

# Lafayette Advising newsletter

March 2021 edition

Greetings from Scott Hall, and we hope this unique spring semester has been engaging and productive so far. We invite you to read below some news and announcements from the Office of Advising. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [deanofadvising@lafayette.edu](mailto:deanofadvising@lafayette.edu) if you have any questions or need additional information. You can also find us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

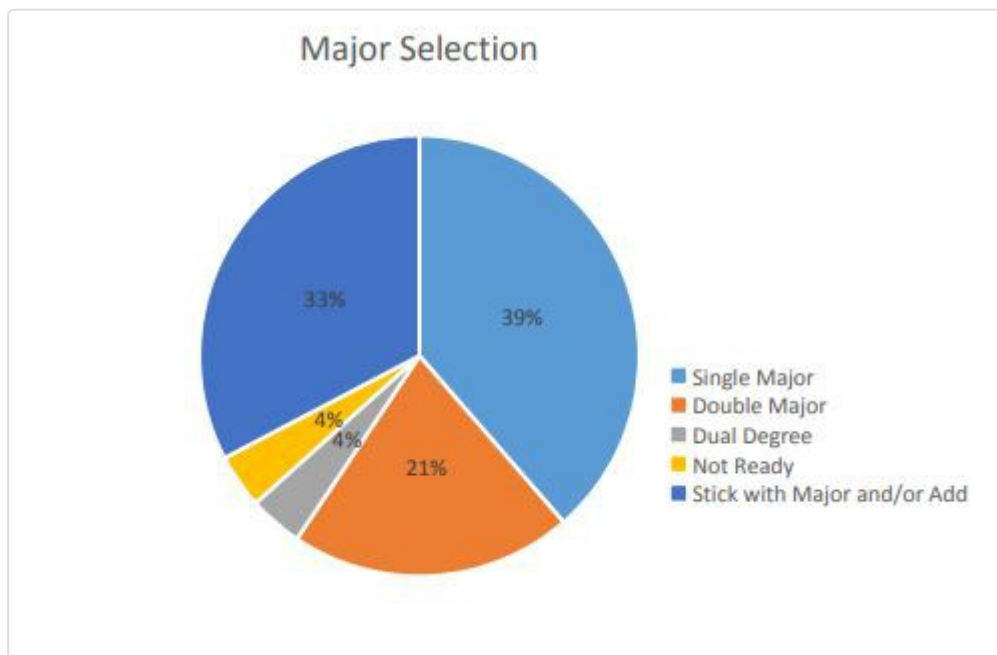


## Declaration of Major update

The Class of 2023 recently completed their formal Declaration of Major, and the results this year once again reveal a broad range of student trajectories. Of particular note this year was that close to one-third of sophomores reported that they remain committed to their initial choice of major, with a few choosing to add an additional major or in some cases a dual degree. In fact, 21% of sophomores used this process to declare their intention to complete a double major, while 4% are seeking the challenge of a dual degree. A Dual Degree, consisting of two Bachelor of Science Degrees or a Bachelor of Science paired with a Bachelor of Arts, requires a minimum of 40 credit hours and requires careful consideration from both degree advisors.

Once again, a substantial number of sophomores (close to 40%) have focused their interests on a single major, the majority of which (65%) will be pursuing a Bachelor of Arts. Biology, Economics, Engineering, Neuroscience, and Math/Economics top the list as the most popular majors for those pursuing a single major.

Sophomore class dean Chris Selena will be establishing contact with the 4% of respondents who indicated that they are not yet ready to declare their major in order to offer assistance in developing a plan to commit to a specific major/degree plan prior to the start of the pre-registration in the fall.



## Lafayette Named Top Producer of U.S. Fulbright Students

Lafayette is among the colleges and universities that produced the most 2020-21 U.S. Fulbright students, according to an announcement by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Dean Julia Goldberg, Associate Dean of Advising & Co-Curricular Programs and Fellowships Advisor, works individually with each student to assist in the application and interview

process.

Read more by clicking [here!](#)



## Lafayette Forensics wins THIRD Consecutive State Title!

For the 4th time in the team's history and the 3rd consecutive the Lafayette Forensics Society has been crowned champions of the Pennsylvania Forensics Association. The tournament took place February 19-21. Last year, the state tournament was one of the last tournaments the team attended before COVID-19 put a stop to that season's competition. This year, as tournaments moved to an online format, the state also prepared for the tournament to be held online. Despite the hardships of online competition Lafayette Forensics is thriving and the state tournament was no exception.

The state tournament includes competition in 13 different events ranging from the performance of poetry to policy-based debate. On their way to the title, the team won ELEVEN of the THIRTEEN events. All told, the team won 37 awards, including the state title. While all of the championships and awards hold a special meaning to the winners, one event stands out. Each year, the Interstate Oratorical Association holds their annual tournament in April. The IOA tournament is the oldest running speech competition in North America. Each state can send TWO representatives to the IOA tournament and the state tournament is how Pennsylvania selects its representatives. The top two performers in Persuasive speaking are selected to represent the state at this prestigious competition. This year, Lafayette's own Kelly Mwaamba ('22) and Scott Kamen ('21) placed as the state champion and runner-up in Persuasion! Lafayette also won both debate categories, Parliamentary and Lincoln-Douglas. The team of Joshua Hale ('23) and Ceci Montufar ('23) were crowned champion in Parliamentary debate, which is the first time Lafayette has EVER won the state championship in that category.

In addition to winning eleven of the events, three Lafayette students also placed in Quadrathon, a category created to recognize the best overall speakers with multiple events across multiple genres (interpretation of literature, public address, and limited preparation). Kelly Mwaamba ('22) was the state champion in quadrathon, while Scott Kamen ('22) and Andrea Rivera Conte ('23) placed 2nd and 4th respectively.

The state tournament marks the unofficial beginning of the end of the year. The team will now transition into preparing for the national tournament season and will compete at the Lincoln-

Douglas Debate Grand Prix, the American Forensics Association's National Individual Events Tournament, the National Speech Championship, and the National Forensics Association's Championship Tournament. For continued updates on the team's successes, follow the team on [Instagram](#)!

Full Results are available online [here](#).



## English for Academic Purpose updates

### Online workshops

EAP workshops present learning materials and study strategies that help English language learners succeed in academics. If you are teaching a writing course or know any students might benefit by taking the workshops, please invite them to register. [See the workshop schedule and registration information.](#)

To find more information regarding teaching and advising international students and academic support that the college provides for ESL learners, please visit our website at <https://advising.lafayette.edu/eap/> or contact our Multi-Language Learner Support Specialist, Tingting Kang at [kangt@lafayette.edu](mailto:kangt@lafayette.edu).



## DegreeWorks update

The Registrar's Office and ITS are diligently working on an upgraded DegreeWorks platform which includes an updated and user-friendly responsive dashboard.

Stay tuned for the full announcement in the April edition!



## First-Gen updates and PARDner news

### **2021-2022 PARDner Program Student Nominations:**

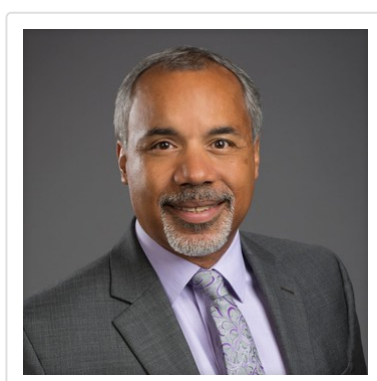
The Office of Advising & Co-Curricular Programs is searching for student leaders to participate in the 2021-2022 PARDner Program. We would like to invite faculty, administrators, and staff to nominate a rising junior or senior level student who you feel would be a great role model and leader to our incoming first-year class. Please complete the nomination form by clicking [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Abigail Schaffer ([schaffab@lafayette.edu](mailto:schaffab@lafayette.edu)), College Transition Specialist.

### **First-Generation Faculty & Administrator Directory:**

To further the visibility of Lafayette College's first-generation population, [a directory](#) was created to highlight faculty and administrators who have identified as being first-generation students themselves.

If you are interested in being added to the directory, please click [here](#) to complete the form.





# Workshop follow-up: Fostering an Inclusive and Diverse Community through Advising

We were thrilled to host Blane Harding, Director of Diversity Engagement at Virginia Tech University, for a March 2nd workshop titled *Fostering an Inclusive and Diverse Community through Advising*. Blane covered a lot of useful ground in this interactive session, including how advisors can help students feel an increased sense of belonging, advice on how to connect with students from cultures outside our own, the concepts of cultural competence and cultural humility, and the connection between teaching and advising. If you would like to view the session recording and documents, you can find them in CITLS' new Inclusive Teaching @ Lafayette Portal. There are many useful resources, tools, and sessions to check out in the new portal: <https://www.acadiate.com/ee/CITLSLafCol/Events>



## Important upcoming dates for advisors

**March 30-31** - Spring Break

**April 2** - Mid-term grades due

**April 26** - Last day to withdraw from courses; WD recorded

**April 19-30** - Fall Pre-Registration



## A wealth of advisor resources by NACADA

NACADA, the Global Community for Academic Advisors, has [a tremendous number of resources](#) on their website to support the multi-faceted work of academic advisors.

This particular page contains a vast number of articles, essays, and tip sheets on advising. But there are plenty of recorded on-demand webinars on [NACADA's YouTube channel](#).



## Did you Know? Advising Resources for Faculty

Did you know that the Office of Advising website has [a number of useful resources](#) for academic advisers, including Lafayette-specific advising information, advising resources, and advising-related articles? We also have information on [advising basics](#), [academic coaching](#), [first-generation student support](#), and other topics. More information will be added and updated soon!






## Office of Advising & Co-Curricular Programs

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