NEWS FROM THE LAFAYETTE COLLEGE LIBRARIES | Vol. 35, No. 2 | SPRING 2026



Bytes & Books

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

Libraries Partner with Faculty on Bicentennial Funded Courses

During the Bicentennial of the College, the Libraries are partnering with several courses across the disciplines that center aspects of the College's founding and history, regional history and culture, and other paths to understanding Lafayette's historic impact, on campus and far beyond. Read on for faculty reflections on library-partnered courses supported by the Provost's Office Bicentennial Academic Fund.



Professor Andrea Smith (Anthropology & Sociology), "A&S 320: Lenape Homelands and Lafayette: How a College Got its Land"

Many students, faculty, and others associated with Lafayette College are vaguely aware that the College is situated on Lenape homelands, but the story of how and when the Lenape lost the land and how sections of it became the base for a private college is one that remains largely untold. Students in this course researched these questions in close coordination with Co-Director of Special Collections & College Archives, Elaine Stomber, and Janna Avon, Head of Digital Initiatives at the Libraries. The class started in Special Collections examining original College deeds. Students then traced land parcel ownership back to the Penn family, and, ultimately, to the dispossession of the Lenape through the Walking Purchase of 1737. Co-taught with Katelyn Lucas, employee of Delaware Nation's Historic



***Above**: A&S 320 class presentation, December 3, 2025.*

Preservation Office, the course offered students a unique understanding of both the early beginnings of the College, Lenape history, and contemporary concerns of the federally recognized Lenape nations.



Professor Rachel Goshgarian (History), "HIST 377: Lafayette in Persia: Archives, Missionary Lives and the Craft of History"

This seminar explores one of the most ambitious and understudied chapters in Lafayette College's global history: its early 20th-century role in shaping Alborz College

*(**Bicentennial,** continued on page 3)*

A Welcome from the Dean



Heading into spring 2026, Bicentennial activities are in full swing at Lafayette College Libraries. In addition to partnering on an exciting range of courses supported by the Bicentennial Academic Fund out of the the Office of the Provost, staff in Special Collections & College Archives have been busy sharing our unique holdings with the world, from presenting to Lafayette alumni via the "Marquis Minds" forum, to presenting at the George Washington Presidential Library last fall, to exhibiting items from the Libraries' phenomenal Marquis de Lafayette Collection at the National Archives of France this spring. Co-Directors of Special Collections & College Archives Elaine McCluskey Stomber '89 P'17 P'21 and Ana Ramírez Luhrs traveled to Paris in January to facilitate the safe passage of priceless objects from our holdings, which will be on display April 1-July 14, 2026 as part of the collaborative exhibition "Lafayette Between France and America: History and Legend." Read on for the exhibition description:





On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America (1776) and the Bicentennial of Lafayette College (1826), the National Archives of France and Lafayette College present an exhibition dedicated to a major figure of the Age of Revolutions: Gilbert Du Motier de Lafayette. Lafayette between France and America: History and Legend evokes the political role that the "hero of two worlds" played for more than half a century, and the contrasting opinions his personality prompted among his contemporaries.

In addition to the exhibition at the National Archives of France, another centerpiece of the Bicentennial of the College will be the installation of a new sculpture on campus. College Archivist and Co-Director of Special Collections and College Archives, Elaine Stomber, has consulted extensively on a commission by American artist Audrey Flack (1931-2024), revered for her pioneering public sculptures and photorealist paintings, to create a sculpted bronze bust of French noblewoman Adrienne Françoise de Noailles (1759-1807). The sculpture is deeply informed and inspired by archival collections here at the Libraries. The steps of Skillman Library will be the permanent site for this sculpture. The unveiling will take place during the March 7 Conference of the Council of Lafayette Women.



Inside Skillman Library, Bicentennial exhibits marking diverse histories of the College will remain on display through December 2026. Find the full details at https://www.lafayette.edu/bicentennial/exhibitions/, or even better–come visit and enjoy the exhibits in person!

-Charlotte Nune



***Above**: Images of National Archives of France during transfer of Lafayette exhibition items. Courtesy of Elaine Stomber*

(***Bicentennial,*** *continued from page 1)*

in Tehran, Iran. Founded in part by Samuel Martin Jordan, Lafayette class of 1895, Alborz (formerly known as the American College of Tehran) was envisioned as a pluralistic space of civic, scientific, and moral education: an American-Presbyterian experiment in modern schooling where Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Zoroastrian students studied side by side. At the heart of this story is a rare and revealing collection in Special Collections & College Archives: the *Groves Papers*. Written by Lafayette graduate Walter Groves (class of 1917) and his wife Estelle, these letters document their years living and teaching in Tehran in the 1920s. Working intensively with Co-Directors of Special Collections & College Archives Elaine Stomber and Ana Ramírez Luhrs, students produce weekly interpretive notes culminating in a 20-page original research paper that builds a historical narrative from the archive. The course approaches the Bicentennial not as a moment of uncritical celebration, but as an opportunity for historical reflection: to ask how institutions participate in global histories, how those histories are preserved in archives, and how we can teach them responsibly. Many students have described hands-on archival work in Special Collections as one of the most meaningful and memorable parts of their Lafayette education, and this course is designed to make that experience central.



Professor Katie Stafford (Languages & Literary Studies), "FYS 164: Adaptation (in the Humanities)"

This course examines the most human practice of adapting, transposing, combining and renovating narratives, images, and ideas into new formats. Rephotography is the practice of bringing two or more photographs together from the same vantage point from different moments in time, creating a dialogue between the past, the present, and the future. I thought it would be an appropriate tool to commemorate the Bicentennial, to teach students about archival work, exhibit curation, and writing, and also to give students a space to critically reflect about their own place in space and time on this campus, as we celebrate 200 years as an institution. The class is partnering with Co-Director of Special Collections & College Archives Ana Ramírez Luhrs on a retrophotography exhibit featuring historic archival images of the College. The exhibit launch is February 26, 4-5:15 PM in Kirby Library.

Faculty Engagement



***Above**: Two photographs of Skillman Library, stitched between two trees. Two winter views of Skillman Library, stitched together across time, united by a shared horizon and by two trees now standing before the building - a Black Tupelo and a Red Maple in their autumn colors. These trees, silent witnesses, connect past and present, framing the library as it has endured across decades. Sources: View of Skillman Library in January. Photographer unknown, 1976; and View of Skillman from the Quad. Photographer unknown, 1965–1970. Special Collections & College Archives, Lafayette College. Rephotograph by Ricard Martínez Teruel, 2025*



***Above**: The Climb. This picture depicts the College Hill over the last 200. Jesse Kronenfeld Casis, FYS 164, Fall 2025*

Endowed Lectures

Hatfield Endowment Supports Engaging Campus Lectures

Since 2008, Lafayette College Libraries has provided a home for the John L. Hatfield '67 Lecture series. This academic year, Mr. Hatfield's generous gift supported a special additional lecture. On October 19, journalist Karen Hao, author of *New York Times* bestseller *Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI*, engaged campus on the topic of artificial intelligence. Through her writings and in her lecture, Hao offered a pragmatic and hopeful look at how to create a world we all want in the age of AI. As part of her visit, Hao participated in a lively Q&A facilitated by Provost Laura McGrane, and kicked off with discussion questions generated by students in Professor Tingting Kang's "ENG 100: Introduction to Academic Writing" course.

On February 18, we were thrilled to welcome author, astrophysicist, folklorist, and science communicator Dr. Moiya McTier as the 2026 Hatfield Lecturer. In her career, McTier has reached thousands through her interviews on hit podcasts and media channels. McTier's 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. As part of her visit to campus, McTier joined Professor Stephanie Douglas's course "PHYS 108: Astronomy: Stars, Galaxies, and the Big Bang." The Hatfield Lecture is free and open to the public.



***Above**: Moiya McTier photo courtesy of WWSG*

2025 Schlueter Lecture Presented by Dr. Ghislaine Lydon

On October 23, Dr. Ghislaine Lydon, a professor of history at University of California, Los Angeles, presented the 2025 Paul and June Schlueter Lecture on the Art and History of the Book. In her lecture,"Africa's Scriptural Legacy and Its Relevance in World History," Dr. Lydon traced the connected histories of writing systems, while highlighting the revolutionary nature of script and the role that Africans have played in these innovations. Lydon notes that "Africans are responsible for some of the most remarkable inventions that changed the world... chief among these was the development of writing systems in ancient Egypt. Yet, when considering its historical contributions, Africa's scriptural legacy tends to be forgotten or ignored." The lecture was hosted in cooperation with Africana Studies, and was integrated into courses taught by Professors Wendy Wilson-Fall and Rogers Orock. Hosted by the Lafayette College Libraries since 2007, the Schlueter Lecture is free and open to the public thanks to the generous support of June Schlueter, former professor of English, Provost, and Dean of the Faculty, and her late husband, Paul Schlueter.



***Above**: Photo courtesy of Ghislaine Lydon*

New College History Resources Available Digitally

Two new digital collections from Special Collections & College Archives are available online this spring. A run of the College's yearbook, *The Melange*, from 1970 through the present will no doubt be of interest to alumni and other members of the College community. Earlier yearbooks dating back to 1870 are currently being digitized and will be shared later in 2026. In addition, commencement programs from the entire history of the College are also accessible online. Both can be found in the Lafayette Digital Repository, the Libraries' portal for digital collections and faculty and student scholarship. Scan the QR code view the collections.


FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT,
Lafayette College,
JUNE 30TH, 1886.

***Above**: Commencement program, 1886*

Special Collections & College Archives Announces New Materials Available

PRIMERA PARTE DEL SERMONARIO DEL TIEMPO DE TODO EL AÑO: DUPLICADO, EN LENGUA MEXICANA

Printed in 1614, *Primera parte del sermonario del tiempo de todo el año*, is an early Mexican imprint of a liturgical sermon used in the missionary program of the Catholic Church in New Spain. Published in Nahuatl, the language of the Mexica people, the book was intended for use throughout the Christian liturgical or ecclesiastical year.

THE JOHN MCCANN PAPERS, 1969-2022

These papers include letters and diaries from McCann who while deployed in the Vietnam War in the early 1970s, became a conscientious objector. His letters and diaries depict his inner turmoil, and he ultimately became a field medic while serving.

THE PONTIAC AND JOHN WILLIAMS PAPERS, 1898-1935

This is a small collection of land grant documents and personal letters belonging to Private Pontiac J. Williams, Jr., an Indigenous American who served in WWI.

THE FIRST TIME WOMEN VOTERS AND ACTIVISTS INTERNATIONAL PHOTO COLLECTION, 1917-1962

This collection is a brilliant small insight into women's suffrage around the world in the 20th century. Photographs show suffrage movements and protests, women casting their first ballots, prominent international suffragettes, and early female elected officials.

THE COLLECTION OF EROTIC ADVERTISING, ORDER FORMS, AND OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO SEXUALITY AND ASTROLOGY, 1927-1928

This is a fascinating collection of an individual's personal memorabilia including advertisements for French art photographs, sexual education manuals and books, and correspondence clubs with international women. However, the collection also includes metaphysical materials, including pamphlets on personal development and New Thought spiritualism.

THE RECORDS OF TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO ENSLAVED PERSONS IN CUBA, 1872-1877,

This collection consists of two groupings of documents regarding enslaved peoples in Cuba in the 1870s. The first group includes sales entries for the sale of two teenagers with physical descriptions and their cost. The second group of documents consists of information regarding two enslaved individuals who were purchasing their freedom through the coartación system.

THE PANAMA CANAL PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, 1906-1910

This collection consists of 16 photographs, both of the construction of the Panama Canal and the life around Panama. The collection additionally includes a booklet about the construction of the Panama Canal.

In the News

Largest known collection of Lafayette/Washington letters now available digitally

After years of meticulous work, Special Collections & College Archives completed the digitization of 201 letters written by the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington between 1777 and 1792. Donated to the College in 1943 by New York philanthropist Helen Fahnestock Hubbard, all of the letters are written in English, with approximately half sent from battlefields in America and half from France; 81 of them are docketed in Washington's hand, usually on the reverse of the last sheet, with the note "From Marq. de la Fayette," and the date of the letter. The canon of correspondence reveals how Lafayette's life unfolded, starting in November 1777, the year he turned 20 and just a few months after his arrival in North America, to the 1790s, when he entered the most heated years of the French Revolution.



***Above**: Original leather valise bearing Lafayette's name that held the letters when they arrived on campus.*

Adrienne Lafayette joins campus as part of College's Bicentennial

As part of its Bicentennial celebration, Lafayette College commissioned American artist Audrey Flack, revered for her pioneering public sculptures and photorealist paintings, to create a sculpted bronze bust of French noblewoman Adrienne Françoise de Noailles, who at age 14 married the College's namesake and became known as Madame de Lafayette.

Honoring our namesake's legacy at George Washington Presidential Library

Special Collections & College Archives archivists provided an inspiring look at the digitization of documents regarding the Marquis and toured some of Skillman Library's treasures.

Preserve Like an Archivist: Elaine Stomber '89, P'17,'21

Named Lafayette's third archivist in 2017 and co-director of Special Collections & College Archives in 2023, Stomber stewards the College's most precious artifacts and historical memories. "I'm fortunate to be able to share the knowledge I've accumulated over the years about the institution with our community and the world," she says.

Inside the classroom: Brewing up knowledge

In her course "HIST 238: Global Stimulants," Professor Rebekah Pite opens students' eyes to the history of four caffeinated beverages—coffee, tea, chocolate, and yerba mate. Students worked closely with librarians in Special Collections & College Archives and the Department of Digital Scholarship to cultivate the skills needed to create their final collections and presentations.

Bicentennial: Living History

The causes and qualities of the Marquis de Lafayette continue to draw scholarly and public interest.

Faculty Panels: Course Affordability Grant & Faculty Features

Please join Lafayette College Libraries on Thursday, March 12th, from 12:15–1:15 PM in the Gendebien Room (206) to hear from four faculty members who have recently received a Course Affordability Initiative grant. The initiative supports faculty interested in making the transition to free or lower-cost course materials. Professors Adam Biener (Economics), Gabbi Kelenyi (English), Farhan Abedin (Math), and Justin Corvino (Math) will speak about the challenges and successes of identifying and adopting alternative resources with the goal of minimizing financial burdens for students and promoting equity in the classroom. Q&A to follow. Lunch provided.

Twice per semester, Lafayette College Libraries and the Office of the Provost celebrate recent scholarly and creative works by hosting Faculty Features, a roundtable discussion open to all. Please join us March 24 from 12-1:15 PM in Skillman 004 for brief presentations of scholarship by three faculty members, followed by a Q&A. Lunch provided. Are you a faculty member with a recent monograph, article, exhibition, digital project, or other achievement to share? Complete the interest form via the QR code.

Faculty Engagement

Information Literacy Grants Awarded for Spring 2026

Four faculty members—Lindsay Brown (English), Kenzie Burns (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Michael Carter (Economics), and Abu Rizvi (Economics) have been awarded information literacy grants for Spring 2026. Each will collaborate with a research and instruction librarian on their respective course. The grant program is jointly sponsored by Lafayette College Libraries and the Office of the Provost. Read about these courses via the QR code.

Student Opportunities

Open Education Fellowship Program Applications Open Soon

Applications for the Open Education Fellowship program will be open from April 1 to June 7, 2026. Student fellows will work on projects that enhance or promote the work and values of Open Education on campus or beyond. Open Education can briefly be summarized as a move towards making educational materials freely available and fully accessible for all students. For more information, scan this QR code.

Digital Humanities Summer Scholars (DHSS) Program Application Period is Open

The Digital Humanities Summer Scholars (DHSS) Program is a six-week seminar with a minimum of 200 hours of work required. Funded through Lafayette College Libraries, it offers a $3,000 stipend for the program's duration from May 23 – July 3, 2026. The DHSS program will be conducted in person, on campus at Skillman Library. The cost of on-campus housing is covered for the duration of the DHSS program for accepted students.

The application deadline is March 27, 2026. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance status by April 10. For more information, please visit our About & FAQ page, review past projects & scholars via the QR code, or contact program director Angela Perkins at perkinsa@lafayette.edu to schedule an information interview before the application deadline.

Student Spotlight: Claribella Perez '26, Digital Humanities Summer Scholar

During the summer of 2025, I had the opportunity to be part of the ninth cohort of Digital Humanities Summer Scholars, an experience that was both rewarding and transformative. As a DHSS, I spent six weeks conducting research at Skillman Library on a topic I was genuinely passionate about. From the very beginning, the library became more than just a workspace—it was a place of discovery, support, and collaboration.

In the first week of the program, I quickly realized how many resources were available to me. With the help of Lafayette's research librarians, I was able to talk through my ideas, receive valuable feedback, and turn broad interests into clear, focused research questions. They also introduced me to a variety of sources and tools that strengthened my work and pushed my thinking in new directions.



Throughout the summer, the program's director, Angela Perkins, was incredible, providing us with much guidance, encouragement, and resources. She herself was readily available to answer questions, and offer support whenever we needed it, which made navigating the research process feel far less intimidating.

Prior to this program, I had limited exposure to digital research tools. I was introduced to an impressive range of digital humanities tools, including Adobe, ArcGIS, Canva, WordPress, SketchUp, and many more, all of which completely changed how I think about research and storytelling in my academic work. Beyond the research itself, the Digital Humanities program allowed me to connect with other driven and creative students on campus. Overall the experience was both intellectually engaging and personally memorable.

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Student Spotlight: Olivia Naum '26

One of the most important experiences of my time in college has been working in the Library's Special Collections & College Archives. During my sophomore year, I was able to take a unique and compelling museum studies class with Professor Salas Landa. In this course we were tasked with co-curating an exhibit titled, *Potential History*, which used materials in special collections to discuss the legacy of violence in museum institutions. I thoroughly enjoyed this project and my contributions to our exhibit led me to begin working in special collections the next semester.

I was given the incredible opportunity by Ana Ramírez Luhrs and Elaine Stomber, the Co-Directors, to embark on my first solo exhibition that same semester, using artist Arthur Rackham's illustrated fairytale books. My exhibit focused on the use of the forest in fairytales and how Rackham specifically used nature to explore themes of childhood. I was blown away by the creative freedom I was given, as every step of the project was truly my own. The guidance I received from Ana and Elaine was invaluable and their support as well as excitement inspired me to pursue a career in libraries. I'm currently working on applying to graduate school and aim to get my Masters in Library and Information Science within the next few years.



I have worked on several projects over my three years in the Library, including more exhibits, particularly about Lafayette history, cataloging a collection of science fiction books, and working with researchers on their own projects. I also had the opportunity to work briefly at the Haverford College Libraries where we learned about careers in library science as well as the consortium of libraries between Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and Swarthmore. The experiences I've had in the college libraries have truly been a key aspect of

Lafayette College Libraries Ranked #5 in the Nation by *The Princeton Review*

Based on students' answers to the survey question, "How do you rate your school's library facilities?," Lafayette College was ranked #5 in the nation out of 391 schools surveyed in *The Princeton Review*. Scan the QR code for the full list.

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