The College will hold a ceremonial groundbreaking on Thursday, May 11, for an Integrated Sciences Center (ISC) that builds on more than 150 years of trailblazing science education at Lafayette. The day’s events will include a celebration of the integrated sciences at the College, with discussions and presentations featuring faculty, alumni, parents, and students.

The $75 million ISC is the largest capital project in Lafayette’s history. Located on Anderson Courtyard with a connection to Acopian Engineering Center, it will include:

- Academic space for biology, computer science, and the environmental studies and science programs;
- Collaboration space for neuroscience and expansion space for future growth in the sciences and engineering;
- A cutting-edge data visualization center;
- The IDEAL Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which brings together students, faculty, and external partners to develop entrepreneurial solutions to real-world problems;
- A new Center for Inclusive STEM Education;
- The Center for Campus Sustainability.

“The ISC is designed to promote interaction and interdisciplinary connections,” says Provost Abu Rizvi. “A café and generous meeting space will encourage people to connect, state-of-the-art teaching and research labs will support close interaction among faculty members and students, and the direct linkage with Acopian Engineering Center will foster interchange between engineering and the liberal arts.”

A hub for entrepreneurial education, the ISC will host conferences, internships, design competitions, an entrepreneur-in-residence program, and a start-up incubator.

With LEED Gold certification, the ISC will be one of the most energy-efficient academic science buildings in the country. Students will get an up-close look at the inner workings of a state-of-the-art green building as they place temperature and humidity sensors around the ISC, monitor water and energy cycles, and model airflow and energy efficiency.

The President’s Challenge is on! It’s about raising $45 million to strengthen Lafayette’s resources for need-based financial aid so that the College can admit the best students without considering their ability to pay.

The challenge was publicly launched March 9 with a push to raise $1 million in 24 hours to celebrate the 191st anniversary of the College’s founding on that date in 1826. Before that, current and emeritus members of the Board of Trustees made gifts and pledges to the Live Connected, Lead Change Campaign totaling nearly $10 million to bolster need-based aid.

“We owe it to those who are coming behind us to make their dream come true,” says Trustee David Roth ’70. “I grew up in a household where my dad died when I was six, my brother was nine, and my sister was two. I dreamed of going to a small liberal arts college, but that was really going to be impossible. Lafayette saw something in me and gave me the money I needed to go there. And it changed my life.”

To build awareness of the President’s Challenge, President Alison Byerly took on some wacky competitions, including a pancake-flipping contest with Joe Maddon ’76.

Check out the videos and learn more at liveconnected.lafayette.edu/prez-challenge.
The Société d’Honneur was founded by the Board of Trustees to recognize exceptional lifetime generosity on the part of alumni, parents, and friends. Last year marked the 30th anniversary of the induction of the 29 inaugural members on April 4, 1986. Their financial support spanned the first 160 years of the College’s history. The Société has since grown to 126 members, including 29 inducted during the Live Connected, Lead Change campaign.

On February 24, the College recognized the members of the Société and honored new inductees Edward W. ‘69 and Catherine F. Ahart P’97’03, William C. ‘50 and Laura T. Buck, Linda Assante Carrasco ’90 and Marc Carrasco, Samuel R. ‘79 and Beth Lanigan Chapin ’80, Antonio F. ’81 and Susan DePhillipps Fernandez ’83, and S. Kent Rockwell ’66.

Ed Ahart has held key leadership positions at Lafayette for almost three decades, and Cathy Ahart is an active and enthusiastic partner and participant in service to the College. Ed was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1992, after serving as Alumni Association president, and was named board chair in 2010. He was recognized with the Joseph E. Bell ’28 Award for Distinguished Service in 1998 and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2010. The Aharts have given of their time and treasure to support Lafayette’s strategic priorities, with a focus on financial aid. Lafayette’s newest academic building, William C. Buck Hall at the Williams Arts Campus, is named in recognition of major gift from Bill and Laura Buck to the Live Connected, Lead Change campaign. Previously during the campaign they contributed to the installation of a new stone Lafayette College sign at the corner of College Ave. and McCartney St., a gift of the Tau Chapter of Zeta Psi.

Gifts from the Buck family also have supported music education and performance, athletics, and Skillman Library, among other areas. The Buck Courts for racquet sports in Kirby Sports Center are named in honor of the Bucks.

Marc and Linda Assante Carrasco enrich the lives of others by making a difference for organizations and programs addressing social and environmental issues. Thanks to the Global Learning and Community Engagement Fund that they created at Lafayette, students can take an entrepreneurial approach in applying their studies to serving communities around the globe. Grant recipients have a tangible impact on the lives of others as they advance their own learning. For example, support from the fund recently enabled students and faculty to travel to Honduras to help develop a master plan for sustainable recovery.

Since attending Lafayette together, Sam and Beth Lanigan Chapin have joined in life and service. Believing their Lafayette experience set them on the course to success in their careers, they use their talents and skills to advance worthy causes.

The Chapins share a commitment to creating transformative student experiences, enhancing the campus, and providing financial aid to deserving students. As they were presented the Société d’Honneur statue of the Marquis de Lafayette, which was created under the leadership of Beth’s father, the late William W. Lanigan ’52, they joined him as members of the society that recognizes Lafayette’s most generous donors.

Tony and Sue Fernandez, who met on College Hill, believe their Lafayette education changed their lives and has been a catalyst for their personal and professional success. In gratitude, they now join in service to various organizations as they seek to be agents of change in our society.

Feeling that they owe much to the College, they dedicate their philanthropy to making it possible for students to have their own Lafayette experience. They have provided financial aid to deserving minority students interested in engineering and supported the Engineering Division in advancing multidisciplinary collaboration.

Kent Rockwell celebrates lifelong Lafayette friendships that have contributed to his development and continue to resound in his life. His philanthropy has advanced a broad spectrum of Lafayette’s strategic priorities and pressing needs. It includes one of the largest gifts in the College’s history, which he dedicated in support of the Integrated Sciences Center.

Rockwell has demonstrated visionary leadership in advancing companies that leverage technology for the betterment of mankind. “I’m pleased to help Lafayette strengthen its efforts and build on its commitment to innovative programs in fields that I believe are important for future generations,” he says.
"We believe in education and its importance to the creation of a better world. Improved relationships among peoples and nations can only occur when all of us have a greater level of understanding of each other, our histories, and our cultures. As a leader in American higher education, Lafayette will help to lead the way in this critical effort, and it is our privilege to support that effort."

"We feel thankful for the opportunity to give back to Lafayette, a place that has meant so much to our family. We are pleased and fortunate to be able to contribute to enhancing the experience of the arts for future Lafayette students."

"Lafayette excels in guiding students to become global citizens who are compassionate, engaged, and intellectually curious. The College strives to produce graduates who aren’t satisfied with the status quo and instead want to make a difference and become leaders in their fields and communities. We are grateful to have the opportunity to aid the students in their endeavors."

"We both owe a lot to Lafayette and feel that by doing the things we are doing to support the College, we can make it possible for others to have their own special Lafayette experience and help the College in its objective to be even more diverse and change to better meet the needs of its students."

"We both enjoyed positive experiences at Lafayette, and our education was a great base for our careers. Our shared experience really strengthens our commitment to the College. We are very fortunate and we believe it is important to give back."

"There has been a great change of process in the way organizations are managed and technology is nurtured. To achieve a market leadership position, you must innovate creatively. Through my philanthropy and in my career, I have attempted to create the spark that reignites innovative thinking in our world."

The Société d’Honneur has grown by 29 members—a 30 percent increase during the Live Connected, Lead Change campaign.

Clockwise from upper right: Laura and Bill Buck, Beth and Sam Chapin, Kent Rockwell (right) with Campaign Chair Steve Pryor ’72 and President Alison Byerly, Sue and Tony Fernandez, Linda Carrasco (center), and Cathy and Ed Ahart.
THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

Your investment today will determine where we go tomorrow.

What are the hallmarks of the very best undergraduate colleges? They admit the very best students, period, without considering their ability to pay. They deliver the very best education. They recruit and retain top faculty. They forge close connections between students and faculty. They enable students to engage with one another in a dynamic, 24/7 learning environment.

Lafayette has many of these strengths, but we aspire to reach higher — with your support. How will we get there?

1. Ensuring affordability. Lafayette will transform the College by admitting students of the highest caliber without regard to their families’ financial means, positioning ourselves among the nation’s top liberal arts schools. An admissions process that is able to turn a blind eye toward income will diversify and strengthen the quality of our student body.

2. Enhancing distinction. Lafayette’s distinctive blend of engineering and the liberal arts produces graduates who think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems. Who lead companies as well as start them. Who are scientists, inventors, artists, and architects of our common future. This requires state-of-the-art facilities and programs that encourage collaboration and invention.

3. Growing purposefully. We are creating a vibrant community by enlarging the student body by about 400 students, to a total of 2,900, by 2025. To maintain a low student-to-faculty ratio, we will add at least 40 new faculty members. But recruiting and retaining top faculty requires long-term investment. Building a strong community means funding activities, like athletics, that connect students throughout their four years. And jump-starting students’ careers means connecting them to research and work experiences.

4. Sustaining excellence through the Annual Fund. Every gift to the Annual Fund ensures that your Lafayette—the Lafayette of small classes, stellar faculty, and connected communities—will carry its strengths into the future.

The Impact of Your Support

Ensuring Affordability
Financial Aid
$85 million

Enhancing Distinction
Integrated Sciences Center
$60 million
Dedicated Academic Facilities
$30 million
Williams Arts Campus
$20 million
Technology and Innovation Fund
$15 million
Science and Engineering Fund
$10 million

Growing Purposefully
Faculty Positions
$40 million
Connected Communities Residential Program
$30 million
Athletics
$20 million
Student Research and Internships Fund
$10 million
Annual Fund
$75 million

TOTAL
$400 million

Emerging Initiatives
$5 million

Celebrating Your Impact

Thank you! You have contributed $336 million to the campaign so far, and the impact is powerful! Your investment in Lafayette is supporting transformative learning experiences in and out of the classroom, fueling student and faculty creativity and achievement, bringing the campus together in new ways, creating dynamic facilities, and advancing the bold strategy to enhance Lafayette’s affordability and distinctiveness by growing the student body and faculty.

Learn More