

LAFAYETTE

Winter 2010

the MCDONOUGH report



Blowing the whistle
on corruption

Mychal Wilson '89

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



AT LAFAYETTE, DAVID KEARNEY MCDONOGH'S

name has become synonymous with diversity and inclusiveness in the broadest sense at the same time that it serves as a special source of pride for our African-American and other black alumni and students. Whether it is this *McDonogh Report*, the McDonogh Network, or “Transcendence,” the sculpture by Melvin Edwards that honors McDonogh as the College’s first black graduate, the association with the name McDonogh is both immediate and positive.

In 2000, President Arthur Rothkopf '55 created the Presidential Speaker Series on Diversity, a program hosted by the President’s Office once or twice each year to stimulate important conversations about diversity among members of the Lafayette community. The inaugural speaker was the historian Douglas Brinkley, who reviewed the life and legacy of Rosa Parks. I was eager to continue the series when I became president. And last semester, in recognition of the growing

awareness of David McDonogh, I was delighted to link his name to the lecture program.

On November 12 it was my pleasure to welcome Majora Carter, a remarkable “green” visionary, as the first speaker in the renamed series. Coverage of her two-day campus visit appears on page 16 of this issue. On March 31 I will have the further honor of introducing the distinguished Latina poet and novelist Julia Alvarez as our second President’s McDonogh Lecturer for 2009-10.

It is gratifying for the College to associate the McDonogh name with the formal title of this lecture series, where it will provide yet another meaningful—and ongoing—tribute to Dr. McDonogh’s extraordinary life and achievements.

Daniel H. Weiss

“David Kearney McDonogh’s name has become synonymous with diversity and inclusiveness in the broadest sense . . .”



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theMCDONOGH

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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

The McDonogh Report | Winter 2010

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Keeping California Running

Crystal Taylor '03 plays a key role in determining the country's largest state budget

By Dan Edelen

THOUGH SHE'S NEVER PLAYED

an action hero in films—unlike the governor she answers to—**Crystal Taylor '03** faces her own heroic task: finding the nearly \$120 billion needed to keep the state of California running.

"It's a lot of pressure," she says with a chuckle, "but I thrive under pressure."

As budget officer in the executive branch of the state's Franchise Tax Board, Taylor leads a team of 13 as they coordinate the budget for the department that oversees millions of tax forms and monies that pour in from individuals and businesses. Sifting through this mountain of information to make the fiscal recommendations to the legislature behind the country's largest state budget dominates Taylor's day from the moment she wakes. "I'm checking email on my Blackberry while I'm brushing my teeth," she says.

Taylor's never been one to flinch when confronted with a challenge. She majored in mathematics at Lafayette, a discipline largely devoid of African American women. After hearing a speaker joke about the arduous graduate economics track at Princeton University, Taylor took that challenge to another level by earning simultaneous master's degrees (economics & public policy and urban & regional planning, both in 2006).

"I want to be that person everyone teases because I'm doing the hardest work," she says. That drive landed her in California's Legislative Analyst's Office as a fiscal policy analyst. "I asked the question, *Where's the hardest place where I can make a difference?* I'm going there."

Only two months into that job, Taylor testified before the state legislature in a televised hearing, discussing her department's program ideas, including how to keep tensions low among callers to the state's tax call center. When an assemblyman challenged her findings, Taylor backed her testimony with her call-monitoring fieldwork.



"I asked the question, *Where's the hardest place where I can make a difference?* I'm going there."

"Speaking truth to power" in that hearing changed Taylor: "I had to find conviction for every word I said."

Today, Taylor's role makes a difference not only to the state's operation, but also to the lives of its employees. Confronted with a mandate to lay off state workers, Taylor and her group negotiated a deal with the governor's fiscal officers that substituted budget allocations for unfilled positions with those of workers facing layoffs, saving 300 jobs.

"Even if they don't know me," she says, "I know the decisions I make impact people."

Taylor cites more than 20 professors at Lafayette who altered the course of her own life and gave her the tools to meet California's fiscal challenges. Discussing economics over dinner at the home of professors **Gladstone Hutchinson** and **Ute Schumacher** built a foundation for Taylor to ask the kind of probing questions her job demands.

"That someone is willing to take the time to get to know you and their belief that you are special and have promise, that was inspiring to me, even when I wasn't so sure that I did," she says. "To have someone say 'you can do it, I believe in you, and here are two or three steps you can take, a book you can read to explain the process,' or even recommending a professor to chat with about your ideas—that was so common

at Lafayette that I can't imagine being who I am today without it."

That support helped Taylor as she undertook a senior thesis proposing a mathematical model to describe the economic relationship between Lafayette and the City of Easton and outlining recommendations on how these influences could be more equitable.

Helping to manage the behemoth that is California's tax system and her department's \$600 million budget at a time of uncertainty calls on all of Taylor's multiple skills. Yet one unexplored skill excites her most of all. This April will bring more than just a deluge of tax forms to Taylor's Sacramento office—she and husband Edward Torres are expecting their own little pink-bowed tax deduction. ■

Advancing Leadership and Social Justice

Math professor Chawne Kimber helps incoming students and fosters service learning



“THE COLLEGE RECOGNIZES its responsibility to help our nation produce highly qualified new scientists and engineers,” says **Chawne Kimber**, associate professor of mathematics. “This program aids in getting more students into the pipeline while being mindful of the need for diversity in this population.”

Kimber is talking about the Summer Program to Advance Leadership, which debuted last year under her direction. During six weeks on campus in July and August, eight incoming students in the Class of 2013 earned credit for required courses in college writing and calculus. They also experienced modules, presentations, and field trips introducing them to topics and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The students, who come from Brooklyn, Houston, and Puerto Rico in addition to Pennsylvania and New Jersey, were selected for their demonstrated academic promise in science or engineering and potential to become leaders in those fields. Priority in choosing the participants was given to students with high math SAT scores who come from groups that are often underrepresented in science and engineering at Lafayette.

They received full tuition, books, housing, meals, and a stipend to cover wages they could have earned had they been working during the six weeks. The program was made possible by the support of Dan and **Heidi Ludwick Hanson '91**.

“This has really made me excited for college,” a participant wrote in her evaluation of the program. “The combination of the great people I’ve met here mixed with the wide variety of knowledge that has been presented to me has contributed to this.”

Another wrote, “I became oriented with the professors, campus, and college life while I was not under the stress of meeting all the new students and a full course load in the fall.”

Helping students prepare for success is a passion for Kimber, who was honored with the College’s Marquis Distinguished Teaching Award last May.

“I want to know each and every one of my students. I want to give them the best educational experience possible,” she says. “For me, my office hours are where the real learning happens. I absolutely love it when my students come to visit me, because it means that they are dedicated to learning and interested in being better at what we’re working on.”

As her role in the summer program suggests, another passion of Kimber’s is social justice concerns. With a colleague at Middlebury College, she was awarded a Learn and Serve America grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to organize a course-development workshop on the mathematics of social justice two summers ago. She also led the effort to land another grant that helped fund the launch of Lafayette’s Community Based Learning and Research Initiative.

The aim of the math workshop was to broaden the base of college math faculty serving as voices of experience in incorporating social justice questions into their teaching and to expand course-development resources for math faculty, including service-learning and other project models. The event built on a prior workshop hosted at Lafayette by **Rob Root**, professor of mathematics.

Two dozen faculty members from various colleges and universities worked in small groups to produce modules for use in math and statistics courses to help students connect questions of equity to quantitative analysis and deductive reasoning, and to extend their analytical and reasoning abilities in the process.

“Of course, what we do regularly in teaching college-level mathematics courses is to provide quantitative literacy, albeit on a very high level,” says Kimber. “What this project does is to attempt to teach students how they may use their quantitative literacy for the good and why basic innumeracy in our citizens is often the result of some social injustice.”

The Community Based Learning and Research Initiative provides the infrastructure to support academic service-learning and community-based research at the College. It enhances the efforts of faculty across all disciplines whose teaching and research benefit the community. ■



Ryan Yarde '13 and Andrea Mikol '13 watch their structure fall during an earthquake demonstration in the Summer Program to Advance Leadership.

Lafayette Undergoing Campus Climate Study

“As we begin the new academic year, I wanted to take a moment to share with you our commitment to creating and maintaining an inclusive community that values, affirms, and advances the diverse backgrounds, interests, experiences, and aspirations of all its members,” said President **Dan Weiss** in a message to the campus at the start of the school year. “We believe that a critical step in creating an inclusive environment is to assess the current campus climate in order to identify important issues, and then create ways for individuals, departments, and the administration to address them.”

The study was recommended by the Faculty Committee on Diversity and is supported by a grant from the Mellon Foundation. Susan Rankin of Rankin & Associates is conducting the study, which includes focus groups, town meetings, a retreat, and the development of specific objectives and plans.

Working with Rankin is a group comprised of students, faculty, and staff. “The efforts of the Campus Climate Working Group and the results of this study will be critical to the future direction of the College,” said Provost **Wendy Hill**, who is leading the group.

The group identified 15 “fact-finding groups” in the campus community last summer to provide input on the study’s survey. Rankin and her team visited campus in October to interview the groups. The campus-wide assessment will take place in the spring.

The study is part of the diversity and inclusiveness initiative described in the College’s strategic plan. A web site will provide updates on the project timeline and progress. Rankin will present her findings in a series of town meetings this fall.

Senior diversity planning analyst at Penn State University, Rankin has worked with over 70 higher education institutions. She has presented and written several papers and books on the impact of diversity initiatives in the academy and in intercollegiate athletics.

Purpose Found

Lenora Johnson '81 directs
communication and education
at the National Cancer Institute

By Kate Helm



AS DIRECTOR OF the Office of Communications and Education (OCE) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), **Lenora Johnson '81** helps oversee a staff of about 175-200 government employees and onsite contractors. Now that NCI's Office of Communications and its Office of Education and Special Initiatives, where Johnson was director, have merged into OCE, she is reaching even more people.

As a junior high health and science teacher, Johnson never expected to find herself working at NCI. After being laid off from her teaching position, she sought opportunity with the American Cancer Society. Later she joined the Public Health Association and found a mentor in then-president William Foege, who had contributed to the eradication of smallpox.

"What I realized was that public health really helped people live better lives," she says. "Dr. Foege is an incredible person; he embraced me and furthered my desire to be part of public health. I was coordinating a national anti-tobacco campaign. When he left and the campaign lost funding, he suggested I go back to school. I went to Emory University School of Medicine, now the Rollins School of Public Health, and continued to fall in love with public health."

Johnson says spending four years on Lafayette's Division I women's basketball team was instrumental in her development.

"The challenge of being a student-athlete was pretty daunting at times," she recalls. "It's a lot of discipline and sacrifice. It helps you prepare for a job; you're part of a team, and everything I do now requires teamwork, from the smallest thing to the greatest thing."

While much of her job involves educating others, Johnson continues to learn from those she works with as well as those whom her work touches.

"I've come full circle," she says. "I started at the American Cancer Society and now I'm at NCI. In between cancer and cancer, I've worked with just about every health issue: AIDS, cultural sensitivity for health professionals, tobacco, diabetes. I've also worked in every setting, from hospitals to colleges and universities. Across all of that, what I've realized is that people do what's best for them when they have a full understanding and are able to make decisions on their own. What we provide enables them to change and improve their own situations."

For Johnson, the holy grail of her profession is to translate a complex piece of information in a way that a cancer patient can understand enough to make a confident decision. Those special moments when she and her staff are able to make that happen reward the team's hard work.

"I feel fortunate and blessed to be part of something much bigger than I am and much bigger than one organization," she says. "I work with some of the brightest, most intelligent people . . . We've been sent copies or samples of our work that have been translated into other languages. We're not just helping within our borders, but providing valuable information beyond them." ■

Hope for the Heart

Carl St. Bernard '86 broadens the
vision of a company transforming
cardiovascular care

By Megan Zaroda '07



CARL ST. BERNARD '86 KNOWS he gets just one shot at this world. And he's reminded of it every day as his company develops solutions that may give cardiovascular patients an option other than "sorry."

"If you have one more year with people you care about, what would you pay for that? What else would you spend money on? A new car? A new back porch? Or the next year having coffee with your father or mother and talking to them?" St. Bernard asks. "If that doesn't get you out of bed in the morning, you need an ejector button."

Those questions catapulted him to the desk he occupies today as vice president of U.S. sales and marketing at Cordis Corp, a Johnson & Johnson company. Best known as the first to bring to market a coronary stent that emits a drug that retards clotting, Cordis rakes in \$6 billion annually from the stent alone. St. Bernard is energized by the technologies Cordis is developing. "We're really transforming cardiovascular care significantly," he says. "[My challenge] is really to broaden the vision that we have for this business."

When St. Bernard entered health care as a sales representative, he didn't expect to be such an invaluable part of a hospital's medical staff. "The doctors looked to the rep to be the expert on the product," he says, recalling his first time in the operating room watching a knee surgery, hoping he wouldn't be sick. He worked his way to division manager, tapping into the drug and medical device markets. While completing his MBA, he made a move to GE in California, starting over again as a sales rep.

"I didn't see it as a demotion," he says. "The likelihood of failure would go up moving from an orthopedic environment to diagnostic equipment for GE. If I did that at a manager level, boy, I could not understand my customers, competitors, market, and business issues. I could learn a lot more in a few years in the field than I could sitting in an office."

It was a good gamble. A year into his time at GE, the new health care division head approached him about positions at the Wisconsin headquarters. A newlywed with a baby and a house three blocks from Manhattan Beach, St. Bernard politely declined until a colleague intervened: "The big man just asked you to consider a job in Milwaukee—that doesn't just happen."

As GE's U.S. sales manager, St. Bernard solidified the company's largest MRI order at \$25 million, and as sole provider for M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, he watched GE work with the Texas hospital from blueprint stage to ribbon cutting—his two crowning achievements.

Thirteen years later, St. Bernard moved to New Jersey to turn around the sales division at Cordis. He had to learn the business while building employee relationships. It was a journey that harkened to his time as a wide receiver under football coach **Bill Russo**.

"Coach Russo said that what people had patted me on the back for was all going to end if I didn't put in some hard work," he says. "For a 17-year-old, that's a tough message to assimilate. But that's what I ended up doing: Getting bigger, faster, stronger. It stuck with me at work after I graduated. Natural ability alone is never enough." ■



Justice for All

Justice Alvin Yearwood '83 lays down the law
in Bronx County Supreme Court

By Samuel T. Clover '91

IN HIS 20 YEARS of working for New York City's criminal justice system, Judge **Alvin Yearwood '83** has seen his fair share of cretins and crime fighters. But even he was surprised when he walked into his Manhattan courtroom one morning last July and saw Superman sitting among the prostitution and robbery suspects, his red cape and blue tights shimmering under the fluorescent lights.

The Man of Steel—actually 23-year-old activist Maksim Katsnelson—had been arrested the previous night after lying down on a public sidewalk. When cops told him to move, the costumed Katsnelson ran into traffic, so the true crime fighters had to subdue him with pepper spray. It was the second time Katsnelson had been arrested in a week: The previous Thursday, he had been issued a summons for getting into a fight with a Batman impersonator in Times Square.

"When you walk into the courtroom and you see Superman sitting on the bench in full dress, you say, 'OK, this may not be a normal day,'" says Yearwood, recently promoted to the Bronx County Supreme Court Criminal Division. "Sometimes you walk in and you just have to smile to yourself when you see things like that because—it's *New York*."

Unfortunately, Yearwood has been involved with characters more disturbing than fake superheroes. After graduating from Boston University School of Law and working briefly as an attorney, he volunteered for duty in the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted rapists and child abusers in the Domestic Violence/Sex Crimes Bureau. He helped pioneer the use of DNA evidence to convict criminals such as the Citywide Rapist, who robbed and raped women in Bronx, Manhattan, and Westchester.

"All we had linking him to all of the crimes was DNA evidence," he says. "This guy was on a nine- or 10-year-long crime spree after having been released from prison for a robbery of two women back in 1990."

Yearwood also prosecuted other particularly heinous cases, including some in which children had been murdered by their parents.



"What it means
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"There are times when you go home and there's something you just can't get out of your head because some 5- or 6-year-old kid told you something that their father or somebody else did to them that not even an adult should be talking about," he says.

Yearwood was the first criminal court judge Mayor Michael Bloomberg appointed (in 2003).

"What it means to be a judge is that you have great power and you have great discretion, but you can't abuse either," he says.

Yearwood uses his discretion to help inner-city youth avoid punishment that could lead to a life of crime.

"There are times when I have young defendants who come in front of me, who do not have a criminal record, and they did something stupid," he says. "Instead of saddling this person with a criminal record that could damage their life, in association with the lawyer for the defendant and the prosecuting DA, I try to fashion some sort of remedy that would help the person to get out of the position they're in—some kind of community service. I try to say, 'Look, I'm giving you an opportunity here. You have the opportunity to wipe the slate clean, and the only person that stands between you and jail is you.'"

Yearwood also helps young people outside the courtroom. As a board member of One Hundred Black Men in America Inc., dedicated to improv-

ing educational and economic opportunities for African Americans, he recently mentored a college senior who is now a first-year law student at Hofstra University. He also serves on the board of the Union Community Health Center in the Bronx, and has been a member of the Black Bar Association of Bronx County for 20 years.

His true passion, though, is the law, and prospective lawyers and defendants to his court should take heed: You'd better do what he says.

"If you would ask attorneys and other people in the courtroom about one of my [priorities], it's for the person to be responsible," he says. "If I tell you to do something, you need to do it."

Let's hope Superman listens. ■

Blowing the Whistle

Mychal Wilson '89 uncovered fraud in the pharmaceutical industry

By Megan Zaroda '07

“SOME THOUGHT I WAS crazy and went a little too Hollywood,” says **Mychal Wilson '89**, actor, producer, and self-styled Beverly Hills legal eagle. “But in the end, I was right.”

Wilson was right to the tune of more than \$900 million. While aspiring to a career in the entertainment industry, he was unwilling to play the role of corrupt sales rep for Bristol-Meyers Squibb (BMS). Instead, he became a whistleblower whose allegations of illegal marketing and pricing practices at the company helped bring about a \$515 million settlement between BMS and the U.S. justice department. The firm also paid \$403 million to 44 state Medicaid programs.

Before co-founding his Los Angeles firm, MindFusion Law, Wilson was a rep in the cardiovascular/diabetes division of BMS for more than six years, spending lunch times reading for auditions and vacation days filming television and commercial spots. After he enrolled at Southwestern Law School, tensions developed at work. Upper management claimed his studies detracted from time for sales—and his vocal objections to what he considered fraudulent practices in the company helped mark him as a potential liability.

“I kept meticulous records, extensive records, of Medicaid fraud being committed. This involved kickbacks,” he says. The government eventually alleged that BMS paid physicians and other health care providers illegally—in the form of consulting fees and expenses to participate in consulting programs, advisory boards, etc.—to induce them to purchase BMS drugs.

“Pressure was put on all reps. If you did not recruit a certain number of doctors to become consultants, you were

perceived as not doing your job. In some cases, if you did not blow out your monthly budget wining and dining physicians, office staff, pharmacists, etc., you were perceived as not a team player,” Wilson says.

“It’s scary that the public doesn’t know that someone can walk into a doctor’s office and bribe him,” he says. “Then you walk in and don’t know why he prescribes one drug instead of another. Sometimes it’s because the pharma rep you saw leaving the office just provided the doctor with a kickback.”

Although his expense reports paled next to those of some colleagues, Wilson won the firm’s Pinnacle Award for sales. He continued to be vocal about fraudulent practices, and the evidence he compiled attracted the attention of not only his supervisors but also of filmmaker Michael Moore, who was seeking material for his documentary *Sicko*. Ultimately, Wilson was terminated.

Joined by other BMS employees from around the country (although he did not know it at the time), he filed suit against his former employer on behalf of the government under the False Claims Act. He won and has become a successful attorney, with clients in both the entertainment and health care industries. Still fighting fraud, he represents other whistleblowers.

“I have the experience of being a counsel now on several pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device cases. I know the system. I now am able to analyze a case and work with other attorneys, state and federal agencies, and politicians to bring about justice.” ■



Banking on Leadership

Quincy Miller '97 oversees large retail banking franchise

QUINCY MILLER '97 GRADUATED as one of the most prolific wide receivers in the history of Lafayette’s football program.

“From the day before my first game, when I found out I was in the starting rotation at wide receiver, through being elected co-captain of the team my senior year, to my final Lafayette-Lehigh game and every moment in between were among the most memorable times of my life,” he says.

Since hanging up his cleats, he’s built his career on leading teams, now as senior vice president and director of retail branch banking in Massachusetts for Citizens Bank.

“A team is a complicated combination of individuals,” says Miller. “To lead you must understand the team dynamics but most importantly, the individual players on the team. Understanding how to help colleagues achieve levels of success not previously thought possible and being able to motivate them to greatness is what true leadership is all about.”

Miller runs Citizens’ largest retail banking franchise, overseeing more than 130 branches with over 1,200 workers and \$15 billion in deposits. He is responsible for the day-to-day management of retail business, deposit generation, local marketing, and consumer and business lending in Massachusetts.

Having led in the same role at Charter One in Ohio, a division of Citizens Financial Group, Miller has been honored by *Crain’s Cleveland Business*, *Cleveland’s Kaleidoscope Magazine*, and *Central Pennsylvania Business Journal*. He serves on the board of directors for the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts. He is a graduate of the Consumer Bankers Association’s Graduate School of Retail Bank Management.

Miller says Lafayette prepared him for leadership and success.

“A liberal arts education forces you to get outside your comfort zone and experience learning outside your major,” he says. “It helps you diversify your talents and become a well-rounded individual. I also believe the small size and intimacy of Lafayette allows you as a student to form and build mentor/mentee relationships with your professors.” ■



The Joy of the Arts

Jadrien Ellison '02 is a performing arts director

OUT OF HIS NEW JERSEY home, an eight-year-old co-produced a radio show, 839 Hot Beat, with his sister. Three years later, he took center stage in his elementary school play, playing a preacher who caught the Holy Ghost. His childhood swirled with music, dance, and storytelling.

Today, **Jadrien Ellison '02** empowers New York City’s needy students to discover the same joy the arts brought him in boyhood.

“Only now as an adult can I fully appreciate how much of an outlet performing really became for me,” Ellison says. “Today’s school system is far more rigorous than anything I ever experienced at middle school age. More now than ever, it is imperative that today’s students have opportunities to express themselves beyond literacy and mathematics.”

Serving as performing arts director for The Children’s Aid Society, Ellison supervises after-school and summer camps programming for the society’s Washington Heights campus. While the center offers tutoring sessions, Ellison helps students journal their lives, then transform it into performance, such as a testimonial-based homage to the late Michael Jackson.

Despite attending a performing arts high school, 16-year-old Ellison matriculated to Lafayette as an electrical and computer engineering major.

“At the time, I was more motivated by earning a ‘respectable’ career as opposed to following my true passion,” he says.

In his five years as a student, he transitioned from engineering to Spanish and eventually to Africana studies. Ellison then spent four years working at the College in its Office of Intercultural Development. From coordinating cultural heritage festivals to guiding youth in the Johns Hopkins summer camp program hosted by Lafayette, he garnered experience in event management and youth development.

He later earned a master’s in contemporary performance at Brunel University, satisfying the craving for the abroad experience he missed as an undergraduate. Ultimately, he envisions a dream job where he can lead global creative retreats and cultural study tours for high school students. ■



Dedicated Winner

Raphael Chillious '96 is an assistant men's basketball coach at the University of Washington

By Samuel T. Clover '91

HIS PLAYERS AT THE University of Washington call him “Coach Chills,” but former Leopards hoops star **Raphael Chillious '96**, now in his first season as the Huskies assistant men's basketball coach, isn't exactly cool on the sidelines.

All that shouting and gesturing helped him develop a red-hot career in the prestigious prep school league, where for eight years he established himself not just as a championship-caliber team-builder, but as one of the nation's best young recruiters.

As head coach of South Kent School in Connecticut—a position he held for five years before working for a year at Nike's Elite Youth Basketball program, just before accepting the Huskies gig—Chillious saw three of his recruits go

straight to the NBA: Josh Boone (New Jersey Nets), Dorrell Wright (Miami Heat), and Andray Blatche (Washington Wizards).

At UW he's been reunited with two of his other prize recruits: 2009 Pac-10 freshman of the year Isaiah Thomas and power forward Matthew Bryan-Amaning.

“Every conversation you have is a recruiting opportunity,” Chillious says. “I was born to recruit, whether it's sports, college basketball—or, when it's all said and done, if a company hires me or the school wants me to be a fundraiser—I'm a recruiter.”

He's also an honest one, and in a business in which dozens of high-powered, big-money schools are all gunning

for the same talent—talent that will lure students and inflate budgets—Chillious says he always tells the truth and keeps his word.

“The thing you have to do is to always be authentic, and the best way to do that is to always tell them the truth,” he says. “A lot of coaches are scared to tell players the truth because they're afraid they're going to lose the player. I've always felt that if you tell the player the truth about himself and his game, and he decides not to come to you because of that, you didn't want that guy in your program anyway.”

Though Chillious is dedicated to building winning teams, he also cares deeply about his kids. One of the hardest parts of his prep school jobs, he says, was having to send a player home for academic or disciplinary reasons. Adjusting to boarding school life—the jackets and ties, the curfews, the loneliness—can be hard for students, particularly those from inner-city backgrounds. But rules are rules, even for kids with dreams of college scholarships and NBA careers.

“You recruited the kid, you got to know the family, you know the family situation, but the kid committed an egregious act and has to go home,” Chillious says.

He admits that he came to Lafayette with a narrow view of the world.

“It was my first time being in that type of environment where the social inequity between me and my roommate, **Craig Kowadla '96**, as well as a lot of other students was so dramatic, in terms of finances and stuff like that. But it really helped me look at it from a different perspective. Not ‘Woe is me’ and ‘I'm going to feel sorry for myself,’ but to say, ‘Wow, here I am with all these people with all these advantages in life, and I can compete with them in the classroom.’” ■



Team Player

Terrence Byrd '74 thrives in providing access to health care

MORE THAN 30 YEARS in the health care and insurance industries have made **Terrence Byrd '74** the go-to guy for situations that call for fast thinking and a clear eye toward the goal. As vice president and executive director of the Healthfirst New Jersey nonprofit health plan since August 2009, he oversees provider relations, sales functions, financial operations, and regulatory compliance.

Previously, as founder and principal of TLB Byrd and Associates, he teamed up with new managed health care organizations during their startups, tackling state and federal licensing requirements and coaching his side in everything from developing a network of care providers to building effective management teams.

As president of Mercy Health Plan, Byrd set up a managed Medicaid plan that became the largest in New Jersey, with over 350,000 members. He also worked up a plan with partners in Pennsylvania to meet the needs of Medicaid recipients lacking health coverage. Through his efforts, New Jersey provides medical coverage for more than 700,000 Medicaid beneficiaries and uninsureds while improving the overall quality of care and eliminating waste.

Through TLB Byrd, he helped Pinnacle Partners in Medicine, a Texas-based anesthesiology practice management organization, transition its business model to the Mid-Atlantic region. Byrd assisted company leaders from both regions and made Pinnacle's expansion a success as it purchased a 200-provider anesthesiology group practice in the Philadelphia area. His other work with the group resulted in the signing of an exclusive anesthesiology provider agreement with Easton (Pa.) Hospital.

As a student, Byrd relied on the team spirit and sense of community he found playing football and the opportunities the intimate setting of the Lafayette campus provided.

“I met people from a number of different socio-economic backgrounds at Lafayette,” he recalls, “yet we became one. Our environment developed us as black students. We all became more aware of our identity.” ■

CAMPUSCONNECTIONS

Engaging a ‘Green Collar’ Leader

Majora Carter, founder of Sustainable South Bronx and president of her own “green collar” economic consulting firm, visited campus Nov. 12-13. She gave a lecture and met with students and faculty throughout her stay, including an open forum and an environmental workshop for the Lafayette and Easton communities. In addition, a busload of students, faculty, and Easton residents went to the South Bronx Oct. 30 to see the work being done there.

The recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, or “Genius Grant,” Carter has been named one of the most influential women in New York City by the *New York Post* in each of the last two years and among the 25 most influential African Americans by *Essence Magazine* in 2007. She secured a \$1.25 million federal transportation planning grant to design the South Bronx Greenway, spearheaded the first South Bronx waterfront park in more than 60 years, and implemented the highly successful Bronx Environmental Stewardship Training program.



Student-Faculty Research

Psychology majors **Ryan Wright '10** and **Danielle Jenkins '10** have gained valuable research experience in their field under the guidance of Lafayette professors.

Wright worked with **Robert Allan**, associate professor of psychology, on an experiment to see how past experiences can shape choice. Using pigeons, the researchers studied how the birds' pecking behavior was affected by how frequently food was delivered to them when they pecked on keys. Their research is based on operant conditioning, which assumes that if a behavior leads to some type of reward, then it will be more likely to occur in the future.

“My independent study has given me the experience to work with a person who is well respected in the career field that I want to go into,” Wright says. “The advice Dr. Allan has given me is invaluable and will be with me for the rest of my professional life.”

Ryan Wright '10 did research on decision-making with guidance from **Robert Allan**, associate professor of psychology.



Danielle Jenkins '10 (right) conducted research on brain disorders with **Lisa Gabel**, assistant professor of psychology.



Jenkins and **Lisa Gabel**, assistant professor of psychology, investigated how brain disorders in mice are related to those in humans, seeking insight into developmental dyslexia and the neurological underpinnings of the disorder. They observed the behavior of the mice in a maze and examined their brains.

“Working with Dr. Gabel is great,” says Jenkins. “She is very helpful, neither leaving me on my own nor guiding everything that I do, enabling me to learn how to do things in the lab on my own so that I can be independently productive and gain real skills. I am interested in working in a field where I can study disorders like dyslexia and autism that largely affect children.”

Jenkins also conducted an independent study on the early recognition of autism in infants and young children.

Confronting the Past

James T. Campbell, an expert on African American history, will deliver the annual Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Visiting Lecture 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 23, in the Kirby Hall of Civil Rights auditorium.

The title of his talk will be “Race and the Politics of Memory: American Universities Confront their Pasts.”

Campbell is the Edgar E. Robinson Professor of United States History at Stanford University. A specialist in the history of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, he was named a finalist for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in history for his book *Middle Passages: African American Journeys to Africa, 1787-2005*, published in 2005 by The Penguin Press.

His books also include *Songs of Zion: The African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States and South Africa* (Oxford University Press, 1995), and the co-edited volume *Race, Nation and Empire in American History* (University of North Carolina Press, 2006).

His awards include the Organization of American Historians' Frederick Jackson Turner Prize, Carl Sandburg Literary Award for Nonfiction, Lois P. Rudnick Prize of the New England American Studies Association, and Mark Lynton History Prize.



Bradley Williams '10 had the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with **Jena Newman '04**, senior art director for Catapult Marketing in Westport, Conn., at the Williams Visual Arts Building. During her visit, Newman gave tips on design strategies and software programs, and critiqued students' work. Williams is graduating with a self-designed major in multimedia design and marketing.

Significant Contributions

Brian Apgar '10 handled important challenges and responsibilities in an internship with Surface Chemistry Discoveries Inc. at Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

“I was able to take a lead role in three major projects and make significant contributions to other projects as well,” says the chemical engineering major. “The senior scientists relied on me and trusted me—that was my favorite thing. They didn't view me as an intern, but as a co-worker. I was exposed to a lot of fields and became familiar with many new techniques. I was included on major phone conferences and had opportunities to speak with executives and senior researchers from other large companies. I liked the atmosphere of this small company because I had a meaningful role to play every day.”



Previously, he conducted research with **James Ferri**, associate professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering. Apgar has accepted a job offer from pharmaceutical giant Merck & Co.

CAMPUSCONNECTIONS

ABC is Building Community

The Association of Black Collegians (ABC) knows a thing or two about bridging gaps. Not only does the group tirelessly work to erase barriers at Lafayette, it joined with Lehigh University last semester to host a student-led conference titled “Breaking Boundaries and Bridging the Gap.”

Students from ABC and members of Lehigh’s Black Student Union collaborated on a town hall-style meeting where students could discuss issues of diversity and inclusion on both campuses. Hot topics included recent campus incidents, such as the deer head left on the porch of Lehigh’s Umoja House and a racially fueled episode at Lafayette’s Kirby House following the 2008 presidential election. Lafayette students also discussed their efforts to bring more diverse representation to Student Government.

“The objective of the conference was to give students an open and honest opportunity to voice their concerns with our respective campuses and what we, as students, can do to work with administration to spark change,” says ABC social chair **Kyara Gray ’11** (Lincoln University, Pa.), an economics and business major. “The ABC board has been working very hard to make the Lafayette experience as great as possible for all students.”

Yaba Amgborale Blay, visiting assistant professor of Africana studies, participated in the conference and says she has been impressed with ABC’s efforts to exist not only as a social organization but as an agent of change. She also has enjoyed her time with ABC members in the classroom.

“Students have expressed a need to have more of an academic knowledge base within which to situate their efforts, and thankfully, many of our Africana studies courses do this,” she says. “These students are very dedicated and are very much interested in melding theory and practice—that which they learn in the classroom



Kyara Gray ’11 is social chair of Association of Black Collegians.

and that which they do on campus in terms of activism.”

ABC also is joining with other groups on campus that are committed to improving the student experience.

“Collaborating with other student organizations gives the Lafayette community the ability to come together as a cohesive and productive environment,” Gray says. “ABC is very excited to continue our journey of breaking boundaries and bridging gaps. We plan to return to Lafayette in the spring ready to celebrate Black History Month with the campus. We have several events in the works and believe this February will be very exciting for everyone.”

Blay agrees that one of ABC’s most important functions is community building.

“ABC is a very necessary facet of student life here at Lafayette,” she says. “The students have been successful in building a supportive community for students of color.”

Faculty News

Miranda I. Teboh-Ewungkem, assistant professor of mathematics, is modeling the developmental stages of the parasite that causes malaria in the hope of providing new control strategies against the disease. A grant from the Lindback Foundation has enabled her to bring in **Miao Wang ’12** to assist. Teboh-Ewungkem recently used a National Science Foundation grant to organize a workshop at the University of Buea in Cameroon that brought together faculty from Africa, the United States, and Europe to use mathematics to study malaria, AIDS, and other issues.

Sharon Jones, professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the engineering division, has received a \$149,775 grant from the National Science Foundation. For the next three summers, Jones will travel to Honduras with groups of Lafayette students to develop sustainable water and sanitation systems in rural areas of the country.

A new study abroad semester this fall at the University of Ghana will be more expansive and intensive than previous semesters and interim sessions in African nations, according to faculty director **Rexford Ahene**, professor of economics and chair of Africana studies. Students will study the origins of American slavery at slave forts on the Gold Coast. At a peace center, they’ll compare the Civil War to ethnic civil wars. They’ll explore gender, tribal customs, and “global corporate social responsibility,” says Ahene.

John McCartney, professor of government and law, and **Gladstone Hutchinson**, associate professor of economics, led a new January interim course to the Bahamas, Politics and Economics of the Caribbean. Students interacted with professors and students at the College of the Bahamas and met Bahamian notables, including the governor general and members of Parliament.

ASCENDING

Covering Hip-Hop Culture and More

Michael Ahene ’08 writes for *The Source* and other media

MICHAEL AHENE ’08 IS a contributing writer for *The Source*, a magazine about hip-hop music, culture, and politics, and *Beyond Race*, which covers music and entertainment from a progressive perspective. He also writes for the blog of Evolve.com, which covers technology, gaming, and entertainment. An English graduate, he is applying to journalism schools. The following is excerpted from an interview available on the McDonogh Report web site.

What are some articles you’ve written for *The Source*?

I’ve written about the Israeli/Hamas conflict, the state of the job market, a full-page article on eco-tourism in Ecuador, an article profiling several hip-hop-related clothing lines and their contribution to what’s defined as hip-hop fashion, and one about the advancements in HIV/AIDS prevention and research. The last piece I did was part of the Power 30 issue, where we profile 30 successful entrepreneurs, artists, record executives, and trend setters. The “new” *Source* covers much more than just hip-hop and music.

What’s most challenging about writing for the two magazines?

The hardest part probably is keeping my writing fresh and original since I primarily cover an industry that is all about following popular trends. So I often find myself using the same words and phrases to describe an artist or a song that I’ve used before since there is very little variety in mainstream hip-hop (hip-hop played frequently on the radio and on MTV/BET/VH 1).

I also have a tendency to bite off more than I can chew. When my editor starts tossing out ideas for stories or asking who wants to cover something, I try to grab as much as I can. But as a result, I end up sacrificing virtually all of my would-be free time to work.

What prominent people have you met through writing for these magazines?

A lot of artists come through the *Source* office each month, but I only go into the city two days a week, so I typically miss them. I’ve met Pharrell and Chad, a duo of producers collectively known as the Neptunes; Terrance J, the host of BET’s 106 & Park daytime music show; and rapper Fat Joe.



“Activism is alive and well in the music, but artists who make socially conscious music have little chance of receiving a record deal from the major labels and thus aren’t as well known.”

What are your thoughts on the criticism that hip-hop has lost its activist voice?

I consider myself one of the critics. However, I would draw a distinction between the many forms of hip-hop. What’s at the forefront, and what’s commonly brought to mind when someone thinks of misogynistic, materialistic, and violent hip-hop is what would be described as “mainstream hip-hop.” That is hip-hop produced by artists belonging to the big four major record labels: EMI, Sony BMG, Universal Music Group, and Warner Music Group. The big four essentially control what’s played on the radio and what’s shown on TV. Because of this, I would point out that the activist voice you refer to has not been abandoned, rather it’s simply not deemed as marketable. Activism is alive and well in the music, but artists who make socially conscious music have little chance of receiving a record deal from the major labels and thus aren’t as well known.

LAFAYETTE

The McDonogh Report
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LAFAYETTE BELIEVES that diversity is fundamental to the education of its students because it helps prepare them to pursue lives of significance as **LEADERS** in an increasingly interconnected, globalized world. Such leaders understand and practice acceptance, adaptability, pluralism, and inclusiveness. We **BELIEVE** that these attributes can best be learned in an environment that models and **ENCOURAGES** them—both inside and outside the classroom.

We recognize, as well, that actively seeking greater diversity of talent and **EXPERIENCE** among our students, faculty, and staff will **ENHANCE** Lafayette's position as an academically distinctive institution. We also believe that in embracing diversity Lafayette best fulfills its social mission by furthering **ACCESS** to higher education for all.

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