

# McDONOUGH

V O I C E



Byrd '74  
Innovates  
Health Care  
Policy

Martin '04 Focuses  
on E-Discovery

Gomwalk '01 Helps  
Strengthen Nigeria

# McDONOUGH

V O I C E



Photo by Chuck Zovko

## David Kearny McDonogh, M.D.

Aug. 10, 1821, New Orleans, La.—Jan. 15, 1893, Newark, N.J. ♦ Class of 1844

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

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

When David Kearny McDonogh came to Lafayette College in 1838, he was a slave. His owner, John McDonogh, a Louisiana rice planter, sent him to become educated in order to join a group of missionaries to go to Liberia. But McDonogh wanted to become a physician. When he graduated in 1844 as the College's first black graduate, he went on to earn a medical degree at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. He became a member of the staff of the New York Hospital and New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. After his death, McDonogh Memorial Hospital was named in his honor and opened as New York City's first hospital to admit physicians and patients without discrimination by race. He is buried in the historic Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.



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



**PRACTICAL VISION . . . . . 4**  
Terence Byrd '74 is leader in breaking down barriers to health care.  
By Jill Spotz

**LEADING IN EVERY WAY . . . . . 7**  
Reco Collins '05 is recognized for leadership and service in his career and volunteer work.  
By Lori Burke



**LEGAL EDGE. . . . . 8**  
Kamaka Martin '04 begins new role in fastest growing area of the legal profession.  
By Kevin Gray

**MY TOWN, MY COUNTY . . . . . 11**  
Fourth-term councilman in Bowie, Md., Todd Turner '89 thrives on government service.  
By Samuel T. Clover '91



**STEPPING FORWARD TOGETHER . . . . . 12**  
Danlami Gomwalk '01 is helping Nigeria build a strong infrastructure to support the growth of the economy.  
By Kevin Gray

**PATH AND PRACTICE . . . . . 14**  
Through teaching and community service, Kareema J. Gray '94 lives her passion for social work.  
By Stevie O. Daniels

## DEPARTMENTS

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2**

**FROM THE McDONOUGH NETWORK CHAIRS 3**

**CAMPUS BRIEFS 15**

- Internship affirms career path for Neilson '12
- Black History Month events
- Campus climate study update
- Race, civil rights, and slavery are focus of new collection
- Network conference prepares students for success
- Artist Clifford Charles and poet Jayne Cortez visit
- Limas named vice president of campus life and senior diversity officer
- New EPI/Riley Temple Gallery dedicated
- Boothe '83 exhibits on campus
- 2011 Homecoming Social
- Pinkett '13 interns at Comedy Central
- Bowman '12 interns at Martin Luther King Library
- Teagle grant enhances diversity

**Diversity and Inclusiveness Statement**

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



Photo by Chuck Zovko

## Building Stronger Community

In this issue, you will read about the many steps the College has taken over the past year to strengthen our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect.

In July, we were pleased to welcome **Celestino Limas**, whom many of you have now met, as our new vice president for campus life and senior diversity officer. He is collaborating closely with **Wendy Hill**, provost and dean of the faculty, and with the vice presidents for development and college relations, finance and operations, human resources, and communications to move diversity and inclusiveness to the core of campus life and learning.

Previously dean of students and chief diversity officer at Lewis & Clark College, Celestino brings more than 14 years of experience leading successful collaborations to advance diversity and inclusiveness at colleges and universities.

He and Provost Hill are coordinating our implementation of the 17 recommendations from the Campus Climate Working Group, including a student leadership retreat to break down divisions among students with different interests and provide diversity training to influential members of the campus. "Finding We," led by Dean **John McKnight**, was held Jan. 21 (photo above, also see page 15). We are also pursuing steps to enhance participation in College-wide planning and to develop a knowledge base for all community members on issues that impact diversity and inclusiveness.

Dean McKnight launched the Kaleidoscope program (see page 20). This project was made possible by a grant from the Teagle Foundation awarded to Lafayette, Bucknell University, and Dickinson College to enhance diversity and diversity education.

And, finally, the theme for this year's incoming students—"Righting Civil Wrongs"—is connected to events and discussion already underway on campus regarding civil rights and community responsibility. Orientation familiarizes students with Lafayette's academic values and expectations and encourages them to understand the importance of operating in a pluralistic and inclusive community.

Daniel H. Weiss

## LAFAYETTE McDONOGH VOICE

*Celebrating the contributions of African Americans to the Lafayette community*

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Stevie O. Daniels

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

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

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

For more, visit [sites.lafayette.edu/mcdonogh/](http://sites.lafayette.edu/mcdonogh/)



Photo by Chuck Zovko

## Focus on Mentoring

The year 2012 will be McDonogh Network's year to shine! In 2008, when the group was formed, we coordinated a successful Homecoming event with more than 80 guests, including current students and alumni. The sculpture *Transcendence*, which commemorates **David Kearney McDonogh 1844**, the College's first black graduate, was dedicated. After that strong beginning, the group lost a bit of steam over the past few years. No need to fret, though, because with two new leaders at the helm with a fresh outlook and new perspective, we have goals that will be achieved.

The game plan for 2011-12 is to create strategic partnerships with current Lafayette students of color and Lafayette administrators with a major focus on student mentorship. Some of the individuals on campus who have been instrumental in executing the network's strategic plan are: **Kristian Smith '13**, McDonogh Network student liaison, **Robert Young '14**, president of Association of Black Collegians, **John McKnight**, dean of intercultural development, and **Kim Spang**, associate vice president of development.

In addition, some members of the network are involved in various activities at the College including serving on the Implementation and Assessment Group on Greek Life, recently formed to develop and carry out implementation of the Administration's response to the Working Group on Greek Life and Campus Community's report. **Alma Scott-Buczak**, representing the Board of Trustees, and I, representing non-Greek alumni, have been selected as members. **Natasha Gordon '13** is one of the non-Greek student representatives.

I am also excited to report a new step in my professional career. In January I became director of business development in the accounting and finance division of Solomon Page Group, New York City.

With a strong buy-in from both current students and alumni, my co-chair **Kyara Gray '11** and I are confident that McDonogh Network will be a major support network to current Lafayette students of color.

Nkrumah Pierre '06

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### McDonogh Network Virtual Town Hall Meeting

Coming this spring

Celestino Limas, vice president for campus life, discusses plans for enhancing diversity at Lafayette.

### McDonogh Network Conference and Senior Celebration

April 28, 2012

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

### McDonogh Network Homecoming Social

October 20, 2012

Alumni, students, faculty, and administrators gather for an after-game reception and fellowship.





Maurice White '10 (left) with mentor Terence Byrd '74 at Healthfirst NJ.

Photos by Chuck Zovko

# PRACTICAL VISION

Terence Byrd '74 is leader in breaking down barriers to health care.

By Jill Spatz

**A**s if it were yesterday, **Terence Byrd '74** remembers walking to the front of his micro-economics class at Lafayette. Pondering the difficult problem of supply and demand that awaited him, Byrd remembers thinking, “How am I going to solve this?”

Looking back, Byrd, now president of Healthfirst NJ, Newark, N.J., believes this and other experiences at Lafayette are what prepared him for a successful career in the health care industry. “We were pushed to understand at a level of detail that I don’t believe most of us were accustomed to,” he explains. “Those high expectations encouraged us to excel, and we surprised ourselves.”

Byrd directs the hospital-sponsored managed care organization that provides Medicare and family care plans for more than 50,000 customers in a 10-county area of New Jersey.

An economics and business graduate, Byrd began his career in health insurance in 1974 as a management trainee at Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States (now AXA Equitable). Prior to his current position at Healthfirst NJ, he held executive posts at QMedCare of New Jersey, AmeriChoice of New Jersey/UnitedHealthcare, and Reliance National/Combined Insurance Company. He also was the founder and principal of TLB Byrd & Associates LLC, a consulting firm in the health care field.

## Ideas That Work

Throughout his 30-year career, Byrd, of Manalapan, N.J., has found himself wrestling with challenging problems—real-world dilemmas with no clear-cut answers. His efforts to address them have improved the well-being of communities by providing high-quality and affordable health care.

While at QMedCare, Byrd developed the first Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plan approved in New Jersey by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The plan focuses on individuals who have a history of congestive heart failure, heart disease, and diabetes.

“Based on demonstration projects, we found that if these patients are provided with certain routine testing and monitoring,” Byrd says, “they will remain healthy and will be less likely to need emergency services. As a result, overall health care costs are reduced.”

Backed with evidence, Byrd’s plan offered to cover certain diagnostic services. “We developed an evidence-based system comprised of treatment protocols that provides a complete package of health services to manage these conditions.”

In a perfect world, Byrd would like to see all barriers to health care eliminated. “We now have enough technology to cure many diseases, but we are still struggling with the same barriers that have been around for years,” he says.

Unfortunately, there is no easy prescription to cure certain roadblocks to good health, such as poverty, limited health care options, poor diet, and lack of education.

Under Byrd’s leadership, though, Healthfirst NJ is launching initiatives to address these impediments. For example, many of Healthfirst NJ’s participating medical facilities provide free books to all children under the age of 5 through a partnership with Reach Out and Read, a nonprofit organization that promotes literacy.

## Focus And Mentoring

Byrd’s awareness of the unique circumstances of low-income and urban populations grew out of his own childhood.

“I came from an environment where a lot of people hadn’t gone to college for various reasons—not that they weren’t smart enough, but at that time most African Americans didn’t get an opportunity to go to college at an institution like Lafayette,” says Byrd.



Maurice White '10 met Terence Byrd '74 through Philip Noto '72, with whom White interned during his senior year.

Byrd's parents and older siblings often stressed that his opportunity would be through education. And, in his first few weeks at Lafayette, Byrd met Coach Arthur Statum who reaffirmed these messages.

"He was a real gentleman," Byrd recalls. "Early on, he pulled me aside and said, 'I understand that you're a football player, but your primary focus and goal is to come out of here with your degree.'"

This conversation hammered home the "real purpose" of Byrd's presence at Lafayette. "I didn't lose sight of that," he says, noting that his coach's encouragement helped him build the intellectual resolve to muscle through Lafayette's tough academic challenges.

All these years later, Byrd remembers Statum as the first guidepost to his successful career. And today, he is finding opportunities to emulate his mentor by filling a similar role with the College's current students.

"There are so many bright young men and women graduating from Lafayette," Byrd says. "It is important for alumni to reach back and bring others along on the path to success."

As a member of Friends of Lafayette Football and the steering committee of McDonogh Network, Byrd has mentored a number of Lafayette students. Recently, Healthfirst NJ hired Maurice White '10 and Ryan Williams '08, both graduates in economics and business.

"We both traveled the same journey," says White, who serves as a network management coordinator for Healthfirst NJ. "Knowing that gives me hope, and I've come to realize that I can do anything."

The men have shared experiences. "Terry and I talk a lot about Lafayette, particularly about football," White says. "At Lafayette, football was my passion. Now, Terry encourages me to think of the workplace as just a different playing field. He tells me that things that made me successful on the football field can make me successful in the office."

Through this relationship, the desire to mentor is cultivated in yet another generation of Lafayette alumni.

"I appreciate that Terry believes in me and sees a light that other people didn't see," says White. "Someday, I will do the same—look out for others and guide them along the way." ♦

## LEADING IN EVERY WAY

Reco Collins '05 is recognized for leadership and service in his career and in mentoring young students to be leaders themselves.

By Lori Burke



WITH THE SAME ENERGY and commitment he demonstrated as a Lafayette student, Reco Collins '05 is making a difference as an involved community member, business leader, and volunteer. He has received prestigious recognitions from three organizations for his service and leadership.

Reco, vice president, public finance, PNC Bank, Baltimore, Md., received the 2011 Lowell B. Mason Award for Exemplary Volunteer Service from the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) in April. He was chosen as the top volunteer among the NFTE programs across the country and around the world. The organization, which provides an entrepreneurship curriculum to students in middle and high schools in low-income communities, has reached more than 350,000 young people since its founding in 1987.

Collins, an economics and business graduate, was also recognized as an "emerging leader" by the Associated Black Charities of Baltimore in June and was selected for participation in Leadership Maryland's Class of 2011.

Collins' connection with NFTE began five years ago through the organization's program at Digital Harbor High School. At first, he served as a business-plan coach and later broadened his involvement by volunteering as a competition judge, guest

speaker, and member of the local Entrepreneurs' Council.

Collins says his work with Digital Harbor's students reminds him of his own struggles at their age. "Having grown up in inner-city Atlanta, I was excited to get involved with NFTE. It presented the perfect opportunity for me to reach out and lift up kids with a background similar to my own,"

he says. "I enjoy spending time with the students, discussing their business plans for upcoming competitions, and, more importantly, talking to them about their future plans. It's rewarding to see them successfully present their business plans—win or lose—because they have taken a step in the right direction and are defying expectations."

At Lafayette, Collins overcame obstacles and reached for loftier goals, making a mark on the College and his classmates.

"For a year, football was my life. But when I got injured and could no longer play, I still wanted to make a difference on campus," he remembers. "So I stepped out of my comfort zone, interacting with others and giving them all respect. This allowed me to appreciate other cultures, to view myself as more than one thing, and to dream bigger." His efforts to promote cross-cultural relationships were recognized with the College's David A. Portlock Award. ♦



Photos by Steve Babuljak

# LEGAL EDGE

Kamaka Martin '04 begins new role with leading company in electronic discovery.

By Kevin Gray

**T**he legal profession has been profoundly affected by the increasing centrality of electronic data to litigation. The Internet, social networking, and cloud computing have impacted the ever-changing landscape of e-discovery and evidence law.

Leading the way as the profession catches up with this new reality is Recommind, Inc., of New York and San Francisco. The company developed and patented predictive coding, which uses machine learning to categorize documents with speed and accuracy, no matter how much data is involved.

A new member of this innovative team is **Kamaka Martin '04**, electronic discovery project manager in the San Francisco office. "The company is revolutionizing the electronic discovery industry with predictive coding," she says. "I am excited about the prospect for my professional growth here as well as exploring a new city."

Electronic discovery is the process by which electronically stored information (ESI) is obtained for use as evidence in legal cases. Martin's responsibilities at Recommind include consulting with and managing a portfolio of corporate and law firm clients to meet and exceed court-imposed and regulatory agency deadlines, and to advise on cost-efficient litigation review strategies.

## Early Success

Martin is building on her record of successful client management from her previous two years as client manager at Xerox Litigation Services, New York City. She was selected as a member of the company's change control board as a result of her involvement in an internal sub-committee created to vet and market a custom workflow for financial institutions responding to regulatory investigations, such as SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) and CFTC (Commodity Futures Trading Commission) subpoenas.

Martin says the communication skills so essential to success in the legal field were honed at Lafayette. "The encouragement and facilitation of professor-student discourse prepared me to communicate with senior colleagues in the workplace more confidently and with less trepidation."

A history and government & law honors graduate who holds a J.D. from Melbourne Law School in Australia, Martin began to build her expertise in client dynamics with research for a thesis on consumer class actions. "Professors **Deborah Rosen**, **John McCartney**, and **Diane Elliott** helped me develop my rudimentary idea into a comparative study of consumer class actions in California and Pennsylvania. It was one of the greatest accomplishments of my academic career at Lafayette."

## Aiming for Top Quality

A member of Project Management Institute (PMI), Martin is currently obtaining her project management professional certification from PMI. She is also a member of New York State Bar Association and Melbourne Bar Association.

"My professional motto is that my work is a reflection of me, and I aim for a consistent high-quality work product," Martin says. "As a project manager, my recommendations have a direct impact on resource allocation and, in many cases, repeat business."

When Martin reflects on her work ethic, she recalls an example set in her childhood. Her mother—who ran a small catering business—would enlist Kamaka and her father as taste testers for new dishes. The practice was less about offering a tasty treat than about ensuring quality control.



Kamaka Martin '04 in the San Francisco office of Recommind on California Street with views of Alcatraz in the distance (left) and the surrounding downtown area.

“One recipe that stands out is a brown-sugar cake that she made several times before getting the desired result,” recalls Martin, who grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. “After each attempt she would say, ‘I have to get it right before adding it to the menu.’”

Martin draws a connection between her mother’s drive for perfection and her own.

She recognizes another key lesson for success that she absorbed at Lafayette. “I learned the importance of drawing from the greater community—alumni, faculty, and staff—for mentorship, networking opportunities, and professional guidance.”

Martin took full advantage of the many opportunities to develop leadership skills. She was president of Association of Black Collegians, secretary of Minority Scientists & Engineers, and an assistant for the Oral History Project. “OHP was and is still dear to my heart as it provided an opportunity to apply my coursework in history outside of the classroom.” She notes that **Diane Shaw** and **Kristen Turner** “were instrumental, providing guidance, fervor, and patience.”

The purpose of the project, Martin explains, was to document through interviews the experience of the first female students with the advent of co-education and of African Americans during a time of increased matriculation in the 1970s at Lafayette.

“Once we completed a series of interviews, **Amanda Roth '04** and I co-authored and produced the play *We Were Pioneers*, in which we showcased the research we conducted over a two-year period,” she says. “It was an exciting and educational experience to meet and interview alumni, professors, and current students, and hear their stories about life at Lafayette both past and present.”

Martin has remained connected to the College as an Alumni Admissions Representative including recently serving as a panel member and interviewing prospective students at the New York Alumni Admissions Interview Day. “I saw my younger ‘go-getter’ self in those students, specifically in their passion for excelling academically and finding time to participate in a plethora of extracurricular activities.” ♦

# MY TOWN, MY COUNTY

Todd Turner '89 thrives on local government service.

By Samuel T. Clover '91



**IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Maryland, Todd M. Turner '89** is the county’s legislative officer. He is also serving his fourth term on city council in Bowie, where he became the first African American to be made mayor pro tem.

When he ran for council in 2005, Turner won 70 percent of the vote against the incumbent. He attributes that success to his previous work as constituent services director for County Councilman Douglas J.J. Peters (D-4th District). “If someone had a problem, whether it was at the city, county, state, or federal level, it eventually came through his office,” says Turner. “So people got to know me through my role in assisting them.”

Turner’s numerous public service roles began with a two-year stint as a paralegal for the Legal Aid Society and serving as assistant corporation counsel for the City of New York after obtaining his J.D. from City University of New York School of Law at Queens College. “What I learned from the individual case work is that you don’t have a chance to deal with systemic problems,” says Turner. “The only way to do that is to change law or change policy.”

Turner became legislative counsel to New York City Council Committee on Economic Development, and also served as director of Staten Island community relations for New York State Senator Vincent J. Gentile.

Turner’s passion for governmental involvement began the summer after graduation from Lafayette when he was a government scholar and fellow for the assistant to New York City Mayor Ed Koch.

“Here I was, straight out of college, and within two or three weeks, I’m sitting in city hall providing an overview of a program to the mayor of probably the largest city in the world,” recalls Turner, a government and law graduate. “I got hooked on public service.”

Upon moving to Maryland, Turner first worked for Maryland State Senate President Mike V. Miller Jr. (D-27th District) as a legislative analyst with the Senate

Committee responsible for oversight on education, health, and environmental legislative issues before the Maryland General Assembly, and then for Peters. “The more involved I got in public service, the more politically active I became,” says Turner, who worked on the campaign of Mayor David Dinkins in New York and later with City Councilman Jay O’Donovan.

As at-large councilmember for Bowie, a city of 55,000 that lies about halfway between Washington, D.C., and Annapolis, Turner is often involved in difficult budget decisions.

Turner explains that part of the difficulty that any municipality faces is decline in revenue. “In Maryland, we assess property every three years. When Bowie’s was done this past year, we found a 25 to 30 percent decrease in property values. So, the last time we were in a boom, and now we’re in a gully. That’s going to substantially impact revenue, to the tune of about \$1.5 million less this upcoming year and subsequent years until we reassess.”

So how will that affect city government? Since Bowie is primarily residential, Turner says, the council has few options for raising revenue other than increasing taxes. Though Bowie has socked away a substantial cash reserve over the past few years, the council will most likely look at cutting municipal labor costs, about 65 percent of the budget.

Turner is involved in other ways in the community. He is council liaison to the Community Recreation Committee and represents the city on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government’s Transportation Planning Board, where he serves as first vice-chair.

A member of the planning and development board of Prince George’s County YMCA and the advisory board of Prince George’s Progressive Institute, Inc., Turner is also a member of the Heather Hills Elementary School PTO, Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, and Sons of the American Legion, Post 66. ♦



Photo by A. Bartel/Travel-Images.com

# STEPPING FORWARD TOGETHER

As a project manager, Danlami Gomwalk '01 is helping strengthen Nigeria's infrastructure and economy.

By Kevin Gray

**W**hen Danlami Gomwalk '01 left his native Nigeria to attend Lafayette College, he was looking to gain international education and employment experiences.

He accomplished that mission and more. Through immersion in the College's unique brand of global education, his eyes were opened to the dynamic nature of the international job market and the value of cross-cultural collaboration.

A senior project manager with Nigeria's Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), in Abuja, Gomwalk draws on his Lafayette experience as he collaborates with government organizations to support the continued advancement of his homeland. His work is helping the relatively new democracy build the necessary infrastructure services to grow its economy after years of internal strife.

Gomwalk guides government ministries, departments,

and agencies through national policy on public-private partnerships (PPP) and helps make projects financially attractive for private investment. Primarily focused on PPP arrangements associated with roads, ports, and the health sector, Gomwalk often collaborates with experts in engineering, accounting, procurement, project finance, environment, legal matters, and social issues.

An A.B. engineering graduate, Gomwalk holds a master's in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University. His strong commitment to making connections motivates him to overcome the challenge of managing the heavy workload.

"The time to review and reflect is limited as I'm constantly dealing with new concerns and new project proposals and reading about political intrigues that may affect potential projects," Gomwalk says, adding that managing public perception of the commission's work is also important.

## Cross-Cultural Savvy

Each day, Gomwalk relies on his experience with cross-cultural collaborations—a skill that he first developed at Lafayette. "Many of these domestic and international professionals not only bring varied skills but also are from different countries and educational backgrounds," he explains. "All this makes it a rich learning and professional environment."

His work is imperative for Nigeria's growth. "The need for top-rate infrastructure is critical to our economy," explains Gomwalk. "I think it's hard to imagine the scale and scope of these projects and their ability to impact millions of people, and it's an honor to be part of an organization that is contributing to making things better in Nigeria."

Gomwalk says that, while the effects have not been immediate, he thinks the nation's collective confidence and increased stability is improving the levels of investment in the West African country.

"As a public servant, the stability of the deepening democratic process has been invaluable to my work," Gomwalk says. "Nigeria has had over a decade of uninterrupted, even

**Photo opposite:** Roro Port is part of the Tin Can Island Port Complex located in Apapa, port for Lagos, Nigeria. Roro, which stands for "roll on, roll off," designates an area of the port used for vehicle shipping.



if imperfect, democratic processes. With every election, the confidence of the people is growing and the effectiveness of the institutions is being tested, making them stronger.

"This should translate to more jobs in short order," he adds. "While, unfortunately, the greatest levels of investment are still in the extractive industry in Nigeria, the hope I have is that with increased focus on infrastructure development, which has very localized impact, it will be possible to unleash opportunities in other

sectors, particularly agriculture, once again."

Gomwalk's current job is the latest of a series of increasingly responsible positions that he has held worldwide since his graduation from Lafayette.

## Wide-Ranging Experience

In addition to working for Walden Environmental Engineering PLLC, Oyster Bay, N.Y., owned by Joseph Heaney III '85, Gomwalk has served as an adviser on the economic and financial committee with the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations and was an infrastructure asset management analyst in the Infrastructure Policy and Planning Division of Ontario Public Service in the former Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal.

Looking back on his collegiate experience, Gomwalk believes that his willingness to leave his native country and get involved with student organizations at Lafayette that facilitated connections, such as the International Students Association and the Lafayette African Caribbean Students Association, provided skills and perspective essential to his current success.

"For my four years at Lafayette, I was an active member of organizations that allowed me to interact with others from many cultures," says Gomwalk. "I had fellow colleagues from Albania to Zimbabwe."

Gomwalk encourages students to seek out study-abroad opportunities and get involved in international student organizations. "You never know where you will end up," he says. "The job market is very fluid and dynamic. In 10 years, I have been in three countries on two continents.

"Lafayette is unique in the sense that many foreign students enroll. Even if you aren't foreign, if you join the International Students Association—and there were a few Americans in my time who did—it has great value in preparing you for different cultures." ♦

# PATH AND PRACTICE

Through teaching and community service, Kareema J. Gray '94 lives her passion for social work.

By Stevie O. Daniels

## WITH BOTH INTELLECTUAL AND

practical expertise in the field of social work, **Kareema J. Gray '94** expresses her passion as professor, adviser, and community leader.

Assistant professor of social work and undergraduate program director for the Department of Social Work at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, S.C., Gray received a master's and doctorate in social work from University of Georgia. The focus of her dissertation research was African American social work history, particularly in Philadelphia during the Progressive Era. She studied the parallel systems of social work that developed—since new programs for the growing inner-city poor excluded African Americans, a separate service delivery program was developed by African Americans for their population.

"We have to understand history in order to fully understand the issues and social problems that are going on now," Gray says. "Current problems in our society are nothing new; more often than not they are the same problems in different forms. We can learn how to deal with them from both our mistakes and our victories in the past."

Gray is currently involved in two such projects. The first is a pilot program to train, educate, and move homeless single mothers from poverty to self-sustainable, independent living, co-sponsored by Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services, Charlotte Housing Authority, and HOPE Charlotte. The second is a pilot program in Hays State Prison in north Georgia to create a long-term peace initiative with inmates.

A member of the Winthrop faculty since 2009, Gray serves on a number of committees including Cultural Events, Diversity Team, and Faculty Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics. She says the latter is her favorite. "I enjoy providing my colleagues with a perspective from my experience as a student-athlete." She also advises two student groups—Disciples on Campus and student chapter, National Association of Black Social Workers, dedicated to



research, practice, and advocacy in the African American community.

A biology graduate, Gray was a member of the women's basketball team, conducted undergraduate research, and volunteered in the community.

"Coach [Pat] Fisher pushed us to do more than we thought we could," says Gray. "I did not understand what she was doing then, but I do now. I do the same with my students today, I tell them that I am going to challenge them to do more than they think they are capable of, but I am also going to encourage them and support them along the way."

Gray spent a summer examining the life cycle of the cicada killer wasp with **Charles Holliday**, professor of biology. She also assisted **Wendy Hill**, Rappolt Professor of Neuroscience, on a project mapping calls from finches. "Both experiences gave me a confidence that I don't think graduates from many other schools get. Even though I was not 100 percent sure of my career path when I graduated, I was confident that whatever I chose, I was going to be prepared because of the solid foundation I was able to build at Lafayette." She now provides research experiences for her own students.

Gray continues to serve her community as a board member of HOPE Charlotte [North Carolina] and The Youth Source, Rock Hill. She has also been involved with Habitat for Humanity in Atlanta and Charlotte. But she considers her most remarkable experience a week in Port Au Prince, Haiti, in October helping a community rebuild. "Our team built a road that was about a half-mile long using only buckets, shovels, rocks, and gravel! To have the honor of working side by side with such amazing people whose lives had been literally turned upside down, yet they remained so hopeful so positive and so resilient, my soul was moved."

Prior to Winthrop, Gray practiced social work in Atlanta involving adoptions, crisis intervention, foster care and child placement, in-home therapy, and residential treatment for adolescents with substance abuse and behavior disorders. ♦

## Neilson '12 Explores Construction Contracting

"Ever since I was a kid, I have had a fascination with building structures," says **Joelle Neilson '12**, an engineering studies major. "It has always been a desire of mine to look at a stadium, school, bridge, or even skyscraper and say, 'I helped build that.'"

Neilson got her first taste of the construction world this summer while working as an intern for Clark Construction under **Curt Allen '79**, vice president of operations.

"I was responsible for document maintenance and updating, data entry and spreadsheet maintenance, posting RFIs (request for information), submittal review, shop drawing review, and other tasks," she says.

A long jumper on Lafayette's track & field team, Neilson is co-president of Minority Scientists and Engineers, special events and public relations coordinator for PAC mentoring program, and previously was historian for Association of Black Collegians. She also traveled to Honduras to conduct water and sanitation

research with Sharon Jones, former professor and director of engineering, and three other Lafayette students.

Neilson hopes to work for a construction company before attending graduate school in engineering and business.



Joelle Neilson '12 interned with Curt Allen '79 at Clark Construction, Bethesda, Md.

Photo by Jeffrey MacMillan

## Campus Climate Study

Provost **Wendy Hill** and Vice President **Celestino Limas** are coordinating efforts to implement recommendations based on the findings of the 2010 Campus Climate survey conducted by Rankin & Associates and the December 2010 town meetings. These activities will strengthen Lafayette's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect.

In an October announcement to campus, President **Daniel H. Weiss** said, "I am grateful to the members of the working group for their diligent work, as they studied the results of the survey, listened to the concerns of the campus community, and formu-

lated recommendations designed to help us improve the campus climate for all."

A program to help break down divisions among students and provide diversity training was led by **John McKnight**, dean of intercultural development. "Finding We," a student leadership retreat, was held Jan. 21. Other steps underway include enhancing participation in College-wide planning, establishing an ombudsperson's office, having periodic reviews of workplace rules, and developing a knowledge base for all community members on issues that impact diversity and inclusiveness.

## Black History Month Explores Activism and Modern Slavery

Black History Month at Lafayette began with a town hall discussion, "Hip Hop Activism in the Age of Obama and the Tea Party," Feb. 1 led by Bakari Kitwana, author of *The Hip-Hop Generation: Young Blacks and the Crisis in African American Culture*. Panelists included Jasiri X, hip hop artist; Stefanie Brown, national director, youth and college division, NAACP; Rob "Biko" Baker, executive director, League of Young Voters; and Cathy Cohen, professor of political science, University of Chicago.

EPI/Riley Temple Gallery featured an exhibit by Atlanta artist Kevin Cole. Students, including **Beatriz De Jesus '12** and **Hemendra Bhola '12**, presented research Feb. 20 on topics related to race.

Siddarth Kara, author of the award-winning *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, gave the McDonogh Presidential Lecture Feb. 28.

Association of Black Collegians, Precision Step Team, Lafayette African and Caribbean Student Association, and PAC presented a finale March 2 with food and performances.

A related event planned for March is the (r)ne Drop exhibit at EPI/Riley Temple Gallery. Through portrait documentaries, photographs, and public programming, the project raises social awareness and sparks community dialogue about the complexities of blackness as an identity and a lived reality.

## Race, Civil Rights, and Slavery Are Focus of Growing Collection



An area of special interest for Skillman Library's rare book collection is the early history of slavery in America.

Works related to the great slavery debate that took place on both sides of the Atlantic support the study of the Marquis de Lafayette's commitment to the abolition of slavery in France and America and provide context for the College's early efforts to educate African Americans, explains **Diane Windham Shaw**, director of special collections and college archivist.

Materials being collected include abolitionist poetry, anti-slavery periodicals, and works that influenced Lafayette or are associated with him. In addition, artists' books and broadsides are being collected that provide contemporary reflections on these past struggles, are related to issues of race and civil rights, or have black authors or themes.

Some highlights include:

- *Poems on the Abolition of the Slave Trade* (London, R. Bowyer, 1809). A quarto volume that includes three poems—James Montgomery, "The West Indies;" James Grahame, "Africa Delivered;" and E. Benger, "A Poem, Occasioned by the

Abolition of the Slave Trade," engravings after paintings by Robert Smirke.

- *The Anti-Slavery Record. Vol. II* (New York, R.G. Williams for the American Anti-Slavery Society, 1836). The 12 monthly issues contain articles, poems, and engravings exposing the horrors of slavery in America, including the article, "The Consistency of Lafayette."
- *Resistance Is Useless: Portraits of Slaves from the British West Indies*, D. R. Wakefield, artist and printer (East Yorkshire, England, Chevington Press, 2004, edition of 50 copies). Features 17 color etchings of individuals enslaved in the Caribbean, many of whom took part in slave rebellions or protested in other ways (see above left). Wakefield says, "This is not a polemic about or against slavery, but an attempt to add faces to obscure names... people in a situation over which they had no choice or control."



- *The Quilts of Gee's Bend* (see below), Carolyn Shattuck, artist (Rutland, Vermont, 2011, a tunnel book in an edition of four copies). Gee's Bend is located in a curve of the Alabama River southwest of Selma, Ala. After the Civil War, freed slaves founded an all-black community there and developed a distinctive quilting style with geometric simplicity. A 2002 exhibition at Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, brought international acclaim to the quilts.

- *Mask*, Amos Paul Kennedy Jr., artist and printer (Bloomington, Indiana, 2000), inspired by the poem "We Wear the Mask" by 19th-century African American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. The book of handmade paper pages includes full-page graphics (see inside back cover) of African masks and densely layered over-printings of the word "mask" in different colors and orientations. Kennedy's works are dedicated to the preservation of African American culture. He writes: "I discovered that the words of Negro poets and authors were seldom in 'limited edition' books. I decided that the goal of my press is to... bring the words and issues of my peoples to the world of artists' books and fine print books."



## Inaugural McDonogh Network Conference Prepares Students for Success

"Connecting You to Me: Building a Personal Brand," was sponsored for the first time last April by McDonogh Network to provide guidance for African American and black students about entering the workforce and building a successful career. A celebration of seniors was held after the conference.

Psychology major **Jiselle Peralta '13** said, "Hearing from successful alumni who started out just like me, helped me realize that we must all start somewhere in order to grow into future leaders. I look up to the alumni panelists and

hope to accomplish as much as they have."

Panelists included **Gina Arias '93**, senior community partner coordinator for Bronx Teens Connection; **Carlton St. Bernard '86**, vice president of U.S. sales & marketing for Cordis Corporation; **Terese Brown '07**, owner/designer of Terese Sydonna Contemporary and Couture Women's Design Co.; **Crystal Burey '10**, freelance photo editor; **Otis Ellis '89**, vice president and investment solution specialist for Key Private Bank; **Isaac Esseku '05**, research associate for

Consumer Edge Research; **Ashley Gray '09**, graduate hall director for Cedar Crest College; **Rawle Howard '96**, vice president of real estate debt group, BlackRock Inc.; **Treyvon Jackson '10**, analyst with Goldman & Sachs; **Justin Kidwell '00**, MBA candidate at Columbia Business School; **Jason T. Mills '09**, engineer with PHI Asset Strategy & Planning, Delmarva Power; **Brandon Stanford '06**, Ph.D. student in African studies/Africology at Temple University; and **Danielle Weaver '07**, alumni relations assistant, George Washington University.



Jakea Coon '95 (left) talks with Washcarina Martinez '11.



Otis Ellis '89 (center) gives advice to Jenny Mena '14 (L-R) and Robert Young '14.

Photos by Chuck Zovko

## Acclaimed Poet and Artist Interact with Students

Poet Jayne Cortez and South African artist Clifford Charles were on campus in December for a series of student workshops, poetry readings, and lectures. Their visits were made possible by the David L. Sr. and Helen J. Temple Visiting Artist Fund and the Africana studies program.

Acclaimed as original, versatile, and multifaceted, Cortez's extraordinary career includes literary success and impassioned activism inspired by ideals of human dignity and social justice.

Cortez met with students in the creative writing course of **Elizabeth Rosen**, visiting instructor of English, and later gave a poetry reading in Skillman Library. A poet, actor, film director, and teacher, she has been writing and performing her poetry internationally for over 40 years.

During his stay as Temple Resident Artist from Nov. 26 through Dec. 2, Clifford Charles gave presentations, was guest lecturer in classes, and led a workshop for art students at

the Experimental Printmaking Institute.

Charles was the first black student to graduate with a B.A. in fine arts from University of Witwatersrand, during apartheid South Africa. He spent his formative years within the 'Engage Art' practice of South Africa and worked with the Afrika Cultural Centre. Known for his elegant abstract works, he recently completed an exhibition "Memory & Modernism" at a conference for Durban and Malmo University, Sweden.

## Limas Welcomed as New Vice President for Campus Life and Senior Diversity Officer

In the summer, **Celestino José Limas** joined the College in the newly created position of vice president for campus life and senior diversity officer. Reporting to President **Daniel H. Weiss** and serving as a member of the president's cabinet, he oversees all areas of student life and ensures that access and diversity are at the center of campus-life considerations.

Limas is partnering with **Wendy Hill**, provost and dean of the faculty to implement recommendations from the Campus Climate Working Group and is also leading the Implementation and Assessment Group on Greek Life (IAGGL), a group of faculty, students, staff, alumni and trustees that will carry out the recommendations of the Working Group on Greek Life and Campus Community.

In a message to campus announcing Limas' arrival, Weiss said, "Celestino Limas is collaborating closely with the provost and dean of the faculty, with the vice presidents for development and college relations, finance and administration, human resources,



and communications, and with other institutional partners to move diversity and inclusiveness to the core of campus life and learning."

Limas, who started on July 1, had been dean of students and chief diversity officer at Lewis & Clark College since 2008. He brings more than 14 years' experience leading successful collaborations to advance diversity and inclusiveness at colleges and universities. He previously held other positions at liberal arts colleges and holds a Ph.D. from University of Oregon, an M.A. from University of Nebraska, and B.A. from University of Iowa.

## EPI/Riley Temple Gallery Dedicated

The EPI/Riley Temple Gallery in the Portlock Black Cultural Center was dedicated March 4. Named for distinguished alumnus and trustee emeritus **Riley K. Temple '71**, the gallery will feature the work of artists from historically underrepresented groups and of Lafayette art students. Its operation is a partnership between the Experimental Printmaking Institute and Office of Intercultural Development.

The inaugural exhibit featured works by celebrated painter, author, and illustrator **Faith Ringgold** and

other women artists as part of the College's celebration of Women's History Month.

Located at 101 McCartney St., the gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

Temple established the David L. Sr. and Helen J. Temple Visiting Artist Fund in 2000, in honor of his parents, to support and encourage the work of artists, curators, and art historians.

Many of EPI's distinguished visiting artists have been brought to campus through the fund.

## Pivotal Works by Boothe '83 Featured

Collaboration with others and focus on a geometrical archetype of the human psyche nudged internationally known artist **Berrisford Boothe '83** to a fundamental turning point in his almost 30-year career. The exhibit *That Which Is Necessary and Available* at the Grossman Gallery this past summer featured 14 of these works.

"Creating this exhibit with two other minds forced me to be completely open to thoughts, impulses, and insights," explains Boothe, associate professor of art, Lehigh University.

Deliberately choosing one geometric form—the circle—as the subject for the works was the second force in play.

Boothe, an art graduate, holds a master of fine arts degree from Maryland Institute College of Art. His works are included in public and private collections throughout the United States and South America.

"Lafayette shaped me in a way that is sustainable and positive," he says. "Whenever I'm called on to be a visiting lecturer or conduct a community-based program, I make time for it."



## 2011 McDonogh Network Homecoming Social

More than 60 students, alumni, administrators, and faculty gathered in the Wilson Room of Pfenning Alumni Center for a late afternoon social after the Homecoming game Oct. 22.

The group was welcomed by **David Reif '68**, Alumni Association president-elect; **John McKnight**, dean of intercultural development; and **Nkrumah Pierre '06**, co-chair of McDonogh Network, which sponsored the event in partnership with Alumni Affairs, College Relations, and Intercultural Development.

Students had the opportunity to network with and learn from the experiences and perspectives of accomplished alumni.

"Events where African American students and alumni can meet face to face are important because they support us in the experiences we are going through as students," says **Glenford Robinson '13**, a neuroscience major. "The personal contact is key. It helps us to hear alumni talk about their experiences as students here."

"One thing common among students in my era is that we had our ABC house, and we stayed in it, thinking it was everyone else's school," says **Joe Godwin Jr. '81**, vice president, Goldman Sachs, Philadelphia, Pa. "We didn't take advantage of what the school had to offer. So I encourage you now to take full advantage of all the opportunities. McDonogh Network is important, but you need to network with all of the campus, not just this group."

"When I came to Lafayette there was nothing for blacks so I helped start ABC," says **Larry Lennon '71**, purchasing agent, Lehigh Valley Site Contractors, Inc., Easton, Pa. "All we had was **Aaron O. Hoff**. Since then we have learned about the **Marquis de Lafayette's** position on slavery

and abolition. We have learned about **David McDonogh**. This heritage goes back to the beginning of the College's history. We have a chance to give back and create a stronger Lafayette for all groups. Remember, it is your College."

"Alumni are encouraging us to take advantage of all of the great opportunities while we are here," says **Kristian Smith '13**, American Studies major and McDonogh Network coordinator with Intercultural Development. "African American students are breaking out more from their own group and that has changed partly because of the network. We talk about this at ABC, and more students try it after hearing others' experiences when moving out of their comfort zone."



Dr. Cynthia Paige '83 (left) with her daughter Ilani Paige-Waldon '12, biology major.



Andrew Brown '06 (L-R), Stephanie Ingram '05, Whitney English, Maurice Bennett '06, and Marvin Snipes '07.



Photo by David W. Coulter

## Pinkett '13 Tests Interests at Comedy Central

Coming face-to-face with celebrities was just one of the perks for **Charnelle Pinkett '13** during a summer internship at Comedy Central. She met comedian **Jim Gaffigan**, rubbed elbows with *Archer* actor **Jon Benjamin**, and met **Stephen Colbert** at a taping of *The Colbert Report*.

Pinkett helped put together the "daily digest"—a publication that tracks electronic and print media concerning Comedy Central. "The digest is an important part of the press department, as it shows the direct results of our hard work as well as keeping our shows relevant," she says. "Everyone who works with Comedy Central gets a copy."

Pinkett is a self-designed social justice major and a film and media studies minor.

"I am passionate about learning and absorbing as much information as I can," she says. "Asking questions is a way of life, and I don't ever see myself not in a learning environment." A resident adviser, Pinkett is also a member of the Dance Team, hip-hop group *Gossip Prone*, Fashion Club, and *Veterinary Explorations through Service (VETS)*.

## Bowman '12 Interns at Martin Luther King Library

Working with the Teens of Distinction program at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington, D.C., this past summer, DeMark Bowman '12 helped create workshops that focused on relevant topics in today's society, such as financial literacy, time management, professionalism, and diversity.

"This internship has confirmed my interest in youth," says Bowman, "whether they're 'at risk' or the opposite. I want to be a person of the people, and I will do what I need to do to get there."

Bowman, a philosophy major, said he chose his major because it has a "little bit of everything mixed into one. I wanted to study psychology, sociology, government and law, and writing. Philosophy was my path toward these interests."



DeMark Bowman '12 enjoyed the challenge of finding the most effective ways to communicate with teenagers to get them engaged with specific topics.

A writer, Bowman is working on a book of poetry titled *Facing Three L's: Life, Love & Liberty*. He plans to attend law school and also become a teacher and youth mentor.

A member of the Ambassador Committee, Bowman is also head night manager for The Spot and former co-president of Brothers of Lafayette. He is also a Posse Scholar and an orientation leader.

## Teagle Grant to Enhance Diversity

Lafayette College, Bucknell University, and Dickinson College received a \$300,000 grant in March from the Teagle Foundation for a cooperative project to enhance diversity and diversity education. The funds are being used to improve students' academic and co-curricular experiences on campus.

John McKnight, dean of intercultural development, created and directs Kaleidoscope, a social justice peer education group that encourages students to take an active role in campus education regarding issues of multiculturalism, equity, and social justice. Student Coordinators of Peer Education (SCOPEs) are invited to various spaces on campus to facilitate in-depth dialogue on a particular social justice topic.

McKnight explains that students are nominated to be SCOPEs and then attend information sessions, submit applications, and are



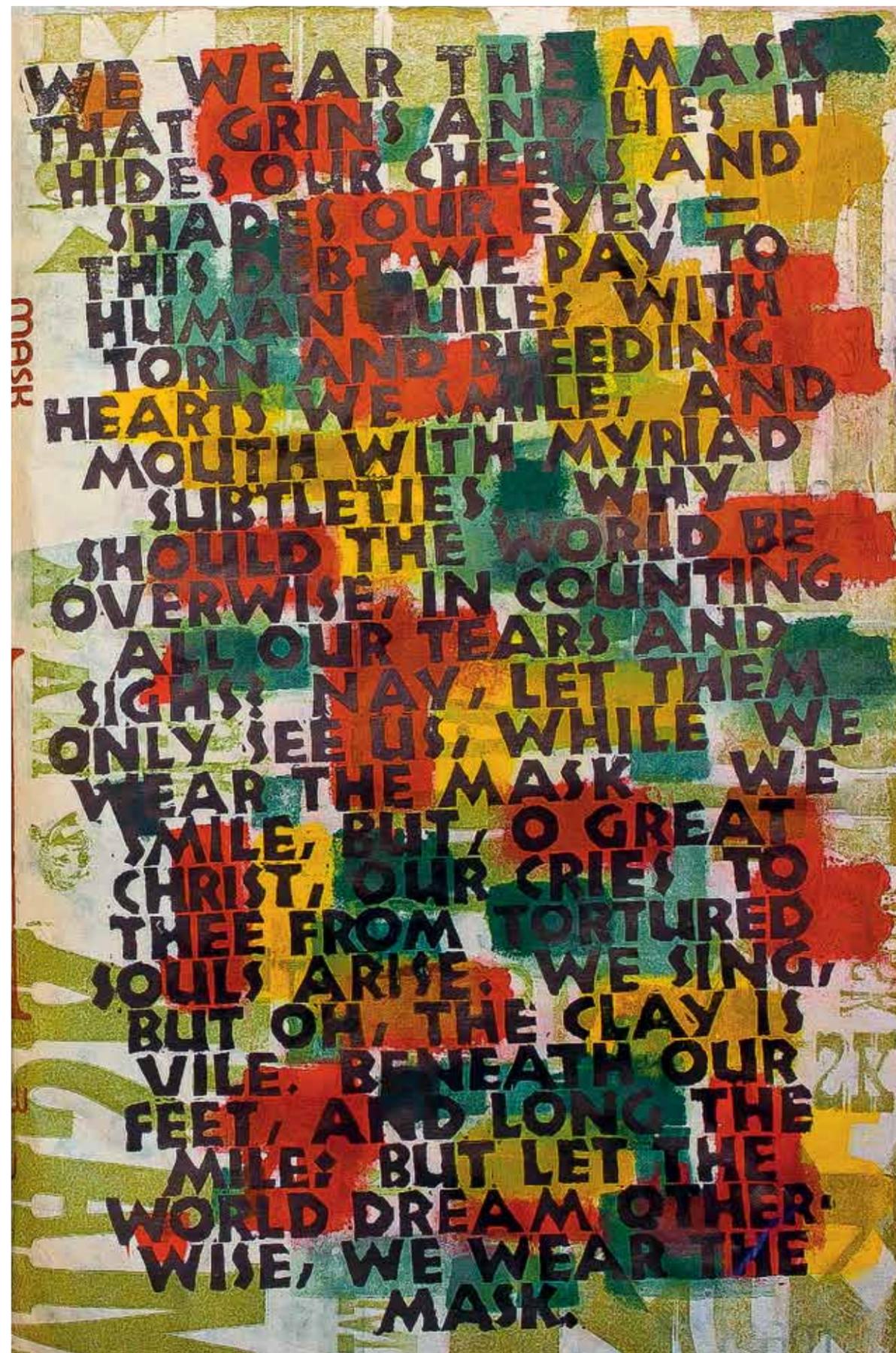
Students draw an illustration that depicts changes they can make working together as a coalition.

interviewed before being selected for the team.

Funds have also been used to incorporate diversity in the curriculum. Ten participating faculty members will infuse diversity by creating new courses or adding components to existing courses.

All three schools partner with Posse Foundation, a national college-access and leadership program that recruits outstanding leaders from urban public schools.

Lafayette currently hosts 82 Posse scholars from New York and Washington, D.C.



"We Wear the Mask" by poet Paul Laurence Dunbar on handmade page of artist book, *Mask*, by Amos Paul Kennedy Jr. (see page 16).

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