and related environmental issues. SOS was developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“We are delighted to open our doors to the public for the first time, and show off not only our new exhibit but also our building renovations,” said NNC director Rachel Hogan Carr. “This spectacular building, once one of Easton’s grand theaters, is again back in the service of the community—as a tourist attraction, educational venue, and meeting space for culture, art, and other events.”

Nurture Nature Center, Inc., a Pennsylvania based non-profit organization, has been working for the past four years on a series of educational programs and activities designed to educate the public about flooding— its causes, effects, and ways to mitigate losses. The center is supported in its activities by

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## An Investment in Excellence

**Although our alumni value** many things about their undergraduate experiences, from the friendships they made to their participation in extracurricular activities, the thing they often mention first is the impact their Lafayette professors had on them. I have heard heartfelt tributes paid to faculty members who taught their students not only how to master a difficult subject but also how to think, write, and collaborate effectively with others. Alumni mention how an inspiring professor's interest became their own lifelong passion—or how the extra effort of a faculty adviser helped secure an internship, a fellowship, or admission to a top graduate program.

Because outstanding teaching and mentoring are so essential to Lafayette's mission, we are especially proud to be among the handful of colleges that are adding full-time faculty during a period when many institutions have been forced to raise the student-faculty ratio and rely more heavily on part-time instructors. Since 2007, the College has added 19 permanent positions, putting us more than halfway toward our goal of 35. Eleven of these new positions have been made possible through the generosity of alumni who want to ensure that future generations of students benefit from the same high-quality teaching that meant so much to them.

These new positions are enabling us to offer courses in an even broader range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas. Students have more opportunities to work collaboratively with faculty on research projects, create an interdisciplinary major, examine challenging issues in greater depth, and study subjects that are not usually available at a school of Lafayette's size. The growing breadth of teaching expertise directly benefits our faculty, as well, by creating new options for teaching and research partnerships.

By reducing the student-faculty ratio from 11:1 to 10:1, we have ensured that our students receive even more individual attention and support from their teachers. And we have expanded and enriched the knowledge base from which our students benefit. In a very real sense, the substantial financial investment that Lafayette is making in new faculty is an investment in the excellence of the education your Lafayette daughters and sons receive—an investment that will continue to provide satisfaction and value to them throughout their lives



Daniel H. Weiss

## Nurture Nature Center

*(continued from page 1)*

the Nurture Nature Foundation, the non-profit organization for which it was named.

SOS is NNC's first exhibit at the center, which will also be outfitted with other exhibits and attractions addressing flooding and related water resource issues. SOS shows more than 250 programs about earth and space science, as well as other social topics, ranging from the path of the recent Japanese tsunami to the global network of Facebook friendships. SOS was developed by NOAA as a research tool, and quickly took off as an educational exhibit, and is now installed at 70 locations around the world, generally in large metropolitan areas. Easton's SOS is the only one to serve the New York and Philadelphia regions, and is expected to be a major attraction to

the new Nurture Nature Center.

"NNC will not be just an incredible place for visitors," Carr says, "but a meeting place, where ideas are exchanged and the community invited to help shape new ideas for programming, exhibits, and community projects."

More information about Science on a Sphere, including demonstrations of the various programs and visualizations, is available at [www.noaa.sos.gov](http://www.noaa.sos.gov). Information on the Nurture Nature Center can be found at [www.nurturenaturecenter.org](http://www.nurturenaturecenter.org).

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## Get the POINT?

**Lafayette POINT** (Parent Office Info, News, and Tips) is an email that is sent from the Parent Relations Office as timely information or news arises that may be of particular interest to parents. A POINT is sent to all current parents who have a valid email address on file.

POINTs have been sent this semester with information about Parent Orientation, Hurricane Irene and the power outage, emergency alerts, externships, Family Weekend, college break bus service, and the Mikhail Gorbachev visit. If you have not received these emails: send your email address, along with your student's name and class year, to the Parent Relations Office.

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**Parents**, if you have questions or would like more information on a topic, please feel free to contact the person whose name appears at the end of each article. Please send address changes, comments, or suggestions to me at the address or number on the right. I look forward to hearing from you!

—Donna Krivoski, Director, Parent Relations

**Hill to Home** brings news from College Hill to families at home. It is published twice yearly by the Division of Communications for Lafayette College Parent Relations. **Editor:** Donna Krivoski. **Photos:** Chuck Zovko.

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Students, faculty, and staff had some fun in downtown Easton during the fifth annual Lafayette Day.

## Open Access Movement Takes Hold at Lafayette

**Last semester**, the Lafayette College faculty adopted an open access resolution, joining only a handful of other schools in making faculty-authored articles freely and publicly available online. You can now read materials by 65 Lafayette professors in 19 departments in the Lafayette Digital Repository at <http://dspace.lafayette.edu/>. The repository will continue to grow as the resolution is implemented.

One of the major goals of the resolution and the Lafayette Digital Repository is to make the work of Lafayette faculty more visible as well as to promote information-sharing for the common good. In most fields, scholarly journals do not pay authors and have traditionally retained the copyright to the articles they publish. Academic libraries then pay steep fees to provide access to these journals back to the scholars who produced the content in the first place. The open access movement is trying to upend this system of scholarly communication, and journal publishers have started to take note. The majority of publishers now have standard policies allowing authors to post versions of their articles in institutional repositories. With the open access resolution at Lafayette, each faculty member grants blanket permission to the College to make

available his or her scholarly articles in the Lafayette Digital Repository, unless he/she chooses to opt out.

It is not just in academia that the open access movement is gaining momentum. Several years ago, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was pressured in the interest of advancing science and improving human health to enact a policy that ensures the public has access to the published results of NIH-funded (a.k.a. taxpayer-funded) research. The NIH now requires that research funded by its grants be made publicly available online at no charge within one year of publication. This is all good news for those students who will be graduating soon and will lose access to the scholarly research available in subscription databases that Lafayette College provides.

More information about open access can be found on the web site of SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition. SPARC is an international alliance of academic libraries—including Lafayette—that promotes expanded access to scholarship: <http://www.arl.org/sparc>.

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## Supporting Sick Students

Being sick stinks—whether it’s the flu, a stomach virus, or a bad cold. And the season of sniffles is now upon us. There are some things you can do to help make your student’s sickbed not so miserable.

**Make Get Well Packs.** Include items such as a package of tissues, a can of soup, cough drops, some teabags, a magazine and vitamin C drops, along with something you know that helps to make your student feel better.

**Be Proactive.** Encourage hand washing, sneezing into the elbow, disinfecting doorknobs and light switches, and keeping their room clean during the cold & flu season.

**Encourage Academic Follow-Through.** Students who are sick may wonder if they can miss class or postpone assignments as a result. Encourage them to talk with their professors and their academic advisers to find out what is possible so they’re not putting themselves in hot water.

**Push the Health Center.** Sick students don’t have to just suffer—the Bailey Health Center is there for them to use. So, strongly suggest that they get assistance—and possibly a prescription—to help their illness go away sooner rather than later.

**Keep in Touch.** When we’re sick, we often crave the comforts of home. Keep in touch and check in to let your son or daughter know he/she is not alone.

## Parent Volunteer Day

The annual meeting of the Family Weekend and Communications Committees of the Lafayette Parent Association will be Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012. This is the day students return to campus for the spring semester. Mark your calendar! If you volunteered for one of these committees, you will receive detailed information in the mail closer to the date.

## Commencement Dates

May 19, 2012  
 May 25, 2013  
 May 24, 2014  
 May 23, 2015

## Car Share Program Provides Convenient, Inexpensive Way to Get Around

**Students can run** some errands or do some shopping. They can take a weekend trip to visit friends or family. With the new UHaulCarShare program, members of the Lafayette community have a new option for getting around without the expense of having a personal car.

In addition to being convenient, the car share program supports Lafayette's strategic objectives to become a greener, more pedestrian-friendly campus. Between the expanded LCAT Shuttle Service and the new UHaulCarShare Program, students should have less need to bring cars to campus, thus reducing the College's overall carbon footprint.

The idea for the car sharing program was suggested by civil engineering major **Brian Peacock '12**. The College's Sustainability Committee liked the idea and decided to implement it on campus. The program is initiated by the Finance and Administration Division.

Two cars, most likely a Honda Civic Hybrid and a Scion XB, will be parked in designated spots in the March Field parking lot. These vehicles will be available to rent at any time through UHaulCarShare's online reservation system. Anyone interested in having access to the vehicles can enroll online.

There is a \$25 one time registration fee to join, and rent for the vehicles will be charged to the user's credit card according to hourly or daily rates set by UHaulCarShare. UhaulCarShare pays for insurance and gas and takes care of all maintenance.

Participating in the program is an easy—and convenient—way to go green.

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## Interim Session Housing for January 2012

**During the January interim** session, College housing is available for students who are enrolled in an interim course, conducting EXCEL research, employed on campus, or participating in an intercollegiate athletic team.

For safety and energy conservation reasons, interim residents are consolidated into designated buildings for the three-week session. Interim students who regularly reside in one of the designated buildings will be assigned to their regular rooms. Students registered for interim housing who do not regularly reside in one of the designated residence halls will be encouraged to make arrangements to occupy a friend's room in an interim building. Such arrangements between students do not necessitate that the regular occupant move his/her belongings out (with the exception of Kamine Hall, see below). Interim students who do not make such arrangements will be assigned a vacant space in an interim building. For a list of the buildings that are designated to remain open over the interim session, please consult the residence life website.

With the exception of Kamine Hall, regular occupants of the interim buildings will not be required to move

out between semesters. Kamine Hall will also be used during the winter inter-session—the two week period between the fall semester residence hall closing in December and interim session residence hall opening in January. Winter inter-session housing is available only for international students who have extenuating circumstances related to travel and students with inter-collegiate athletic obligations. Due to the small number of students residing on campus during this period, students will be consolidated into fewer buildings.

Current residents of Kamine have already received information related to moving out between semesters including options for on campus storage.

To reside on campus during the interim session, students must meet the stated residency criteria and complete the interim housing registration process. Registration information, including the interim housing fee, is on the residence life website.

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## What's an LCAT?

**The Lafayette College Area** Transportation (LCAT) program is the free shuttle bus service provided by the College. The LCAT shuttle provides students with safe and reliable transportation connecting the main campus with the College's athletic fields, downtown Easton, shopping areas, movie theaters, off-campus student parking areas, the Easton Bus Terminal, and transportation to the Lehigh Valley Airport. The schedule is online at [www.lafayette.edu/community/lcats.html](http://www.lafayette.edu/community/lcats.html).

## Parents Fund Update

**The 2010-11 academic year** marked another record setting one for the Parents Fund. Parents and grandparents of current and past students contributed \$892,665 toward a variety of college initiatives, and the Parents Fund surpassed the previous record set in the 2009-10 academic year. Consistent annual support from parents is vital in allowing the College to achieve its goal of helping each student realize his or her full potential. The impressive results in 2010-11 represent improvement of nearly 20 percent over the 2008-09 performance.

Special thanks are extended again this year to **Karyn Chabora P'12**, Parents Fund chair, and her team of Parents Fund agents. Agents play an important role in our success by contacting other families and encouraging them to lend their financial support to Lafayette. Also, thank you to all the families who financially contributed to the fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

As we start the 2011-12 Parents Fund drive, please consider supporting the College with a gift to the unrestricted annual fund or to the area of campus that is most important to you and your student. With everyone's support, we can hit our goal of \$1,000,000 this year. Every gift matters, and we are counting on you!

**Joe Samaritano '91**  
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## Students Learn Interviewing Skills

**There is no doubt** technology has changed the way students search for jobs. Parents recall the days of pouring over classified ads in the paper, attending career fairs, and making countless phone calls to potential employers hoping to speak to the person who makes the hiring decisions. Much of a student's work to secure a job or internship is done in front of a computer screen searching for opportunities, emailing potential employers, and investigating LinkedIn for Lafayette alumni to provide them with career guidance. There is, however, one element of the search that has stood the test of time— the interview.

To be successful in any search process, students must become skilled interviewees. A resume will only get them in front of the decision-makers; it is the interview that can secure them the job. Developing superior interviewing skills now will serve your student well throughout their entire life. An interview is the means to the end of finding an internship, a job after graduation, a seat in graduate school, a volunteer opportunity, an on-campus job, and even a summer job at the local grocery store. Career Services offers many ways for students to improve their interviewing skills and become more comfortable with the process.

- ▶ **Mock Interviews**— Gateway counselors conduct live video recorded interviews with students. They provide feedback on the content, as well as

the non-verbal behavior seen on the recording.

- ▶ **InterviewStream**— This system offers students the chance to digitally record multiple practice interviews using a computer. Students can select interview questions to practice answering, and e-mail the videos to their Gateway counselor for feedback.
- ▶ **Mock Interviews in the Field**— There is a group of Lafayette alumni volunteers willing to provide mock interviews with students over the phone or in person at their workplace.
- ▶ **Recruiters in Residence Week**— Employers visit campus once a semester for a week of in-person mock interviews conducted in the Career Services interviewing suite. These occur in September and February each year.

Lafayette students engage in valuable and challenging experiences both in-and-out of the classroom. They must practice how to effectively articulate the stories about their experiences with employers and graduate schools. Interviewing, like playing an instrument, requires practice. The more students take advantage of the mock interviewing options available to them, the greater confidence and success they will have throughout the interview process.

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## Emergency Alert Service

e2Campus is a service that enables the campus community to receive text alerts on their cell phones and by email in the event of an emergency on campus. Currently, 60 percent of the students have registered for alerts. If your student is one who has not signed up, please urge him/her to do so now. This service is also available for parents. Go to the parent website to sign up.

## Parent Website

Visit the parent website for information, hotels, restaurants, calendars, and links to areas of interest for parents. Go to [www.lafayette.edu](http://www.lafayette.edu) and click on Parents & Families.

## Family Emergencies

Unfortunately, family emergencies and tragedies may happen while your student is at Lafayette. Should an occasion arise whereby a student must be notified about a death or emergency in the immediate family, we ask that the student not be notified directly. Instead, please call the Dean of the College Office (610) 330-5080, so that the student can be notified in such a way that support systems are in place, should they be needed. The Office of Religious Life and the chaplain's staff are also available for support in times of crisis.

## Law/Health Professions Notes

- ▶ Students planning to apply for federal financial aid for law school should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after Jan. 1, 2012.
- ▶ Fall 2012 law school application deadlines: middle of March 2012.
- ▶ The campus application for health professional schools is due March 1, 2012.
- ▶ Information about pre-law and health professions programs is available at:  
<http://prelaw.lafayette.edu> and  
<https://healthprofessions.lafayette.edu>.

## Environmental Health and Safety Protects the Welfare of the Campus Community

### Environmental Health and Safety

(EHS) at Lafayette is a department in the Office of Public Safety and is comprised of two environmental health and safety specialists and a hazardous materials technician under the direction of the assistant director of public safety.

The goal of our EHS program is to manage the impact the College has on the environment and protect the safety, health, and welfare of our faculty, staff, and students.

The EHS program determines compliance requirements, publicizing the requirements, maintaining required records, arranging and tracking routine surveys of campus operations, ensuring that staff and students receive appropriate training, tracking regulated activities (such as the collection of hazardous waste), and keeping track of proposed and new rules.

EHS provides guidance on establishing written policies and standard operating procedures which comply with many regulations including the Laboratory Safety Standard. The departments and divisions that are affected by this regulation include art, chemistry, biology, engineering, geology, physics, and psychology.

EHS conducts regular laboratory fume hood tests, and EHS provides training on chemical spill cleanup; emergency eye wash use; and how to contact the Office of Public Safety utilizing our emergency phones.

Many other safety related programs have been established in conjunction with our faculty. Training and written procedures have been established for the safe use and operation of our engineering machine shop equipment. These areas are supervised and the equipment is locked when not in use.

Other aspects of EHS include:

### Environmental

- ▶ Air emissions and ambient air quality
- ▶ Wastewater and ambient water quality
- ▶ Hazardous materials management
- ▶ Waste management
- ▶ Noise
- ▶ Contaminated land and remediation

### Occupational Health and Safety

- ▶ General facility design and operation
- ▶ Communication and training
- ▶ Physical hazards

- ▶ Chemical hazards
- ▶ Biological hazards
- ▶ Radiological hazards
- ▶ Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- ▶ Special hazard environments
- ▶ Monitoring

### Community Health and Safety

- ▶ Water quality and availability
- ▶ Transport of hazardous materials
- ▶ Disease prevention
- ▶ Emergency preparedness and response
  - ▶ Life and fire safety
  - ▶ Fire exit drills
  - ▶ Fire safety training
    - ▶ For resident advisers
    - ▶ Offered to all students
  - ▶ All buildings centrally monitored
  - ▶ Close relationship and quick response from Easton Fire Department

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Assistant Director of Public Safety

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## Talking About Academics

**First semester grades** will be sent to students soon. Are you prepared to have the appropriate conversation with your student about academic performance? Whether As or Ds, addressing grades should be a priority this winter.

### For the student who has done well:

- ▶ Celebrate! Getting good grades in college is tough to do, especially for first-year students and those balancing coursework with athletics, a job, or other co-curricular activities.
- ▶ Discuss what your student learned this past semester. Which class was most engaging and why? What was he or she able to apply from classes to life outside of classes? Will he or she take additional courses to further explore a subject?
- ▶ Review study techniques and preparation strategies that worked well. Will the same strategies be used next semester or are there new ones to try?

### For the student who hasn't done so well:

- ▶ Explore the reasons for the performance. The why behind the poor grades is what is most important.

Perhaps your student is struggling with a subject and needs support. Maybe your student spent too many nights goofing off and not enough nights studying. Whatever the case, get to the root of the issue and address it.

- ▶ Seek to understand. What's done is done. It's important for your student to focus on fixing the issues so this doesn't happen again.
- ▶ Brainstorm strategies for improvement. Although college students are considered "adults," they may still need help. Let them "think out loud." Potential areas to discuss include:

- ▶ Daily study habits
- ▶ Skill sets including note taking, writing, reading and test taking
- ▶ Room set-up
- ▶ Class schedule
- ▶ Out-of-class involvements and responsibilities
- ▶ Whether or not a learning disability is coming into play
- ▶ Requesting assistance from the ATTIC (Academic Tutoring and Training Information Center)

### Try to keep in mind two important things:

- ▶ College is about more than grades.
- ▶ The grades belong to your student—they are their responsibility, and it is their choice whether or not to work even harder to pull up their average.

This may not be easy, especially if you are the one paying the bills. But, if you can remember those two things, the conversation will be a little bit easier. You will be less likely to get surprised if you are able to maintain open lines of communication about grades. While getting respectable grades is your student's responsibility, being confident that your support is always there can make a world of difference.

Remember, college is all about learning. Students learn from their successes, but sometimes, it is the challenges that teach the most.

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## Continuing the Journalistic Spirit: *The Lafayette*

The year 1870 will forever hold a special place in the journalistic history of Lafayette College. Ulysses S. Grant was President of the United States at the time, and the Fifteenth Amendment had only been in existence for a few brief months. During the new autumnal semester that year in Easton, Pa., an idea was realized which has weathered many challenges and has been able to maintain a consistent presence on campus. Furthermore, the idea demonstrated an ability to adapt and remain contemporary while similar experiments had come and gone. This idea was to have a journalistic publication for the campus community. The first publication of *The Lafayette Monthly*, a literary and journalistic magazine and precursor to the current newspaper, *The Lafayette*, was distributed around campus 141 years ago.

Given its legacy, it is no wonder that our newspaper now touts itself as “the oldest college newspaper in Pennsylvania.” *The Lafayette*, which now publishes approximately 1,600 papers each week, maintains its unique place in the fabric of student activities. While the College has witnessed the creation of many literary and news-oriented publications over the course of the past century, only *The Lafayette* has been able to continue its passion for collegiate journalism. Armed with a student staff ranging from 50 to 60 writers, editors, and photographers, the College newspaper presents a weekly, independent perspective on such topics as campus news, arts, entertainment, and athletics in and around the surrounding community.

Creating a lasting and viable publication such as *The Lafayette* is certainly no easy task and the demands

greatly increase with having to publish an issue each week. However, if one were to witness the meetings where the editorial staff is designing and laying out the next issue, one would be impressed at their dedication, collaboration, and collective enthusiasm regarding the next issue. Amidst the stacked pizza boxes and soda containers, one can find them working late into the night on each of the 10 computers sprawled around the office critiquing the layout, inserting photo credits, resizing various photographs, and often consulting *The New York Times* and a text entitled, *The Pacemaker*, which is a compilation of the best styles and layout designs of award-winning publications, as judged by the Associated Press. Consistent innovation has kept the paper relevant and that same spirit, which began 141 years ago, remains evident.

Providing an invaluable service to the college community, *The Lafayette*, has seen consistent growth in the last several years, particularly with their first-year writer retention rate as well as with their subscriptions and online interface. Parents, alumni, and friends can access *The Lafayette* online by simply visiting <http://www.thelaf.com>.

Subscriptions to the print edition (\$33.00 per semester or \$56.00 per academic year) can be ordered at <http://www.thelaf.com> under options, or a check can be sent to *The Lafayette* Newspaper, Farinon Center Box 7044, 111 Quad Drive, Easton, PA 18042

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## The Gift That Turns Student Imagination into Reality

A great way to support future generations of Lafayette students is through a life-income gift; a gift that will provide valuable support to the College and provide you with guaranteed income for life. In the true sense of the Lafayette tradition, it is a creative partnership.

For more information about how you can make a gift, receive income now or in

the future, and become a member of the James Madison Porter Society visit [www.lafayette.giftplans.org/ebrochure](http://www.lafayette.giftplans.org/ebrochure).

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## Seasonal Student Issues

There is a seasonal ebb and flow when it comes to student issues. Here are a few things your student may be experiencing at this time:

- ▶ Acclimation to new academic expectations and time management challenges
- ▶ Roommate adjustments/issues
- ▶ Excitement or anxiety about returning home for break
- ▶ Long-distance relationship strain
- ▶ Anticipation and stress about upcoming finals, feeling behind in class work
- ▶ Job search concerns for a semester break job
- ▶ Financial strain due to holiday gifts or travel costs

Be a sounding board, listen, know what resources are available on campus, and advise.

## Family Weekend 2011 Photos

Go to the photo link under Family Weekend on the parent website. Find your family and order prints.

## All Parent Email Addresses Requested

Many communications have changed to electronic versions in Lafayette's effort to go green. To receive these publications, important news flashes, special invitations and announcements, send your email address to [krivoskd@lafayette.edu](mailto:krivoskd@lafayette.edu). If you have not done so already. Include your student's name and class year. Remember to let us know any time your address changes.

## Lafayette-Lehigh Football Telecasts

**On Nov. 19**, join Lafayette (and Lehigh) alumni, parents, and friends to watch the 147th meeting of Lafayette and Lehigh football. There will be over 50 telecast parties across the country. See if there will be an event in your neighborhood and register online to join in the fun. Go to [www.alumni.lafayette.edu](http://www.alumni.lafayette.edu) or contact the Office of Alumni Affairs for more information and to register. **Go Lafayette! Beat Lehigh!**

# LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

## Parent Relations

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## Student Grades and FERPA Regulations

Our office frequently receives questions about grades from parents and families. It is important to note that the College is required to follow the regulations established by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Students may request that a copy of their transcript be sent to their family at anytime. Lafayette's policy on student records, <http://registrar.lafayette.edu/ferpa>, provides details about how we will typically answer these questions.

The key item of our policy states, "Lafayette College seeks to teach students to become mature, reasoned, educated adults capable of defining and realizing their academic and personal developmental goals. To that end, the College practice is to regard students as the primary contact for interaction regarding information contained in student educational records and to respect the confidentiality of that information. The College encourages students to act responsibly by communicating directly with their parents."

Students are graded throughout the semester. At midterm, faculty are asked

to evaluate student performance and to report mid-term grades (only under C-) to our office. Midterm grades, which are not recorded on the permanent record, serve to identify and assist students encountering academic difficulty. When a mid-term grade is reported, the student is informed and these grades are shared with the students' faculty adviser and their class dean. The class deans often meet in person or communicate with students and direct them to the appropriate resources on campus.

Permanent course grades are submitted by the professor and recorded at the end of each semester. Final grades are available online at the end of each semester, generally within 48 hours of the time grades are due. Students can request a printed copy from the Office of the Registrar prior to the end of the term or a copy of their complete transcript at any time.

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## Library Scavenger Hunt Sends First-Year Students on Quest

During the second week of the fall semester, first-year students were invited to participate in an unusual scavenger hunt at Skillman Library. Flyers and posters claimed that the Marquis de Lafayette's sword, an heirloom from 1792 usually housed safely in the library's Special Collections, had been stolen and that help was needed to recover it.

Students were invited to collect clues left by the thief around the library to reveal the location of the lost treasure. When they arrived at the main library on the night of Sept. 6, students were directed to use QR (quick response) readers on their cell phones and library services, like

instant messaging with a librarian, to find the clues in this hi-tech scavenger hunt.

The first 20 students to find the sword, which was located across campus in Kirby Library, won prizes. Everyone got to have their photograph taken holding the Marquis' real revolutionary sword, one of the most remarkable artifacts associated with the Marquis de Lafayette in the College's collection. The sword was taken from the Marquis de Lafayette by his Austrian captors in August, 1792. It was eventually purchased from the Austrians by a Prussian diplomat and put on display in Berlin. In 1932, the diplomat's family presented it to Lafayette College.

## • DATES TO REMEMBER 2011-12 •

### November

7-18 Preregistration, spring 2012  
19 Lafayette vs. Lehigh football, 147th meeting (away)  
23-27 Thanksgiving break

### December

9 Last day of classes  
13-19 Final exams

### January

2-20 Interim Session  
21 Parent Volunteer Day  
23 First day of classes

### March

10-18 Spring break

### April

2-13 Preregistration, fall 2012

### May

4 Last day of classes  
7-14 Final exams  
19 Baccalaureate and Commencement

### June

30 Closing date for Parents Fund

By participating in the scavenger hunt, first-year students were introduced to librarians and instructional technologists and learned about library resources in a fun setting. This event was one of many ways that new students were oriented to the library in their first semester. Librarians also teach classes for all First-Year Seminars on doing college-level research using resources available at Lafayette.

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