HIDDEN NO MORE
LAFAYETTE WOMEN IN STEM

SAVANNA TOURÉ, '21

Savanna Touré earned her BS in Neuroscience from Lafayette and received the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, the nation's premier undergraduate award for excellence in STEM. A Posse DC Scholar, she is the first Lafayette student to receive a Truman Scholarship, an elite honor that recognizes the recipient's dedication to public service.

Savanna's interest in molecular determinants of health was sparked by her EXCEL work at Lafayette. This interest persisted through her post-baccalaureate fellowship at the Mayo Clinic and her time as a researcher at the Duke University Human Vaccine Institute. Currently pursuing a doctorate in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at the Duke School of Medicine, Savanna's research focuses on host-viral interactions, vaccine therapeutics, and viral/immune evolution.

In the 1850's, Lafayette Professor James Coffin was mathematical head of the Smithsonian Meteorological Project, the first settler-operated weather data collection project in the US. The data processing associated with Lafayette's contributions to the project was largely performed by (white) women Easton school teachers, who copied and calculated multi-year data.

These fifteen teachers, who taught in Easton's public schools for $15 a month while their male counterparts earned $30, were never credited in published materials. Their identities remain unknown. In recognizing the contributions of these women, we acknowledge their rightful place in the story of Lafayette College. We also celebrate their intelligence, curiosity, and dedicated effort, a legacy carried forward by the many Lafayette women who continue to make STEM history.

LAFAYETTE
WOMEN'S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

LAFAYETTE
HANSON CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE STEM EDUCATION

The "Hidden No More" project is indebted to the work of Professor Sarah J. Grossman, Bryn Mawr College. See "Gendering Nineteenth-Century Data: The Women of the Smithsonian Meteorological Project." Journal of Women's History 33.1 (2021): 85-109.

Meteorological data image Courtesy of Special Collections & College Archives, Skillman Library, Lafayette College.

Photo of 1863 Moravian Female Seminary student, right, is courtesy of the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem.

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