



LAFAYETTE

OPENING  
CONVOCATION

August 16, 2020

2 p.m.

[firstyear.lafayette.edu/convocation](http://firstyear.lafayette.edu/convocation)

# ORDER OF EXERCISES

## PROCESSION

*The bells of South College ring.*

## INVOCATION

## FACULTY WELCOME

## CONVOCATION ADDRESS

## INTRODUCTION TO THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY

## GREETINGS FROM THE EASTON COMMUNITY

## REMARKS FROM THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT

## STUDENT VIDEOS

## FACULTY WELCOME MESSAGES

ALEXANDRA M. HENDRICKSON  
College Chaplain

JAMILA BOOKWALA  
Dean of the Faculty and  
Professor of Psychology

ALISON R. BYERLY  
President of the College

TRACY HAGERT SUTKA '82 P'17  
Alumni Council Vice President

SALVATORE J. PANTO JR.  
Mayor of Easton

MARY ZIMMERMAN '21  
Student Government President

GABRIELLE TROPP '20  
KATHRYN GONICK '20  
SAEED MALAMI '20

## BENEDICTION

## ALMA MATER

Words and music by  
Walter C. Stier 1884

*First sung by the College in 1898,  
the Alma Mater is frequently sung  
at the conclusion of official College  
events and alumni gatherings.*

## CHAPLAIN HENDRICKSON

We'll gather by the twilight's glow  
In front of old Pardee  
In all the world no other scene,  
So fair, so dear to me.  
Oh Lafayette, Oh Lafayette  
To thee our voices raise!  
While loyal lips and loyal hearts  
Unite to sing thy praise.

*Chorus*

We'll gather by the twilight's glow  
In front of old Pardee  
In all the world no other scene,  
So fair, so dear to me.

# LAFAYETTE'S SWORD

One of Lafayette College's most prized artifacts is the sword carried by the Marquis de Lafayette during the first years of the French Revolution. The sword's pommel is a liberty cap, a classical symbol of freedom from oppression that became a major symbol for the French Revolution.

Lafayette played an important role in the early days of the Revolution, serving as commandant of the newly formed militia—the Parisian National Guard. As a constitutional monarchist, Lafayette was targeted by the radical Jacobins in August 1792. Hoping to evade the guillotine by escaping to America via Holland, Lafayette crossed the northern border of France into Belgium and was immediately captured by soldiers of the coalition of Hapsburg Austrians and Prussians who had declared war on France. Lafayette became a political prisoner for the next five years, and all of his possessions were taken from him, including this sword.

When Lafayette was freed by Napoleon's treaty with Austria in 1797, all of his possessions were returned except this sword, which his captors kept as a trophy of war. The sword descended in the family of a Prussian officer until 1932, when a representative of the family, the Baroness Monica von Miltitz, presented the sword to Lafayette College at our Centennial celebration.

## “The Sword of Lafayette”

By H. MacKnight Black 1916

So like a sword,  
So slender, strong, and gay,  
He came—  
Not as a soldier comes,  
Though in his heart was laughter  
And no fear;  
Not as a brother, to the call of blood,  
Nor chevalier, who follows far  
The shout of battle down the wind—  
But as sheer Youth he came,  
Ecstatic, clean and dauntless, sure,  
Youth that forever, down all the days,  
Turns its face eastward,  
Hungry for dawn and restless of living,  
Knowing a secret intimate as heart-beat  
The dream cannot die.

So came young Lafayette—  
For freedom's life, in Youth's bright name,  
He drew his sword.

And when on France the shadow fell  
Then went there back, a million-fold,  
Firm grasped in eager hands—  
The Sword of Lafayette.  
These threw their bodies, like worn cloaks,  
Into the flame,  
And smiling, flashed the steel of youth  
In high, red onslaught of the brave;  
For in their hearts they held  
The secret and the dream, inviolate  
Hungry for dawn, they leapt  
And tore a midnight from the sky;  
And through the break they made  
There shone a moment on the old, grey world  
The gleam that fell on Calvary.

So went there back,  
For freedom's life, in Youth's bright name,  
The Sword of Lafayette.

And now that sword is passed  
To other hands. Now lips may kiss  
Its shining steel, in pledge  
Of Youth's own mysteries;  
To learn, to think, to run with winds,  
To find old truth, new friends and all  
The inborn ecstasy of life that falls  
With evening quiet, on college walls—  
Alive to little things, content and peace,  
Yet stirred by all the splendid quests  
That urge and call the heart of gallant youth—  
To turn, face eastward, toward the dawn  
Where passed that golden host  
Of boys of other days;  
Know agony and vision, hope and high romance,  
And learn at last the secret  
Intimate as the heart-beat  
The dream that cannot die.

So passes on—  
From age to age, in Youth's bright name  
The Sword of Lafayette.



The Daniel Chester French statue of Lafayette was dedicated Nov. 18, 1921. H. MacKnight Black 1916 composed “The Sword of Lafayette” to be read at the ceremony.

Lafayette's sword is a tangible reminder of his service and sacrifice in the great cause of freedom that led our founders to name the College in his honor.

## LAFAYETTE'S MISSION STATEMENT

In an environment that fosters the free exchange of ideas, Lafayette College seeks to nurture the inquiring mind and to integrate intellectual, social, and personal growth. The College strives to develop students' skills of critical thinking, verbal communication, and quantitative reasoning and their capacity for creative endeavor; it encourages students to examine the traditions of their own culture and those of others; to develop systems of values that include an understanding of personal, social, and professional responsibility; and to regard education as an indispensable, lifelong process.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Lafayette's first 43 students arrived at the original site of the College on the south side of Easton after walking the 50 miles from Philadelphia with their belongings on their backs in March of 1832. Classes began that May with 67 students (the original 43, plus 13 others and 11 day students) and two faculty members—one taught math, the other classics. Attendance at the daily 5 a.m. prayers, led by President Junkin, was required. Tuition was \$30 per year, room \$4 per year, and board was \$1.50 each week unless students chose to eat at the "cheap table." In this case, they saved a quarter each week. For the first seven years of its existence, Lafayette College was a manual labor school, which meant that for part of each day students worked in either the agricultural department (gardening, hauling manure, cutting hay, and digging potatoes) or in the mechanical department (making boxes, trunks, and agricultural implements) to make money for the College and to offset their tuition expenses.

After the failure of the manual labor system, the College formalized its ties with the Presbyterian Church hoping for more support; however, the financial viability of the College continued to be shaky, reaching its lowest point during the Civil War, at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg, when attendance dropped to only 19 students. In those early days, the future of the College looked dim indeed. The turning point came just after the war with the magnificent gifts from Hazleton coal baron Ario Pardee, which enabled the establishment of the engineering program and the building of Pardee Hall.

The period just after the Civil War also marked the first instance of organized athletic contests. Lafayette began playing baseball in 1865 against local teams, and in 1869, played its first intercollegiate baseball game against Lehigh—it was a 45 to 45 tie. Football was first played in 1882, with the first Lafayette-Lehigh game in 1884, which Lafayette won 56-0. This was also a period of class rivalry, particularly between freshmen and sophomores, who participated in a number

of organized contests—the "cane rush" and the "banner scrap" were two of the most notable. Upperclassmen had special privileges, such as walking on the grass and wearing white trousers. Seniors were given permission to occupy the seats at the fireplace in Brainerd Hall (now known as Hogg Hall) and were the only ones allowed to sit on the "Senior Fence." One celebrated Lafayette tradition was the "Cremation of Calculus." A tradition at a number of colleges in the 19th century, the Lafayette version involved a special nighttime ceremony at which students burned their hated calculus textbooks. The clandestine ceremony later became public theater, with students presenting the annual "Calculus Play" in the local opera house.

Unlike the Civil War, World Wars I and II produced a tremendous disruption in College activities. In 1917, students began drilling on campus in preparation for the war, using pool cues and broomsticks as proxies for weapons. Class schedules were changed to accommodate students' training. During World War II, the College was home to five wartime training programs. Eighty-nine students and alumni lost their lives in the war. After 1945, College enrollments burgeoned with many veterans taking advantage of the G.I. Bill.

The 1960s brought many changes to the College as well. The Student Council and the Interfraternity Council proposed that the social code be relaxed and that women guests be allowed above the first floor in fraternities and social dorms—although the doors had to remain open (of course!). In 1968, the *Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities* was adopted, affirming that students have the same rights as any other citizen. This statement codified that the College would no longer act *in loco parentis* (in the place of parents), restricting students' freedoms, or, conversely, protecting students who violated the law. Also in 1968, the Association of Black Collegians was founded to represent the approximately 40 black students at Lafayette at that time. The following year they issued their "Black Manifesto," calling for more black students, more black faculty, a black studies program, a house to serve as a black cultural center, and an end to racism on campus.

Students continued to demand changes and used their voices as agents of change during the Vietnam War. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, students demonstrated against compulsory ROTC, the Dow Chemical Co. (manufacturer of napalm), and the U.S. invasion of Cambodia. The most far-reaching social change occurred in 1970, when the first class of women students entered Lafayette. The College welcomed its first woman and first African American to the Board of Trustees in 1970, and on Oct. 4, 2013, Lafayette installed its first female president, Alison Byerly.

# THE 189th CLASS\*

The 618 members of the Class of 2024 represent 31 of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia. 77 of the new first year students are first generation college students. Our 7 transfer students hail from 3 states. The following 28 countries of Citizenship, in addition to the United States, are represented in the class:

Brazil	Ethiopia	Jamaica	South Korea
Burundi	France	Japan	Switzerland
Cambodia	Germany	Kenya	Turkey
Cameroon	Hong Kong S.A.R.	Lebanon	Ukraine
Canada	India	Liberia	United Kingdom
China	Ireland	Pakistan	
Dominican Republic	Israel	Poland	
	Italy	South Africa	