

Bytes & Books

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A Welcome from the Dean



At Lafayette College Libraries, we are delighted to usher in a fall semester in full swing of bicentennial activity. Having hosted events, exhibits, and more last academic year to honor the bicentennial of

the Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour and the founding of the College in 2024, we now look ahead to the semiquincentennial of the nation and bicentennial of the College's charter in 2026. This pivotal moment in the history of our campus and the nation is an opportunity to reflect on the role of libraries in bridging the past, present, and future.

This fall, three exhibitions in Skillman Library reflect on 200 years of College history, in terms of the built environment of the campus, forms of community at the College across three centuries, and archival touchstones in the history of the College since its founding. Not only physical archives, but digital ones as well facilitate the marking of this profound moment in the history of the College and the nation. We are continually growing our digital collections; exciting recent additions to the Lafayette Digital Repository include letters written by the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington during the American Revolution. We are proud to hold this

extraordinary collection in Special Collections & College Archives, and delighted to make it digitally accessible for all to explore.

As we mark the bicentennial, the College's strategic priority of "Democracy & Its Technologies" takes on particular valence at the Libraries. This strategic priority is an opportunity to renew our commitment to a core function of academic libraries: to foster the critical information literacy and the attentional capacity we all need to participate civically in our democracy. To this end, we are thrilled to welcome Karen Hao, author of *Empire of AI*, in partnership with the Office of the Provost and with generous support from the endowment of John L. Hatfield, Class of '67. Hao encourages us to explore through a critical lens the forms of data extraction that underpin the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence. Her visit to campus aligns with Democracy & Its Technologies as a strategic initiative of the College explicitly focused on the relationship between data literacy and democratic practice.

Hao's lecture, like all exhibitions, digital collections, and public events hosted by the libraries, is free and open to all. We hope that you will be able to join us for some of the exciting programming detailed in this issue of *Bytes & Books*, and to celebrate with us all that our librarians, faculty, staff, and students have accomplished.

-Charlotte Nunes

For regular updates from the Libraries subscribe to our monthly email newsletter.



Collaborative Highlights

Libraries Surpass 10,000 Resources Contributed to the Digital Public Library of America

This year, the Libraries celebrated a milestone 10,000 digital resources contributed to the Digital Public Library of America. These resources are part of a larger collection of more than 21,000 works in the Lafayette Digital Repository, including digitized materials from College Archives &

Special Collections, student publications, administrative content, faculty scholarship, and full runs of the student newspaper and alumni magazine.

Charlotte Nunes & Mary Armstrong Selected Winners of the 2025 Gail Schlachter Memorial Research Grant

Professor Mary Armstrong (Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies and English) and Charlotte Nunes, Dean of Libraries, have been selected as the 2025 recipients of the Gail Schlachter Memorial Research Grant for their proposal focused on the Lafayette College Queer Archives Project (QAP). The resulting research will assess the impact of

the QAP on Lafayette student perceptions of campus belonging. The Queer Archives Project at Lafayette College is a collaborative, interdisciplinary initiative designed to illuminate Lafayette's Queer history, advance teaching, learning and research in the area of Queer Studies, and promote positive institutional transformation.

Libraries Host First LVAIC Open Symposium

Under the leadership of Librarian Ben Jahre, Head of Collections Strategies, the Libraries hosted the first Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC) Open Knowledge Symposium in June. The symposium brought together library professionals and other advocates to explore and advance the principles of Open Knowledge—a

broad concept that includes Open and Public Access publishing, Open Educational practices, institutional repositories, and more. Through presentations and panel discussions, attendees gained practical insights to support and promote Open Knowledge practices within their own institutions.

Libraries and Student Life Host “Night at the Library”

For the first time, the Libraries and Student Life collaborated to host an immersive and multimodal orientation night at the library for all incoming first-year students. The “Night at the Library” featured workshops on immersive AI, bookmaking, library services bingo, and collaborative programming with other campus units such as Dining Services and the Writing Center. Other elements included board games from the Libraries's Life Library, puzzles, a silent disco, and a selfie station with picture frame decorating. The goal was to welcome new students, familiarize them with the spaces, services, and resources available to them at Skillman, and most of all to convey that the library is their space—a place to focus, study, explore, and find support to learn and grow during their time at Lafayette. According to gate counts during this

optional orientation event, an upwards of 700 people attended the Night at the Library, suggesting that nearly all (if not all!) first-year students participated. Melissa Dalrymple, Associate Director of Student Involvement remarked that “the event did exactly what we hoped—inviting first-year students into the space in a non-intimidating way and encouraging them to discover everything the library has to offer. From stepping through the doors on a golden leopard hunt to making new connections with peers, students engaged with the space (and each other!) in creative, low-pressure ways. It was a night full of laughter, curiosity, and discovery.”



Emma Hetrick Awarded Course Affordability Grant to Replace St. Martins Handbook

In Fall 2024, Emma Hetrick, College Writing Coordinator, implemented alternatives to using the St. Martin's Handbook as a writing guide for first year students in her FYS course through a library-sponsored course affordability grant. This initiative saved students from having to

purchase the St. Martin's Handbook, which retails for \$113. The course affordability grants have been offered to faculty through the library since 2018 and since then students have saved an estimated \$226,500 in textbook costs.

Faculty Engagement

Professors Xu Ma & Nancy Ingabire Abayo and Received Information Literacy Grants

During the 2024-2025 academic year, Professors Xu Ma and Nancy Ingabire Abayo and each received an information literacy grant sponsored by the Lafayette College Libraries and the Provost's Office, for what they have proposed to do in their respective courses, CE 203 Envisioning a Sustainable World and REL 233 Female Divinities and Demons in East Asia. Both proposals emphasized closely questioning information (including the author's positionality), incorporating various forms of knowledge, and communicating research using different media.



Libraries & Office of the Provost Launch Faculty Features

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the Libraries and the Office of the Provost partnered to launch Faculty Features, a roundtable series celebrating recent scholarly and creative works at the College. Featuring brief presentations of scholarship by three faculty members, followed by a Q&A moderated by Provost Laura McGrane, the roundtables celebrate recent monographs, articles, exhibitions, digital projects, and more. Featured

faculty to date include Melissa Gordon (Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering), Eric Hupe (Art), Kyle Keeler (Environmental Science & Studies), Sun You (Art), Sayorn Chin (Economics), and Lauren Myers (Psychology). Are you a faculty member interested in sharing a recent achievement? Contact Dean of Libraries Charlotte Nunes at nunes@lafayette.edu.

Faculty Opportunities

Faculty Invited to Apply for an Information Literacy Grant

Information literacy grants (\$1,500) for faculty who wish to add an information literacy component to one of their upper-level classes will be available later this Fall. The goal of these grants, sponsored by the Libraries and the Office of the Provost, is to encourage faculty to develop classes in which students have repeated opportunities to build information literacy skills and learn how information

is created, disseminated, and organized in a discipline. To be eligible, the class should include projects in which students gather, evaluate, and use information and involve collaboration with a librarian. For those interested in applying for a grant please contact Lijuan Xu at xul@lafayette.edu.

Faculty Invited to Apply for a Course Affordability Grant

Faculty are invited to submit an application for course affordability grants. The purpose of the Course Affordability Initiative is to reduce out-of-pocket expenses for Lafayette students by promoting the adoption, adaptation, creation, or reuse of Open Educational Resources (OER) or other low cost alternatives to commercial textbooks and course materials. The program supports faculty who want to make

the transition to low cost alternatives by providing grants and assistance for reworking course syllabi or creating new free materials. Because we know that the timeline for course preparation varies significantly depending on the nature of the course, we accept applications throughout the year. For more information or to get started, contact courseaffordability@lafayette.edu.

Exhibits

Libraries' Talks & Exhibits Support the Bicentennial of the College

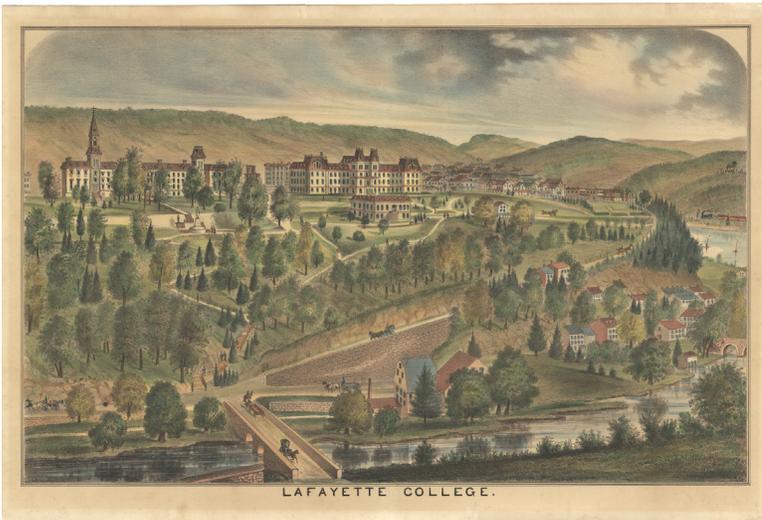
This Incomparable Site: From College Edifice to College Hill

Lass Gallery, through December 18, 2026

In the first volume of *The Biography of a College*, historian David Bishop Skillman characterizes College Hill as "...this incomparable site. No American college can boast a better one." This exhibition features early engravings, maps, and photographs from the Lafayette College Archives and documents the evolution of the built environment on campus throughout the 19th century.



Approach to Lafayette College—1887.



Above: Lafayette College, G. A. Rudd, 1875



Above: Association of Black Collegians on the porch of the original Black Cultural Center, 1979

We'll Gather by the Twilight's Glow: 200 Years of Community at Lafayette College

Reference Area, through December 18, 2026

Historic panoramic and group photographs illustrate the growth of the Lafayette College community from its early years to the present. See our student, faculty, staff, alumni, and trustee populations transform as they gather in Convocation, Commencement, Reunion, and athletic and club photographs over the last three centuries.

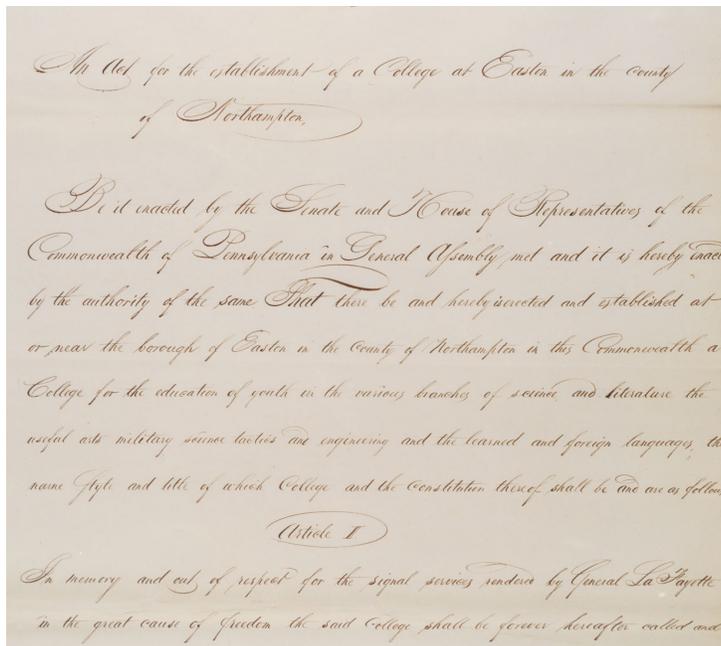


Above: Lafayette College Class of 1906 celebrating their 25th Reunion

Lafayette 200: A Bicentennial History of Lafayette College

Simon Room, through December 18, 2026

Take a step back in time and learn about the founding of Lafayette College, the evolution of our curriculum, the birth of athletics and student organizations, our resilience in the face of wars and financial crises, the impacts of the civil rights movement and coeducation, and more. Key documents, images, and artifacts from the Lafayette College Archives trace historic events that contributed to the development of one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the nation.



Above: Copy of the Lafayette College charter, 1826 Record Group 26, Department of State Engrossed Laws (series #26.57) Courtesy of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Pennsylvania State Archives

12	
Boards dressed for College building,	15,000 feet.
Sash for College	218 lights.
—♦—	
FARM WORK.	
Lime hauled and spread,	1145 bushels.
Manure, do. do.	120 loads.
Oats cultivated	4 acres.
Winter crops	21 do.
Corn	8 do.
Potatoes	2 do.
Hay,	11 tons.
Garden vegetables.	
—♦—	
COURSE OF STUDIES.	
FRESHMEN CLASS.—FIRST TERM.	
LATIN—Odes of Horace.	
GREEK—Minora, Neilson's Exercises, Roman Antiquities, Mythology, Ancient Geography.	
MATHEMATICS—Euclid, First Book.	
—♦—	
SECOND TERM.	
LATIN—Satires and Epistles of Horace, Cicero's Orations, Roman Antiquities.	
GREEK—Majora, viz. Zenophon, Herodatus, Thucydides, Neilson's Exercise.—Antiquities.	
MATHEMATICS—Euclid Second and Third Books, Algebra to Simple Equations.	
—♦—	
SOPHOMORE CLASS.—FIRST TERM.	
LATIN—Horace's Art of Poetry, Tacitus' History.	
GREEK—Majora, viz. First volume completed, Greek Antiquities.	
MATHEMATICS—Euclid, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Books.	

Above & Right: Course of Studies, 1834

13	
SECOND TERM.	
LATIN—Tacitus' History.	
GREEK—Majora, Second Volume.	
Plain Trigonometry, Algebra through Equations.	
Evidences of Christianity.	
—♦—	
JUNIOR CLASS.—FIRST TERM.	
LATIN—Cicero de Officiis.	
GREEK—Majora, Second volume.	
Surveying, Measurement, Conc. Sections.	
Mental Philosophy, Logic, Evidences of Christianity.	
—♦—	
SECOND TERM.	
GREEK—Longinus de Sublimitate,	
Spherical Trigonometry, Analytic Geometry, Differential and Integral Calculus.	
Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric, Natural Theology.	
—♦—	
SENIOR CLASS.—FIRST TERM.	
LATIN—Cicero de Oratore.	
GREEK—Majora, Medea, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Mental Philosophy, Rhetoric.	
—♦—	
SECOND TERM.	
Natural Philosophy, Mineralogy, Botany.	
Political Economy, History—Review, Mental & Moral Philosophy and Evidences of Christianity.	
—♦—	
PREPARATORY COURSE.	
Studies of the Preparatory Course—Reading, Writing, Arithmetic to the Cube Root, Geography, Vocal Music, English Grammar. Latin Grammar, Historiæ Sacræ, Viri Romæ, or Historiæ Græcæ, Cæsar, Virgil, Sallust, Mair's Syntax, Greek Grammar, Greek Testament, Greek Minora in part.	

Alumni Weekend Talks

Join College Archivist Elaine Stomber in Oechsle (old) 224 at 10 AM on September 27th for an insider view of the Bicentennial Art Commission and a preview of a special work in progress by one of the most internationally acclaimed American female artists of our time. At 11AM, join Olga Anna Duhl, Oliver E. Williams Professor of Languages, for a preview of *Lafayette between France and America: History and Legend*—an exhibition dedicated to the “hero of two worlds” and the political role that he played in both America and France for more than half a century. Come learn more about this special exhibition, to be held at the National Archives in Paris from April 1 to July 14, 2026. Pre-registration required for both events. Space is limited. <https://www.lafayette.edu/bicentennial/event/kickoff/>

The Libraries at a Glance

Milestones in AY 24-25

Lafayette College Libraries celebrated several accomplishments and anniversaries over the past year

Digitized items from Special Collections & College Archives, photographs documenting institutional and regional history, student publications, and faculty-library collaborative digital projects are among the resources archived and shared. Over 21,000 can be found in the Lafayette Digital Repository and over 10,000 have a great reach as part of the Digital Public Library of America.

Over **21,000** digital resources archived and **10,000** added to the Digital Public Library of America

Open Educational Resources (OER) Initiatives Passes
\$200,000 in student savings

Since the Libraries started a course affordability initiative in 2018, students have saved an estimated \$226,500 in textbook costs.



Scan the QR code to learn more about course affordability and OER

Originating as part of a Mellon Grant in 2015, the DHSS program is a six-week intensive seminar engaging students with Digital Humanities: learning digital tools and methodologies to design and build their own research projects.

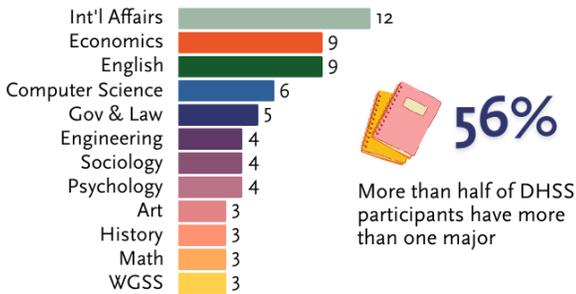
Digital Humanities Summer Scholar Program celebrates **10 years!**

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Digital Humanities Summer Scholars (DHSS) program

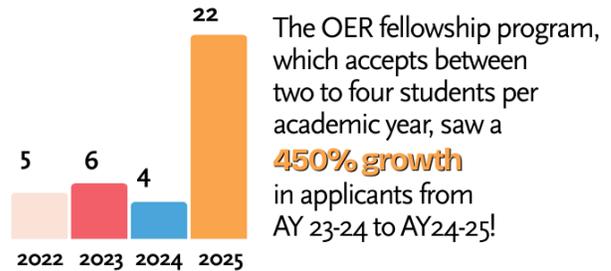


Student Opportunities

Digital Humanities Summer Scholars (DHSS) Participant Majors



Open Education Fellowships Exponential Applicant Growth



Responsive Acquisitions

You asked, we acquired!

The Libraries acquire new resources in conversation with students and faculty. A sampling:

- PolicyMap
- The Atlantic site-wide subscription
- South Asia Commons
- West African Magazines
- Indigenous Peoples Social Justice & Culture
- 404 Media
- Orlando: Women's Writing in the British Isles from the Beginnings to the Present



Skillman Foot Traffic AY 24-25

Year Total
284,406
people entered
Skillman Library.

Daily Average
1,016
people entered
Skillman Library
each day, on
average.



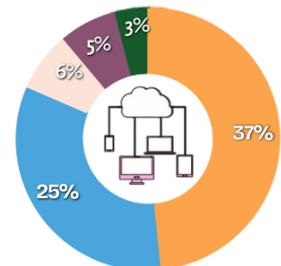
Alternative Lending Program AY 24-25

Lafayette Life Library Most Popular Items Circulated



Technology Lending Most Popular Items

- Laptop Chargers - 1,396
- Cell Phone Chargers - 957
- Graphing Calc. - 214
- Podcast Studios - 205
- Headphones - 115



Scan this QR code to view all of the circulating technology and "life library" items available to check out!

Exhibits

AI Affects: Adoption and Resistance*Skillman Library Lobby, opening October 3, 2025*

Share your thoughts and feelings on Generative AI through an interactive pop-up exhibit and visualizations! Students, staff, and faculty are invited to participate in “AI Affects: Adoption and Resistance”, a digital visualization exhibit at Skillman Library. This interactive exhibit asks participants to contribute answers to a few questions and see how their responses compare to

others who have participated via visuals such as word clouds, graphs, etc. Participants and viewers will come away from the exhibit with an idea of how impressions of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) are circulating in our community. The initiative is part of a larger research study investigating the adoption and resistance to Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) and emotions surrounding GenAI on our campus. Participation is anonymous. A partnership among the Libraries, the College Writing Program, and First Year Seminar.

New Digital Collections Created in Honor of College’s Bicentennial

Anyone hoping to learn more about Lafayette College’s past and its cherished namesake during the College’s Bicentennial can explore new digital collections from the Libraries to do so.

A gem of the College’s archival holdings, the Hubbard Collection of Letters from the Marquis

de Lafayette to George Washington consists of 146 pieces of correspondence dated from just two months after their initial meeting in 1777 to January 1792. High resolution images of the letters enable users to closely examine these documents handwritten by Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington in intimate detail. Descriptive and contextual information about the letters is richly detailed in accompanying metadata.

Complete transcriptions of each letter aid in their comprehensibility and facilitate full-text searching of the letters’ content within the user interface. A letter copy-book in the Hubbard Collection, created by a scribe upon Lafayette’s request and containing copies of 55 letters written from Lafayette to Washington in the year 1781, was also digitized as a part of this work.

From the College Archives, an additional 650 images from the Photograph Collection — whose physical holdings total more than 100,000 photographs from 1858 to the

present — have also been made available online. These join the original set of 1100+ photographs digitized in 2006 with support from the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission. Student workers were involved in the selection process, co-curating a body of images that reflect a broad range of activities, identities, and subjects with an emphasis on the past 35 years. Some of the themes represented in the digital collection are faculty, administrator, staff, and student portraits; student activities & organizations; athletic team portraits and games; classroom scenes; notable visitors to campus; performing arts; views of the College grounds, building interiors & exteriors, and much more. Finally, the full run of the College’s Commencement Programs — dating from 1836 through the present day — is now available digitally. As well as providing a valuable reference for administrators, alumni, and their families, the commencement programs trace the evolution and expansion of the College’s student body and degree programs through the centuries.



Left: From L-R Messmore Kendall, Count René de Chambrun, Mrs. Helen Fahnestock Hubbard, and Dr. William Mather Lewis at the Presentation of the Hubbard Collection of Letters to the College on May 20, 1943.

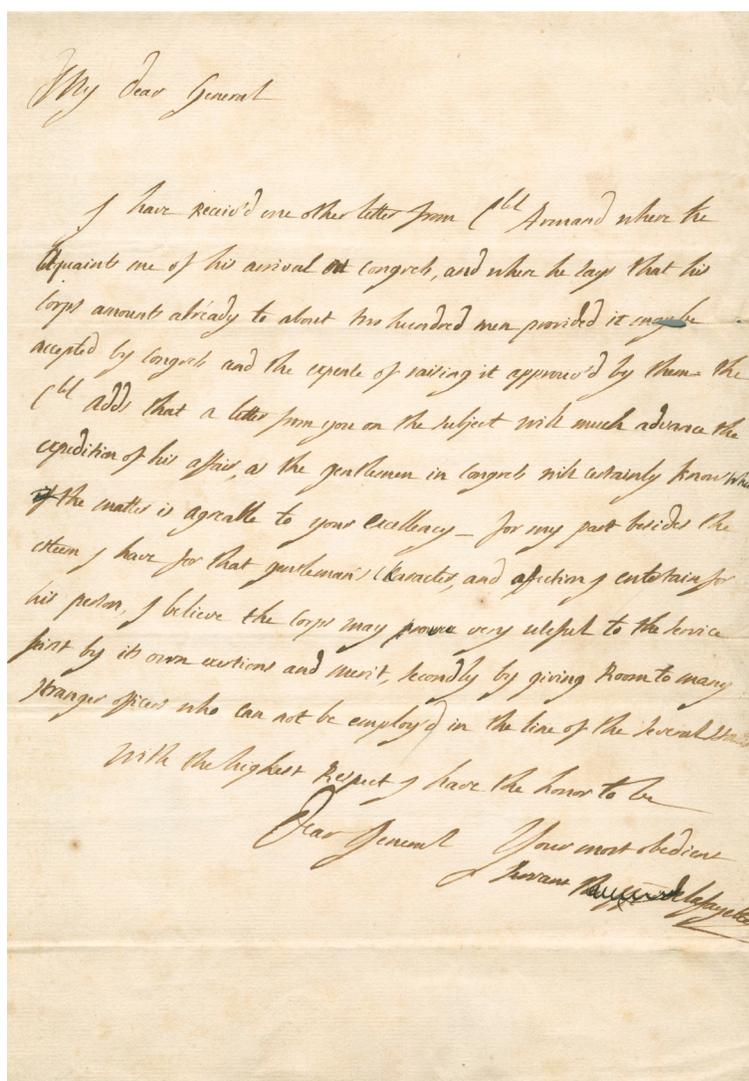
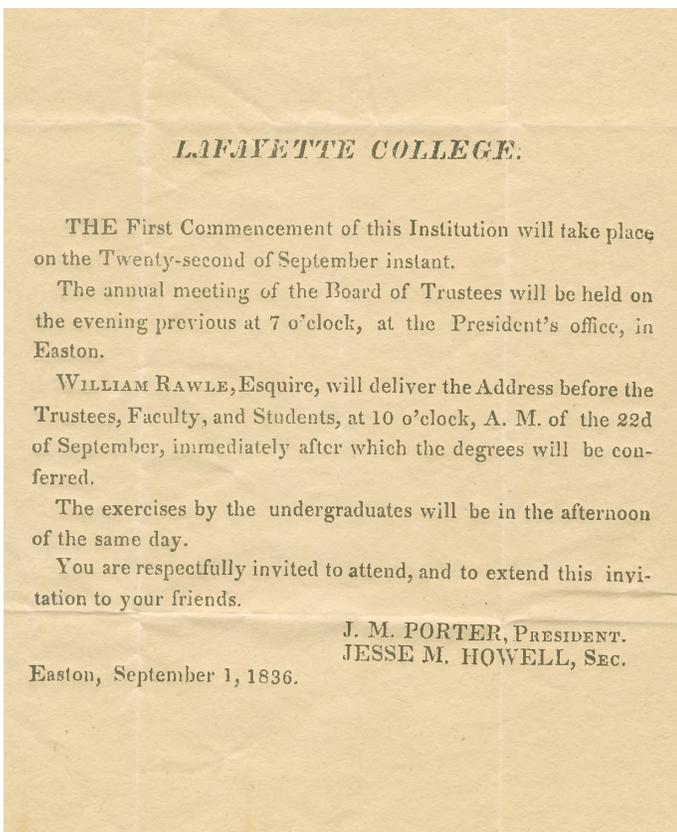
The yearslong effort to produce these digital collections was a collaborative, cross-departmental effort by Special Collections & College Archives and the Department of Digital Scholarship. Student workers embedded within both departments contributed meaningfully throughout the project lifecycle, from conducting the initial descriptive inventories of archival documents to creating digital images and derivative files for the access repository. Beyond the Lafayette College community, these collections

will have an even greater reach through the Libraries' partnership with the Digital Public Library of America (dp.la), which aggregates digital resources from cultural heritage institutions around the country.

Explore these collections in the Lafayette Digital Repository at ldr.lafayette.edu.

-Nora Zimmerman

Left: Program from the first Lafayette College Commencement ceremony, September 22, 1836



Above: Letter from the Marquis de Lafayette at Brunswick camp to George Washington, 1778 July 2

Left: William (Bill) H. Miles, Department of Chemistry 1990-2016, in a laboratory with a student. (From the College Archives Image Collection)



Staff Highlights

New Library Staff

Cory Budden joined Skillman Library in July 2025 as a Research & Instruction Librarian. Prior to joining Lafayette, she has worked at the University of Maine at Augusta, Community College of Philadelphia, and Montgomery County Community College. She earned her B.A. in Art History from Western Washington University in 2009, and her Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington in 2016. Outside of librarianship, Cory loves listening and playing music, making and looking at art, reading long form news articles, and swimming in the ocean (as long as it's not too cold).



Camille Campbell joined Skillman as the Acquisitions Technician in February. Prior to this role, she served as a substitute Evening/Weekend Supervisor at the Circulation Desk. She previously worked at Cornell University and Rutgers University. Camille earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from City College of the City University of New York. She values quality time with family and friends, and also enjoys reading and exploring nature.

Courtney Dalton joined the Libraries in February 2024 as a Research & Instruction Librarian. As the Kirby Librarian, she has particular ties to the Government & Law department, but she works with students and faculty in many other subject areas as well. Before coming to Lafayette, she worked at Cornell University's Law Library as a Data Librarian. She holds an AB in linguistics with a minor in Chinese from Bryn Mawr College and an MLIS from Simmons University. She enjoys reading, movies, birdwatching, and playing with her cats, Banjo and Lucy.



Missy Nerino joined Skillman Library as an Archivist in Special Collections & College Archives in June 2025. A native of nearby Lehigh, Missy earned her Master of Library and Information Science with a concentration in archives from the University of Pittsburgh. Missy additionally earned her B.A. in History from Lebanon Valley College and an M.S. in Communications from Purdue University. Prior to joining Lafayette, Missy worked at the Industrial Archives & Library in Bethlehem, Pa., and at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg, Pa. In addition to her work, Missy is heavily involved in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) and currently serves on the Publications Board for the Society of American Archivists (SAA). Missy lives in Nazareth with her husband, daughter, and cat. At home, Missy can frequently be found concocting (mostly) delicious dishes, and she is passionate about using local, seasonal produce. Missy and her family also enjoy hiking, particularly at Jacobsburg State Park. She is thrilled to join the staff at Skillman.



Rebecca McCall joined Skillman Library in July 2024 as a Research and Instruction Librarian. She earned her Master's in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University in May 2024, and her B.A. in History and English Literature at the University of Rochester in 2022. When outside of work, you can find Rebecca performing in local community theater productions, baking a wide variety of treats for her colleagues and friends, or reading a good book and hanging out with her cat, Rowan.



Recent Publications

Professor Monica Salas Landa (A&S) and Lijuan Xu, Director of Research & Instructional Services, have collaborated on “Extraction on Display: Delving into Research, Curation, and Collaboration at a Liberal Arts College”. This article is part of the extraction-themed issue of the *Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship*. As the subtitle of the article indicates, collaboration was key to the Museum Studies course when it was taught in Fall 2023. Drawing on their experience teaching the intermediate-level museum studies course, this reflective essay aims to demonstrate how faculty and librarians can employ object-centered research to guide students in their exploring and understanding of the extractive practices associated with imperialism and colonialism that have shaped museum and library collections. Salas Landa and Xu specifically focus on the research and curatorial

practices that culminated in an end-of-semester exhibit, showcased in both physical and digital formats. Through this exhibit, the student-curators brought to light the process of removing artifacts from their original material and political contexts and their subsequent integration into the library's collections. Moreover, they critically examined how classification and organization practices and, in certain instances, digitization processes in libraries, can either continue to veil or reveal the history of violence.

Lijuan Xu's article “Information Literacy through the Lens of Epistemic Justice” which was published in the Jan 2024 issue of the *New Review of Academic Librarianship*, was included in the list of the 20 best instruction articles for 2024 as voted on by the Library Instruction Round Table of the American Library Association (ALA).

Staff Highlights

Professional Achievements

Lijuan Xu, Director of Research & Instructional Services, was appointed by the President of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) to the ARL Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Institute Task Force. The responsibilities of the Task Force include assisting ARL staff on the institute curriculum and faculty selection, advising on the institute implementation, assessment, and evaluation, and providing feedback and recommendations to the DEI Committee and ARL staff. The DEI institute and the work of the Task Force are supported by a grant from

the Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

Research and Instruction Librarian Courtney Dalton was elected Vice President/President-Elect of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL-DVC) in July 2024 and became President of the chapter in November 2024. This past May, the chapter held a successful event about open educational resources and social justice in academic libraries.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 9, 2025

7:00 PM, Colton Chapel

Award-winning American journalist Karen Hao will present her lecture, “Technology, Democracy and Empires of AI.” Hao is the author of New York Times bestseller *Empire of AI* (Penguin Press, May 2025).

OCTOBER 23, 2025

4:00 PM, Gendebien Room of Skillman Library

Dr. Ghislaine Lydon will present the 2025 Paul and June Schlueter Lecture on the Art and History of the Book, “Africa's Scriptural Legacy and its Relevance in World History”. Dr. Lydon is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University

of California, Los Angeles. The author of several articles on West Africa, she has done extensive fieldwork in both West and North Africa and archival work in France.

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Dr. Moiya McTier will present the John L. Hatfield '67 lecture, “My Journey to the Stars.” Her debut book *The Milky Way: An Autobiography of Our Galaxy* was released in 2022 to critical acclaim and was named one of Publishers Weekly's best books of 2022.

Student Spotlight: Dashawn Sheffield '27, Government and Law Major

“During my time at Lafayette College, I’ve had the opportunity to participate in several library-related programs that have shaped my academic and professional interests. As an Open Educational Resources (OER) Fellow, I’ve worked to increase the accessibility and affordability of learning materials for students by advocating for the use of open-access texts. This experience not only deepened my understanding of equity in education, but it also introduced me to the behind-the-scenes work of librarianship, digital publishing, and inclusive pedagogy. I also participated in the Careers in Library and Information Science (CiLIS) internship, which gave me direct insight into the variety of roles libraries play—beyond books and archives. Through CiLIS, I explored academic research support, metadata and cataloging, and community programming, and had the chance to work closely with library professionals whose mentorship was invaluable.

These experiences complement my academic focus in Government and Law by teaching me how information is organized, accessed, and protected—critical components in both legal and policy-oriented careers. They’ve also aligned well with my work as a Center for the Integration of Teaching, Learning, & Scholarship (CITLS) Fellow and my broader interest in education reform and public service. I’m drawn to these programs because of their emphasis on democratizing knowledge and creating more inclusive learning environments. The library has become more than a study space for me—it’s a center of possibility where equity, access, and academic inquiry intersect. These roles have helped me see how libraries can be powerful tools for social good, especially when integrated with teaching, research, and community engagement.”



Technology, Democracy and Empires of AI

A lecture by Karen Hao

Thursday, 10.9.25 / 7:00 PM

Colton Chapel, Lafayette College

Karen Hao’s epic and urgent book *Empire of AI*—an instant New York Times bestseller—is the culmination of her years of insider access and original reporting, spanning five continents. In this timely talk, drawing on years of original research, Hao examines a growing body of evidence to ask whether AI will ever produce broad-based economic benefit.

This lecture is a partnership between Lafayette College Libraries and the Office of the Provost, with generous support from the endowment of John L. Hatfield ’67. Hao’s presentation is also part of the Forging Connections: Championing Science, Learning, and Higher Ed Through Effective Communication series. Her talk underscores the power of clear, evidence-based communication to combat misinformation about AI and demonstrates how investigative journalism can illuminate complex issues in science and technology, helping audiences understand and engage with topics of critical importance.

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Send your ideas and comments
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