Lafayette broke ground May 11 for the construction of the $75 million Rockwell Integrated Sciences Center.

The largest capital project in the College’s history is named for Kent Rockwell ’66, whose support of Lafayette includes more than $35 million in gifts to the Live Connected, Lead Change campaign. The building honors Rockwell’s generosity and his “visionary leadership in advancing companies that leverage technology for the betterment of mankind,” says President Alison Byerly.

Rockwell is chairman and chief executive officer of Rockwell Venture Capital, through which he has operated and invested in many businesses.

“Through my philanthropy and in my career, I have attempted to create the spark that reignites innovative thinking in our world. And igniting innovative thinking will be at the heart of this new integrated sciences center,” Rockwell said. Scheduled to open in fall 2019, the building will be the home of biology, computer science, and the environmental science and studies programs and will provide additional space for neuroscience. It will be connected to Acopian Engineering Center.

“Kent and his partner, Patricia Babyak, have been incredibly generous supporters of the College,” says Kim Spang, vice president for development and college relations.

Byerly announced that Heidi Ludwig Hanson ’91 and her husband, Daniel Hanson, have made a $5 million commitment to create the Hanson Center for Inclusive STEM Education to address the national need to recruit more women and underrepresented minorities to the sciences. The Rockwell Integrated Sciences Center will house the Hanson Center, the IDEAL Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and the Office of Campus Sustainability.

“The educational experience is strongest when students can live, learn, and collaborate with peers from different backgrounds,” Byerly says. “When we turn away promising students based on their inability to pay, our entire community suffers. We must offer the best applicants access to Lafayette, regardless of their family’s financial means.

“Your gift to the President’s Challenge will strengthen our ability to bring the most qualified students to Lafayette, no matter what. Nothing you do will mean more to Lafayette’s future.”
Marquis Society: A Half Century of Impact

This fall marks the golden anniversary of the founding of the Marquis Society, which recognizes alumni, parents, and friends whose annual contribution to Lafayette totals $1,000 or more.

Dramatic Growth

The society has grown dramatically in membership and impact since President Roald Bergethon invited the 52 inaugural members to join what was then called the President’s Committee in 1967. The number of $1,000 donors grew to 116 by 1970. In 1972, five years after its founding, the name of the President’s Committee, which then had 131 members, was changed to the Marquis Society.

Membership nearly tripled during the next decade. By 1982 there were 386 donors of at least $1,000, including 80 who gave $5,000 or more and were recognized as members of the Marquis Circle. That giving club, the society’s first above the $1,000 level, had been introduced in 1980.

Over the next quarter century the society’s membership and importance continued to grow. By 2007, more than 1,500 alumni, parents, and friends were members. Additional recognition categories above the $1,000 level had been established in the 1990s. The most recent change in these categories occurred in 2008-09, when the Marquis Founders club was introduced to recognize donors contributing from $1,826 to $4,999 ($1,826 commemorates the year of the College’s founding).

Marquis Society Today

In 2015-16, the last year for which complete data have been compiled, the Marquis Society contributed more than $16 million to Lafayette, over 70 percent of all giving the College received that year. The number of members had grown to 1,968. This included 408 Marquis Founders, 154 members of the Marquis Court, 112 members of the Marquis Circle, 52 members of the Marquis Council, and 51 Marquis Laureates.

Members of the 10 most recent graduating classes qualify for membership in the Marquis Society by making a gift of $100 multiplied by the number of years since graduation.

From the very beginning, the members of this society have defined leadership in philanthropy and have inspired others to join them in making a difference for the College and our students,” says President Alison Byerly.
LAFFFFFAYEESTTE
MARQUIS SOCIETY

MARQUIS SOCIETY  $1,000 TO $1,825
MARQUIS FOUNDERS  $1,826 TO $4,999
MARQUIS COURT  $5,000 TO $9,999
MARQUIS CIRCLE  $10,000 TO $24,999
MARQUIS COUNCIL  $25,000 TO $49,999
MARQUIS LAUREATES  $50,000 AND ABOVE
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.

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