



In this **June 2022** edition of our newsletter, we report some spring semester activities that furthered the Hanson Center's mission to advance inclusive excellence in STEM at Lafayette through (1) support for students and faculty who are minoritized in STEM; (2) promotion of faculty development of inclusive pedagogies, equity-minded interventions, and culturally conscious STEM curricula; and (3) advancement of research and teaching in inclusive STEM Studies.

GUEST SPEAKERS



Dr. Courtney Bonam and Dr. Valerie Jones Taylor
UC Santa Cruz Lehigh University

DEVELOPING RACE SKILLS

March 29 Interactive talk in Colton Chapel
March 30 Anti-Racist Interaction Workshop

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Race Skills

We were thrilled to host Drs. Valerie Jones Taylor (Lehigh) and Courtney Bonam (UC-Santa Cruz) March 29 and 30. These researchers have applied their expertise in social psychology to develop evidence-based methods and strategies for developing “Race Skills” for cross-cultural communication. Their

interactive public presentation filled Colton Chapel with students, faculty, and community members. Attendees described the event as “eye-opening,” and “essential for my future work as an engineer.” Drs. Talor and Bonam also led an anti-racism workshop focused on practical guidance for community members. Read more [here!](#)

Women+ in STEM Week

During April 4-8, 2022, the Hanson Center coordinated several events including a film screening and discussion hosted by math’s Kovalevsky Society, and social events hosted by the Society of Women Engineers and biology’s TriBeta and LEADERS student groups. Among the highlights: a panel discussion with editors and contributors of the new book *Reflections from Pioneering Women in Psychology*, co-edited by Lafayette Dean of Faculty Jamila Bookwla. Panelists included Lafayette Dana Professor Emerita Susan Basow, a contributor to the volume. In a vibrant discussion,

WOMEN+ IN STEM WEEK



Events all week highlighted contributions of women in STEM, and fostered community among Lafayette STEM students. Featuring events hosted by math’s Kovalevsky Society, SWE, TriBeta and LEADERS, & the Hanson Center

APRIL 4-8, 2022
Collaborative Programming

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Bookwala called the book a “manual for thriving” in the sciences.



Minerva Community

We continue to support the dynamic community of women and nonbinary faculty and instructional staff in STEM known as MINERVA. This spring, the group met four times to learn from visiting experts, share experiences, and socialize. We capped the semester off with our first fully in-person gathering in two years, a picnic lunch on the quad.

The Minerva Steering Committee, consisting of Kylie Bailin, Melissa Galloway, Hongxing Liu, and Jenn Rossmann for 21-22, is open to new members! Let us know if you'd like to help choose topics and plan activities together!

Inclusive STEM Studies Spotlight

Several Fall 2022 classes will have an Inclusive STEM Studies theme, highlighting the ways science, technology, and society inform and influence each other, with a particular focus on power and privilege, race, gender, and other dimensions of identity. These classes include :

A&S 226: Race, Racism & Health in US

EGRS 451: Engineering and Society Seminar

FYS 018: Ten Ways to Know Nature

FYS 047: Life Sciences: A Human Endeavor in the Misinformation Age

FYS 068: Mobilizing Science

FYS 075: Technological Citizenship

FYS 087: Sustainable Cities

FYS 141: Mathematics of Social Justice

PSYC 331 Human Factors and Engineering Psychology



Research and Praxis Center

A key aspect of the Hanson Center's work is that we are a research and practice Center, conducting research on ourselves to understand and advance inclusion in STEM. On February 16, we hosted a well-attended presentation by Professors Mary Armstrong and Jenn Rossmann of their award-winning research on the [benefits of WGS STEM Studies coursework for minoritized STEM students](#), fostering discussion of how Lafayette could enable more students to experience those benefits.

This year we were pleased to initiate a number of important efforts on campus to develop and administer research instruments that will help us understand what we're doing well and where we can improve. That work has included partnering with two STEM departments (so far!) to tailor, administer, and interpret data from departmental climate studies that provided insights about the student experience. We appreciate the strong partnership of faculty and students in the two engineering departments who have piloted this work, and look forward to continuing these efforts.



Peer Mentorship Infrastructure

In partnership with the student leaders of the Engineering Student Council, we will support a peer mentoring program for engineering students next fall. The Hanson Center will offer evidence-based workshops for mentors and mentees, and help assess the effectiveness of the program in supporting belonging and inclusion in engineering. We welcome interest from other mentoring initiatives on campus in participating in these or similar efforts!

Additional Hanson Center Activities

This spring we led a faculty Reading Group on bell hooks's *Teaching to Transgress*. After a series of rich, interdisciplinary discussions, we concluded (on the College Hill Tavern patio) with a consideration of how to meaningfully apply bell hooks' theorizing in STEM classrooms and curricula. We hope you'll join us in reading and discussing a new text this fall!

We were pleased to contribute to the Institute for Prospective PUI Faculty organized by Assistant Professor of Chemistry Mike Bertucci and supported by his NSF CAREER award, offering workshops to visiting scientists on Inclusive Teaching Methods and Meaningful Commitments to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

This summer we will host a cohort of incoming students for the Summer Program to Advance Leadership in STEM ([SPAL](#)). We are eager to welcome these outstanding students for a six week experience on campus, for the first time since summer 2019.

And, we're looking forward to the Lehigh Valley Symposium on CRISPR Implementation and Ethics this September 17. We're proud to be among the sponsors of this opportunity for interdisciplinary engagement and discussion.

HANSON CENTER DIRECTOR



DR. WENDY L. HILL
*Rappolt Emeritus Professor of
Neuroscience*

*"Dr. Hill's track record of advancing
inclusion and equity in STEM is impressive
and inspiring"*
— Jenn Rossmann

"Lafayette can be a national leader among liberal arts colleges in advancing inclusive excellence in STEM....we not only can be a consumer of best practices, but, through our own research and efforts, a creator of them as well."

—Wendy Hill

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We are excited to welcome Dr. Wendy Hill as the inaugural full-time Director of the Hanson Center as of July 1, 2022. Read more about Wendy Hill [here!](#) After two years as co-director of the Center, Jenn Rossmann will continue to support the Center's work as a member of the Advisory Committee, and we are delighted to be able to continue to benefit from her counsel.

We're here to consult on programming, pedagogy, assessment of inclusive STEM efforts, or anything else! We're currently partnering with multiple departments on climate surveys to provide a baseline sense of the student experience and sense of belonging in these programs. How can the Hanson Center help **you**? Let's talk.