Looking to the Future with Villanova’s Strategic Plan

Service After Graduation

Living the Augustinian Tradition
Dear Alumni and Friends:

As one of two Augustinian institutes of higher education in the United States, Villanova University plays an important role in keeping St. Augustine's thought and values at the forefront of modern life. Over the next five years our Augustinian Institute will reach beyond our campus to the world at large, serving as a global center for Augustinian study and dialogue.

In this issue, you will meet Augustinians and recent graduates who embody our core values, including development of the whole person and commitment to service. The priests—an attorney, a professional actor, a former pharmaceutical executive and a gourmet chef—now share their talents with the entire Villanova community. The graduates are among the 63 members of the Class of 2009 who have chosen to do a year or more of service after receiving their diplomas.

Other common threads among Villanovans are persistence and hard work. For two of our athletic teams this past fall, such dedication resulted in national titles. In November, our women's cross-country team upset top-ranked University of Washington to win the 2009 NCAA Championship. In December, our football team earned a thrilling, come-from-behind 23-21 victory over The University of Montana in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) National Championship game.

These values are exhibited daily in our Villanova community. During two of the largest winter snowstorms in our region's history—in snow, wind and bitter temperatures—our staffers worked long hours to feed our students, attend to their health care needs, ensure the safety of campus and clear parking lots, roads and walkways.

Along with the rest of the nation, we welcomed spring!

Sincerely,

Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D. ’75 A&S
University President
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By almost any measure, Villanova University’s prestige and performance are at an all-time high. In the past couple of decades the University has outpaced its traditional competitors and is building a national reputation, attracting increasingly top-notch students and faculty. Now it is time for the next step.

Within the next decade, the value of a Villanova education could be indisputably recognized as among the best in the world. That is the vision of Villanova’s President, the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’75 A&S.

Father Donohue has outlined that vision in the University’s Strategic Plan, “Igniting the Heart. Inspiring the Mind. Illuminating the Spirit,” designed to build on success achieved in recent years and guide the University through 2020. Core to the Plan, which was approved by the Villanova University Board of Trustees in December 2009, are Villanova’s distinctive attributes of academic excellence, strong community, service to others, personal attention and a platform for success. One of the primary goals is to effectively communicate these qualities to the world at large.

“During the next decade, Villanova will seek to achieve unprecedented levels of distinction, while remaining true to its history, tradition and values,” says Father Donohue. “Doing so will require that we clearly communicate the unique value of the Villanova experience.”

That sentiment is echoed by Stephen Fugale, who heads the Strategic Planning process in addition to serving as Villanova’s vice president for Technology and CIO. “We want to be not just well known, but understood,” he notes. “We want to tell the Villanova story.”

Part of the challenge of delivering this message is that while Villanova is not considered a national research university—despite the fact that it has strong Ph.D. programs and extensive research opportunities for undergraduates—it is also not a pure liberal arts college. This requires the University to clearly define and communicate its benefits and value in comparison to other premier schools.

“We are committed to continuing to elevate our position in higher education, while preserving what is distinctly ‘Villanova,’ particularly our Catholic and Augustinian traditions, including excellence in teaching, intellectual exploration and service to others,” says Father Donohue.

Strategies for success

To realize this vision, the University will focus on executing five strategies: strengthening its undergraduate programs, including a new liberal arts and sciences core curriculum; providing an increasingly diverse intellectual climate; focusing on and promoting the excellence of its faculty scholarship and graduate programs; communicating Villanova’s distinctive identity and value proposition more effectively; and engaging the full Villanova community more actively and aggressively to build the financial resources and facilities necessary to achieve these goals.

Primary to the Strategic Plan is for Villanova to continually provide its students with an increasingly challenging and engaging academic environment, characterized by a strong liberal arts foundation, exceptional professional schools and interdisciplinary studies. In striving to provide greater discourse and diversity of thought, it will enroll increasingly high-achieving students, and in the Augustinian and...
Veritas, Unitas and Caritas and an Interdisciplinary Approach

The Augustinian principles of veritas, unitas and caritas—truth, unity and love—will continue to serve as the intellectual and spiritual guideposts of the University’s academic program and are central to this new Strategic Plan.

Building on its reputation for an interdisciplinary approach, Villanova plans to incorporate shared, integrated educational priorities across colleges, programs, departments and disciplines.

The Plan includes implementing a shared undergraduate core curriculum to enhance Villanova’s already strong moral and ethical learning foundation—featuring courses specified by each college to continue to ensure student competencies in quantitative and scientific literacy, effective communication and writing skills.

Interdisciplinary initiatives include the College of Engineering’s partnering with the Villanova School of Business to create a distinctive Engineering Entrepreneurship program focused around a new Engineering Entrepreneurship minor. Also planned is a new business minor/certificate program, open to all University students, consisting of an integrated introduction to business concepts and practices.

In keeping with “caritas” and concern for the common good, Villanova has submitted a formal Climate Action Plan as part of its commitment to the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. The plan involves actions from the entire campus community—including academic components across all disciplines—in an effort to achieve carbon neutrality. In addition, it is planned that the College of Engineering will partner with faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Office of Mission and Ministry to develop a new Ethics across the Curriculum program.

Catholic tradition, educate the whole person through value-driven learning and a commitment to service.

One of Villanova’s strongest attributes is its reputation for providing unsurpassed levels of personal attention to its students. Faculty will remain committed to outstanding teaching and increasingly important research as Villanova enhances its stature as a premier national university and a preeminent Catholic university that prepares its graduates for today’s global environment.

Academic excellence
Villanova’s greatest priority is academic excellence. The University’s goal is to develop leaders who, instilled with a strong foundation of ethics and Augustinian thought, make a positive impact on society.

One quality that makes Villanova stand out is the wealth of opportunities for undergraduates to engage in high-level research with professors. The University is recognized nationally for its commitment to undergraduate teaching, and undergraduate students have accompanied professors on research trips all over the world. Much of this research is funded through grants from prestigious organizations—such as the National Science Foundation—which recognize the achievements of Villanova faculty members and the potential of their research.

For example, as a junior, Alexandra Bausch ’09 A&S accompanied Villanova chemistry professor Amanda Grannas, Ph.D., on a trip to Alaska for research on organic pollutants in the Arctic. Bausch was awarded a 2008 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for Excellence in the sciences and a 2009 Fulbright U.S. Student Program Grant. Another undergraduate, Christopher Meehan ’09 A&S, ’09 G.S., co-discovered a new species of spider while on a research trip with Villanova professor Robert Curry, Ph.D.

Likewise, in the College of Engineering’s Laboratory for Advanced Thermal and Fluid Systems, students of all levels—undergraduates through Ph.D. candidates—are involved in research that attracts national attention and support.

Villanova will strengthen its undergraduate programs with a new Liberal Arts and Sciences core curriculum and curricular innovations in all the colleges, building on distinctive programs and centers of excellence throughout the colleges.

The plan includes advancing faculty research and curricular innovation that promotes active student learning, the integration of theory and practice, global and multicultural perspectives and the development of creative problem-solving and leadership skills.

The University will also continue to pursue excellence in graduate and professional education and in faculty scholarship, investing in programs that have a positive impact on society in addition to enhancing Villanova’s national reputation. For example, Villanova recently became one of only two universities in the nation to offer a Master of Science degree in sustainable engineering.

Attracting top students
Building on its already outstanding academic reputation requires offering students a diverse intellectual climate. Achieving this means enrolling an ever-increasing number of high-achieving students. The Strategic Plan has outlined a strategy to increase enrollment of this type of student by personalizing recruitment efforts, improving financial aid and placing an increased focus on diversity.

Villanova starts at a position of strength, because the academic quality and diversity of matriculated Villanova students has steadily increased. Efforts to increase both geographic and multicultural diversity are also producing impressive results.

For the Class of 2013—which entered the University in fall 2009—the average high school G.P.A. is 3.82 and average SAT score just shy of 1300. Students come from 43 states, along with 50 international students who hail from 35 countries.

Incoming classes continue to grow and are more multicultural. More than 30,000 prospective students and parents tour Villanova’s campus each year. “The number of top-quality applicants continues to grow, and they are increasingly diverse in terms of geography and multicultural background and represent a broad range of socioeconomic experiences,” notes Stephen Merritt, Villanova’s dean of Enrollment Management.
Building the endowment
Offering increased levels of financial aid boosts Villanova’s chances of enrolling the best and brightest students and helps the University remain competitive with the best colleges and universities in the country. To offer more aid and reach the academic quality aspired to in the Strategic Plan, Villanova must build the necessary financial resources and facilities. Indeed, the greatest difference between Villanova and the nation’s other prestigious Catholic universities can be found in the value of its endowment, which lags behind its peers and aspirational peers.

Financial aid is not the only need. The Strategic Plan includes a 30-year Campus Master Plan to update facilities, beautify and improve the landscape and enhance the educational experiences of Villanova students. Designed to preserve Villanova’s rich heritage while meeting current and future space needs, the master plan maximizes the campus’ potential to be an integrated, sustainable, pedestrian-centered environment in which to live, work and play. It calls for the upgrading and “greening” of residence halls and academic buildings; the creation of tree-lined walkways that foster a sense of place; and the development of a “hamlet of Villanova” on the south side of Lancaster Avenue.

“The growth of our University endowment will be a key strategic priority, with the success of all other strategic imperatives depending on it,” says Michael J. O’Neill, Villanova’s vice president for University Advancement.

Together with the Board of Trustees and Father Donohue, University Advancement is working to maximize private, philanthropic support while also significantly increasing and engaging the broadest spectrum of alumni, parents and friends in the life of the University.

“Every member of the Villanova community can be a well-informed ambassador and an impact investor in Villanova’s future,” O’Neill says.

Sharing the story
Communicating Villanova’s distinctive identity and value proposition more effectively to prospective students and their parents, prospective faculty, alumni, peers and employees is key to the Strategic Plan, says Ann Diebold, vice president for University Communication and a member of the president’s Strategic Planning Steering Committee. “It requires creating a shared understanding of exactly who we are and a shared lexicon for the benefits we offer.”

That means continuing to create, clarify and improve the University’s messaging to better communicate the Villanova story, increasing awareness of Villanova among high-caliber high school students from diverse geographies and backgrounds and building on the University’s strong reputation among employers and graduate programs nationally. All of this must be achieved while maintaining emphasis on the University’s Catholic and Augustinian tradition.

Moving forward
In essence, the Strategic Plan builds upon Villanova’s critical strengths and remedies any gaps—while helping the University navigate the challenges of a complex global higher education landscape.

“We are not content to simply maintain our current position, and we are confident we can achieve our goals and make our vision a reality,” Father Donohue says. “We realize it will require great effort, including the full commitment of Villanova’s faculty, administration, students, parents and alumni.”

Executing the plan successfully will mean that Villanova will continue to live and espouse its mission—while continuing to have talented students, faculty, staff and alumni actively engaged in a dynamic community of learners dedicated to intellectual exploration and service.

“We begin from a position of strength, but Villanova is capable of achieving even more,” says Father Donohue. “We’re ready to greet a new decade and era of excellence in the great history of Villanova University.”

Villanova Lags in Alumni Annual Giving

Among Villanova alumni, there’s no shortage of pride in being part of the “Nova Nation”—yet the University’s endowment remains at the back of the pack compared to its peer and aspirational peer institutions. Only with strong alumni support can the Strategic Plan succeed—and give Villanova students, faculty and programs the resources to reach their full potential. The success of the Strategic Plan will also impact Villanova’s growing reputation and stature in the coming years. To make a gift today, visit www.villanova.edu/makeagift or call 1-800-486-5244.
He was a remarkably prolific writer, a scholar on an endless quest for knowledge, a spiritual traveler who encouraged others to join him on the journey toward God. His most famous work, *The Confessions*, has been a best seller for 1,600 years—and continues to influence contemporary religion and thought.

It is little wonder that the late 20th century was marked by a resurgence of interest in St. Augustine, the man and his writings, prompting a fresh look at the spiritual tradition that bears his name, as the late Rev. Thomas F. Martin, O.S.A., Ph.D., noted in his book *Our Restless Heart: The Augustinian Tradition* (Orbis Books, 2003).

Recognizing that resurgence and deeply committed to celebrating its Augustinian heritage, Villanova in 2002 established the Augustinian Institute with Father Martin at the helm. It was designed to give Augustine and his thought a vibrant and integral place within academic and community life.

Since its founding, it has sponsored numerous events, including the Vivian J. Lamb Lecture Series, the annual St. Augustine Lecture and the In Dialogue With Augustine Seminar. The Institute’s international conferences on Augustine’s thought and legacy have attracted leading scholars from around the world.

**Passing the torch**
The Institute was dealt a blow in February 2009 when Father Martin passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Succeeding him as director is his colleague, the Rev. Allan D. Fitzgerald, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’64 A&S, an internationally renowned scholar and professor who spent much of the last decade a stone’s throw from the Vatican.

It is a fitting appointment, for Father Fitzgerald is an encyclopedia on Augustine. He is editor of *Augustine through the Ages* (Eerdmans, 1999), an encyclopedia that includes entries by more than 150 international scholars. A best seller for its publisher, it has been translated into Spanish, French and Italian.

Since 1990, he has served as editor of Villanova’s semi-annual journal, *Augustinian Studies*. In 1997, he was invited to join the faculty of the Augustinian Patristic Institute in Rome and served there until his recent return to Villanova, where he teaches theology.

“The Institute gives Villanova a way to articulate and focus energies on the Augustinian qualities of our mission,” Father Fitzgerald says. “It will be a pleasure...
to carry on and enhance the good things that Tom Martin accomplished.

The Institute’s new director looks forward to collaborating with the various academic departments and organizations that also sponsor Augustine-related lectures and events each semester on campus. “What we do and the speakers we invite will have a direct impact on the students.”

In addition to making Augustine an integral part of the everyday lives of Villanovans, Father Fitzgerald’s goal is to make the Institute “the place to study Augustine,” where people will come to reflect together on Augustine through the ages. It is a vision supported by Villanova’s president, the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’75 A&S, who wants to see the Institute grow in international stature.

Father Fitzgerald’s international experience and network of Augustinian scholars will play a major role in the latter. In addition to working and teaching in Rome, he received his S.T.L. degree from Lateran University in Rome and his S.T.D. degree from Institut Catholique in Paris. He is conversant in French, German, Italian, Spanish and English.

**Fellowships for international scholars**

In pursuit of increased international visibility, the next five years will be a period of major growth for the Institute, according to Barbara Wall, Ph.D., vice president for Mission and Ministry at Villanova.

“Our Augustinian tradition has framed us as a University, and we need to put that front and center,” she says. “The Institute is part of Villanova’s attempt to claim our tradition, our distinctiveness and the charism we offer to higher education.”

To facilitate the growth of scholarship in Augustinian studies, the Institute will provide fellowships to Augustinian scholars from around the world. The St. Augustine Fellows, a new initiative designed to broaden the Augustinian conversation at Villanova and beyond, invites scholars to come to Villanova for a semester.

It is envisioned that each St. Augustine Fellow will teach an Augustine-related course, present a seminar session on his or her research project while at Villanova and participate in sponsored lectures and conversations. The opportunity gives the scholars time not only to do their own research but to be involved in a discussion on Augustine that is more intense and collaborative than in their home institutions. Their presence on campus will offer Villanova undergraduates even more opportunity to learn about Augustine and his impact on modern life.

“Father Dobbin was “immediately receptive,” Dr. Lamb recalls. “I got not only a response but also encouragement to push the plan forward.”

Thus was born the Augustinian Institute’s Vivian J. Lamb Lecture Series on Augustinian Thought and the Sciences. Endowed by Dr. Lamb and named after his mother, it has brought many distinguished scientists to campus.

“The philosophical approaches in science and religion share much in common,” he says. “I’m glad the series has continued to flourish. It could not have succeeded without the attention and nurturing of Father Thomas Martin.”

**Institute Sponsors International Web Site on Augustine**

Villanova’s Augustinian Institute is a sponsor of www.FindingAugustine.org, an online bibliographical collection concerning Augustine of Hippo and his legacy. The comprehensive, user-friendly site is the result of a unique international collaboration between institutions of higher learning in Europe and America. Some of the world’s leading scholarly books and articles about Augustine are organized according to a set of categories searchable by topic or idea, making it easy to research almost anything about Augustine. The Web site is available in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Dutch.
Mary D. Naylor ’71 BSN

It’s not easy to forget Mary D. Naylor, Ph.D., F.A.A.N., R.N., ’71 BSN. She even made an immediate impact in her first job out of college at Bryn Mawr Hospital.

Last fall, after she gave a lecture at Villanova’s College of Nursing, a former colleague approached her. “I remember you from [floor] 5C, and I wanted to see you again,” the woman said, extending her hand with a smile.

“She had been a nurse’s assistant, and I hadn’t seen her in many, many years,” Dr. Naylor recalls. “I couldn’t believe she remembered me. It was wonderful.”

Recently appointed to Villanova University’s Board of Trustees, Dr. Naylor is exuberant about her life’s work, and her enthusiasm inspires all those around her. Today she is the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology and director of the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Nursing.

Since 1990, Dr. Naylor has led an interdisciplinary research program designed to improve health care and reduce costs of care for chronically ill older adults and their caregivers. “We’re basically trying to change the care system for them,” she says.

Passionately devoted to the cause, she testified before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee on her research findings, and the evidence from her and her team’s research formed the basis of the Medicare Transitional Care Act, introduced in both the House and Senate in 2009.

Villanova years

It was as a high school student that Dr. Naylor realized her life’s calling. “I worked at Bryn Mawr Hospital as a volunteer for a couple of years and really fell in love with the opportunity to be part of that world.”

Her four years at Villanova were both happy and transformative. “I always attribute a lot of what I’ve accomplished in my career to the extraordinary foundation I received at the College of Nursing.”

She said it was “a fabulous time” to be at Villanova. “I loved the out-of-classroom experiences as much as those in the classroom.”

Her memories include meeting the late singer/songwriter Jim Croce ’65 A&S in the old Bartley Hall coffee shop and being required to wear skirts to class. “By the time I graduated, we were allowed to wear slacks,” she laughs.

Dr. Naylor earned her master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. Her many achievements include being named national program director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-sponsored Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative and her election to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

She is thrilled to be elected to the Board of her alma mater. “Having worked in an academic environment with students all my life, I think I can bring some helpful perspective.”

Her first grandson, Aidan, was born just a few months ago, and she hopes he will follow in her footsteps and that of his mother, Alison Naylor Corter ’01 A&S.

“The next generation of Naylors hopes to be a VU Wildcat, Class of 2030!” Dr. Naylor laughs.

“It’s not easy to forget Mary D. Naylor.
James V. O’Donnell ’63 VSB

A
fter graduating from Villanova and finishing a stint in the U.S. Army, James V. O’Donnell ’63 VSB found himself with three job offers. One was from Gulf Oil, another from Allstate Insurance and the third from Sears, Roebuck & Company.

O’Donnell chose Sears, and the rest is retail industry history. Today, he is CEO of American Eagle Outfitters, Inc., one of the top clothing retailers in the country, with 950 stores in the United States and Canada.

He has also been named to Villanova University’s Board of Trustees. When he received the news from the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’75 A&S, University president, “I told him it was an incredible opportunity.”

When O’Donnell asked Father Donohue why he had been selected, “he said that I was innovative and I look at problem solving in a unique way. He then joked, ‘It’s also because you dress differently,’” O’Donnell laughs. “Working at American Eagle, I’m always wearing jeans and a sports coat.”

“Villanova was the launching pad”
O’Donnell says that as an undergraduate he felt the University really cared about him both as a student and as a person. “Villanova was the launching pad in terms of preparing me for the next steps in both the business world as well as the personal arena,” he says. “I don’t know what I would have done without it.”

When he joined Sears, he entered a competitive, comprehensive training program based at its venerated headquarters on Philadelphia’s Roosevelt Boulevard. That training—along with his Villanova education—gave O’Donnell the strong leadership and operating disciplines he has become known for in his career.

“Villanova gave me the basis for academic discipline, and Sears gave me the foundation for good business discipline,” he notes.

In his first seven years with Sears, he was promoted six times. At age 35, O’Donnell left Sears to run a retail company in New York, N.Y. In 1980, he joined Gap Inc., where he was a member of the Board of Directors and served as executive vice president and chief operating officer.

During his time at Gap, O’Donnell helped oversee the retailer’s transition from a discount jeans warehouse to a sleek fashion arbiter. In 2000, he joined American Eagle Outfitters as chief operating officer and a member of the Board of Directors, and in 2003 was named CEO.

American Eagle currently sponsors the women’s volleyball team at the University. Two of O’Donnell’s children are alumni—Susan O’Donnell ’89 A&S, ’93 G.S. and Jennifer O’Donnell ’00 A&S.

His firm also hires Villanova students and graduates both as interns and full-time employees. “We’ve been the beneficiary of some top-notch students,” he says.

O’Donnell looks forward to helping guide Villanova’s future. “It’s an exciting time to be on the Board. All of Villanova’s strategic initiatives are right on target. I’m extremely gratified to be a part of it.”

“It’s an exciting time to be on the Board. All of Villanova’s strategic initiatives are right on target. I’m extremely gratified to be a part of it.”
Father Galetto has also been an adjunct professor at Villanova and at Catholic University of America, and from 2007 to 2009 was executive director of the Augustinian Secondary Education Association. He has served on the Board of Directors of both Merrimack College and Malvern Preparatory School. He is also the author of the book *Building the Foundations of Faith* (National Catholic Educational Association, 1996).

In the spirit of St. Augustine's famous quote, “The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page,” Father Galetto has traveled around the world. He spent three years studying in Rome and is fluent in Italian and Spanish. This summer, he is taking a group of 30 students to Greece.

“I believe travel is the best education there is because it helps a person see things from a different perspective,” he says. “It is important that people visit other cultures and countries to learn as much as they can.”

He has also done missionary work in South Africa and Nigeria. “I’m looking at the possibility of going to Haiti this summer to see if I can do anything there,” he says. “I believe everyone should give back.”

When he was a high school student at St. Augustine College Preparatory School in Richland, N.J., the Rev. Paul W. Galetto, O.S.A., S.T.B., Ph.D., ’78 A&S, ’85 G.S. thought he wanted to be a priest. Yet “I wasn’t sure, so I thought I would attend a non-Catholic college to confirm I was on the right path,” he recalls. Though he had a good experience at Bucknell University, by the end of his freshman year, “I realized that I wanted to join the Augustinians.”

He transferred to Villanova, where he majored in English. “I was so impressed by the English department at Villanova. There were so many great teachers,” he recalls. “One was Father John Hagen. I took every course of his I could get.”

Today, Father Galetto is president of his high school alma mater and was recently named to Villanova University’s Board of Trustees.

“I’m excited about being on the Board,” he says. “It’s obvious that Villanova is a very dynamic place with a lot of good things happening. My initial reaction is that it’s going to be a great ride, and I’m glad to be part of it.”

Father Galetto brings to the Board strong leadership skills in the field of education. Since he became president of St. Augustine College Preparatory School in 1998, enrollment there has climbed from 235 to 700. Academically during the same period, the school’s SAT averages have risen to one of the highest in New Jersey, and its Advanced Placement course offerings have quintupled from 3 to 15.

“IT’s obvious that Villanova is a very dynamic place with a lot of good things happening. My initial reaction is that it’s going to be a great ride, and I’m glad to be part of it.”
When his children chose Villanova over Georgetown University, Boston College, Providence College and the University of Notre Dame, Joseph V. Topper Jr. ’77 VSB was very happy—and not just because he and his wife, Maureen Gallagher Topper ’77 A&S, are alumni.

“I was glad they picked Villanova because the University has a sense of family and community and isn’t solely focused on individual accomplishment,” he says. “Villanova students tend to complement each other through teamwork rather than compete with each other.”

The latter will serve them well after graduation, he notes. “I’ve learned in my career that you have greater success by supporting your co-workers instead of trying to put the spotlight on yourself. Others will recognize those qualities and bring you along. Helping one another finish a task or project results in better teamwork—and, in the case of Villanova, a better education.”

Topper has enjoyed success in his own career. He is owner and president of Lehigh Gas Corporation in Bethlehem, Pa., a wholesale distributor and retailer of petroleum products for ExxonMobil, Shell, Valero and BP that markets in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Massachusetts. One of eight children, Topper began working in a gas station at the age of 13. He started his company in 1987 with two stations. Today, the wholesale division of his firm has 200 employees and the retail division 1,800.

He’s both an entrepreneur at heart and an entrepreneur with heart. His community service includes serving for 20 years on the Board of Trustees of Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital in Allentown, Pa. He was just named to Villanova University’s Board of Trustees.

Topper was “humbled” when he heard the news. “The University has been so great to my wife and me and our family, and it’s wonderful to be able to give back.” He is excited about the University’s Strategic Plan, recently presented to the Board by Villanova’s president, the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’75 A&S.

“I told Father Peter that I was overjoyed with the Plan’s commitment to the development of the whole student. As Villanova has continued to attract top students, the University has been able to maintain the ideals of community and service.”

As a Board member, Topper would like to continue to develop the overall sense of Augustinian community at the University. “All graduates leave Villanova as a community of friends—and that sets them up for success in their personal and professional lives.”

He and Maureen feel this aspect of Villanova will benefit children Maura Topper ’08 VSB, Shannon Topper ’10 and Connor Topper ’12. (Their youngest, Colleen, is currently a high school sophomore.)

“Our kids have had such a good experience academically and in terms of relationships with faculty and other students,” he notes. “The relationships you build at Villanova remain with you all your life. Maureen and I know that firsthand.”

—Jennifer Schu
Priest-Plus

The Year for Priests calls attention to the spiritual, academic and community service of Augustinian friars

BY SUZANNE WENTZEL

The clue to their identity is not always how they dress, where they work or even where they live. Rather, a commitment to community life, a passion for knowledge and truth, a spirit of hospitality and a self-emptying through service are the traits that mark the members of the Augustinian Order.

In June 2009, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed a Year for Priests to deepen, the pontiff said, “the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a more forceful and incisive witness to the Gospel.” It is a fitting occasion for the Villanova community to recognize not only the friars profiled here but every Augustinian who preserves, embodies and transmits the ideals and mission of the order.

From law to order

At a daily Mass in Corr Chapel, the Rev. Robert Hagan, O.S.A., J.D., ’87 A&S starts his homily with a story about a baseball player tagged out after crossing home plate because he failed to step on first base. The moral: if you put first things first, everything else will fall into place.

It’s not surprising that Father Rob can draw a faith lesson out of a sports blooper and succinctly drive home his point. In addition to being Villanova’s associate athletics director, chaplain for the football and men’s basketball teams, and an avid runner, he is a seasoned lawyer, one accustomed to summing up his case.

As an undergraduate at Villanova, Father Rob, an alumnus of Cardinal O’Hara High School in Springfield, Pa., met priests passionate about their ministries. “I resolved then that, whatever I did, my heart would be engaged in it.” The thought that he might be called to the Augustinians crossed his mind, but since it was not a “burning-bush experience, I managed to deny it for 10 years.”

In 1990, with a degree from Widener University School of Law, Father Rob landed a job with a general practice firm. He loved the people and the pace, but after seven years, the evidence was more than sufficient: “God was leading me to the priesthood.” He entered the Augustinians and was ordained in 2003.

In some ways, being a priest hasn’t been that different from being a lawyer. “People entrust parts of their life to me that they would not entrust to anyone else. I have an opportunity to help and, in my work now, to invite God into the situation.”

As associate athletics director, Father Rob parleys his legal and pastoral skills to handle personnel matters, oversee National Collegiate Athletic Association drug testing and liaise between athletes and faculty. In his role as chaplain, he is on the sidelines of every game. Dressed in his “uniform,” he helps promote the University’s mission. “I hope that my presence reminds people that our Augustinian values and the love of Christ should permeate everything we do.”

Being a witness, many might say, is what this lawyer-turned-priest does best. On the court, in the classroom and at the altar, Father Rob tries to lead people to an encounter with God. “My fellow priests and I take seriously our call to participate with others in such graced moments as Reconciliation, Baptism, Eucharist and the others ways in which the Spirit enkindles the world.”

He may have a locker room for a pulpit and ’Cats for a congregation, but Father Robert Hagan, O.S.A., Villanova’s associate athletics director, resists the temptation to pray for a win in his pregame prayer services with athletes. “If you open yourself up to the Spirit, good things happen, win or lose.”
The heart doctor

The Rev. Daniel Doyle, O.S.A., S.T.D., ’75 A&S knows all about restless hearts. After spending seven years preparing for the priesthood and one year teaching at a high school in the Bronx, Father Dan—then an Augustinian under temporary vows—left the order. For five years he climbed the ladder at a leading pharmaceutical company before the truth hit him. “My life was incomplete.”

Some may never have doubted that Father Dan would become a priest. He was compassionate even as a child and sensed that he wanted one day to dedicate himself to serving others. Inspired by the example of the diocesan priests at his high school, Cardinal O’Hara, Father Dan decided to enter the seminary.

He chose the Augustinians, partly because of an encounter from his childhood that had taken on almost mythic proportions. When Father Dan was a baby, the Rev. Joseph Dougherty, O.S.A. (as in Dougherty Hall), then prior provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova and a close family friend, had taken him in his arms and blessed him. The next day, Father Dougherty died.

“Growing up, I heard many stories about what a great priest he had been. I knew I had to find out more about these Augustinians because of him.”

Leaving the corporate world behind, Father Dan returned to the Augustinians in 1984 and was ordained in 1986. The following summer, his scholarly pursuits took him to Rome, where he worked for seven years on his doctoral studies in patristics. He became fluent in five modern languages and studied Latin extensively.

Since returning to the United States in 1993, Father Dan has been teaching at Villanova. “I have never seen such a concentration of good people!” An assistant professor in the department of Theology and Religious Studies, he enjoys helping students make sense of their faith questions on a more intellectual-critical level.

And yet, the complexities of the human heart continue to fascinate this Augustinian scholar. He values belonging to an order that, true to its heritage, focuses on “the importance of having a deep spiritual life, a commitment to community and an understanding of the depths of human desire.”

In today’s fast-paced, materialistic culture, Father Dan’s experiences have taught him that, now more than ever, “priests are called to be Christ for others. The human heart aches. We need to be the physicians.”

The best of times

Villanovans who watched the concert version of the musical A Tale of Two Cities on PBS last fall might have noticed the Rev. David Cregan, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’89 A&S among the members of the ensemble.
After a hiatus of 16 years, Father David, an assistant professor in the Theatre department, had returned to the professional stage last June for the London filming of the production. “While it was an amazing experience, I knew that it wasn’t a life I wanted to return to.”

Father David hasn’t always been this sure of his vocation. True, the accessibility and down-to-earth approach of the Augustinians at Monsignor Bonner High School in Drexel Hill, Pa., had impressed him, and when, as a senior, he had gone on a retreat led by his class moderator, the Rev. Joseph Mostardi, O.S.A., he did feel called to the priesthood. He had even enrolled in Villanova with the aim of entering the seminary after graduation.

When the time came, however, the desire to act lured the talented young man to New York City. Father David embarked on a four-year career doing off-Broadway shows, regional work and tours. Then one Sunday, while attending Mass at a parish in St. Louis, he was surprised to see that the priest doing the mission appeal was his freshman religion teacher from Bonner. “It was a direct hit from God!” After a brief return to the Big Apple, Father David made his way back home—and to the Augustinians. He was ordained in 1999.

As a teacher, Father David, who earned his doctorate at the Samuel Beckett School of Drama at Trinity College in Dublin, shares his passion for both the theater and Irish drama with the students, who, in turn, “enrich and enliven me with their talent, generosity and humor.”

In addition, Father David directs—and has twice performed in—plays on campus, teaches yoga, writes theater reviews for Philadelphia Magazine and is the founder of the Philadelphia Theatre Research Symposium.

Above all else, Father David sees himself as an Augustinian priest. He strives to be rooted in prayer and the sacraments and to be present to the faculty, students and staff. “Being able to share people’s lives; being invited into those moments in which people turn to you for direction, forgiveness and hope; and being able to represent the understanding of Jesus: that’s the best part. It’s a blessed life!”

Although Father David Cregan, O.S.A., occasionally returns to the footlights—as he did in 2004 to play a governor with a conscience in the Theatre department’s production of Parade—he happily confesses that the priesthood has upstaged his acting career.
Friar in the kitchen

When the Rev. Joseph Mostardi, O.S.A., ’72 A& S goes from “alm to apron” to whip up his latest culinary masterpiece, the savory aroma wafting from the kitchen whets the appetites of not only his confreres in Burns Hall, but also the students lucky enough to be invited to dine with them.

While he loves improving his craft—he recently took four weeks of cooking classes in Tuscany—and serving up gourmet food, Father Joe is more concerned with nourishing people spiritually. One might say that, in his 35 years of ministry as an Augustinian friar, he has tried to be what St. Paul calls “the aroma of Christ for God,” exciting the spiritual senses of those he encounters and inviting them to the banquet.

“As a priest, I have the opportunity to spread the word of God, challenging people to turn that word into action. It’s gratifying to see people respond to that challenge.”

Father Joe responded to the Gospel call while still a student at Monsignor Bonner High School. Some 47 Augustinian friars were active in the school, and their love of community life appealed to him. “They were like family. Their concern for one another and for the order was a great example to me.”

Since being ordained in 1975, Father Joe has divided his time between New York and Philadelphia. His sometimes overlapping assignments have included that of director of youth programs, high school chaplain, campus minister, vocations director, pre-novitiate director and pastor at two different parishes. For 10 years he also served as the founding director of the Augustinian Volunteers, a faith-based lay program in which young adults work with Augustinians to serve others.

In addition to studying in a doctor of ministry program, Father Joe, who returned to Villanova in January 2009, is currently serving as coordinator of liturgical ministries and overseeing several campus ministry programs. This role allows him to do what he enjoys most: “mentoring students so that they can be leaders for the Church and for our world.”

In a way, the Augustinian heritage is like a cherished family recipe that Father Joe, along with the other friars, seeks to preserve and hand on. “We try to instill in our students an understanding of what we received from Augustine and to share what it means to be part of the Augustinian family.”
The Order of St. Augustine: A Cure for Restless Heart Syndrome

You have made us and drawn us to yourself, and our heart is unquiet until it rests in you.
—St. Augustine

More than sixteen centuries after the bishop of Hippo penned them, these words still resonate with people whose hearts are searching for God. Today, thousands of Augustinian friars worldwide understand this trait of restlessness. It ignites their common search for God through prayer, community life and ministry.

What makes the order “Augustinian”?

- **Community life** founded on mutual respect, kindness and openness
- **Interiority** rooted in the belief that self-knowledge leads to the discovery of God
- **Friendship** that joins members together in Christ
- **Hospitality** reflective of the gospel imperative to love one another
- **Service** that spreads charity throughout the world

What if someone thinks he is called to this life?

“Be open to the possibility,” says the Rev. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A., vocations director for the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. “Take the risk and make the contact. You don’t have to sign on a dotted line!”

For more information on vocations, visit www.augustinianvocations.org. To learn more about the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, contact Father DePrinzio at (610) 519-7548 or at vocations@augustinian.org.

The Augustinian Habit

The habit is a sign of consecration and has three components, each of which is associated with a religious vow:

- **Black tunic** (white for novices and missionaries): Poverty
- **Cincture** (belt): Chastity
- **Capuche** (hood): Obedience

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One in the Shepherd

These are but four of the myriad stories that have textured the history of the Augustinian Order. Though every story adds its own nuances and, yes, flaws, the overall pattern remains constant: that of shepherds loving their flock and, inspired by the words of their order’s founder, searching tirelessly for those sheep that are lost and alone.

“And should the brambles of the forests tear at me when I seek them,” Augustine wrote, “I shall force myself through all straits; I shall pull down all hedges. So far as God whom I fear grants me the strength, I shall search everywhere.”
In 1985, the Villanova men’s basketball team first reached the NCAA Final Four. It was also the last year Villanova University served and sold Coca-Cola products—instead of Pepsi—on campus. In 2008 Villanova switched back to Coke—and the following season, the team made the Final Four again for the first time in 24 years.

While Coke isn’t claiming credit, “it’s an interesting coincidence,” laughs Brian Wynne ’86 A&S, who is vice president and general manager, Eastern U.S. Business Unit, for Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.

A junior when that Villanova team went on to win the NCAA Championship, Wynne says watching the classic game with fellow students is one of his favorite Villanova memories. Yet even more memorable is what he learned at the University—and how it set him on the path to success.

“You gain solid values, receive a great education, develop a practical approach to your career and gain a belief and confidence in yourself and your future.”

Rising star
As one of Coca-Cola’s top executives, Wynne oversees a unit that produces over $4.3 billion in revenue, with 101 facilities and 17,000 employees. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, which each year provides 250 four-year, merit-based scholarships to high school seniors. He’s also involved in corporate responsibility and sustainability and with Special Olympics, which Coke has supported since the organization’s inception in 1968.

“It’s very rewarding to be able to apply what I learned at Villanova and help leverage the company I work for to help students and young athletes with challenges achieve their dreams,” Wynne notes. “We believe our business touches the world, and our world touches our business.”

In an era where rising steadily through the ranks of one company has become increasingly rare, Wynne has been with Coke since 1988. His first job with the company involved front line selling—which involved visiting grocery stores and convincing store managers to give prime shelf space to Coke products.

Fortunately, Wynne—who majored in Communication at Villanova—realized early on that one of the most important skills in life is the ability to connect with people.

“He’s a very genuine person, and that comes through in all his interactions,” says his childhood friend James McKeon ’86 VSB. “He makes people feel comfortable, and what he has done especially well is apply what he learned in college to the real world.”

Wynne—the son of a policeman and a postal worker—was the first member of his immediate family to go to a four-year university. During his Villanova years he worked at a number of grocery and convenience stores to help pay for his college expenses. “It helped me gain a real understanding of consumer products and companies,” he says.

He quickly rose through the ranks at Coke, holding increasingly responsible positions in sales, marketing, field operations and human resources.

“My Coke ‘education’ was similar to my Villanova education in that I was given the opportunity to explore many different academic areas of the University.”

Lessons learned at Villanova have helped Coke executive rise through the ranks

By Jennifer Schu
parts of our business, just as I had the chance to delve into many different academic areas of the University. Together, those experiences gave me the skill set, ability and confidence to be a manager.”

**Reconnecting with his alma mater**

In 2000 Wynne was named vice president and general manager of Coca-Cola Enterprises’ New York Division. In 2005, at the age of 40, he was elected vice president, North American Human Resources. It was a wonderful opportunity—but it meant a move to Coca-Cola Enterprises’ famed corporate headquarters in Atlanta, Ga.

Wynne, who was raised in Pearl River, N.Y., had lived in the Greater New York area all his life. He and his wife, Noreen, have three children—Shannon, 15; Matthew, 12; and Allison, 11. Understandably, it was difficult to uproot the family.

That’s when Villanova re-entered Wynne’s life.

“Right after we moved into the house, I received an email from the local chapter of the Villanova Alumni Association, inviting me and my family to a game watch gathering,” he recalls. “It was completely out of the blue, and it was great. Villanovans really reached out to us and helped us get acclimated to living in a new city so far from home.”

He adds, “Through the Atlanta chapter, Villanova has become a bridge to our home up in the Northeast and a source of familiarity and comfort. I feel even more connected to the University now than I did when I was living just two hours away.”

The chapter welcomed his involvement and enthusiasm. Wynne supports the chapter’s scholarship golf outing, gives jobs to local students and more, according to Greg Meghan ’79 VSB, who heads the Atlanta chapter. “Brian’s been incredibly supportive,” he says.

“Brian’s the perfect example of the impact a good alumni program can make on an alumna,” notes McKeon.

Wynne enjoys reconnecting with fellow Villanovans in both his business and personal life. He was recently in New York to sign a nine-year contract between Coca-Cola Enterprises and Madison Square Garden (MSG) Sports. The company’s president is Scott O’Neil ’92 VSB.

While on vacation not long ago, he “ran into six Villanova alumni in the course of 48 hours,” he laughs. “My daughter said to me, ‘Dad, Villanova people are everywhere!’”

His respect for his Villanova education has already made an impact on the University. Thanks to Wynne, Villanova is one of only five Coke “partner schools” on the East Coast— institutions to which the company sends recruiters to interview on campus. Last year, Coke tapped several newly minted Villanova graduates for its management training program.

“Villanova students are smart, well-rounded, bright, balanced and morally grounded—the kind of employees we want at Coke,” he notes. “It’s great to have them.”
Labor of Love

As more graduates choose to volunteer for a year of service, they write a new chapter in the Villanova success story

BY SUZANNE WENTZEL

The installation in December of pedestrian-level lighting along a stretch of West Girard Avenue in Philadelphia’s Brewerytown section had Kevin Moran ’09 VSB dancing in the street. The upgrade, which made the commercial corridor brighter and safer, was a critical step in revitalizing the neighborhood. “It’s one of the greatest things I’ve seen happen this year.”

A communications and public relations specialist with the Fairmount Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization that fosters local improvements, Moran loves to publicize such brick-and-mortar successes. In taking on this volunteer position, he has fulfilled a desire enkindled at Villanova: to apply his marketing knowledge in a socially responsible way.

Moran is one of 63 members of the Class of 2009 who have chosen to do a year or more of service rather than take a paying job or go to graduate school. Since the 1990s, the number of Villanova graduates who channel their energy and enthusiasm into domestic and international volunteer work has increased. And if a reality check forces the graduates to reassess their grand ideas of what they will accomplish, they learn to cherish the small gains.

“My job turned out to be quite different from the idealistic picture I had painted,” says Eliza Pierson ’09 VSB, who currently volunteers in Bolivia for a microfinance institution that gives small loans to the poor to support the development of microenterprises. “A lot of us think we can save the world in a year of service. The reality is we can’t. But if we plant the seeds, we can make a difference over a lifetime.”

Walking the talk

Volunteers attribute the discrepancy between expectation and reality to the fact they are coming from places of privilege and confronting poverty in all its forms. In choosing the path of service, they have not delayed entry into the real world; they have penetrated the heart of it.

In Montana, Jesuit Volunteer Peggy Costello ’09 A&S mentors Northern Cheyenne and Crow students residing in the dorms of St. Labre Indian School. Although she had been exposed to the struggles of Native Americans during a Habitat for Humanity trip to South Dakota in her junior year, she is challenged by some of the conditions she faces. “Learning about poverty in theory is different from living it. When you come to know and love people affected by poverty, it’s tough to process.”

In the last 10 years alone, Villanova graduates have volunteered with more than 165 agencies. Far from being “fluff” jobs, the assignments require students to use their education to seek long-term solutions and empower others.

In the last 10 years alone, Villanova graduates have volunteered with more than 165 agencies. Far from being “fluff” jobs, the assignments require students to use their education to seek long-term solutions and empower others. “Justice involves changing political and social institutions,” Pierson says. “This is the kind of change I hope to work for.”

A volunteer English teacher in Bolivia, Laura Arendacs ’09 VSB believes the skill she is passing on to her students will translate into economic opportunity. “English can be a valuable asset in achieving a higher standard of living.” The community, in turn, has welcomed her and shared its stories with her, creating personal connections that transcend geographical and cultural differences.

The importance of solidarity was a message the volunteers heard as students at Villanova, where Catholic Social Teaching is foundational to the life of the University and service is the practical expression of its Augustinian values. On break trips sponsored by Campus Ministry, for example, students reflect daily in small groups, asking tough questions about the causes of poverty and their own obligation to advocate for economic justice.

“Reflection and spirituality are hallmark characteristics of our program,” says Beth Hassel, P.B.V.M., D.Min., executive director of Campus Ministry. “Yes, we want the students to feel good about what they are doing, but more important, we want them to better understand what it’s like to be poor by being in relationship with people who are poor.”

Filling the gap

Years ago, when Campus Ministry staff realized that students involved in weekly service experiences and the more in-depth break trips were asking what else they could do to help others, they developed the Senior Post-Grad Volunteer Program.

“If we show students dire poverty and they come back yearning to do something about it, then we need to provide them with that opportunity,” says Barbara Haenn, associate director of Campus Ministry and the program’s coordinator. Haenn helps students find the agencies that suit their interests and connects them with alumni who have walked the same path.

Approximately 85% of the students who approach Haenn about post-graduate ser-
vice have, in fact, participated in a service break experience—compelling evidence that their experiences do transform them. “My involvement in service break experiences and social justice activities helped me take ownership of my faith,” says Joanna Bowen ’07 A&S. “Doing a year of service was a way for me to live out that faith.” An Augustinian Volunteer, Bowen worked as a campus minister at an all-male high school in San Diego, where she strived to mentor students on their faith journeys. “It always impressed me that, during retreats, the students would share their personal experiences and struggles, knowing the others would hold their stories in confidence.”

Continuing the journey

Often post-graduate service experiences have helped alumni discover their career path. Unsure whether he should go to law school, James Fiore ’06 A&S had volunteered as a teacher at Baltimore’s St. Ignatius Loyola Academy, a tuition-free Jesuit middle school for boys from families of modest means. Now employed as the school’s director of graduate support, he treasures the achievements that, for him, characterize success: seeing a student accepted into a prestigious high school or gaining the trust and respect of parents.

In fact, Fiore’s definition sums up the prevailing attitude among those who have done post-graduate service. “Success is not about your salary, bank account or material possessions. It’s about finding yourself and being happy with what you’re doing.”

Villanova provides students with a liberal education so that, regardless of their chosen path, they can achieve their potential, rise to positions of leadership and be people of integrity. “Having graduates who make the most money is not our end goal,” Haenn says. “We ask them to use their gifts to benefit the world.” Where and how those gifts are used are questions only the graduates can answer.

With the help of the Fairmount CDC and volunteer public relations specialist Kevin Moran ’09 VSB (right), business owner Angela Vendetti is converting this vacant storefront into a coffeehouse. “I’m at an age when I can sacrifice salary to do something I enjoy and think is right,” Moran says.
Every year, college-bound students surf the Web, tour campuses, peruse rankings and attend fairs to answer the question, “Which school is right for me?” Today more and more of the country’s top-tier students are zeroing in on Villanova.

Thanks to the school’s outreach and recruitment strategies, Villanova’s reputation is attracting, on a national basis, students who are academically competitive and increasingly diverse. What the numbers don’t show, says Stephen Merritt, dean of Enrollment Management, is that these students are also choosing Villanova because, when they come on campus, “they realize that they will be expected not only to achieve academically but also to engage in the world around them.”

**Academics: Slaking their curiosity**

One of the defining characteristics of today’s Villanova students is their intellectual curiosity. Eager to devote themselves to scholarship, they are confident that the University will challenge their minds and foster their development.

It was the reputation of the College of Engineering that brought Villanova to the attention of Emily Smith ’12 M.E. When her guidance counselor in St. Paul, Minn., recommended that she consider the nationally ranked engineering program, Emily, a robotics enthusiast, made the trip east with her father. “Villanova went to the top of my list,” she recalls. A dedicated student, Emily has found she is “trying harder than ever to advance academically. The curriculum is rigorous, but the professors and students all work together.”

Serious students want close collaboration with and personal attention from faculty. They find both at Villanova. “I didn’t want to go to a school where I would feel like a number in a crowd,” says Alain Duroseau ’10 A&S of Long Island, N.Y. Alain, who has a major in History and a minor in Biology and plans to attend graduate school, is impressed that all his professors, not just his advisor, offer him input and direction.

With AP credits often in the double digits and a desire to maximize their time in college, many students come to Villanova because they can take advantage of its co-curricular offerings. Whether they study abroad, enroll in an accelerated bachelor’s-master’s program or perform summer research, students can customize and enhance their academic experience. “The accumulation of these ‘value-added features’ has helped make Villanova an even more attractive place to study,” Merritt says.
Many of the outstanding potential applicants whose names cover the Nova Nation Notables wall in Austin Hall, home of the Office of University Admission, have been given tours by Alain Duroseau ’10 A&S. Alain, who plans to go to graduate school, is on the Blue Key Society’s executive board. “I want prospective students to see how much I love Villanova.”
Presidential Scholar Chad Sutherland ’10 VSB wanted a Catholic school where he would have the opportunity to make an impact. “At Villanova, students are empowered to pursue what they are passionate about.” Below: A member of PEERS, the College of Engineering’s student-to-student mentoring program, Minnesotan Emily Smith ’12 M.E. (center) helps freshmen with their studies. “Villanova expects me to go above and beyond in everything I do.”

Presidential Scholar Chad Sutherland ’10, who is enrolled in the VSB Business Honors Program, has capitalized on these opportunities. He has interned in three different cities and studied at Oxford for a semester. “Being in a new culture and a different educational environment was the most incredible experience of my life,” says Chad, a native of Dearborn, Mich. These activities have paid off, as he has received numerous job offers. He has accepted a position as an investment analyst in New Jersey.

An externship in the pediatric oncology ward of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center’s Manhattan campus is taking College of Nursing student Courtney Elms ’11 back to her home state. A resident of Pleasantville, N.Y., Courtney says that the externship “is the biggest thing that has happened to me since coming to Villanova” and will give her invaluable job training. When she first researched possible externships, Courtney was not surprised to discover that “every hospital I looked at was interested in Villanova nurses.”
Student life: Not a spectator sport

Beyond fulfilling their academic ambitions, Villanova allows students to put into action what they learn in the classroom. They understand that academics, social life and service are integral. “Our students study high-level academics in the company of their friends in an environment that is competitive but not cutthroat,” Merritt says. “Then they are able to apply those experiences to the daily events of the university and to make a difference in the world.”

Now in his fourth year as a volunteer tour guide with the Blue Key Society and in his third as a member of the New Student Orientation staff, Alain is most proud of having been part of the Steering Committee that planned orientation for the Class of 2013. “I was part of a legacy and left my imprint on the University. I also learned about time management, tolerance and getting tasks done, despite obstacles. These are strengths that will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

Courtney volunteers weekly at a nursing center that provides free health care to the Hispanic community in West Chester. The only student nurse at the center, she enjoys combining her nursing knowledge with volunteerism to provide health care to people who might not get it otherwise. Through Villanova, she also serves as a tutor and mentor at Dream Camp’s Philadelphia site. This nonprofit organization provides a safe haven for at-risk youth.

By using their education as a springboard to service, students help the University fulfill its mission. “Truth, unity and love are guideposts directing how our institution ought to operate,” Merritt says. “I think students understand these values and, as a result, make them a part of their expectations for themselves.”

Chad has made service trips to Louisiana and Texas to help with hurricane relief efforts. He agrees it is incumbent on students to use all their abilities to improve the human condition. “The humanitarian, Catholic Christian thrust at Villanova is that you focus on what you bring to the table for others.”

Ultimately, today’s students look to Villanova as a place where they can explore new possibilities, have a positive impact and chart their own course within a nurturing environment. “I feel like I can do anything because of the opportunities I have here,” says Emily, who is planning to pursue a career in biomedical engineering and earn a master’s degree.

“I want to let the world know that Villanova has made me who I am!”

Nursing student Courtney Elms ’11, who has been selected to do an externship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, appreciates the College of Nursing faculty’s commitment to helping students grow holistically. “The professors get to know our strengths and weaknesses so that they can better prepare us for a field in which personality plays a big role.”
How Green Is My Villanova

The College of Engineering generates a surge in sustainability

By Suzanne Wentzel

On the rooftops of the Center for Engineering Education and Research, solar panels glint and green plants ripple. Near Fedigan Hall, capped wellheads mark the spots where geothermal wells descend into the ground. Stormwater gurgles into rain barrels tucked against John Barry Hall, and some claim that the faint aroma of funnel cake emanates from lawn mowers powered by cooking oil-turned-biodiesel fuel. Everywhere Villanova’s campus is alive with the sights, sounds and smells of sustainability.

Since 2007, when Villanova’s president, the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’75 A&S signed the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, Villanova has striven to become a carbon-neutral campus. One of the nerve centers for this effort has been the College of Engineering.

Several years ago, key sustainability advocates within the College of Engineering developed an ambitious to-do list: create a center that would serve as the focal point for the College’s sustainability activities, launch a master’s degree program in sustainable engineering and identify ways to educate the public. Today, each of those items has a check next to it.

As a result, the College is poised to become a national leader in sustainability research, curriculum and outreach.

The creation of VCASE

Alfonso Ortega, Ph.D., the James R. Birle Professor in Energy Technology and the College’s associate dean for graduate studies and research, could hardly believe his good fortune. When he set out in 2008 to establish a center of excellence focused on sustainability, every component he could wish for was at hand. First, he had faculty with expertise in areas such as water, energy and the environment. Second, government
and industry professionals agreed to serve on an advisory board. Above all, he found a mentor in Bill Lorenz ’68 Ch.E., whose experience in sustainable practices was matched by his passion.

In fall 2009, the College unveiled the Villanova Center for the Advancement of Sustainability in Engineering (VCASE) and named Robert Traver, Ph.D., P.E., ’82 M.C.E. as its first director. The mission of VCASE is to protect and restore the environment through research on the integration of sustainability principles and engineering practice.

One might ask, aren’t those principles already factored in? Don’t engineers design and build systems to last? According to Dr. Traver, that’s where the advancement comes in. “Sustainability needs to be brought to the fore. VCASE will advocate for that.”

VCASE will have an interdisciplinary, systems approach to research. Investigators within the College and across the University will pool their talents to answer the overarching question, “What can we do to make Villanova—and society—more sustainable?”

“Our vision is to bring the concept of sustainability—the mindset that that sustainability must become the norm. As a society, we can no longer afford not to be sustainable,” Dr. Traver says.

Only by looking at a problem from different angles and considering different solutions will we find the most sustainable path,” Dr. Ortega says.

Because the mission of VCASE aligns with that of the University, the center has the perfect test bed for its projects. Thanks to the cooperation of offices such as Facilities Management, “we can use the physical plan of the University to create a research and learning environment for students—and be a good neighbor to the surrounding community in the process,” Dr. Traver notes.

Because the areas of research, education and outreach overlap each other, Lorenz, the center’s principal sustainability fellow, is the liaison between the three. “Our vision is to bring the concept of sustainability—the mindset that that present generation must act in a way that doesn’t hurt the world for future generations—into research, curriculum and the engineering profession.”

The new M.S. in sustainable engineering

With interest in sustainability as a career path soaring, Randy Weinstein, Ph.D., chair of the Chemical Engineering department, answers a plethora of email inquiries these days about the College’s new M.S. in sustainable engineering. Many come from those in the working world—and not just engineers. From executives to consultants to scientists, professionals recognize that the sustainability movement is affecting their careers. “It’s an issue they need to understand from all sides,” says Dr. Weinstein, the program director.

Approved in fall 2009, the interdisciplinary program consists of three core courses and electives in three tracks: alternative and renewable energy technology; watershed sustainability and environmental sustainability. A track in sustainable infrastructure is being developed.

Unlike the green programs offered at other universities, this program focuses on engineering. “We have that engineering focus—the emphasis on using fundamentals, advanced theories and applied sciences to solve technical problems while taking into account the environmental, economic and societal impact,” Dr. Weinstein says.

The program’s architects believe that the field of sustainable engineering is so multifaceted that students must approach it from a holistic perspective. In fact, Lorenz and Pritpal Singh, Ph.D., chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and advisor for the energy track, plan to publish a textbook that will help students in the core courses expand their vision. Barbara Wall, Ph.D., vice president for Mission and Ministry, and James Klingler, Ph.D., assistant professor of Management and Operations in the Villanova School of Business, will contribute the social and economic viewpoints to the book. The goal, says Dr. Singh, is “to get students to come up with solutions that they would not have arrived at had they looked at a problem from a narrow engineering perspective.”

At the undergraduate level, the College is incorporating sustainability into courses and senior projects (the conversion of Dining Services’ waste cooking oil into biodiesel fuel is an example of the latter). It also is exploring the creation of a minor in sustainable engineering. “If established, it would be a popular option for students,” Dr. Weinstein says.

Outreach efforts

The M.S. program and VCASE already have spawned outreach efforts. Last summer, students who had been enrolled in one of the M.S. courses launched a business called PowerHouse, which performs home energy audits. In November, the ECE department and VCASE hosted a smart grid symposium open to the public.

It is hoped that VCASE will continue to sponsor similar symposia, as well as a distinguished speaker series. Since disseminating information is one of the ways VCASE can advance sustainability, Dr. Traver wants to create a Web site dedicated to external outreach.

The possibilities for outreach are many, but one objective remains paramount: sustainability must become the norm. “As a society, we can no longer afford not to be sustainable,” Dr. Traver says.
Crowning Successes

Villanova women help define the “makeup” of today’s pageant winners

By Suzanne Wentzel

From glitz and glamour to tears and tiaras, the spectacle of beauty pageants has fascinated fans for decades. But beyond showcasing contestants’ uptown styles and runway smiles, many pageants serve as a vehicle for bright, talented women to earn scholarship money for school, advance a social platform and use their gifts to serve others.

It is not surprising, then, that among the contestants crowned in recent years are Villanova women. What they have brought to—and accomplished with—their titles shows that winning a pageant requires more than a pretty face.
Rising to the challenge

The decision to compete in the Ms. America Pageant®, resulted from a triple-dog dare by a colleague. Could Bridget Cleary ’03 A&S, career coach, apply to her personal life the advice she gave others about how to set professional goals? Since she enjoyed being in front of other people and making a difference in their lives, could she…win a beauty pageant? “I love a challenge, so I took it on!”

The Ms. America® competition appealed to the “pageant newbie” because it welcomed unmarried women over the age of 25 and encouraged winners to wear their crown for a purpose. “I was involved in philanthropy, but I could do even more with a title.”

Since being crowned Ms. America®, 2009-10 in September, Bridget has been making public appearances and working with various charities. On Christmas, she helped serve dinner to impoverished families. When one man thanked her for making his day special, she realized “how valuable time is when you spend it giving back to others.”

The skills Bridget brings to her title were honed at Villanova, the alma mater of many of her relatives, including the Rev. William Cleary, O.S.A., ’58 A&S. As a freshman in a first-year learning experience, she connected with housemates from diverse backgrounds. “We would stay up all night sharing stories and ideas.”

In the classroom, her conversations with associate professor Kermit Moore, Ph.D., who enjoyed “having his ideas challenged,” stimulated the Communication major. In addition to excelling academically, Bridget grew to love volunteerism and undertook service projects with her Chi Omega sisters.

Originally from Maryland, Bridget lives in Boston and hopes to one day have her own business. In the meantime, she is leading by example the people she trains. “If you have the right goals and work hard, you can achieve what you set out to do.”

Making the dream happen

As a child, Shannon Doyle ’07 A&S was already imagining herself in a white coat with a stethoscope around her neck, asking a patient to say “aah.” The desire to become a physician led the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., native to Villanova University and Jefferson Medical College. Along the way, she helped finance that dream by successfully competing in scholarship programs, including the Miss Pennsylvania Scholarship Pageant in June 2009.

Shannon arrived at Villanova an experienced titleholder. Her senior class’s valedictorian, she also had been named...
Pennsylvania’s Outstanding Young Woman for 2003. When she saw the students hanging out at the Oreo, she knew she wanted to be part of the Villanova community. Soon she was assisting as a Eucharistic minister; serving as vice president for academic excellence for her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma; and performing with the Villanova Dance Company at Special Olympics.

For three years, Shannon volunteered in the oncology unit at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. It was not an easy task, but Shannon, a Biology major headed toward pediatrics, embraced this opportunity to show compassion and gain experience. “It was emotionally exhausting to see children struggling with such a devastating disease, but their optimism gave me the strength to go back each week.”

Since being crowned Miss Pennsylvania, Shannon has promoted her platform, Home Away from Home: Enriching the Lives of Hospitalized Children. The goal of the program is to create a more comfortable environment for pediatric patients during hospital stays.

In January, she represented the commonwealth in the Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas. Although Shannon is on leave from Jefferson to carry out her year of service, her education continues. “Whether I’m reading to kindergarteners or addressing the state senate, I’m developing interpersonal skills that will make me a better doctor.”

Helping to heal the wounds
Ask people what they remember about trips they took as youngsters, and many will reminisce about building sand castles, sleeping at grandma’s house or surviving their first roller coaster.

The memories that stick with Mameiia “Mimi” Kabia are different. As a child, she traveled to Sierra Leone, her parents’ homeland, and observed the effects of its brutal, decade-long civil war: children missing arms or legs, beggars looking for money and desperate citizens knocking on the windows of cars that crawled along the crowded streets of Freetown. These images changed her forever.

“She was overwhelmed by a feeling of helplessness,” recalls Mimi, a senior Human Services major from Lawrenceville, N.J. “But as I got older, I saw people going back to live in Sierra Leone and help rebuild the country. Their example inspired me to do something.”

In July, Mimi—the Miss Sierra Leone USA Finalist for 2010-2011—will compete in the Miss America USA Pageant in College Park, Maryland. Open to delegates from Africa or of African descent, the pageant empowers women to give back to underserved communities in Africa and the United States.

As part of the competition, Mimi, who plans to attend medical school, will explain her platform, the New Hope Movement, to representatives from the African embassies. She launched this fund-raising campaign to help reduce Sierra Leone’s infant and maternal mortality rates, which are among the highest in the world, by providing more medical supplies to hospitals, increasing the number of health care practitioners and educating and advocating for women.

“I’ve had the privilege of being educated in this country, and I want to give back what I’ve learned,” she says.

Getting the message out
To sophomore Kathryn “Kacie” McDonnell, they were the best three days of her life. In March 2008, the senior at Nativity BVM High School in Pottsville was crowned Miss Teen Pennsylvania International™ 2008, learned that she had a new baby cousin and received a letter informing her that she had been named a Curvey Scholar.

“I was so over the moon to be coming to Villanova,” Kacie says, “and the scholarship was making it possible.” Established by James Curvey ’57 VSB, the Curvey Scholarships benefit students who attend Villanova and come from one of five eligible high schools in northern Schuylkill County, Pa.

She was also thrilled to begin her reign as Miss Teen Pennsylvania International™. The position gave her the opportunity to share her “passion for purity.” As a junior, Kacie had teamed up with Silver Ring Thing, an organization that promotes the message of abstinence before marriage. After winning the pageant, she participated nationally in the group’s activities, a commitment she still maintains.

At Villanova, Kacie divides her time between her studies in Communication and her extracurricular activities, especially the philanthropic work of her sorority, Delta Delta Delta. She has applied for a Curvey Fellowship—a program established to complement the Curvey Scholarships—which would enable her to study in Greece this summer.

Kacie plans to compete in future pageants, with her feet on the ground and her eyes fixed on the good she can accomplish.

“It’s not about putting on heels and looking pretty. You have to have a moral compass and know what you want to convey to make a difference.”

With or without crowns on their heads, Bridget, Shannon, Mimi and Kacie are doing what all Villanovans are charged with doing: fulfilling their life’s purpose while making the world a better place. “If I can affect even a few lives,” Bridget says, “I’ll have done a great service.”
Villanova Celebrates Season and Leadership

Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S and Villanova held a special Christmas celebration on December 10, 2009, at Sotheby’s in New York City to honor Villanova’s past and present Board of Trustees members. More than 50 guests were in attendance, including members of the President’s Cabinet and past University President Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., ’58 A&S. William S. Sheridan ’76 A&S, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Sotheby’s, graciously hosted the event for the University.

Michael J. O’Neill, vice president for University Advancement, opened the evening with thanks to the guests for their tremendous support and advocacy of the University. “Looking toward the next capital campaign for Villanova, the continued involvement of our trustees, through leadership, guidance and example, is critical to help engage a broader spectrum of alumni, parents and friends in the life of the University,” said O’Neill.

Father Donohue acknowledged that Villanova’s success and very bright future is built upon the outstanding accomplishments and leadership of past president Father Dobbin and the tireless dedication of all board members. “This strong foundation has played a critical role in defining the University’s very ambitious Strategic Plan, allowing us to pursue excellence in teaching and research and enhancing our national reputation as we move through the next decade together,” he said.
When it comes to the percentage of alumni who give back every year, Villanova is volumes behind our peers. Villanova relies on the support of alumni every year to offer our students the tools they need to excel in the classroom and beyond and succeed in every chapter of their lives. By making a gift to your alma mater before May 31, 2010 you will directly help us stack up against our peers!
Villanova Celebrates Christmas at National Constitution Center

Villanova University held its annual Christmas Celebration on December 17, 2009, at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. University President Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S, along with many Villanova students, welcomed more than 400 guests to this very special occasion, which provides the opportunity to thank alumni, parents and friends for their support and involvement in the life of the University.

The theme of the evening was service to others, which is not only poignant in today’s world, but is also at the heart of the University’s mission. Student speaker David Rounce ’10, a senior civil engineering major, shared how the several service-break trips he’s participated in have impacted his educational experience and inspired him to continue to make a difference in the lives of others. Representing the hundreds of Villanova students who participate in service while studying at the University, he spoke about how the opportunities to travel to many parts of the world and his desire to help others have inspired him to focus his career on water management in developing countries.

Each year, the generosity of Villanova benefactors helps students, like David, pursue their dreams and, through the Augustinian values that are the foundation of the education they receive, give back to their communities.

Student speaker David R. Rounce ’10 C.E. joins President Rev. Peter M. Donohue ’75 A&S and vice president for University Advancement Michael J. O’Neill.

George R. Kolb ’84 VSB, assistant vice president for Athletics Development, with supporters of Villanova athletics James T. Esposito ’79 VSB and Stephen P. Murphy ’85 A&S.

Student volunteers at the event and brothers, J. C. Lamb ’11 and Connor Lamb ’13, with their parents, Lori and John J. Lamb, Esq., ’74 VSB.

Harry A. Widmeier ’56 VSB, an 1842 Heritage Society member, and his daughter Susan Sodaski ’90 A&S attended the celebration together.

Robert M. Melchionni ’69 VSB, principal gifts officer for Villanova, and his wife, Jeanne (left), catch up with Joan and John B. Canuso ’63 C.E.

Herbert F. Aspbury ’67 A&S, Villanova Board Chairman, with John J. Quindlen ’54 VSB and Michael J. O’Neill, vice president for University Advancement.
Martha and James F. Crowley, Jr. ’71 VSB, President’s Leadership Circle member, Christopher G. Ryan ’83 Ch.E. and Sheryl A. Weston, director of Major Giving for the Villanova School of Business

Henry F. Acchione, Jr. ’66 C.E. and guest Nancy Myers enjoying the evening’s festivities.

David R. Rounce ’10 shares how service break trips have shaped his academic career and his life.

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed Dean and professor of nursing, College of Nursing, and Joseph P. Denny ’68 E.E.

Theresa and Michael J. O’Neill, vice president for University Advancement, welcome University Board chairman Herbert F. Aspbury ’67 A&S and Edward J. Welsh ’66 VSB, chairman of the newly formed President’s Leadership Circle.

1842 Heritage Society members Margaret and Paul J. Molnar ’59 VSB and their granddaughter.

Agnes and John P. Duffy ’58 E.E.
Developing the Next Generation of Ethical Leaders

BY LIZ H. FIELD

When Jack Radke attended the Villanova School of Business (VSB) freshman orientation with his son in fall 2009, he listened carefully as James M. Danko, The Helen and William O’Toole Dean, noted that the school’s integrated curriculum is woven around four multidisciplinary pillars: global leadership, technology and analytics, innovation and ethics. He also learned from Dean Danko that, in an effort to connect theory and practice in the classroom, VSB frequently invites business leaders on campus to speak with students.

Radke, who in addition to being a VSB parent also happens to be chief ethics officer for UnitedHealth Group, knew this was his opportunity to become involved in the life and work of the school. He approached Dean Danko and offered to serve as a VSB ethics speaker, giving lectures to undergraduate students in the school’s Competitive Effectiveness and Global Business Ethics classes to demonstrate how a commitment to ethics from an organizational perspective is critical for success.

“An organization that is committed to ethical business conduct will build trust in its relationships with all of its key stakeholders. Ethical behavior and the trust that it fosters are critical elements to an organization’s long-term success,” said Radke.

Radke joined UnitedHealth Group, one of the leading health care companies in the United States, as chief ethics officer in 2007. He previously was the first director of ethics for the H. J. Heinz Company, where he spent 20 years. He also is the vice chair of the board of directors for the Ethics & Compliance Officer Association, an organization for individuals who are responsible for their organization’s ethics, compliance and business conduct programs.

Aristotle, says Radke, defined an ethical person as one with virtuous habits of courage, temperance, honor, good temper, truthfulness and justice. During the time he spent in the sophomore team-taught Competitive Effectiveness class—one stop on his daylong visit with VSB students and faculty on February 15—Radke illustrated why these characteristics are important in the workplace. He shared his personal experiences and discussed relevant questions with the students, exploring with them the deeper meanings of “ethics” and “ethical behavior” and helping them determine how to apply ethical principles to their own budding careers.

“The students were engaged in lively discussions on where to draw the line when it came time to make hard decisions,” said Julie Firsch, Ph.D., Marketing professor of the Competitive Effectiveness course. “Jack was able to engage the students on many levels and to present real-life situations that forced them to question their own decision-making process.”

Jim Glasgow, Management instructor in the Competitive Effectiveness class, liked how Radke emphasized the importance of values and principles and made comparisons between a company's core values and Villanova’s motto of Veritas, Unitas, Caritas.

“Having someone like Jack talk about his role as an ethics officer gave the students a broader perspective beyond the focus in the media on corporate scandals and unethical behavior. It helped them appreciate the positive efforts that organizations are making to promote and sustain ethical behavior and ethical decision making in the workplace.”

Radke reminded the students that ethical behavior is important not just in the world’s largest companies but in their own professional and academic lives as well. “As students of the Villanova School of Business,” he said, “you will be faced with many opportunities to test your ethics. For example, as part of a team tasked with a project, you can demonstrate integrity on a basic level by complying with the rules laid out by the professor.”

In closing, Radke provided the group with a few lessons to remember as they become the next generation of leaders. “Walk the walk,” he said. “If you set the stage by example, you’ll model the most important characteristics and encourage others to adhere to the same values.”

Developing a strong ethical foundation, he reminded the students, requires continuous work. “Always remember that reputations arrive slowly on foot but depart quickly on horseback.”

Jack Radke, chief ethics officer for UnitedHealth Group, discusses the importance of ethical behavior and decision making in the workplace with sophomores in VSB’s Competitive Effectiveness course.

To find out how to become involved with VSB, contact Madonna Marion-Landais ’81 M.A., associate dean for External Relations, at (610) 519-3109 or madonna@villanova.edu. To participate in University events and programs, contact Amy Layman ’05 M.P.A., senior associate director of the Villanova Alumni Association, at (610) 519-4284 or amy.layman@villanova.edu.
Villanova student-athletes are on a roll. In the past year, they have enjoyed great success both in and out of the classroom. Our men’s basketball team reached the 2009 NCAA “Final Four.” This past fall, our women’s cross-country team and our football team each brought home national titles. Meanwhile, our athletes continued to excel academically.

Check out these stats!

- Fall 2009 marked the 12th consecutive semester that Villanova student-athletes earned over a 3.0 grade point average in the classroom.
- Villanova has a student-athlete graduation success rate of 96%.
- Villanova basketball players have a graduation rate of 92%, ranking it in the TOP 10 of the 65 teams in the 2010 NCAA Men’s Division I Basketball Tournament.
- Hundreds of Villanova student-athletes, coaches and staff participate in service to the community, including Habitat for Humanity, and Andy Talley’s bone marrow registration campaign, “Get in the Game and Save a Life.”

Help us keep the momentum going!

As part of the 'Nova Nation, you can help continue Villanova’s tradition of excellence—which empowers our student-athletes and our University to stand out on the national stage.

Support the Fund for Villanova Athletics to provide student-athletes with necessary resources to maximize training, compete at the highest levels and to learn and grow while at Villanova and beyond.

www.villanova.com/vclub
(877) 434-1500
It seemed from the very beginning that the 2009 football season was destined to be a special one. Villanova followed through with a storybook finish to the campaign, winning its final nine games and capturing the first national championship in the history of the program. Head coach Andy Talley and his team reached the pinnacle of college football with a come-from-behind, 23-21 victory over Montana in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) National Championship Game at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga.

During the season, the Wildcats won a school-record 14 games and set 10 other single-season records as they marched through a difficult schedule with a dominant rushing game and one of the most stingy defensive units in the country. Even before its championship run in the playoffs, Villanova had proven itself in the toughest conference in FCS football. The power of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) could be measured by the top three teams in the league’s South Division (Villanova, Richmond, William & Mary) all being ranked in the top six in the final regular season national polls.

Talley was rewarded for his team’s performance by being named the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) National Coach of the Year as well as the CAA Coach of the Year. He was a finalist for the Eddie Robinson Award and during the season became one of just 56 college football coaches (all divisions) to win at least 200 career games.

Villanova’s players were equally well recognized on the national scene. Junior all-purpose star Matt Szczur highlighted a group of four All-Americans on the Wildcats and received first team honors from the Sports Network, Walter Camp Foundation and the Associated Press. Szczur was the only player in Division I (Football Bowl Subdivision and FCS) this season to tally touchdowns rushing, receiving, passing and returning kicks.

Szczur was named the CAA Offensive Player of the Year and Special Teams Player of the Year, becoming only the second person in league history to win two major awards in the same season. Also earning All-America honors from Villanova were junior offensive lineman Ben Ijalana, senior defensive end Tim Kukucka and junior linebacker Terence Thomas.

The Wildcats had 14 different players receive All-CAA recognition, including six first team selections, three second team honorees and six third team picks.

The success for Villanova this season did not end on the field, as four players were also cited for their academic success. Senior long snapper Will Thompson was named the inaugural Division I football recipient of the Elite 88 award, which is presented to the player with the highest GPA at the championship site in each of 88 NCAA championships.

Junior running back Angelo Babbaro, senior linebacker Osayi Osunde and junior quarterback Chris Whitney all were named to the CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Team as well as to the Philadelphia Inquirer Academic All-Area Team. Osunde was voted the All-Area Performer of the Year, as well as earning the CAA Football Student-Athlete of the Year award.

Junior Matt Szczur, who was named the CAA Offensive Player of the Year and Special Teams Player of the Year, hoists the FCS national championship trophy.
Women’s Cross-Country Team Wins NCAA Title

By Megan O'Shea

Villanova women’s cross-country has always had a rich history and tradition, having won seven NCAA championships entering into the 2009 season. However, it had been 11 years since they had brought home the last one. After finishing sixth at the NCAA Championships a year ago, the 2009 squad was ready to bring a national title back to Villanova.

Beginning the season ranked No. 5 in the nation, the Wildcats first knew they had something special after winning the prestigious Bill Dellinger Invitational in Eugene, Ore., defeating then No. 2 Oregon by 19 points. From there, Villanova moved up to a No. 2 ranking and remained there for the eight weeks leading up to the NCAA Championships.

The Wildcats then clinched an impressive victory at the Panorama Farms Invitational in Virginia, where all four of the top runners broke a course record.

Entering the BIG EAST Championships as defending champions, they faced their toughest challenge yet, facing six other nationally ranked squads. Using the same pack strategy that had helped them previously, the Wildcats trudged through thick mud and standing water to easily win its 12th BIG EAST, defeating second place West Virginia by 44 points. Junior Sheila Reid took home the individual title as each Villanova runner earned All-BIG EAST honors.

Next, at the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional, Villanova again dominated, winning by 54 points. Reid was named Mid-Atlantic Region Female Athlete of the Year for her winning performance. Head coach Gina Procaccio was named Mid-Atlantic Region Coach of the Year as every Wildcat earned All-Region honors.

The undefeated season culminated at the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind., with the ‘Cats looking to knock off defending champion and No. 1-ranked University of Washington. Again the Wildcats cruised to victory, besting runner-up Florida State by 47 points. It was Villanova’s eighth title and Procaccio’s first as head coach.

“The girls were phenomenal,” Procaccio said afterwards. “It has been an amazing season, and all seven ran so well today.”

Reid, junior Amanda Marino, sophomore Bogdana Mimic, junior Ali Smith and senior Nicole Schappert earned All-American honors, the first time in Villanova history that all five scoring runners have done so.

Procaccio was named Division I Cross Country Coach of the Year following the race. With just one member of the championship squad graduating, the Wildcats could repeat next year.

The Villanova women’s cross-country squad outdistanced top-ranked University of Washington to win the 2009 NCAA Championships. It was the eighth title in the program’s history and the first for Gina Procaccio (second from left) as head coach of the Wildcats.
Villanova Athletics

Villanova Women Win BIG EAST Indoor Championship

On February 20-21, while athletes from around the world were skiing, skating and snowboarding their way to victory in Vancouver, the Villanova University women’s track & field team was heating up The Armory in New York City.

By the time the two-day 2010 BIG EAST Indoor Track & Field Championship was over, the Wildcats had notched five first-place finishes, including three individual titles and two relay crowns, to capture the conference title.

This victory is Villanova’s 12th all-time conference title and the first since 2000. The Wildcats did not clinch the team championship, however, until the second-to-last event of the competition. Trailing Louisville by two points going into the 4x800 meter relay, the Villanova foursome of freshman Ariann Neutts (Succasunna, N.J.), senior Nicole Schappert (Delray Beach, Fla.), freshman Bogdana Mimic (Pancevo, Serbia) and junior Sheila Reid (Newmarket, Ontario) crossed the line in 8:39.34, outpacing Connecticut by 2.4 seconds.

After leading Villanova to the indoor title, Wildcat head coach Gina Procaccio and her staff were named BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year. Procaccio was quick to give the credit to the athletes. “This was a total team effort, and I am so proud of every member,” said Procaccio. “We don’t have a large team, but we have a lot of heavy hitters. We had 13 top-three performances. This is a great day for Villanova track & field.”

Among the Wildcats’ “heavy hitters” was Reid, who, besides running anchor for the first-place 4x800 meter relay team, garnered two individual titles. She ran the mile in 4:51.33, edging out teammate Mimic, who was timed at 4:51.89. In the 1,000 meter run, Reid was clocked at 2:45.02, besting teammate Schappert, who was second with 2:47.57.

For her stellar performance, Reid was named the Women’s Most Outstanding Track Performer. She was the first student-athlete since 2007 to earn three event titles in one BIG EAST Indoor Championship meet.

At the 2010 BIG EAST Indoor Track & Field Championship at The Armory in New York City, it was a fight to the finish, but the Wildcats prevailed, winning Villanova’s 12th all-time conference title.
One Book Villanova Brings Acclaimed Author to Campus

Roofops of Tehran by Mahbod Seraji—a vivid portrait of growing up, discovering love and awakening to the reality of life in a nation on the verge of revolution in the 1970s—was this year’s especially timely One Book Villanova selection.

One Book Villanova engages all members of the campus community—students, staff and faculty—in activities throughout the academic year that explore dominant themes presented in a selected book.

“Roofops of Tehran provides a detailed look at Iranian life and culture at the very moment that Iranian political and social developments are once again at the center of international attention,” notes Joseph Lucia, director of Villanova’s Falvey Memorial Library and One Book Villanova committee co-chairman.

Each year, the highlight of One Book Villanova is the author’s visit to campus. Seraji arrived on January 26, greeted Villanovans and signed copies of his book in Falvey Library. He then joined students, faculty, staff and community members in Dougherty Dining Room for a special community dinner featuring Persian cuisine. Later in the evening, he spoke about his book to a standing-room-only crowd of over 500 people in the Villanova Room of the Connelly Center.

In Falvey Memorial Library, students, faculty and staff lined up to have author Mahbod Seraji sign their copies of Roofops of Tehran, this year’s One Book Villanova selection.

New Bioengineering Minor Bridges Engineering, the Sciences and Nursing

From designing prosthetics to developing ultrasound techniques to producing biopharmaceuticals, practitioners of bioengineering strive to improve the quality of life and benefit society through advances in biological research, medicine and health care. Now Villanova students will have the opportunity to acquire an understanding of this critical area of study and, at the same time, to have an enriching, interdisciplinary experience.

Faculty in the Colleges of Engineering, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Nursing have collaborated to create a minor in bioengineering. The minor, which was officially launched in fall 2009, is the first such program to be jointly offered by all three colleges. Six students have enrolled in this program, and many more have expressed interest.

Dr. William Kelly, associate professor of Chemical Engineering and a member of the Bioengineering Planning Committee, anticipates that the minor will appeal to Villanova students because they tend “not only to be gifted technically but also to be concerned about humanitarian applications.”

Russell Gardner, Ph.D. (left), chair of the Biology department, and William Kelly, Ph.D., associate professor of Chemical Engineering, are two of the Bioengineering Planning Committee members who helped develop the cross-college minor.
On April 12, the Ethics Program of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences presented the fourth annual Praxis Award in Professional Ethics to Marc Edwards, Ph.D., the Charles Lunsford Professor of Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Edwards was selected for the extraordinary professional integrity he displayed in 2004 in protecting the Washington, D.C., community from misleading claims about the health effects of the high levels of lead in its drinking water.

Assisted by his students, Dr. Edwards determined that water testing in schools and other research had been improperly conducted, and he courageously spoke out about the deception. In addition, he uncovered unethical practices by government agencies and independent research groups.

"Out of a concern for the public welfare, a central value of the engineering profession, Professor Edwards pursued what he thought was a highly dangerous claim about lead in the water of Washington, D.C.," said Mark Doorley, Ph.D., director of Villanova’s Ethics Program.

Inaugurated in 2007, the Praxis Award celebrates the contributions of a professional or an academic in the field of professional ethics. By recognizing the contribution of people who make a positive impact on society, the Praxis Award Committee reinforces the University’s commitment to developing ethically grounded students who, like the awardees, will show concern for the common good.

Eating to Your Heart’s Content

Healthy dining options were among the initiatives that earned Villanova Dining Services the prestigious Silver Plate Award


These may sound like the menu choices at a trendy, health-conscious café in the city, but they constitute the standard fare available through Villanova’s award-winning Dining Services. These cutting-edge eating options are just a sampling of the innovations and achievements that have positioned Villanova Dining Services in the forefront of the college and university food-service industry.

In February, the department added the latest prize to its pantry. Timothy Dietzler, the visionary director of Dining Services for the past 8 years and a member of the department for 23 years, was selected as the winner of the 2010 Silver Plate Award.

Given annually by the International Foodservice Manufacturers Association, the accolade honors the most outstanding operator talents in the business and is presented in nine categories. Dietzler was recognized in the Colleges and Universities category. The award honors the commitment and accomplishments not only of Dietzler but also of the entire department.

“This is a tremendous tribute to our program and the Dining Services Team,” said Dietzler. “I am very proud of our staff for the caring and dedicated service they provide to our students and the campus community.”

As director, Dietzler has been particularly instrumental in building a team of chefs capable of creating memorable dining experiences and in developing the staff’s culinary skills. In 2008, he and his team unveiled a compostable program, eliminating 98 percent of the trash from the waste stream. Villanova Dining Services received an “A” on its Green Report Card from the Sustainable Endowment Institute for its recycling and sustainability program.
More than 250 Villanova students answered the call to “Make It a Day On, Not a Day Off” by participating in the Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service as part of the University’s four-day commemoration of the life and legacy of Dr. King.

On Monday, January 18, students worked on-campus with Philadelphia high school students, walking them through the college application process and offering tips on writing essays and practicing for the SATs. They also engaged middle school students in a dialogue about the importance of nutrition and exercise through an interactive program that included teaching them dance routines and techniques.

At off-campus service sites such as the Germantown Boys and Girls Club, students painted the auditorium and cleaned the basement, and at the Cardinal Bevilacqua Community Center in Kensington they built garden benches and picnic tables and painted murals.


On January 20, UCLA professor Phillip Atiba Goff, Ph.D., discussed racial inequality in the celebration’s keynote address, “Revolutionary Impatience: Charting a New Path to the Mountaintop.”

The celebration, sponsored by Villanova’s Center for Multicultural Affairs and Center for Peace and Justice Education, wrapped up on January 21 with 22 “Freedom School” sessions addressing some aspect of social justice relating to the vision of Dr. King.

Villanova Honors Dr. Martin Luther King with Four-Day Tribute

As part of the Martin Luther King Day of Service, Villanova students taught dance routines and techniques to visiting middle schoolers. The “feet-on” instruction was part of an interactive program stressing nutrition and exercise.

Ten-Year Checkup

Villanova University is gearing up for its decennial evaluation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. To prepare for the evaluation, over 100 faculty, students, administrators and staff have been engaged for more than a year in the Institutional Self-Study. Their goal: to examine how well Villanova’s educational programs and services fulfill the University’s mission and meet the commission’s standards.

Villanova is committed to carrying out the extensive progression of assessment tasks required, not merely to reaffirm University accreditation but to self-reflect, self-evaluate and continue to enhance the quality of the Villanova experience.
These Shoes Are Made for Giving

Harnessing the power of individuals to benefit the greater good is how Blake Mycoskie, founder of TOMS Shoes, has made his dream to provide impoverished children with shoes a reality. Mycoskie’s company promise—for every pair of shoes sold, TOMS will give a pair of new shoes to children in need around the world—is revolutionizing the way consumers shop. In just three years, consumers have purchased more than 140,000 pairs of shoes, enabling the company to give an equal number to children in need.

The Villanova School of Business welcomed Mycoskie to discuss global corporate citizenship and responsibility, using social innovation and market incentives. His One for One™ giving component has made TOMS Shoes a remarkable story and an innovative business opportunity. “Blake Mycoskie and TOMS Shoes reflect values and approaches we emphasize at VSB: harnessing business skills for both social and economic benefit,” said Jonathan Doh, Ph.D., the Herbert G. Rammrath Endowed Chair in International Business and director of the Center for Global Leadership. “This model of global corporate citizenship is core to our mission at VSB, and Blake’s presentation provided our students with a tangible example of how such models can work in practice.”

During his presentation, Mycoskie discussed how the rise of social media affects a new generation of socially conscious consumers and the new breed of business tools toward which this generation is flocking.

Mycoskie also shared his experiences with marketing and advertising mechanisms. Given this new era of media fragmentation, Mycoskie has found that traditional communication methods are not reaching consumers as successfully. Instead, Blake uses the power of storytelling to create excitement and business growth, turning consumers into fans and evangelists of TOMS Shoes.

This event was sponsored by VSB’s Center for Global Leadership, Business Without Borders, the International Business Society, the Center for Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship and the Villanova Entrepreneurial Society.
Summer 2010    45

The first-ever Villanova Real Estate Challenge, a national real estate development case competition for students from top undergraduate real estate programs, was held on campus April 8-9. The Daniel M. DiLella Center for Real Estate at the Villanova School of Business hosted the event.

While there are several prominent graduate real estate case competitions, VSB’s Challenge is the largest undergraduate real estate case competition in the nation. Ten schools from across the country participated, including the University of Pennsylvania, New York University, the University of North Carolina and Florida State University.

“The Challenge provided national recognition for Villanova’s real estate program among industry and academic audiences,” said Shawn Howton, Ph.D., the center’s director. “The event also exposed participating firms to the next generation of real estate leaders.”

Each team consisted of four students, who were accompanied by a faculty advisor. The case centered on financial analysis, proposal feasibility and design creativity, and provided students with the opportunity to showcase their talents and interact with industry leaders.

The competition was made possible through the generosity of top firms from the real estate industry, including presenting sponsorships from Delphi Affordable Housing Group and CB Richard Ellis. Senior executives from all areas of the commercial real estate industry judged student presentations. Cash prizes were awarded to the top teams: UNC, Virginia Commonwealth University and Villanova, respectively.

Daniel M. DiLella Center for Real Estate Hosts Career Conference

On March 16, the Daniel M. DiLella Center for Real Estate welcomed more than 30 real estate companies and 100 students to its third annual Commercial Real Estate Career Conference. Left to right: keynote speaker Stephen Furnary ’72 VSB, chairman and chief executive officer, ING Clarion Partners; Mark Thomson ’05 VSB, senior associate, Marcus & Millichap; Jim Vesey ’81 VSB, center fellow, Daniel M. DiLella Center for Real Estate; Eli Kahn, president, E. Kahn Development Corp.; and Stephen Spaeder ’88 VSB, senior vice president, BPG Properties, Ltd.

Dr. James Goodnight, CEO of SAS

Discusses Business Analytics

“Analytic capability skills are critical to the success of our students. If well-prepared, our graduates can add immediate value to the marketplace, while our cross-disciplinary faculty become recognized for excellence in analytics education, practice and research,” said Professor Matthew Libera- tore, the John F. Connelly Chair in Management and director of the Analytics SIG.

James Danko, The Helen and William O’Toole Dean, added that Dr. Goodnight’s lecture aligns with the four pillars of academic excellence in VSB’s redesigned undergraduate curriculum: global mindset, ethics, technology/analytics and innovation.

During his visit, Dr. Goodnight shared the importance of analytics in business education. “Innovation is critical to success in this business, and creativity fuels innovation. The creativity brought forth by SAS staff is a key competitive advantage for us.”
College Updates

Literary Festival Brings Prominent Pens to Villanova

This past semester, six literary luminaries visited campus to read excerpts from their oeuvres for the Department of English’s 12th annual Villanova Literary Festival, a celebration showcasing established authors and rising stars.

The festival kicked off January 26 with Elizabeth Strout, who read from the work that earned her the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction: Olive Kitteridge, a collection of stories about a woman and her family and friends on the coast of Maine.

On February 18, Anthony Swofford, whose Gulf War memoir Jarhead was made into a movie in 2005, shared excerpts from two works in progress.

On April 13, poet Ange Mlinko, a native of Philadelphia who lives in Beirut, read from her newest poetry collection, Shoulder Season.

The Irish Studies Program co-sponsored the April 20 twin billing: poets Peter Fallon and Seamus Heaney. Fallon, who served as the inaugural Heimbold Professor of Irish Studies at Villanova in spring 2000, read poems from News of the World.

A leading poet of his generation, Heaney received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1995. He offered selections from Opened Ground.


The guests also spent time in the classroom with students enrolled in Literary Festival Workshop, a seminar co-taught by visiting professor Daisy Fried and Professor Alan Drew, the festival director.

“As a teacher and writer, I was gratified to see the students engaged in a dialogue with these impressive authors,” Prof. Drew said. “They asked thoughtful questions and showed they take the writing process seriously.”

Senior Presents Research at Notre Dame Conference

Diondra Burney ’10, a Sociology major with minors in Africana Studies, Biology and Spanish, presented her research, “The Medical and Social Treatment of Children with Special Needs in Uganda,” at the Human Development Conference at the University of Notre Dame February 26-28. For Diondra, a highlight of the conference was the address to the participants by the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus of Notre Dame, whose involvement in issues such as civil rights and Third World development helped earn him a Congressional Gold Medal.

In fall 2008, Diondra had studied in Uganda—an experience she described as “humbling and enlightening.” During a six-week internship at CURE Children’s Hospital of Uganda, she had observed the confluence of traditional and modern medical beliefs and practices.

After graduating, Diondra plans to attend medical school and do a year of service.
Concerns about high school dropout rates, achievement gaps and students’ competency in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) beset education leaders. A study involving Michael Posner, Ph.D., assistant professor and director of Undergraduate Classical Studies at Villanova, may provide evidence that a new assessment paradigm can turn students on to school and improve performance.

The 21st Century Partnership for STEM Education, in tandem with Villanova, has received a four-year, $2.4 million National Science Foundation grant to implement this paradigm in 44 high schools in the Greater Philadelphia region.

Dr. Nancy Allen Receives Academic Advising Award

The National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Region 2 selected Nancy Allen, Ph.D., director of the Office of Academic Advising, as the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Advisor-Administrator Award. Dr. Allen received the award during a ceremony at the Region 2 Conference in Atlantic City, N.J., in April.

Researchers Receive NSF Grant to Improve High School Math

The study, “Proficiency-based Assessment and Reassessment of Learning Outcomes” (PARLO), is designed to measure whether a system of proficiency-based, continuous assessment of learning encourages students to stay in school, persist in taking difficult courses and score better on math tests.

According to Dr. Posner, co-PI on the grant, PARLO offers students multiple opportunities to grasp content until they demonstrate proficiency on a set of learning outcomes. Having experimented with this model in his introductory stat course, Dr. Posner found that “students who mastered the material after repeated attempts did as well on the final as those who understood it the first time.” Additionally, students’ attitude toward statistics improved.

“We hope this will be a transformative study of how education is done,” Dr. Posner said.
Thong Nguyen ’06 E.E., the son of Vietnamese parents who had fled their Communist-controlled homeland in the ’70s, never tires of counting his blessings—among them, his faith, his freedom and his Villanova education.

Thus, when the Lockheed Martin systems engineer associate returned from his tour of duty with the Army National Guard in Iraq, he presented to the College of Engineering a gift that expressed his appreciation: the American flag that his comrades in the 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry, 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team had carried during patrol of former insurgent strongholds. Accompanying the flag was a certificate of authenticity signed by Nguyen’s commanding officer.

“I wanted to give back to my country for all the good things my family has received, especially here at a Catholic university,” said Nguyen, whose mother has worked in Dining Services for many years. “My two brothers also graduated from the College of Engineering, so this flag is my thank you to Villanova.”

The flag and certificate are on display in the Center for Engineering Education and Research. “These gifts symbolize Mr. Nguyen’s abiding affection for the College and his tremendous dedication to our nation,” said Gary Gabriele, Ph.D., the Drosdick Endowed Dean of Engineering.

Dr. Moeness Amin, director of the Center for Advanced Communications

The Center for Advanced Communications (CAC) has secured two National Science Foundation grants totaling approximately $1.2 million to enable new research in acoustic and ultrasound technologies and to expand the capabilities of the Antenna Research Lab.

Through a two-year, $600,000 Partnerships for Innovation grant, the College of Engineering will collaborate with academic, industry and government partners to advance research and development in acoustic and ultrasound technologies for the medical and industrial communities.

“These research projects will directly impact the medical community,” said Moeness Amin, Ph.D., director of the CAC and the PI on the grant. “We hope to develop solutions to improve diagnostics of anomalies found in human tissues and organs, as well as cracks and fractures in machine structures, by enhancing the ability to detect, localize and classify abnormalities in ultrasound signals and images.”

The CAC also received a two-year, $568,000 Major Research Instrumentation grant to expand the measurement capabilities of the Antenna Research Lab. Ahmad Hoorfar, Ph.D., the lab’s director, serves as PI. The lab will house research studies and data collections involving extremely high frequencies for testing antennas on large objects and extremely low frequencies for research into wireless communications, GPS, radar imaging and radio frequency identification.

Alumnus and Veteran Honors His Alma Mater

The Center for Advanced Communications Secures $1.2 Million from the NSF
Villanova Signs MOU with Ireland’s IT Sligo

Villanova University has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Institute of Technology (IT) Sligo, located in western Ireland. The MOU is allowing students enrolled in IT Sligo’s master’s in Biopharmaceutical Science program to take advantage of not only the College of Engineering’s distance-education capabilities but also its graduate Biochemical Engineering courses.

“It’s exciting to know that we attract students from other countries because of the quality of our courses and our delivery platform,” said William Kelly, Ph.D., associate professor of Chemical Engineering. Dr. Kelly, whose research is focused on biopharmaceutical processing, taught the first cohort of Irish students in spring 2009 and, along with IT Sligo faculty member Kieran Tobin, was instrumental in laying the foundation for the MOU signing.

Administrators at IT Sligo are equally enthusiastic about the growing relationship between the schools. “Through the medium of distance education, this agreement affords our students access to world-class teaching in Biopharmaceutical Engineering at Villanova University,” said Dr. Jeremy Bird, Head of the School of Science.

One benefit of the partnership is that the Irish students are bringing a global perspective to the classroom. In addition, the partnership is creating closer ties between Villanova and Ireland’s significant pharmaceutical industry.

Stormwater Management Expert Makes Recommendations to the EPA

According to Robert Traver, Ph.D., P.E., M.C.E. ’82, director of the Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership and the Center for the Advancement of Sustainability in Engineering, the time is right for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to adopt effective, enforceable regulations that promote sustainable stormwater control measures (SCMs) and respect the complexity of these management systems.

“Regulatory standards and their performance should be based on science,” he said. Dr. Traver traveled to Washington, D.C., in January to participate in the EPA’s “listening session” about stormwater issues. He advocated four key principles for consideration:

- Using a systems approach for sustainable management: Regulations should take into account land use and its stressors; systems design, operations, and replacement; and the role surface runoff might play as a pollutant.
- Addressing stormwater hydrology as a complex system: A one-size-fits-all mitigation solution will not work.
- Promoting green infrastructure SCMs: “From an engineering perspective, green infrastructure SCMs are the most cost-effective and sustainable approach to mitigating the effects of urban stormwater runoff,” Dr. Traver said.
- Evaluating early and often: The success of new regulations should be evaluated immediately so that adjustments can be made.

The EPA has committed to finalizing new national stormwater regulations by November 2012.
Faculty Member Presents Educational Workshop in Oman

Kathy D. Gray-Siracusa, Ph.D., R.N., M.B.A., CCRN, NEA-BC, assistant professor, presented a well-received, three-day educational workshop on “Teaching Evidence-Based Practice” at the Institute of Health Sciences in Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman last November. Fifty-two participants, including faculty members with varying levels of experience from the country’s nursing and allied health institutes, attended.

This course was another successful collaboration stemming from the 15-year relationship between the College of Nursing and Oman’s Ministry of Health. It was Dr. Gray-Siracusa’s third teaching visit to Oman.

The lectures, supported by group work facilitated by Dr. Gray-Siracusa and several assistants, enabled the participants to gain an understanding of evidence-based practice and construct evidence-based questions. They learned how to search for evidence and critique existing evidence for applicability and quality.

Additionally, the program promoted skills needed to incorporate evidence-based practice into the curriculum and the practice setting. Dr. Gray-Siracusa’s program also gave health care professionals the opportunity to network and exchange ideas with expert faculty from their own regions of the sultanate.

“Many participants commented that the workshop was beneficial and that they would take the information back to their colleagues and peers in the institutes,” Dr. Gray-Siracusa noted.

Student Nursing Chapter Is Named Most Outstanding in Pennsylvania

The Villanova chapter of the Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) once again was named the “Most Outstanding Chapter in Pennsylvania” at the state SNAP convention in Lancaster in November. In addition, SNAP-Villanova’s newsletter, SNAPSHOTS, was hailed as the most outstanding newsletter in Pennsylvania.

Four Villanovans ran for the SNAP Board of Directors, and two were elected. Senior Ellen Stoner was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer, and junior Michael Martino was re-elected Legislative Coordinator. The University continues an unbroken record of having at least one Villanovan on the state board since 1983. Villanova’s resolution dealing with nursing students as role models for the health promotion they teach was passed by the House of Delegates. Awards for excellence went to Ellen Stoner and juniors Meghan Barowski, Caitlin Krenek and Lindsey Waters.

During the convention, students listened to keynote speakers, learned test-taking skills, met recruiters in the Exhibit Hall and explored opportunities for externships and post-graduation jobs. They also experienced the legislative and organizational leadership processes through a “student Congress” in the House of Delegates.

Carol Toussie Weingarten, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF, associate professor and chapter advisor, accompanied the 33-student delegation. It included freshmen through seniors, students from the traditional and adult second-degree accelerated programs, and international students.
In December 2009, Suzanne Tracey Zamerowski, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, was notified by the Genomic Healthcare Branch of the National Human Genome Research Institute of the National Institutes of Health that she will be one of its genetics nurse education experts and an invited member of the Consultation Directory: Genetics/Genomics Education Exemplar Resources. The directory will provide a valuable resource for faculty to access and facilitate the integration of genetics into their curricula and education programs. Her commitment extends through September 2010.

Dr. Zamerowski, a member of the faculty at Villanova since 1979, has been teaching genetics for 40 years and integrating the content through her maternal-child health and health promotion specialty areas.

“Personally and professionally, I am dedicated to the role of genetics as a key determinant of health,” she said.

Dr. Zamerowski’s broad contributions reflect her commitment to genetics, which began at the start of her career after her son Tommy was born with a genetic disorder. Through her doctoral studies, her research, her attendance at numerous conferences and professional meetings, and her participation in training programs and continuing-education offerings, she has advanced her knowledge of genetics.

“As an educator, I have been able to use this knowledge toward numerous educational initiatives to advance genetic knowledge, change attitudes about genetics and prepare nurses to be competent in this field.”

For instance, Dr. Zamerowski developed the required undergraduate Nursing course Cell Biology and Genetics and the elective course Genetics for Health Care Professionals. Serving as a faculty genetics champion in this model national program provides her with a new arena in which to achieve her goal of ensuring that nursing graduates emerge as well-prepared professionals who can contribute to the promotion of health and the prevention of disease.

“As the era of personalized health becomes a reality, genetic knowledge will be of paramount importance for individuals and health care professionals,” Dr. Zamerowski said. “Since nurses are widely represented in health care, they are in a key position to provide genetics assessment, education and care.”

Pediatric nurse practitioners Debbie Wimmer ’83 M.S.N., CRNP, assistant clinical professor (pictured above treating a dehydrated child), and Geri O’Hare ’85 B.S.N., M.S.N., R.N., CRNP, traveled to Haiti as part of a group of nurses, PNP’s, physicians and lay volunteers sponsored by Medicines for Humanity. Other Nursing faculty and alumni who, through various humanitarian organizations, provided on-site assistance to victims of the earthquake include Barbara Ott, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor; Debbie Abraham ’95 M.S.N., R.N.; part-time faculty Ellen Boyda, M.S., R.N., CRNP; and Barbara Blanchard Murtaugh ’74 B.S.N.
Father Donohue Connects with West Coast Alumni

The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D., ‘75 A & S, Villanova president, recently visited with more than 250 alumni, parents and prospective students during a series of West Coast receptions, held in Seattle, San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles.

After each reception, Father Peter hosted a town hall meeting to discuss how Villanova has weathered the difficult economy thanks to constant fiscal prudence, the university’s new green initiatives and continued strong admissions interest, including the second largest applicant pool in school history. He also highlighted Villanova’s efforts to assist students and families facing financial hardship during the nation’s economic crisis.

Jean E. Gismervik ’03 A&S, Recipient of Villanova’s 2009 Young Alumni Medal

On December 11, 2009, assistant principal Jean Gismervik ’03 A&S approached the auditorium of Bronx Theatre High School expecting to attend an assembly. Instead, she was greeted by Villanova University’s Gary Olsen ’74, ’80, associate vice president of Alumni Relations, and Peter Fong ’86, ’94, chair of the Alumni Association’s Awards Committee. They presented her with the Villanova Young Alumni Medal, an honor bestowed annually upon a model Villanova graduate for outstanding professional achievement and character.

“Villanova gave me the key to my happiness,” says the Massapequa/Babylon, N.Y., native. “Having the University reward me for giving to others what it had given to me was a profound experience.”

As the youngest assistant principal in Bronx Theatre’s history, Gismervik brings undying energy to this position and to her teaching of AP English. In a two-year span, for example, she tripled the amount of scholarship and grant money for graduating seniors. 

“Many of my students didn’t know what colleges were out there,” reflects Gismervik. “In the Bronx, people don’t jog with Villanova t-shirts on. Where was the marketing?” She began her own campaign, calling about 50 colleges and universities. When many of them sent t-shirts and paraphernalia, she displayed the items in school and distributed shirts to co-workers and students. She also matched specific students with potential schools.

“I knew that if the schools got to know my students,” she says, “they would see what I saw”—bright, resilient teenagers struggling against tremendous obstacles to secure a better future. Her belief was confirmed when two seniors were awarded scholarships to Villanova and NYU.

Gismervik has taken many other steps to enhance students’ readiness for college and to broaden their vision and exposure. A selfless administrator and teacher, she stated in her award acceptance speech that she is most proud of the achievements of her students.

Tee Time Is “V” Time

Through the upcoming golf outings, Villanova alumni will be able to enjoy a day with food and friends on the green. Proceeds will go toward scholarships for current Villanova undergraduates. Visit www.alumni.villanova.edu and, under the “Reunions, Homecoming & Events” link, select “Golf Scholarship/Service Outings” for more details. The following chapters are hosting upcoming golf outings:

May 24 Long Island Chapter Scholarship Golf Outing, Garden City Country Club
May 26 Boston Chapter Golf Outing – benefits the Andy Talley Bone Marrow Drive, Stowe Acres Country Club
June 23 Lancaster Chapter Scholarship Golf Outing, Bent Creek Country Club
June 28 Atlanta Chapter Scholarship Golf Outing, Hawk’s Ridge Golf Club
July 26 Syracuse Chapter Scholarship Golf Outing, The Links at Sunset Ridge

Share Your Villanova Spirit with Students This Summer

Alumni chapters across the country and internationally are staying connected to Villanova and its students each summer by welcoming incoming freshmen with a New Student Reception. This unique opportunity allows new students to meet fellow classmates, talk to alumni and current students and ask questions about life at Villanova. If you would like to get involved in the New Student Reception program, visit www.alumni.villanova.edu to find a location nearest you.
Class Notes

1950s

Class of 1950: 60th Reunion, June 11-13, 2010

Frank J. Altmare Sr., M.D., ’55 A&S, Bio., retired as director of the department of nuclear radiology at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, Pa. Married and the father of three children, he and his wife spend their winters at their home in Naples, Fla.

John J. Fisher, M.D., FACP, ’58 A&S, Bio., senior partner in the Sacramento Clinic for Hematology and Medical Oncology, was selected as a “Top Doc” in the December 2009 issue of Sacramento. A board-certified medical oncologist and hematologist, he also is certified in internal medicine.

Class of 1955: 55th Reunion, June 11-13, 2010

The Rev. Carl F. Cummings ’65 A&S, Arts., was installed as a monsignor at a ceremony at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore, Md., on March 7. Monsignor Cummings is a retired Navy commander and is currently the pastor of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church in Riviera Beach, Md.

Class of 1960: 50th Reunion, June 11-13, 2010

Donald B. McCoy, Esq., ’60 A&S, Engr., co-manager of McCoy Development Group LLC in Holland, Pa., is currently building modular townhomes and apartments for students in the Temple University area, as well as single homes in suburban Philadelphia. He practices real estate law and works part-time in disaster assistance programs with FEMA.

Gloria Ferraro Donnelly, Ph.D., ’63 Nur., dean of Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions, was one of the recipients of the Philadelphia Business Journal’s 2009 Women of Distinction Award. The award recognizes women in the Delaware Valley for their professional accomplishments, community involvement, honors and milestones.

Class of 1965: 45th Reunion, June 11-13, 2010

John Needham ’71 VSB, Bus. Adm., was named executive director and global head, patient enrollment strategy, at Kendle International Inc., a leading global clinical research organization in Cincinnati.

Class of 1970: 40th Reunion, June 11-13, 2010


Class of 1975: 35th Reunion, June 11-13, 2010

Caught lunching at The Australian, a favorite pub for Villanova alumni in Manhattan, was a group of 1952 classmates. Left to right: Andy Markey VSB, Eco., Jim Brown VSB, Eco., Jim Gallagher A&S, Arts, and Tom Lucigna VSB, Eco.
George Hunihan ’76 A&S, Pol.Sci., is with HudsonCross Financial LLC in Greenwich, Conn. In August 2008, he swam the English Channel in 16 hours, and in June 2009 he completed 28.5 miles in the Manhattan Swim.

Jean Ruttenberg ’76 G.S.Edu./Elem.Couns. helped spearhead the Partnership for the Integration of Care of Autism Spectrum Disorders. As the first and only such program in the country, it will address the immediate need for a nursing workforce that understands the complexities of the developmental disorder.

Eric Trefz ’76 A&S, Pol.Sci., is regional sales manager for RCH Cable in Moorestown, N.J.

Mary McElroy ’77 Nur. is chief nursing officer at the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida in Jacksonville, Fla. She earned a master’s degree in Administration and Health Services from Central Michigan University and in 2003 was honored as one of the Great 100 Nurses of Northeast Florida.

Hon. Joseph A. Portelli ’77 A&S, Pol.Sci., on June 26, 2009, was sworn in as a superior court judge of the state of New Jersey, Passaic Vicinage Criminal Division.

Joan M. Novelli Capulupo ’78 G.S.Elem.Couns. has been awarded the Professional Partner of the Month by The Second Mile, a nonprofit organization serving the youth of Pennsylvania.

Michele A. Grennon ’79 VSB, Mkt., is president of Threshold Foundation in San Francisco, a community of individuals formed to create a more just and sustainable world. She is a resident of New Castle, N.H., with her husband and children.

1980s

Class of 1980: 30th Reunion, June 11-13, 2010

Class of 1985: 25th Reunion, June 11-13, 2010

Adeline Perkins ’81 Ch.E. has been named president and chief executive officer of Infinity Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Mass. With more than 25 years of international business and corporate strategy experience in the biopharmaceutical industry, she plays an integral role in developing the company’s strategic plan. She holds an M.B.A. degree from Harvard Business School and was recently named a 2009 “Best Executive” by Stevie Awards for Women.

Donald M. Yealy, M.D., ’81 A&S, Bio., award-winning researcher and educator, was named chair of the department of emergency medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. A graduate of the Medical College of Pennsylvania, Dr. Yealy is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians and a member of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine. He has authored more than 300 works, including 100 peer-reviewed research reports, 43 editorials and reviews, and 43 textbook chapters.

Dr. Emil Anthony Ricci ’82 G.S.Hist., ’95 G.S.Edu. is an adjunct professor at Villanova University. He was selected as “Man of the Year” by Madison Who’s Who, a New York organization recognizing executives and professionals for distinguished achievement.

Karl J. Boelter ’83 Ch.E. was named a plant manager at DuPont’s Washington Works plant in Parkersburg, W.Va. He and his wife, Ann, are the parents of three children.

Stephen Fortino ’83 A&S, Pol.Sci., regional sales director at Abbott Laboratories in Marlton, N.J., was appointed to the board of

Paul A. Tufano, Esq., ’83 VSB, Acct., ’86 J.D., senior vice president and general counsel at Independence Blue Cross in Philadelphia, has assumed additional responsibilities as chief government business executive. In this role he handles the strategic, financial and tactical leadership of the company’s government business and its products and programs. He is currently the president of the Villanova University Alumni Association, a member of the University Board of Trustees and co-chair in the search for the next dean of the Villanova Law School.

John W. Pauciulo, Esq., ’87 A&S, Hist., chair of the business and corporate law practice group of the Philadelphia law firm of White and Williams LLP, served as a panelist for an event sponsored by his firm and KYW Newsradio. Issues addressed included taking measures to protect interests and managing risks should something happen to the business owner.


Benjamin A. Stanziale Jr., Esq., ’83 A&S, Psy., was appointed chairman of the Hanover Township, N.J., Board of Adjustment.

Tim Farrell ’84 VSB, Acct., owner of Farrell’s Florist in Drexel Hill, Pa., travels to Hollywood, Calif., each year as part of the design team creating the floral arrangements for the Academy Awards show. This team is responsible for decorating the entire Kodak Theatre, where the event is held.

Daniel Taylor ’84 A&S, Eco., is principal at Bessemar Trust, a wealth management and investment advisory firm in New York City.

SusanJoy Spagnola Greico ’85 A&S, Comm., found a 13-month-old genuine “message in a bottle” while she and her husband were swimming in the Cove at La Jolla, Calif. The message invited the finder to contact the message’s author at his home in Arizona.

Barb Micucci ’86 G.S.Hum. Rel. was named the nation’s “2010 Counselor of the Year.” The award is presented by Naviance and the American School Counselor Association. Micucci is a counselor at Caley Elementary School in King of Prussia, Pa.

George D. Mulligan Jr. ’86 VSB, Bus.Adm., in October 2009 was selected by President Obama to be deputy assistant to the president and director of the

St. Thomas of Villanova 2010 Celebration

Join the Villanova Community for the 2010 St. Thomas of Villanova Day of Service Saturday, Sept. 11

With the goal of engaging 6,000 volunteers throughout Greater Philadelphia and around the country, the 2010 event is sure to be the biggest yet!

Contact your chapter leader or visit www.alumni.villanova.edu for nearby volunteer opportunities.

Visit www.villanova.edu/stvc for information about the St. Thomas of Villanova Celebration

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White House Military Office. He served as an officer in the U.S. Navy from 1986 until 1994, with assignments at both the Pentagon and the White House Military Office. He holds an M.P.A. degree from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Steven J. Wyrusch '86 Nur. is vice president of quality improvement and patient safety at Hallmark Health, a two-hospital, multiple outpatient clinic system in northern Boston.

Gregory P. Noone, Esq., Ph.D., '87 A&S, Pol.Sci., is assistant professor of Political Science and Law at Fairmont State University in Fairmont, W.Va. He also serves as director of the university’s National Security and Intelligence Program and as coach of the men’s rugby team. Recently promoted to the rank of captain, judge advocate general’s corps, U.S. Navy, he is commanding officer of the NR International and Operational Law Unit. He

Dennis W. Cole, CPA, ’92 VSB, Acct., was named a principal/partner in the New Haven, Conn. accounting firm of Beers, Hammerman & Co. PC.

Ms. Brecht focuses her practice on state and federal qui tam litigation.

Mark Cuthbertson, Esq., ’88 VSB, Bus. Adm., was recently re-elected to his fourth term as a councilman for the town of Huntington, N.Y.

Christopher Duca ’88 VSB, Bus. Adm., has been promoted to president and chief executive officer of Navigator Management Co. Inc., the underwriting management company for The Navigators Group Inc., an international insurance holding company.

Mark J. Fung ’88 M.E., ’98 M.M.E. is manager of projects at JBT Corp. in Chalfont, Pa. He is a captain in the Navy Reserve and commander of the Seventh Naval Construction Regiment in Newport, R.I.

Michael Doran ’89 A&S, Hist., completed a tour as first commanding officer of USS Freedom Gold Crew and is assigned to U.S. Pacific Command in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Kristin Engelberger Maher ’89 VSB, Fin., welcomed a girl.


James M. Scanlon, M.D., ’90 A&S, Arts, and his wife, Moira Kelly Scanlon ’91 A&S, Engl., recently moved to Naples, Fla., where James started practice as a vascular surgeon with the Gulf Coast Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons.

Cmdr. Stephanie Vahey

Nordhoff ’90 VSB, Bus. Adm., director of Web services for the Office of Communications, Military Community and Family Policy, Department of Defense, was selected for command of Naval Reserve Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command in Norfolk, Va.

Michelle M. Bennett High ’91 A&S, Engl., welcomed a girl.

Gina DiMasi Alladin ’91 VSB, Acct., welcomed a boy.

Frederic Hueber ’91 VSB, Mgt., welcomed a girl.

Christine Silano Mansfield ’91 A&S, Pol.Sci., is chief executive officer of Discovery Training Services in Quinnipiac, Conn. She serves on the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce board of directors, the local community theater’s board of directors and the school district’s career advisory board, and she is co-chair of the chamber’s legislative committee.

Michael J. Boettcher Jr. ’92 VSB, Bus. Adm., was named president of Advanced Audio Visual, a West Chester-based systems integrator of professional audiovisual systems for business, higher education, government and worship.

Nancy M. Cashin Heintz ’92 VSB, Mgt., welcomed a boy.


Christy A. O’Pella ’92 A&S, Comm., was named senior vice president, senior services, in the New York office of TPN Inc., a brand center retail marketing agency.

Timothy M. Arcuri ’93 Ch.E. is a managing director at Citigroup in San Francisco. For the past six years he has been named to the All-America Research Team by Institutional Investor Magazine and is one of only 17 analysts across Wall Street to receive recognition in multiple sectors.

Marion Deicke Carolan ’93 A&S, Edu., was named principal of the Viola Sickles Elementary School in Fair Haven, N.J.

Amy McLeod Callahan ’93 A&S, Engl., welcomed a boy.

Laura Schiller Huseby, Esq., ’93 A&S, Engl./Sec. Edu., ’96 J.D., an associate in the Chicago law firm of Marwedel, Minichello & Reeb PC, is the author of “Ballast Water, A Plea for Uniform Federal Regulation” appearing in the 2009 first quarter of Benedict’s Maritime Bulletin. Laura also welcomed a boy.


Peter Renga ’94 A&S, Pol.Sci., welcomed a boy.

Lauren Taylor Byrne ’94 A&S, Comm., welcomed a boy.

David Chuss ’95 A&S, Physics, and Anne Marie Pisano Chuss ’95 A&S, Hon., ’95 A&S, Pol.Sci., welcomed a girl.

Denise Colella ’95 VSB, Mgt., was named chief revenue officer at AudienceScience, located in New York.


Mary Heyman Scott ’95 Nur. welcomed a boy.

Jennifer Prince Gross, Esq., ’95 A&S, Hist./Pol.Sci., ’98 J.D. is no longer practicing law but is

Susan Murphy Cunningham, CPA, ’96 M.T. was named a partner in the Tax Advisory Services and Real Estate Groups at Marcum LLP.
a fourth grade teacher at Central Elementary School in Palmyra, Va.
Kristen Trainer Scarlett ’95 A&S, Psy., welcomed a boy.
Craig Zabrasky ’95 VSB, Fin., married Magdelyn Mistal ’95 VSB, Acct.
Christopher Barton ’96 C.E. welcomed a girl.
Gina Buonaguro ’96 A&S, Engl./Hon., is the author of the new novel Ciao Bella, a story of romance and adventure. Published by St. Martin’s Press, the book is available in Canada and the United States.
Christopher Fallon ’96 VSB, Mkt., welcomed a girl.
Anthony Guidotti ’96 A&S, Arts, welcomed a girl. Anthony also was promoted to athletic coordinator at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, located in Princeton Junction, N.J.
Melanie Manuel ’96 VSB, Mkt., a high school Spanish teacher in the School District of Philadelphia, makes it a priority to take students outside the country to experience other cultures. Students have visited Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Spain, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, South Africa and Brazil.
Lisa Marie Wadors Verne ’96 VSB, Mkt., welcomed a boy.
Mark A. Bartholomai, Esq., ’97 A&S, Pol.Sci./German, joined the Denver, Colo., office of the law firm of Cozen O’Connor as an associate in the global insurance group.
Seth Damery ’97 VSB, Acct., welcomed Megan Doyle.
Melissa Gaines Sepe ’97 Nur. welcomed twin girls.
Michelle Humowiecki ’97 C.E. welcomed a boy.
Christine Kando Stabo ’97 VSB, Fin., welcomed a boy.
Vicki Makarewicz Clark ’97 Ch.E. welcomed a boy.
Eric L. Roedl ’97 VSB, Acct., and Nicole Colaneri Roedl ’98 A&S, Psy., welcomed a boy.
Kerry Sullivan Briggs ’97 VSB, Fin., welcomed a boy.
John Verducci ’97 VSB, Acct., welcomed a boy.
Gregory F. Wylie ’97 VSB, Fin., married Amy Dugan.
David Cessante, Esq., ’98 J.D., a partner in the Detroit law firm of Clark Hill PLC, was named in Best Lawyers in America. His practice is focused on labor and employment law on behalf of management.
Thomas Harrahman ’98 VSB, Mkt., welcomed a boy.
Dawn Porskievies Kearsns ’98 VSB, Acct., welcomed a boy.
Jennifer Antonacci ’99 A&S, Hum.Serv., is a recruiting sourcing specialist at UBS Financial Services in Hoboken, N.J.
Ann Dapra Baisley ’99 VSB, Fin., welcomed a girl.
Keith DeVito ’99 VSB, Fin., welcomed a girl.
Anne Dyer ’99 A&S, Psy., married George Bott V.
Rebecca Rocco Kelly ’99 A&S, Gen., welcomed a girl.
Michael Roche ’99 G.S., Theat. has illustrated a new children’s book titled Zumba, the story of the most colorful turtle anyone has ever seen and a unique resident of “Tortoise Ville.” For more information, visit www.Xlibris.com.
Janine Santimano ’99 VSB, Fin., welcomed a girl.

2000s

Class of 2000: 10th Reunion, June 11-13, 2010

Lt. Tiffany Bachak Dodson ’00 Nur. graduated from the Navy Nurse Corps Anesthesia Program and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences with an M.S.N. degree in Nurse Anesthesia. She is currently working at the Naval Hospital in Bremerton, Wash.
Christina Bryan Clark ’00 A&S, Edu., welcomed a boy.
Cara Capponi Amo ’00 A&S, Pol.Sci., welcomed a boy.
Meghan Comunale Magnano ’00 A&S, Pol.Sci., welcomed a girl.
Johnny Ervin ’00 Nur. is operating room manager at Pat Cavanaugh ’00 VSB, M.I.S., was promoted to vice president of finance and controller at the Yes Network in New York. The network features exclusive telecasts of the New York Yankees and the New Jersey Nets. In addition, Yes, which televises college games and Emmy Award-winning biography, interviews and magazine programs.

Class of 2005: 5th Reunion, October 22, 2010

Kristin Molavoulo, Esq., ’00 A&S, Phil./Span., joined the litigation department in the West Chester, Pa., law firm MacElree Harvey. Fluent in Spanish, she will support the firm’s growing immigration practice.

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.
Kelli Foiles Cozza ’00 VSB, Acct., welcomed a boy.
Kristie Gersley ’00 G.S., Counsel., married Craig Wagner.
Chuck Gray ’00 A&S, Pol.Sci., welcomed a boy.
Tara Hooper Saraceno ’00 VSB, Acct., welcomed a girl.
Amber Kyle Blake ’00 A&S, Pol.Sci., has accepted a position as the multimodal coordinator in Durango, Colo. She had been at the metropolitan council in Baltimore, Md., as transportation planner.
Catherine Roskopf ’00 A&S, Comm., married R. J. Hotovy.
Christopher J. Savino ’00 VSB, Fin./Mkt., married Serena Mollendorff.
Kelly Bowe Flammia ’01 A&S, Pol.Sci./French Lang./Lit., welcomed twin girls.
Matthew V. D’Angelo ’01 C.E., ’03 M.C.E. and Angela M. vonBoecklin D’Angelo ’01 VSB, Acct., welcomed a girl.
Jessica Franks ’01 A&S, Comm., was nominated for a Directors Guild of America Award in the category of Outstanding Directorial Achievement in a Feature Film for her contributions as a member of the directorial team for The Dark Knight.
Ryan Higgins '02 VSB, Mkt., receives the Purple Heart Medal during an award ceremony at forward operating base Hammer, eastern Baghdad, Iraq. He suffered an injury when an explosive device detonated near his vehicle on June 2 while conducting a combat operation in eastern Baghdad.

Maggie Groszek '01 VSB, Fin., married Carl Labinsky.
David R. Mennerich '01
E.E. welcomed a girl.
Justin Miller '01 Ch.E.
welcomed a boy.
Cathleen Nista Rauterkus '01 G.S.Hist. welcomed a boy in April 2009. In November 2009, her book Get Mother's Picket Sign was published.
H. Douglas Randall '01 VSB, Fin./M.I.S., married Kellyanne Bambery '01 VSB, Acct.
Eric Ricci '01 Ch.E., '03 M.Ch.E. married Dana Deubler '01 A&S, Hum.Serv.
Stephanie Ruane '01 VSB, Acct., married Jason Pitoisky.
James Smith '01 A&S, Comm., and Julia Cathers Smith '01 VSB, Acct., welcomed a boy.
Stephanie A. Thomas '01 VSB, Fin., married Eric J. Alsop.
Cass Tokarski '01 VSB, Fin./M.I.S., and Kathryn Hillen Tokarski '01 A&S, Hum.Serv., welcomed a boy.

Michelle Boss '02 A&S,
Psy., is a national certified counselor and employed by Madison Public Schools in Connecticut as a school counselor.
Antonio Caschera '02 C.G., and Julia Pagani Caschera '02 Nur. welcomed a girl.
Julie Darne '02 A&S, Comm., married Mike Scheidecker.
Michelle Delaura '02 VSB, M.I.S., married Megan D'Amico '03 A&S, Comm.

Kristen Insalaco '03 A&S, Comm., founder of Insalaco Public Relations in Philadelphia, served as director of public relations for the first Philadelphia Fashion Week. She currently serves as chair of marketing and communications for the Greater Philadelphia chapter of the Villanova University Alumni Association.

Adam Erdosy '02 A&S, Engl., married Gayle Crispin.
Matt Levinson '02 VSB, Acct., welcomed a boy.
James Osborn '02 Ch.E. is vice president of Energy Power Partners in West Los Angeles, Calif.
Jennifer Sliker '02 A&S, Comm., married Mark Fiter.
Peter Snook '02 VSB, Fin./M.I.S., married Sarah Kelly '01 A&S, Engl., '05 G.S.Engl.
Mark Thompson '02 VSB, Mkt., welcomed a girl.
Christine Woodson '02 A&S, Comm., married Jim Whitaker.
Andrew C. Albee, D.M.D., '03 A&S, Comp.Sci., in May 2009 graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine. In September 2009 he and his wife welcomed a boy.
Amy Brennan Dolores '03 C.P.E. and Josemaria Dolores '03 C.P.E. welcomed a girl.
Richard John Cegelski, M.D., '03 A&S, Bio., is a resident physician in family medicine at Ventura County Hospital, Calif.
Jeffrey J. Chris '03 M.T. welcomed a girl.
Chris Cobb '03 VSB, Acct., married Sarah E. Asciutto '05 VSB, Acct.
Scott Dowd '03 VSB, Mkt., married Jessica Weiden '06 Nur.
Jacqueline Higgins D'Amico '03 VSB, Fin., welcomed a boy.
Matthew Huber '03 VSB, Fin., married Alana Miazzo '03 VSB, Fin./Mkt.
Tara E. Humann '03 A&S, Pol. Sci., married Donald F. Delaney.
Kevin M. Kavanough II '03 A&S, Eco., married Elizabeth Opalka '03 VSB, Mkt.
Leah MacKenzie Patterson '03 A&S, Engl., welcomed a boy.
Eric Nichols '03 VSB, Fin., welcomed a boy.
Mary Kate Salerno Hampton '03 A&S, Engl., welcomed a girl.
Elizabeth (Libby) Schmidt '03 VSB, Acct./Fin., married William Wysocki '05 C.P.E.
Stephen Simonelli '03 VSB, Fin., married Elizabeth Natale '03 A&S, Comm.
Laurie Sudell Vizzard '03 VSB, Fin., welcomed a girl.
Peter Baylor '04 VSB, M.I.S., married Kristen Breshock.
Christopher Biele '04 E.E. married Christina Beau lieu '04 A&S, Bio.
Kyle Comins '04 C.P.E. in May 2009 received an M.S. in Information Systems from Northeastern University and has accepted a position as a lecturer in Northeastern's Graduate School of Engineering. She holds a senior position as a software developer at BNY Mellon.
Elizabeth Constantino '04 Nur. married Timothy Tague.
Christopher Greco '04 VSB, Fin./Mgt., and Callie Baribault Greco '04 A&S, Engl., welcomed a boy.
Gianluca Santinelli '04 VSB, Fin., '04 M.Acct./Prof.Serv. married Meredith Pastore '04 Nur.
Emily Beck '05 VSB, Fin., married Brian Wood.
David Daniels '05 M.C.E. and Heather Sherbodny Daniels '04 VSB, Int.Bus., '04 VSB, Acct., welcomed a girl.
Margot Dana MacKay '05 A&S, Comm., married Christopher Charles Keating.
Lt. Greg T. Siegert '05 M.E., a member of Patrol Squadron 10 “Red Lancers” at the Naval Air Station on November 15, 2009.
Gerald R. Kunz '37 Ch.E. on November 15, 2009.

In Memoriam

1930s

1940s

James T. Brady '41 VSB, Eco., on January 19.
S. Frank Brunni '44 E.E. on January 7.
Class Notes Submission Form*  
Have you received an honor, award or promotion? Did you earn another degree, get married or have a baby? Submit this Class Notes form via fax to (610) 519-7583 or mail to Kate Wechsler, Villanova Magazine, Alumni House, 3rd floor, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA 19085. Please send photos by mail or e-mail digital photos to alumni@villanova.edu. Digital photos should be jpeg or tif format that are 300 dpi and preferably at least 3 x 5 inches.

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Additional Villanova graduate degrees and years:
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Thomas J. Junkeer '44  
Ch.E. on August 28, 2009.  
Ronald W. Higgs, Ph.D., '47 E.E. on August 18, 2008.  
Augustine E. “Gus” Coll '48 VSb, Econ., on January 5.
Stafford C. Walker '48 C.E. on October 22, 2009.
Richard J. Hudak '49  
VSb, Econ., on July 12, 2009.  

1950s  
Professor Joseph J. Hicks ’50 A&S, Gen., on December 29, 2009.  
Stanley J. Jonik ’50 VSb, Econ., on September 25, 2009.  
Michael V. Kervin ’51 VSb, Econ., on December 13, 2008.  
Joseph James Driscoll ’52 VSb, Econ., on December 1, 2008.  
John C. Haigh ’52 VSb, Econ., on November 29, 2009.  
Michael G. Belansen ’53 VSb, Econ., on November 22, 2009.  

Roy P. Kershaw ’54 VSb, Econ., on February 14, 2009.  
Fred J. Roberts ’54 M.E. on November 10, 2009.  
Donald A. Skelley ’54 A&S, Gen., on November 16, 2009.  
John Anthony Cirino ’56 VSb, Econ., on September 25, 2009.  
Vincent Louis Romano ’56 VSb, Acct., on September 28, 2009.  
Charles J. “Charlie” Cope Sr. ’57 VSb, Econ., on December 9, 2009.
Ronald J. Girioni ’57 Ch.E. on February 7.
Paul J. Jernigan ’57 VSb, Econ., on December 3, 2009.  
Joseph F. Slavin ’57 A&S, Arts, on February 11.  
Sister Mary Alberta Gillen ’58 G.S.Arts on August 23, 2009.  
James P. McCormick ’58 M.E. on October 2, 2008.  

1960s  
Gerald Leo Bowen Sr., Esq., ’60 J.D. on November 23, 2009.  
Thomas A. Donnelly ’60 VSb, Econ., on June 29, 2009.  
James Douglass Kelly ’61 VSb, Econ., on November 18, 2009.  
James F. Kelly ’61 VSb, Econ., on January 31.  
Joseph M. Spodaryk ’61
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John A. Benigno ’68 A&S, Soc., an award-winning fine-art photographer, is one of 12 artists represented in the exhibit “Quattro Amici Plus: 24 Eyes,” which is being held at the Villanova Art Gallery from May 28 to June 29. A reception will be held on June 2, 5-7 p.m. Pictured: Benigno photograph titled “Capilla de Santa Rita de Cascia, Bernal.”
Class Notes

Longtime Class Notes Editor Says Goodbye

Margie Schneider, who is retiring after nearly 45 years in the office of the Villanova University Alumni Association, remembers her first day on the job in 1965.

“It was a beautiful, warm September day. They set up a card table in the entrance hall of the building, and the front door was open. As I sat there licking stamps on envelopes, I remember thinking, if any of my neighbors see me doing my ‘big new job’...” she trails off, laughing.

For Schneider, who had left full-time work upon starting a family, the part-time hours meant she’d be home to meet her three daughters at the bus stop. She became Class Notes Editor, recording important milestones in the lives of thousands of Villanova alumni for Villanova Magazine and its predecessor, The Spires.

She did such a good job that after her “official” retirement in 1995, “they asked, ‘Can you still come in and do Class Notes?’ Fifteen years later, here I am,” laughs Schneider, 84.

Schneider’s Villanova memories include Alumni Weekend picnics held in the Geraghty Hall parking lot.

“We’d set up a barbecue and picnic tables and decorate them with rhododendron blossoms. The alumni from the 1930s and ‘40s wore straw hats with ribbons around the brims that identified them by class year.”

Her tenure spanned the administrations of seven different Villanova presidents. “I saw the Alumni Association evolve across people, policy and technology.”

When she first started, “we typed alumni addresses on metal plates on an addressograph machine. It was so noisy, everyone passing by on Lancaster Avenue could hear,” she laughs.

Schneider’s retirement plans include spending time with her children and grandchildren, taking classes and doing volunteer work with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

“The important thing is to keep moving, keep going, and never say ‘no.’ I’m like a shark. If a shark keeps swimming, it never dies.”

—Jennifer Schu

Class Notes Publication Policy

Villanova University accepts submissions of news of professional achievements or personal milestones for inclusion in the Class Notes section of Villanova Magazine. Concise submissions can be submitted electronically or by mail. The University reserves the right to edit for content, accuracy and length. Every effort is made to print submissions in a timely fashion as space permits. Reasonable steps are taken to verify the accuracy of the information submitted, but the University cannot guarantee the accuracy of all submissions. Publication of professional achievements or personal milestones does not constitute endorsement by Villanova University.

1980s

Thomas W. Cleaver, Esq., ’83 J.D. on January 10.

1990s

John Richard Carr ’90 E.E. on October 2, 2009.

2000s

Matthew C. Cahill ’04 VSB, Fin., on January 29.
Carina Joy Rogerson ’09 M.S.N. on October 17, 2009.

Staff

Beverly B. Kahn, Ph.D., assistant professor at Villanova University and a counselor in private clinical practice, on December 15, 2009.
Elizabeth L. “Bette” Dunn Plunkett, longtime Villanova University employee, on October 21, 2009.

Friend

A. John “Skip” Dyer on February 10.
Sieglinde Regina Kampf, of former member of the Villanova University Board of Trustees Edward F. McGehrin ’51 A&S, Gen., on August 29, 2009.

Correction

John J. Mezzanote Jr., Esq., ’76 A&S, Pol.Sci., was listed in error in the In Memoriam section of the Spring 2009 issue of Villanova Magazine. It is his father, John J. Mezzanote Sr., M.D., ’44 A&S, Bio., who died on February 21, 2009. John J. Mezzanote Jr., Esq., ’76 is a practicing attorney in Media, PA. We apologize for this error.

Class Notes Editor in the In Memoriam section of former member of the Villanova University Board of Trustees Edward F. McGehrin, wife of A. John “Skip” Dyer on February 10.
We invite all alumni and their families to join us June 11–13 for Reunion Weekend 2010. Classes ending in a “0” or “5” will celebrate with special receptions.

FRIDAY: JUNE 11, 2010
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.   Registration
Noon             Top ‘Cat Luncheon
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. “Wildcat Welcome” Hospitality Reception
6 p.m.           Class of 1960 Half Century Dinner
7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Class of 1985 Silver Anniversary Dinner Reception
7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Class of 2000 Ten-Year Reunion Dinner Reception
7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Class Reunion Dinner Receptions

SATURDAY: JUNE 12, 2010
8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.   Buffet Breakfast
8 to 11 a.m.          Continental Breakfast
9 a.m.                Alumni Memorial Mass
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.       Registration
9 a.m. to noon        Campus Shuttle Tours
9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.   College Reunion Programs
11 a.m. to Noon       Conversation with the President
Noon to 3 p.m.         Reunion Family Picnic
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.       Men’s Soccer Alumni Game
4 p.m.                Communal Blessing and Renewal of Marriage Vows
5 p.m.                Reunion Vigil Mass
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.     Alumni Gala Dinner
10:30 p.m. to midnight Late Night on West Campus

SUNDAY: JUNE 13, 2010
7:30 & 10:30 a.m.    St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Masses
8 to 10:30 a.m.      Farewell Brunch
8 to 11 a.m.         Continental Breakfast
8 to 11 a.m.         Checkout

For more information or to register: 1-800-VILLANOVA (845-5266) or visit alumni.villanova.edu
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