

**LAFAYETTE COLLEGE FACULTY PLAYS  
COLLECTION, 1938-1986**

**SKILLMAN LIBRARY  
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE**

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Faculty Plays Collection documents a long-running series of musical comedies produced by the Lafayette College faculty, from 1938 to 1986. This collection contains playbills, scripts, musical scores, photographs, audio-visual material, newspaper clippings, and production notes. The collection (6 boxes - 2 cubic feet) is arranged chronologically by the date of each play.

All of the plays were sponsored by the Lafayette College Chapter of the American Association of University professors, and were intended to raise money for the William W. Eddy Scholarship Fund. This scholarship was presented to a deserving senior who sought a career in college teaching. Except for a nine year lapse between the 1938 "Faculty Flame" production and the 1947 version of "The Faculty Flame," the plays were performed on a bi-yearly basis.

The plays were performed entirely by faculty and staff members, as well as their spouses and occasionally other family members. Likewise, the plays were produced and directed solely by faculty and staff members. Two members of the English Department, William Watt and James Vitelli, were notable contributors. William Watt was instrumental in the writing and production of plays such as "The Faculty Flame," "A Faculty For Murder," and "Greeks and Grinds." James Vitelli directed later plays such as "Musical Chairs," "Lackawanna Laughs Last," and "We're Number One."

The setting for all of the faculty plays is the campus of the fictitious Lackawanna College, in Weston, Pennsylvania, which was created to parody the actual Lafayette College. Throughout the series, the plays spoofed various events occurring on the Lafayette campus. For example, the 1980 production of "Musical Chairs" parodied the Kirby Chair controversy of the late 1970s. This controversy involved the search for a suitable successor to the endowed Kirby Chair in the government and law department. The plays also "document" the activities of Lackawanna's many presidents - President Billy Junkett, President Theophilus Jonathan Bellwether, President Cornelius Mesmore Shaftoe, and most recently, President Aloysius P. Frescoe.

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**INVENTORY**

**Box 1: 1938 - 1955**

Folders

1	The Faculty Flame (1938)	- Playbill
2		- Script
2a		- Photograph
3		- Misc.
4	The Faculty Flame (1947)	- Playbill (3)
5		- Director's script
6	A Faculty for Murder (1949)	- Playbill
7		- Director's script
8		- Script
9		- Misc.
10	The Critic (1950)	- Playbills (3)
11		- Photograph
12		- Misc.
13	Up and Atom (1951)	- Playbills (3)
14		- Misc.
15	The Faculty Flame (1951)	- Playbill
16		- Director's script
17		- Photograph
18		- Misc.
19	Greeks and Grinds (1955)	- Playbill (2)
20		- Director's script
21		- Costume designs
22		- Misc.

**Box 2: 1957 - 1963**

Folders

1	Get the Picture (1957)	- Playbill (3)
2		- Prompt Script
3		- Photographs
4		- Misc.
5	Panic Button (1959)	- Playbill
6		- Stage manager's script
7		- Misc.
8	Missiles and Misses (1961)	- Playbill (3)
9		- Director's script
10		- Script

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11		- Script
12		- Musical score
13		- Misc.
14	Greeks and Grinds (1963)	- Playbill
15		- Script
16		- Script
17		- Script
18		- Musical score

**Box 3: 1965 - 1969**

Folders

1	Get the Picture (1965)	- Playbill (2)
2		- Script
3		- Script
4		- Misc.
5	At First Bluff (1967)	- Playbill (3)
6		- Director's script
7		- Misc.
8		- Photographs
9	Up Against the Wall, Lackawanna (1969)	- Playbill (3)
10		- Director's script
11		- Script
12		- Script
13		- Musical score
14		- Misc.

**Box 4: 1971 - 1977**

Folders

1	Good Heavens, Lackawanna! (1971)	- Playbill (3)
2		- Director's script
3		- Script
4		- Photographs
5	Greeks and Grinds (1973)	- Playbill (3)
6		- Director's script
7		- Script
8		- Photographs
9		- Misc.
10	Spirits of '76 (1975)	- Playbill (3)
11		- Script
12		- Script
13		- Musical score

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14  
15           Lackawanna in Review (1975)  
16           The Faculty Flame (1977)  
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- Miscellaneous  
- Advertisement Bulletin  
- Playbill (3)  
- Director's script  
- Script  
- Script  
- Photographs  
- Misc.

**Box 5: 1980 - 1982**

Folders

1           Musical Chairs (1980)  
2  
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11          Lackawanna Laughs Last (1982)  
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- Playbill (3)  
- Director's script  
- Script  
- Script  
- Script  
- Musical score  
- Lyrics  
- Photograph  
- Misc.  
- Misc.  
- Playbill  
- Director's script  
- Script (Act II)  
- Musical score  
- Musical score  
- Collected lyrics  
- Costume notes  
- Photographs  
- Misc.

**Box 6: 1984 - 1986 to Miscellaneous**

Folders

1           In the Chips (1984)  
2  
3  
4           We're Number One (1986)  
5  
6  
7  
8

- Playbill (2)  
- Script  
- Miscellaneous  
- Playbill (2)  
- Director's script  
- Lighting script  
- Script  
- Musical score

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- |    |  |                 |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 9  |  | - Musical score |
| 10 |  | - Lyrics        |
| 11 |  | - Misc.         |
| 12 | The Curious History of Lackawanna College - by J. Vitelli (1980) |                 |
| 13 | Miscellaneous  |                 |

**Box 7: Phonograph Records**

Folders

- 1 Side One: "When You're Out of Your Mind" Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951  
Side Two: "Three Little Profs from School" Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951
- 2 Side One: "Refrain Audacious Man" Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951  
Side Two: "Three Little Profs from School" Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951
- 3 Side One: "Let Us Spread the News Sensational" Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951  
Side Two: "The Lulu Club Song" Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951
- 4 Side One: "The Lulu Club Song" continued Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951  
Side Two: "When Opponents Take the Field" Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951
- 5 Side One: "Behold the Mighty God Machinery" Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951  
Side Two: "I am a Student Brave and Serious" Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951
- 6 Side One: "When Opponents Take the Field" Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951  
Side Two: "With Heads Held High" Lafayette Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951
- 7 Side One: "If You Wonder Why I'm Cursing" "We Are Happy Secretaries" Lafayette  
Chapter AAUP Jan. 10, 1951  
Side Two: "Refrain Audacious Man" "With Heads Held High" Lafayette Chapter AAUP  
Jan. 10, 1951
- 8 Moliere's "The Bourgeois Gentleman;" lyrics by W.W. Watt; music by David Schindler;  
original production by the Lafayette Little Theatre (2)