

# McDONOUGH

V O I C E

A man in a grey suit, white shirt, and a dark polka-dot bow tie is sitting in a green office chair. He is holding and reading a newspaper titled "MONEY & INVESTING". The newspaper has several articles and images on it. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred office setting.

Pierre '06 Is  
Connector  
Extraordinaire

Longmire-Avital '02  
Focuses on Wellness  
Research

Cann '70: Bermuda's  
Public Health  
Champion



Chuck Zovko

## In Honor of David Kearney McDonogh, Class of 1844

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

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

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

When McDonogh came to Lafayette College in 1838, he was a slave. His owner, John McDonogh, a Louisiana planter, sent him to become educated to travel with a group of freed slaves to Liberia to serve as a missionary. But McDonogh wanted to become a physician. When he graduated in 1844 as the College's first black graduate, he went on to attend classes at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. Although the institution would not grant him a degree, his classmates treated him as a physician. He later received a degree from Eclectic Medical College of New York. He became a member of the staff of the New York Hospital and New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. After his death, 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*, 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. ♦

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**On the cover:** Nkrumah Pierre '06 is managing director of business development for My Business Matches in New York City where he also mentors youth through Harlem Children's Zone and Sponsors for Educational Opportunity.

**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**



David W. Coulter

## A Banner Year

Since arriving at Lafayette this summer, I have had productive conversations with many of you about inclusiveness, access, and other issues related to diversity. I have worked closely with **Annette Diorio**, vice president for campus life and senior diversity officer, as well as with **John McKnight**, dean of intercultural development in evaluating our successes so far and work still to be done.

In addition, we are continuing our implementation of the Campus Climate Working Group recommendations. As recommended, I have appointed a Presidential Oversight Committee, chaired by Professor **Olga Anna Duhl**, to look at campus policies related to sexual harassment and assault, with the goal of making our campus safe and welcoming for all.

I am happy to note that this fall, we welcomed the most diverse class ever admitted to Lafayette, with students of color accounting for 25 percent of the class. Our increasing success in attracting students from diverse areas and backgrounds reinforces the need for us to think intentionally about ways to forge a strong campus community.

Two special events have marked this year's celebration of the 170th anniversary of the graduation of **David McDonogh, Class of 1844**. First is the exhibit *Tales of Our Brothers: The Journey of David and Washington McDonogh*, which opened during Homecoming weekend. Curated by **Robert Young '14** (above) in coordination with **Diane Shaw**, director of special collections and College archivist, it features African Americans who matriculated at Lafayette between 1832 and 1846.

A second exhibit—*Association of Black Collegians: 1969-1979*—was on display in the EPI/Riley Temple Gallery of the Portlock Black Cultural Center this fall (see page 17).

McDonogh Network and Alumni Relations are sponsoring a special alumni journey to Ghana this summer (see page 21). Led by **Rexford Ahene**, professor of economics, the itinerary includes visits to important cultural and historical sites.

*Alison Byerly*

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

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Stevie O. Daniels

**Contributors**

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Kyara M. Gray '11, Chair, Lawrence L. Lennon '71, Alumni Liaison, Rexford A. Ahene, Terence L. Byrd '74, Frank Campbell Jr. '74, Ciera Eaddy '14, Vivienne R. Felix '03, Joseph R. Godwin Jr. '81, Kiyah Holloman '15, Rawle G. Howard '96, Frank E. Hyson IV '81, Chawne M. Kimber, Gregory H. Laborde '86, Ernest C. Levister Jr. '58, Britney J. McCoy '05, John F. McKnight Jr., Leroy D. Nunery II '77, Alfonzo B. Owens III '75, Cynthia Y. Paige '83, Nkrumah K. Pierre '06, Jeffrey D. Robinson '80, Alma R. Scott-Buczak '74, Jarrett T. Shine '96, Carlton J. St. Bernard Jr. '86, Renee Becton Strickland '82, Natasha D. Strother '96, Simmone D. Chaddan Taitt '04, Winston E. Thompson '86, Paul Eugene Thurston '60, George S. Weaver '72, Sylvia Daniels Weaver '75, Wendy Wilson-Fall, Daniel Jerry Wooten '60, Cornell N. Wright '74, Alvin M. Yearwood '83, Robert Young '14

**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/)

# Stepping Forward

This fall was an especially exciting time for the College and McDonogh Network. We welcomed the most diverse class ever admitted to the College and our new president, **Alison Byerly**.

We also celebrated the opening of *Tales of Our Brothers: The Journey of David and Washington McDonogh*, an exhibit that features Lafayette's first ten African American students who attended between 1832 and 1846 (see page 20). On display in Pardee Hall through 2014, it was curated by **Robert Young '14**, a McDonogh Network student liaison, working with **Diane Shaw**, director of special collections and College archivist. Robert also curated an exhibit for Portlock Black Cultural Center on the history of the Association of Black Collegians, which was founded in 1969.



Chuck Zovko

We have been working on building and strengthening the McDonogh

Network as well as increasing our involvement with the Alumni Council and Board of Trustee committees. Contact me or **Larry Lennon '71**, our alumni liaison, to get involved. We also encourage you to join with **Alberta Luna '08**, **Jeffrey Robinson '80**, and others in sharing your story about how Lafayette shaped your life or your career through the new "Compass: Experiences that Launched Lives" project ([community.lafayette.edu/compass](http://community.lafayette.edu/compass)).

As change agents, we have the opportunity to mold the Lafayette of tomorrow. We are seeing the success of the McDonogh Network through increased participation and the return of some alumni of color who have not been back to the College since graduation. Our annual meeting and senior celebration held each spring has become a popular event. At last year's program, we were excited to reconnect with **Romar A. Drake '06**, **Shani Bellegarde '08**, **Ashley Wilson Judge '08**, and **Rasheim J. Donaldson '06**.

We look forward to seeing others this year and to your support in ensuring that McDonogh Network plays a key role in defining the College's future strategy.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### McDonogh Network Conference and Senior Celebration

April 26, 2014  
11 a.m.–4 p.m.

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

### Explore Ghana with Fellow Alumni

August 1-12, 2014

Step into the cradle and custodian of African American history and culture.

**Highlights include:** Accra, Mausoleum of Kwame Nkrumah, W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Center, Kumasi's craft and art markets, West Africa Historical Museum

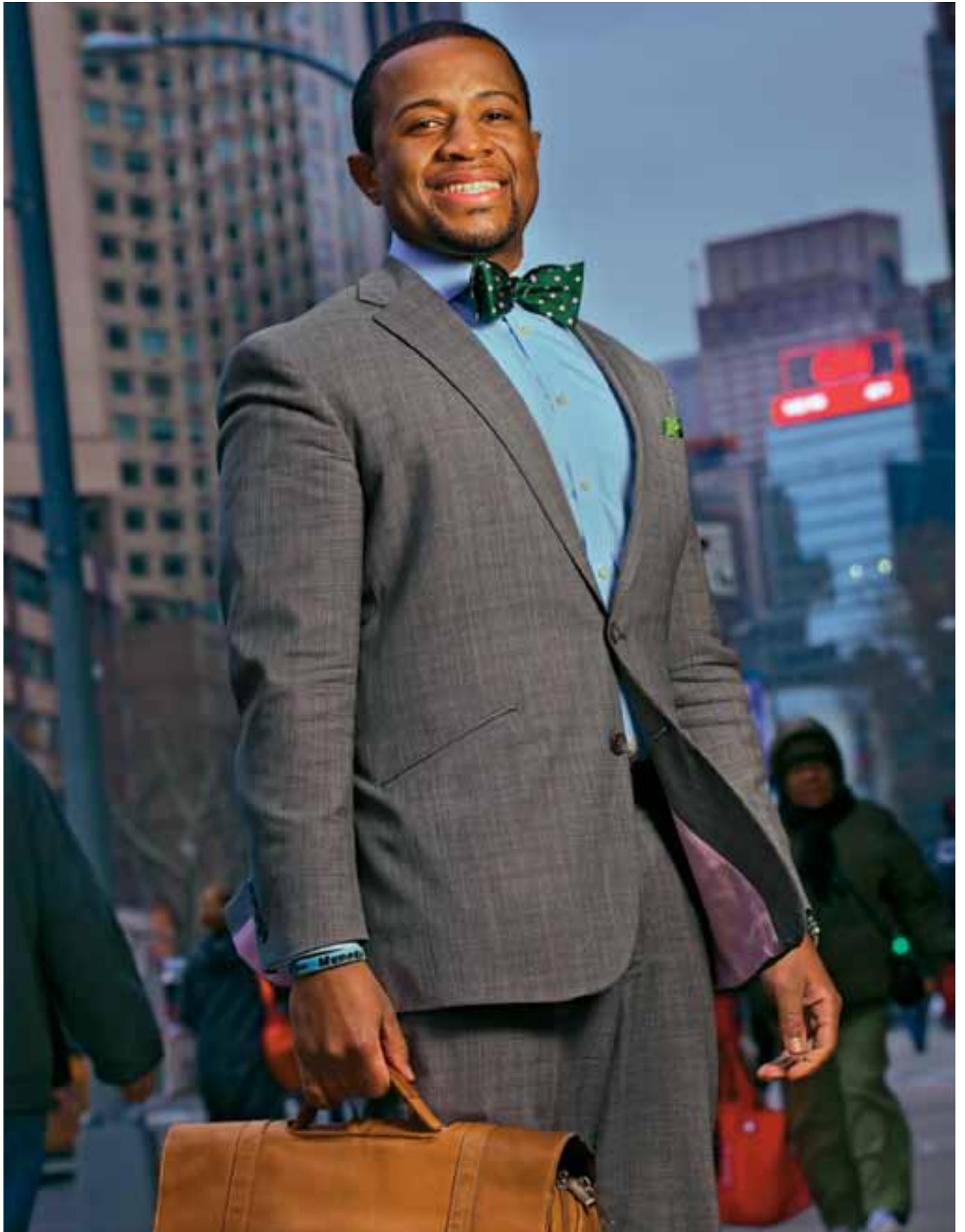
Led by Prof. Rexford Ahene, [ahener@lafayette.edu](mailto:ahener@lafayette.edu), (610) 330-5302.

**Register by March 2014.**

### McDonogh Network Homecoming Social

October 25, 2014

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



Chuck Zovko

# THE CONNECTOR

Dedicated to diversity and inclusion,  
Nkrumah Pierre '06 excels at corporate matchmaking.

By Samuel T. Clover '91

**T**alking with Nkrumah Pierre '06 is like boarding a high-speed luxury train: he's polished, solid, agile, and speaks with a rapid cadence that drives the conversation forward while never losing focus on the topic—or you.

Key qualities from someone who makes his living by networking.

Pierre was recently recognized by *The Network Journal*—a monthly business magazine that focuses on black professionals and small business owners—in their annual “40 Under Forty” feature. The honor is given to 40 men and women under the age of 40 “whose professional accomplishments have significantly impacted an industry or profession, and who also have made an important contribution to their community.”

At the time he was senior manager of business development for the New York-based recruiting and staffing firm Russell Tobin & Associates where he headed diversity and inclusion. He was recognized for his community work, which includes serving on United Way's Young Leaders Council and mentoring children and youth through Harlem Children's Zone and through Sponsors for Educational Opportunity.

Pierre, an economics and business graduate, has since expanded his scope by assuming the position of managing director of business development for My Business Matches, an online portal that connects buyers and suppliers virtually and in person.

“I'm overwhelmingly excited to join the My Business Matches team and look forward to taking us to the next level,” says Pierre. “We have a billion dollar platform to introduce to the procurement and supplier diversity market, and the time is right.”

“Right now D&I is huge. It was one of the first things to get cut in the recession. Now it's hot. Diversity is essential to collaboration, and collaboration is essential to increasing profit.”

## Involvement is Key

Pierre credits several mentors for his pathway to success: **Thomas H. Bruggink**, professor emeritus of economics, **Edward Seifried**, professor emeritus of economics and business, and **John T. McCartney**, the late associate professor of government and law, whom Pierre describes as “one of the toughest professors I've ever had in my life.”

He built leadership skills outside of the classroom, serving three years in officer positions for Brothers of Lafayette (BOL) culminating in the presidency during his senior year. He was a resident adviser for two years.

“My experiences in officer roles at BOL and as a resident adviser allowed me to become comfortable being uncomfortable. I learned humility, the importance of compliance, and how to deal with a plethora of diverse personalities while remaining upbeat and inspirational. Additionally, I truly learned the value of having strong mentors,” Pierre says.

He is also grateful for his internship in the Office of Career Services. “Career Services is near and dear to me,” he says, “for helping me with my résumé, for my

internship, and helping me to learn how to network and make connections.”

Pierre not only makes connections, he nurtures them. He calls **John Pierce '81**, vice president of real estate and facilities for Phoenix House, a mentor. They met in 2008 during Pierre's service on the steering committee for McDonogh Network.

“The five-year experience has been invaluable,” says Pierre. “John is a savvy business executive with an incredible network. I enjoy John's even temperament, upbeat personality, honest opinions, and uncanny dedication to diversity and paying it forward.”

Like his mentor, Pierre gives to others because others gave to him. “I chose Lafayette College upon attending Prologue in winter 2001 after listening to an amazing speech given by **Landon Adams '02**—in addition to the scholarship and grant package.”

He's in his second year as president of the New York City Alumni Chapter. “I wanted to give back to my alma mater and to improve the caliber and diversity of events in NYC for our alumni.”

He also frequently returns to campus to share his experiences. In 2012, he spoke to a group of students about networking effectively. In 2010, he delivered the keynote speech during a luncheon for visiting applicants and their families.

“I love connecting like-minded individuals, I love adding value to other people, and also it's something I'm passionate about,” he says.

Given his success, it's ironic that at one time Pierre was adamant about not becoming a recruiter. He started his career at M&T Bank, where he entered a competitive training program in commercial real estate finance. But



Nkrumah Pierre '06 spoke on the art of networking at the Catalyst Network Foundation Summer Intensive for high school students at Long Island University, Brooklyn, N.Y.



Nkrumah Pierre '06 (third from left) with relatives at a family wedding.

when the recession hit in 2008, he left with a severance package and no idea what his next move would be.

“A friend from Lafayette called and said, ‘Would you be interested in working for a recruiting firm?’ I said, ‘Absolutely not! I went to Lafayette for finance!’ I was myopic: I was this unemployed person trying to tell an employed person what I needed to do. But he was tenacious, and he called me back and convinced me. Recruiters are tenacious and resourceful.”

Pierre wound up at The ExecuSearch Group, a recruiter specializing in accounting firms, hedge funds, and private equity funds. Then he moved on to the Solomon Page Group, where he worked primarily in the finance and operations division.

Resilience is one of Pierre's assets. In his second week at Russell Tobin, he and three colleagues were slated to represent the firm at a national conference in Denver, scheduled for the end of October 2012—when Hurricane Sandy hit. Pierre was able to fly out but his colleagues were grounded. He singlehandedly maintained the show booth and pressed the flesh with nearly 6,000 people.

“I was shivering in my shoes,” Pierre says. “I had to represent this company that I had only known for two weeks. I called my boss and he said, ‘Take a breath. You know what I'd do if I were in your situation? I'd go to a Broncos game.’ So I went there, had the time of my life, and met a potential client. The next morning I manned the booth for seven hours. I was supposed to go back Tuesday or Wednesday, but because flights were canceled I couldn't go back until Friday. And I did, with a multimillion-dollar contract.”

In his work and life, Pierre seems to embody the Ralph Waldo Emerson quotation that he often cites in speeches: “Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” ♦



## FASHIONING A LIFE

Design entrepreneur Terese Brown '07 fuses her talents in art and business.

By Sharon Sanders

**ELEGANT, YET EDGY**, creations by **Terese Brown '07** are drawing national attention. Owner and creative director of Philadelphia-based Terese Sydonna Contemporary Women's Design, she was a finalist for *Project Runway* seasons 10 and 11, a semi-finalist for NBC's *Fashion Star* season two, and was recently included in the *Philadelphia Magazine* "Fashion Project."

"The greatest reward is starting this business from scratch, creating something with my own two hands," says Brown, an economics & business and honors art graduate. Her contemporary special occasion clothing line is marketed to women of all ages. "My dream is having the Terese Sydonna name become a lifestyle brand, carried in boutiques and specialty department stores throughout the world."

While attending Fashion Institute of Technology, where she earned an associate of applied science degree in 2010, a friend commissioned Brown to design an ensemble, which she wore to an awards show. "Women saw the pieces and began asking who Terese Sydonna was," Brown recalls. "Suddenly I was designing for five women, and before long I had a regular network of women who supported my business." In 2011, Brown launched her first Terese Sydonna collection featuring couture and ready-to-wear pieces.

At Lafayette, Brown was president of Association of Black Collegians, volunteered with Landis Center Adopt-a-Student tutoring program, and coordinated two fashion shows. "I learned the importance of leadership, teamwork, listening, and inspiring others to reach their full potential." She continues to mentor young fashion students through her work with McDonogh Network

and High School of Fashion Industries and recently included Lafayette students in a fashion show for a video about her work. She is shown above with **Liang Ren '17** (L-R), **Jennifer Schroeder '15**, **Kristina Beaudouin '16**, **Gates Lawler '17**, and **Glynnis Lawler '17**.

"It's important to give back my knowledge and experience to students," she says.

Brown manages an online retail operation ([www.teresesydonna.com](http://www.teresesydonna.com)) and receives orders for custom pieces through social media. She plans to place her ready-to-wear line in selected boutiques this fall.

"My major in economics and business has been so valuable," says Brown. "I cannot stress that enough when I speak to college students. It's not always the most creative company that's the most successful. It's about being the smartest, recognizing trends, knowing when to roll out items, and when to scale back."

Brown interned at Lehman Brothers and Goldman Sachs with a goal to work on Wall Street someday. "It was not for me. I wasn't passionate enough about it to go through all that stress and pressure. If I'm going to work 15 hours a day, never seeing the sun, I better make sure I'm passionate about what I'm doing."

She credits **Gladstone Hutchinson**, associate professor of economics, for recommending a semester abroad that changed the direction of her career goal. She interned in London in the merchandising department of global retailer French Connection. "The experience really solidified my interest in working with fashion." She also values the mentorship of **Rose Marie Bukics**, Jones Professor of Economics, with whom she stays in touch. ♦



Kimberly Walkera

Buffie Longmire-Avital '02 (center) talks with Demarius Hunt and Victoria Bell, Elon University students.

# HEALTHY ATTITUDE

Buffie Longmire-Avital '02 explores factors affecting wellness in minorities.

By Benjamin Gleisser

**B**lack women make up 13 percent of the population of women in the United States, but when it comes to new HIV infection cases, says **Buffie Longmire-Avital '02**, “they account for about 66 percent of all women who contract HIV.”

Longmire-Avital, assistant professor of psychology at Elon University, is conducting a research study on why so many young black women are contracting HIV/AIDS. She was shocked by the statistic that 1 in 33 black women is likely to be infected by HIV at some point in her lifetime.

She believes that if she can determine why some women believe they are not at risk for contracting the disease, then she will be able to help prevent its spread in that segment of the population.

The work is important, she says, because previous studies only examined behaviors in high-risk groups often associated with the spread of HIV, such as intravenous drug users, sex workers, and the impoverished. Longmire-Avital's research looks at seemingly lower-risk groups—college-educated and upwardly mobile young adults—who believe they don't have a high risk for contracting the disease because they don't engage in the highest-risk behavior.

After surveying hundreds of black women, Longmire-Avital has found that “women don't want to say, ‘show me your health test,’ when in a non-serious relationship because they're afraid of insinuating that their partner socializes with high-risk individuals.” They may use condoms, but they will not know the HIV status of their partner. “That means they are still taking a risk,” she says.

A psychology graduate, Longmire-Avital earned her doctorate in psychological development from Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development at New York University. She credits **Matthew McGlone**, former associate professor of psychology, with teaching her that numbers made research come alive. As an EXCEL Scholar during her senior year, she assisted McGlone on a project that examined the impact of stereotypes on the academic performance of different genders and ethnic groups.

She received the Leroy D. Nunery Award for Intellectual Citizenship, which honors a student whose scholarship advances knowledge on important social, political, or economic issues in a multicultural community.

After graduate school, she worked at the National Development Research Institute and Center for HIV/

AIDS Educational Studies and Training before joining the faculty at Elon in 2010.

Longmire-Avital also investigates the effect of stress on black Americans. This involves teaching meditation and other stress-reducing techniques to help black youths process and eliminate societal pressures so they can live healthier lives.

Longmire-Avital's article on how religious faith affects lesbian, gay, and bisexual black young adults appeared in the December 2012 issue of *Developmental Psychology*. Her co-author was Ja'Nina Walker, assistant professor, University of San Francisco. For another study, she served as a statistical methodologist examining how using software on hand-held devices could educate intravenous drug users about the importance of getting an HIV test. The project was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

## Early Interest in Science

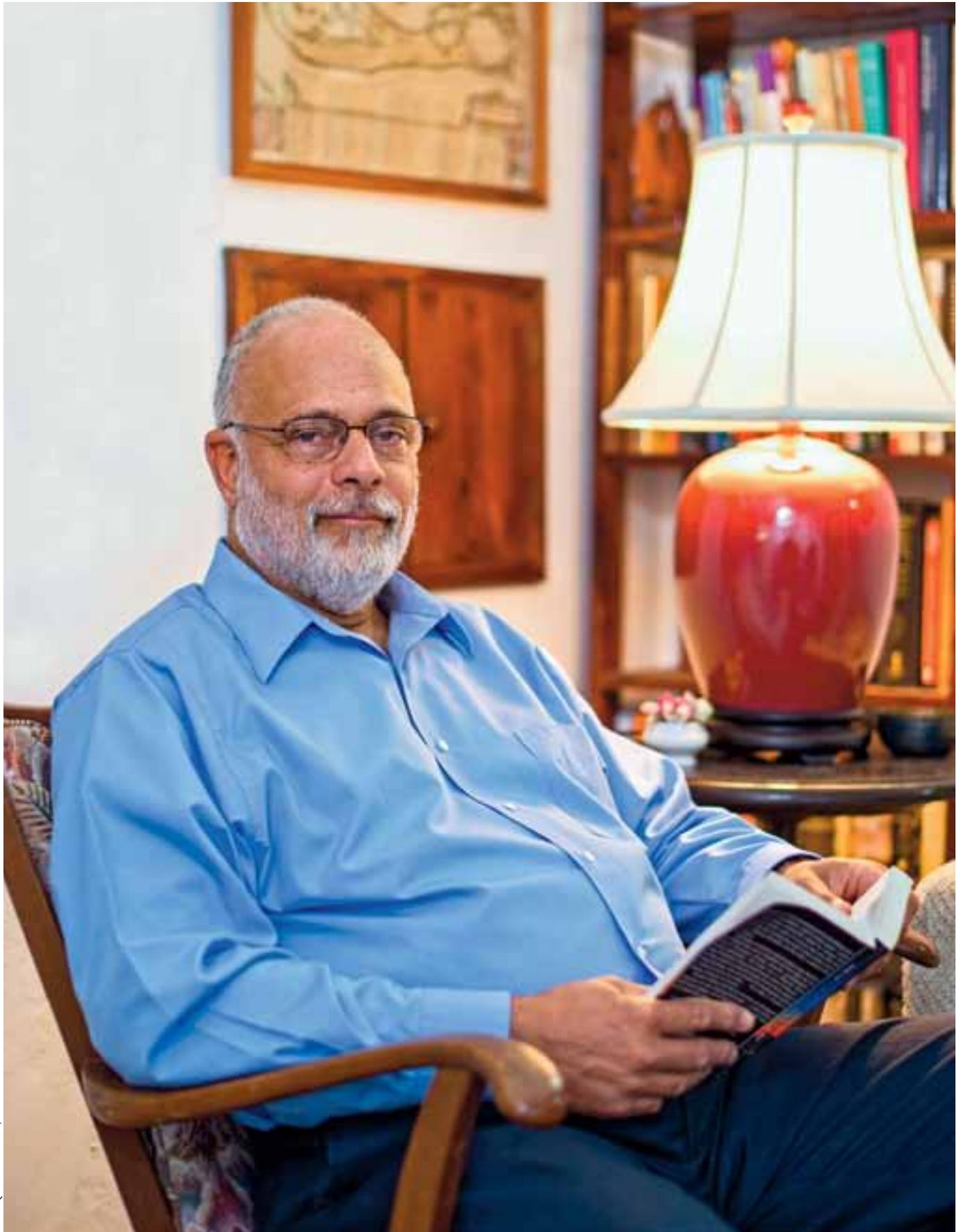
“I knew early on I was going to be a scientist,” she says. “I liked to see how things came together and was always leaving experiments in the refrigerator. Our family was fairly poor but my mother was a champion of education and found a way to buy a microscope for me.”

In junior high school, her goal was to become a brain surgeon, but one day in the library, she discovered books by Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung. “While everyone else was growing mold on bread for their eighth grade science project, I was examining how different types of music affected people's moods,” she says. “I was a nerdy kid, and I wore it as a badge of honor.”

Early in her undergraduate career, she briefly considered becoming an art therapist. **Curlee Raven Holton**, Roth Professor of Art and director of Experimental Printmaking Institute, encouraged Longmire-Avital's artistic side. Her photographic exhibit, “Every Black Woman Owns an Umbrella”—a study of how black women relate to their hair—was showcased at Portlock Black Cultural Center.

“Dr. Holton offered unconditional support and understood what it was to be a student of color,” Longmire-Avital says. “By allowing me to explore my artistic side, he reminded me that it was important to have balance in my life. And he offered me many words of wisdom.”

She practices balancing skills daily with her husband, Nadav Avital, an elementary school teacher, and two sons, Micah, 4, and Noam, 1. ♦



Two + Quarter Studios, Bermuda

# AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Former chief medical officer John W. Cann '70 made Bermuda a healthier place.

By Maureen Jenkins

**T**hroughout his illustrious medical career, Dr. **John W. Cann '70** deftly used the power of shared vision, teamwork, and personal passion to shape public health policy and practice in Bermuda.

Born and raised on the Atlantic island, he returned there to practice medicine. And for nearly 30 years, Cann did it at the highest levels, rising through the ranks and becoming the chief medical officer for Bermuda's Ministry of Health and Family Services. He managed the delivery of public health services across this self-governing British territory and monitored the community's health. That's no small feat—even on this tranquil island of 65,000, which boasts one of the highest population densities in the world.

"In public health, you've always got to work as a team, to collaborate," says Cann, whose Lafayette mentors included **Robert S. Chase Jr.**, Dana Professor Emeritus of Biology, and **Louis T. Stableford**, the late professor emeritus of biology.

"The experiences at Lafayette helped me develop the skills to be a collaborative team player. It's valuable training. The biggest challenge is having a vision and then figuring out, 'How the heck do you get others to buy into it?' The challenge for me was moving from the old-school method of medicine to prevention. To get people to work in teams, convince the policy-makers, and find the resources we needed to do public health well."

## Healthy Practices Rise

During his tenure, Cann supervised implementation of AIDS awareness and public education campaigns, as well as patient access to treatment, medications, and

support services that resulted in a 40-percent decline in the incidence of AIDS from 1997 to 2009, according to *Health in Review: An International Comparative Analysis of Bermuda Health System Indicators*, 2011.

Tobacco use also fell under Cann's leadership, when awareness and public education programs were put into place, and the nation banned smoking in enclosed public locations. The number of smokers ages 18 and over decreased from 17 percent in 1999 to 10 percent in 2008. The percentage of Bermudian adults who have never smoked rose to 62 percent in 2006, an 18-percent increase over seven years.

Working with public health counterparts in the Caribbean, he teamed up to introduce standard care for hypertension and diabetes. And, in conjunction with a public health nutritionist, he worked to improve school nutrition in Bermuda through a comprehensive medical program designed to "get students to take responsibility for their health." Coordinators visit the island's schools to encourage exercise and share information; 5- and 15-year-olds take health assessments. Institutions that perform well earn "Healthy Schools" awards.

"It's been a slow process," says Cann. "But, we find that when people take ownership, they are more involved. The experience of looking at other projects done in other countries and then changing them to suit our content" has been invaluable.

Although tourism is Bermuda's leading industry and thousands of international companies are registered there, the island known for its pink sand beaches and British-infused elegance retains many traditional ways. Implementing a progressive approach to medicine sometimes proved a challenge for Cann.

"You really rely on integrating your experiences in different places," says Cann, whose mother hailed from New Jersey. "I came from America to a [health] system that's a mixture of British, Canadian, and Caribbean. I faced the challenge of a public health service that was still focused on the curative, medical approach as opposed to a public health focus."

Cann's role often required deft negotiation when it came to health policy development and legislative proposals. He identified relevant stakeholders, consulting them and soliciting their support for legislation—and then helped draft instructions for Bermuda's Pharmacy Act and Medical Practitioners Act, among others.

Cann looks back to his days at Lafayette in preparing him for this skilled diplomacy, saying "the interaction with other students" was just as important as academics. It was during this time that the Association of Black Collegians was founded to help improve the quality of the Lafayette experience for African American students at the College. Cann worked with the College administration, served on the group's Admissions Committee, and helped facilitate access to tutoring for students who requested help.

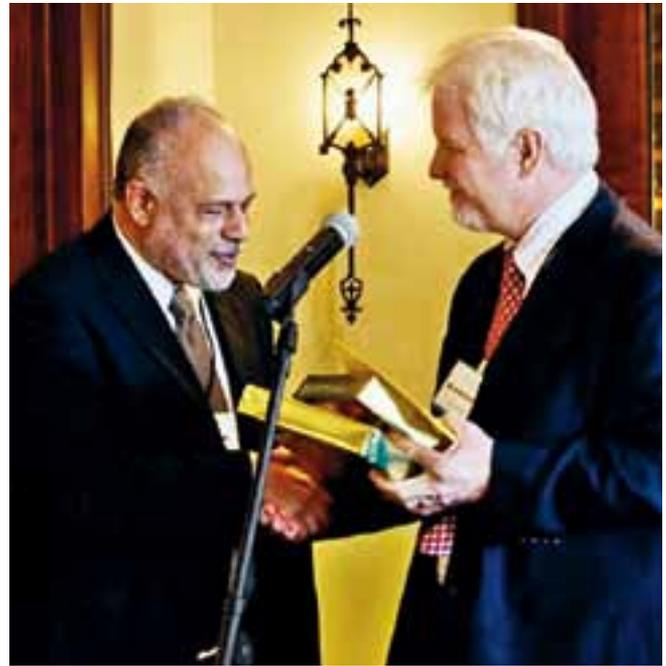
## Legacy of Service

Born into a family that produced two previous generations of doctors, Cann received a university grant from Bermuda that required him to practice medicine on the island. He followed in the footsteps of his father—Dr. Eustace Adolph Cann, a physician and progressive leader who helped effect social and political change in Bermuda during segregation—and earned his medical degree at Howard University in 1974. Cann completed his pediatrics residency at Howard's teaching hospital in Washington, D.C., and earned a master's in public health at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

But it was during his years at Lafayette, a college he'd never visited before attending, that Cann's commitment to public health began to take root. It blossomed in part thanks to his relationship with Chase.

"For me, the philosophy of Dr. Chase represented the good moral values you couldn't help but absorb," says Cann, a biology graduate. "He imparted these values and a sense of doing things the right way. And the College had those same values of equity and fairness."

When Cann arrived on campus in 1966, he was one of a handful of black students. He considered leaving the College after his first semester, but thanks to the "extra



When John Cann '70 (left) retired as chief medical officer of Bermuda in 2011, he was honored at a special ceremony during which Kevin Monkman, permanent secretary for the Ministry of Health, paid tribute to him. "He is held in high regard by his staff and by his peers both here in Bermuda and around the world."

Photo © Bermuda Government Department of Information and Communication (DCI). Used with permission.

attention and care" he received, he began to thrive. He was chosen to lead a student orientation program. And by his senior year, he worked closely with Stableford, chair of the department at the time. "After you declared your major, you really had a lot of exposure to the professors," Cann says. "Lafayette did a lot to help students make it through and graduate."

Passionate about equity health care throughout his career, Cann belonged to several councils and boards—some of which he still serves—including Bermuda Health Council, Bermuda Cancer and Health Association, and Bermuda Hospitals Board. "Public health deals with the health of the entire public. It's not medical care for the indigent—it's health prevention, wellness for everyone."

After a storied career in public service, Cann retired from the Ministry of Health in December 2011. The year after retirement, he served as chair of the Bermuda Health Council, where he stayed involved in policy development and shared his expertise on various health-related initiatives and proposals. He also served on the Council's steering committee, which oversaw development of a National Health Plan.

American writer and humorist Mark Twain once said, "Sometimes a dose of Bermuda is just what the doctor ordered." Now, this Bermudian medical legend is following his own orders to enjoy retirement and rest. ♦

# ENGINEERING PIONEER

The vision and leadership of Eugene DeLoatch '59 has increased the ranks of African Americans in the engineering profession.

By Kevin Gray

**IN 1959**, less than half of 1 percent of engineers in the United States was African American. Today, that figure is 5 percent due in large part to the life's work of **Eugene DeLoatch '59**, founding dean of Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. School of Engineering, Morgan State University, Baltimore.

"He is an iconic leader in engineering education who has made an indelible impact on our field," says Keith Moo-Young, a Morgan State graduate who is now chancellor of Washington State University's Tri-Cities campus. "On a national level, Gene has changed the conversation about the importance of high-quality engineering education and the need for diversity in the engineering education arena."

DeLoatch, who received an honorary degree from Lafayette in 1988, was honored recently by Career Communications Group for his more than 50-year contribution to the engineering profession. He has overseen the training of more than 2,000 African American engineering students since the first class of nine graduates in 1988. Career Communications produces *Black Engineer Magazine*, *Hispanic Engineer Magazine*, and sponsors the Black Engineer of the Year Awards, cofounded in 1986 by DeLoatch.

DeLoatch, who holds a master's degree in electrical engineering and a Ph.D. in bioengineering from Polytechnic Institute of New York University, is chair of the Council of Engineering Deans of the Historically Black College and Universities and previously served as secretary of the board of directors, Technology and Economic Development Corporation of Maryland.

A high school teacher encouraged DeLoatch to consider becoming an engineer, based on his ability in math and science. "With some fortune, I met the track coach from Tougaloo College in my senior year, told him of my desire to go to school and that I wanted to study engineering."

The coach told DeLoatch about a program between Lafayette and Tougaloo in which he would spend three



years at Tougaloo, majoring in a math- and science-related area, and then two years at Lafayette studying engineering.

"I was awarded an academic-athletic scholarship for three years from Tougaloo, and an academic scholarship for two years from Lafayette," says DeLoatch, who joined the Leopard cross country and track teams in his second year, and was Middle Atlantic Conference half-mile champion in 1959.

DeLoatch, who received degrees in electrical engineering and in mathematics, says, "We had all the requirements of engineering, but also the social sciences and

humanities... it was a foundation from which I could build the rest of my professional career."

After graduation, DeLoatch briefly worked for an engineering firm in Binghamton, N.Y. But what he had observed on campus and in the professional world—the dearth of African American engineers—began to gnaw at him. He set out to promote engineering to African Americans by accepting a position as professor of electrical engineering at Howard University. He served 24 years there, including the final 9 as department chair, and established the graduate program in electrical engineering.

He planned to take a sabbatical year in 1984 and then return to teaching. Morgan State asked him to help start an engineering school, which led to a 30-year career there.

DeLoatch's influence at Morgan State was immediate and strong. Moo-Young recalls being interested as a high school student in the renowned engineering programs at Georgia Tech and University of Pittsburgh. He met with DeLoatch to discuss the program at Morgan State.

Moo-Young says: "As a result of that meeting, seven members of my family graduated with engineering degrees from Morgan State. He had a personal relationship with every student."

DeLoatch was the first African American to serve as president of the 12,000-member American Society of Engineering Education, 2002-03. ♦



## ART WITH IMPACT

Internationally recognized Maya Freelon Asante '05 explores mystery and watery impressions through a variety of media.

By Mindy Pantiel

In April 2013 **Maya Freelon Asante '05** stepped onto a balcony in the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower in Baltimore and showered passersby with hundreds of pieces of brightly colored, water-stained tissue paper in all shapes and sizes. The performance piece, titled *Scattered to the Wind*, was meant to highlight both the fragility and strength of art.

“The art I’m creating now is about the beauty of the now, like a petal blooming,” says the multi-media artist

who was recently included in *Huffington Post*’s “Black Artists: 30 Contemporary Art Makers Under 40 You Should Know.”

Poet Maya Angelou, Asante’s namesake, describes the artist’s work as “visualizing the truth about the vulnerability and power of the human being.” The *International Review of African American Art* calls her tissue paper works a “vibrant, beating assemblage of color.”

Asante, an art graduate, has exhibited at the Reginald Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture, Baltimore; Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture, Duke University, Durham, N.C.; Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Boston; other American venues; and internationally in Paris and Ghana.

### Creative Roots

“I come from a family of artists and have always been encouraged to follow my passion,” says Asante. Her father is acclaimed architect Philip Freelon, who co-designed the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and her mother, Nnenna Freelon, is a six-time Grammy-nominated jazz artist. Allan Randall Freelon (1895-1960), cited in history books as a “pioneer African American impressionist,” is her great-grandfather.

She is currently collaborating on a theatrical production, *The Clothesline Muse*, with her mother and mother-in-law, choreographer Kariamuwelsh. The production will premiere March 14-15 at Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia.

It was in the basement of her grandmother, Queen Mother Frances J. Pierce, that Asante’s artistic passion crystallized one day in 2005 when she spied a stack of water-stained tissue paper. “Natural watermarks are my muse,” says Asante. “Signs that water was once there is something we humans relate to . . . from a dried creek bed, to a flood mark, to the ring around the tub. My favorites are those that no one else recognizes as art like the brown paper bag in a window that was once wet or a dried coffee spill on a napkin.”

Her late grandmother was crowned “Queen Mother” by the elders in Ghana and was an active and widely known member of St. Paul A.M.E. Church for more than 30 years. She held a master’s in education from Harvard University and taught elementary education as well as being an activist.

Asante turned her fascination with watermarks into patchwork quilt-esque pieces such as the three-story sculpture at the U.S. Embassy in Madagascar and in a work reminiscent of stained-glass titled *Ubuntu—Take It to the Bridge* for the Corcoran Gallery, Washington D.C. Asante says the word *ubuntu* is a classical African concept that means “I am because we are.” She also has permanent installations in embassies in Italy, Jamaica, and Swaziland.

“The paper itself is very fragile but when you bring the smaller pieces together they get stronger and more

resilient,” she says. “The world needs more peace and love so I try and create artwork that brings emotion and joy.”

Beyond family influences, Asante cites African American female artists who paved the way for her creative journey. “I think it’s important to pay homage to those who came before me and draw strength and power from them,” says Asante who claims inspiration from Elizabeth Catlett, Faith Ringgold, and Beverly McIver.

Her grandfather, Allan Freelon, encouraged her to apply to Lafayette where she happily felt as if she were in a fast-paced New York art school. She credits **Curlee Raven Holton**, Roth Professor of Art and director of the Experimental Printmaking Institute, for creating that atmosphere. “I knew I had his support and he not only prepared me for graduate school, he drove and pushed me so I’d be prepared for the work world.” She has an MFA from School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Other mentors are **Lew Minter**, retired director of the art department’s media lab, and **Edward J. Kerns**, Clapp Professor of Art, who she says got her into the mindset of a working artist. “I’m a mixed media artist so I took classes in everything from printmaking to working with clay,” she says.

### Looking Ahead

As an undergrad, Asante received the Riley K. Temple ’71 Creative/Artistic Citizenship Award, was a Marquis Scholar, participated in an internship in Boston, and studied at the American University in Paris. Prior to heading to France she met **MK Asante ’04** and the duo carried on an intensive email correspondence. He shared insights about his experiences living as an African American in London during his junior year study abroad. He also sent her poetry. Ultimately, he followed her to Paris where their relationship flourished. “It really was the quintessential love story,” says Maya.

M.K.’s latest book, *Buck: A Memoir*, is a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Pick and was included in the *Los Angeles Times* “Summer Reading Guide.” In addition to being a bestselling author, he is an award-winning filmmaker, hip-hop artist, professor, and recipient of the Langston Hughes Award.

Asante taught at Towson University and Morgan State University, then received a two-year grant for a free studio at Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower, which she currently shares with her husband.

The couple splits their time, with their son Aion, 2, between their primary residence in Durham, N.C., and Baltimore. ♦

## Broadway Play Features Hap Hairston '71

**UNLIKE STAR REPORTERS**, newspaper editors toil behind the scenes, rarely commanding the spotlight. But for **James “Hap” Hairston '71** stardom arrived 11 years after his passing. His life and work were portrayed in the late Nora Ephron’s final work, *Lucky Guy*, produced on Broadway last year starring Tom Hanks as tabloid columnist Mike McAlary.

As editor of *The New York Daily News*, Hairston guided McAlary on the Abner Louima police brutality story that captured a Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1998. Courtney B. Vance, who portrayed Hairston, won a Tony Award for best featured actor. Hairston captured two additional Pulitzer Prizes during his career.

An American Civilization graduate, Hairston is remembered by his classmate **Riley K. Temple '71**, trustee emeritus: “He was quick, witty, and had a wicked twinkle in his eye. Quite puckish, he was.”

Hairston was editor of a literary magazine at Lafayette called *The Black Voice*, created during a time of campus activism that included the Black Manifesto issued in fall 1969 by the Association of Black Collegians.

Launching his journalism career as an intern at Easton’s *The Express*, Hairston moved up to become a



Hap Hairston '71 (center) talks with David Portlock, assistant dean of students, during a meeting in spring 1969, along with fellow students Gerald Gill '70 (L-R), John Cann '70, Garry Moorer '71, Charles Gordon III '69, and Hubert Clemmons '70.

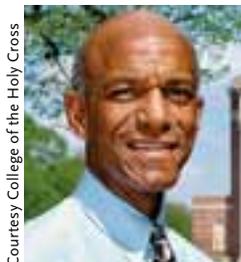
Courtesy Skillman Library Archives

reporter, assistant news editor, and city editor—the first African American news executive in the paper’s history.

Advancing his career eastward and upward at the *Bergen Record* (N.J.) and *The New York Daily News*, Hairston guided many reporters and played a key role in the tabloid newspaper wars of the 1980s portrayed in *Lucky Guy*. He oversaw the city desk when *Long Island Newsday* launched its New York edition.

Hairston died Dec. 21, 2002, in his hometown of Pittsburgh, where he was caring for his ailing mother, Ruth. ♦

## Remembering Earl Peace '66



Courtesy College of the Holy Cross

**G. EARL PEACE JR. '66**, the first African American member of the College faculty to hold a full-time appointment and receive tenure, died July 24, 2013.

“Earl Peace was one of those professors who made me want to be a professor, too. He was kind and brilliant, encouraging

and rigorous. He had a passion for his field and an equal dedication to supporting students,” says **Mary Armstrong**, associate professor and chair of women’s and gender studies, who took two chemistry courses with him as a student at Holy Cross.

“When I caught up with Earl at the Lafayette–Holy Cross football game in 2012, we agreed we enjoyed cheering for every student out on the field. And that’s

sort of how he was: he cheered everyone on, and he loved doing it. He will certainly be missed.”

A chemistry graduate, Peace earned a master’s and Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He was a member of Lafayette’s chemistry faculty from 1971 to 1979. “I remember him as an excellent classroom teacher and student adviser here,” says **Joseph A. Sherma Jr.**, Larkin Professor Emeritus of Chemistry.

Peace, associate professor emeritus of chemistry and former class dean at Holy Cross, was a member of the chemistry department from 1979 to 1992 and dean from 2001 to 2009. From 2009 until his retirement in 2011, he served as visiting associate professor and director of the Natural World cluster for Montserrat, a comprehensive program for all first-year students.

From 1992 to 2001, Peace was academic planner for University of Wisconsin-Madison. ♦

## Ian Smith Transforms World's View of *Othello*

The enduring legacy of Shakespeare's canon is that each reading yields new discoveries such as the one made by **Ian Smith**, professor of English, which he describes in "Othello's Black Handkerchief" in the spring 2013 *Shakespeare Quarterly*.

Smith challenges the status quo assumption that the handkerchief given by Othello to Desdemona in *Othello* is white, contending that textual clues in the play indicate that it is black.

"Among critics, the handkerchief has been regarded as a unifying motif for the dramatic action," says Smith. "Thus changing or challenging our commonly held perceptions about this most famous of all early modern stage properties requires some intellectual adjustment on the part of readers and, hopefully, audiences."

Smith gave a lecture on his findings in the Gendebien Room, Skillman Library. The artist's book, *Othello Re-imagined in Sepia*, a collaboration with **Curlee Holton**, professor of art, was on view. The series depicts *Othello* in the context of contemporary issues of race.



Chuck Zovko

Ian Smith discusses the prints with Axel Calmet '14 (left) and Valerie Acheampong '15.

Smith focuses on Othello's description of the handkerchief as "dyed in mummy," arguing that "mummy" is a black substance associated with Africa—especially Egypt—and early modern medicine. The handkerchief's black textile becomes identified with Othello's body, recalling the early modern stage practice of actors wearing black cloth to mimic black skin when portraying Africans.

Beyond determining the handkerchief's true color, the long-held belief that it is

white speaks to how cultural conditioning and education have shaped reading practices.

Viewing the play in the context of a white handkerchief may be a subconscious decision, but it is not an entirely innocent one, says Smith. The white handkerchief orients reader interest toward Desdemona, Othello's Venetian (and white) wife. The black handkerchief reaffirms the play's interest in the character Othello while forcing readers to question the implications of this alternate reading.

## Thinking Differently about Diversity



"Our Beloved Community," Lafayette's second annual symposium on diversity and inclusiveness, included presentations by faculty followed by discussions about social justice. Students, faculty, administrators, and 60 prospective students attended the event held in November in Kirby Hall of Civil Rights. For more, go to [www.lafayette.edu](http://www.lafayette.edu).

## Boateng '16 Combines Biology and Computer Science in Cancer Research

Over the summer, **Kofi Boateng '16** conducted interdisciplinary research on how the protein MYD88 affects tumor growth with **Robert Kurt**, associate professor of biology, **Chun Wai Liew**, associate professor of computer science, and **Tiffany Phuong '16**.

“MYD88 is involved in cell signaling and is important for successful inflammatory responses,” Kurt says. “Kofi and Tiffany are studying its role in tumor cells, which may help us understand how inflammation can contribute to cancer progression or to make tumors regress.”

Boateng, a neuroscience major, is among the first five Interdisciplinary Research Fellows chosen in the new Science Horizons program funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He and Phuong isolated the protein and created a computer model to make predictions about how it affects cancer.

“Growing up, I wanted to do



Chuck Zovko

Robert Kurt (L-R), Tiffany Phuong '16, Kofi Boateng '16, and Chun Wai Liew review their work.

something to help my family’s circumstances,” says Boateng, who moved to the Bronx from Ghana when he was young. “My goal is to return to Ghana and create an establishment—maybe a school or a hospital—that will help people.”

With plans to go to medical school, he would like to be a pediatric surgeon or a cardiologist.

“I have become more confident in my abilities to ask questions, accept challenges, and not feel intimidated by things that I don’t understand.”

## Oyefeso '15 and Butler '14 Work with Visiting Artist



Ken White

Damilare Oyefeso '15 (left), government and law major, and Justin Butler '14 (above), film and media studies major, presented their work for review by international photographer Anne Arden McDonald during spring semester. A Third Street Artist-in-Residence, McDonald worked with students in the Photography III class taught by Karina Skvirsky, assistant professor of art.

## Black Collegians' History Unveiled in New Exhibit

The tumultuous period of social change in the 1960s and 1970s was reflected on Lafayette's campus in a number of ways, one of which was the founding of Association of Black Collegians in 1968, representing the 40 black students enrolled at the time.

The exhibit, "Association of Black Collegians: 1969-1979," is on display in the EPI/Riley Temple Gallery of Portlock Black Cultural Center. The opening featured a panel discussion (right) including **Robert Young '14**, **Larry Lennon '71**, a founding member of ABC, and **Diane Shaw**, College archivist and director of special collections.

Young, who curated the exhibit along with **John McKnight**, dean of intercultural development, selected materials from research he conducted over the summer in the College archives.



Chuck Zovko

"I wanted to share this important history with all of the campus," says Young. "Especially at this historic moment—when we had the most students of color ever in the incoming class."

The exhibit includes photographs, excerpts from publications and newspaper articles, as well as the "Black Manifesto" presented to the trustees in 1969.

## Senior Celebration



Chuck Zovko

The annual meeting of McDonogh Network and senior celebration was held April 20 in the Marlo Room, Farinon College Center. Senior members of the Association of Black Collegians were recognized: **Stephanie Silva '13** (front row, L-R) **Larissa Walcott '13**, **Kristian Smith '13**; and **Charnelle Pinkett '13** (back row, L-R), **Glenford Robinson '13**, **Tristan Thompson '13**, **Autumn Green '13**, **Natasha Gordon '13**, **Jiselle Peralta '13**. The event was sponsored by the Alumni Association and the McDonogh Network Steering Committee.

## Ross Gay '96: Thoughts on Mercy

Master poet and organic orchardist **Ross Gay '96** is the author of an essay, "Some Thoughts on Mercy," which appeared in *The Sun* (July 2013).

Through stories about his experiences of being pulled over by policemen, viewed circumspectly while shopping, called derogatory names, he contemplates what this has done to his own being as well as to all of our imaginations leading us "to treat others in a way that we don't really want to do." His thoughts begin while working with a new hive of bees, and the revelations arise through an astounding experience with them. Read his essay: [http://thesunmagazine.org/issues/451/some\\_thoughts\\_on\\_mercy](http://thesunmagazine.org/issues/451/some_thoughts_on_mercy).

Assistant professor of English and associate director of creative writing at Indiana University-Bloomington, Gay was recently awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and is at work on a book about African American farming.

## New Exhibit Feature's Lafayette's First African American Students

In addition to **David McDonogh, Class of 1844**, Lafayette's first African American graduate, and **Washington McDonogh, Class of 1842**, who left for Liberia in 1842, eight other African Americans matriculated at Lafayette between 1832 and 1846. It was to be another 100 years before another black student was admitted.

The stories of these students—listed below with the years that they attended Lafayette—are told in the *Tales of Our Brothers: The Journey of David and Washington McDonogh* exhibit, which opened in Pardee Hall on Homecoming weekend and will be on display through 2014.

**Robert Young '14**, a film & media studies and women's & gender studies double major, teamed with **Diane Shaw**, director of special collections and College archivist, to curate and create the exhibit, on the 170th anniversary of David McDonogh's graduation.

Young hoped to house the display in Pardee Hall rather than Portlock Black Cultural Center, because "it's not African American history; it's Lafayette history."

### **Aaron O. Hoff (1832-33)**

A free black, he was a member of Lafayette's first class of students. In 1831, he enrolled at Pennsylvania Manual Labor Academy in Germantown, Pa., which was brought to Easton in 1832 to form Lafayette. He blew a horn to mark the rising and recitation hours for students. In 2002, Lafayette students commissioned a formal marker for his grave in Easton Cemetery.

### **Ephraim Titler (1836)**

A Liberian colonist, he spent six months at Lafayette in theological study with President **George Junkin**. Ordained by the Philadelphia Presbytery, Titler returned to Liberia to serve as a missionary to the Bassa people. Stationed at Bolee (later Green) near Bassa Cove, he was one of 12 delegates to the 1847 Constitutional Convention in Monrovia and signed the Liberian Declaration of Independence and the constitution of the Republic of Liberia.

### **Thomas McDonogh Durnford (1840-46)**

A free man, he was the son of Andrew Durnford, a mixed-race free black planter and associate of John McDonogh and Charlotte Remy, a free woman of color. Lafayette's second black graduate, he spoke at commencement. He pursued medical studies in New York City and established a practice in New Orleans, also maintaining a part-time residence in Paris.

### **Abraham Miller (1840-41)**

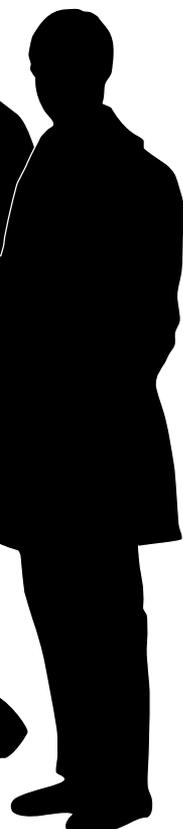
An African prince, he studied at Presbyterian Green mission school near Bassa Cove in Liberia until it closed about 1839. The previous year he had been made king of a small tribe of the Bassa people. He accompanied missionaries back to the United States and enrolled at Lafayette. He then returned to Liberia, destined for the town of Settra Kroo and service to the Kroo (Krumen) people.

### **Thomas Wilson (1841-42)**

A free man and teacher at a black school in Trenton, N.J., he volunteered to teach in Liberia through the American Colonization Society. He spent a year at Lafayette being educated for missionary work. President **John Yeomans**, who knew and thought highly of Wilson, sponsored his ordination by the Newton Presbytery. In 1843 Wilson went to Sinoe in the Mississippi colony near Settra Kroo and opened a school for colonists' children and one for native children in Fishtown.



Illustrations from the exhibit by Heather Reinert



**Bazel N. Goines (1843-44)**

In 1843, faculty agreed to admit “three colored persons” sent by Presbyterian Board of Education to train for the ministry—Goines, Jonathan Gibbs, and John Wilson. David McDonogh offered insight into their departure in 1844: “Those colored young men, who have been in this college one year, are now leaving us; they contend for equal right; but they cannot get it; therefore they will not stay here.”

**Jonathan Clarkson Gibbs (1843-44)**

Born free in Philadelphia in 1821, he enrolled in a special course at Lafayette and went on to become Dartmouth’s third black graduate in 1852. He enrolled in Princeton Theological Seminary in 1853 and, though he did not graduate, was ordained in 1856. He became involved in abolitionist and underground-railroad activities in New York and Philadelphia, working with Frederick Douglass. He opened a private school and became involved with politics in Reconstruction Florida. In 1868 he was one of 18 African Americans elected to the state constitutional convention. He served as Florida’s secretary of state (1868-72).

**John F. Wilson (1843-44)**

He is listed in the 1891 publication *The Men of Lafayette* as being from Philadelphia with the profession of “sailor,” noting that he travelled between San Francisco and China.



## Tucker '14 Conducts Cancer Research



Chuck Zovko

Cancer research allows **Kyle Tucker '14** to explore multiple fields of science, but it also touches him on a personal level.

“I was 16 years old going into college when I heard that my mother’s breast cancer had returned from remission. It gave me the push I needed to begin my journey in understanding cancer. I’m glad to say I still have my mom and the same passion for cancer research,” says Tucker, a biology major.

His EXCEL Scholar research has been on the functionality of the gene MYD88, relevant in many cancers.

Tucker has worked with **Robert Kurt**, associate professor of biology, and **Brad Antanaitis**, associate professor of physics. Over the summer he worked with Joaquin Espinosa, associate professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology at University of Colorado, Boulder. The experience was funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Tucker is a resident of McKelvy House and designed the T-shirt for the group. He plans to pursue either a Ph.D or an M.D. He is hoping to explore the clinical side of cancer research through Doctors Without Borders or a similar program before making a decision about graduate school.

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