Welcome from Patty

I hope this email finds you and your families well, and that you are eagerly anticipating the return of your sons and daughters for Christmas break.

In this season of giving, we know that there are so many opportunities for your philanthropy, and we are so grateful that you choose to support Villanova. Your generosity helps to secure Villanova's future, and ensure that the University continues to prepare students to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them. Please take a moment and view this powerful video that was shown at this year's President's Club reception. It is a true testament that You Make A Difference.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

With warm regards,

Donor Spotlight: Patrick and Louise Rainey

When Patrick and Louise Rainey's daughter Lauren '09 VSB was a new student, they attended the Orientation Mass and were inspired by the warm welcome they felt and the strong faith they witnessed on campus. As a builder, Pat also saw the possibilities of how the physical space on campus could be improved with the right landscaping and capital renovations.

Former members of the Parents Executive Committee, the Rainey family went on to make a generous contribution to help pay for the campus transformation improvements. The new Grotto was dedicated last Friday, with a moving Mass and candlelight procession. Pat, Louise, Lauren and her husband Kyle Doolan '09 A&S, '09 COE returned to campus for the dedication of the new space, which they used to honor a trusted friend, Sister Miriam Theresa Lavelle.

Villanova University is very blessed to have a strong and caring parent community, partnering with us to make Villanova strong for our students and alumni.
Update on Lancaster Avenue Project

By now, I'm sure you are well aware of the many exciting capital plans in discussion for the University. On December 3, the Radnor Township Board of Commissioners officially voted to pass along review of the project to the Planning Commission, which is a key step forward. If you have not yet viewed the plans, you may access them here.

Villanova One Book: Little Princes

Conor Grennan, the author of Little Princes, this year's selection for One Book Villanova, will visit the University on Tuesday, January 29 for a full day of dialogue with the Villanova community. His visit will culminate with a speaking appearance scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Villanova Room, followed by a book signing. The author's talk and book signing are free and open to the public - no tickets are required - and we hope you will consider joining us for this memorable evening on campus.

Book Villanova is a campus-wide effort spanning the academic year that presents to the University a book worthy of close reading, discussion, course adoption and the stimulation of dialogue among all members of the campus community. The One Book program is made possible by the generosity of Patti Imbesi, a member of the Villanova parent community and former member of the Board of Trustees, and is a wonderful example of parent philanthropy in action.

The One Book Villanova selection for 2012-2013 is LITTLE PRINCES: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal, by Conor Grennan. Grennan's book chronicles his journey to Nepal as a 29-year-old volunteer in the Little Princes orphanage, where he discovers that the children there are victims of human trafficking. Awakened to the children's dire circumstances, he commits to making a difference by reuniting them with their parents. Grennan's ambitions are complicated by the ongoing civil war and by the harsh mountain landscape of Nepal. The book is at once a gripping adventure narrative and a tale of deep personal transformation.

Habitat for Humanity Award

Villanova University's Chapter of Habitat for Humanity was recently selected by Habitat for Humanity (HFH) International as the recipient of the 2012 Build Louder Award, recognizing its advocacy efforts to help further Habitat's mission worldwide. Villanova was presented with the award at the National Youth Leadership Conference Nov. 3 in Atlanta, Ga. Click here to read more about this honor.

University Named Among Top Producers of Fulbright Scholars

This year, the University was ranked as one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright students in a list compiled by the Chronicle of Higher Education. The University is consistently in the top 10 universities at the master's level.

The Fulbright program is the United States government's flagship international educational exchange program. Graduating seniors are eligible to apply to the program. To read the entire story from last week's Villanovan, click here.