Importance of Student Connections

At the beginning of this academic year, I spoke with the Class of 2017 about the importance of “connecting” during their four years at the College. My request was simple: focus on connecting with one another, with faculty and staff, and with Lafayette in ways that would allow for one of the greatest experiences in their lives.

My request isn’t a simple one to achieve. In a time where “connectivity” and “being connected” digitally are as easy as finding the nearest WiFi access signal or computer device, the bigger challenge for all of us—including students—is one of actual human connections.

One of our challenges is to think about how to use technology in ways that encourage and support true connections among students, in and out of the classroom. Given the abundance of tablets and smartphones used by Generation Y, my colleagues within the Division of Campus Life—and our faculty—have been thinking about ways to also encourage learning and development through face-to-face interactions.

Building strong residential communities, where students socialize and learn from one another, is an area where we will continue to focus our energies, says Dean of Students Paul J. McLoughlin II.

Many Options for Academic Support

Lafayette offers a variety of services to help students achieve academic success. Developed in collaboration with course instructors in response to specific student needs and offered free of charge, they provide students additional learning opportunities to work with course material.

The main academic resource center, known as the ATTIC (Academic Tutoring, Training, and Information Center), offers many of these services. Support is also offered through academic departments (e.g., Calculus Cavalry) and programs such as the College Writing Program. The success of these services hinges on strong partnerships among course instructors, service administrators, and service providers.

Many students find their way to the ATTIC through referrals from deans, professors, and friends, and then their requests are matched with services. You can direct your student to the ATTIC and to the following websites:

• Writing support. Visit the College Writing Program (cwp.lafayette.edu).
**Strengthening Bonds**

I hope that by the time you read this newsletter, winter will finally be behind us! Having moved to Easton from Middlebury, Vt., I was expecting to miss the snow, but as it turns out, that has not been a problem. The record-setting snowfall presented many challenges in terms of campus operations and class scheduling, but it also brought a spirit of camaraderie and fun to campus, and reinforced my sense of the strength of the Lafayette community.

When snow was expected, many dedicated staff and faculty stayed on campus or filled rooms at the Lafayette Inn so that they would be able to come to campus in the morning. Plant operations staff worked overtime shifts to clear roads and pathways. Students struggled gamely through snowdrifts to class, pausing to exchange snowball volleys or slide down the hill in front of Pardee. I think we all agree it will be a winter to remember.

The three Presidential Task Forces that I appointed this fall to look at some strategic issues for the College are well underway and had the opportunity to meet with the Board of Trustees in late January to discuss their ongoing work. An important dimension of their discussions has to do with the breadth of knowledge about technology, “The Tech Lounge allows the community to benefit from the great ITS staff and their breadth of knowledge about technology,” says John O’Keefe, vice president for ITS and chief information officer. “In addition, it provides a centralized point of contact for members of the campus community to meet in-person with ITS staff. It expands on Help Desk and Hardware Shop offerings by providing a place to discuss general support issues, get information on ITS services, arrange for one-on-one consultation, and just relax.

“The Tech Lounge allows the community to benefit from the great ITS staff and their breadth of knowledge about technology,” says John O’Keefe, vice president for ITS and chief information officer. “In addition, it provides an opportunity for students interested in learning about technology to gain working experience supporting other students, faculty, and staff.”

In cooperation with the Provost’s Office and Department of Facilities Planning and Construction, ITS redesigned space in Pardee Hall to include a service desk, lounge seating, and a TV/display. The lounge’s adjacency to the collaboration lab in Pardee 28 has also allowed for the opening of that 30-seat computer lab during evenings when the lounge is open.

Along with full-time ITS employees, the lounge is staffed by nine student “concierges,” including Christopher Pelland ’15 and Michael Mastria ’16. The concierge team brings a broad understanding of technology and a high level of enthusiasm.

“One of the things that most appeals to me about working with the Tech Lounge would be the opportunity to help out the Lafayette community with issues regarding technology,” Pelland says.

Mastria says, “I am very interested in the position because of the benefit the lounge can have on campus. Using technology can be overwhelming, but these programs are essential for student learning. The lounge sounds like an inviting place. I think it’s going to have a good impact.”

Members of the student staff participated in an online training program developed by ITS to prepare for the position.

During the spring semester, the Tech Lounge is open Monday through Friday noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday through Thursday 7–10 p.m.

**Drop In at the Tech Lounge**

**The Tech Lounge**, a new Information Technology Services (ITS) initiative, provides a centralized point of contact for members of the campus community to meet in-person with ITS staff. It expands on Help Desk and Hardware Shop offerings by providing a place to discuss general support issues, get information on ITS services, arrange for one-on-one consultation, and just relax.

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**Chris Koch**

Director, User Services

Information Technology Services

kochc@lafayette.edu

(610) 330-5624

**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. **Principal photographer:** Chuck Zovko.

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 below. I look forward to hearing from you!

—Donna Krivoski, Director, Parent Relations
Getting the Most From the Libraries

If you have toured the campus, chances are you’ve seen two landmark buildings, Skillman Library and Kirby Hall of Civil Rights, which houses Kirby Library. As a prospective student, I was impressed by Skillman’s glass exterior and bright, spacious interior and awed by Kirby’s oak-paneled walls and ornate design. In fact, the libraries were an important consideration in my decision to attend Lafayette.

Here are some tips for using the library:

Get acquainted. Librarians give first-year students an overview of library resources and teach techniques for navigating databases and evaluating sources in connection with their First-Year Seminar. This year, a Hunger Games-themed orientation helped new students understand the library’s wealth of resources. Upper-level students are also taught how to use library resources in certain classes.

A good place to work. I work in Reference, and other students work in a variety of departments from Circulation to Technical Services and Special Collections. Shifts are flexible.

More than a study space. The library is a hub for an array of programs and events. I’ve attended lectures by prominent speakers, participated in a flash mob celebrating Banned Books Week, and judged entries for the annual Edible Books Competition. Grab a coffee and snack at Skillman Café.

It’s all here. The library offers everything your student needs to study, conduct research, and even unwind. The library subscribes to a number of databases and has an extensive collection of books and periodicals. If the library does not have an item that your student is looking for, they can submit an interlibrary loan request as I did when I needed an article for my research that was available only in two libraries in Europe. Students can browse the collection of recently published fiction books and magazines or pick up a DVD. They may also borrow Kindles, cameras, laptops, and other equipment at the circulation desk.

The library’s most important resource. The best advice for taking advantage of the library is simple, yet it can be difficult for students. Ask for help. Library staff are friendly, approachable, and armed with enthusiasm and expertise. Assisting students is their job, and they are well-equipped to help with any research project or question. Students can speak with a librarian anytime at the Reference Desk or schedule a one-on-one PRA (Personalized Research Assistance) session.

The library is an important component of academic success. Encourage your student to take advantage!

Alena Principato ’16
Reference Assistant and Library Ambassador
Skillman Library
arena, lunchtime “brownbag” discussions over a variety of topics, and service trips.

Taking the time to create opportunities where students are encouraged to look inward as a way of refining what their outward contributions to society will be, is something that residential colleges do best—and Lafayette is committed to crafting such reflective moments.

One recent example of our success in achieving exactly these types of connective moments is through recent service trips during the winter break organized by the Alternative School Break. By traveling to Chicago; McAllen, Texas; and Maryville, Tenn., students immersed themselves in issues of immigration, education and the arts, and the environment. Of course, they blogged about these transformative learning experiences, and I invite you to read about them at sites.lafayette.edu/asb. Here’s another example: two ski trips to Camelback Mountain planned by the departments of Recreation Services and Student Involvement. More than 100 students connected on ski lifts, slopes, and bus rides!

These experiences and so many more are ways in which Lafayette is combining technology with students’ learning, encouraging students to put down their devices and pick up face-to-face conversations, and helping students form networks in their purest sense. As one of the strengths of Lafayette, they are instrumental in preparing students for life after graduation.

As always, we can use your help. Encourage your son or daughter to connect with peers through involvement, service, and conversation; to talk as much as they tweet; and to participate in opportunities that help them form meaningful connections in real, as well as virtual, spaces. Perhaps you can send a reminder via Facebook or text. Or maybe you can have a conversation the next time you are together!

If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to send me an email. I also welcome the use of old technology, too—feel free to call.

Paul J. McLoughlin II
Dean of Students
deanofstudents@lafayette.edu
(610) 330-5082

Spiritual Life on Campus
Lafayette has a long tradition of nurturing religious and spiritual development. The student body is spiritually diverse, and opportunities for worship and fellowship are available for a wide range of religious and spiritual traditions. Placed within the Office of Intercultural Development, the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life works with the Landis Community Outreach Center, Office of Gender and Sexuality Programs, International Students Association, and others to further a commitment to diversity and inclusion through educational outreach, cultural programming, support, advocacy of historically marginalized groups, and community building.

Lafayette’s chaplain keeps regular office hours and is available to provide spiritual care to students, faculty, and staff. The chaplain is committed to welcoming students of all genders and sexual identities, all secular and religious traditions, and all cultural backgrounds. They will find a safe and confidential environment to discuss personal or existential issues or difficulties.

There are organizations on campus for Roman Catholic, Jewish, Protestant Christian, Evangelical Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, and Humanist students, as well as a Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter and a student-led grief support group. All of these organizations participate in the Interfaith Council. Interfaith cooperation is a hallmark of religious and spiritual life at Lafayette. The Interfaith Council coordinates events and programming co-sponsored by religious organizations on campus.

A listing of on-campus and off-campus worship opportunities can be found at religiouslife.lafayette.edu.

Please feel free to contact the chaplain if you have questions about the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life.

Alex Hendrickson
Chaplain
hendrica@lafayette.edu
(610) 330-5959

Importance of Student Connections
(continued from page 1)
Landing a Summer Internship

Employers have reaped the benefits that interns bring to their workplace and in many cases convert interns into full-time hires. Recruiting strategies now include sourcing talent prior to senior year, making students with internship experience much more competitive in today’s job market.

Students can position themselves to land meaningful internships by investing in their career development process. Participants in the Gateway Program can meet with their career counselor to learn internship search skills, networking opportunities, interviewing strategies, résumé and cover letter writing, and how to build their personal brand. Gateway empowers students to discover their strengths, explore their passions, and connect with alumni.

Please reinforce these principles of the internship search process with your student:

- Prepare documents and materials with their Gateway counselor, including résumé, cover letters, and LinkedIn profile.
- Utilize Career Services’ resources, including webshops, workshops, handouts, and library books.
- Search for internships in the Career Vault, LACN (Liberal Arts Career Network), LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/studentjobs), Internships.com, and Career Services’ Internship webpage.
- Apply for at least 20 internships and follow up appropriately.
- Network with family, friends, faculty, coaches, neighbors, and alumni to request informational interviews. Students should build a network before they need it.
- Prepare for interviews via webshops, Career Advisor online videos, InterviewStream, and the Recruiters in Residence mock interview program.
- Attend alumni panels and workshops.
- Each spring, Career Services awards alumni-sponsored internship stipends to help offset the expenses of internships. Applications are available in Career Services. Also, we invite parents to partner with us by hiring Lafayette interns if you know of opportunities at your organization.

We appreciate all you do to encourage your students to take advantage of our hallmark Gateway program. For the fourth consecutive year, we are ranked as a Top 20 Career Center by Princeton Review.

Erin Evans
Associate Director of Career Services
for Internships and Volunteer Initiatives
evanse@lafayette.edu
(610) 330-5115

Closing Information for College Housing

With the exception of approved extended-stay groups, no first-year students, sophomores, or juniors are permitted to remain in their rooms past 5 p.m. Monday, May 19. All students who are not graduating seniors must vacate their rooms within 24 hours of their last academic commitment or by the above date and time, whichever is earlier. All College-operated housing (general residence halls, sororities, fraternities, Fisher suites, Watson Courts, and College-owned off-campus apartments) will close to students, and checkpoint tags will be deactivated, at 5 p.m. May 19.

Thank you for assisting your student to make departure plans accordingly. This deadline helps the College maintain an environment conducive to continued exam preparation and enables the preparation of rooms for immediate summer occupancy.

Graduating seniors are automatically approved to stay in College housing through noon Sunday, May 25. Seniors’ checkpoints will be deactivated and exterior locks to College-owned off-campus housing will be changed at that time. Due to the immediate transition to the Summer Housing term, we cannot extend this deadline.

We know graduation weekend can be hectic, so we ask that you plan with your graduate in advance to ensure a smooth departure from campus.

College housing will open for the fall semester on Saturday, August 23.

Grace Reynolds
Director of Residence Life
reynoldg@lafayette.edu
(610) 330-5335

LCAT Shuttle Service

LCAT (Lafayette College Area Transportation), the free campus shuttle bus service, provides safe, reliable transportation connecting the College Hill campus with the Metzgar Fields Athletic Complex, downtown Easton, shopping areas, movie theaters, primary off-campus student parking areas, and Lehigh Valley International Airport. A link to the schedule is on the Parent website.

Commencement Dates

May 24, 2014 May 21, 2016
May 23, 2015 May 20, 2017

National Honor for Skillman Library

Skillman Library has received the 2014 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries. The award highlights the library’s commitment to digital scholarship, its pioneering of new models for collaborative content acquisition, and the impact of its Information Literacy and Special Collections programs on student learning. Receiving this award is a national tribute to the library and its staff for outstanding services, programs, and leadership.

Parents Fund Update

We would like to thank parents who contributed more than $2 million to the Annual Fund in 2011-12 and 2012-13 and nearly $650,000 so far this year toward a Parents Fund goal of $1.1 million. All gifts, regardless of their size, make an immediate difference by enhancing the College’s ability to provide programs to prepare students for success in their careers and their future.

Parents may direct support to the area of greatest need or to the program of their choice. To give, please contact the Annual Fund, (610) 330-5034, or use the secure online giving site at development.lafayette.edu/give. Thank you for your support!

Joe Samaritano ’91
Director of Parents Fund
samaritj@lafayette.edu
(610) 330-5047
Lafayette Leadership Institute—A State of Mind

The 18th annual installment of the Lafayette Leadership Institute, held Feb. 8, provided a full day of engaging and impactful lessons on leadership for approximately 200 emerging and experienced student leaders in the junior and senior classes.

This year’s theme, “Leadership 24/7,” promoted the idea of leadership as a state of mind and a set of values to be internalized, practiced, and exhibited as consistently positive, influential action. Sessions presented by Lafayette administrators, faculty, and students covered 11 topics, including “Congruence: Living Your Leadership Values” and “Situational Leadership: Navigating the Rough Waters of Peer Interaction.”

In her keynote address, “Leading From Behind,” College Trustee Alma Scott-Buczak ’74, outlined the her leadership style as executive vice president of human resources for New Jersey Transit. She has dramatically revised and improved employee-relations measures for the 11,000-person organization, the largest state-wide agency in the country.

Other alumni participated in informative presentations and roundtable sessions. They were Tony Fernandez ’81, executive vice president and chief supply chain officer of Pinnacle Foods; Amy Herman ’88, president of The Art of Perception; Kartik Chandran ’95, associate professor of microbiology and immunology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Gina Arias ’93, senior community partner coordinator for New York City’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Jim Fisher ’77, managing member of Fisher Capital Corp.; Abigail Lewis-Cooper ’98, senior program officer at the National Democratic Institute; and Connor Woods ’11, a Lafayette admissions counselor who served as moderator.

Made possible by the Class of ’68 Leadership Fund, the institute was presented by the Lafayette Leadership Education Committee and the Office of Student Leadership. The committee is made up of faculty, administrators, and student leaders from the junior and senior classes, including Brad Bormann ’14, Student Leadership Intern for 2013-14; Connor Heinlein ’15; Shehtaz Huq ’14; Tom McCutcheon ’15; Cory Spera ’15, Student Leadership Intern for 2014-15; Chris Saint Germain ’15; Rachael Trupp ’14; Gabbi Villanueva ’15; and S.C. Wang ’14.

Brad Bormann ’14
Student Leadership Intern
Student Government: Looking Ahead

With every new Student Government term come fresh faces ready to make a difference. This year we will be looking to provide a robust student experience for our student body and campus community.

Student Government is already working to enhance the way student organizations on campus function. Through tracking events and funding them more, Student Government is looking to develop greater accountability. We are also working to implement greater constituent service. By soliciting more feedback from students, faculty, administrators, alumni, and parents we are striving to let the student voice be heard across all divisions of campus life.

Student Government hopes to cultivate strong, capable leaders and accurately represent their diverse range of opinions when the need arises. Should anyone—student, parent, or otherwise—be interested in reaching out to Student Government for any sort of help, please feel free to contact us via the information below. We are anticipating a productive and exciting term and hope to be of service to you.

Connor Heinlein ’15
President, Student Government
lafstugov@lafayette.edu

Special Events in Easton

Warm temps and sunny days in Easton will feel sweeter this year following a record winter. Plan to visit with your student!

Spring into Easton, Saturday, April 12. Visit fabulous retail shops and sample food from incredible restaurants. Some locations will offer special coupons and discounts. Noon to 3 p.m. See www.EastonMainStreet.org.

Arts Community of Easton Arts Tour, Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27. This self-directed walking tour of galleries, studios, and creative spaces shows the vibrancy of our arts community. Noon to 5 p.m. both days. See www.EastonArt.org.

Historic Easton House Tour, Saturday, May 3. Visit seven homes and three public spaces on this self-guided tour. The annual event, in partnership with the Easton Main Street Initiative, provides funds to preserve historic buildings and continue Easton’s cultural events. Tickets are $25 ($20 in advance). 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See www.EastonHouseTour.com. (May 3 is also the opening day of the Easton Farmer’s Market!)

Amy Boccadoro
Assistant Main Street Manager
amy@eastonpartnership.org
(610) 330-9947

Crime Prevention: Be Safe, Not Sorry

Please remind students to be smart! Crime prevention tips have been shared with students. Parents can play a valuable role by reinforcing the tips below.

• A student’s keys and electronic access tags should be handled by that student only. Do not attach ID cards to keys/tags. Report missing keys/tags to the Office of Public Safety immediately.
• Students should keep their rooms locked when they are not there.
• Never let strangers into their building or room. Students who see a person they do not know should call Public Safety immediately to check on the individual.
• Use good judgment in giving out phone numbers. Students should not give out phone numbers to anyone selling anything. They should request packet for review. Never give out a Social Security number except to College administration.
• Keep an up-to-date inventory of valuables. Borrow an engraver from Public Safety to engrave valuables with a driver’s license number.
• Lock bicycles to a bike rack or other fixed object.
• Use the escort service which is provided from any College-owned property. Public Safety may provide a ride or a walking escort.
• Students should not leave laptops, other electronic devices, or textbooks unattended in a library or any public area, even for a few minutes. Skillman Library offers laptop locking cables to borrow.

Hugh Harris
Office of Public Safety
harrish@lafayette.edu
(610) 330-5330
Class of 2014 Gift Will Fund Internships

Continuing a tradition, the graduating class’ Commencement Gift will fund internship stipends for Lafayette undergraduates. The Commencement Gift Committee, chaired by Ayesha Nadarajah ’14, Alec Golini ’14, and Sarah Roberts ’14, has set a goal of having 93 percent of the class contributing.

A gift of $20.14, in honor of their class year, or a Marquis Society level gift of $50 is suggested. The Marquis Society is one of the College’s most prestigious giving societies. Students giving at the Marquis Society level or higher are invited to the annual Marquis Founders Dinner held during Homecoming Weekend in the fall.

Thank you to all the students and parents who have already supported the class gift. If you wish to give, please call (610) 330-5034 or use the secure online giving site at development.lafayette.edu. Please designate your contribution to the Class Commencement Gift under “other designations.”

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<td>Closing date for Annual Parents Fund</td>
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<td>New Student Orientation</td>
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<td>Upper-level students move in</td>
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<td>Lafayette vs. Lehigh football (150th Game in NYC)</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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- Dates to Remember 2014 -