

JOSEPH E. BELL, CLASS OF 1928,
ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Presented to
Laurie Samet '79
April 7, 2021

Throughout her career, Laurie Samet '79 has demonstrated how Lafayette graduates use their Lafayette education as an instrument for benefiting others. After earning a degree in English at Lafayette, Laurie demonstrated the power of an interdisciplinary Lafayette education by earning an M.S. degree in physical therapy at Duke University in 1982 and becoming a licensed physical therapist. She also completed a Doctorate in physical therapy at Regis University in 2009. Throughout her career she has pursued excellence in orthopedic, sports, and spine physical therapy. She founded her private independent outpatient physical therapy practice in 1995 in East Stroudsburg and has been committed to providing comprehensive, holistic, evidence-based musculoskeletal physical therapy to her clients.

Laurie has been dedicated to serving the College community since her arrival on College Hill. At her first-year orientation she noted that she thought it sounded cool that Lafayette was seeking student athletic trainers. A field hockey student-athlete, she began efforts to support her fellow student-athletes during her first year on College Hill. She worked for the certified athletic trainer in several sports—including football, basketball, wrestling, and lacrosse—making ice bags, taping ankles, and cleaning whirlpools.

Laurie's devotion to the Leopards did not end at graduation. In 1996, she became a member of the Maroon Club Executive Committee, serving on this committee until 2011 including as President from 2000-2006. She also served on the Friends of Football Executive Committee's Leadership Committee from 2004 until 2007. Today, she generously makes contributions that advance sports medicine as well as Field Hockey and Football.

Her current support of the College is a continuation of her perennial passion for supporting others in realizing their goals for their lives. She has created a pathway to our students' careers by offering them the opportunity to benefit from participating in an internship at her physical therapy practice. She was honored in 2019 for her lengthy

tenure of providing these wonderful opportunities to our students with the Externship Commitment Award.

As a stalwart volunteer for the Class of 1979, Laurie has helped many of her classmates stay connected to the College. She served on the Alumni Council Executive Committee from 2002 until 2004, on her Class Committee for two years, and as Class Fund Manager for twenty two years. In 2009, she received the Webmaster Award, which recognizes alumni volunteers who make creative use of class webpages. She also was recognized with the Lafayette College Fund Award several times for inspiring her classmates to join her in being a non-reunion class that achieved the highest Lafayette College Fund donation total. When the College created the Rockwell Integrated Sciences Center, Laurie partnered with her class president Lisa Kassel '79 P'13 in inspiring many of the Class of 1979 to join with them in advancing the construction of this academic building in celebration of their 40th class reunion. Their generous gift created the Class of '79 Student-Faculty Collaboration Room in Rockwell.

During this year in which Lafayette celebrates 50 years of co-education, it seems especially appropriate to celebrate one of our first female students with the Joseph E. Bell, Class of 1928, Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

We are so grateful for Laurie's commitment, support, and impact on the Lafayette College community.