

Yuko Tanaka

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Bachelor of Arts, Music & Art History

Awards / Honors / Special Recognitions or Interests / Prize

The Sheng Family Music Scholarship

- The Sheng Family Music Lesson Endowment provides a limited number of scholarships to qualified students who are non-music majors/previous to declaring a major. Students must be an active member of a Music Department Ensemble in order to qualify. (Received: Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024)

Bergh Family Fellow

- Received grant for a summer interim course. (Summer 2025)

Dean's List

- Received Dean's List every semester.

Arthur J. '55 and Barbara S. Rothkopf Award in Art History

- Awarded to outstanding seniors focusing on art history. (Received Spring 2026)

Donald R. '53 and Marilyn Lum Mildrum Scholarship

- Awarded to students studying either engineering or music. (Received AY 2025-26)

Leslie F. Gates Scholarship

- Received AY 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26.

Gamma Sigma Alpha

- National Academic Greek Honors Society, recognizing academic excellence of members of fraternities and sororities. (Initiated February 2024)

Order of Omega, Rho Tau Chapter

- Leadership honor society for fraternity/sorority members, recognizing juniors and seniors who have exemplified high standards in the areas of scholarship, leadership, involvement within their respective organization and within the fraternity/sorority, campus, and local communities. Members are selected from the top 3% of students at each institution. (Initiated May 2025)

Aaron O. Hoff Awards

- Nominee, The Marquis Award in Community Leadership. (Spring 2025)
- Presenter, Faculty Awards. (Spring 2024 & Spring 2025)

Academic Engagement / Activities

Honors Thesis in Music & Art History

AY 2025 – 26

- “Woman at the Piano: Curating Femininity and Status in the Late Nineteenth Century Parisian Home”
- Developing an interdisciplinary study on the cultural meanings of women at the piano in late 19th century Paris. Examines how piano playing and education functioned as an intentional and complex performance of femininity, class status, and marriageability, while also revealing tensions around women’s musical education and restrictive judgements of the male gaze. This research integrates analysis of Impressionist paintings depicting scenes of women playing the piano, alongside material culture, domestic interiors, and gendered expectations.
- Presented at SUNY New Paltz Undergraduate Art History Symposium 2026
- Presenting at Central Pennsylvania Colleges Symposium

Research Assistant

Fall 2025

- Supporting Prof. Douglas de Toledo Piza in a research project on memory, identity and reparations related to the detention, deportation, and postwar experiences of Japanese migrants and descendants in the Americas. Responsibilities include identifying and reviewing English and Japanese-language resources, assisting with translations, gathering historical data from newspapers and various sources, providing editorial, formatting, and citation support.

Music Department Ensembles

Fall 2022 – Spring 2025

- Lafayette College Concert Band, Percussion and Piano (2022 – 2024)
- Commencement Band, Percussion (2023 – 2025)
- Mbira Ensemble, Mbira (2022 – 2023)
- Marquis Consort, Harpsichord (2023)

Operations and Event Planning, Music Department Student Committee

AY 2024 – 25

- Coordinated events and programming, such as monthly department lunches and senior celebration, for the music department to engage students and connect them to peers and faculty members.

Classical Piano

- I started taking private lessons in piano at the age of four and have continued ever since. At Lafayette, I have had the opportunity to continue to develop my skills through private lessons, as well as in performance opportunities solo and as part of Concert Band and Marquis Consort.
- Private Instruction all semesters at the college.
- Music Department Honors Recital (Fall 2023, Spring 2025, Fall 2025)
 - Selected through an audition process to perform at the honors recital.

Summer Interim Course in Greece

Summer 2025

- Studied abroad over the summer in Greece, to learn about art history, ancient and modern Greek culture, and classics.

Campus and Community Engagement / Activities*Student Government**Spring 2023 – present***Vice President** (Spring 2024 – Fall 2024)

- Acted as a bridge between the student body and administration, attended Faculty and Board of Trustees meetings, amplifying student voices and ensuring their concerns and feedback informed key campus decisions. Supported the president in governance operations and chaired meetings in their leave of absence, ensuring smooth communication and decision-making processes. Oversaw 7 standing committees and 4 ad hoc committees and compiled a monthly report of our works and initiatives.

Academic Affairs Chair (Spring 2025 – Fall 2025)

- Held consultations with the Provost's office, Registrar, and faculty committees on orientation programming, student advising, and resources, including updating course listings and syllabus repository website. Coordinated the Textbook Donation Library program, collecting donations and distributing materials to increase accessibility for all students. Created an academic handbook to improve visibility of various academic resources across campus. Solicited nominations and selected faculty awards for the Aaron O. Hoff Awards.

Menstrual Equity Project Chair (Spring 2023 – Fall 2024)

- Oversaw growth in our Menstrual Equity Project pilot program, where we stocked free menstrual products for students across campus, from preparing grant proposals to analyzing data, and finally institutionalized the program after working with various student organizations and the Student Life sector of the college.

Sustainability Chair (Spring 2023 – Fall 2023)

- Launched the Hand-Me-Down Regalia Program in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability to reduce single-use waste by reusing donated graduation regalia and distributing them to seniors.

Constitutional Rewrite Committee (Fall 2025)

Elections Committee Chair (Spring 2024)

Ex-Officio Member (Spring 2026)

Student Associate, Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee

AY 2024 – 25

- Collaborated with trustees, faculty, and administration to discuss and advise on academic policies, admissions policies, and educational activities. Represented student perspectives during committee meetings and various events.

Fraternity & Sorority Life

Pi Beta Phi, Fraternity for Women

Fall 2023 – present

- **Vice President of Inclusion** (2024)
 - Led DEI programming and events to foster a more inclusive chapter environment. Spearheaded the Fam Project, connecting generations of alumnae and current members in hopes of growing a sense of belonging and mentorship. Collaborated with the executive board, Alumnae Advisory Council, Office of Intercultural Development, student clubs, and other FSL organizations on cross-community initiatives and programs.
- **Assistant Director of New Member Education** (2025)
 - Supported new members in learning Pi Phi values and traditions while fostering belonging and comfort within the chapter. Scheduled group lunches and assisted in community-building programs and organizing Big-Little.
- **Dance Marathon Decorations Committee Head** (Fall 2025)
 - Dance Marathon is our largest philanthropy event in the fall semester, inviting various FSL chapters as well as a capella and dance groups on campus to raise money for Pi Phi's literacy fund. Led a committee of 34 members and organized the design and execution process of the event held on the quad.
- **Service & Philanthropy**
 - Involved in various philanthropic programs throughout the year, from tabling for fundraisers, preparing for our major philanthropy events, and direct service at the Easton Area Community Center and Cheston Elementary School.

Executive Vice President, Panhellenic Council (2025)

- Chaired the Peer Accountability Board to uphold inter-sorority standards and updated Bylaws and Recruitment Rules in consultation with FSL advisor to foster a values-based community. Collaborated on efforts to redirect funding toward inclusive, community-building programs and fundraisers, strengthening inter-chapter relationships across campus. Worked with the executive board to organize Formal Recruitment, welcoming a record-breaking 200+ new members to Panhellenic chapters.

FSL Expansion Committee (2024 - 2025)

- Selected to evaluate incoming chapters' eligibility and alignment with campus values as part of the onboarding and expansion process.

Northeast Greek Leadership Association Conference (Spring 2024)

- Selected as my chapter's representative for the NGLA conference, attended leadership development and management workshops while building relationships with other greek life chapters across the Northeast region.

Alumni Relations

Co-Chair, Senior Class Gift Committee

Spring 2025 – present

- Collaborate with the Advancement Office in executing initiatives and identifying strategies to increase participation in the senior gift campaign and strengthen alumni engagement initiatives. Co-Chair of the committee, leading a cohort of 25 members. Helped organize multiple events, communication, and fundraising strategies.

Lafayette Student Alumni Council

Fall 2025 – present

- Worked closely with Alumni Relations to organize programs that connect current students and alumni and cultivate lifelong engagement with the College. Supported the planning and facilitation events, tabling initiatives, and selected as student panel at the Admissions Forum for legacy students and parents.

Tokyo Chapter Leadership, Choate Rosemary Hall Alumni Association Winter 2023 – present
○ Coordinate Alumni events for the Tokyo Chapter and discuss recruitment, admissions for Japanese students.

Founder & President, Ballet Club Fall 2022 – present
○ Managed the executive board while serving as liaison to the Office of Student Involvement, Recreation Services, and the Williams Center for the Arts. Coordinated choreography and production for semesterly performances and developed partnerships with campus organizations to expand the club's visibility and engagement.

Student Representative, Faculty Student Affairs Committee AY 2024 – 25
○ Involved in discussions regarding enrollment, admissions, educational policies, curriculum, student life, residence life, athletics etc.

Student Representative, Faculty Educational Policy Committee AY 2025 – 26
○ Served as a liaison between the student body and faculty on matters of curriculum and academic policy, advocating for equitable and student-centered learning practices.

The Pepper Prize Selection Committee 2023 & 2025
○ Selected to serve on the committee for the Pepper Prize, the most prestigious prize at Lafayette College. Dedicated time to read and score 50+ student applications and nominations, and attend meetings to discuss the candidates with administrators and staff.

Student Conduct Board Spring 2025 – present
○ Trained to assist the Office of Student Conduct in hearing from students and support restorative approaches to the conduct process.

Club Tennis member Fall 2022 – present

The Lafayette Spring 2023 – Spring 2024
○ **Social Media Manager** (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024)
■ Created social media content and managed the Instagram account of The Lafayette.
○ **Graphic Designer** (Spring 2023 – Fall 2023)
■ Created logo designs and graphics for columns. Worked with each Section Editor and Design Editor to discuss overall design and approval.

Employment Experiences On/Off Campus

Resident Advisor, Lafayette College Fall 2023 – present
○ Handled administrative duties including budgeting, maintenance requests, incident reports, and weekly reports. Served for an upperclassmen community and in sorority housing, held 10+ programs per semester.
○ **RA Council** (AY 2025-26)
■ Represented the Independent Housing Staff at RA Council meetings.
○ Program of the Year, Passive Program (Spring 2024)

Intern, Gallery Enju Summer 2024 & 2025
○ Assisted with gallery operations at a small private art gallery, supporting exhibition preparation, visitor engagement, and inventory organization. Developing a website to enhance the gallery's digital presence and public outreach.

Ambassadors of Lafayette

Senior Interviewer Spring 2025 – Winter 2026
○ Administer interviews for prospective high school students to evaluate their candidacy as a potential Lafayette student.

XLC Day Committee

Spring 2025 & 2026

- Selected as a student representative to work with the Office of Admissions to coordinate Accepted Students Day. Reached out to Easton area businesses and student organizations as part of the planning process. Engaged with prospective students and families on XLC Day and led residence life tours to student dorms on campus.
- **International Student Panel** for admitted students (Spring 2026)

Leopard Connect

Fall 2025 – present

- Connecting with prospective students and answering any questions they may have about the Lafayette experience.

*Languages & Literary Studies Resource Center, Lafayette College***Proctor**

Fall 2022 – Spring 2025

- Proctor students take tests, and support students with homework and projects including technology work.

Visual Media Assistant

Spring 2023 – Spring 2025

- Create logos, posters, and flyers for the resource center and departmental events. Assisted managing content for the website and social media page for the resource center. Worked with various professors in the Language department to create posters and decorated bulletin boards for cultural celebrations.

Japanese Teaching Assistant, Lafayette College

Fall 2022 – present

- Work with Professor Ikegami and lead drill classes once a week for first and second-year Japanese students.

Peer Tutor, Lafayette College Academic Resource Hub

Fall 2022 – present

- For elementary to advanced Japanese courses and music theory courses.

Other**Language Proficiency**

- Japanese (native proficiency), English (native proficiency), French (intermediate proficiency).

Software Proficiency

- Microsoft Suite, Photoshop, AI, InDesign, Canva, Google Suite, SketchUp.

Visual Arts

- Painting, drawing, sculpture, digital art, and design.

Music

- Musical performance training in classical piano, harpsichord, pipe organ, concert percussion, flute, conducting, and theory.

Dance

- Training in classical ballet, modern, and contemporary. Choreography experience in classical and contemporary ballet.