

**LAFAYETTE**

Winter 2009

# the **MCDONOGH** report

New campus sculpture  
*Transcendence*





## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**IT IS A SPECIAL PLEASURE** for me to introduce readers of The McDonogh Report to the newest member of Lafayette's senior administrative team. Dr. Shirley M. Ramirez, a nationally recognized leader in the areas of diversity and student access in higher education, joined us in January to fill the newly created position of vice president for institutional planning and community engagement.

Shirley came to Easton from Middlebury College, where she had held a similar position for several years. Earlier in her career she served as executive vice president of The Posse Foundation (an organization with which Lafayette has, as you know, developed a very close and productive partnership). She holds a B.S. degree in human and organizational development and psychology from Vanderbilt and earned advanced degrees in clinical psychology at Duke.

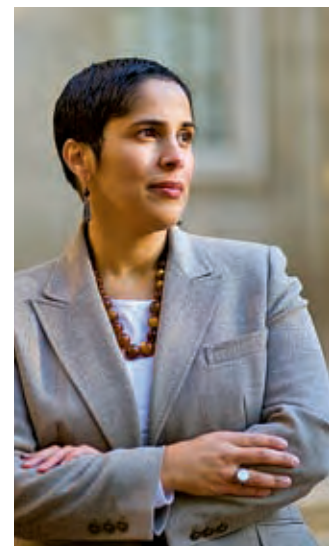
Shirley's responsibilities will be both wide-ranging and innovative. In addition to coordinating our short-

and long-term planning efforts and strengthening the connections between the campus and the community, she will serve as the College's first chief diversity officer. This unique combination of responsibilities will enable her to help us foster diversity in the broadest and most meaningful sense.

We are delighted to welcome Shirley Ramirez to Lafayette, and I know she looks forward to meeting as many of you as possible and to including you in the productive conversations we are having about educational leadership, diversity, student access, and the many other issues that remain so important to us as a community.

Daniel H. Weiss

**Dr. Shirley M. Ramirez, a nationally recognized leader in the areas of diversity and student access in higher education . . . will serve as the College's first chief diversity officer.**



# LAFAYETTE

## theMCDONOGH report

### {profiles

- Leading at the Cutting Edge .....4  
Leroy D. Nunery II '77 is a top education consultant
- A Passion for Providing Care .....9  
Dr. Cynthia Paige '83 tends to patients and students
- Globetrotter ..... 10  
Marcia Bernicat '75 was appointed U.S. ambassador  
to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau
- Boosting People Power ..... 12  
Stuart Clarke '80 directs the Town Creek Foundation
- A Warm Heart for Helping Others ..... 13  
Alma-Scott Buczak '74 enriches many lives
- Combining Law and Economics ..... 13  
Rawle Howard '96 is a vice president at BlackRock
- The Tireless Judge ..... 14  
Thomas W. Sumners Jr. '80 serves from the bench
- Shining in the Business World ..... 15  
Jarrett Shine '96 succeeds with startup companies
- Mending Disparities ..... 15  
Ernest Levister '58 betters the health care system

### {young alumni

- Offering Hope for the Young ..... 19  
Angela Neal '01 helps abused children and  
researches healing solutions

### {campus news

- Sculpture Honors David Kearney McDonogh 1844 ...6
- Dr. McDonogh: His Professional Life .....8
- Campus Connections ..... 16

Celebrating the contributions of African  
Americans to the Lafayette community



## On the Web

For much more on the contributions of African Americans  
to the Lafayette community, including alumni, students and  
faculty, history, and campus news, visit

[www.lafayette.edu/mcdonoghreport](http://www.lafayette.edu/mcdonoghreport)

The McDonogh Report | Winter 2009  
Editor: Dave Block '93  
Designer: Dale Mack





# Leading at the Cutting Edge

**LEROY D. NUNERY II '77** learned respect for education from his earliest days. His mother taught in the Jersey City schools. And though his father didn't go to college, he held an enduring belief that education was the key to success. In the Nunery household in Englewood, N.J., education was sacrosanct.

"It was never a question of whether I would go to college," says Nunery, "only where."

Citing the quality of professors, particularly those in the history department, he chose Lafayette over Princeton.

"Bob Weiner, my main adviser, shaped the way I think," says Nunery, a history graduate. "He taught me not just to look at an event, but to ask why it came about."

Following a business career that included stints at the National Basketball Association and the University of Pennsylvania, Nunery works on the cutting edge of American education. He is founder of the PlüsUltré management consulting firm, serving clients such as Philadelphia's Board of City Trusts, Girard College, charter schools and related organizations, and the Leadership Education and Development Program in Business, a national partnership of top corporations and business schools.

"We work in small teams and in collaboration with a network of subject-matter experts to bring the best possible thinking to our clients," he says. "In this way, we can be flexible, cost-effective, and adaptable to the circumstances at hand."

He also teaches at Penn's Fels Institute of Government, this semester leading the course Developing, Managing, and Leading Talent for Nonprofit and Government Organizations.

One of three finalists last year for the position of Philadelphia School District CEO, Nunery is a big believer in charter schools. Before founding PlüsUltré, he served as president of Edison Charter Schools, overseeing 25 for-profit schools around the country.

"When you look at what voters are paying for in education and America's position in the global economy," he says, "there has got to be an alternative to the traditional public school."

After graduating from Lafayette, Nunery earned an MBA from the Olin School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis. He also holds a doctorate in higher education management from Penn. His career has included positions



Citing the quality of professors, particularly those in the history department, he chose Lafayette over Princeton.

as managing director of Global Corporate Investment Bank and senior client manager for BankAmerica Securities LLC.

At the NBA, he was vice president for business development and human relations, playing a key role in extending the league's brand and planning NBA University. At Penn, he was vice president for business services, responsible for auxiliary enterprises with revenues of \$160 million and more than 800 employees.

He has served on many nonprofit and corporate boards and was board chairman of the West Philadelphia Partnership, a cultural and economic development group. He is a senior consultant for the Leaders by Design consulting firm and a member of the Gerson Lehrmann Group Councils, a worldwide network of academics, scientists, and professionals.

Nunery was a Lafayette trustee from 1989-98. The Leroy D. Nunery '77 Intellectual Citizenship Award is given annually to a student whose research on social, political or economic issues advances knowledge and involves the student in activities within a community.

"It's important that colleges find as many ways as possible to get and keep students and alumni connected," he says. "We need an informal and casual interchange."

He's helped make that happen as co-chair of the steering committee for the College's McDonogh Network,

which promotes networking for African-American students and alumni. He also has offered career guidance to Lafayette students in several other roles, including internship host.

In positions like president of the Black MBA Association, Nunery has sought to expand the educational opportunities of minorities.

At Lafayette, he says, largely due to the advocacy of Curlee Raven Holton, professor of art, and Gladstone Hutchinson, associate professor of economics and business and former dean of studies, there has been an improvement in the level of minority dialogue and access with alumni compared to when he was a student 30 years ago.

"When you go to a school that's not in a major city, students of color are, by definition, in the minority," he says. "You have to work very hard to create a social environment that's supportive and fulfilling." n





TRANSCENDENCE | Alissa Turpin '10 sketches the new sculpture for her Drawing I class. Course instructor Jim Toia, director of the community art program, looks over her work.





# Sculpture Honors David McDonogh

**TRANSCENDENCE, A SCULPTURE** by Melvin Edwards, honors David Kearney McDonogh 1844, the College's first African American graduate. Made of stainless steel, it stands 16 feet tall and weighs about four tons. The sculpture was installed Sept. 11 along High Street, near Skillman Library. Dedication ceremonies were held Sept. 27.

The project was proposed by Curlee Raven Holton, professor of art and director of the College's Experimental Printmaking Institute, with which Edwards has collaborated before. He served as artist-in-residence at EPI in 2004-05, supported by the David L. Temple Sr. and Helen J. Temple Visiting Lecture Series Fund.

The sculpture is "abstract and symbolic, massive and upward-reaching, representing struggle and tension and achievement," Holton said. He has created a print whose sales will support a scholarship in Edwards' name that will benefit students interested in graphic art.

## McDonogh Network

In connection with the dedication of Transcendence, the McDonogh Network, recently formed to provide networking opportunities for African American and other black alumni and students, held a panel discussion at the Portlock Black Cultural Center. An overflow crowd of 90-plus people attended. Panelists were Joseph R. Godwin Jr. '81, Britney McCoy '05, Alfonzo B. Owens III '75, Nkrumah Pierre '06, Renee Becton Strickland '82, Thomas Sumners Jr. '80, Winston Thompson '86, and George S. Weaver '72.

The McDonogh Network will host a reception during Reunion Weekend. Leroy D. Nunery II '77 and Pierre are co-chairs of a steering committee that is providing initial direction to the group. Subcommittees are Professional Development and Networking; Resource Development and Fund Raising; Recruitment, Retention, and Reclamation; Events; Communication; and Ad Hoc Governance.

Other steering committee members are Godwin, McCoy, Owens, Strickland, Thompson, Weaver, Terence Byrd '74, Frank Campbell Jr. '74, Simmone Chaddan '04, Rawle Howard '96, Lem Howell '58, Frank E. Hyson IV '81, Gregory Laborde '86, Ernest Levister Jr. '58, DeAndre Morrow '10, Cynthia Paige '83, Jeffrey Robinson '80, Alma Scott-Buczak '74, Jarrett Shine '96, Carlton J. St. Bernard Jr. '86, Natasha Strother '96, Riley K. Temple '71, Paul Eugene Thurston '60, Daniel Jerry Wooten '60, and Cornell N. Wright '74. [n](#)

# Dr. McDonogh

## His Professional Life

By Richard S. Koplin '64 And Russell Arden Koplin

**WHILE WE KNOW** that David McDonogh became a noted and respected physician in New York City, there is a dearth of materials available that celebrate his professional life. Early in his career, it was written in a book titled *Of the Colored Man in America* that “Dr. McDonough, a skillful young physician . . . was one of the most thorough of the young physicians . . . and is a good practical chemist.” (David seemed to move between spellings at will, seemingly using McDonough in his professional life and McDonogh in his familial life.)

McDonogh opened offices at one time or another on Sullivan Street and on West 33rd Street in Manhattan, both north of the infamous Five Points district, now the site of Foley Square. With the growth of the Irish influx into New York, the multi-racial aspects of Five Points began to erode, and blacks were pushed farther north, into what is now the upper Greenwich Village and into the West 30's, an area that became known as Little Africa.

The Conscripted Riots of 1863—central to the Martin Scorsese film *Gangs of New York*—caused significant loss of life and property in Little Africa. Just 10 blocks from McDonogh's office at 33rd Street, a mob of more than 400 rioters—blaming the war effort on blacks—destroyed the building of one of the most important benevolent institutions for African Americans, the Colored Orphan Asylum on Fifth Avenue at 43rd Street. In this orphanage lived 230 children aged 4 to 12. Attacks were also made on black homes. It's not unlikely that McDonogh was involved in the huge effort to provide medical care to the injured. There were few physicians in Little Africa, and his skills were no doubt in great demand.

Alas, we have no direct evidence of his involvement in community affairs, so it is a mystery as to what activities brought such high esteem from his friends and colleagues. The opening of the McDonough Memorial Hospital in 1898 at West 41st Street is secure proof of the respect he earned from the community and his peers.

It appears that McDonogh lived for most of his life in Brooklyn with his wife, Elizabeth. Later he moved to Newark, where he passed away Jan. 15, 1893. His tombstone

and epitaph in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx confirm the dignity and importance of his life.

David and Elizabeth McDonogh had four children. Only one, Alice, survived into adulthood. Alice, it seems, died at the age of 62, but not before marrying and having two children. And there is a growing family tree. (We are digging into this genealogy.)

It is interesting that John McDonogh [the slave-master who owned David McDonogh] and David himself left parallel legacies. John left his money to fund public education in Baltimore and New Orleans. And, through David's example, the McDonough Memorial Hospital became, during its short existence, a center of medical education and clinical care open to men and women of all races.

David McDonogh's story and legacy deserve celebrating, and we're so pleased to be participating in this wonderful event. Through the efforts of a number of individuals—some of them in this room—and the support of the College, we fully expect that David's legacy and example will begin to receive national attention.

David McDonogh was a tireless fighter for his rights and aspirations, and he succeeded to a lofty profession in a society rife with racism and in the face of overwhelming and peculiar odds. He is a hero of unusual measure and a great example to his race and to all of us wishing for a more just life for all Americans. His example to the youth of this country is something we hope to celebrate in film or some associated media. We welcome any of you who wish to support this aspiration by embracing his story and hope that you, whatever your race, will take great pride in David McDonogh's transcendent life.

From “A Transcendent Life: The Story of David K. McDonogh,” a presentation by Russell Koplin. The presentation preceded the Sept. 27 dedication of Transcendence, the campus sculpture by Melvin Edwards honoring David Kearney McDonogh 1844, Lafayette's first African American graduate.

For the full text of the speech, visit [www.lafayette.edu/mc-donoghreport](http://www.lafayette.edu/mc-donoghreport) and choose Alumni. [n](#)





# A Passion for Providing Care

Dr. Cynthia Paige '83 meets the needs of patients and students

**BY A WHITEBOARD** in a classroom, at a patient's side in her office, or in a wooden hut in a remote village in Ghana — wherever people need Cynthia Paige '83, she's there.

Assistant professor of family medicine at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, plus a practicing family physician in her hometown of Montclair, Paige understands both sides of the bedside. Two days a week, she tends to her patients and helps them better comprehend wellness. On the other three days, she teaches future doctors.

"I have always had a love of teaching and sharing my point of view, sharing my passion for providing patient care," she says. "It's more than just the biological aspects of care. We physicians have to take care of the socio-spiritual needs of an individual."

To Paige, this need for holistic healing explains why education is an enormous part of her career. "If we can improve the education, literacy, and earning potential of any community, we automatically improve the health outcomes for that community," she says.

It's for that reason that she started Ujima Mission to Africa. She shepherds her med students as they restock depleted medical supplies, volunteer in local clinics, and learn tropical medicine among the people of Ghana.

Of course, education makes all the difference. Paige recalls a time teaching village women how to do breast self-examinations. A distraught new mother later came up to her, wondering if the painful lumps she felt might be breast cancer. Paige diagnosed mastitis and treated the common infection with antibiotics.

"I came across that lady three days later and her elation at the result of the treatment was overwhelming," she says. "A disease so easily treated in the U.S. would surely have advanced to a potentially fatal infection in her rural setting."

Back home and far away from such basic needs, Paige teaches her students the need for self-care.

"Some patients don't get well, they die, and some physicians never learn how to manage the 'failures,'" she notes. "Medicine is a stressful career."

Paige's drive to help others blossomed at Lafayette. Having grown up in a primarily white, suburban neighborhood, she understood the dynamics of the campus better than some of her peers did and helped others adapt. Her positive "Wow, I like being here!" attitude proved infectious. She served as president of the Association of Black Collegians, tutored kids in Easton, and was involved in a mentoring group.

Paige's time in ROTC led to airborne school in Fort Benning, Ga. Later, her military experience in the National Guard led to doing surgeries in a mobile army surgical hospital unit "just like M\*A\*S\*H on television."

Today, daughter Ilani Paige-Waldon '12 is following in her footsteps as a biology major.

"Family and close friends are what keep me going," Paige says. "I know for me it would be challenging if I didn't have all the social support in my life."

And that's good medicine for anyone. **n**





# Globetrotter

Marcia Bernicat '75 represents  
the U.S. at home and abroad



**GROWING UP NEAR AN** Army base, Marcia Bernicat '75 always knew she wanted to travel. The history graduate found her niche in the Foreign Service, representing the U.S. in seven countries since 1981.

Last year, she became ambassador to the republics of Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. Having worked with U.S. peacekeeping training programs in sub-Saharan Africa, Bernicat said at her confirmation hearing that she looked forward to supporting Senegal in its peacekeeping operations, including in Darfur.

"As someone who has lost too many friends, colleagues, and counterparts in the last decade to these two preventable diseases, if confirmed, I will work to redouble our efforts in Senegal and Guinea-Bissau to fight HIV/AIDS and malaria, and address other health issues," she added. "... I am eager to apply the lessons learned from our Country Team efforts in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean to fight the contagion of illicit narcotics trafficking that afflicts Guinea-Bissau at worrisome levels. I relish the prospect of developing a successful inter-agency strategy, which would also engage international partners, to combat this scourge and to provide the people of Guinea-Bissau with material and moral support in this effort. I will also work, if confirmed, to promote the dual goals of a democratic, transparent political system and a complementary economic program to help reduce the levels of poverty that contribute to regional instability."

Previously, Bernicat served as country director of the Office of India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka Affairs in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs at the Department of State. Prior to this, she was director of the Senior Level Division of Career Development and Assignments in the Bureau of Human Resources at the Department of State. Earlier in her career, she served as deputy chief of mission in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Bernicat didn't learn of the Foreign Service until she attended graduate school at Georgetown, where she earned her master's in 1980. An internship in Liberia in 1979 sold her on a career in the field.



"Diplomacy depends on people-to-people contact, regardless of the policy or country."

"I was hooked," she recalls. "I was assigned to the Economics Section at the Embassy in Monrovia. Skylab [America's first experimental space station, launched by NASA in 1973] fell that summer—literally fell from the sky—and Liberia was in the path of its trajectory. So, they sent the intern in to tell the government it might fall on them. I came home and said, 'Sign me up.' It was really hands-on from the beginning."

Although it can be a challenge to keep changing jobs, homes, schools for her children, and sometimes even the language she's using for work, Bernicat says the opportunity to interact with people from around the world far outweighs the demands.

"Diplomacy depends on people-to-people contact, regardless of the policy or country you're working with," she says. "It's the ability to understand the culture and political imperatives of the country as well as the personal attributes of your counterpart in order to tell [the host country] what the U.S. is trying to do and to influence U.S. policy to take into account the needs of the host country. I was involved with small-term development that brought water to Mali, discussed human rights in India using the U.S. civil rights movement as a model, and comforted employees dying of AIDS in Malawi."

Bernicat believes her undergraduate years helped her develop essential leadership skills. She used most of her electives on contemporary history courses, which gave her a solid grounding in international relations and political science. She was a member of international student organizations and took on leadership positions with Association of Black Collegians.

In 2006, Bernicat delivered keynote speeches at the Council of Lafayette Women Conference and the annual Lafayette Leadership Institute, where she also led a workshop.

"I hadn't been back on campus in over 20 years—mostly because my work kept me out of the country," she says. "I saw the Council of Lafayette Women develop and said, 'I really want to participate.' I'm so glad I did. I do feel it's important. I was reconnecting and I really enjoyed meeting some of the other women alums." <sup>n</sup>



# Boosting People Power

Stuart Clarke '80 directs a foundation dedicated to sustainability, democracy, and peace



**HIS PADDLE DRAWING** lazy eddies in the placid waters, Stuart Clarke '80 kayaks the Chesapeake Bay and considers its future. Preserving the natural beauty of the bay—indeed, saving the planet itself—occupies his thoughts each day.

As executive director of the Town Creek Foundation in Easton, Md., Clarke helps other nonprofits give voice to their callings. Established in 1981 by New York businessman Ted Stanley, the foundation meets triannually to endow worthy causes such as The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, National Public Radio, The Wilderness Society, and dozens of embryonic organizations whose work otherwise would go wanting.

"For much of its history, the foundation has had a broad set of interests, including environmental, nuclear nonproliferation, investigative journalism, and public radio and television. The most important aspect of what I do is helping to identify good opportunities," says the government and law graduate, "then getting out of the way."

He knows the way well, having been on the receiving end of grants in his five years with Outward Bound (OB), the adventure-based, experiential education program for young people. He later joined an OB benefactor, the Turner Foundation, managing a portfolio of grants dealing with the restoration of freshwater systems and cleanup of areas polluted by pesticides and nuclear waste.

"I enjoyed working with [Ted]," he says.

Personal interaction puts the thrill into Clarke's current role. Take Catherine Murray of Cherokee Forest Voices, a beneficiary of Town Creek's largesse, who has dedicated her life to saving the forest that bears her organization's name.

"I've had the opportunity to visit her, to see who she is, where she lives, and discover why she cares. It's all very removed from the fancy offices of The Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C., yet we support both," he says. "There's something quite different about flying to Asheville, then driving three-and-a-half hours into Tennessee to the small house of this woman to hear why she's devoted her life to protect this forest. It's powerful, humbling, and what at the end of the day this work is about."

Past experiences formed the present. Between jazz disk spins at WJRH, DJ Clarke pled the case of the Association of Black Collegians at Lafayette, helping the group secure funding. After completing doctorate coursework in political science at Yale and teaching at Williams College, Clarke realized the nonprofit sector was the way to make his mark.

"Nonprofits are important because there needs to be some counterbalance to concentrations of power in governments and corporations," he notes. "The most effective way is in concentrating people power. And people power is best concentrated in sustainable ways through nonprofits."

While some people think about what they might be doing a few years from now, Clarke ponders a deeper question: Will there be a future?

"There are some serious clocks ticking. If we as a country and as a global society don't make some dramatic and difficult strides in reducing our carbon emissions over the next five years, then the planet's in deep trouble," he says. "My aspirations for the future are both modest and profound: that we manage not to destroy the planet." <sup>n</sup>





## A Warm Heart for Helping Others

Alma Scott-Buczak '74 enriches many lives

**SINCE 2002**, Alma Scott-Buczak '74, assistant executive director of human resources for NJ Transit, has helped 11,000 employees function at their best. She's taken workers through crises, found jobs for the unemployed, and offered a warm heart behind an open door.

She offered the same aid in her prior HR position at the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, such as the time she received a late-night phone call from a distraught, newly appointed sales manager.

"She said, 'I need to fire them all,'" Scott-Buczak recalls. "So I talked her through what was happening, helped her figure out how to best help each member of her team, and they went on to become the number one district in the nation—without firing anyone."

As president of her local chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc., Scott-Buczak coordinates fundraisers that provide underprivileged women with suitable work clothes. Proceeds from fashion shows and vendors fairs the group organizes go toward providing \$5,000-7,000 in college scholarships annually. And through the work of the group's international division, girls in Africa receive dark-skinned dolls to help them foster a greater sense of self and avoid resorting to bleaching their skin.

Scott-Buczak maintains a decade-long position on the board of directors of the New York City Council on Adoptable Children, which finds homes for those who otherwise would get lost in the foster care system or be passed over because they are too old or need special services. She also works in youth ministry at her church as directress of religious education. She and her husband, William Buczak '74, help the church's recent grads buy clothes suitable for job interviews and assist in defraying the cost of textbooks for those entering college.

"When it's all said and done, I want to stand face to face with Jesus Christ and know that He is pleased with how I represented Him in this world," she says. <sup>n</sup>



## Combining Law and Economics

Rawle Howard '96 leads real estate debt group at Blackrock

**WHEN RAWLE HOWARD '96** arrived at Lafayette as a first-year student, he knew two things—he wanted to be a lawyer and he hated economics. But an economics class taught by Gladstone "Fluney" Hutchinson opened up a world of possibilities.

"Fluney changed my life in more ways than one," says Howard, vice president of the real estate debt group at the BlackRock investment-management firm. "He was the guy who got me interested in economics, which is the basis for a lot of what I do now . . . Fluney was a mentor and still is."

Before BlackRock, Howard joined Lehman Brothers as a corporate lawyer, a position he believed was the perfect blend of his interests.

"I always thought I wanted to be a trial attorney," he explains. "When I got to Lafayette and got interested in economics, there was this dichotomy. How am I going to bridge the gap? So I thought, 'I'll be a corporate attorney and manage deals.' . . . I got to law school and got into practice, but only part of [being a corporate attorney] is deal driven. You're just papering the deal; you're not actually driving the bus. From my standpoint, I wanted to drive the bus. I wanted to be the one pushing the envelope, getting things to a place where I'm being as creative as possible for my client, which in this case was Lehman Brothers, without crossing the line and violating any rules."

Although he worked in the legal group, Howard pursued outside real estate interests. When a friend asked why he wasn't making a career of real estate, he decided it was time for a change. His friend introduced him to another friend who worked in Lehman's real estate group and took Howard under his wing.

"A lot of what I'd done on the legal side I was able to transfer," he says. "It was very easy." <sup>n</sup>



# The Tireless Judge

Thomas W. Sumners Jr. '80  
sees his role on the bench as  
a way to serve the public



**JUDGE THOMAS W. SUMNERS JR. '80** is known throughout the region as a tireless worker. Once at his former firm, he faced losing a decision when the primary witness failed to show. Sumners asked the arbitrator for a half-hour recess. He tracked the witness down, drove to her house to pick her up, and delivered her to the courthouse in time. He won the case, too.

"I try to go the extra yard," he says. "Working late, contacting clients on weekends, meeting with them when it was convenient for them and not for me—the way I look at it, my job as an attorney was to serve my clients. I carry that over as a judge."

Nominated by Gov. John Corzine and confirmed in May 2008, Sumners presides over civil matters in his home county of Mercer on the Superior Court of New Jersey. He hears lawsuits that range from job discrimination to personal injury to commercial disputes.

"This work provides me with an opportunity to continue to serve the public well-being as I have done as a lawyer and active community member for almost 25 years," he says.

The government and law major realized in college that the future held more than just serving his own interests.

"I wanted to represent people from the communities I was born and raised in, the city of Trenton, representing friends or families of friends, relatives of mine, and the people I grew up with," says Sumners, who received his J.D.

from Rutgers School of Law in 1984. When given a risky opportunity as a young lawyer to handle legal issues for the Trenton School District, whose contract was due to expire, the young Sumners bet his career on the chance. It paid off for both parties for more than 20 years.

In addition, the work offered an opportunity to give back. "I represented one of my former junior high school teachers," he recalls. "Prevailing in that case was a great reward."

His strong sense of community allowed him to serve the College, too. The close-knit African American network Sumners discovered at Lafayette inspired him to keep those connections alive. As a senior, he organized the first Black Alumni Day.

"It was a chance for alumni to come back to the school and share their experiences at Lafayette and post-Lafayette so current students could have a better perspective of themselves and the big picture," he says. While the event linked past and present students, it also reconnected alumni who had lost touch. For Sumners, it bolstered his own network, too. "I got to meet a lot of alumni I still know today," he says.

Though he commands a lofty position in the state, whether he's dealing with attorneys or folks from the neighborhood, Sumners remembers his roots and keeps his interactions humble, patient, and kind. That mindset reflects in his aspirations for the future: "For me, it's the human component. I want to see people care for people." <sup>n</sup>





## Shining in the Business World

Jarrett Shine '96 succeeds with startup companies

**WHEN HE WAS** a Lafayette student, Jarrett Shine '96 may not have understood completely the lessons he was learning. But as an entrepreneur, he can see exactly how they are helping him achieve his goals.

"Lafayette really challenged me," says the mathematics-economics graduate. "It taught me how to be organized, which probably didn't hit me until after I graduated—sort of like when you see lightning in the distance and five seconds later you hear the thunder."

Shine's ultimate goal is to become a venture capitalist, helping startup and small-capital companies. He has consulted for startup companies and was instrumental in raising capital for Webbe.com, an online communications tool for instant communication and file sharing. He also raised initial capital for NanoStatics, a nanotechnology firm in Circleville, Ohio, that manufactures nanofibers for the filtration, medical, and textile industries.

Shine served as director of sales and business development for NanoStatics before taking a job in logistics at Foot Locker's corporate office. He has since signed a distribution deal with Nanostatics to start his own spinoff, IAQ Group Inc., to sell energy-efficient air filters that Shine says removes more particles than any other product on the market.

He also is the founder of Shinewear, an athletic apparel company that inspires youth to achieve their dreams. As a teacher and football and baseball coach at the Brunswick School in Greenwich, Conn., Shine felt a connection with students who seemed to lack confidence. He conceived the idea on a road trip to North Carolina with best friend Rawle Howard '96, a fellow former Leopards football standout.

"Hey, it's your time to shine," I said. "Let's make that the slogan," he recalls. "I want to change the way people think. Be positive and let their light shine while impacting others' lives—having the Shinewear acronym set true to their hearts: Success, Heart, Inspiration, Never give up, Excellence, Winning attitude, Ever-determined, Able to Rise." <sup>n</sup>



## Mending Disparities

Ernest Levister '58 diversifies the medical community

**PHYSICIAN ERNEST LEVISTER '58** has spent his career helping others heal and curing a health care system that gives inadequate attention to poor communities.

The California Wellness Foundation presented its Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award to Levister in 2007, a clinical professor of internal and occupational medicine at University of California, Irvine with a practice in San Bernardino.

Levister is cofounder of Vines Medical Society (VMS), which assists minorities seeking a health care career. He has written "Our Bodies," a weekly health column for The Inland Black News, for more than two decades.

Working to help those lacking accessible medical care, Levister discovered a major problem in a University of California, Riverside (UCR)/UCLA program meant to diversify the medical community by encouraging minority students to become doctors and serve in the communities where they lived: It had only graduated one African-American student in well over 20 years.

"The program was founded as an outgrowth of the Watts riots," he says. "One of the problems people realized was that the poorer communities were underserved and one issue was cultural sensitivity."

Trying to negotiate with university leaders, Levister and VMS realized that the state system did not want to compromise the UCLA medical education program by allowing the Riverside campus to establish one. After eight years of frustration, the group took its cause to the California Legislature, which called on UCR to "radically restructure [the diversity program] or face severe funding cuts," Levister recalls. The program was restructured and UCR received approval to establish a medical school.

"We want to bring everyone onto a level playing field," says Levister, who also was instrumental in establishing the UCR group African-Americans United in Science, bringing students job shadowing, mentoring, a summer medical enrichment program, and funding for MCAT preparation courses. <sup>n</sup>

# CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

## Dr. Benjamin S. Carson Will Give Commencement Address

World-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin S. Carson will be the principal speaker at Lafayette's 174th Commencement Saturday, May 23, and will be awarded an honorary degree.

Carson is director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, a position he has held since 1984 when, at age 33, he became the youngest physician ever at Johns Hopkins to head a major division.

Carson operates on more than 300 children each year. He is sought around the world for his innovative and groundbreaking neurosurgeries, which include separating conjoined twins and surgeries in which a portion of the brain is removed to stem intractable seizures.

Last year, President Bush presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civil-

ian award, and the Lincoln Medal, awarded by the Ford Theatre.

In 2000, the Library of Congress presented Carson with its Living Legend Award; in 2004, President Bush appointed him to serve on the President's Council on Bioethics; and in 2006, the NAACP awarded him its highest honor, the Spingarn Medal.

Carson's first three books all became best-sellers. He also has authored more than 100 neurosurgical publications. In February, Turner Network Television presented an original movie, *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, based on his inspiring memoir of rising from poverty to success, with Cuba Gooding Jr. playing the lead.

National Public Radio senior correspondent Juan Williams, one of America's leading journalists, was principal speaker at Commencement last year.



Dr. Benjamin S. Carson will be principal speaker at Lafayette's 174th Commencement and receive an honorary degree.

## Opening-Night Triumph

Chris Duru '10, a Posse scholar and double major in history and English, performed in College Theater's staging of *Selling Out* and *A Play for George Plimpton* (and John Ritter), part of *365 Days/365 Plays*, a project by Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks.

"Opening night of *George Plimpton* was a rush of emotions," Duru recalls. "There was general excitement backstage. I was overwhelmed by the question, 'Will they get it?' and my castmates shared the concern. The abstract nature of the play left much room for interpretation. Every line and every gesture had to count, or the meaning of the piece would be lost."

"Overall, the response was very positive. Many people told me they enjoyed watching it even if they didn't entirely understand it. I enjoyed it, too. It challenged my versatility as an actor and opened my eyes to the world of abstract thought."

He also had the rare chance to be involved with a Broadway-bound musical through Lafayette's production of *Museum* at the Chelsea Art Museum in New York City. For a number of weeks, students, faculty, and alumni traveled to the city to rehearse alongside professional actors. He again

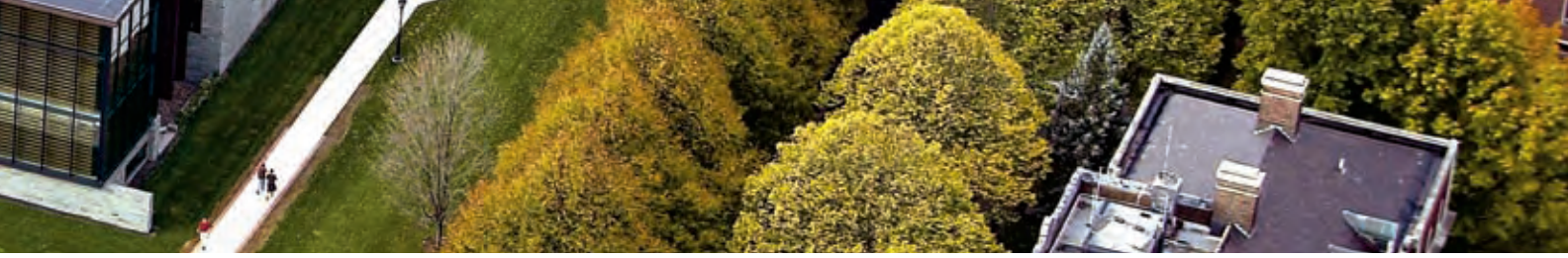


Chris Duru '10 portrays Mr. Bennett in the College Theater production of *Pride and Prejudice*.

joined Lafayette students in working with Broadway actors in a series of script-development sessions for *Caligula*, which involved the musical's director, producer, and author/composer as well.

Duru also has acted in College Theater's productions of *The Rivals*, *Our Town*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Urinetown*.





## Expressing Herself

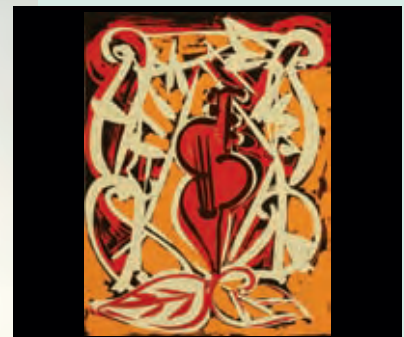
An English major and Posse Scholar at Lafayette, Kameisha Hodge '11 serves as vice president of W.O.R.D.S.—Writing Organization Reaching Dynamic Students. The student group incorporates poetry, music, and art and fosters an intellectually stimulating environment where students can discuss and express ideas outside the classroom.

Hodge is a regular participant in the monthly Open Mic nights and the Poetry Slam. "I enjoy performing the works I write," she says. "Looking at the deeper meaning of poems can really be enlightening."

Last summer, Hodge completed an internship as a development department member with MTV in New York City. She scanned new submissions, filed legal documents, read scripts, researched and assembled a list of all unscripted programming on air, and managed the development department blog, among other tasks.



Ziad Foty '10 led inmates at Northampton County Prison in discussions of *The Things They Carried*, a book set in the Vietnam War, as part of an English course. He organized the book club as a precursor to teaching film literacy to the prisoners.



Painter and printmaker William T. Williams visited campus last month to give a talk and attend a reception for *William T. Williams: Theme and Variations*, a Williams Center Gallery exhibit of works from his 40 years as an artist. Previously, Williams worked with students at the Experimental Printmaking Institute as the College's 2006 David L. Temple and Helen J. Temple Visiting Artist.



# CAMPUSCONNECTIONS

## Land Reform in Uganda

Rex Ahene, professor of economics and business and coordinator of Africana studies, has worked with a handful of African governments, the World Bank, and other development organizations to reform the land and real estate markets of African countries. His most recent work is as senior technical adviser to Uganda's Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development in the implementation of a \$23 million World Bank land-management initiative that he devised.

He is working directly with the head of the civil service and the project coordinator to modernize Uganda's land administration structure. This entails reforming the processes that go into identifying individual property, developing a database for proper land management, and setting up an administrative system that will allow local governments to use

this basic information to make planning and development decisions.

Ahene has brought Lafayette students to Uganda to collaborate on the project, including Cristina Callagy '09 over summer and winter breaks. "Living in the capital, spending every day in the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development—and venturing to more remote areas to attend workshops and see the dismal condition of the district lands offices—has made me consider some angles that never would have come up had I relied solely on articles and books," she says.

The initiative stems from Ahene's review of Uganda's land administration system in 2004, when he discovered a myriad of problems with the government's interest in using land as a catalyst for driving the economy. He presented a modernization plan to the World Bank, which readily accepted it for funding.



Cristina Callagy '09 researched women's land rights and other issues in Uganda with Professor Rex Ahene.

## Faculty News

Sharon A. Jones, professor of civil and environmental engineering, began a three-year term as director of the engineering division in August. She is featured in an article in *Prism*, the magazine of the American Society for Engineering Education, that spotlights Lafayette's distinctive blend of engineering and the liberal arts. She also discussed the advantage of this combination for engineering majors in a halftime interview during a Lafayette Sports Network men's basketball telecast. The video of the interview can be seen on [www.lafayette.edu](http://www.lafayette.edu).

Gladstone Hutchinson, associate professor of economics and business, is mentor for Lafayette's Economic Empowerment and Global Learning Project, which was recognized last year by President Bill Clinton at the Clinton Global Initiative University Conference. Hutchinson and six students traveled to New Orleans last summer to aid development in the Lower Ninth Ward. EEGLP also is working on projects in two rural Honduran villages and in Easton. Six student interns will work on the Easton project this summer under Hutchinson's guidance through a \$25,000 William T. Morris Foundation grant.

Original works by Curlee Raven Holton, professor and head of art and director of Lafayette's Experimental Printmaking Institute, have been inducted into permanent collections. A 1994 piece, *Bred For Pleasure*, is part of Yale University's Art Gallery collection. This work and *Legacy* have been accepted by the American ambassador's residence in Dakar, Senegal. *Legacy*, which was produced in a limited edition of 100, celebrates Lafayette's first African-American graduate, David Kearney McDonogh 1844.



# Offering Hope to the Young

Angela Neal '01 helps abused children and researches healing solutions

**WHEN A TIMID BOY**, scarred by abuse, whispers his devastating story, Angela Neal '01 provides the listening ear. In her dual roles as a child welfare researcher and an intern for Hennepin County (Minn.) Child Services, she offers hope to broken children.

As she pursues her Master's of Social Work at the University of Minnesota, Neal juggles a packed schedule, helping others during the week through her research and internship, then taking classes on the weekends. Her research at UM focuses on correlating successful intervention techniques of the past to form an improved methodology for helping abused children in the future.

"It's the best feeling in the world to see a child happy after going through so much pain," she says.

Neal recalls her work at Hearthstone of Minnesota, a home for teen boys with emotional and behavioral issues, those troubles often leading to an all-too-early encounter with the law. "You read these boys' files and see what people say about them, and what you read is scary," she says.

But encountering the real children behind the case files changed Neal's perceptions: "I realized there is so much more to these kids than what is put on paper. They shouldn't be judged by their mistakes."

One of her charges was an immigrant boy who had run afoul of the law and was subsequently abandoned by his father. It later came out that the boy had been a victim of abuse back in his native country. Neal reached out to him.

"I don't give up on a child," she notes, citing listening as the key to healing. "Children get talked at rather than listened to. They need time. Once you prove to a child that you are trustworthy, that child will open up to you."

This boy did. Today, he has found healing and is attending college, the course of his life changed.

At Lafayette, the psychology major's late-night conversations with fellow students of color occasionally brought out of others the same stories she would later hear in her counseling work. Those private talks opened her eyes and presented an opportunity to counsel her friends. In addition, as an EXCEL Scholar, Neal worked with Ann McGillicuddy-DeLisi, Metzgar Professor of Psychology. Along with Melissa Daly '01, they co-published a paper on the origins of racism in young children based on their studies of how kids distributed assistance to peers of different races.



"I realized there is so much more to these kids than what is put on paper."

Those experiences led Neal to expand her career direction. "While psychology is more interested in the internal, social work understands both the internal and the effects of the outside world, such as racism, sexism, and other social evils," she notes.

Though salsa dancing provides a respite, Neal spends most of her time researching ways to combat the deleterious effects of a broken world on the young.

"I just want to stop the painful stories and help these kids," she says, "because I feel that what a child goes through has an effect on what they become when they grow up." <sup>n</sup>



# LAFAYETTE

The McDonogh Report  
307 Markle Hall  
Lafayette College  
Easton, PA 18042

## A DISTINCTIVE EXPERIENCE

Lafayette is uniquely positioned in its standing among America's leading liberal arts colleges for its strictly undergraduate focus that offers the best in liberal arts programs AND engineering.

Lafayette's approach to teaching and learning goes well beyond traditional classroom methods. Through active-learning experiences in small-group seminars, student-centered team projects, independent study, student-faculty research, study abroad, and internships, students have the opportunity to cross academic boundaries in the arts, sciences, and engineering.

A combination of programs and characteristics makes Lafayette truly distinctive and unique. These include:

- Strictly undergraduate focused
- The very best in liberal arts courses AND engineering
- Growing its exceptional faculty by nearly 20%
- Unparalleled opportunities for undergraduate research with faculty
- Exceptional academic opportunities and alumni connections afforded by proximity to New York City
- The ideal size
- Division I programs in 23 varsity sports
- A transforming experience, where great minds wind up

# LAFAYETTE

