

## **Edna Sam**

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Government and Law & Spanish, History AB

### **Awards, Honors & Recognitions**

Political Science Honors Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, Omicron Delta Chapter Spring 2026

Spanish Honors Society, Sigma Delta Pi, Sigma Phi Chapter Spring 2025

History Honors Society, Pi Alpha Theta Spring 2025

Critical Language Scholarship Alternate (Arabic) 2024

Deans List FA22, AY23-24, AY24-25, FA25

Posse Leadership Scholarship 2022

New Visions Opportunity Scholar 2022

National Honors Society AY 2022

### **Education**

#### **Honors Thesis in History**

AY 25-26

My thesis explores exclusionary methods of nation building in post Ottoman Türkiye, especially focused on 1942 and the implementation of the wealth tax, known as the Varlık Vergisi. The complete thesis will explore exclusion as necessary to the formation of a nation, and how the state apparatus weaponizes identity as the basis of national identity. Türkiye will be the primary focus, with allusions to other countries, including but not limited to regional countries such as Tunisia and Israel and the Palestinian Territories, as well as global representatives: South Africa and the United States chief amongst them.

#### **Teaching Assistant, Spanish Department**

Spring 2026

I am assisting Professor Katherine Stafford in instructing her SPAN 343: Images of Immigration in Contemporary Spain course. Responsibilities include but are not limited to meeting with students and discussing course materials, assisting students in preparing major assignments, presentations and projects, attending classes, and teaching (a) class(es) over the course of the semester.

#### **Digital Humanities Summer Scholars**

Summer 25

As a member of the Summer 2025 DHSS Cohort, I participated in coursework surrounding digital scholarship, and worked on a project titled Songs of the Sephardim: Understanding the Politics of Migration Through Music and Media. This project informed my thesis, and centered around the Turkish Ladino-speaking Sephardic community. The use of preserved Ladino-language Sephardic music to chart migration from Iberia to Türkiye and other eastern mediterranean countries, the popularization of said music media and the political representations of this minority group in public media (newspapers, primarily) at the time can help us understand

Sephardic sentiment towards the budding republic of Türkiye, and also “Turkish” conception of Jewry, or at the very least, Ladino-speaking Sephardim.

**EXCEL Research, History Department**

Summer ‘23, AY 23-24, Summer ‘24

During my Freshman summer, Sophomore academic year, and Sophomore summer, I had the opportunity to be an EXCEL Scholar for Professor Goshgarian in the History department. This position greatly strengthened my research and writing skills; I learned how to use research databases, write research questions and proposals, ask for permission to access archival artifacts and resources belonging to other institutions and so forth. I also learned the intricacies of writing historical work for public consumption in a responsible and scholarly manner.

**Lafayette Initiative for Malagasy Education**

AY 23-24, FA24

The Lafayette Initiative for Malagasy Education is a year and a half long commitment centered on promoting education amongst secondary school students in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Students are nominated, apply, interview, and are ultimately selected to join a group of 10-12 mentors and 2-3 faculty and staff to prepare a mentoring curriculum for Malagasy students at Lycee Andohalo in Tana, Madagascar over the course of the Winter Interim. Students spend the fall semester meeting regularly and developing lesson plans, the winter semester mentoring in Madagascar, and the successive Spring and Fall semesters aiding students in applying to various institutions of higher education, including Lafayette College.

**Activities**

**McKelvy Scholars**

Spring 2023-Present

McKelvy is an on campus intellectual community of scholars headed by faculty advisor, currently Professor Benjamin Cohen of the Engineering Studies department. A cornerstone of the program is hosting and leading Sunday Discussion, which promotes intellectual discourse amongst scholars, and also amongst the campus community. I have served as Internal relations chair for the program for the Academic Year of 2025-26, hosting events to ensure a cohesive scholar community.

**Muslim Student Association**

2022-Present

I am a general body member of the Lafayette Muslim Student Association, and have been since I have been on campus. As an organization, the MSA hosts many interfaith events with other religious student groups to promote interfaith understanding and unity. Around Ramadan, the MSA collaborates with many student organizations in order to promote understanding of religious fasting and other Muslim customs.

**Office of Sustainability**

AY25-26

I joined the Office of Sustainability as an Eco-Rep for McCartney II and McKelvy House in the Fall of 2025. I joined primarily to rekindle the relationship I had with environmentalism in high

school, and to ensure that my palace of residence was as green as it could be. As an Eco Rep, I host events centered around sustainability in my hall, attend weekly meetings, participate in campus climate action, and participate in composting efforts.

### **Association of Black Collegians**

2022-Present

The Association of Black Collegians was the first campus organization I joined. Though I do not hold a leadership position, I have been able to connect with other Black students on campus, sharing common experiences, participating in campus events together, and attending impactful lectures as a community. I have also witnessed and participated in the advent of important campus events, such as the annual African Wedding, the Umoja Gala, the OID Stole Ceremony, and more.

### **Experiences**

#### **Lafayette College Art Galleries**

2022-Present

As a lover of the arts, my employment in the art galleries has allowed me to stay connected with the art scene on campus without necessarily being an academic participant. The job itself includes knowing the galleries well enough to present them to visitors, hosting classes occasionally for local visiting schools, and lesson planning for Art History classes. There are also exhibitions which we must prepare for and know the context and performers of. I have worked in Williams Center Gallery, Grossman Gallery, and the Kirby Art Study Center since Fall of 2022.

#### **Lafayette College Office of Residence Life**

2023-Present

I have worked as both a Resident Advisor and Head Resident for the Office of Resident Life at Lafayette College. As a Resident Advisor, my responsibilities included creating programming for first year and upper level students, having one on one check ins with students, meeting with an assigned Head Resident and Assistant Director of Residence Life, and completing weekly paperwork. As a Head Resident, my tasks have included overseeing 12 Resident Advisors of Fraternity and Sorority Life and McKelvy as they navigate the RA role.

#### **Global Ambassador**

AY25-26

As a Global Ambassador, I have promoted the Office of Study Abroad, highlighting my experiences in Madagascar and Costa Rica. This role includes meeting with students and discussing the various positives and potential challenges of studying abroad, as well as which programs may be the best first for them.

#### **Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer**

Summer '25

During the Summer of 2025, I was an intern for corporate law firm Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer. My responsibilities included consolidating the CRM after the merger of Herbert Smith Freehills with Kramer Levin Naftalis and Frankel, editing publishable matters for publication, and ensuring that the firm contacts were streamlined and synchronized after the merger, amongst

others. I was available to help with Spanish and French speaking clients for the Pro Bono department.

**Harvard Division of Continuing Education Summer**

Summer '24

During my time at Harvard, I was a proctor for 7 weeks, for groups of 12 students in 2 week periods. The responsibilities were similar to those of an RA, and I hosted programs, check ins, and community meetings for my students, who were high school aged. I also participated in multiple panels representing Lafayette to prospective students during this time.

**Spanish Language Blogger**

Fall '24

During my semester abroad in Costa Rica, I was a Spanish language blogger for the Lafayette Language Lab. I created blog posts based on my unique experiences in Costa Rica, alerting prospective applicants and travelers of what to expect. I detailed my travels, food customs, classes, host family experience, and day to day life in the blogs.

**Institute for Family Health**

Summer '23

I worked as a summer intern at The Institute for Family Health, in the School Based Health sector, under manager Jibi Alexander. The program primarily required my assistance in creating bilingual public health announcements for students and their families, and locating affordable housing and shelter for migrant families in the New York City area. This was during a time of housing and migrant crisis in NYC, and bilingual help was in urgent demand.

**Other**

I am proficiently fluent in Spanish and a native speaker of French.