Welcome from Patty

What an exciting season it's been for Villanova Men's Basketball! The spirit the team has shown on the court has been matched on campus as students pack the Pavilion for every game. And it's been shown across the country as alumni and parents have gathered for game watches and traveled to support the Wildcats on the road.

If you haven't been watching, it's not too late to get into the spirit! I encourage parents, near and far, to root on the team throughout the remainder of the season, in hopes of a long and successful postseason run. Go 'Cats!

With warm regards,

Donor Spotlight: Jennifer and Jim Soltesz P '13, '17

There was not one defining moment for Jennifer and Jim Soltesz P '13, '17 as they considered making a major gift to Villanova University's College of Engineering (COE). There were many.

"Every time we visited our son or attended a Villanova function, we became more attached to the University," says Jennifer Soltesz about visiting their son Kyle, who graduated in 2013. Both Jennifer and Jim have been members of the Parents Executive Committee since September 2010, and enjoy meeting other parents and University staff as well as spending time on campus.

When they decided to become donors, they chose to name a seminar classroom in the CEER (Center for Engineering Education and Research) building. Kyle spent a lot of his time as a student in the room now known as The Soltesz Family Room. The Soltesz gift will be used to support the upcoming capital renovations planned for CEER, which are completely dependent on fundraising efforts.

Kyle worked for the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. last fall, and will begin work with a real estate developer in Washington, D.C., this spring.

Their second son, Kip, is a freshman in COE and plans to return to the Washington, D.C., area and pursue a career in engineering after graduation. Both sons plan to continue their education and earn an MBA.
Regional Campaign Launch Events

More than 300 alumni and parents of the University have already joined us at regional launch events in San Francisco, CA; Los Angeles, CA; West Palm Beach, FL, and Naples, FL, where we’ve shared the vision for the University’s most ambitious campaign to date, For the Greater Great: The Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change. If you have not yet attended one of these exciting events, we hope you will join us at one of the remaining locations:

April 3- New York City, NY
April 12- Boston, MA
April 22- Washington, DC
April 26- Chicago, IL
May 3- Philadelphia, PA

Take a 'Cat to Work Day 2014

Doug Lowe ’16, an economics major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Michael Goonan, a senior vice president at State Street Bank in Irvine, California, agree: Take A 'Cat To Work Day was a great way to spend a day, and they highly recommend it to others.

"We absolutely love Villanova and want to give back," Goonan says. "This is a small way, but as a son of Irish immigrants, education was number one on my list. When I graduated, I had a degree in economics, but didn't know what I wanted to do with it. I had no real world experience, which is so important."

The Take a 'Cat to Work program, held in early January, matches students with alumni and parent professionals in their field of interest. Student participation can include meetings with key members of an organization, observation of various departments and lunch. Doug Lowe's day included all three, providing him with a good overview of the industry and the various roles within it.

"I learned a lot about why Mr. Goonan chose the things he did, and I met with more recent graduates, too. I asked a lot of questions and learned a lot about the bank," says Lowe.

Goonan, whose son, Tom, is a sophomore in the Villanova School of Business, says he would "absolutely host another student in the future," and encourages others to give it a try. "It was refreshing to see someone soaking up information, so early in his career and open to whatever trajectory it might take. Doug was well prepared and I was very impressed with the education he's getting at Villanova-one that is so focused on the real world."

Class of 2013 Placement Statistics

Every year, Villanova's placement rate is a true testament to the quality education and preparation our students receive for the real world. Last year’s graduating class was no different, as overall, placement was at an impressive 99%. Below is a list of the statistics for the Class of 2013.

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<th>Career Choice</th>
<th>Liberal Arts %</th>
<th>Sciences %</th>
<th>Business %</th>
<th>Engineering %</th>
<th>Nursing %</th>
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To learn more about the Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change, visit:
www.forthegreatergreat.com