Greetings from Park Avenue!

Spring is in the air and the end of the school year is quickly approaching! We recently celebrated the two-year anniversary of Villanova’s regional development office in New York. As many of you know, Villanova has also opened offices in Boston, DC, and Los Angeles over the past year. Please visit our newly redesigned regional webpage. You can now check out back issues of this newsletter, as well as photo galleries of past events and news about upcoming programs and events.

During this time of celebration, our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the events in Boston last week, especially Kevin White ’00 VSB and his parents, Bill and Mary Jo, who were injured at the Boston Marathon.

In this month’s edition, I encourage you to read about the Vatican Internship program, spring break service trips and an update on the Big East.

As our fiscal year comes to a close on May 31, we ask that you consider helping to secure Villanova's future. To make a gift, please click here.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Jon Williams ’03

Jon Williams ’03 has been an avid supporter of Villanova since graduation. As a student, Jon was a member of the men's soccer team. As an alum, Jon co-founded and continues to serve as President of the Villanova Morris/Somerset Alumni Chapter. This year, Jon celebrates his 10 year reunion and is a member of his reunion committee.

In honor of his 10 year reunion, Jon recently made a significant gift to the West Campus Soccer Complex project. This project will provide resources to completely renovate the soccer fields with artificial turf, new bleachers and a new scoreboard. Jon's contribution is not only an improvement for the men's and women's soccer teams, but is a great benefit to the entire Villanova Community. The fields will be used by other varsity and club team practices, and will be open to the general student body during off-hours for intramurals. With improved facilities, Villanova continues to be seen as a top institution to potential students, alumni and all visitors who join us on campus.
Upcoming Events

April 25 - VAF Caravan New York City - The VAF invites you to The Future of Villanova Athletics, a reception and discussion with Vince Nicastro, director of athletics, Villanova head coaches and staff.

May 21 - Bank of New York Mellon VCAP (for BNY employees)

May 23 - Morgan Stanley VCAP (for Morgan Stanley employees)

June 6-9 - Reunion Weekend on Campus

Villanova and the New Big East Conference

In a letter on March 12, 2013, Father Peter Donohue, OSA, President ’75 updated the community on Villanova’s decision, along with six of our partners from the Big East Conference, to join together to form a new athletic conference—one based on the common values and history of our universities.

"I am excited to announce to all of you that the Big East name will stay with our seven schools. Retaining this asset was very important for our group as it allows us to carry on the best of the Big East's traditions in our new conference. The seven basketball schools, which include many of the original founding schools of the Big East, have unanimously established the goal of continuing the storied legacy and time-honored traditions of athletic competition so closely associated with the Big East, including being the home of the very best college basketball in the nation."

To Read Father Donohue’s entire letter, click here.

Vatican Interns

Four Villanova Vatican Interns have been on hand to witness history in Rome with the election and installation of Pope Francis. These students are there as part of Villanova’s exclusive Vatican Internship Program, helping contribute to the Vatican’s communication with the rest of the world - through social media, web and multi-media technology. To read the full press release, click here. Click the to the right to watch a video of the students on the Today Show.

Spring Break Service Trips Include Post-Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts

Hundreds of Villanova University students are spending their spring break serving communities domestically and globally - as part of Habitat for Humanity and Mission service experiences. One group of Villanovans is assisting Habitat for Humanity in its continued post-Hurricane Sandy Relief efforts in Atlantic County, N.J.

"Efforts to recover and rebuild from Hurricane Sandy will last for years," said Tim O'Connell, Associate Director of Campus Ministry and the coordinator for Habitat for Humanity at Villanova University. "Villanova will continue to partner with Habitat for Humanity of Atlantic County and send students, staff and resources to assist them in their mission." To read the full story, click here.
You Can Make A Difference

As we near the end of the fiscal year, I know many of you will be considering how you can help make a difference with your personal philanthropy. Gifts to Villanova can directly support personal areas of interest - athletics, scholarship, colleges and more. It is because of the generosity of our community that current and future students at Villanova have the opportunities they do.

The University has set the goal to have 25% of our alumni population make a gift of any size to Villanova by May 31, 2013. We are already ahead of where we were at this time last year (16% alumni participation at the end of April compared to last year's 15%), but we still need support from alumni like you. To support the University, click here.

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