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# LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

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Office of the Dean of the College

May, 2009

Dear Member of the Lafayette College Class of 2013:

It is my privilege to formally welcome you as a member of the Lafayette College Class of 2013. We trust that your academic pursuits over the next four years will set the foundation for a life of intellectual curiosity, academic inquiry and thirst for knowledge. We also hope that your arrival on campus signifies the beginning of what we hope is a lifelong association with Lafayette College.

Throughout 2009, our community is celebrating Charles Darwin's birthday and the anniversary of the release of his *Origin of the Species*. The year's focus on Darwin and his contributions to scientific inquiry gives us the opportunity to introduce you to the vibrancy of intellectual life at Lafayette. We have chosen two summer reading assignments for you:

- The January 2009 edition of *Scientific American* devoted to the role of evolutionary theory across a wide range of contemporary fields is being sent to your home via postal service, and
- The Wallace/Darwin papers submitted to the Linnean Society in 1858. Please find this document online at <http://www.linnean.org/index.php?id=380>

We expect you will agree with our faculty that the combination of the historical papers and the contemporary, interdisciplinary essays in *Scientific American* provides an interesting perspective for exploring Darwin's stature as a major contributor to the intellectual life of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. You also may hear from your faculty discussion leader in the coming weeks with particular questions to consider before the Orientation activities. Soon, your Class of 2013 webpage will have a link to a site devoted to all the Darwin-related events on campus throughout 2009.

You will arrive on campus for orientation on Thursday, August 27, and the academic year officially begins the following morning with the convocation ceremony on Friday, August 28. That day you will meet in a small group with a faculty leader to discuss the summer reading and to explore the relevance of a liberal arts education in today's world. Make sure you are prepared; your college education starts now!

We look forward to welcoming you into our scholarly community, as well as our ongoing campus conversations about Darwin, in August. We are confident that your voices and thoughts will make a real contribution to the intellectual life on the Lafayette campus.

I hope you will enjoy your Class of 2013 Orientation logo (see below). It was selected from several logos designed by students in one of our digital art classes. You will find it on the BPA-free plastic water bottle you will receive when you arrive on campus; students also were responsible for researching water filtration stations you will find throughout campus. We trust you will use the bottles to help us in our efforts to reduce landfill waste.

Sincerely,



Hannah Stewart-Gambino  
Dean of the College  
Professor of Government and Law



**i think.**  
*i think      i adapt      i evolve*

Lafayette College Orientation 2013