STORMING THE CITY
The Lehigh community gathers in New York to celebrate its historic rivalry with Lafayette.
22 The Rivalry of Rivalries

Yes, it’s true that the Lehigh-Lafayette series has been played more times than any other college football rivalry. But that’s not the only reason why The Rivalry stands out above the rest. By Tim Hyland

28 Ten to Remember: By Chuck Burton

38 Experience The Rivalry in New York City

80 What We Stand For: By Joe Sterrett ’76, Murray H. Goodman Dean of Athletics

32 Michael in the Middle

Michael Smerconish ’84 is doing his part—on radio, on television, and in print—to change the tenor of American political discourse. By Michael Bradley

ON THE COVER: Chicago-based illustrator Dan Congrow created this cover celebrating the 150th playing of the Lehigh-Lafayette game. The image of the player in the foreground references the Lehigh player in this photograph above, taken during a Lehigh-Lafayette game believed to have been played in the 1950s. Photo from Lehigh Athletics
The first thing if you say Lafayette, I might have to hang up.”

I have to admit—I didn’t go to Lehigh. So I’ve been interviewing McGowan, who quartered back his team to a 17-10 win over Lafayette in the last game ever played at Taylor Stadium back in 1987, for this issue’s cover feature—a feature that attempts to get at the heart of what it means to compete in the most played rivalry in college football history. “Look, I’m a college football alumnus. I grew up near Cleveland, rooting for the Big Apple. Just check out the two-page Rivalry Weekend primer on pages 38-39.

...
Lehigh has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up in a Lehigh family. My father, William Clayton ‘51, was a devoted Lehigh alumnus and served as trustee for more than 20 years. When the time came for me to attend college, I was proud to follow in his footsteps. I earned my degree in 1984 after a rewarding experience on South Mountain, and have in the years since been involved with this university as a parent, a trustee, and, now, as interim president.

In this most recent role, I’ve had the opportunity to view Lehigh through a new lens. I’ve seen, on a daily basis, the hard work, dedication, and intellectual firepower that have established this university as a leader and innovator in the world of higher education. Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni continue to impress and amaze with their ambition, inquisitiveness, and loyalty to this university. Their collective brilliance, generous philanthropy, and commitment to push Lehigh forward is awe-inspiring.

This summer, I witnessed firsthand the remarkable opportunity Lehigh continues to offer its students through the groundbreaking Mountaintop project. In this, our second year of programming on Mountaintop, more than 100 students and two dozen faculty members engaged in projects that cut across all disciplines and presented a wide variety of intellectual challenges. By all accounts, Mountaintop 2014 was an enormous success, as Lehigh continued to develop unique learning environments while giving our students the support they need to succeed with their projects and grow as leaders, entrepreneurs, and intellectuals.

The return of our students in late August ramped up the energy level on campus considerably. Our first-year class is the largest in Lehigh’s history thanks to a higher than anticipated yield rate on admissions offers, with the quality of these students exceeding our expectations. As the campus came to life, I was impressed by the numerous opportunities for intellectual engagement and personal growth that Lehigh offers its students. The Lehigh Club and Community Expo drew more than 230 clubs and organizations to the University Lawn. The rededication of the UMOJA House celebrated our renewed campus unity.

Like all of you, I very much look forward to the 150th playing of The Rivalry football game against Lafayette on Saturday, November 22, at Yankee Stadium. This nationally televised event will give both institutions an opportunity to highlight our excellent academic programs, showcase our exceptional student-athletes, and celebrate our fiercely loyal alumni. This is a momentous event for the Lehigh community, and this issue of the Bulletin takes an in-depth look at the great history of a truly unique rivalry.

Of course, The Rivalry game is not the only event of note that weekend in the Big Apple. Lehigh Choral Arts will celebrate its proud heritage of nearly 150 years with a performance on Friday, November 21, at Carnegie Hall. Our dedicated university staff also have prepared a weekend of events and celebrations around what is sure to be a memorable game at Yankee Stadium. For a full listing of activities, I encourage you to see Page 38 or visit lehighsports.com/rivalry150.

With The Rivalry game approaching, our university’s sesquicentennial on the horizon, and the impending selection of our next president, these are truly exciting times at Lehigh. We have much to be proud of, and much to look forward to. I am honored to serve as interim president of our beloved alma mater during this transition period.

Please enjoy reading this special edition of the Bulletin. I hope to see you in New York City later this fall.
UMOJA House Rededicated
Lehigh celebrates diversity in ceremony at residence hall

IT WAS A FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE inside the UMOJA House in early September, as students, staff and faculty formally rededicated the residence hall following extensive upgrades there. The tours and ribbon-cutting ceremony ushered in a new chapter for the stately stone building.

"In rededicating this space, we celebrate learning in all its many and varied forms," said Interim President Kevin Clayton '84 '13P. "We celebrate the diversity that enriches this campus. And we celebrate the accomplished, creative, successful students who live and learn here."

Angela Scott, director of Academic Diversity and Outreach, and leader of the project, said the goal of her group was to have everyone “feel welcome” at the house. She worked across divisions on improvements, which included securing an in-house chef to provide meals on weekend evenings and the re-imagining of existing spaces to make them more suitable for classroom use and gatherings.

Mechanical, structural and aesthetic upgrades also were made. Parking, accessibility, security and lighting were all improved.

“What they renovated has allowed for diversity and inclusion within a community because there are so many different opportunities and so many more reasons for people to come up here to the house,” said Paul Lyons ‘16, president of Lehigh’s SGA. “It was a festive atmosphere inside the UMOJA House in early September, as students, staff and faculty formally rededicated the residence hall following extensive upgrades there. The tours and ribbon-cutting ceremony ushered in a new chapter for the stately stone building.

“UMOJA” means “unity,” and as Clayton said at the ceremony, “There is no reason for people to come up here to the house.”

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Yasmin Bugaighis-Abdussalam, associate director of Campus Planning and Projects, had requested the role of project manager. “I believe in the mission of UMOJA House,” she said, “and hope to continue to be a part of its ongoing success, even beyond its physical manifestation.”

SAFETY: EMERGENSEE APP OFFERED
Lehigh is offering a free mobile app to the campus community to enhance personal safety. "Emergensee" allows students, faculty and staff who encounter danger to tap a red icon on their smartphones and be connected directly to a dispatcher at the Lehigh University Police Department. The app provides an extra layer of security for those

who may be in an unsafe area or who may witness a crime or other dangerous situation, says Chief Ed Shupp of the LUPO.

“The app can also capture video and audio information, as well as the user’s exact location,” he says. “It can be used anywhere on campus and within a GeoFence perimeter that includes many of the surrounding neighborhoods where our students live.”

The app is the latest in a number of safety improvements on campus and the surrounding area, including additional video surveillance and lighting in key locations. The app is a companion to the LU-Alert system, which allows users to receive critical information from the university during emergencies.

FOUR QUESTIONS WITH Drew Endy ’92 ’94G, Stanford Bioengineer

A BUILDER AT HEART
Drew Endy ’92 ’94G, Stanford bioengineer, has redesigned persons and invented the transcrip- tor, a DNA element that allows living cells to implement broken logic. He returned to Lehigh in September as a Howard Hughes Visiting Scholar.

You studied civil engineering at Lehigh and later helped found Stanford’s bioengineering program. What is the connection?

I like to build things. Biology is the ultimate platform for building. Biological materials can make stuff unbelievably well. Tissue organizes atoms from the atmosphere with breathtaking nanoprecision. Spore can grow glass spindles that are very similar to fiber optic cables. Nano-technology once caused people to worry that gray goo would cover the planet. That was wrong. Nanotech- nology has already overtaken the planet—in the form of the green goo of biological material.

How did Lehigh prepare you to make the transition from civil to bioengineering?

Historically, civil engineering was defined as civilian as opposed to military engineering. Civil also refers to civilization. Do civilizations exist only of roads, water supplies, buildings? No. They also include the social contract, law, traditions, politi- cal institutions. At Lehigh, I explored the natural sciences, humanities, philosophy, political science. I struggled with genetics and biochemistry, but they reconceptualized me to biology as the science of living matter, which is important to engineers who want to make things.

What is it like to return to Lehigh after 20 years?

Many things are impressively updated, but the land along the Lehigh River has become a massive, underutilized site. It could become a major bio-based manufacturing corridor. It lies next to a major university with leading scientific, engineering and political thinkers. Combined with other elements of Lehigh, you could nucleate and heal a renewal of our society. This should be done here because of the Lehigh River and the tradition of manufacturing and the excellence of engineering, coupled with the fundamental sciences at Lehigh.

What should bioengineering contribute to the 21st century? We have a chance, via biology and biotechnology, to reinvent how civilization works and do so in ways that allow humanity and nature to flourish in partnership—to reduce energy and environmental loads, to defend natural biodiver- sity, and so on. But biology and biotechnology are too important to be left to scientists and engineers alone. I’d like to see a Renaissance of science and engineering that enables people, as citizens and not just consumers, to play a role in deciding what kind of world we wish for.

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ISIS: ‘A Very, Very Serious Crisis’

Henri Barkey discusses Iraq, Syria, Turkey and the Kurds

Henri J. Barkey, the Bernard L. and Bertha F. Cohen Professor of International Relations, is the author of 60 articles and book chapters and the author, coauthor or editor of seven books and monographs. He appears regularly on CNN, PBS, BBC and NPR to share his expertise on the Middle East, Turkey, the Kurds and Iraq, and contributes articles to The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, The American Interest, The Wall Street Journal and other journals. He served as a Policy Planning Staff Member with the U.S. State Department from 1998 to 2000. Barkey met in August with Bulletin associate editor Kurt Pfitzer to discuss recent events in Syria, Turkey and Iraq, including the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

In addition to beheading American journalists, ISIS has killed thousands of people, including Christians, Shiite Muslims and other religious and ethnic minorities. Is ISIS more vicious than al-Qaeda? ISIS and al-Qaeda are cut from the same cloth; they are one and the same when it comes to ideology. They differ on tactics, but ISIS is an outgrowth of al-Qaeda. Paradoxically, if they exist as two separate organizations, it has much to do with the personal ambitions of leaders, especially the ISIS leader.

Does ISIS Represent a Greater Threat to the Middle East and to the West than Al-Qaeda Does?

In some way this is the case. ISIS is from the region, where as al-Qaeda remains enconced in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Al-Qaeda works through affiliates. ISIS is not only home-grown as al-Qaeda remains ensconced in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In some way this is the case. ISIS is from the region, where as two separate organizations, it has when it comes to ideology. They differ on tactics, but ISIS is an outgrowth of al-Qaeda. Paradoxically, if they exist as two separate organizations, it has much to do with the personal ambitions of leaders, especially the ISIS leader.

ISIS is going to be defeated in the end. This will happen in Iraq first, where the Iraqi army and the Kurdish forces will reorganize, although this is going to take some time.” —Henri J. Barkey

Part of the reason the conflagration is happening is that the central Iraqi government under outgoing prime minister Nuri al-Maliki really messed up. He pushed out the people who balanced his sectarian interests and had genuine support in other, but primarily the Sunni, communities...Maliki is now gone [but he’s done so much damage that it will take a long time to re- pair the institutions that he weakened.

The U.S. played this badly too. President Obama didn’t seem interested, and the White House did not warn him of this impending development...The first two national security advisors to Obama [James L. Jones and Thomas E. Donilon] were not foreign policy thinkers, they were completely unprepared for the job at hand.

The Wall Street Journal and other jour- nalists have written of an environmental cause of the Syrian civil war. Please explain. A huge number of people moved from the countryside into the cities because of the drought [that afflicted more than half of Syria from 2006–11] and because of changes in the usage of the rivers upstream. The fighting, and everything related to it, further undermined the water infrastructure. It takes years to rebuild an infrastructure. Even if peace were to be at hand tomorrow, it will take a generation for these places to recover and rebuild. People have not paid enough attention to this.

What role has Turkey played in the civil war in Syria? The Turks have facilitated the jihadists coming and going in and out of Syria. They had no other choice than to back the opposition to Assad, but like everyone else they miscalculated and thought the Assad regime would not last. Turkey has shut off the inflow of jihadists and flow of arms to them...The Syrian regime may appear to be a beneficiary were this to happen...However, it is hard to see Assad remaining in power very long.

President Obama has stated his desire for a limited U.S. military role with regard to ISIS. Is this realistic? Yes. Obama ran for president on a platform that opposed our involvement in the Iraq war and favored getting out of Iraq. He is against putting boots on the ground. Mission creep in this con- text is a distinct possibility. In principle, it should not happen here because this is a fight that the Iraqis have to win, not us. We can’t fight this one for them as this would have to involve tens of thousands of American troops.

You have written of an environmental cause of the Syrian civil war. Please explain. A huge number of people moved from the countryside into the cities because of the drought [that afflicted more than half of Syria from 2006–11] and because of changes in the usage of the rivers upstream. The fighting, and everything related to it, further undermined the water infrastructure. It takes years to rebuild an infrastructure. Even if peace were to be at hand tomorrow, it will take a generation for these places to recover and rebuild. People have not paid enough attention to this.

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Questions without answers. We cannot predict these things.

Update bringing the world to Williams Hall

From the time of pocket watches to the age of cell phones, Williams Hall has been serving Lehigh stu- dents in the sciences and engineering. After renovations are completed in 2015, the historical building will have fresh purpose as a hub of international activity.

Thanks to a $5 million gift from Herb Roemmele ‘53 and generous leader- ship gifts from Sharon and James Malda ‘85 ’17P and an anonymous donor, the re- design will include commu- nity areas to foster student and faculty collaboration. The Herbert A. Roemmele ‘53 Global Commons will be a two-story atrium with a main floor and mezzanine. Video feeds will live stream news stories from around the world.

The departments of modern languages and litera- tures, religion studies, and sociology and anthropology and the Office of Interdisci- plinary Programs will move into the building. To ensure all students are exposed to global life at Lehigh, most student study groups and pro- grams will be located there.

Attention also is being given to the building’s exter- ior to draw students from upper and lower campus. For more information, visit alum.lu/williamshall or call 610-758-2837.

—Dawn Thren
A group of students painstakingly built a 6-by-8-foot mud hut on the grounds outside Mountaintop’s Building C this summer for their research into ways to reduce the indoor air pollution plaguing parts of the developing world.

To make the replica of a cooking hut typical of a rural Ugandan community, they dug holes in the rocky soil to anchor wood posts, as well as toted fallen limbs from nearby woods to weave into the hut’s frame. With their feet, they mixed clay, sand, water, and sawdust in a kiddie pool to make cob for the walls, which they built by hand. Later, they hoisted water over a wood fire inside the hut to measure the amount of black carbon released in the air.

Steps away, inside Building C, other teams of students tackled a host of different projects. One group hauled old distillery vats to the site and built a system for aquaponics, a soil-less, water conserving food production system, where they grew lettuce while cultivating tilapia. Another team designed and 3-D printed prototypes of hand exoskeletons to help kids who suffered strokes to regain movement. Another group made robots and apps as they researched ways to create “Smart Spaces” that anticipated people’s wants and needs. Two other groups set out to make documentaries.

“That’s the way everyone’s learning up here—by doing,” said David DiFrancesco ’16, as he surveyed the cavernous room mid-summer. He was part of Project Mathete (pronounced MAH-theh), which set out to explore and envision from the start.”

What began with a handful of ventures in 2013 took off this summer, as the Mountaintop experience provided a larger number of students with the freedom—and space—to explore, discover and collaborate on more than 20 projects across all disciplines. The university plans to offer the program year-round starting next summer.

“The biggest change is a matter of scale,” said Alan J. Snyder, professor of computer science and engineering and a Smart Spaces mentor. “In the classroom, it’s easy to overlook how much of a problem has already been defined, designed, and solved, before students even read the assignment. At Mountaintop, students do all of the initial work, instead of just producing the end result.”

Some teams saw their projects go in different directions than first envisioned. The students who devised exoskeletons for rehabilitation originally planned on creating prosthetic hands. When consultations with Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital revealed a lack of assistive devices for rehabilitation, they shifted direction to have a greater impact.

“I want us to see students to succeed at things we haven’t thought of,” said Snyder. “Their success depends upon their ability to observe, pose questions, and explore possibilities on their own. We want them to become skilled at independent inquiry and discovery.”

As a measure of the impact on students, several teams will continue their work beyond Mountaintop. GROW members, who aimed to change the way Lehigh gets rid of its food waste, will expand their composting efforts and establish a student club. The Lehigh Aquaponics team is looking to perhaps partner with other sustainability groups on campus and pursue a provisional patent on equipment.

“I like the culture of excellence that this provides,” said Alex Derish ’15, of Lehigh Aquaponics, in assessing the Mountaintop experience. “If you give a Lehigh student a problem, they’re going to find a way to solve it. If you give 100 Lehigh students a problem, they’re going to find a really interesting way to solve it.”

“TACKLING INDOOR AIR POLLUTION

Students built a cooking hut in order to test levels of black carbon air pollution.

FOOD FOR ALL

Using former distillery vats that they hauled from New Jersey, the Lehigh Aquaponics team developed an educational, soil-less food-production system in which they grew lettuce while cultivating tilapia. “The ultimate goal,” said Alex Derish ’15, “is to remotely drop the tanks in an environment that wouldn’t otherwise be able to produce food.” The students hoped to educate people not only on how to use their system but also about the benefits of aquaponics, including reductions in land and water usage.

RACE AND DIVERSITY AT LEHIGH

The Engineering Equality project team focused on producing a documentary that would explore race relations at Lehigh University in the last 50 years. Producers delved into historical resources to help tell the story: “We’re hoping that Lehigh sees there has been progress, but there’s more progress that can be made, and that progress is achievable,” said Paul Lyons ’16. “Our end goal is to inspire.”

“THAT’S THE WAY EVERYONE’S LEARNING UP HERE—BY DOING.”

—DAVID DIFRANCESCO ’16

AT A GLANCE: THE 2014 MOUNTAINTOP PROJECTS

A GLOBAL PROBLEM

Students built a cooking hut in order to test levels of black carbon air pollution.
THE GROW PROJECT
GR2OW, or the Green Resource Recovery of Waste, aimed to turn Lehigh's food waste into compost that can be used to fertilize greenery and other plant beds on campus. To that end, students composted about 450 pounds of food waste, mostly from Lehigh's Brodrick Student Restaurant, at the Lehigh Community Garden on the Goodman campus. In fall, team members will expand their composting efforts, establish a student club and work as sustainability interns. “It matters on a big picture level,” said Tori Wiedorn ’17, “because we’re not going to survive if we don’t change how we do things, if we don’t change how we do waste.”

TECHNOLOGY FOR SMART LIVING
For a cluster of students, it was all about “Smart Spaces”—how to track of items in their home. “We don’t change how we do waste.”

3-D PRINTING TO HELP KIDS
Using 3-D printing, a team of students created prototypes of hand exoskeletons for possible use in pediatric rehabilitation. In collaboration with Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network, the students designed and created the low-cost exoskeletons with the aim of helping children who lost muscle control in their hands, possibly from strokes. “An exoskeleton can go around the hand and facilitate some kind of movement in hopes of molding the brain to relearn the movements that the hand does,” said Elena Ramirez ’15, one of the students on the team.

FISCAL CHALLENGES
GR2OW HOSTS SYMPOSIUM
Economists, lawmakers and community leaders converged on Lehigh for a daylong symposium on the fiscal challenges facing Pennsylvania as its population ages, its health costs rise and the gap between state revenue and spending potentially widens.

GEORGETTE CHAPMAN PHILLIPS/STAFF
The exchange occurred six years ago at the International Humanities Conference in Tunisia, but it remains fresh in Donald Hall’s memory. An American film scholar, Hall recalls, couldn’t comprehend why her Kuwaiti colleague believed in wearing a veil. She refused to accept the Arab academic’s explanations that shrouding her face was a sign of cultural sensitivity in a mostly Muslim country and a useful mask of anonymity. According to the Western feminist, the Middle Easterner was not only a willing victim of oppression, she was wrong.”

Six years later remains disturbed by the American teacher’s holier-than-thou attitude. He advocates what he believes is a path forward—toward tolerance, understanding, cooperation—as the Herbert J. and Ann L. Siegel Dean of Lehigh’s College of Arts and Sciences, where for three years he’s been trying to turn dueling monologues into dialogues.

Hall has built his campaign on the platforms of internationalization, diversity and interdisciplinary harmony. During his tenure the College has sponsored a conference on the Syrian civil war and provided seed funding for the Sustainable Development Program, enabling students and panelists to promote a new direction in science, engineering and education. He advocates that we cannot afford to lose any more opportunities to learn from their experiences and mistakes and take corrective action without human intervention.

LISTENING BEYOND ONE’S HORIZONS
At home and abroad, Dean Donald Hall seeks harmony and peace. The exchange occurred six years ago at the International Humanities Conference in Tunisia, but it remains fresh in Donald Hall’s memory. An American film scholar, Hall recalls, couldn’t comprehend why her Kuwaiti colleague believed in wearing a veil. She refused to accept the Arab academic’s explanations that shrouding her face was a sign of cultural sensitivity in a mostly Muslim country and a useful mask of anonymity. According to the Western feminist, the Middle Easterner was not only a willing victim of oppression, she was wrong.”

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Promoting Healthy Behaviors

A researcher of risky alcohol use joins Community Health cluster

LUCY NAPPER, a British-born psychologist whose research has included risky alcohol use on college campuses, joined Lehigh this fall as the first person hired into the university’s Community Health cluster.

Napper, who was co-director and visiting assistant research professor at the HeadUp Alcohol Research Lab at Loyola Marymount University, will take on the role of Quantitative Health Data Specialist in the Community Health cluster as well as teach courses in statistics and the psychology of drug use and addiction.

“There’s enormous potential to do some exciting projects with the community and to promote healthy behaviors in the Lehigh Valley,” said Napper, who joins a core group of five faculty members from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education. “One of the reasons I chose to join the team here at Lehigh is that there are already many faculty who are enthusiastic about this [cluster] and who are engaged in health and community research.”

Napper’s background is in health psychology, which includes trying to understand how people make decisions about their health and why they engage in risky health behaviors, and how to design effective prevention and intervention programs to promote healthier behaviors.

“Lucy Napper comes to Lehigh with a stellar background in community-based participatory research,” said Donald E. Hall, the Herbert J. and Ann S. engineer and professor of Public Policy, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. “One of the reasons I chose to join the team here at Lehigh is that there are already many faculty who are enthusiastic about this [cluster] and who are engaged in health and community research.”

Together with early Swedish and Finnish colonists, says Soderlund, the Lenapes created the distinctive features of Delaware Valley society. Their ideals included respect for other cultures, peace between Native Americans and Europeans, religious liberty, an emphasis on trade, and a belief in personal freedom. Lenapes had no central government, each town operating independently except for diplomacy and in war. Lenape towns were led by a trusted spokesman, or sachem, but they were democratic, and many adults had a voice in making important decisions.

Penn’s Quakers reinforced this culture, says Soderlund, but their sheer numbers eventually pushed most Lenapes out of their homelands in eastern Pennsylvania. Nonetheless, the Lenape impact on Delaware Valley society continued through the early 18th century.

PUBLISHED NEW LIGHT ON THE LENAPES

The relationships among the Lenape Indians and Dutch, Swedish, Finnish and British colonists are at the core of Lenape Country: Delaware Valley Society before William Penn (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014), a book by Jean Soderlund, professor of history.

The book covers the early 1600s to the mid-1700s. When Pens sailed to America in 1682 with a royal charter, the Lenapes inhabited the region now bounded by northern Delaware, eastern Pennsylvania, central New Jersey and the Atlantic Ocean.

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Foiling Bugs That Foil Drugs

An organic chemist builds tools to help the immune system fight bacterial infections

Every week, faculty members in the department of chemistry meet over lunch to discuss current literature in the field. The conversation at one meeting led Marcos Pires to what he calls a “crazy little idea.”

Pires, assistant professor of chemistry, connected studies about a unique characteristic of bacteria with other studies of immune systems that had been trained to attack cancer cells. He wondered: What would happen if the immune system itself could be trained to attack bacteria?

In theory, the immune system should do this on its own. However, bacteria are adept at hiding. They can lie dormant, obscured from detection by the immune system. Antibiotics work because they attack a large population of dividing bacteria. They don’t work when the bacteria are hidden.

“Unfortunately, a lot of the antibiotics we use now were discovered 20, 30, 40 years ago,” says Pires. “But then we were coming up with new drugs, and the bugs didn’t have time to evolve and develop resistance. When we stopped making new drugs, the bugs found ways around the drugs. This has been getting worse and worse, and without new drugs coming, it’s projected that it could lead to some really bad scenarios.”

Rather than develop a classic antibiotic that will attack the bacterium itself, Pires is looking to stimulate the immune system to do what it’s supposed to do—find and destroy pathogens.

Bacteria are made up of amino acids, the building blocks of living organisms. Pires’ research capitalizes on the discovery of bacteria’s unique use of a particular type of amino acid called D-amino acids. For reasons still unknown, bacteria contain inside a flask will replace their D-amino acids with unnatural ones added to that flask. The bacteria will then incorporate the unnatural D-amino acids onto their peptidoglycan, or cell wall.

In the lab, Pires and his students made unnatural D-amino acid derivatives and tagged them with an antigen that draws a response from a pool of antibodies that most human beings have. As predicted, the bacteria placed the tagged D-amino acids on their surface, essentially marking themselves for destruction.

Pires then added the antibodies that seek out and bind to that particular antigen and marked them with a fluorescent tag, allowing him to verify the antibodies had found and coated the bacteria’s surface.

Moving forward, Pires and his team have a few hurdles to clear. Their initial work required a large amount of the unnatural D-amino acids to get enough antigens on the surface of the bacteria, an amount that would be too great for use in a drug intended for humans. They’re trying to reduce the amount of D-amino acids needed for the same result.

Also, until now, every research group that has conducted experiments using this strategy has worked with bacteria in a flask. Nobody knows if the swapping of D-amino acids would happen with a bacterial infection in a human.

For this next step, Pires plans to work with basic model systems, starting with fish and, if successful, moving to mice. Financing more advanced steps can be costly, so Pires is working to develop a strategic tool for the biological game of hide-and-seek in the context of the immune system itself could be trained to attack bacteria? 

Malcolm X: 50 Years Later

Scholars to explore race, religion and revolution in today’s world

On Feb. 21, 1965, Malcolm X was gunned down by members of the Nation of Islam, under what remain highly contested circumstances, at a rally in New York City. Now, as the 50th anniversary of his assassination nears, Lehigh’s Africana Studies program and political science department are planning a three-day conference to commemorate the slain African-American leader’s life and legacy.

The conference, “Malcolm X: World 50 Years Later: Race, Religion and Revolution in the 21st Century,” will bring together scholars from around the world for a dialogue on issues that Malcolm X was committed to, including equality and social justice, all of which are timely and still relevant today.

“This conference is situated within the context of the various commemorations over the last several years about important milestones in black history—the Voting Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act, the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington,” says James Braxton Peterson, associate professor of English and Director of Africana Studies. And Malcolm X, he says, must be among the prominent figures of the civil rights era to be commemorated in American history.

The conference will be held Feb. 17–19 at various campus locations. Talks by keynote speakers will be live streamed, and people can join the conversation at #Malcolm50.

Saladin Ambar, associate professor of political science and author of Malcolm X at Oxford Union: Politics in a Global Era, says, “The idea of scholars coming, not only from the states but from around the world, is to suggest that [Malcolm X] is worthy of study. He’s worthy of research, he’s worthy of being thought of in the context of the most elite academic institutions devoting time and attention to thinking about who he was.”

Malcolm X was 39 when he was killed.

“We lost one of the most gifted political thinkers, one of the most charismatic and compelling public speakers in the history of America,” says Peterson, reflecting on Malcolm X’s death. “We lost a tremendous amount of momentum in the movement for equality and social justice, and most importantly, we lost what was probably our best opportunity to have a more holistic and respectful engagement with Islam.” —Mary Allen, Alu

Kart also studies the history of European collection of African art, ancient and modern, and the way in which the ancient and modern sculptures and anthropomorphic items that were brought back to Europe from colonial territories as exotic commodities.

“These objects,” says Kart, “were collected primarily in the late 19th and early 20th century. They represent a very small aspect of the artworks of certain cultures as observed from the outside.

“Contemporary artists examine the objects in European and American museums as found objects, dislocated from the past that can be reinvented. An artist like El Anatsui [Ghana] might take bottle caps and turn them into a contemporary sculpture that looks like a traditional textile in some way.”
Taking Jazz to a ‘Purer Place’

Bill Warfield, trumpeter and composer, finds new directions
and intimate venues for old standards

Bill Warfield was having one of those magical musical nights when the planets don’t just align, they dance. The trumpeter was playing “All the Things You Are.” “Bye Bye Blackbird” and other jazz standards at a club in Prague with three crackajack Czechs. It didn’t matter that he hadn’t rehearsed with his pick-up comrades, or that he’d never gigged with the drummer. The groove was so good, so uncommon, it was almost, well, telepathic.

“It was a great night,” says Warfield, an associate professor of music who heads Lehigh’s jazz-studies program. “We loved it, and the crowd loved it; talk about thinking you’re a rock star for a minute. We walked out of there going, yeah, this is a great idea—we should take it on the road.”

Warfield’s wish will launch on Feb. 28, when his new bicontinental combo opens a bico-continental tour in the Zoellner Arts Center, the residence of his New York Jazz Repertory Orchestra. The core members of the International Jazz Core-Tet will be saxophonist Jens Jensen, an old friend from Denmark; guitarist Labor Simolas and organist Jakub Zomer, newer colleagues from Czechoslovakia; and saxophonist Glenn Cashman. Guesting at Zoellner will be drummer Jeff “Tain” Watts, the only core member of groups led by the brothers Wynton and Branford Marsalis, both of whom have played Lehigh.

The Core-Tet tour will continue in New York City, where Warfield will showcase his new CD “Trumpet Story” (Planet Arts Records), a showcase for renowned trumpeter Randy Brecker. Also scheduled are shows in Portugal and a festival in Morocco. The project is funded by a New Directions fellowship from Lehigh’s College of Arts and Sciences.

Warfield specializes in taking old tunes in new directions. For 15 seasons his orchestra has played his arrangements of classics all over the map, everything from Jimi Hendrix’s psychedelic-rock tunes to Miles Davis’ “Sketches of Spain,” a landmark 1960 union of jazz, classical and global. His music has been all over the map in Europe, too. The Spanish government hired him to write a “Hollywood Jazz” revue for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. His “Le Jazz Hot” suite premiered at the 2000 Paris Jazz Festival with commissioning saxophonist Dave Liebman. Last year Warfield guested at the Royal Conservatory in Denmark, where he and Jensen, the school’s jazz director, debuted Warfield’s suite from “Trumpet Story.”

“We’re returning to a purer place,” says Warfield of himself and his Core-Tet comrades. “We’re taking away most of the marketing, removing the corporate stuff, losing the urban-chic appeal. We’re congregating in intimate spaces and performing for real fans who love real music.” —Geoff Gehman ’89 M.A.

BACKSTAGE

SPOOKY RHINO MASKS

Designer Erica Hoelscher steamed recently with the Idiopathic Riddiculopathy Consortium of Philadelphia to make costumes and scenery for a production of Eugene Ionesco’s play Rhinoceros.

In Rhinoceros, residents of a small French town turn into rhinos over the course of three acts. After believing the metamorphosis is a disease, they realize people are choosing to change. As more make the switch, others want to follow the crowd. By the end of the play, only the central character, Bérenger, remains human.

Hoelscher, professor of theatre, costumed 15 characters with rhino masks. “I wanted there to be a physical, tangible way the actor turns into a rhinoceros. Over the course of the play, rhinoceros heads start appearing around Bérenger. They become increasingly elaborate until they are incredibly ornate. I wanted something real that would make a connection for the audience [to] the rhinoceroses.”

Working with Lisa Glover ’13 ’14G, Hoelscher used computer-aided design and a laser cutter to make origami-like masks from high-quality cardboard. Glover founded a company that sells kits for assembling 3-D dinosaurs.

“Erica Hoelscher’s many rhino masks,” wrote a Philadelphia Inquirer reviewer, “are delightfully spooky…and her costumes colorful and witty.”
VERSATILE VAN STREEPEN

Jade Van Streepen’s success, both on the court and off, is pushing Lehigh volleyball forward.

Growing up, Jade Van Streepen played many sports, none more than soccer. And she was good enough that, for a good long while, she thought she would continue her soccer career into college. Then Van Streepen moved from California to Texas, where she was introduced to volleyball.

“The volleyball is at a high level and academics are obviously a huge reason why I came here. Being an engineer from Lehigh gives you huge status points. I’m in a double-major in mechanical engineering and math, and I like both subjects a lot,” she says. “But I enjoy the balance between academics and athletics. Right now, I’m focused on the volleyball season, but I am also working on my MBA, which is my second major.”

Van Streepen was a two-sport athlete in high school, playing volleyball and soccer. She played both sports at the varsity level and was captain of both her soccer and volleyball teams. On the soccer field, Van Streepen was a defender, and she played a season of club soccer while at Lehigh.

During her time on South Mountain, Van Streepen has thrived. On the court, she’s been a starter for all three years she’s been at Lehigh. She played in all 28 games this season and was one of the top scorers for the Mountain Hawks.

Van Streepen’s success, both on the court and off, is pushing Lehigh volleyball forward.

Academic All-American Mason Beckman ’15 on his goals for the season and the unique challenges of wrestling.

MAJOR Supply Chain Management

HOMETOWN Transfer, Pa.

HONORS Wrestling at 125 pounds last season, Beckman finished with a record of 32-9 and a sixth-place finish at the NCAA Wrestling Championships. He was named both an All-American and an Academic All-American.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN WRESTLING “I was born in to the sport of wrestling in a lot of ways. My father was a coach and my older brother started wrestling at age 6 or 7, so it was always in the cards. I would tag along to practices with them when I was only 4, or 5 years old and learn a little bit each night, and before long, I was doing full practices and starting a wrestling career of my own.”

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT WRESTLING “It’s a sport that pushes a person and reminds who they truly are. Above all, I think I love the fact that wrestling is a sport that anyone can succeed in if they are willing to learn and adapt. There is no required body type or level of athleticism necessary to win at the highest level, which is extremely unique for a collegiate sport.”

WHAT I DON’T LOVE ABOUT IT “There’s nothing I would say that I absolutely hate about our sport, but it does take a lot on your mind and body after a while. Waking up sore all the time can get old!”

BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT “Being named an Academic All-American last season was easily the biggest achievement of my career. As a program, we take a lot of pride in being student athletes and succeeding in the classroom as well as on the mat and to be able to practice what is preached to us meant a lot to me. None of that would have been possible without my teammates, coaches, and family though. They all stepped up in the right direction and picked me up when I was down. In reality, they are the ones that deserve the majority of the credit.”

IF I DIDN’T WRESTLE, THE SPORT I WOULD PLAY IS … “I don’t have a clear-cut answer to this question because I have yet to find another sport that I can play. Being 5’4” and an average athlete doesn’t lend itself well to many sports, but if I had to choose I would say ice hockey.”

MY FAVORITE ATHLETE IN ANOTHER SPORT IS … “Andrew McCutchen of the Pittsburgh Pirates or Lionel Messi of FC Barcelona.”

MY HEROES ARE … “My brother, my father, any man or woman who has served and fought to defend our country, and the Lord.”

MY LEADERSHIP STYLE IS … “I try to be as positive as possible and to always push my teammates in the right direction when they seem to need it. I make myself as available as possible and try to set a good example. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention Nathaniel Brown, who is the other captain of our team. He is a phenomenal leader and teammate who I learn from on a daily basis.”

GOALS THIS SEASON “To get better every day and push my teammates to be the best team that we can be. If we continue to improve throughout the season to come and the unique challenges of wrestling.”
Rivalries

Yes, it’s been played more than any other rivalry game in the country. But to hear Lehigh football alums tell it, that’s not the only reason why ’The Rivalry’ stands out above the rest.

There are bigger sports than college football, and there are more popular sports than college football. There are sports that claim more fans and a more global audience. There are sports that make more money than college football, and sports that may be considered more fashionable, especially today.

But at least in one respect, the game of American college football simply has no peer: Rivalry.

Real, honest, meaningful rivalry. This is a sport, after all, that was quite literally born over a grudge match between students at rival Princeton and Rutgers, and over the course of its 146-year history, it is a sport that has given birth to countless more rivalries—rivalries big and small and bitter and, well, even more bitter. In many ways, this is a sport that was built on rivalry—on the collective embrace of fierce competition against that school next door, or just across the state line, or maybe, for example, just 13 miles up the road.

There’s simply no debating it. No American sport can match college football for its respect and celebration of rivalry, and all one must do is look around the nation for evidence. There is plenty.

There is Alabama-Auburn down south, in a series so intense that it can rightly be said to border on the bizarre. There is Ohio State-Michigan out in the Midwest, with the Buckeyes so disdainful of the maize and blue that they refuse to utter the name of “The School Up North” at all. There is USC-UCLA in the battle for Los Angeles, Minnesota-Wisconsin in the battle for Paul Bunyan’s Axe, and Oklahoma-Texas each and every year, at the Texas State Fair, with the Cotton Bowl split in two—burnt orange on one side, maroon on the other, and don’t you dare cross enemy lines. There is the Apple Cup and the Centennial Cup and more than a couple Governor’s Cups. There is the Egg Bowl in Mississippi and the Bucket game in Indiana, the Palmetto State grudge match in South Carolina and, down in Georgia,
a rivalry series so heated they just call it “Clean, Old Fashioned Hate.” There is Amherst-Williams, Harvard-Yale, Grambling-Southern and, of course, the annual football masterpiece that is Army-Navy.

They are great rivalries all. But they are not “The Rivalry.” They can’t be. Because while there may be “bigger” rivalry games, or games that draw more fans or more television viewers, there is no rivalry game anywhere in this college football nation that has been played more times than the Lehigh-Lafayette rivalry. Not one.

Entering this season, the Mountain Hawks and the Leopards had played out their annual (and occasionally more than annual) grudge match 149 times. That’s 29 more times than Harvard has played Yale, 33 more times than Auburn has played Georgia in “The South’s Oldest Rivalry,” 36 more times than Ohio State has played Michigan. These 149 meetings have seen thrills on the field, stunning upsets, staggering blowouts and sterling individual performances. They have seen legends made, miracles happen, and winning streaks born and broken. They have seen passion and pageantry in the stands, media hype, a few brawls in the stands and a few more on the field, pranks and banter and maybe a few lines crossed. They have seen marching bands and mascots and, of course, an untold number of goal posts torn down.

What these 149 games have seen, in other words, is the development of one of the greatest traditions—and one of the greatest rivalries—that college sports has ever seen. With its unique and unmatched history, then, it is entirely true to say that The Rivalry stands alone.

“I mean, think about it—you’re talking about 150 games,” says Mark McGowan ’89, the quarterback who guided Lehigh to a 17-10 win over Lafayette in the last game ever played at Taylor Stadium. “There’s a lot of tradition built into that. A lot of great players, and a lot of great people who have gone on to do great things in their lives. To learn what it means to be part of a team that has such a great history, it’s really awesome to be part of that. And for a Patriot League player, where 99 percent of the players aren’t going on to play in the NFL, having the opportunity to represent your university in a rivalry like that? That’s the climax of college football right there, just to be part of something like this.”

This year, in honor of the 150th playing of the Lehigh-Lafayette game, the two Lehigh Valley rivals are taking their annual clash on the road—all the way to New York’s Yankee Stadium. There, at 3 p.m. on Nov. 22, the Mountain Hawks and Leopards will take the field and play out the latest chapter in their series in front of more than 40,000 people, not to mention a nationwide television audience.

As they do, they will be given the opportunity to show America precisely what Lehigh and Lafayette alumni have known for nearly a century and a half now: That while Ohio State and Michigan fans may brag on their annual clash and while Alabama and Auburn fans may do the same, while Harvard and Yale celebrate The Game and while the Long-
horns and Sooners hold dear The Red River Rivalry, Lehigh vs. Lafayette is every bit as passionate, every bit as heated and every bit as important—to the players, to the coaches, to the students, and the alumni—as every other rivalry in the nation.

Just ask the guys who have played in it.

“I remember speaking to a reporter one time after the Lehigh-Lafayette game of my senior year, and he asked me, ‘I know this is a big game, but do you get the sense that because you play the same weekend as all of these other rivalries that you sometimes don’t get the credit you deserve?’” recalls Mark Yeager ’81. “And I remember telling him, ‘Look, nobody in this locker room has any delusions of grandeur. Few of us have even thought about pursuing a career in the NFL. But that does not in any way demean what this game means to us. Winning this game is every bit as important to our coaches, our families, the players, the schools and the students as any other rivalry game. It may be less impactful of the national championship picture. But don’t doubt that it’s every bit as important.’”

‘Just a Little More Electric’

Talk to enough Lehigh football alums and you’ll eventually collect a treasure trove of great stories about The Rivalry.

One will tell you about how, months after a last-minute loss to the Leopards, his coach opened spring practice not with the typical warm-ups—stretching, or calisthenics—but rather by having his team run the exact same play that failed, with the clock running out, all those months before. Another will recall the immense pressure he and his teammates felt to get a win in the very last Lehigh-Lafayette game ever played at Taylor Stadium—a game played out in almost unbearably cold temperatures. Another will tell you about the bittersweet victory in his freshman year over a Lafayette team that happened to include his big brother, a senior at the time, who with that stinging defeat saw his football career end in the worst way possible—a loss to hated Lehigh. Still another will talk about the fleeting moment of joy he experienced, down on the field of old Taylor Stadium, when in the midst of the frenzied game day atmosphere he simply stopped, took in the hectic and colorful scene surrounding him, and realized that, yes, he was truly part of something special.

Some recall individual plays of brilliance or heartbreaking moments of defeat. Some remember the first time they got hit by a Leopard—or the first time they hit a Leopard. Some can’t help but laugh in disbelief about traditions of old—of the crazy old days when students on both sides would literally go to war over a piece of the Lehigh-Lafayette goalposts, and when being on the sidelines, with a helmet on, was really the safest place to be. Others still, mostly the guys who were raised here in the Lehigh Valley, will get emotional talking about how they grew up with the Lehigh-Lafayette game, how they started coming to the game with their father or grandfather, and how their playing in the game felt like a certain kind of destiny fulfilled.

The stories run the gamut—triumph, heartbreak, comedy, victory. And yet, there is one theme, and one idea, that ultimately ties all of their stories together.
TEN TO REMEMBER
Lehigh football expert Chuck Burton, author of the Lehigh Football Nation blog, ranks the Top 10 Lehigh wins in the history of The Rivalry.

1. Playing for the mythical “Championship of Pennsylvania,” the first game in the home-and-home series was one of the more thrilling Rivalry matchups. In Bethlehem at old Lehigh Field, with the fans separated from the players only by rope, a Lehigh team powered by Hall in the backfield ran backs Paul Dashiell and Samuel Warriner fell behind early 10-0. But Lehigh’s innovative offense, the “Lehigh Veer” would eventually wear down the Maroon & White. Dashiell and Warriner would orchestrate 16 unanswered points for a thrilling, come-from-behind, 16-10 win.

2. With the Lambert Cup on the line, a heavily favored Lafayette squad fell behind 24-0 to a spirited Leopards team. In what would be Bill Lecky’s last final game as head football coach of the Brown & White, Lehigh rallied to tie the game at 24. With Lafayette punting the ball away with a minute to play, quarterback Johnny DeNoia completed his only pass of the day to Pat Clarke at the Lafayette 5-yard line. That set up the game-winner as time expired, ending the game at 27-24.

3. The Mountain Hawks were in the midst of an incredible 23-3 regular season run of games, while Lafayette was struggling, going 4-6 into Bill Richardson’s final game as head football coach. Lafayette gave everything they had and scored a late touchdown to cut the game to 14-12. It seemed the Leopards had all the momentum, but their two-point conversion attempt was knocked down by defensive end Jason Pecinof. Through a nail-biting finish, the defense held on, preserving Lafayette’s streak in the Rivalry and helping the Mountain Hawks earn a second-straight berth to the FCS playoffs.

4. After falling behind 22-0 early—and making Lehigh fans very, very nervous—running back Rabih Abdullah, quarterback Phil Stambaugh and wideout Joe Falzone helped Lehigh respond. Falzone was tackled by the defense, but the Mountain Hawks had other ideas, nabbing Curley’s underthrown ball, and causing thrilled Mountain Hawk fans to rush the field in celebration. The final game as head football coach. Lafayette gave everything they had and scored a late touchdown to cut the game to 14-12. It seemed the Leopards had all the momentum, but their two-point conversion attempt was knocked down by defensive end Jason Pecinof. Through a nail-biting finish, the defense held on, preserving Lafayette’s streak in the Rivalry and helping the Mountain Hawks earn a second-straight berth to the FCS playoffs.

5. With Lehigh holding a late 20-10 lead, Lafayette found itself with a first-and-10 from the Leopards’ 20-yard line. But line backers Mike Groome and Al Pierce stonewalled the Leopards, with Groome turning in two spectacular stops. With Lehigh driving one last time, Pierce stopped Leopard running back Alan Elder short of the sticks, preserving Lehigh’s 20-13 victory.

6. Lafayette had a chance to become Patriot League champions and FCS Playoff participants if they could simply beat the 3-7 Leopards for the third straight time in Bethlehem. Against all odds, Lehigh held a 22-14 lead until Lafayette quarterback Rob Curley completed a 34-yard strike to wideout Julian Hayes to force overtime. One touchdown and missed extra point later, all Curley had to do was score a touchdown and extra point to win, but Mountain Hawk linebacker Al Pierce had other ideas, nabbing Curley’s underthrown ball, and causing thrilled Mountain Hawk fans to rush the field in victory.

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9. The final college football game played in Taylor Stadium was also one of the coldest days in Rivalry history, turning away many fans who would have otherwise been subjected to minus-17 degree wind chills. Down 10-9 in the fourth quarter, quarterback Mark McDowell engineered a ten-play, 59-yard drive in the freezing cold, taking the ball himself over the goal line to get the game-clinching score, 37-10.

10. It wasn’t clear that this game would determine the Patriot League title, but as the day turned to dusk and Lafayette rallied from a 30-14 deficit in the 4th quarter to improve their game, suddenly the first overtime Rivalry game was going to determine the league title. In the first period of the second overtime, wideout Brian Kingerman, with the sun setting, made a spectacular one-handed grab of Bob Alyworth’s pass in the end zone to take the lead. And after Lehigh’s defensive line stuffed Lafayette on 4th-and-5, the Championship was theirs.
enormous weight of responsibility—responsibility to their friends and classmates and teammates to bring back a win, to give Lehigh another year’s worth of bragging rights, to write another winning chapter in the proud history of a great football program that has been blessed with a truly great rivalry.

“Coming into Lehigh, one of the first things the older guys tell you is, ‘You don’t lose to Lafayette—in anything,’” adds former tailback Keith Sherman ’14. “Hearing that message from those guys, you just know right away that it really means something. You get that feeling that it’s about much more than just what’s happening on the field.”

To run onto the field for a Lehigh-Lafayette game, these former players say, is an experience unlike any other they ever had in football. It’s thrilling, overwhelming, humbling. And in truth, they say, it’s actually something that takes some getting used to.

Freshmen, most of the time, just aren’t ready for it. They can’t be.

“When you are playing in a Lehigh-Lafayette game, you have to have a different mindset,” says Benn. “The first couple of times I played in it, I went in thinking that it was like any other game—that all of our games were equally ‘big’ games. But then I realized you can’t do that. By my junior and senior years, I understood that you needed to be really prepared mentally for the game. There is so much emotion in it.”

“It’s just phenomenal,” adds former linebacker Mike Yadush ’93. “I think the older guys tried to prepare us for it, but you really don’t get it until you experience it.”

Which raises a question. What does it mean, really, to “get it”?

It means racing down the field, as a true freshman, making a tackle on the opening kick and hearing a roar that you’ve never heard before. It means playing your heart out for the seniors, because after all they gave to the program, the one thing they deserve, more than anything else in the world, is to go out with a win over Lafayette. It means consoling those seniors when the Leopards win the day, it means never forgetting just how bad it felt to lose, and it means promising your teammates that next year won’t be another failure. It means understanding that most every single play of most every single playing of this game will never be forgotten, and it means being wise enough, even in the heat of battle, to take a breath, look around and appreciate what a wonderful thing this rivalry is—and how fortunate you are to have played in it.

Because while some may say it’s just a football game, it’s really so much more than that.

It’s an event.

It’s a celebration.

It’s The Rivalry.

And there really isn’t another one like it.

“I always tell this story,” says Yadush. “I had a good buddy who played at Penn State, and I was at one of his Penn State games against Notre Dame. This was back in the early ’90s and it was a big, big deal. I was down on the field, and there were 85,000 people in that stadium, and it was so impressive. But then, as I was looking around, I remember thinking to myself, ‘You know, this is great. But it still isn’t Lehigh-Lafayette.’”

RIVARLY REFLECTIONS


JOHN SHIGO ’84

MORE RIVALRY REFLECTIONS

To read and hear more memories of the Lehigh-Lafayette game from Lehigh football alumni through the generations visit lehigh.edu/bulletin.
The more we say something, the more it becomes easy to say. Since Michael Smerconish has been answering questions about his place in the middle of the political spectrum for quite some time, and how moderation absolutely does not—under any circumstances—make him any less strident, he is quite polished and rehearsed when talking about that subject. What we need here is something to switch the narrative.

So, what was it like writing a novel?

A smile. A lean. Now, we have real engagement. Smerconish is quite familiar with the electoral and legislative arenas. He lives there. Forget his address in Philadelphia’s Main Line. Smerconish is immersed in the fray, warding off the criticisms of the right, whose members rail at him for abandoning the Republican Party for what they consider the milquetoast of independence, and sparring with the left and its refusal to sanctify anyone who dares embrace even part of the Other Side.

Smerconish knows the middle. It’s his world. So, discussing the issues—and more specifically his approach to them—brings a practiced response. It’s not robotic, mind you, just well rehearsed. You would expect the same from a physician asked to discuss a procedure he has performed hundreds of times. Or from a musician fielding a request to play a timeworn chestnut.

But writing fiction? Now, that’s outside of Smerconish’s established, comfortable boundaries. And it clearly excites him. In May, his first novel, Talk, hit the stores and online outlets, and though it can be considered as a literary extension of his brand, it was still new ground and therefore exciting for him.
They don’t have to beat up on the president or go way out of control,’” Smerconish says. “[The book] has a real serious message on the [political] climate, which dovetails on everything else … the CNN show, what I do on SiriusXM. It’s all consistent.”

That consistency is the important thing for Smerconish now. After more than a decade of trying to have all aspects of his career flowing in the same direction, he has finally achieved that goal. It began with the move to SiriusXM from a syndicated, Philadelphia-based “terrestrial” radio model. That freed him from a talk-radio world that Cooke calls “a punchline” and “a caricature personified”—a landscape dominated by shrill voices that mandate full audience fealty. Smerconish was heard on about 80 stations nationally, most of which were predominantly right wing in nature.

“Moving to satellite was a sea change to a different demographic,” says Smerconish, who made a well-publicized break with the party in 2010, two years after supporting Barack Obama in the ’08 election. “[Listeners] are paying for it, so they have to be of a certain income level, and they’re educated. And at least those I’m dealing with, they respond to non-doctrinaire dialogue.”

Smerconish is the rare talk-radio host who doesn’t mind giving—and take—with his audience. He won’t allow listeners to hijack a show segment or to pillory. Smerconish is known as fair, and when he doesn’t know something, he won’t bluster. He’ll try to find an answer. His show has a big tent feel to it, something that he believes more accurately represents America, even if the edges of the spectrum make the most noise.

“It’s a seascape, and the Eagles logo is in the middle of the stage. I don’t like it, but it’s my brainchild and I’m proud of it,” Hoven said. "It’s the best logo ever.”

Smerconish has been interviewed by CNN and MSNBC. He appeared on the Late Show with David Letterman, the View, and ABC’s This Week. And he has been a regular contributor to the Fox News Channel.

“I think it’s important that we continue to have this dialogue,” Smerconish said. “People need to understand that there are different views and different opinions, and we need to respect each other.”

“I want people to laugh out loud, and I want them to say, ‘You know, he’s right. This really is out of control.’”
McFadden was this classic Lehigh personality beloved department chairman Joe McFadden. While he was at Lehigh and which was taught by a primer that carried the same course number journalism 122 course, which covers media, looking at, he says. "In the span of 45 minutes, I tried to explain to them the way in which those businesses have changed, and how they changed at the exact same time that Washington has become more polarized."

Smerconish’s CNN show provides a televised version of his radio program and continues his quest to civilize the discussion on issues. He’s happy to be on what he considers to be neutral ground, after splitting his TV time between the left and right camps. CNN is happy to let him do it. Speaking in early February, when Smerconish’s new show was announced, network president Jeff Zucker said, “At a time when the cable news landscape has become increasingly polarized, his independence and passion for reasoned dialogue makes him the perfect fit for CNN.” About a month after his CNN show was announced, Smerconish learned he would get a weekly “outing” in the evening slot vacated recently by Piers Morgan.

Smerconish’s growing influence and success. He has grabbed the middle tightly and is using every medium at his disposal to draw Americans away from the fringes and into the mainstream, where he believes progress can be made. Partisanship has been confused with passion, and that’s anathema to him. Smerconish moves forward confident in the fact that he is true to himself—and he honestly believes he can find some answers that will lead to an end of the shrill climate that prevails.

“The opinions that I offer, the right ones and the wrong ones, they’re all heartfelt,” he says. "I’ve never tailored my speech to where I think the students asked a lot of questions and the invitation to speak allowed Smerconish to talk about polarization in the media and the political arena. He spoke about the reasons for the current climate and how the media has mirrored the nation’s capital by creating a divergence that allows for less and less rational discussion. Smerconish was cheered by the fact that the students asked a lot of questions and seemed engaged.

“The reason I’m so passionate about that subject is that I think the industries in which I work are the ones that are responsible, specifically talk radio and cable television news,” he says. “I’m gonna tell you what I think, and I think I said a lot of this in my book, ‘I say it the hardest thing that I have written.’

You look at his core, decided to be honest.” Smerconish can be vehement when he wants to be. Take his support for the widow of slain Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner and his strenuous opposition to any loosening of the sentence handed down to Faulkner’s convicted killer, Mumia Abu-Jamal. In March, one of his Philadelphia Inquirer columns called for an end of the SAT and used his own troubles with the test and subsequent success at Lehigh and the University of Pennsylvania Law School as evidence that the test is not an accurate indicator of a student’s future success. “Somehow, [a college] application has got to enable someone, anyone, to say, ‘I’ve got a lot more things going on here that B or B-minus that you may be looking at,'” he says.

Smerconish had a chance to check out today’s college world when he returned to Lehigh in March to address journalism students in the Journalism 122 course, which covers media, law and ethics. At first, he thought he would be presiding over the “jokes” class, a journalism primer that carried the same course number while he was at Lehigh and which was taught by beloved department chairman Joe McFadden. “McFadden was this classic Lehigh personality,” Smerconish says. “No matter what you were majoring in, you wanted to make sure at some point at Lehigh you registered for ‘Jokes.’”

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EXPERIENCE ‘THE RIVALRY’ IN NEW YORK CITY!

ALL WEEKEND
Welcome Center
New York Marriott Marquis, Times Square, 1353 Broadway
Volunteers and staff will be on hand at Lehigh’s event headquarters to welcome you to New York City. Stop by during Rivalry Weekend to get program updates, confirm your schedule, get local information, and more.

Tell Your Lehigh Story: An Alumni Oral History Project
New York Marriott Marquis, Times Square, By appointment
We all have great Lehigh stories—passionate, quirky, or touching memories of our experiences. Help make Lehigh history (literally!) by participating in a casual “StoryCorps”-style interview with a volunteer or student. Interviews, with your permission, will be preserved for future generations in the Lehigh archives.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20
RALLY FOR THE RIVALRY
New York Marriott Marquis, Broadway Lounge
1353 Broadway, 5-8 p.m., $25
Kick off the weekend with friends and frenemies from “that other school” at the crossroads of the worlds, Times Square. Hosted by the Alumni Club of New York and the Lafayette College New York City Alumni Chapter.

BALANCE Banquet
New York Marriott Marquis, Manhattan Ballroom
1353 Broadway, 7-10 p.m. By Invitation Only
The Lehigh University Black and Latino Alumni Network for Community and Equity (BALANCE) presents its 2014 ALUMNI BALANCE.

The Martindale Society Annual Meeting
By Invitation Only
The Martindale Society invites friends and former students of Lehigh to join us at our Annual Meeting in New York City for an evening of celebrations honoring his 50th anniversary at Lehigh.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Leadership Dialog: LU at the UN—An Insider’s Look
Church Center for the United Nations
9 a.m.–12:30 p.m., $25 SOLD OUT
Hear a briefing by Ahmat Kamal, the former Ambassador and Permanent Representative from Pakistan to the United Nations, and learn about experiences of Lehigh students who serve at the nearby headquarters.

Panel Discussion: Creating Investor Value
Convene, 730 Third Avenue, 10 a.m.–Noon, $25
Join Joe Pepper, VBA, head downtown partner of Perella Weinberg Partners, and Barry Rosenstein ’81, founder and managing partner of JANA Partners, LLC for a panel discussion moderated by Bloomberg Television anchor and managing editor, Stephanie Ruhle ’97. Sponsored by the Lehigh Wall Street Council.

Leadership Dialog with Lehigh University College of Education: Are We Asking Too Much or Too Little?
Apella, event space at Alexandria Center
450 East 29th Street, 2nd Floor, 10 a.m.–Noon, $25
Brook Sawyer, assistant professor of teaching, learning, and technology, and Arnold Spankow, professor and program director of counseling psychology, will engage the audience in an interactive discussion about the future of education.

Walking Tour: America’s Passeggiata: Exploring the High Line and the urbanization process, for an exploration of Greenwich Village.
10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., $25 SOLD OUT
Italians have long enjoyed the custom of the passeggiata, or evening stroll. New York’s High Line offers the American version of that experience—a place where locals gather with their families and friends, pause for a view or a chat, or just relax.

Performance Workshop: From the Page to the Stage
L&L Grill House Restaurant and Bar, 233 W 49th Street
1 p.m.–5 p.m., $25
Join Department of Theatre students and faculty for theater presentations and discussions at Eric Penumia ’83’s award-winning restaurant.

Leadership Dialog: The Need for Speed
Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum
Pier 86, W 46th Street and 12th Ave., 11 a.m.–4 p.m., $25
Take a ticket at the more daring side of engineering against the backdrop of the fascinating Intrepid Museum with two of Lehigh’s top experts, Professors Joachim Grenestedt and Terry Hart ’68, a former NASA astronaut.

Walking Tour: Exploring Greenwich Village
10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., $25 SOLD OUT
Join Lehigh Professor Joseph Samer, professor of history and social and cultural historian who focuses on the impact of industrialization and the urbanization process, for an exploration of Greenwich Village.

Leadership Dialog: Innovation and Health
Apella, event space at Alexandria Center
450 E, 29th Street, 2nd Floor, 2–4 p.m., $25
Alan Snyder, vice president and associate provost for research and graduate studies, and Sam Nedbal ’84 ’86, biotech entrepreneur and professor of chemistry, will lead a discussion of emerging new technologies and emerging new perspectives in health.

Ringing of the Closing Bell Broadcast
New York Stock Exchange
4:30 p.m.
Representatives from Lehigh and Lafayette will ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange, signaling the close of the markets.

Concert: Lehigh University Choral Arts
Carnegie Hall, Isaac Stern Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Lehigh University Choral Arts, directed by Steven Sametz, Bristol ’71, U.S. Professor of Music, brings its tradition of excellence into the spotlight on the renowned main stage of Carnegie Hall. For ticket information, call CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800 or by visiting CarnegieHall.org.

BROWN & WHITE NIGHT
Terracing Earth, Wind, and Fire
Terminal 5, 610 West 56th St., West of 11th Ave., 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m., $100
Find your place among the stars at this signature “Rivalry Eve” soiree. Enjoy dancing, a DJ, Earth, Wind, and Fire 22+ you get revved up for The Rivalry. Tickets include beer/wine/signature cocktail and the fun.

Activity around the City
Explore New York. Events TBA!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22
GAME DAY
Yankee Stadium
Kickoff 3:30 p.m. (Pre-game at the Stadium. SOLD OUT)
The Lehigh-Lafayette Game will be a unique experience. Yankee Stadium will be open two hours prior to kickoff for fans to enter, enjoy the variety of food and drink options available, and tour the stadium. Watch the teams warm up for the game, and enjoy video content from the many screens located throughout the stadium. All ticket locations allow for a 360-degree walk around the public concourses with a valid game ticket.

PRE-GAME RECEPTION
Sponsored by the Lehigh Club of Central New Jersey
Legends Sports Bar
6 West 33rd Street
20 a.m.–2 p.m., $30
Note: Legends Sports Bar is a separate venue from Legends at Yankee Stadium.

NATIONAL TELECASTS
Lehigh is hosting closed captioning on 75 telecasts around the world. Find one near you at nyctelecasts.com/telecasts.

To register and for weekend details, including where to stay, visit rivalryevents@lehigh.edu or 844-LU150TH. All event registration must be conducted online. Questions may be directed to rivalryevents@lehigh.edu or 844-LU150TH.

BROADEN YOUR HORIZON, EXPAND YOUR NETWORK, ENJOY NEW YORK CITY!

Broaden your mind, expand your network, and see New York City in a whole new way during Rivalry Weekend, as Lehigh offers a host of compelling events designed just for alumni and friends. Explore the city with an insider’s walking tour, immerse yourself in culture, and engage in compelling dialog around some of the day’s most intriguing topics alongside Lehigh experts. From finance and business, to the arts, education, engineering, and more, Rivalry Weekend gives you an exceptional opportunity to share in the very best of Lehigh as you renew and grow your Lehigh friendships and connections. Please join us! REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 10! alum.lu/150weekend
The Enduring Value of Lehigh’s Vision for College Athletics

By Joe Sterrett ’76, Murray H. Goodman Dean of Athletics

What We Stand For
The Enduring Value of Lehigh’s Vision for College Athletics

LIKE THE REST OF YOU, I am counting down the days to what promises to be one of the most exciting events in Lehigh athletics history—the 150th playing of the Lehigh-Lafayette rivalry game, next month, in New York’s iconic Yankee Stadium. Our celebration of The Rivalry will offer Lehigh the opportunity to show the rest of the nation what we stand for when it comes to college athletics. Our message, I believe, is one that may resonate more strongly today than ever before.

As many of you know, these are challenging times in the world of college sports. At the base of a highly public discourse is the question of whether college sports are a commercial or educational endeavor. An indication of the emerging sentiments may be discerned by looking at the circumstances that have prompted litigation in order to answer that question. A lawsuit involving Northern California football athletes seeking the opportunity to unionize has been filed. And a number of lawsuits have been filed regarding the financial obligations associated with changes in conference membership.

Dramatic changes have been sought and won by selected NCAA members. The consequences of these trends in sentiments, motivations and institutions threaten the structure and viability of the NCAA as the governing structure for college sports. Already, many regional-based and historically traditional associations and competitive rivalries have been forsaken in the effort by multiple conferences to include new members with specific media markets in their conference footprint.

The quest for revenue has also impacted the search for and acquisition of talent. The salaries for head coaches in high-profile football programs are characterized as “employees” or “students.” Another lawsuit is focused on the rights of athletes to share in revenues from merchandising sales that use athlete “ likenesses.” And a number of lawsuits have been filed regarding the financial obligations associated with changes in conference membership.

We need to be cognizant of what these trends may be telling us about college sports. And we need to be thoughtful about how we choose to guide our programs and the perceptions generated by our priorities.

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Lehigh spirit goes beyond the sports fields. Students at the Club Fair and Community Expo get to explore their passions.

Photo by Christa Neu