Springtime on Campus

Spring is a very exciting time on campus. The Class of 2015 is nearing their graduation and is looking to the future to start their careers or continue their education. A number of Villanova students receive competitive grants and fellowships, and we are proud to announce that Villanova has once again been named a top producer of U.S. Fulbright students. You can read more about the Fulbright scholarship below in a Q & A with Kurt Davies, Assistant Director for Fellowships for Villanova’s Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships.

Spring has also been a busy time of year for LEVEL, a student group on campus formed to bridge the gap between students with various abilities and disabilities. They hosted the first ever NOVABILITY week and are working on their upcoming Casino Night. You can read more about what LEVEL has been up to below.

I hope you will enjoy these updates about students igniting change on campus!

Kind regards,

Patty McGoldrick
Family Engagement and Philanthropy

Congratulations to Villanova Men's Basketball
Villanova Men's Basketball had a very exciting 2014-15 season. They were BIG EAST Regular Season Conference Champions and BIG EAST Tournament Champions which earned them the No. 1 Seed in the East region heading into the NCAA March Madness Tournament. We are very proud of the team for a great season! Coach Jay Wright called the seniors on the team "warriors" and thanked them for their hard work leading Villanova's winningest season.

Update from LEVEL: NOVABILITY Week

On February 10, LEVEL kicked off a three day disability event, NOVABILITY: Disable the Label with a t-shirt giveaway that created a buzz on campus. On February 11, LEVEL hosted its first ever Blind Dodgeball Tournament with over 60 participants! Finally NOVABILITY came to a close with the 3rd Annual Father William Atkinson Humanitarian Award. Fr. Atkinson is the only ordained quadriplegic priest in the 2,000 year history of the church, and LEVEL and the Office of Disability Services honor his passion and vision through this event. Eric LeGrand (photo at left) was this year's recipient and was welcomed by a crowd of more than 500 attendees at the February 12 event in the Villanova Room. Keith Jones from NBC10 served as host for the evening and shared Eric's courageous story of triumph in the face of tragedy.

LEVEL will host the 2015 Casino Night on Monday, April 20. This event is LEVEL's main fundraising initiative that supports social experiences for students of all abilities on and off campus. As Casino Night grows, it allows LEVEL to set bigger goals and reach for higher ground as they set out to change the way people see ability.

Campaign Update

We're continuing to make great progress toward our $600 million goal in the Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change. To date, we've raised nearly $420 million thanks to the contributions of alumni, parents, and friends. Thank you for your support!

Recent news:

- Villanova University School of Law Receives $5 Million Naming Gift for Center for Law and Entrepreneurship
- Villanova University School of Law Receives $5 Million Naming Gift for Center for Ethics, Integrity and Compliance
- Villanova University Receives $2.5 Million Commitment to Establish Endowed Chemical Engineering Chair in College of Engineering

What motivates people to support Villanova? Watch our latest testimonial from a non-graduate parent, Jim Radecki Jr. P '14, '16. For more information on the campaign, visit forthegreatergreat.com.

Q&A with the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships
Villanova was recently named a top producer of U.S. Fulbright students. Fourteen Villanovans were awarded Fulbright awards for 2014-2015, maintaining the University's record of having at least one student selected for the coveted scholarships each year since 1994. This is also the second consecutive year that Villanova is the nation's top producer of Fulbright students among master's institutions. Read more here. Below is an interview with Kurt Davies, Assistant Director for Fellowships at Villanova's Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships.

How many Villanova students applied for a Fulbright scholarship this year? How many students received a scholarship last year?

For the 2014-15 application cycle, we had 60 applicants (48 undergraduates, 8 graduate students, and 4 alumni) from Villanova. We had applicants from all colleges, including the law school. For the 2013-14 application cycle, Villanova had 41 applicants and 14 grantees.

How can undergraduate students interested in applying their senior year prepare to be competitive applicants?

All prestigious fellowships are looking for similar characteristics: strong academic performance, demonstrated leadership, continued community engagement, and a compelling story. The best way to prepare is to dive deep into the opportunities that exist at Villanova. Students should get to know their professors early, seek out research opportunities, pursue engagement opportunities outside of the classroom, and continually be examining their future goals.

What types of grants are available?

Fulbright's U.S. student program has three main grant types available: research, study, and English teaching assistant (ETA). Each provides an avenue for cultural ambassadorship using academic pursuit as a conduit. Research grantees pursue a year-long self-designed independent research project in any discipline. Study grantees pursue graduate studies (typically a one-year masters) at a partner institution abroad. ETAs spend 10-20 hours per week serving as an English language teaching assistant in a local educational institution. All three grant types also encourage students to propose methods and means of local community engagement and cultural exchange.

What are the benefits of completing a Fulbright grant?

The benefits of completing a Fulbright grant are many. It is the sort of experience that an employer or graduate admissions committee will look at and know that the student has already been vetted and stands among the best and brightest in the U.S. Being a Fulbright recipient demonstrates that someone is able to thrive in unfamiliar situations, work independently, and communicate across cultures. Recent Villanova Fulbright recipients are currently enrolled in medical school, law school, and doctoral programs. They work at the Center for Disease Control, have tenure-track academic positions, and have successfully pursued positions in the public, private, and corporate sectors.

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