BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

AUGUSTINE WASN’T AN ENGINEER, but he grasped the basic idea: To build high, you have to dig deep. Villanova engineers, who understand the value of a strong foundation, are digging deep—particularly four alumni who have made transformative gifts totaling $21.5 MILLION to propel the College of Engineering in its drive to build for the future.

Indeed, graduates of every age and income bracket are supporting Far the Greater Great®. The Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change so that the College has the resources to tackle scalable, real-world projects and carry out research.

Panamanian CONNECTION

S ix months after graduating, Christopher McCartin ’91 COE traveled to Wacuco, Panama, to volunteer at a mission run by the Rev. Pablo “Wally” Kasuboski. His journey sowed the seeds for what has grown into a fruitful, transcontinental relationship between the College of Engineering and Panamanian partners.

Almost 25 years later, scores of faculty, students, administrators and alumni have gone to the Central American republic, not only to provide engineering services for Father Wally’s infrastructural projects, but also to work with universities, government, the Panama Canal Authority and other enterprises.

The engineers are not alone in representing Villanova. Their initiatives have led colleagues in the College of Nursing, the Villanova School of Business, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to share their expertise to improve the quality of life, spur economic development and educate residents in Panamanian communities.

MISSION-RELATED PROJECTS

Engineers making service-learning trips to Panama in the 1990s have led colleagues to spend the money wherever and however it is needed, from faculty and student lectures. The space will be an ideal venue in which the College and University can host special events.

■ Villanova trustee Nance Dicciani, PhD, ’69, retired president and CEO of the Specialty Materials Division, Honeywell International Inc., has committed $2.5 MILLION to establish the Nance K. Dicciani PhD ’69 Endowed Chair in Chemical Engineering. The funds will enable the department to attract renowned teacher-scholars, invest in curricular development, and raise Villanova’s visibility as a leader in research and scholarship in critical and emerging areas of chemical engineering.

■ Experiential and collaborative learning will reach new heights, thanks to a $2.5 MILLION commitment from Gloria J. and John G. “Jack” Drozdick ’65, retired president and CEO of Sunoco Inc., and a former chair of the College of Science and Technology. The couple’s gift will fund the new Engineering Innovation Lab, housed in CEER. In this two-story, 3,300-square-foot, high-bay space equipped with an overhead crane, students will tackle scalable, real-world projects and carry out research.

With a $3 MILLION commitment from Denise and former Villanova trustee John Paul Jones III ’72, retired chairman and CEO of Air Products and Chemicals Inc., the Center for Engineering Education and Research (CSEER) patio will be enclosed and converted into the state-of-the-art Jones Family Student Learning Commons. Students will flock to this 4,600-square-foot communal atrium to study in groups, work on multidisciplinary team projects, and attend seminars and guest lectures. The space will be an ideal venue in which the College and University can host special events.

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A strong relationship with the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), which is nearing the end of its multibillion-dollar project to double the canal’s capacity, has exposed Villanova engineers to hands-on and behind-the-scenes experiences. In 2010, faculty and students began to develop a Water Resources Master Plan for the Cañaraz region. This multiyear project—the focus of a water resources design course—will ensure that the growing population, now at about 8,000, will have a steady supply of clean water, even in the dry season. The comprehensive plan supports raising the dam and expanding the reservoir.

In another capstone course, a team of students designed a bridge that will give maintenance trucks access to the reservoir’s dam during the rainy season, when the swollen river makes the road crossing to the dam impassable. The team has been selected as one of three finalists in the national Student Structural Design Competition.

In addition to the three water systems it already supports, the College agreed in March to help design a fourth that will serve a unique purpose. In addition to the three water systems it already supports, the College agreed in March to help design a fourth that will serve a unique purpose.

ACADEMIC AND MUNICIPAL COLLABORATIONS

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