Welcome from Patty

With a new semester well under way, it is definitely starting to feel like fall on campus! I want to thank you all for contributing to what has been a record year in fundraising at the University. As our fiscal year ended on May 31, the Villanova community contributed more than $64 million, with 32 percent of parents giving to the university, and 24 percent of undergraduate alumni making gifts. Parent gifts reached an all-time-high of $5 million in FY13. It is because of your generosity that current and future Villanova students are afforded such inspiring opportunities.

It was wonderful to see so many of you on campus for Parents Weekend -- it is so nice to be able to meet as a group face to face, and to see families reuniting. If you didn't make it to Villanova this past weekend, please take some time to enjoy our newly transformed campus during your next visit. It truly is beautiful.

With warm regards,

Patty

Donor Spotlight: Dan and Stephanie Hirschfeld

Amanda Hirschfeld ’13 loves all sports but is especially fond of lacrosse, which she played for 18 years. While at Villanova, she was goalie for the Women’s Lacrosse Team. During Amanda’s senior year, her parents, Dan and Stephanie Hirschfeld, felt the lacrosse program was at a turning point and believed they could make a difference in its future. Their generous gift will provide a renovated locker room that will be ready for the start of the pre-season in January 2014.

This gift and the renovation will help Villanova’s first full-time lacrosse coach, Julie Young, build a top program, both in the Big East and nationally, enhancing the team’s experience and her recruiting efforts.

“We’re so grateful to our parents who provide strong financial support to continue to build Villanova Athletics’ excellent national reputation,” says George Kolb, Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations. “The Hirschfelds have made a true leadership gift to our women’s lacrosse program, and it is an example to parents of all our athletic programs at Villanova that they can make a huge impact on our student-athletes.”

Campus Master Plan Update: The End is Near!

The end of the third (and final) phase of the Transformation of the Campus Landscape Initiative is about a month away. Over the summer, work was done in the Connelly Center plaza, Dougherty Drive and in the areas between Falvey Memorial Library, Corr Hall and Alumni Hall. Completion is scheduled for just before Homecoming Weekend at the end of October. Thank you for your patience as we created a campus core that is more safe, accessible and vibrant.
The Virtual Visit that's Nearly Real

Another improvement to the Villanova landscape - in this case, the virtual landscape - was made over the summer. Villanova's new Virtual Visit, which can now be accessed at virtualvisit.villanova.edu, allows us to tell the Villanova story in a very real way, through the words of our students, faculty and staff.

This Virtual Visit contains videos about Villanova's community, academics, programs, commitment to service, athletics and our alumni base. It also features more than 500 video interviews with students and faculty, a photorealistic campus map and a GPS-enabled walking tour of the University.

We encourage you to share this resource with friends, colleagues or even high-school students you may know. It is great to have this new platform for prospective students, near and far, to discover "virtually" how special it is to be a part of the Villanova community.

One Book Villanova Selection: 2013/2014

Good Kings Bad Kings
by Susan Nussbaum

Good Kings Bad Kings by Susan Nussbaum has been chosen as One Book Villanova for the current academic year. The program presents the entire campus community with a book that is worthy of close reading and one which will stimulate meaningful dialog.

Good Kings Bad Kings follows the lives of residents at ILLC, an institution for juveniles with disabilities, where friendships are forged, trust is built, and love affairs begin, all despite an atmosphere of neglect and abuse. In this alliance, the residents of ILLC ultimately find the strength to resist their mistreatment and fight back. With humor and an authentic eye, Good Kings Bad Kings tells the story of their struggle for dignity and self-determination.

Susan Nussbaum is an author based in Chicago who was cited in 2008 by the Utne Reader as one of "50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World" for her work with girls with disabilities.

It was this recognition that, in part, helped the One Book Villanova Committee choose this powerful novel, to raise awareness about the treatment of people with disabilities in today's society. It also found the book inspirational in light of the University's work with people with disabilities.

In 2012 Villanova students formed LEVEL, a student organization dedicated to serving the needs of people with disabilities and assisting in advocacy work. LEVEL students have performed more than 10,000 hours of service to the community in the past two years.

The selection is timely as well as Villanova University celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Fall Festival this November. The Fall Festival is the largest student-run Special Olympics event in the world.
**Take a Cat to Work Program**

This fall, the Take a Cat to Work Program is open to sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students of all colleges. Alumni chapters in Philadelphia, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Chicago are working with the Career Center to identify potential mentors (alumni, spouses, parents, and friends) who are willing to have a student shadow them for a day on the job.

Mentor registration pages are available through the Alumni Calendar for each of the four participating locations. Take a Cat to Work Day will be offered again in additional cities during the winter break in early January.

If you know anyone interested in a one-day volunteering opportunity to benefit our students, encourage them to serve as a mentor.

**The Sophomore Experience**

New programs, activities and resources were identified over the summer specifically designed to help sophomores grow as a community of learners inside and outside the classroom. Founded on the University's Strategic Plan, The Sophomore Experience focuses on issues that are unique to sophomores. This package of programs engages this community of students and promotes their experience and growth during their second year in college.

Read more on The Sophomore Experience [here](#).

**There’s an "Ad" for That: A Student’s Adventure in Using Social Media to Land a Summer Internship**

Over spring break in March, freshman Nicolette Weinbaum ’16 LAS began thinking about how she wanted to spend her summer. The challenge for first-year students like Nicolette is that most companies often prefer to allocate prized internship opportunities to upperclassmen.

Determined to overcome this hurdle, Nicolette decided that the best course of action was to tap into the ‘Nova Nation - the fiercely loyal and wide-ranging Villanova alumni network. She had met Villanova alumni at various events, and always came away impressed with how passionate they were about the University and helping fellow Villanovans. But how could she connect with this network in the most effective way possible?

Then it came to her. As a savvy user of social media, Nicolette thought: “Why not create a LinkedIn ad campaign about my search for an internship?” To say that Nicolette’s idea was successful was an understatement. [Click here](#) to read about how Nicolette turned her $200 "advertising" budget into +120,000 views on the site, multiple job opportunities and a video blog with LinkedIn!