Welcome from the Dean

Welcome to the Winter 2014 issue of The Dean’s Desk. It's been a wonderful (if chilly!) few months on campus. In November, Jessica Wamala ’13 CLAS became the third Rhodes Scholar (all from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) in Villanova history. We are so proud of her accomplishment! Here’s more on that and other news of the past few months. For more news and to stay connected, please visit us on the Web, Facebook and Twitter.

Sincerely,

Jean Ann Linney, PhD
Dean

FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Mark Lawrence Schrad Publishes “Vodka Politics”

Mark Lawrence Schrad, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, has published Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy and the History of the Russian State (Oxford University Press). The book argues that throughout history the Russian (and Soviet) autocracy has been intrinsically--and often tragically--linked to vodka.

Dr. Erica Slotter Unveils New Research on Romantic Jealousy

How does romantic jealousy change us? Assistant professor of Psychology Erica Slotter, PhD specializes in research on romantic relationships and the manner in which they influence individuals’ sense of self. Her recent research, published in Personal and Social Psychology Bulletin, sheds new light on the topic and is receiving wide attention, including this article in The Atlantic.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Wamala Wins Rhodes Scholarship

Jessica Wamala ’13 CLAS 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 BA in May 2013, with majors in Political Science, Arab and Islamic studies and Global Interdisciplinary Studies. She is now pursuing an MA in Political Science at Villanova and is co-captain of the 2013-2014 women’s basketball team. More
Keith Martinez Appointed Youth Ambassador for State of South Dakota
Keith Martinez '16 CLAS was selected by the Youth Service of America (YSA) and the Festival of Children Foundation to serve as a National Child Awareness Month (NCAM) Ambassador. Keith will represent South Dakota, where he grew up on the Oglala Lakota Pine Ridge Reservation. More

Michelle Velez Serves on Sustainability Panel at National Academy of Sciences
Michelle Velez '14 CLAS served as the only undergraduate on an important sustainability panel at the National Academy of Sciences last fall in Washington, DC. An Environmental Science major, she spoke on how classes addressing sustainability across many disciplines at Villanova shaped her undergraduate experience. More

Joana Petrescu Selected as Marshall Scholar
Presidential Scholar Joana Petrescu '14 CLAS has been named a 2014 recipient of the Marshall Scholarship, making her the first-ever Villanovan to win this prestigious honor. The award will support two years of post-graduate research in cancer biology at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. More

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Awards Alumni Medallions
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Medallions recognize the lives and accomplishments of its most distinguished alumni every year. The 2013 recipients are Brian Wynne '86 CLAS (Communication), Angelina Mondavi '04 CLAS (Chemistry) and Frances Burns '97 BA (Political Science), '99 MPA. More

Live from Sochi: Amanda Doyle '10 CLAS
As the Winter Olympics take center stage, Amanda Doyle '10 CLAS (English) is in the midst of the action. She helps shape the editorial content of NBC's Olympic broadcast and is in Sochi
this month assisting on-air personalities as a researcher-writer for studio shows. "Majoring in English taught me to stay curious about the world, which allowed me to thrive in a creative industry and find a career that I love," she says. Doyle was featured in a recent New York Times article, "Unearthing Nuggets of Gold for NBC."

Gintaras Duda '97 CLAS Earns National Professor of the Year Honors

The Carnegie Foundation and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) has named Gintaras Duda, PhD, '97 CLAS, the 2013 National Professor of the Year in the master's category. He was recognized for his combination of active learning techniques and technology to maximize student learning. Dr. Duda is an associate professor of Physics at Creighton University.

OTHER NEWS

- Karolina Wolnicki '15 CLAS Awarded 2013 Boren Scholarship
- Villanova University and Abbey Theater Launch "Summer Studio" For Undergraduates
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Announces John H. Taylor Jr. '75 Endowed Journalism Scholarship