

# Auvergne Ambassador Newsletter

May 2009

## LAFAYETTE AND THE ECONOMY

In light of the unique challenges facing Lafayette, and all of us, we begin this letter with an update on our effort to ensure that the College will continue to provide a dynamic learning environment for our students by continuing to strengthen Lafayette's academic quality. We will continue to balance the needs of our current students and make sure that future students can benefit from equally remarkable opportunities.

As anticipated, although the optimism we felt when the strategic plan was adopted has diminished, we continue to move forward toward our goals. Despite lower returns on the endowment, and lower fundraising totals, significant steps in several key areas have been taken so that we can continue to operate in a fiscally responsible manner without jeopardizing the integrity of Lafayette's core academic program.

Under the direction of Mitch Wein, Vice President of Business Affairs, members of Lafayette's senior administration acted immediately to reduce expenditures in areas that do not directly affect the students' academic experience. By issuing invitations to alumni events, electronically and publishing the *Summary of Giving & Volunteer Participation* on-line, we reduce postage and printing costs. Additional savings will be realized through elective reductions in areas such as campus energy use. These measures should reduce our operating costs by \$1-\$1.5 million. Over the next four fiscal years, the College plans to reduce its operating budget by 10% (\$11 million).

We also benefit from the ongoing efforts of the Board's Financial Policy and Investment committees that are working hard to minimize the College's endowment losses now and position us well for the future.

The Annual Fund has seen a decline in the dollar totals and in the number of donors. This suggests that we may have to modify our projections for the future. Every gift matters - whether it supports future construction or a professorship, advances the work of the Annual Fund, endows a scholarship, provides equipment for a lab or for a student-athlete, or assists Lafayette in some other way. Gifts are particularly welcome during a time when so many donors are con-

fronting the same economic uncertainties the College is facing.

Equally reassuring during this period of financial strain is the success we have continued to maintain through our tremendous volunteers. Your efforts strengthen the ties between the Lafayette Alumni Association and the campus. We cannot thank you enough for your help each year working with classmates to try to reach participation and dollar goals. Your commitment to the Lafayette Annual Fund and your work with your classmates is invaluable as we continue throughout these challenging times.

Lafayette College would not be in a position to look ahead with such confidence without the loyal support of our alumni volunteers and supporters. Our strengths as a community have never been more apparent or more important than they are today. Thank you for keeping the College among your personal priorities during this unusually challenging time.

## MARQUIS SOCIETY AND MARQUIS FOUNDER'S CLUB

At the conclusion of the 2008-09 fiscal year, Elisabeth MacDonald '81 will be finishing her term as Chair of the Marquis Society. During Elisabeth's tenure, the Marquis Society grew by more than 28% to 1,687 members in the 2007-08 fiscal year. Replacing Elisabeth will be Tracy Sutka '82. In addition to other volunteer roles on campus, Tracy has served the Annual Fund as a class agent, a class fund manager, and a member of the Marquis Society solicitation team.

### *Marquis Society Membership Categories:*

- Marquis Laureates - \$50,000+
- Marquis Council - \$25,000 to \$49,999
- Marquis Circle - \$10,000 to \$24,999
- Marquis Court - \$5,000 to \$9,999
- Marquis Founders - \$1,826 to \$4,999
- Marquis Society - \$1,000 to \$1,825

Through generous gifts of \$1,000 and more, members of this prestigious giving club—the Marquis Society—support a wide range of programs and facilities. Gifts may be unrestricted, benefiting the College's greatest need, or designated according to the donor's preference.

Marquis Society membership at \$1,000 and above will continue to be recognized in the Summary of Giving and Volunteer Participation, receive quarterly updates from President Dan Weiss, be invited to a special reception in years when their classes celebrate reunions, and receive credit toward Sustaining Membership. The Marquis Founders dinner (formerly known as the Marquis Society dinner), which is held on campus each fall, will be open to members of the Marquis Founders Club and above. (Marquis Society members in the 50+ Club and members who graduated within the past decade will also receive invitations.) Additional recognition events will be held on campus and regionally to acknowledge the invaluable support provided by Marquis Society members.

### **THE 1826 CHALLENGE**

Please note that throughout the month of June, the Lafayette Annual Fund will be participating in a challenge with the Lafayette Board of Trustees. The Lafayette Board of Trustees has agreed to donate up to \$25,000 in unrestricted support if 250 new alumni donors for the fiscal year donate in June. They will contribute \$50,000 if 600 new Alumni donors participate, \$75,000 if 1,000 new donors, and \$100,000 if 1826 new alumni donors give. An email will go out once a week during the month of June to encourage alumni giving prior to the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2009.

### **REUNION 2009**

Reunion 2009 (Classes ending in 4's and 9's) will take place on the Hill June 5-8, 2009. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all reunion classes for your hard work and dedication in preparation for reunion. We look forward to seeing you back on College Hill in less than a month! For more information and a full schedule of events visit: <http://www.lafayetteexperience.com/alumni/news/reunion2009.html>

### **NEW STAFF AND NEW POSITIONS**

We would like to acknowledge new staff and position changes in the Development and Alumni Affairs offices. Jamie Hughes '05, the former Associate Director of Alumni Affairs, moved to Development as Assistant Director of Major Gifts for athletics. The Office of Alumni Affairs also added Christiane Conn Tomik '03 and Sarah

Trimmer as new Assistant Directors. James Gold, the former Associate Director of Major Gifts, is now the Associate Director of Estate Planned Giving.

### **ANNUAL FUND CONTACT INFORMATION & CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

Kim Spang  
Associate Director of Development and Director of the Annual Fund  
610-330-5868  
[spangk@lafayette.edu](mailto:spangk@lafayette.edu)

*Please find your staff contact based upon class year assignments:*

Joe Samaritano '91  
Director of Annual Leadership Gifts  
610-330-5047  
[samaritj@lafayette.edu](mailto:samaritj@lafayette.edu)  
Classes of: '50, '51, '52, '53, '54, '55, '56, '57, '58, '59, '60, '61, '62, '63, and Parents

Emily Kernan  
Associate Director Annual Fund  
Young Alumni & Senior Class Fund Drive  
610-330-5620  
[kernane@lafayette.edu](mailto:kernane@lafayette.edu)  
Classes of: '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08, and Senior Class

Liz Hertneck  
Assistant Director Annual Fund  
Reunion & Partnership Programs  
610-330-5683  
[hertnece@lafayette.edu](mailto:hertnece@lafayette.edu)  
Classes of: '68, '69, '70, '71, '72, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77, '78, '79, '80, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85

Vivienne Felix '03  
Assistant Director Annual Fund  
Student Programs and Phonathon  
610-330-5013  
[felixv@lafayette.edu](mailto:felixv@lafayette.edu)  
Classes of: '64, '65, '66, '67, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '94

Phyllis Hale  
Annual Fund Office Assistant  
610-330-5023  
[halep@lafayette.edu](mailto:halep@lafayette.edu)

Mary Reilly  
Annual Fund Office Assistant  
610-330-5034  
[reillym@lafayette.edu](mailto:reillym@lafayette.edu)