RAISE UP INCLUSIVE STEM RETREAT

Sponsored by the Hanson Center for Inclusive STEM Education

Saturday, February 15th

-RETREAT PROGRAM-

LAFAYETTE

HANSON CENTER
FOR INCLUSIVE STEM EDUCATION

Retreat Mission

This retreat aims to equip, empower and energize participants for their academic and professional paths in STEM. Join us for interactive sessions and dynamic networking opportunities that will forge your future as we work together to promote a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive STEM community. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend.

Retreat Organizers

Kovalevsky Society
National Society of Black Engineers
Out in STEM
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
Society of Women Engineers
Women in Economics

RAISE Committee

Jason Aguilar Vivaldo, Wanos Bahiru, Jack Dahl, Megan Dursema, Brandon Harding, Rachel Kimball, Nyali Latz-Torres, and Leonora Rodriguez
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wendy Hill

What is RAISE?

RAISE is a coalition of existing student STEM organizations and "at large" members to help harness our shared missions and actions to enhance inclusive STEM education at Lafayette.

Our mission is to...

- ***collaborate on projects across the STEM fields to deepen and expand their impact***
- ***collaborate and share information among the student organizations to increase the effectiveness and influence of their programs***
- ***provide student input and advice on Hanson Center projects and initiatives.***

RAISE

A Hanson Center Initiative for Change

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Keynote: Dr. Kenneth Harris II

A Forbes “30 Under 30” honoree and Senior Project Engineer at The Aerospace Corporation, Dr. Harris has led major NASA missions and is a trailblazer in STEM.

With over 16 years of experience, Dr. Harris has spearheaded numerous projects and initiatives, operated both on and off our planet. Dr. Harris is currently the CEO of Promethium, a green nanotechnology company, dedicated to developing sustainable, and innovative solutions for improved human health.

Dr. Harris also served as an elected member of Maryland's second-largest school district, serving a diverse population of 133,000+ students and 20,000+ educators, continuously dedicated to improving education and providing opportunities.

Retreat Schedule

11:45 –12:00 pm	**Registration (Marquis Lobby)**
12:00–1:15 pm	**Plated Lunch and Keynote: Dr. Kenneth Harris II (Marquis Dining Hall)**

Workshops: Rockwell

1:30–2:10 pm	**Session 1**
2:10–2:20 pm	**Break** *(Snacks in Dyer Center)*
2:20–3:00 pm	**Session 2**

Hot Seats: Rockwell

3:10-3:50 pm	**Industry and Graduate School with Early-Career Alumni**

Rockwell Eco Café and Courtyard

4:00-4:45 pm	**RAISE a Glass: Mocktails, Posters, and Networking**

**Each session has multiple workshops, so you may attend one workshop per session.*

***All hot seats will be happening concurrently, but feel free to move between different hot seat sessions as you wish.*

Workshop Session 1

(Concurrent sessions from 1:30 to 2:10 pm)

A Conversation with Dr. Kenneth Harris II

Rockwell 260/262

Continue the conversation with Dr.Harris in this informal, interactive session following his keynote at lunch. This is your chance to ask questions, dive deeper into his experiences at NASA and The Aerospace Corporation, and gain insights from one of Forbes' 30 Under 30 and a trailblazer in STEM. Don't miss this unique opportunity to engage directly with Dr. Harris and explore the challenges, innovations, and opportunities shaping the future of STEM!

STEM and Self Advocacy: Claiming Your Space, Shaping Your Future

Rockwell 462

Organized by OUT In STEM and Society of Women Engineers
Presented by Jack Dahl and Nyali Latz-Torres

Empowering individuals to advocate for themselves in academic and professional settings is vital to success. This rings true, especially in STEM fields where confidence and self-advocacy are key. This interactive workshop will help you develop these skills through real-world practice, including assertive communication exercises and strategies for navigating challenging situations. We'll also explore methods for identifying and creating safe, supportive work environments.

Workshop Session 1 (continued)

(Concurrent sessions from 1:30 to 2:10 pm)

STEMulating Financial Success

Rockwell 362

Organized by Women in Economics and the Kovalevsky Society
Presented by Wanos Bahiru and Megan Dursema

Financial literacy is a valuable skill that unlocks expansive opportunities and financial freedom. Yet, many are not given the resources to learn these essential skills early on. This workshop aims to bridge this gap, highlight the transformative power of

Workshop Session 2

(Concurrent sessions from 2:20 to 3:00 pm)

Breaking Barriers: POC in STEM

Rockwell 462

Organized by the National Society of Black Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
Presented by Jason Aguillar and Brandon Harding

Being a Person of Color in STEM can feel isolating, but you are not alone. This workshop is returning this year to create a space to share more experiences, build stronger networks and become well-rounded individuals. Together, we'll highlight the challenges POC face in STEM, validate those experiences, and provide insights for non-POC allies to continue creating a more inclusive and equitable environment. Join us for an open, honest, and empowering conversation!

Being an Upstander: Navigating Microaggressions

Rockwell 104

Organized by the Society of Women Engineers and the Kovalevsky Society
Presented by Wanos Bahiru and Nyali Latz-Torres

For many students from underrepresented groups, microaggressions are a daily reality, creating exhaustion that can lead to self-doubt and even give up on their aspirations. This workshop will present ways to identify, discuss, and address microaggressions, while equipping students with the language and strategies to advocate for themselves and to support their peers.

Workshop Session 2 (continued)

(Concurrent sessions from 2:20 to 3:00 pm)

Career Clarity: Mapping Diverse Paths to Success

Rockwell 262

Organized by the National Society of Black Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
Presented by: Tendai Ankude and Alex Villalba

Feeling stuck in a single career path? This interactive workshop challenges career stereotypes and empowers participants to explore diverse opportunities beyond traditional expectations. Through guided discussions, real-world examples, and hands-on exercises, attendees will reflect on their personal mission, assess their skills, and develop actionable steps to navigate their professional journeys. Whether considering grad school, interdisciplinary careers, or unconventional paths, this session provides the tools to break barriers and confidently shape your own future.

Redefining Excellence: Letting Go of Perfection in STEM

Rockwell 362

Organized by Out in STEM and Women in Economics
Presented by: Jack Dahl and Megan Dursema

Perfectionism plagues many STEM students, as they set unrealistic and harmful expectations for themselves. This leads to an inability to accept failure, significant burnout, and mental health issues. This interactive workshop will examine how perfectionism affects individuals from diverse backgrounds, both within and beyond STEM, and explore ways to transform it into ambition for achievable, healthy goals.

STEM Alumni Hot Seats

(Concurrent sessions from 3:10 to 3:50 pm)

Technology & Software Engineering
Rockwell 360

Evan (Cuong) Vu '23 Software Engineer, Foursquare Labs
Joshua Garcia '24 Tech Consultant, Ernst & Young
Matthew Stern '20 Staff Software Engineer, ZT Systems/AMD
Waseh Ahmad '18 Software Engineer, Bloomberg LP
Sakhi Naik '24 Data Science Analyst, Johnson & Johnson

Sustainability & Environmental Engineering
Rockwell 462

Katie Potter '20 Geotechnical Engineer, Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.
Jill Warabak '22 Energy & Sustainability Engineer, BR+A Consulting Engineers
Shawn Hogan '17 Sustainability Consultant, Re:Vision Architecture
Joaquin Font '19 Energy & Sustainability Engineer, BR+A Consulting Engineers
Rachel Elias '17 Scientist, Bristol Myers Squibb

Continued on next page

STEM Alumni Hot Seats (continued)

(Concurrent sessions from 3:10 to 3:50 pm)

Healthcare & Life Sciences
Rockwell 262

Sydney Leibovitz '23 Ophthalmic Technician, Mid Atlantic Retina
Bria London '24 Doctoral Student in Clinical Psychology, Widener University
Harshil Bhavsar '23 Research Technician, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard
Shannon Dyke '22 Quality Engineer, Secant Group: Medical Device Division
Heavenly Anderson '24 Life Empowerment Program Coordinator, Healthy Babies Project

Engineering & Infrastructure
Rockwell 362

Nathaniel Constantine '21 Assistant Project Manager, Suffolk Construction
Oscar Jopp '22 Global Quality Assurance Engineer, Victaulic
Victoria Binz '17 Manager of Product Development, Dynamic Air Quality Solutions
Emily Rotola '24 Process Engineer, Air Products

Education, Research, & Social Impact
Rockwell 260

Ryan Wedeking '23 Research Data Coordinator, Institute for Community Inclusion
Jenna Tempkin '24 STEM Educator, Liberty Science Center
Jefrey Alexander '23 Graduate Student, Columbia University
Caroline Turnbull '20 Engineer & Founder, FitForAll

Alumni Bios

Waseh Ahmad '18 (he/him)
Electrical & Computer Engineering and Economics
Bloomberg LP

After graduating, Waseh Ahmad entered the software industry but still felt like he wanted to keep learning. While working, he completed a graduate school program for Computer science, and also switched jobs once to finally end up working at Bloomberg in the financial software industry. There, he's responsible for helping Bloomberg ingest real-time pricing data with a low-latency architecture which ensures that transactions can occur at the speed with which the prices change in the financial world. Within the workplace, Waseh is an active mentor and loves teaching and engaging with prospective college students planning to enter the job market, and also new colleagues getting used to the fast paced nature of the job.

Alongside work, Waseh very much enjoys playing badminton, going hiking in the Pennsylvania woodlands, and capturing it all with his affinity for landscape photography.

Jefrey Alexander '23 (he/they)
Psychology
Columbia University

Jefrey Alexander is an avid rock climber, dedicated reader, lifelong Pokémon fan, and dog enthusiast. Currently, they are in their final semester at Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, pursuing a master's degree in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences. Their work focuses on public education reform, where they analyze how various policies and zoning practices influence educational outcomes using Geographic Information Systems and econometric methods.

Alumni Bios continued

With plans to pursue a dual JD/PhD in quantitative or developmental psychology, Jefrey's goal is to produce tangible research that promotes equity in education. To them, the most important part of both research and life—cheesy as it may sound—is to follow what you love. They've always prioritized what brings them joy, especially the meaningful connections they make along the way.

Heavenly Anderson '24 (she/her/hers)
Psychology
Healthy Babies Project (non-profit)

Heavenly Anderson is the Life Empowerment Program Coordinator at the Healthy Babies Project in Washington, DC. Through her current role she provides leadership for Out of School Time workshops, referral services, recruitment, retention, and data management for all youth. One thing Heavenly loves about being a leopard is our 'Cur Non' attitude because: it encourages curiosity, demands innovation, and reminds you to be free, which aligns perfectly with the kind of person Heavenly is. She's grateful to have the support to apply that perspective to her position and involve the youth in the process.

Eduardo Andrade '23 (he/him/his)
Civil Engineering
Deloitte

Eduardo Andrade is a proud graduate of Lafayette, Class of 2023 originally from the Bronx, NY. Currently, he serves as a Cyber Security Analyst and Software Developer at Deloitte and has been working for a little more than a year. In his role, he helps large corporate clients manage their customers through identity and access management products and enhance their customer user experience through website development projects. His Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering has given him a strong foundation in solving complex problems, a skill he relies on daily.

Alumni Bios continued

Outside of work, Eduardo is passionate about fitness and enjoys working out at the gym and running. He also has a strong passion for learning and loves picking up new skills whenever he can. Recently, he took a Muay Thai and Salsa class in NYC, which was an incredible experience.

He firmly believes in continuous learning and personal growth. He's always on the lookout for opportunities to expand his knowledge and skills, whether through professional development courses, attending random classes, or trying out something new and challenging.

Eduardo is really excited about this retreat and looks forward to connecting with all of you!

Harshil Bhavsar '23 (he/him/his)
Neuroscience and Biochemistry
Massachusetts General Hospital

Harshil Bhavsar graduated in 2023 with degrees in Neuroscience and Biochemistry. After graduating, he began working as a research technician in a translational neuroscience lab at MGH/Harvard Med. His research projects focus on understanding how amyloid beta and tau pathologies coexist in Alzheimer's disease and how different strains of tau have unique toxic properties. He specifically investigates these pathologies using mouse models, cell culture techniques, and patient-derived protein samples. Harshil is planning to leave this role in the summer and begin MD-PhD training!

Alumni Bios continued

Victoria (Tori) Binz '17 (she/her/hers)
Chemical Engineering
Dynamic Air Quality Solutions

Victoria Binz is a dedicated Manager of Product Development at Dynamic Air Quality Solutions, overseeing the company's Gas Phase Filtration Department. She joined Dynamic AQS in 2017 as a Product Development Engineer, focusing on the development of a patented, gas phase filtration technology.

In addition to her work at Dynamic, Victoria is an active member of ASHRAE and serves on the leadership team for TC2.3 Gaseous Air Contaminants and Gas Contaminant Removal Equipment, as well as TRG4 Indoor Air Quality Procedure Development. Her involvement extends to ASHRAE committees, including ASHRAE Standard 62.1 Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality and ASHRAE Standard 145.2 Laboratory Test Method for Assessing the Performance of Gas-Phase Air-Cleaning Systems: Air-Cleaning Devices.

Victoria graduated from Lafayette College in 2017 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and completed a dual MBA & Engineering degree from Lehigh University in Spring 2023. With extensive experience, she is committed to fostering enhanced indoor air quality across diverse environments.

Victoria now lives in Princeton, NJ with her cat Yoshi and enjoys spending time traveling, reading, and boating.

Nathaniel Constantine '21 (he/him/his)
Civil Engineering
Suffolk Construction

Nate Constantine is from Westchester County, NY, and graduated from Lafayette in 2021 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He is an Assistant Project Manager at Suffolk Construction in NYC. He also has a Masters

Alumni Bios continued

Degree in Civil Engineering from Manhattan College, and he is currently studying for the Professional Engineering (PE) exam. He participates in the ACE Mentorship program, and he is a member of the New York State PE Society and a LEED Accredited Professional.

Nate's interests outside of work include real estate, playing tennis, and unfortunately rooting for the NY Jets.

Shannon Dyke '22 (she/they)
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Secant Group

Shannon is a Quality Engineer with Secant Group, a medical device component manufacturer primarily in textile manufacturing. She also works as the Quality Engineer for Secant's sister company, SanaVita Medical, which provides contract manufacturing and device assembly for medical device and drug delivery applications. Prior to this, Shannon worked at Oliver Healthcare Packaging as an Advanced Quality Engineer.

During their time at Lafayette, Shannon was a member of the women's swim team, the Marquis Players, and the Marquis Literary Magazine.

Rachel Elias '17 (she/her)
Chemical Engineering and Environmental Science
Bristol Myers Squibb

Rachel graduated from Lafayette in 2017 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and B.S. in Environmental Science, with a concentration in Energy Resources. At Lafayette, she conducted research in optimizing the cold flow properties of biodiesel fuel blends, and designed a senior thesis in evaluating the ecotoxicity of green solvents—both under the mentorship of Professors Soh and Senra. She also participated in the IDEAL program, SEES, and orchestra. Afterwards, Rachel pursued her

Alumni Bios continued

Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, where she studied noble metal photocatalysis for applications in sustainable chemistry.

Recently, Rachel joined Bristol Myers Squibb in Summit, NJ as a scientist and technologist in the Chemical Process Development group. At BMS, her work primarily involves scaling up the production of drug candidates for clinical trials and beyond, but she is also involved in data science and sustainability initiatives within her department.

Outside of work, Rachel loves to cook, knit, and spend time outdoors.

Joaquin Font '19 (he/him)
Mechanical Engineering and Economics
BR+A Consulting Engineers

Joaquin Font is an associate and energy & sustainability engineer at BR+A Consulting Engineers, with extensive experience in tackling complex challenges related to net-zero building design. During his tenure at BR+A he has worked on millions of square feet of fossil-fuel free projects, campus master-planing, and system optimization. He is passionate about new technologies and believes that it is possible to build a sustainable future without sacrificing profitability. Joaquin holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Lafayette College. He is a licensed Professional Engineer, a LEED Accredited Professional, a Certified Energy Manager, and a Certified Energy Auditor. He is an active member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, and the Association of Energy Engineers, whose NY chapter awarded him with the Young Energy Professional of the year award in 2023.

Alumni Bios continued

Joshua Garcia '24 (he/him)
Computer Science
Lehigh University, Ernst & Young (EY)

Josh Garcia graduated from Laf just this past May with a degree in Computer Science. He is now attending Lehigh University (wait he can explain), pursuing a Masters degree in Business Analytics. Upon graduation this upcoming August, he will start my professional career journey with Ernst & Young (EY) as a Tech Consultant in their AI&Data competency.

During his time at Laf, Josh was a member of ACM, LDCF, ABC, and HSL. Outside of school and work, he enjoys running, spending time with family, and eating!

Josh looks forward to being back on campus and meeting everyone. Please feel free to use him as a resource and ask any questions that you have!

Shawn Hogan '17 (she/her)
Environmental Studies and Economics
Re:Vision Architecture
Shawn Hogan is a Sustainability Consultant at Re:Vision, mostly focusing on LEED certifications. She also consults on impact business certifications such as B Corp and Just. Shawn lives in Philadelphia with her fiancé who she met during her time at Lafayette.

Oscar Jopp '22 (he/him)
Mechanical Engineering, Physics
Victaulic

Oscar Jopp graduated in 2022 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering as well as a degree in Physics. Since then, he's been solving problems as a

Alumni Bios continued

Global Quality Assurance Engineer at Victaulic, where he develops and implements quality control procedures for their innovative products.

Beyond his professional pursuits, Oscar is an avid outdoor enthusiast. Kayaking, skiing/snowboarding, rock climbing, and camping are just a few ways he loves exploring the world around him. These activities provide him with physical and mental rejuvenation and cultivate focus and resilience – invaluable traits in any challenging endeavor. When he's not outdoors, Oscar enjoys music production, exploring new culinary creations, and indulging in a good book.

Throughout his career, Oscar has learned the immense value of building strong relationships. He is incredibly grateful for the guidance from my mentors and strives to pay it forward by supporting the next generation. He's immensely thankful for the exceptional education and experiences he gained at Lafayette. His time here laid the foundation for the fulfilling career he has today, and he is excited to see what the future holds for all of you.

Sydney Leibovitz '23 (she/her)
Neuroscience
Mid Atlantic Retina/Hofstra University

Sydney is an incoming physician assistant student at Hofstra University. She graduated from Lafayette in 2023, where she studied neuroscience and aging studies. After graduation, she began working to gain clinical experience for PA school, first as a CNA at Gracedale Nursing Home, then as a medical assistant at St. Luke's Neurology, and now as an Ophthalmic Technician at Mid Atlantic Retina. She hopes to work in neurosurgery in NYC after graduating PA school. Outside of work, Sydney loves playing instruments, calligraphy, and traveling.

Alumni Bios continued

Bria London '24 (she/her/hers)
Psychology and Anthropology/Sociology
Widener University

Bria London is a Class of 2024 graduate who is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (PsyD) with a Forensic Concentration at Widener University. In addition to taking classes, she is in the process of interviewing for her second year practicum site, where she will begin seeing clients!

At Lafayette, she was a double major in Psychology and Anthropology/ Sociology with a Minor in Spanish. During her time at Laf she was part of Salsa Club, Ambassadors of Lafayette, Hillel Society, ISA, Club Softball, Easton Pen Pals, and did research in the Psych department. She also participated in Winterim Externships and a Study Abroad trip to Peru. She would be happy to answer any questions you may have about graduate school, life after graduation, and how you can use Lafayette resources to set you up for success!

Sakhi Naik '24 (she/her/hers)
Computer Science and Biology
Johnson & Johnson

Sakhi Naik graduated from Lafayette College in 2024 with a B.S. in Computer Science and a B.A. in Biology. She currently works at Johnson & Johnson as data science analyst in the Technology Leadership Development Program. She previously interned at MITRE and HarcoSemco. While at Lafayette, Sakhi was President of ACM and Vice President of WinC. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking, and running.

Alumni Bios continued

Katie Potter (née Weimann) '20 (she/her)
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, LLC

Katie Potter (Weimann) graduated from Lafayette in 2020. She worked for 2 years at Langan Engineering after undergrad as a Geotechnical Staff Engineer. Afterward, she went to Lehigh University for her Master's Degree in Civil Engineering, which she received this past year in 2024. During her Master's program, she worked as a research assistant, studying the interaction between cohesive soils and foundation piles supporting offshore wind turbines, and she researched methods of improving the shear strength of these piles. She has published a paper on this topic in Results in Engineering Journal.

Katie currently works at Langan Engineering and Environmental Services as a Geotechnical Engineer and performs field investigations and provides foundation design recommendations to clients based on field observations. In her free time, she enjoys training for long races like marathons, spending time with her husband and friends, and serving her church and her community.

Emily Rotola '24 (she/her)
Chemical Engineering (BS) and International Studies (BA)
Air Products

Emily graduated from Lafayette in 2024 with a BS in Chemical Engineering and a BA in International Studies (focusing on Spain and Latin America). She works at Air Products at its corporate headquarters in Allentown, PA, where she is in her first rotation in the Career Development Program as a cryogenic plant process engineer. In this role, she directly supports currently operating air separation plants by troubleshooting process-related issues. She also facilitates plant projects to improve plant operability, efficiency, and safety.

Alumni Bios continued

At Lafayette, Emily did polymer/drug delivery-based research, was Co-President of the Asian Cultural Association, was on the AAPI planning board, and was a Writing Associate.

Matthew Stern '20 (he/him)
Computer Science
ZT Systems (AMD)

Matthew is a Staff Software Engineer and Team Lead of Manufacturing Test Data & Reporting Tools at ZT Systems (recently acquired by AMD for $4.9 billion).He designs and builds new data collection and visualization infrastructure for ZT's suite of industry-leading automated testing on custom hyperscale cloud compute servers.

Jenna Tempkin '24 (she/her)
Physics
Liberty Science Center

After graduating from Lafayette last May (2024), Jenna Tempkin started her new job as a STEM Educator at Liberty Science Center (LSC) in Jersey City, NJ. LSC is one of the largest science centers in the NJ/NY area, and the STEM department is one of the largest teams onsite. In her role specifically, Jenna travels offsite to schools to teach 45-minute lessons to students grades 3-12 in a variety of different subjects including physics, biology, and chemistry. When she is not offsite, she is at the museum teaching lessons to school groups or doing fun mini lab-workshops/experiences for the public.

What is unique about this job is that we get to teach in a more informal way than a traditional classroom setting, which allows us to present content in creative ways, and get access to a lot of great resources.

Alumni Bios continued

Outside of work, Jenna is part of a small dance company, and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Caroline Turnbull '20 (she/her)
Civil-Environmental Engineering
FitForAll

As a former Division 1 Field Hockey player and Civil Engineer, Caroline Turnbull has always been driven by discipline and precision. Alongside her professional career as an Engineer at Turner Construction, she pursued my passion for fitness, becoming a Certified Personal Trainer and Yoga Teacher. Frustrated by the limitations of the online fitness industry, Caroline transitioned into software engineering with a mission to create a better platform for trainers and clients alike. Now, she is combining her diverse expertise in fitness, engineering, and technology to bring her vision to life and revolutionize the way people connect in the fitness world through her company FitForAll!

Some fun facts about Caroline are that she makes sourdough, loves to cook, lives in Jersey City, still plays field hockey, and loves reading!

Evan Vu '23 (he/him/his)
Computer Science & Neuroscience
Foursquare Labs Inc

Evan Vu is a recent Lafayette graduate, currently working as a Software Engineer for a late-stage start-up company in New York City. His senior year, he was part of the inaugural class of "Being Humans in STEM" taught by Professor Wendy Hill, which taught him about the importance of diversity, equity and inclusivity in education.

As an international student who majored in Computer Science and Neuroscience, Evan experienced the narrow space of research and work

Alumni Bios continued

opportunity that is open to foreign Visa holders. He believes the lessons he learned from this journey can help some students at Lafayette have a better path to success. Furthermore, he is passionate about lowering the barrier of entry into tech, especially software engineering and computer science, which can be helpful for students from underserved backgrounds who look to pursue a fulfilling career in these fields

Jill Warabak '22 (she/her)
Mechanical Engineering
BR+A Consulting Engineers

Jill is an Energy and Sustainability Engineer at BR+A Consulting Engineers in NYC, an industry leader in MEP design with a focus on high-performance buildings such as pharmaceutical laboratories, hospitals, proton cancer therapy centers, and higher-education STEM buildings (one of which being RISC). As an in-house sustainability expert, she has experience with various green building organizations such as: LEED, as a LEED Accredited Professional in Building Design & Construction; WELL, as a WELL Accredited Professional; and, her favorite, Passive House, as a Certified Phius Consultant. With almost 3 years of experience in the industry, she has been involved with 20+ certified projects across North America and is working towards her Professional Engineering license as an Engineer in Training.

As an advocate for diversity and inclusion in STEM fields, Jill is part of various professional organizations such as the Council on Women in Energy and Environmental Leadership (CWEEL), the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association's (NESEA) Diversity Caucus, Women in ASHRAE (WiA), Women in Sustainability and Engineering (WISE), and more.

At Lafayette, Jill was a hurdler on the track and field team and the president of Athlete Ally. Now, she continues to run, watch women's sports, and explore New York City.

Alumni Bios continued

Ryan Wedeking '23 (he/him/his)
Math and Psychology
Institute for Community Inclusion, UMass Boston

Ryan Wedeking graduated from Lafayette College in 2023 with a double major in math and psychology and a minor in data science. At Lafayette, he was involved in concert band, pep band, math club, and the Marquis Players. He also helped with data analysis for the Hanson Center and was a calculus tutor for SPAL!

Now, Ryan works at the Institute for Community Inclusion as a research data coordinator across several projects, all aimed at helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities gain access to employment and post-secondary education. He also attends graduate school at UMass Amherst.

RAISE a Glass and Poster Session

(4:00-4:45 pm)

Enjoy mocktails and appetizers while networking with alumni, faculty, staff, and students, listening to a jazz band, and visiting resource booths during this social hour, 4:00-4:45 in the ECO Café.

Vote on the "People's Choice" Award for best poster, the winner of which gets a $100 Visa gift card.

Poster Session

Students will be giving poster presentations highlighting their research or STEM-focused initiatives on campus. Grab a mocktail and come see the great work being done by Lafayette students. This is a good way to learn about research opportunities!

Poster titles are on the following pages...

Poster Titles

Robo-Bike: Constructing an Autonomous Motorcycle to Validate High Fidelity Dynamic Motorcycle Safety Simulations
Presenter: **Paris Francis '26,** Integrative Engineering
Advisor: Dr. Alexander Brown

Insula-frontal Cortical Interactions During a Touchscreen-Based Sustained Attention Task in Mice
Presenter: **Abby Harr '25,** Neuroscience
Advisor: Dr. Henry Hallock

Assessing the Hydrolytic Degradability of Bio-Based Plastics from Birch Bark
Presenter: **Sophia Harrill '26,** Chemical Engineering
Advisor: Dr. Melissa Gordon

Inactivation of hippocampal-frontal circuitry during a touchscreen-based spatial working memory task
Presenter: **Lauren Karwacki '26,** Neuroscience
Advisor: Dr. Henry Hallock

Poster Titles

Efficacy of IFN-γ, sCD40L, and poly(I:C) treated bone marrow-derived macrophages in murine mammary carcinoma
Presenter: **Melissa Lass '25,** Biology
Advisor: Dr. Robert Kurt

How do Cdon & Boc Affect Zebrafish Craniofacial Development?
Presenter: **Ryan Nickens '26,** Biology
Advisor: Dr. Ezra Lencer

The DIRECT Index: A Tool for Equity, Inclusion, and Relationship-Centered Care
Presenter: **Kwame Otoo Appiah '27,** Neuroscience
Advisor: Dr. Ashwini Kamath Mulki, LVHN

Optimizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Graduate Medical Education (GME) at LVHN
Presenter: **Paulina Royzman '27,** Biology
Advisor: Dr. Joseph Patruno, LVHN