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

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

David Kearney McDonogh’s name has become synonymous with diversity and inclusiveness in the broadest sense...
Keeping California Running

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

By Dan Edelen

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

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 economies 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.

“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.

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“I had to find conviction for every word I said.”

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.

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.

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“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 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.

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 Bob 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.

“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 information beyond them.”

“I feel fortunate and blessed to be part of something 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.”

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 time? How 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. “It’s the technology 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, tying 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 week after I graduated. Natural ability alone is never enough.”

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

By Megan Zaroda ’07

Hope for the Heart

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

By Megan Zaroda ’07

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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.

“Justice for All”

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

By Samuel T. Clover ‘91
Blowing the Whistle
Mychal Wilson ’89 uncovered fraud in the pharmaceutical industry

By Megan Zaroda ’07

“If I could go back to that time in my life, I would have blown the whistle sooner,” Mychal Wilson says. “I didn’t want to be the whistleblower, I just wanted to do what was right.”

Wilson was 32 years old and a sales representative for a pharmaceutical company when he noticed an unusual trend. “One of the reps would come in and make a sale, then would come right back and make another sale, then another,” Wilson says. “They were trying to make a dollar out of the system.”

Wilson believes the company knew about the fraud and failed to investigate. “I was kind of a brave soul,” he says. “I was kind of a fool.”

Wilson’s concerns eventually reached the company’s ethics department, which investigated and confirmed his suspicions. Wilson was later contacted by the U.S. Department of Justice, which had just launched a major investigation into the company’s illegal marketing practices.

“I was so shocked,” Wilson says. “I was the whistleblower, but I wasn’t doing it to make money.”

Wilson was offered a settlement of $100 million to stop working at the company. “I turned it down,” he says. “I was more interested in bringing about justice.”

Wilson went on to receive a $403 million settlement from the U.S. Department of Justice, which helped bring about a $515 million settlement between the company and the U.S. government.

Wilson’s story is not unique. “There are a lot of whistleblowers out there,” he says. “They just don’t know how to make it happen.”

Wilson is now a successful attorney, with clients in both the entertainment and health care industries. Still fighting fraud, he represents other whistleblowers.

“My work has been to bring about justice,” Wilson says. “I keep meticulous records, extensive records, of Medicaid and Medicare fraud. I want to make sure that the system isn’t being stolen.”

Wilson is now working on a book about his experiences as a whistleblower. “I want to share my story with others,” he says. “I want to help others understand what it takes to blow the whistle.”

Wilson has also been involved in community service, including serving on the board of directors for the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts.

“I believe that everyone has the potential to be a whistleblower,” Wilson says. “I believe that everyone has the potential to make a difference.”

Wilson’s story is a testament to the power of whistleblowers. “I want to make sure that everyone knows that they can make a difference,” he says. “I want to make sure that everyone knows that they can make a difference.”
Raphael Chillious '96 is an assistant men's basketball coach at the University of Washington
By Samuel T. Clover '91

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 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. Byrd assisted company leaders from both regions and made a $12 million investment in the Mid-Atlantic region. Byrd assisted company leaders from both regions and made Pinnacle's expansion a success as the company merged with the main competitor to create a dominant market player.

In the health care and insurance industry in which he is a partner, Byrd thrives in providing access to health care

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 within 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 socioeconomic backgrounds at Lafayette," he recalls. "I've never been one. Our environment developed us as black students. We all became more aware of our identity."
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 Ebony 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.

Significant Contributions

Brian Apgar ’08 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 took 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.

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.”

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.
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 in both institutions discussed 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 Umowa 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 holds these conversations every year, and it’s hard to make the Lafayette experience as great as possible for all students.”

Yaba Amgborale Blay, visiting assistant professor of Africana studies in the College of the Humanities and Social Sciences and an economist, led a new January interim session titled “Boundaries and Bridging the Gap.”

“What is the objective of this new session?” asked the student participants.

“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.”

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

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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 Ewolve.com, which covers technology, gaming, and entertainment. An English graduate, he is applying to journalism schools this fall. The following is an interview available on the McDonough 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 contributions 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 profiled 30 successful entrepreneurs, artists, record executives, and trendsetters. 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/VH1). 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 time.

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.

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

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 be in China in Miao Wang ’12 to assist. Teboh-Ewungkem recently used a National Science Foundation grant to organize a workshop at the University of Buia 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 Benin, a west African country, to work with 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 former president 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 into 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.

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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.

—The Plan for Lafayette