Greetings from Patty

It’s hard to believe that Fall Break is already behind us! I enjoyed seeing many of you over the course of Parents Weekend, and specifically at the meetings of the Parents Executive Committee and the Villanova Parent Ambassadors. The parent community is as vibrant as ever, and there are new opportunities for involvement popping up all the time.

In this issue, I encourage you to read about the newly introduced Luckow Family Scholarship Challenge program, a great example of the generous spirit of our parents. Thank you for your continued interest and participation in all of our efforts.

Kind Regards,

Patty McGoldrick
Director of the Parents Program

Introducing the Luckow Family Scholarship Challenge

In May 2012, Audrey and Robert Luckow, along with their daughter, Stephanie ’06 A&S, established The Luckow Family Scholarship Challenge. The Challenge, which provides matching funds to the University, supports donors interested in creating permanently endowed scholarships. Alumni and parents who commit to $75,000 in contributions over five years will be matched with $25,000 to reach the $100,000 minimum amount required to endow a scholarship. The match is even more generous for young alumni (those who have graduated since 1997), matching $50,000 for pledges at the same level ($10,000 annually for five years).

Increased financial aid will be the single greatest impact on the future of Villanova. One of the University’s top priorities and a key component of Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA’s 10-year Strategic Plan is to make financial aid resources available as widely as possible. With the support of additional donors, the Luckow Challenge will potentially yield $6 million in newly endowed scholarships. To learn more about the Challenge program, please contact Patty McGoldrick or Meghan Gould.
Call to Action: Welcome Call Volunteers

The Parents Program is seeking parent volunteers to make welcome phone calls to new families. These calls are meant to welcome new families to the Villanova community, encourage them to participate in Alumni Chapter events and help the University identify any concerns that may require attention. If you are able to participate, please email Meghan Gould and let her know if you prefer to contact five or ten families, as well as any criteria for the families you would like to call (e.g., specific geographic region).

Health Promotion Influencer Series for Parents

Villanova understands that the parents of our students are in a unique position to positively influence the lives of their sons and daughters, but may not always feel equipped to handle the challenges they are facing. The Health Promotion Influencer series is designed to provide parents the opportunity via the web to discuss emerging health issues and topics with campus and community professionals. Please consider participating in the next webinar: How to Continue the Conversation about High-Risk Alcohol Use on October 29 at 7 p.m. Click here to view the 2012-13 schedule.

Call to Action: Working Local College Fairs

Two main goals of the Villanova University Strategic Plan are to create a diverse, intellectual climate, and to share the Villanova story around the world. Parents are in a unique position to help us with both of these by volunteering to attend college fairs in their home communities, particularly for those families who live outside of the Northeast corridor. There are more than 20,000 secondary schools across the country, thus making it impossible to send staff representation to visit all of them. The University relies on informed volunteers to help us connect with the young people at these schools. Because parents are experiencing the campus today, through their sons and daughters, they are able to speak articulately and knowledgeably about the University and why it would make a good fit for prospective, high-achieving young people. If you are interested in assisting in this way, please email Patty McGoldrick or Meghan Gould, who will connect you with a representative from the Office of University Admission.

St. Thomas of Villanova Day of Service

Building upon its year-round commitment to service, the Villanova University community partnered with local service organizations and neighborhood agencies throughout the Greater Philadelphia region on Saturday, September 22 in celebration of the University's seventh-annual St. Thomas of Villanova Day of Service. More than 4,000 students, faculty, staff, alumni and their families took part in projects at 140 sites ranging from serving meals and packaging food for hunger relief organizations to neighborhood clean-ups and tree plantings. There were also many Villanova alumni and parents who volunteered in their local communities. Click here to read more about STVD 2012.