

LAFAYETTE

Winter 2013

McDONOUGH

V O I C E

Myers '82
Guides Oil
Refinery
Process

Bennett '06
Succeeds as
Wall Street Trader

Sanchez '81
Directs Operations
for DuPont

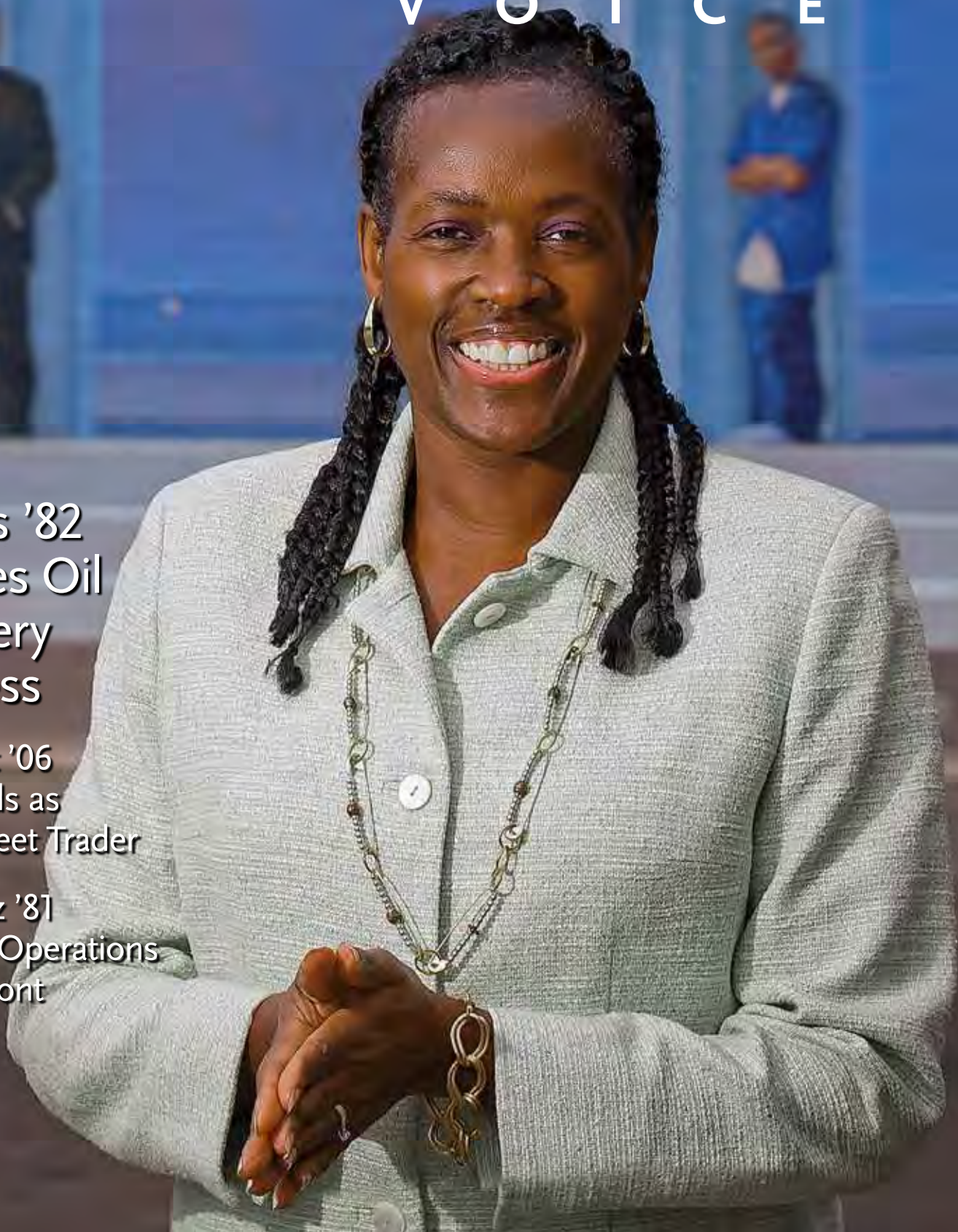




Photo by Chuck Zovko

In Honor of David Kearney McDonogh, Class of 1844

Aug. 10, 1821, New Orleans, La.—Jan. 15, 1893, Newark, N.J.

The McDonogh Network, which provides networking opportunities for African American and other black alumni and students, is named for Dr. David K. McDonogh and is associated with the *McDonogh Voice*, a magazine launched in 2007 to celebrate the impressive contributions of African Americans to the Lafayette College community and beyond. The magazine is not only about past and present achievements, but also about aspirations—the hopes and dreams of all.

In addition, the Presidential Lecture Series on Diversity, launched in 2000 to encourage intellectual discourse on diversity, was renamed in honor of McDonogh in 2009. It is now known as the President's McDonogh Lecture Series.

When McDonogh came to Lafayette College in 1838, he was a slave. His owner, John McDonogh, a Louisiana planter, sent him to become educated to travel with a group of freed slaves to Liberia to serve as a missionary. But McDonogh wanted to become a physician. When he graduated in 1844 as the College's first black graduate, he went on to attend classes at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. Although the institution would not grant him a degree, his classmates treated him as a physician. He later received a degree from Eclectic Medical College of New York. He became a member of the staff of the New York Hospital and New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. After his death, McDonough Memorial Hospital was named in his honor and opened as New York City's first hospital to admit physicians and patients without discrimination by race. He is buried in the historic Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.



The sculpture, *Transcendence*, which stands adjacent to the David Bishop Skillman Library, was created by Melvin Edwards to honor McDonogh. Dedicated in September 2008, it is made of stainless steel and stands 16 feet tall. The massive upward-reaching form represents struggle, tension, and achievement. Edwards was artist in residence at the College's Experimental Printmaking Institute in 2004-05, supported by the David L. Temple Sr. and Helen J. Temple Visiting Artist Fund. ♦

McDONOUGH

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On the cover: Pat Anderson Myers '82 outside South Philadelphia High School, which features a mural of the Parthenon. She mentored students here about creative careers in technology.

Diversity and Inclusiveness Statement

Lafayette College is committed to creating a diverse community: one that is inclusive and responsive, and is supportive of each and all of its faculty, students, and staff. The College seeks to promote diversity in its many manifestations. These include but are not limited to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, and place of origin. The College recognizes that we live in an increasingly interconnected, globalized world, and that students benefit from learning in educational and social contexts in which there are participants from all manner of backgrounds. The goal is to encourage students to consider diverse experiences and perspectives throughout their lives. All members of the College community share a responsibility for creating, maintaining, and developing a learning environment in which difference is valued, equity is sought, and inclusiveness is practiced. It is a mission of the College to advance diversity as defined above. The College will continue to assess its progress in a timely manner in order to ensure that its diversity initiatives are effective. **Adopted 2009**



Photo by Chuck Zovko

Embracing Change

Since my arrival at Lafayette in 2005, we have had productive conversations about educational leadership, inclusiveness, student access, and many other issues related to diversity that are important to our community. Our work is not finished, but major goals have been accomplished.

During the summer, **Annette Diorio** took over as vice president for campus life and senior diversity officer. She is leading the implementation of Campus Climate Working Group recommendations. For example, to increase the ability of members of our campus to address issues of diversity and inclusiveness effectively, a stereotype threat workshop was held this fall. And a new Social Justice Institute for students has been launched that features training on different dimensions of oppression and privilege.

Accomplishments through the years have included launching *McDonogh Voice* in 2007, establishing the McDonogh Network and dedicating the sculpture *Transcendence* in honor of **David McDonogh** in 2008, and in 2009, naming the College's first chief diversity officer and adopting a statement on diversity and inclusiveness.

The Presidential Diversity Lecture series was renamed in honor of McDonogh in 2009, and the next year the Campus Climate Survey was completed. In 2011 the College received a Teagle Foundation grant to enhance campus diversity and further integrate diversity into the curriculum (see page 21).

In this issue, you'll read about a new program (see page 21) to occur this summer—a special opportunity to travel to Ghana with fellow alumni. Led by **Rexford Ahene**, professor of economics, the journey will give participants an opportunity to reflect on their shared Lafayette experience as well as strategize ideas to support the College and minority students. Discussion sessions will be interspersed with visits to cultural and historical sites.

I look forward to working with President-Elect **Alison Byerly** during the next several months and am confident that she will continue our shared commitment to diversity and inclusion.

LAFAYETTE McDONOGH VOICE

Celebrating the contributions of African Americans to the Lafayette community

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Kate Helm, Bill Kline, Mike Litzenberger

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Dale Mack

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The McDonogh Network is an active and engaged networking organization consisting of multiple generations of Lafayette College black alumni and students. The network enriches and informs its constituents through communications, events, and activities that promote their interests on campus and in the community at large. The organization supports and mentors the current black student body by encouraging their academic and social progress and promotes diversity among the student body.

Committees include events, communication, professional development and networking, resource development and fund-raising, ad hoc governance, and recruitment, retention, and reclamation. To get involved, contact Kimberly A. Spang, Associate Vice President, Development, (610) 330-5892; spangk@lafayette.edu.

McDonogh Report is published annually for African American and black alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of Lafayette College by the Communications Division, Feather House, 17 Cattell St., Easton, PA 18042; 610 330-5120; fax 610 330-5217; danielss@lafayette.edu.

For more, visit
sites.lafayette.edu/mcdonogh/



Photo by Roy Groething

Time to Get Involved

The McDonogh Network was formed in 2008 to support and encourage current students of color while fostering relationships among alumni. Throughout the years, the network has evolved into a conduit for fellowship and mentorship among its members. Our 2012 Homecoming event was a great kick-off to the school year with both students and alumni leaving in awe of the limitless opportunities before them. We look forward to a continued focus on engaging and inspiring each other as we charge into 2013.

The year 2013 will be one of ongoing change at Lafayette College, and the growth of the McDonogh Network can be one reflection of that development. As we build and strengthen our organization, I encourage our members to become more involved in Lafayette steering committees and alumni organizations. Representing McDonogh and students of color, it is our duty to help define our institution's future strategy—to be all-inclusive and all-encompassing. As change agents, we have the opportunity to mold the Lafayette of tomorrow. Together we can make a difference in the experiences of all students, but especially those of color.

Challenge yourself to become an active McDonogh Network member. Impel yourself to call old friends and roommates to once again reconnect with Lafayette College. Dare to reflect on how your Lafayette experience has shaped your life and career, and share your story with students. With your support, 2013 will be the year that the McDonogh Network progresses into an illustrious support network for current, future, and past Lafayette students of color.

Larry Lennon '71, who is now working with me as Alumni Liaison, and I are excited for the upcoming months and look forward to seeing our organization flourish in 2013.

Kyara Gray '11

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Beloved Community Symposium

February 17, 2013

Workshops and sessions featuring student experiences related to diversity, inclusiveness, and social justice. In honor of the national Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

McDonogh Network Conference and Senior Celebration

April 2013

Alumni and faculty lead workshops for students, followed by a recognition and celebration of seniors.

McDonogh Experience in Ghana

August 2-12, 2013

Read more on page 21.

McDonogh Network Homecoming Social

October 5, 2013

Alumni, students, faculty, and administrators gather for an after-game reception and fellowship at Portlock Black Cultural Center.



MAKING THINGS TICK

Chemical engineer Pat Anderson Myers '82 maintains computer systems that ensure crude is turned into various fuel products.

By Bill Kline

A future class valedictorian from southern New Jersey who wanted to be a math major, **Pat Anderson Myers '82** visited Lafayette for a one-week program called Minority Introduction to Engineering (MITE). The program changed her life, inspiring a switch from math to engineering that led to a highly successful career and to volunteer activities that are helping transform the lives of other high school students.

"That program is how I found out about engineering, how it ties everything together," says Myers, a chemical engineering graduate who holds a master's in chemical engineering from Drexel University. "Understanding engineering is understanding how things work together."

A Control Systems group leader for Philadelphia Energy Solutions (formerly Sunoco, Inc.), Myers is responsible for ensuring that everything works smoothly inside the 330,000 bbl/day oil refinery. She and her team of five ensure that the computers running the chemical processes are performing efficiently as crude oil is turned into various fuel products.

Translating Data

A wide variety of measurements, such as flow, temperature, and pressure, have to be monitored in the refinery control room. Myers translates the data into a graphical interface for control room operators. This interface provides them with the visual snapshot to assist with efficient, effective, and meaningful decisions.

"I love creating operator displays with graphical information—actually transforming data into information by using color and sounds," she says.

Taking on new challenges is one reason why Myers has held many posts in a career that began in 1982 as a Process Engineer with Mobil Oil Refinery in Paulsboro, N.J.

In 1989, Myers moved to Rohm and Haas Company, where she held several engineering and information technology roles in Pennsylvania, Texas, and Delaware. She joined Sunoco in 2007 as a Control System engineer, becoming group leader in 2011.

Regardless of the challenge, though, she has always relied on her College Hill education.

"Lafayette gave me a good foundation in engineering—all of the concepts and basics," says Myers, who was a member of Association of Black Collegians. "The professors were great instructors."

One in particular was **George Siemencow**, professor of chemistry.

"He explained topics very well and gave me a different insight to help me understand," says Myers. "I'm a process person. He gave me a methodology on how to think about and attack problems, and with that it's pretty easy to figure things out in engineering and life in general."

Myers, who lives in southern New Jersey with her husband, volunteers as a fitness instructor offering



Pat Myers '82 (left) talks with Stephon Littles, senior class president, and Khaliah Thomas at South Philadelphia High School, where she mentors students regarding careers in engineering and other technological fields.

exercise programs to communities and non-profit organizations. For example, she teaches gospel line dancing and zumba at churches.

Inspiring Others

Last year she completed a six-month leadership forum offered by the Urban League of Philadelphia, which culminated with a project at a high school. “We taught students about different aspects of everyday life,” she says. “My assignment was getting the students excited about creative careers in technology. We wanted students to understand that you can have a career in engineering, computers, or technology and still be creative.” She and her team had the students craft an advertising campaign for a mobile application to be used on a smart phone. “Interacting with the students was very rewarding, knowing that I have influenced someone to pursue a career in technology.”

The experience was a nice slice of symmetry—reflecting Myers’ own discovery as a high school student

that engineering can be creative. “It is fun, rewarding monetarily, and inspires me to keep learning new things,” she says.

Advice For Students

Reflecting on her years in college—and as a professional—Myers encourages students to cultivate the art of listening. “If you listen and talk to people and find out where they’ve been and how they tackle life, you won’t have to go through some of those issues yourself,” she says.

She also explains the importance of working hard, making sacrifices now for rewards that come later. “Those who are able to delay gratification for a certain period of time are the ones who usually excel.”

And, finally, she stresses the importance of relationships. “You never know when you’re going to meet someone again later in life or need their help,” Myers says. “Respect everyone. Everybody has a story, everybody is important.” ♦

REACHING OUT

Alberto Luna '08 seeks to inspire learning-disabled students to succeed.

By Dan Edelen

WHEN STUDENTS NEED a

listening ear, **Alberto Luna '08** is there. Luna is a Ph.D. candidate in the School Psychology program at University of Arizona, where he completed his master's in 2010.

A doctoral intern at Park Ridge-Niles School District, Park Ridge, Ill., Luna also has been a supplemental instruction supervisor at Arizona, program developer for the honors college Xtreme Discovery Teams, and a Summer of Excellence graduate coordinator.

"I do assessments, clinical interviews, reports, consultations with teachers and parents, therapy, and counseling, among other services," says Luna, who every day uses the skills he obtained as a psychology and English graduate.

"I wanted to be part of the psychology field in a way that allowed me to have a direct impact on young people and their academic and socio-emotional well-being," he says. "School psychology was the answer. My dissertation seeks to identify predictive factors in motivation for postsecondary students with learning disabilities."

Luna cites his research on attrition, which shows that up to 34 percent of learning-disabled students drop out of high school. Even those who make it to college leave early 11 percent more often than their peers.

"I hope to learn the factors needed to increase these students' low motivation, particularly intrinsic motivation, that would lead to academic success in college and degree attainment," he says.

Personal experience as a Posse Foundation Scholar at Lafayette bolstered Luna's desire to reach young people who face educational, societal, and cultural challenges.

"Culturally competent school psychologists are needed, as are role models for these students," he says. "Students of color are disproportionately overrepresented in special



education, which indicates that school psychologists are needed to provide better services and make more accurate diagnoses for these students who may be placed in special education incorrectly."

An interest in the needs of multicultural students began on College Hill.

"When I was part of the intercultural development office, I worked on *Intercultural Horizons*, a student-led magazine with research-based articles in the area of cultural diversity," he recalls. For this and his other diversity work,

Luna twice won the David A. Portlock Cross-Cultural Relationships Award.

Luna was mentored by several faculty and staff members. **Rosie Bukics**, Jones Professor of Economics, shared how to embrace opportunities; **Alix Ohlin**, associate professor of English, supported Luna's co-founding of W.O.R.D.S. (Writing Organization Reaching Dynamic Students); and **Alan Childs**, professor of psychology, opened Luna's eyes to the benefits of psychology. In addition, **Michael Benitez**, former director of intercultural affairs, **Amber Zuber**, associate director, Landis Community Outreach Center, and **Robert Allan**, associate professor of psychology, helped Luna focus on the direction for his future.

Though still on track to pursue a career as a school psychologist, Luna keeps his attention on the task at hand. "The most challenging aspect of my research and studies is staying current," he says. "I track the historical aspect of theory and research, as well as the most recent empirical data that supports the use of specific newly designed interventions and strategies for different populations."

He adds: "It's all part of the investigation process, which makes it fun as well as challenging... finding the best way to help students be the best they can be." ♦



Photos by Chuck Zovko

Maurice Bennett '06 (left) met with Stephen Macurdy '11 during Macurdy's senior year. A business and economics graduate, he is now an investment performance associate with Cambridge Associates, Arlington, Va.

EXPERT RISK TAKER

Maurice Bennett '06 is successful
Wall Street trader and small businessman.

By Kate Helm

An equity sales and trading analyst for Credit Suisse, **Maurice Bennett '06** trades companies that have above-average debt, have filed for Chapter 11, or are emerging from Chapter 11. American Airlines and Eastman Kodak are among the high-profile accounts he has handled.

Bennett arrived at Credit Suisse at 6 a.m. the day after Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy. "The floor was packed, guys were screaming at each other, and I thought, 'What did I get myself into?'"

An economics and business graduate, Bennett has had success at the company and has been instrumental in starting the Black Professional Network, a company-wide initiative to strengthen opportunities for black employees and host underserved children at the bank so they can learn about career opportunities in investment banking.

"The best part of my job is not really making money, which I thought it would be," says Bennett, who was offered a position at Credit Suisse after his junior year and a successful internship. "I can provide access to other people. There's more to investment banking than just banking; we have lawyers, IT people, assistants, engineers, everything. Even if you're in college, you don't really know what it's all about. I can help educate others."

Being part of a team is just part of Bennett's nature. **Donald Chambers**, Walter E. Hanson/KPMG Professor of Business and Finance, helped him narrow his career interests from "everything" to finance. **Susan Averett**, Dana Professor of Economics, advised his honors thesis; Bennett still makes time to visit her when he returns to campus. A question about a class concept turned into

a lengthy discussion about life with **Ute Schumacher**, visiting assistant professor of economics.

"All those touch points and people culminated in where I am today," he says.

A four-year standout on Lafayette's Division I football team who was co-captain his senior year, Bennett says that without the coaching staff's belief in his abilities both athletically and academically, he may not have been accepted. Calling himself "far from a sure thing," he even had to write a letter to the College promising to work hard.

The coaches were right. Bennett's leadership began to emerge when the first-year players called their own team meeting and vowed to transform a team with a losing record into championship material. They did just that: the team won the Patriot League Championship in 2004 and 2005. Bennett was a finalist for the Draddy Trophy, known as the "Academic Heisman," was named a first-team All-Patriot League selection in 2004, Patriot League Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 2005, and received the Otis Ellis '89 Scholar-Athlete Award.

"Athletics and academics were equally important to me," says Bennett, a middle linebacker who led the team in tackles his last two seasons. "If you come in and you're successful, you can do anything. I saw the successful people at Lafayette and thought, 'why not me?' Everyone



Maurice Bennett '06 and Danielle Harris '09 (right) guided Xiao Cui '13 during a summer internship at Credit Suisse.

starts with a zero grade point average. I decided to be a winner, in class and on the field. Now, I don't feel like there's anything I can't do."

Case in point: Greenwood Capital Investments, a company Bennett started in 2009 to buy run-down properties, renovate them, and resell. The first property he bought is now a barber shop in his native Philadelphia operated by his brother. He is closing a deal to buy a three-story vacant house across the street from his mother's home.

For Bennett, who received the College's inaugural Paul Robeson Humanitarian Award in 2005, Greenwood is a way to give back to his community. The house across from his mother, for example, is an eyesore in a nice, well-kept neighborhood. He remembers that when he started repairs on the first single-family home he bought, the neighbors thanked him for improving their community.

Bennett got the idea for Greenwood at Lafayette. Former professor **Samuel Hay** assigned reading on Greenwood, a neighborhood in Tulsa, Okla., known as "black Wall Street" because it was one of the most affluent African American

neighborhoods in the country in the early 1900s. During a race riot in 1921, the community was burned and never recovered. Bennett promised himself that if he ever started a business, Greenwood would be in the title.

"It symbolizes black Wall Street because there aren't a lot of blacks on Wall Street, and I'm here," he explains. "I want to buy the most dilapidated house on the nicest block. From having a black professor at Lafayette introduce me to Greenwood and its being known as black Wall Street, to having it mean black prosperity and wealth—the name means a lot to me on different levels."

Along with **Nkrumah Pierre '06** and **Reco Collins '05**, Bennett is raising money for a scholarship to help support students who take unpaid internships in New York City. It's a cause close to his heart; he had to take out a loan to make ends meet when he served an internship with Merrill Lynch. Bennett also invites students to shadow him at Credit Suisse and helped three Lafayette students gain internships last summer. He also visits campus to mentor students through Gateway. ♦

IMPROVING LIVES

Francine Williams '92 helps create medicines to treat diabetes.

By Benjamin Gleisser

WITH THE AMBITIOUS GOAL

of finding a cure for diabetes, **Francine Wormley Williams '92** is well-positioned for pursuing that target.

Senior project manager at Novo Nordisk, a multi-national pharmaceutical company, Williams supervises clinical trials of new drugs in the company's Princeton, N.J., laboratory. The lab is devoted to developing, among other things, products to help people with blood disorders and diabetes.

Williams is especially proud of her work in bringing to market the drug Victoza, an injectable for people with Type II diabetes. Victoza helps control blood sugar, which can occasionally spike as a result of diet, stress, or exercise. "It feels good to know that I'm doing something to help improve patients' lives," Williams says. "My work lets me combine my epidemiology and science backgrounds. I watched Victoza go through development and helped design the clinical testing—the human testing—of the product. And now it's being sold to the public."

A biology graduate, Williams began working in the labs at Hoffman-Laroche as a biochemist. In 1997, she earned a master's in public health with a focus on epidemiology, the study of the causes and control of disease, from New York Medical College. She later worked as a clinical trial manager at pharmaceutical firms Bristol-Myers Squibb, Pharmacia, and Sanofi-Aventis before joining Novo Nordisk in 2006.

"I left Sanofi because the company got too big," she says. "I like the culture of Novo Nordisk because it's small enough so I can meet people and get to know them.



And I get to work with people who have really creative ideas."

Williams draws a parallel between her work environment and Lafayette's community; both places are intimate and foster creativity.

"I went to a small, private high school, so I thought Lafayette's size was perfect," she says. "Academically, Lafayette prepared me pretty well for life. And I liked that the professors were always accessible. I felt they were there to help you out. We saw them around town, and not just in class."

Williams took the January interim course Modern Sub-Saharan Africa, led by two African-born professors—**Rexford Ahene**, professor of economics and then chair of Africana Studies, and Joseph K. Adjaye, then professor and director of Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh. They studied the balance between tradition and modern development in the expression and interpretation of social culture, the arts, economic development, and politics in Sierra Leone, Gambia, and Senegal.

"The course was an eye-opening experience," Williams says. "The professors were both originally from Ghana, so we didn't feel like tourists. We became immersed in the culture, and I did a lot of out-of-the-box thinking."

That kind of thinking helps Williams today, whenever she focuses on her goal and on the company's aims.

"One of Novo's missions is to develop a cure for diabetes," she says, "but for now, I'm just glad to do things that make it easier for people to live their day-to-day lives." ♦



Photos by Kim Kolanowski

A LEADER ON THE ROAD

Michael Sanchez '81 provides leadership for manufacturing supervisors across the country.

By Benjamin Gleisser

Thousands of people work for him. And **Michael N. Sanchez '81** wishes that he could meet each one. Sanchez is director of North American operations for DuPont, which produces dozens of products for home, automotive, farming, electronic, and packaging industries at 23 factories. Many of these facilities employ several thousand workers; others have a payroll of a few hundred.

"My average day consists of visiting plants to initiate improvement projects, while at the same time inspecting manufacturing lines for quality control and worker safety," he says from his home in Houston, Texas. "I also try to spend as much time as I can interacting with the people who turn the knobs, so they maintain DuPont's high ethical standards in terms of manufacturing."

He points to research indicating that the person factory workers trust most is their immediate supervisor. So he helps train shop-floor leaders in ways that will enable them to inspire employees to do their best.

Helping Others Achieve

Sanchez is not going to call Houston home much longer. That's because he was recently promoted to his current position, and he and Bridget, his wife of 31 years, are looking for a home that is closer to DuPont's headquarters in Wilmington, Del. The couple has three grown children.

Yet no matter where Sanchez hangs his hat, his job entails a lot of travel—one week he may be at company headquarters in Delaware, the next at a factory in Texas, and after that at a plant in Arkansas or Ohio.

"We try to make the best use of technology, such as web meetings and videoconferencing," Sanchez says. "But when you need significant engagement, face-to-face meetings are always best. One-to-one coaching and encouragement inspires people to fulfill their potential. I get the most fun out of seeing people achieve things that they didn't think was possible."

An electrical engineering graduate, Sanchez became entranced by electronics through his father, who worked at Pioneer Electronics and took his young son to trade shows in Las Vegas and elsewhere. "It was a supercharged environment," he remembers. "I saw the latest and greatest in stereos, and the first clunky cell phones. In high school, I knew I'd work in the electronics field."

After graduating from Lafayette, Sanchez joined DuPont in 1981 as an electrical engineer. His first task excited him: a \$25 million expansion project to upgrade a plant's automation system. When he arrived at the site, he discovered 25 three-foot tall stacks of blueprints. And he was the only electrical engineer on the project team.

"I was told, 'Here's all the drawings; start going through them and see if we need to do anything different,'" Sanchez recalls. "I was thrust into a



Michael Sanchez '81 (center) talks with Magaly Nieves, environmental consultant, and Bruce Davis, engineering consultant, about plans for an upcoming web meeting.

sink-or-swim situation, but my confidence was pretty high, thanks to what I learned at Lafayette.”

He was able to master the project, he says, because his engineering professors taught him the most current information available about power distribution and energy systems. And because Lafayette taught him more than just the nuts and bolts of engineering.

Strong Foundation

“There weren’t too many African American students at Lafayette in the early 1980s, and that’s the main reason I chose Lafayette—I wanted to go to a school that looked like the professional world I wanted to enter,” he says. “I grew up in the Bronx, and my high school was predominantly black. Lafayette prepared me well for the life challenges I encountered. Plus, it had a strong academic program. The classes I took in finance, economics, and marketing were very helpful later on.”

His technical ability and passion for learning new skills impressed management at DuPont, and several

senior engineers offered to serve as his mentors. After roles in the construction, marketing, and human relations departments, and after winning several awards for his work, Sanchez was named manager of Sabine River Works, Orange, Texas, in 2007.

Three years later, he was promoted to global program director, process safety management, and in October he became director for North American operations.

When not inspecting plants, Sanchez likes to relax by playing golf. Though his favorite course is Pebble Beach (Calif.), he appreciates walking any scenic fairway, because it “gives me the chance to enjoy what God put on Earth for us.”

He’s also active in his church’s teaching ministry, where he helps men rediscover their worth.

“My long-term goal is to start a facility in every major city to help men who may have lost themselves find their way in life,” he says. “Now, I work on that one person at a time.” ♦

UNDIVIDED ATTENTION

John Kahn '95 built legal success through sharp focus and unswerving vision.

By Kevin Gray

THROUGHOUT HIS ACADEMIC

and professional careers, **John P. Kahn '95** has recognized the value of teamwork and making key connections to forge ahead.

"Lafayette taught me that finding a close community of friends who share common experiences and goals is important to your success throughout your whole life," says Kahn, an attorney in Archer & Greiner's commercial litigation department who was recently elected treasurer of the Garden State Bar Association.

Kahn, who usually works from the firm's Philadelphia or Haddonfield, N.J., locations, has litigated claims on behalf of health benefit plans and on behalf of securities brokers being investigated by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. He also is involved in civil rights defense work.

"My civil rights cases give me an opportunity to litigate issues of constitutional law in federal court," he explains.

He has defended claims brought against the State of New Jersey, high-ranking government officials, municipal agencies, and officers and medical personnel of the United States Bureau of Prisons. Recently, he argued one such case before the United States Court of Appeals for The Third Circuit.

Kahn, a government and law graduate who holds a J.D. from Rutgers School of Law, was an outstanding student-athlete at Lafayette. A running back, his career was highlighted by an epic 41-carry, 224-yard outburst in a 30-15 victory over Columbia in 1991. He also was a member of the track and field team, Association of Black Collegians, and Brothers of Lafayette.

"My experiences at Lafayette taught me how to clearly focus on my goals in the face of competing interests," he says.

A tailback bursting through the line, surrounded by pursuers, needs vision and focus, skills and savvy to reach the end zone. Kahn has employed these attributes both as a student-athlete and as a legal professional.



"Student-athletes compete at a high level while managing a challenging course load. That experience prepared me for the fast pace of my legal career, where I work on multiple cases, each with its own set of court-ordered deadlines, while still having the ability to treat each client's case as if it were my only one."

John T. McCartney, the late associate professor of government and law, had a significant impact on helping Kahn sharpen his focus on his course work.

"Professor McCartney required that students be prepared for class discussion and share his passion,"

says Kahn. "His mantra was 'You must *master* the material!'"

"I took that mantra with me to law school and challenged myself to always be prepared and to master each law school assignment. In addition to knowing the law, you must know the facts of your client's case, provide expert advice, and present the case effectively in the courtroom."

Kahn has not only built a career in the legal profession, but has also been instrumental in assisting other minorities join and become effective contributors in the judicial system through his work with the Garden State Bar Association.

This work is particularly important to him because he says that African Americans have traditionally been underrepresented in the legal field.

"Often, the value and ability of African American attorneys has been overlooked," says Kahn, who also participates in mentoring programs offered through the bar association or other community organizations in and around Camden, N.J. He also is a member of the New Jersey Bar Association's diversity committee and a trustee of the Camden County Bar Association.

Before law school, Kahn worked for an online brokerage where he obtained Series 7 General Securities Representative and Registered Investment Adviser licenses. ♦

EXAMINING RACIAL IDENTITY

Brandon Stanford '06 featured on CNN's *Black in America* Series.

By Bill Kline

A CONNECTION that occurred during a McDonogh Network Conference led to a collaboration between Yaba Blay and Brandon Stanford '06. She invited him to be part of her acclaimed project that examines racial identity in America, which was recently featured on network television.

In December, Stanford was highlighted in CNN's ongoing *Black in America* series for which Blay is a consulting producer. The CNN show interviewed Stanford and others who had participated in Blay's (i)ne Drop project, which challenges the popular perceptions of blackness in America—in particular about those who might not be immediately recognized, accepted, or embraced as black.

Stanford, whose father is African American and mother is of Irish ancestry, told CNN: "My complexion is not black, yet I am black."

An Africana Studies graduate, Stanford is now a third-year Ph.D. candidate in African American Studies and adjunct instructor at Temple University. He met Blay when she moderated a McDonogh Network panel on which he was a speaker. Blay, an assistant professor at Drexel, was visiting assistant professor of Africana Studies at Lafayette from 2009-12.

"At the conclusion of the conference, she spoke to me about the project," says Stanford, adding that she wanted him to be a (i)ne Drop participant. The project's purpose is to raise social awareness and spark community dialogue about the complexities of blackness as both an identity and a lived reality.

Stanford says he is excited about the news network mining Blay's "expertise concerning the complexities of blackness both as an identity and lived reality. CNN, like many media outlets, has their limitations about how deep they want to go in discussing matters of race and racism."

At Lafayette, Stanford was a standout student-athlete and received the Africana Studies Scholastic Award



Brandon Stanford '06 (right) talks with Brook Estifanos '11 (left) and Fairouz Foty '11 during a McDonogh Network conference in Farinon College Center.

Photo by Ken White

at the All-College Honors Convocation. "Lafayette taught me to think critically, to challenge everything by having my own intelligent form of investigation in my pursuit of truth, to have the moral capacity to never be indifferent to the suffering of poor and working-class people, to dig for the deepest understanding of the problems of the world so I can act to change it, and to always love people, not things," he says.

He notes that his class created a "vibe" that transcended the limitations

of race and racism by recognizing and embracing each other's differences and supporting each other.

"My interaction with the president, professors, students, teammates, coaches, and the surrounding community all played a vital role in helping to shape who I am... and made all the difference," says Stanford. "I feel very blessed to have been able to attend Lafayette."

In February-March 2012, Blay's multi-media (i)ne Drop traveling exhibition was on display in the EPI/Riley Temple Gallery at Portlock Black Cultural Center, featuring portrait documentaries from book and film as well as photographs. The project gets its name from a one-time dogma in America that mandated that any person with any kind of African ethnicity in his or her blood—even one drop—is considered black.

"She [Blay] is a true teacher and challenges me in ways that will make me stronger and dynamic as an academic, professor, and human being. ... I have the McDonogh Network to thank for that!" says Stanford.

Stanford says he plans to continue to teach, to fight racism, oppression, and discrimination, and to develop African American Studies departments at colleges and universities that do not have them.

He says he is fortunate to have gained "a graduate school education at the undergraduate level." ♦

Students Learn Power of Networking

Alumni and students came together on campus last spring to discuss what it takes to succeed in a career and what new graduates should do when entering the workforce during the second McDonogh Network conference.

The day featured a session with **Maureen Walz Boehmer**, associate director, special programs, Career Services, who offered tips on how to network. Alumni and students discussed

specific careers and majors that they had in common during lunch.

Alumni panel topics included “First Experiences” and “Power of Mentorship and Networking.” Students learned how to foster success on campus and after graduating. **Rexford Ahene**, professor of economics and then chair of Africana Studies, was moderator.

Panelists included **Maurice Bennett** ’06, equity sales and trading analyst, Credit Suisse; **Terese**

Brown ’07, designer and owner, Terese Sydonna; Judge **Alvin Yearwood** ’83, criminal court, City of New York, Kings County; **Dr. Cynthia Paige** ’83, family physician, Cypress Health Institute; **Samantha Patterson** ’11, kindergarten teacher, North Star Academy; **Kyara Gray** ’11, insurance operation leadership development program, Travelers Insurance; **Shani Bellegarde** ’08, analyst, Barclays; and **Ashley Gray** ’09, graduate hall director, residence life, Cedar Crest College.



Treyvon Jackson '10 (left) and Samantha Patterson '11 enjoy catching up.



Judge Alvin Yearwood '83 talks with Terese Brown '07 (left) and Sherry-Ann Tim Kee '12.

Photos by Chuck Zovko

Jordan '13 Wins Fellowship as Springboard to Foreign Service

When **Samantha Jordan** ’13 learned she had won a Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, her aspirations for a career in the Foreign Service took a giant leap forward.

Jordan, an international economics and commerce major, is eligible to receive up to \$40,000 a year for a master's degree program in public policy. She has applied to graduate schools and will enroll this year. Between semesters, she will complete two internships with the U.S. Department of State and, upon graduation, three years as a foreign service officer.

“I will be able to travel the world, learn different languages, experience different cultures, and meet heads of state—and get paid for it,” she says. “One experience I hope to have is the opportunity to work in the recently created office of global women's issues, where I can study, evaluate, and help form policies to ensure the economic viability of women throughout the world.”

Jordan's interest in international affairs began early and was influenced by the diversity of the student body at her high school where she met and interacted

with people from many different countries and cultures. “I believe you learn more from people with experiences and viewpoints different from your own,” says Jordan, a member of the women's basketball team and a peer mentor.

Two summers ago, she studied in Paris. The experience was a turning point in her life. “As an African American, I wasn't sure how I would be accepted in another country,” she says. “That was the source of some anxiety but it turned out to be unwarranted, and I had a great time.”



Photo by Roy Groething

New Chair of Africana Studies

Lafayette's first professor hired specifically for the Africana studies program, **Wendy Wilson-Fall** is excited about its growth and future.

Inspired by what her colleagues have accomplished in establishing the Africana studies major, Wilson-Fall plans to increase the major's visibility, develop a vibrant and active advisory committee, improve curriculum offerings particularly in African American history, and cultivate more study abroad opportunities in Africa and the Caribbean.

She also hopes to collaborate with other programs and departments to bring visiting scholars to campus and present arts and cultural programming about Africa and African-derived communities. She also hopes to offer field trips to historic sites of the black experience on the East Coast, and organize regional symposia where students and faculty from Lafayette and other institutions can showcase key research issues.

Wilson-Fall received her Ph.D. in social anthropology and African studies from Howard University, and was previously associate professor and chair of Pan African Studies at Kent State University. From 1999-2004, she was director of West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal.

Butler '14 Assists Hip-Hop Producer Mr. Green

Interested in a career in production and cinematography, **Justin Butler '14** was excited to spend time last summer trying out his videographer skills working for Mr. Green, a New York hip-hop producer and DJ known for his *Live from the Streets* documentary.

Butler, a film and media studies and English major, found out about the freelance work through his friend **Sean Ryon '12**, who met Mr. Green when completing a project about hip hop. Ryon also occasionally writes for HipHopDX, a popular hip-hop news and information website.

"I learned the importance of networking and how people can open doors," says Butler, who assisted Mr. Green and worked on other projects for HipHopDX. "I also learned to keep my filming equipment on and ready because you never know when the good moments will happen. I learned to always be prepared, because the project is not scripted."

For HipHopDX, Butler interviewed and filmed a rapper and producer team, turning it into

a mini-documentary that is now part of a series on the company's website. He filmed street performers in New York City for Mr. Green, working as second cameraman, shooting varied angles.

"Mr. Green made beats from the samples we recorded, and then he turned it all into a documentary," says Butler. *Live from the Streets* was picked up by Noisey, which is *Vice* magazine's music blog.

Butler says it was helpful to see how Mr. Green handles asking questions and also to learn about New York.

Andrew Smith, associate professor of English and chair of film and media studies, is also helping shape Butler's future. Last fall, Butler completed an independent study that included two films, one an experimental horror film without people.

"Professor Smith is enthusiastic about helping students toward their goals," says Butler. "He is also into fostering more of a friendly environment on campus and getting the word out about the film and media studies major."



Photo by Chuck Zovko

Justin Butler '14 learned the importance of networking last summer in landing videography work with producer Mr. Green and with the popular website HipHopDX.

Alumni Gather at McDonogh Homecoming Social

More than 50 alumni, students, administrators, and faculty enjoyed the third annual McDonogh Network Homecoming Social in October at Portlock Black Cultural Center.

Danyelle Smith '14, president, and **Ciera Eaddy '14**, vice president, Association of Black

Collegians, welcomed everyone to the social, which began after the homecoming game victory over Holy Cross.

Speakers included President **Daniel H. Weiss**, **David Reif '68**, Alumni Association president, and **Kyara Gray '11**, McDonogh Network chair.

Wendy Wilson-Fall, associate professor and chair of Africana Studies, gave an update on the program. **Dominique Tucker '15** read a poem, and Precision Step Team performed.



Guest speakers Judge Alvin Yearwood '83 (L-R) and Lawrence Lennon '71 talk with John McKnight, dean of intercultural development.



Bradley Williams '10 (L-R), Wendy Wilson-Fall, Kyara Gray '11, Rexford Ahene, and Laquan T. Lightfoot '11.

Photos by Roy Groething

Solomon '14 Learns How to Investigate Charges of Injustice

Aspiring to battle injustice, **Abenezer Solomon '14** did just that last summer as an intern with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, New York City.

A double major in government & law and anthropology & sociology, Solomon worked to combat workplace discrimination. He was paired with an investigator who taught him how to examine complaints involving potential violations, for example, of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

Once Solomon investigated a complaint—some as long as 200 pages—he constructed a case analysis and determined whether the accuser



Photo by Chuck Zovko

had a right to sue. "I went through almost 30 cases—22 on my own—and closed about 8 or 9."

Solomon says the internship complemented his two majors.

Knowledge of legal rights was necessary for his investigations, and from an anthropological standpoint he gained an understanding of the way discrimination functions in society.

"For example, why do people discriminate?" says Solomon, who plans to pursue a career in politics or law enforcement. "Where would you likely find discrimination? This internship helped me to see some issues that exist not just in workplaces, but all around us."

Solomon participates in Kaleidoscope, a social justice peer education group, as well as Lafayette African Caribbean Student Association and Precision Step Team.

Smith '13 Studies Urban Design and Works with McDonogh Network

During fall semester, **Kristian Smith '13** studied abroad in Costa Rica. A Posse Scholar, he served as McDonogh Network student coordinator in 2011-12.

"I was an intermediary between the leadership of McDonogh Network and current students, and I worked with the administration in addressing student needs and desires for the network," Smith says. "It was a great experience. As someone who has benefited from the network and its mission, it was rewarding to work to further that mission and to bring alumni, faculty, and students together to build a sense of community."

Smith, who is pursuing a self-designed major in urban design and a minor in architectural studies, conducted a four-day externship last January that broadened his view regarding his future career.

"I gained a new perspective on architecture by being exposed to the processes that take place in the relocation of a business to the Lehigh Valley, incentives to encourage



Photo by Chuck Zovko

Kristian Smith '13 (left) worked with Pete Reinke '85 at the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation office in Bethlehem, Pa., where he learned about the connection between architecture and business development.

businesses to locate to brownfield sites, and the steps that foster the environment for businesses long before an architect comes into the picture," he says.

Smith shadowed **Pete Reinke '85**, vice president of

business development, Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation. Although LVEDC staff does not include architects, Reinke put Smith in touch with colleagues in the field and helped him develop potential connections.

Elder Family Cheers Their Standout Student-Athlete



The Elder family's favorite player? Alan Elder '13 (No. 25). An economics and business major from Fort Washington, Md., he was named to the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll. A tailback, he rushed for more than 500 yards and scored two touchdowns during his career. The family—Aaron Elder (L-R), brother; Alan and Kym Elder, parents; and James Short, grandfather—was among the last to leave Fisher Stadium after the Leopards beat Holy Cross at Homecoming 2012.



Photo by Ken White

EXPLORE GHANA WITH FELLOW ALUMNI

AUGUST 2-12, 2013 ★ Led by Rexford Ahene, Professor of Economics



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Don't miss this unique opportunity to join with fellow alumni to reflect on your shared Lafayette experience and design programs to support the College.

Highlights include:

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- ★ Slave-trading castles and West Africa Historical Museum

Register by March 2013. Questions? Call or email ahener@lafayette.edu, 610-330-5302.

Enhancing Diversity across the Curriculum

About 40 faculty members are teaching in a more inclusive manner and infusing diversity into the curriculum as the result of workshops funded by a Teagle Foundation grant.

Mary Armstrong, associate professor and chair of women's and gender studies, is project leader. Different groups of faculty have been involved in workshops.

One goal of the project is learning to create a more inclusive classroom, regardless of course content. "The faculty learn through workshops, small group meetings, and readings, and the model is a 'peer learning' one," says Armstrong, who notes that teaching in a more inclusive manner "means getting better at including all students, learning not to make assumptions about ability or interests based on identity, and working to build a climate of respect and trust."

She adds that it also means becoming educated about the diversity of the student body, not

assuming that everyone in the classroom is an American citizen, for example, and not making assumptions about students based on their race or appearance.

The second goal is two-fold: adding diverse content and/or rethinking course content—specifically employing course activities and undertakings that more consciously expose students to differences of identity and social position.

"For example, a faculty member might review her syllabus and realize that she has left women out of the history she is teaching," says Armstrong. "But it also might mean that a faculty member in math learns to develop word problems that reflect diverse social experiences rather than only an implicitly white, middle-class male perspective."

"Faculty have joined the project because of their own interests in creating an inclusive classroom and their excitement about learning

from and with each other," says Armstrong, "where teaching style and, if possible, course content reflect a commitment to diversity and its inherent value for a Lafayette education."

Faculty participants include:

FALL 2011: Robert Blunt, Deborah Byrd, Alan Childs, Sid Donnell, Ed Gamber, Nestor Gil, Brett Hendrickson, Christopher Ruebeck, and Jorge Torres.

SPRING 2012: Benjamin Cohen, Rachel Goshgarian, Chawne Kimber, Kira Lawrence, Christopher Phillips, Elaine Reynolds, Carrie Rohman, Nandini Sikand, and Li Yang.

FALL 2012: Markus Dubischar, Katalin Fabian, James Ferri, Art Kney, Juan Rojo, Julie Smith, and Angelika von Wahl.

Visitor: Aly Tawfik.

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