Greetings from Patty

As the end of the school year approaches, I am feeling particularly blessed for all of the support that the University receives from our parents. During the 2011-12 year, parents have hosted nine regional receptions across the country, participated in small discussion groups in Boston and Long Island, offered professional development opportunities to students and represented Villanova to prospective families at college fairs. Parents in California, Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island are currently in the process of making plans for New Student Receptions designed to help welcome our newest families. I would like to extend a special thank you to all of you for participating as Villanova Parent Ambassadors. The strength of this group really lies with the network - a cadre of enthusiastic, informed volunteers who are available as specific needs arise.

As a reminder, the University’s fiscal year comes to a close on May 31. To make a gift, please click here. If you are unsure whether you’ve made your gift to the University this fiscal year, please let me know. Great things are happening at Villanova, and your financial support is a big part of it.

Thank you,

Patty

Call for Help: Thank You Phone Calls

Villanova University is very grateful for the contributions we receive from the parents of our students, which last year surpassed $4.8 million. One of the simple, yet wonderful ways that you can help with these efforts is by sharing your time to call a few Villanova parents, who have made a donation to the University this year, to express our appreciation for their generosity. If you are able to do so, please email me at your earliest convenience and include any specific requests you have on the types of families you would like to call (e.g., those affiliated with a specific high school, college or who live in a specific geographic region). I will then send you information on five families, as well as a list of suggested speaking points. Parents deserve to be thanked for including Villanova in their philanthropic giving, and the feedback from this program has been overwhelmingly positive from both the callers and the recipients.
Donor Spotlight: Stan and Maureen Kuchar

In 2007, Maureen and Stanley Kuchar of Saddle River, New Jersey established The Maureen A. and Stanley M. Kuchar Family Endowed Scholarship to provide financial assistance to academically talented students whose parent is a veteran, police officer, firefighter or who holds a civil servant position. Alexandra Pugliese ’10, a recipient of the scholarship, thanked the Kuchars when she had the honor of presenting at the inaugural Endowed Scholarship Reception in March 2012. Because of their support, Alexandra successfully completed her Villanova education and is now working full-time in a law firm while putting herself through law school.

Maureen and Stan have continued their relationship with Villanova since their children, Jason ’01 and Erin ’09, graduated. “We are grateful for the impact that Villanova had on Erin and Jason during their time there. We plan to continue growing the scholarship, so that it can assist even more students,” shared Maureen.

2012 Leadership Summit: The Future of the American Dream

Two hundred prominent Villanova University thought leaders convened April 12 for the University’s third annual Leadership Summit to discuss “The Future of the American Dream” and how they’ve leveraged their education and experiences at Villanova into important leadership roles. The 2012 Leadership Summit explored and examined the changes and the requirements in industry, business, government and education for the pursuit of the American Dream to remain viable in the 21st century.

Don Kurz, father of Jillian ’08 and Donald ’11, was among the distinguished panelists discussing “What made the American economy great in the 20th-century?” Don currently serves as President of Keystone Shipping Co. and Chairman of Chas. Kurz & Co., Inc.

Maria Bello ’89 A&S Returns to Villanova

Maria Bello ’89 A&S returned to Villanova on March 27 to share her journey from Villanova University student to acting and activism. An internationally renowned actor and women’s rights activist, Bello traces her current work with WE ADVANCE, an organization, which she co-founded to advance the health, safety and well being of women throughout Haiti, back to her formation as a student at Villanova. She credits Rev. Ray Jackson, OSA, an Augustinian priest and co-founder of the University’s Center for Peace & Justice Education - who passed away in 1997 - for inspiring her to both follow her passion and help others in the process. "In college, before I ever thought of becoming an actress, I was studying to be a human-rights attorney," Bello shared. "During my junior year, I took an acting class. I had to do a monologue, so I picked this song by Bob Dylan about a homeless man who experiences social injustice, and I began to realize the transformative power of art…I could choose art to tell stories that would move people to think."
VSB Ranked #13 in the Nation by Bloomberg Businessweek

The Villanova School of Business (VSB) was once again recognized as one of the best undergraduate business schools in the nation in the 2012 Bloomberg Businessweek ranking. VSB ranked #13, placing it among the top 20 business schools in the nation for the sixth consecutive year. The annual ranking is determined by academic quality, professional development, business relevance and student satisfaction. VSB performed exceptionally well in a number of categories:

- Overall Academic Quality Rank: #2
- Student Grade for Teaching Quality: A+
- Student Grade for Job Placement: A+

Please click here to view VSB’s complete profile.

The ICE Center’s Villanova in the Valley Program

VSB’s Center for Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship is sponsoring its inaugural Villanova in the Valley trip from May 13 to 17. The program is designed to expose twelve students from a diverse selection of academic disciplines to the innovative, creative and entrepreneurial ecosystem of the Silicon Valley. Students will meet and network with other Villanovans and the people responsible for making this part of the country a hotbed for innovation in technology. Site visits will include early and late stage startup ventures as well as corporations and nonprofit organizations involved in the innovation environment of Silicon Valley. The trip will culminate with a session on how to leverage this experience and interest in the Valley into future employment and/or entrepreneurship opportunities.

TEDxVillanovaU

The inaugural TEDx event at Villanova University, TEDxVillanovaU, was held Wednesday, March 28, in the Villanova Room of the Connelly Center. The event featured live speakers from the Villanova community sharing how they “Ignite Change,” an appropriate theme for a conference devoted to “Ideas Worth Spreading.” The event consisted of nine live presentations- each no longer than 18 minutes- by alumni, faculty and students. Watch all the dynamic talks at http://tedx.villanovau.net.

Villanova Alumna Wins Pulitzer Prize

A 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting has been awarded to alumna Eileen Sullivan ’99 A&S and three other members of the Associated Press for their spotlighting of the New York Police Department’s monitoring program that tracked daily life in Muslim communities, resulting in congressional calls for a federal investigation and a debate over the proper role of domestic intelligence gathering.
Upcoming Events: Parents Program Regional Receptions

Please join us for a parents reception in your area:
- April 24: Long Island Parents Reception, Garden City Country Club, hosted by Sue and Pat Donnelly
- May 1: San Diego Parents Reception, Home of Trudie and Michael Lynch, Rancho Santa Fe, CA

Please let me know if you would like additional information on either of these events. Parents of incoming freshmen have not specifically been invited to these two events, but are certainly more than welcome, so please help us to spread the word!