

Interested In Journalism?

Join Student Publications at Lafayette!

Image Newsmagazine | Legend Yearbook | Digital Media Staff | The Lancer Feed (website & social media)

Getting Started Is Easy:

1. Take one of the prerequisite classes

- **Journalism Writing and Reporting**
 - one semester Language Arts elective credit course
 - focuses on content & coverage of publications, information gathering, all forms of journalistic writing, editing, press law & ethics, photography basics
 - required for students interested in News Production
 - helpful for students interested in Yearbook Production
- **Visual Journalism**
 - one semester CTE credit course
 - focuses on analyzing design trends, mastering desktop publishing software tools, creating a variety designs, learning online multimedia software, photo basics
 - perfect for students interested in Yearbook Production or who want to learn about design or desktop publishing
- **Intro to Digital Media**
 - full year CTE credit course
 - for students to take before the Digital Media Production
 - focuses on basics of broadcast journalism principles & ethics, videography, video editing software, video storytelling, pre-production, production & post-production

2. Qualify for a prereq waiver

- **Talk with Adviser Nancy Smith to come directly onto one of the staffs by earning a waiver:**
 - For Yearbook: middle school participation
 - Agreement to participate in summer training programs/workshops with the staff (these may also involve a fee)
 - Previous experience at another school (transfer student)
 - Completion of related coursework with teacher rec:
 - Photo 1 & 2
 - Graphic Design 1 & 2
 - Multimedia Applications

Next Steps:

Take A Production Course To Be On Staff

- All three staffs are full-year
 - talk to the adviser about taking the class for one semester if you have a conflict
 - you can sign up for one semester after the prereq class
- CTE credit for two semesters then earn elective credit after that
- Students make all content decisions
- Staff members do spend some time outside of class completing publications work for deadlines, but we are able to work around other school commitments
- **Digital Media Production**
 - Students produce digital material for The Lancer Feed and social media accounts as well as completing other video projects. Students complete all parts of the production process.
- **News Production**
 - Students produce the newsmagazine (Image), website (lancerfeed.press) and social media accounts (@thelancerfeed). Staffers complete the writing, designing, editing, business management, photography and graphics
- **Yearbook Production**
 - Students produce all content for the Legend. All staff members serve as writers, designers and photographers.

*You don't need your own equipment! Student Publications has laptops, video equipment, cameras and lenses etc. for you to use.

Joining Lafayette StuPub means more than being a student in just another class. You will be part of a special group with a LONG tradition of EXCELLENCE. You will have amazing opportunities. The learning experiences will benefit you now and continue to provide you with benefits long after you leave Room 137A. —Mrs. Nancy Smith, Publications Adviser

Why else get involved? Don't miss a chance to have a class with Nancy Smith (Smitty). She has been advising student publications and teaching journalism for 35 years, 28 of those at Lafayette. She has been recognized by the Journalism Education Association as its National Yearbook Adviser of the Year, a Medal of Merit winner and its Carl Towley Service Award. The National Scholastic Press Association named her a Pioneer Award Winner and the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund named her a Distinguished Newspaper Adviser. She was a Lafayette Teacher of the Year winner, a Rockwood School District Teacher of the Year winner and was a Missouri Teacher of the Year State Finalist. The Class of 2020 also selected her as their Extra Distance Award Winner.

Here's What Some Former Students Have To Say:

Brendan Rodgers, Class of 2014: I was part of Digital Media and loved every moment. I learned video editing, writing, interview techniques, camera presence, and much more. It was a wonderful start to my morning and taught me many things about media and myself.

Danielle Stauter, Class of 2012: Being on the newspaper was the best part of my high school experience. It helped me discover my love of writing, and I got to be creative for an hour of the day. The staff is great, and it really is such a great community of people.

Lauren Pylipow Deakin, Class of 2005: Learning how to communicate effectively with concise, interesting writing is a skill that will translate to any profession! You learn organizational and time management skills, how to make a deadline and how to be comfortable interacting with people of various social groups. Also, you will make friends for life."

Arpan Das, Class of 2017: There's quite a few parallels between the work you do in the journalism program and a professional work setting. Working in teams, on scheduled deadlines, getting and citing sources, and communicating your work so that others can pick up on it if needed are just some of the forever useful skills I learned. Giving interviews definitely broke me out of my shell a little bit and helped develop some skills I didn't know I had. Most importantly, I had fun and got to do work that I found interesting and enjoyed doing. The journalism staff at LHS was a family that I am so glad I joined.

Ryan Bueckendorf, Class of 2008: Through my involvement in student publications I grew as a leader, writer, and speaker, all while developing a family of lifelong friends and mentors. Hands down one of the best decisions I ever made at Lafayette.

Nicole Castellano, Class of 2008: I was on the newspaper staff, my junior and senior year, and it was probably my favorite memory of high school. I created life long friends, was pushed to become the best I could be, and I realized how much I loved getting to tell other people's stories. To top it off, Smitty is still someone who continues to support me even years after I've graduated. Which says something about her character and commitment to everyone who graces her classroom.

Alaina Strollo, Class of 2015: I am a writer and editor for a travel brand where I am creative every day. The newspaper program taught me the importance of resilience, hard work and meeting deadlines and expectations. I felt constantly motivated to do my best and work my hardest because I was surrounded by brilliant, hard-working and innovative staff members. Out of all my courses in high school, I learned the most in the two years I spent in newspaper. It is where I found a sense of community in high school. Being a teenager is a tough time, and I struggled with insecurity, doubt and fear every single day. The newspaper room became a safe space for me.

Garrett Tripp, Class of 2009: Taking Digital Media solidified my love for film and television production. I now work for Legendary Television where we produce *Lost In Space*, *Carnival Row*, *Colony*, *Looming Tower*. Our feature counterpart also made, *Pacific Rim*, *King Kong*, *Godzilla*, *Detective Pikachu*, *Skyscraper*. And it's all Nancy Smith's fault.

Heidi Tripp, Class of 2012: Joining the journalism program was a defining moment for my career. On the yearbook, I was able to make new friends, go to school functions I normally wouldn't be able to, and practice real skills like communication, writing, and even some photography. If I hadn't joined, I wouldn't have made friendships that are still lasting seven years later. Plus, I learned how to effectively work on multiple projects, manage deadlines, and work both independently and on a team, which are skills I still use now as an attorney.

Ty Prozorowski, Class of 2018: I wish I joined newspaper staff sooner! I had the best time! I developed leadership and communication skills, as well as technology skills that I've used in college! I also gained confidence and made some amazing friends.

Saba Bajwa, Class of 2013: Being part of the Legend staff allowed me to connect with other students and channel my creativity with people who made me look forward to going to school. In medical school and residency, I've used the interviewing and writing skills I learned every day. Not only that but it also gave me the chance to improve my photography skills, and it's now one of my favorite hobbies. I got to make so many fun memories with the best people, and I will never forget all the delicious food we had on our work nights. Every year after our books were printed, it was so rewarding to see the final product come together. I'm grateful I got to be a part of such a great team, and I definitely wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for being on the Legend staff!

Hannah May, Class of 2016: For three years, I was part of the yearbook team - and to say I loved it is an understatement. I decided to go to the University of Missouri and was torn between majoring in Business or Journalism but chose Journalism with an emphasis in Strategic Communication. Yearbook definitely influenced my decision because I found a passion for writing, graphic design, photography, marketing, advertising, and other journalism-related fields. In the Missouri School of Journalism, I found a love for public relations, marketing, social media, event planning, marketing agencies, and so much more. Yearbook can open the door for so many opportunities - it's more than taking photos, writing captions, and putting a book together. If I had not joined the yearbook team, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Amisha Paul, Class of 2019: Joining Student Publications during my freshman year was easily the best decision I made in my four years at Lafayette. Inside the newsroom, I found a voice for myself and a great group of friends. I highly recommend joining any one of the three publications at Lafayette for not just a good times but also the great communication skills and technology skills that you acquire.

Marie Rogan, Class of 2015: I am currently finishing my master's degree in occupational therapy at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Being involved in Student Publications at LHS allowed me to grow as a leader, a writer, and an effective communicator. I branched out of my comfort zone in so many ways and learned so much about myself, my peers, and my community through a journalistic lens. Although I did not pursue a career in journalism, my time as a journalist in high school set a great foundation and skillset for me to continue to build upon throughout college and beyond.

Some Award Highlights:

Image: Spring 2020 ranked National Scholastic Press Association Best in Show award

Legend: NSPA Hall of Fame inductee (*for 10 consecutive years of All-American ratings)

Individual Awards in 2020: 9 NSPA National Award Winners, National Student Media Contest Winners, 8 Quill and Scroll Honor Society Inductees, 11 NSPA Honor Roll Inductees, 2 All-State Journalism Team Members, 7 State Journalism Honor Roll Inductees, 2 State Award Winners/8 Finalists, 28 journalismSTL winners