Welcome from Patty

There has never been a more exciting time to be a part of the Villanova community! Villanova launched the largest comprehensive capital campaign in its 170-year history on October 26. For the Greater Great: The Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change is a $600 million effort to solidify the future of this already great University through four main goals: cultivating academic innovation; attracting and supporting world-class teacher-scholars; expanding student opportunities and financial aid; and building a premier student-centered living and learning environment. Please allow me to offer a very heartfelt 'Thank you' to all of you -- and our other loyal alumni, parents and friends -- who have already contributed nearly $300 million toward this effort.

Please visit the Campaign website at www.forthegreatergreat.com for additional information and pictures from the launch.

With warm regards,

Patty McGoldrick
Director of the Parents Program

Donor Spotlight: Deborah and Richard Brennan

Deborah and Richard Brennan first joined the Villanova community in the summer of 2005, when their daughter Courtney enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. They were impressed with the standards of excellence that they saw at Villanova, as well as the warmth and support found in the Augustinian community. The Brennans jumped right in and became members of the Parents Executive Committee.

Four years later, just a few months prior to Courtney’s graduation, Rich accepted an invitation to join the Board of Trustees, which allowed him and Deb to stay connected to Villanova, and to learn more about the unique challenges facing higher education. In August of last year, the couple was back on campus, moving their youngest child, Tyler, into his residence hall as he prepared to begin classes in the Villanova School of Business.

Soon after, Deb and Rich agreed to become co-chairs of the Parents and Family Gifts Committee of the University’s comprehensive capital Campaign—For The Greater Great: The Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change.

"It’s been a privilege to play a part in Villanova’s successes," says Rich. "Villanova does a remarkable job of stewarding its resources and competing with academic institutions that have much larger endowments. This Campaign is our opportunity to firmly position Villanova as a national leader in Catholic education. We wouldn’t miss being a part of it."
Deb and Rich were inducted into the newly formed Matthew Carr Society on October 25, and are establishing an endowed scholarship fund through a generous commitment, which will help generations of young people make their dreams of attending Villanova a reality.

"Scholarships are so important," says Deb. "We knew how we wanted to make a difference with our giving to Villanova. It was an easy decision for us."

The Brennans' contributions of time and financial support are making Villanova stronger today and in the future.

**For the Greater Great: The Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change**

Thousands of alumni, parents and friends came back to campus October 25-27 to enjoy a very special Homecoming Weekend, as Villanova publicly launched *For the Greater Great: The Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change*.

The pinnacle of the weekend was the black tie Campaign Gala, which took place Saturday, October 26. More than 300 guests of the University -- those who have provided the early, critical momentum needed to reach our ambitious $600 million goal-- gathered for a glimpse at the future of Villanova University.

During the Gala, Rev. Peter M. Donohue OSA, PhD '75 announced that Jim Davis '81 and his wife, Kim, had made the largest gift in Villanova's history: a $50 million commitment designated for the Villanova School of Business (VSB). The Davis' generous investment will enable VSB to further enhance its strong position as a top, nationally ranked business school.

Specifically, Villanova will bolster its world-class student experience by creating the Davis Family Funds for student enrichment, scholarship, and strategic and capital initiatives.

Other highlights from the weekend included the inaugural induction into the Matthew Carr Society, a society for donors who have given more than $1 million to the University; Homecoming Festival; Young Alumni Pub Night; a special Campaign Brunch; the Villanova vs. Maine football game and Ignite the Night, where more than 1,000 students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University gathered to celebrate the official launch.

Be sure to look for the regional launch events:

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Jessica Wamala '13 Wins Prestigious Rhodes Scholarship

On Sunday, November 24, Elliot F. Gerson, American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust, announced the names of the 32 American men and women chosen as Rhodes Scholars representing the United States. Jessica Wamala (Milford, N.H.) became the third Villanova University student-athlete in the institution's history to receive the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. Wamala graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. from Villanova University’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in May 2013, with majors in political science, Arab and Islamic studies, and global interdisciplinary studies. She is now pursuing a M.A. in political science at Villanova.

Outside of the classroom, Wamala is a member of Villanova's Division I Women's Basketball program. A former walk-on player who earned a scholarship, she serves as co-captain of the 2013-14 Villanova team. Wamala has been named a Big East Conference Academic All-Star for three consecutive seasons. To read the full release, click here.

Call to Action: Phone Calls to New Families

One semester has just about passed for students in the class of 2017, and we are eager to know how they are doing with the transition to college life. Each year, Parent Ambassadors help by making phone calls to our newest families, designed to make parents feel a part of the Villanova community and to provide them with guidance on challenges their sons and daughters may be struggling with. If you have time to make a friendly phone call to 5-10 families, we want to hear from you! Please email me at patricia.mcgoldrick@villanova.edu, and include any special criteria that would make the calls more meaningful for you (e.g., students enrolled in a specific college or who live in a specific region). Calls may be made during the month of December, or in late January, following semester break.

25 Years of Stars - Villanova Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Special Olympics PA Fall Festival!

Villanova hosted the 25th Special Olympics PA Fall Festival Nov.1-3 to the theme Hollywood Presents: 25 Years of Stars. Tim Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics, spoke at the opening ceremonies and greeted nearly 1,000 athletes from across the state, as well as hundreds of coaches, family members, and volunteers. O-Town roared with excitement as athletes spent time singing, dancing and playing games between competing in a variety of sports. Thank you to all of our young alumni who came back to campus to participate in this unique Villanova tradition. Click here to see photos from the 2013 Fall Festival!

Cheer on the Wildcats!

Villanova Men's Basketball will play four home games at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia this year:
- Monday, January 20 vs. Creighton
- Saturday, February 22 vs. St. John's
- Sunday, March 2 vs. Marquette
- Saturday, March 8 vs. Georgetown

Catch all the action by purchasing package or individual game tickets, available through ComcastTix, 1-800-298-4200 or by clicking here.
Looking for New Places to Dine? Check out our Restaurant Guide!

If you feel like you are constantly frequenting the same restaurants when visiting your son or daughter, consider one of the many recommended restaurants in our Dining Guide! There is wonderful cuisine for any palate minutes from campus.