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Villanova Alumni Gather to Discuss Leadership in Tough Times

BY JENNIFER SCHU

The nation and the world face critical challenges these days. Companies and organizations once considered virtually invulnerable have collapsed—a result of failed leadership. Confidence among business leaders is at low ebb, with little relief in sight. In response to the crisis, the Villanova University Alumni Association recently convened a Summit on Leadership, bringing together Villanova alumni who are leaders in their fields to discuss how to lead effectively and ethically during these historic times.

On October 8 and 9, one hundred Villanova alumni thought leaders representing a wide range of fields, professions and industries met on campus to discuss pressing issues facing the nation, including business, government and health care. The theme of the conference was “Defining the DNA of Tomorrow’s Leaders.”

“Villanova is uniquely positioned to build strong, highly ethical leaders because of our academic legacy and Augustinian values,” says Gary Olsen ’74 A&S, ’80 M.S., associate vice president, Office of Alumni Relations.

The true test of leadership occurs during challenging times, notes Paul A. Tufano, Esq., ’83 VSB, ’86 J.D., senior vice president and general counsel of Independence Blue Cross and president of the Villanova University Alumni Association. “Villanova has produced many effective leaders in business, academics and government. It was important to bring them together to share their thoughts on the essential ingredients for leadership in today’s environment.”

During the conference, alumni discussed how their Villanova education has influenced their professional careers. “What makes Villanova University...
alumni unique is their ability to take what they have learned as students and use it to become visionary, ethical leaders,” says the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’75 A&S, Villanova president. “The Villanova educational experience encourages the development of a strong, ethical base and a consistent commitment to the larger community. Our alumni continue to be guided by these Augustinian ideals long after they graduate.”

John P. Jones III ’72 Ch.E., retired chairman of Air Products and Chemicals, provided the keynote address on the first day. Both Tufano and Jones are current members of the Villanova University Board of Trustees.


The conference featured plenary panel discussions and breakout sessions on urgent issues affecting Americans today which cannot be resolved without the help of sound leaders. Topics included “America’s Healthcare: Getting it Fit and Fiscally Sound” and “Ethics, Responsibility and Governance: Where is the Balance?”

In addition to alumni, attendees included Villanova administration and deans, as well as select students including the president and vice-president of the Student Government Association. Jay Wright, head coach of the Villanova men’s basketball team, closed the conference with an address on “Attitude and Leadership.”

The goal of the conference was to develop dialogue that will change the conventional knowledge of leadership, according to Tufano. “Right now, the country needs to become focused on what makes a great leader. Having our alumni engage in this kind of dialogue—generously offering us their time and thoughts—was a great gift.”

St. Thomas of Villanova Alumni Medal presented to Rear Admiral Christine Bruzek-Kohler

Among Villanova’s strong leaders is Rear Admiral Christine Bruzek-Kohler ’74 B.S.N, commander at Navy Medicine West/Naval Medical Center San Diego and the highest-ranking member of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. During the conference, she was presented with the St. Thomas of Villanova Alumni Medal, which honors individuals who have achieved a level of distinction within their chosen fields and have given back to their communities and the University.

“The College of Nursing is proud to claim Admiral Bruzek-Kohler as an alumna who is most deserving of this prestigious university honor,” says M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D. R.N., FAAN, Connelly Endowed dean and professor of Nursing, Villanova University College of Nursing. “The quality of her leadership in both nursing and the military is emblematic of the Catholic and Augustinian values that animate her life of service.”

Bruzek-Kohler served as the inaugural chairperson of the Board of Consultors for the Villanova University College of Nursing. “The quality of her leadership in both nursing and the military is emblematic of the Catholic and Augustinian values that animate her life of service.”

Bruzek-Kohler served as the inaugural chairperson of the Board of Consultors for the Villanova University College of Nursing. She is immensely proud of the opening of Driscoll Hall, the $32 million, state-of-the-art new College of Nursing building which opened in 2008.

“It is a showpiece of Villanova, and so
Villanova Leaders Guide University through Tough Economic Times

By Jennifer Schu

One of Villanova’s strengths has always been its efficient operations, and fiscal 2009 was no different. Despite unprecedented tough times, University leaders kept Villanova on a steady course—leading by example with integrity and transparency.

It is a philosophy founded in the University’s mission. “We’ve held true to our guiding principles—to continue our commitment to students and their families, avoid layoffs and preserve our financial flexibility,” says Kenneth G. Valosky, ’82 VSB, vice president for Administration and Finance.

The strong stewardship of the University’s financial leadership team—Valosky; Neil Horgan ’99 G.S., associate vice president, Finance and controller; Stephen Merritt ’78 A&S, dean of Enrollment Management; and George Walter, associate Dean, University Admission & Financial Assistance—has not gone unnoticed.

In October 2009, Moody’s Investor Service raised Villanova’s long-term rating to A-1 from A-2. Villanova became one of only five higher education institutions and one of only two private universities to receive an upgrade from Moody’s during calendar year 2009. Moody’s reasons for the boost include the University’s “consistently strong operating margins,” and “highly conservative fiscal management.”

At the same time, Standard & Poor’s revised Villanova’s rating to positive from stable, reflecting historically strong student demand, student quality and strong financial operations, among other factors.

Bridge over troubled waters
Not immune to the credit-ratings impact of the recession, some colleges and universities have been downgraded for the same reasons as corporations, including falling revenue and increasing debt. Villanova instead strengthened its financial reputation—thanks to sound fiscal management and sensitivity to the recession’s impact on the lives of all Villanovans.

Indeed, when it became plain that the economic outlook was dire, Villanova was immediately cognizant of its effects on both incoming and current students and their families. From the top down, starting with the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’75 A & S, University president, Villanova’s leaders designed their planning with families in mind.

“It was important to give our families confidence,” Father Donohue says. “With so much stress and concern caused by the uncertainty in the economy, they needed to know that we were committed to doing whatever we could to help them.”

Villanova managed to keep its unavoidable tuition increase to the lowest in 35 years—while increasing financial aid by nine percent.

At the same time, a commitment was made to University employees that despite the economic climate, Villanova would do everything it could to avoid layoffs and retain the faculty and staff who have helped distinguish it as one of the nation’s leading Catholic universities. (To date, there have been no layoffs.)

In spring 2009 the University implemented temporary hiring and salary freezes, and all areas of the University came in under budget. “Our department leaders managed the University’s funds as if they were their own, and I am most proud of that,” Valosky says.

The Moody’s upgrade endorses a philosophy Villanova has had in place for years and affirms the University’s financial discipline, he says. He credits his team—whom he calls “committed Villanovans”—with doing the hard work required to allocate funds to where they were most needed.

“Our staff showed a renewed commitment to work efficiently and collaboratively while sharing talents, ideas and resources—underscoring the fact that our sense of community is Villanova’s greatest asset,” says Father Donohue.
Maintaining high standards

Meanwhile, the University continued to maintain its high academic standards and ability to attract top students.

In a year when many private universities and colleges worked down to the wire to finalize their freshman commitments, Villanova achieved its freshman class by May 7—remarkably early by enrollment standards.

“Moody’s likes schools that manage their money well but have the flexibility to manage the current economic times on top of it,” notes Merritt. “We’ve been able to do that—and keep our academic reputation intact. We have the most academically talented, diverse group in the history of the University.”

The outlook for next year looks positive as well. This past summer, more than 14,000 prospective freshmen visited the Villanova campus.

The University has aligned its Master Plan—designed to adjust to economic conditions—with financial realities and its Strategic Plan. Student-centric projects and goals are pursued in a fiscally prudent manner; those recently completed include renovations to Fedigan Hall, converted to a “green dorm” and model of sustainability, and Dougherty Hall. On the agenda are updates to two residence halls, Sullivan and Sheehan Halls.

“The University’s financial discipline has been commendable,” says James C. Davis ’81 VSB, a member of the Villanova University Board of Trustees, chair of Finance and Audit Committee and member of Physical Facilities Committee, and co-founder and chairman of Allegis Group, Inc. “However, in order to reach the next level and meet 100% of our students’ demonstrated financial need, we require the support of our donors to increase our endowment.”

While Villanova is doing all it can with its existing resources, it must grow its endowment, which is significantly smaller than that of many peer institutions.

Villanova was recently recognized as an “Endowment Sustainability Leader” by the Sustainable Endowments Institute, a special Project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. This title was given to only 12 colleges that earned an average grade of “A−” or better on three endowment management categories of the Institute’s annual College Sustainability Report Card: transparency, investment priorities, and shareholder engagement. Villanova is the highest ranked Catholic university on the list.

“The recognition Villanova has received from highly respected, independent financial evaluators should make our alumni feel confident that we will use their gifts wisely,” notes Michael J. O’Neill, vice president for University Advancement. “Villanova is a good investment.”
After 30 minutes in the water, their arms and feet were numb. In the sixth hour, as they entered French waters, the current intensified and took them off track—requiring them to swim more hour-long shifts than anticipated.

Halfway across, they learned that all but two of the seven boats attempting Channel crossings that morning had quit.

"An instant family"
It began on Schulman's first day as a freshman. The talented distance swimmer was feeling shy while moving into her dorm when one of the swim team captains stopped by to invite her to a team get-together that night.

“We were like an instant family from day one,” she says of her swim team experience.

Schulman, Rosenberg, DeLollo and Felty “were together so much, from double practices and training trips to team meals and just hanging out together,” Felty recalls.

After graduation they continued that bond despite busy schedules. Schulman works for a financial consulting firm in New York and DeLollo at the Center for Obesity Research and Education at Temple University’s Health Sciences Campus. Rosenberg is a nurse at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, and Felty is in dental school.

In 2007, Schulman began to experience blurred vision and intense fatigue. The diagnosis of MS was a shock, and as she went through exhausting drug trials, her friends provided emotional support. Yet they wanted to do more.

DeLollo had attended a speech by paraplegic author James McGowan, who had attempted to swim the English Channel. Inspired by his story, she thought of how Schulman was facing the challenges of MS head-on.

Schulman excels at her fulltime job, hits the gym several times a week and volunteers for the National MS Society. “It definitely brings me a sense of accomplishment to show others that you can have MS and not be in a wheelchair,” Schulman says.

DeLollo, Rosenberg and Felty decided the perfect way to increase awareness of MS: raise funds to fight the disease and honor Schulman by swimming the English Channel themselves.

“When they told me about their idea, I was overcome with shock and emotion,” Schulman remembers. “My first response was, ‘Are you really sure you want to do this?’”

She was the distance swimmer in the bunch, yet her friends—who swam shorter events—planned to undertake one of the most arduous distance swimming challenges in the world.
From that moment, “Lauren was with us every step of the way,” DeLollo says.

Preparing for the big day
They began training last fall, and by the spring of 2009 were swimming 30,000 yards a week while juggling their respective full-time jobs and studies.

Undertaking the swim required time-consuming administrative challenges, including the expense of chartering a boat and the services of an experienced captain. They had to follow a set of strict rules and guidelines.

With little to no open-water swimming experience, they learned about the hurdles they would face in completing the 21-mile swim as a team of three, swimming in one-hour relay-style shifts.

To acclimate themselves to the cold water, they took cold showers and slept with the windows open. They set up a Web site to solicit donations, and raised $11,000 for the National MS Society and an additional $4,000 for the costs associated with the swim.

Against the current
At 4:30 a.m. local time on the morning of June 29, they finally entered the frigid waters of the Channel. It was soon apparent “it was more physically challenging than we’d realized,” DeLollo says.

After 30 minutes in the water, their arms and feet were numb. In the sixth hour, as they entered French waters, the current intensified and took them off track—requiring them to swim more hour-long shifts than anticipated.

Halfway across, they learned that all but two of the seven boats attempting Channel crossings that morning for had quit.

“Our captain kept saying, ‘Another boat is going back. You girls are doing great!’” says Rosenberg. “That made us even more determined to finish.”

Aboard the boat, Schulman supported her friends with hot drinks, warm fleeces and encouragement as each completed a leg and climbed back aboard. “Lauren was awesome,” DeLollo notes.

For Felty, the most memorable part of the swim was her second leg in the water. “Looking up onto the boat and seeing Lauren cheering me on, I knew we would finish, that we would make it across. It was such a motivating and exhilarating feeling.”

Near the end of Rosenberg’s final hour in the water, the shore of France was finally within reach. She hadn’t reached the beach, and the rules stipulated Felty had to jump in. They swam in together, pulling their bodies across the rocks.

“Lauren and I were on the boat and Trista and Kiersten were crying on the shore,” DeLollo remembers. “When they came back aboard, we all hugged and had champagne.”

Says Rosenberg, “Increasing awareness of MS is the biggest thing—and inspiring people to go above and beyond what they normally do.”

Kiersten Rosenberg, Victoria DeLollo, Lauren Schulman and Trista Felty (l to r) formed a bond of friendship at Villanova that will last a lifetime.
There aren't too many people who can approach health care with the kind of perspective that Tara Cortes '67 B.S.N. brings. Or, rather, perspectives. As a clinician, Cortes served as senior vice president and chief nursing officer of patient care operations for the Yale New Haven Health System at Bridgeport Hospital. Prior to that, she was the director of medicine and ambulatory care at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York City. As a scholar, she earned a Ph.D. in nursing science and research from New York University, is a former fellow in the highly competitive Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program, taught nursing at Hunter College and presently is a clinical professor at Yale University School of Nursing and an adjunct professor at New York University. As an administrator, she led a global non-profit, Lighthouse International, a leader in preserving vision and helping people of all ages overcome the challenges of vision loss.

Throughout her distinguished career, she has been involved with some of health care’s most illustrious institutions: Columbia University, New York Presbyterian Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Hospital, Hunter College School of Nursing, Mount Sinai Hospital and School of Medicine, New York University Medical Center, and Yale University School of Nursing.

“There’s not a whole lot of other careers in which you could do all that,” Cortes says, “and I think that this is one of the gifts I’ve gotten from my background as a nurse.”

As it is to many, if not most, in her field, health care to Cortes is a calling, one sparked by deeply held values that were fostered at Villanova University.

“I’ve talked a lot about the values of caring about what mark you make on people, about getting up in the morning wanting to make a difference in people’s lives, about the high motivation and energy that drives when you really want to get out there and make a difference in the world,” she says. “I also refer all the time to ‘Veritas, Unitas, Caritas,’ the motto of Villanova, and how meaningful that is in forming values of truth and integrity, community commitment and caring.”

Currently Cortes is engaged in various health care consulting projects while she searches for her next leadership venture. She plans to head another large organization or initiative related to a long-held passion of hers, assuring access to care for all people.

“Access to care, especially for this growing population of elderly that we have, not just in the United States, but worldwide, is going to be critical over the next many years,” she says. “People are living much longer thanks to medical technology and preventive care. We also have all the baby boomers who are beginning to go into those older years when chronic illnesses become more evident and influence quality of life to a much greater degree. We do not have the workforce for it; we don’t have adequate access for these people to get care. I think these are going to be huge problems in our health care system in the years to come.”

Cortes’ passion and multifaceted background serve her well in her service to Villanova, on whose board she sits. As a trustee Cortes has been deeply involved in many of Villanova’s most important initiatives: For nine years (the last three as chair) she has served on the board’s University Advancement Committee; she also is a nine-year member of the Student Life Committee and a three-year member of the Executive Committee.

“In some ways it’s a critical time not just for Villanova but for all institutions of higher learning,” Cortes notes. “Our economy is driving some of the decisions that would not have been necessary decisions two years ago. Yet it’s also a good time to rethink, restructure our future, and make sure that we are relevant to the times that we live in and the years to come.”

As someone who has restructured her own future several times over the last four decades, and from a variety of perspectives, Tara Cortes knows how to do so and remains committed to helping Villanova do the same.

“It’s a good time to rethink, restructure our future and make sure that we are relevant to the times that we live in and the years to come.”

Profiles in Leadership

By Thomas W. Durso

Tara S. Cortes ’67

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Over the course of his long and distinguished career in the financial services industry, Jim Curvey ’57 VSB did not fail at very many things.

From working his way up to vice president for human resources at Chase Manhattan Bank to serving as president and chief operating officer and ultimately vice chairman of Fidelity Investments, the country’s largest mutual fund firm, Curvey racked up success after success. Along the way he won a National Institute of Public Affairs Fellowship, studied at the University of Chicago, and worked for the U.S. Treasury Department and Department of Housing and Urban Development, which recognized him with its Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Performance. Later, Curvey was named one of corporate America’s Top 25 Managers of the Year by BusinessWeek for his leadership and innovation at Fidelity. Throughout his business career, he was active in philanthropy and involved in civic leadership, serving on the boards of numerous non-profit organizations. In 1999, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Villanova.

The trouble started in 2002, when he retired from Fidelity after 20 years with the company.

“Simply put, I flunked retirement,” Curvey says.

And so five years later, he was back at the firm, this time as a trustee serving on Fidelity’s mutual fund boards and also on the six-member board of directors of FMR LLC, Fidelity’s parent company. In his latest role, Curvey serves as an overseer and is part of a select group that monitors fund performance, operations, hiring, and other crucial facets of the firm. Even during good times, such oversight carries enormous responsibility; in the midst of a global economic crisis, it takes on even greater significance.

“First, we make certain that we’re doing the best possible job for Fidelity’s fund shareholders and customers,” Curvey says. “Second, we work hard to hire and train the finest employees we can find in the financial services world in order to serve our customers’ needs. The formula is working; with all of the issues and current challenges facing the world’s financial industry, Fidelity remains a private company—strong, well capitalized, and highly successful.”

Professional accomplishments, though, are only a part of the Jim Curvey success story.

“For me, I want to make sure that people are enjoying the opportunity of being at Villanova and getting everything we can out of it.”

Perhaps the reason for Curvey’s interest in the cumulative Villanova experience is that he is such a vividly rendered product of it. He cites not only his own classroom experiences in the classroom to working with people from all walks of life—is a continuous educational experience. Villanova was one of the vital keys. I can think of no better way of saying thanks to this great institution than to ensure that future generations of deserving students have a chance to live that same experience.”

“While I’m proud of my business career, I count my involvement with Villanova as one of my life’s most rewarding activities.”
Holy wars, genocide, age-old sectarian violence, radical fundamentalist terrorism. The enemies to peace are legion. And, many, paradoxically spring from religion. Does religion create enemies? And, if so, can it deconstruct them?

Those were the questions at the heart of a two-day Annual Theology Conference held Oct. 27–28 at the Connelly Center. Sponsored by The Theology Institute at Villanova University, this year’s conference theme was, “Who Is My Enemy? Religious Hope in a Time of Fear.” In its 41st year, the gathering of theological scholars and religious leaders from a variety of faith traditions approached interfaith relations from a different perspective this year.

“The operating assumption (in the past) was that differences needed to be toned down or somehow worked through or set aside,” says Darlene Fozard Weaver, director of The Theology Institute and an associate professor of theology and religious studies.

“Here there’s an interest in respecting the integrity of these traditions. Also, in using very practical means of collaboration—whether that’s artistic, whether that’s spiritual and scholarly reflection, whether that’s working for a particular strategic interest in forms of reconciliation in local neighborhoods or a particular political region,” she continues.

In engaging and cooperating with each other toward common goals, members of various faiths gain a greater understanding of their own traditions while learning from others. A particularly powerful tool employed at this year’s conference was a session on scriptural reasoning led by Kevin L. Hughes, Ph.D., chairman of Villanova University’s Humanities Department and an associate professor in its department of theology and religious studies. Scriptural reasoning is the communal practice of reading sacred scriptures together in order to discover new areas of commonality and deconstruct enemies.

Also, original to this year’s conference was a performance by Intercultural Journeys, a group of world class artists whose quest is to transcend age-old cultural conflict by fostering dialogue through the common language of music, poetry and other art forms. The group, which included Udi Bar-David on solo cello, Hanna Khoury on solo violin, Rolando Morales-Matos on hand percussion were joined by a Philadelphia String Quartet in presenting the world premiere of award-winning composer Kareem Roustom’s work, “Resonances.”

“Music, like other art forms, serves as a universal language and a unifying method. Exploration of commonalities in music between two cultures is a powerful tool toward the creation of an environment of understanding,” says Bar-David, a founding member and artistic director of Intercultural Journeys.

When this environment of understanding has been created dialogue can begin, and the outlook for peace is greatly increased.

The theme for the 2009 Theology Conference grew out of last year’s “Forgiveness” and from what Weaver describes as the current climate of “fear mongering,” constructing enemies from those that are “the other.”

“My position is that religions are not inherently violent. Any human endeavor
is subject to violence. Humans are susceptible to violence. I don’t think anyone should be surprised that religions, like anything else, can become violent

“Religions are not inherently violent. Any human endeavor is subject to violence. Humans are susceptible to violence. I don’t think anyone should be surprised that religions, like anything else, can become violent in the hands of human beings.”
—Darlene Weaver

“One needs to be open to recognizing the violence in one’s own heart and recognizing one’s complicity in various forms of violence and ways of ‘othering’ all sorts of people. We get stuck in patterns of trying to secure our own identity and sense of worth by identifying ourselves over and against folks who are other or different than us.”

The conversion process is ongoing and lifelong.

“There is no point at which any of this work will be finished. We’re all works in progress,” Weaver concludes.
If You Build It, They Will Come

Alums create program to help children with autism

BY BETTY RUSSELL
Jackie Galatola Ceonzo ’86 A&S and her husband, Joe Ceonzo ’85 VSB, met at Villanova and had the quintessential college experience. “Our time at Villanova was filled with fun, friends and hope,” Jackie says. “We had it all. Then we had this wonderful little boy and everything changed.”

The Ceonzo’s son, Joey, was diagnosed with a lower functioning type of autism at the age of two. Autism spectrum disorders are an array of complex developmental disabilities that may impair children’s social and communication skills and can cause repetitive, often disruptive behaviors. There’s no cure for autism, but many kids’ symptoms improve with appropriate therapies.

Coping with a devastating diagnosis
At the time of his diagnosis, Joey didn’t speak, and he had a profound seizure disorder that lasted until he was seven.

“Joey had 25-50 seizures a day,” Joe says. “We were so worried about his seizures that we didn’t realize the big challenge we faced with his autism.”

The Ceonzos enrolled Joey in early intervention services but quickly became frustrated with the level of care available. They found that most programs weren’t equipped to handle the difficult behaviors associated with autism.

“Joey spent so much time in school and undergoing after-school therapies that he didn’t have any fun,” Jackie says. “I knew he would stay in his own world if we let him.”

Turning adversity into opportunity
Several years ago, Joe, a finance specialist on Wall Street, had a difficult choice to make. His company wanted to transfer him to another office out of New York. Jackie and Joe didn’t want to disrupt Joey’s routine. At the same time, they wanted Joey to have a happier, more fulfilling life.

So they took matters into their own hands. Joe accepted a severance package instead of a transfer, and he and Jackie used those funds to create an organization tailored for kids with autism and other special needs. Joe soon found new employment and Jackie found a new vocation.

The Special Needs Activity Center for Kids (SNACK) opened in Manhattan, NY, in 2003. The Ceonzos worked with professionals to design a place where kids ages 3-18 could socialize while they learned practical skills in a warm and supportive environment. Jackie serves as SNACK’s executive director.

Acceptance and support help kids thrive
"Joey and many other SNACK kids suffered from isolation,” Joe says. “They weren’t invited to other kids’ homes and were turned away from many programs in the community.”

For many special needs kids, SNACK is the first place that they have felt truly welcome and where they are encouraged to do things that other kids take for granted. They can participate in group and individual activities, including: swimming lessons, sports clinics, art, music, yoga, movement and drama. Staff members also take the kids on field trips.
In 1987, Michael Fitzmaurice’s ’68 VSB life changed dramatically when several prominent physicians diagnosed his 2-year-old son, Chris, with autism. The little boy rocked constantly, didn’t speak or make eye contact, and had other classic autistic symptoms.

“Chris started intensive behavioral, speech and physical therapy services immediately and continued receiving care for many years,” Fitzmaurice says.

Surviving Early Struggles
Chris’ early academic experiences were discouraging. School officials wanted to remove him from the classroom in kindergarten because of his distracting behavior. Then he had to repeat second grade. By eighth grade, years of therapy began to pay off, as did Chris’ interaction with his siblings, some of whom also had learning disabilities. Chris was doing better academically but still struggled socially.

“He was two years older than the other kids and was very tall,” Michael says. “Other kids made fun of him. It was very tough.”

In high school, Chris started lifting weights, making friends and getting better grades. Remarkably, he was accepted at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in exercise science in May 2009. His professors were so impressed with Chris that they accepted him into the school’s master program.

“My goal is to help normal and disabled people live a better lifestyle,” Chris says.

Thriving Despite Autism
Villanova alumni may remember Michael for his athletic achievements in swimming and his induction into the Villanova Hall of Fame. While at Villanova, he was a 10-time All American swimmer and won a Gold Medal for the United States in the 1967 Pan American Games. Michael also swam on the same relay with Olympic gold medal winner Mark Spitz.

The hard work and tenacity that made him an outstanding swimmer gave him some of the skills he needed to tackle the problems Chris faced. But Michael says Villanova gave him something even more important.

“I took my faith for granted when I was younger,” Michael says. “Villanova gave me my faith back, and my strong beliefs and prayer got me through this. I really believe Chris was touched by the hand of God.”

Chris adds, “My autistic symptoms are still within me, but unlike the past, I am able to control them more effectively,” Chris says. “To be honest, I feel that if I had not been diagnosed with autism and was actually considered ‘normal,’ that I would not be half the determined and caring person that I am. I want to share my story to inspire hope in other people.”

Keeping the Faith
Dad and Son Find that Different can be Wonderful

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The hard work and tenacity that made him an outstanding swimmer gave him some of the skills he needed to tackle the problems Chris faced. But Michael says Villanova gave him something even more important.

“I took my faith for granted when I was younger,” Michael says. “Villanova gave me my faith back, and my strong beliefs and prayer got me through this. I really believe Chris was touched by the hand of God.”

Chris adds, “My autistic symptoms are still within me, but unlike the past, I am able to control them more effectively,” Chris says. “To be honest, I feel that if I had not been diagnosed with autism and was actually considered ‘normal,’ that I would not be half the determined and caring person that I am. I want to share my story to inspire hope in other people.”
Serving others

“If we hadn’t done something, Joey would have spent all his spare time at home practicing being autistic,” Jackie says. Instead, Joey, who is now 14, has made extraordinary progress thanks to the services and programs he participates in at SNACK. He has friends, listens to music, and enjoys swimming and playing soccer. And he has closer relationships with his parents and his 10-year-old brother, Andrew.

Joey may have been the inspiration for SNACK, but many other children have benefited from the Ceonzo’s generosity and vision. Some SNACK families looked for years for a program that would help their children learn, play and flourish. They’re grateful that SNACK is there to fill that need.

“The changes I’ve seen in our kids have been amazing,” Jackie says.

“SNACK grew much larger than we ever imagined,” Joe says. “It’s now a training center for special education, occupational therapy and psychology students. We get emails from all over the world from people who want to open similar programs for their kids. Our goal is to expand SNACK to other areas across the country and help even more children. We’re working on a manual to help other people set up this type of program in their communities.”

Villanova experience left lasting impression

The Ceonzos admit that living with autism isn’t easy. However, they say their time at Villanova shaped the kind of parents they became and gave them the inner strength to help their son and other kids that society over looks.

“Villanova’s emphasis on giving back stayed with us,” Jackie says. “And we were there in 1985 when Villanova beat Georgetown to win the NCAA basketball championship. It was the biggest Cinderella story in the country. No one thought we had a chance. But the team and the school never gave up. We took that lesson to heart and never considered giving up on Joey or his autism. His diagnosis was devastating, but his illnesses added a whole new and positive dimension to our lives.”

Villanova Nursing Student Already Making a Difference for Autistic Kids

When most of her high school classmates were applying to colleges, Catherine Capozzola was already taking undergraduate level courses and participating in autism research. She collaborated with Susan DeLuke, Ph.D., an associate professor of Special Education at the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY, to study the effectiveness of social skills groups for adolescents with autism.

Catherine enrolled in the Villanova College of Nursing in 2008 and is pursuing her nursing degree and continuing her work on autism.

“The school has been incredibly supportive,” she says. “I’d only been here a short time last fall when the CON sponsored my presentation at the International Autism Conference in Toronto. This year, they supported my trip to speak at the Ohio Regional Autism and Low Incidence Conference.”

Now a sophomore, Catherine is about to embark on an independent study research project that will look at nursing care from the perspective of patients and families dealing with autism.

“Villanova is a caring, community-oriented environment where we can bring and our own ideas, and people here will help us develop them,” Catherine says. “I hope the research I’m doing will help the medical community provide better services to kids with autism.”

Alumna Heads Prestigious Autism Organization

Jean Ruttenberg ’76 GS has had a tremendous impact on the lives of people with autism spectrum disorders in Philadelphia where she heads the Center for Autism – the oldest specialized autism treatment center in the United States. The Center offers community-based programs and serves about 400 patients a year.

“No two children with autism are alike,” she says. “So we don’t use just one methodology. Staff members assess children and their families individually and develop the programs they need rather than put them in existing programs. For example, we offer services to address sensory issues that help calm children’s systems down so they can get ready to learn. We also teach them how to interact, communicate and relate to others. Social skills are vital to their future success.”

The Center’s specialists integrate new research into programs and services. They also measure patients’ progress to determine whether the therapies they receive are effective.

Ruttenberg has a bachelor’s degree and two masters’ degrees, including the master’s in education/elementary counseling she earned at Villanova.

“I didn’t want to go just anywhere for a master’s degree,” Ruttenberg says. “I chose Villanova because it promotes strong ethics and community service. My education there really helped me develop a greater framework for looking at children within the context of their families and embracing families are part of the treatment process.”

In 2008, Ruttenberg was honored with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Medallion—an award that recognizes graduates who have excelled professionally and have demonstrated services to their communities and to Villanova.
For most people, sending Christmas cards is nothing more than a routine holiday chore, something to get through between cups of eggnog.

For Thomas D. Treacy, that annual rite was a life changer.

In the late 1960s, Treacy was a Villanova student living in Delurey Hall when his resident assistant, Rev. George Lawless, O.S.A., launched a program to mail holiday cards to U.S. soldiers serving in Vietnam. The program started small, but within a couple of years hundreds of thousands of servicemen and women were receiving Christmas greetings from Villanova.

“It was not pro-war or anti-war, it was just meant to do something for our troops serving in Vietnam,” Treacy recalls. “It was very much service-oriented. One day we got a phone call from the White House saying that the President wanted to meet us.”

The next day, Treacy and fellow students Robert Breslin and Tom Creagh were on a train to Washington, D.C., to see President Nixon.

“Literally we were in the Oval Office, three of us, with the President of the United States for about 20 minutes,” Treacy says. “Believe it or not, he was talking about Villanova football. He knew the record; he said, ‘Nine and two.’ He was very excited about that and he was excited about what we were doing.”

The experience was a seminal one for Treacy. He turned around his heretofore lackluster grades and earned a B.S. in Education and Human Services.

“My time at Villanova was a transformational experience,” he says. “I didn’t realize that at the time. I didn’t realize it until I began reflecting back.”

That reflection led Treacy and his wife, Diane, who earned her master’s in counseling from Villanova in 1982, to begin pondering how to shape their gift in a manner that would focus on community service and have a long-lasting impact.

The private, suburban Philadelphia college that they own will be placed into a charitable trust of the Treacys and sold at a future date. The Treacys will receive the income from that sale until they pass, at which time it will move to Villanova.

Mike and Diane Treacy hope other alumni will educate themselves about various planned giving options that support the University and enable the donor to shape Villanova’s future.
Their gift will support programs that reflect Tom and Diane’s affinity for service and passion for Villanova. Five different distributions are planned:

The first will endow the football program’s head coach’s position; the second is to the College of Nursing’s proposed Center for the Study of Global Health, which would consolidate the University’s efforts to improve public health around the world; the third will fund a scholarship for a graduate of Treacy’s New York high school who has demonstrated service to others; the fourth will provide funds to facilitate the College of Arts and Sciences’ freshman core curriculum community service component; and the fifth will support the Office of Campus Ministry to assist in service outreach. This final distribution will be in honor of Fr. Lawless, whose inspiration made such a difference in Treacy’s life.

“There is a certain amount of joy that comes with this—doing something that’s going to make a difference,” he says. “It feels good, it really does.”

The future beneficiaries of the Treacys’ generosity are deeply grateful.

“Having this gift will allow us to do much more to pull together the activities in which we’re currently engaged and build a platform for the future,” says M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor of Nursing. “We have a number of distinguishing characteristics for Villanova and the College of Nursing, but this would be a major one.”

Likewise, Wildcats football coach Andy Talley foresees exciting possibilities down the road.

“I want the program to be stronger when I leave than when I got here,” he says. “The Treacys’ commitment makes me feel that the program will continue to be up and running for years to come and will have the right kind of financial support to hire a quality head coach. We’re very pleased and hoping that we can stimulate a lot more alumni to get involved and support our program.”

In addition to being Villanova football fans, the Treacys wanted to recognize Talley’s annual bone marrow screening program. Each year Wildcat players encourage others to become part of the national bone marrow registry.

“Here we have part of the Villanova community actually helping to save lives through their service,” says Treacy.

The Treacys’ generosity illustrates how varied the giving options to Villanova are. The couple worked with the University’s development office over months to create a philanthropic program that best suited their means and goals. They hope others realize that there are myriad ways for them to give back.

“Planned giving is something the University really needs to capitalize upon,” Treacy says. “A lot of other alumni are in a similar position that we are, whether they want to plan giving for a small amount or a large amount or for property or other assets. It’s something that people need to know is available to them. They can give to the University in many different ways and have an impact.”

Tom Treacy’s impact began 40 years ago, when he stuffed envelopes with Christmas cards. It will continue for decades to come.
When Bob Brady ’89 VSB, ’91 G.S. agreed to shut down his home-building business for a month to build a free house for a family in need, people thought he was crazy. After all, his is one of the recession’s hardest-hit industries. Yet when the TV show “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” asked him to take on the challenge, he didn’t hesitate.

“There’s probably no better time to give than when you’re really hurting,” Brady says.

Brady and his brothers, Ed and Bill, are co-owners of Brady Homes, a home-building company founded by their father and headquartered in Bloomington Normal, Ill.

On “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” a family’s old home is razed and a new one built within days. Brady Homes had already built four homes for the benefit of the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital as well as for residents of Marcfirst, an organization for the developmentally disabled.

“The irony was, here is a man who’s feeding all these families—and his own family’s kitchen is barely functioning,” notes Korman.

“With their history of helping others, Brady Homes was an easy choice for us,” says Diane Korman, senior producer, “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.”

“Your greatness is defined by your service”

The father of the family, Nathan Montgomery, gave up a lucrative engineering career to launch Salt and Light, a charity that feeds hundreds of hungry families each week in his community.

Foregoing his comfortable salary as an engineer meant there was little left over for his own family’s needs. Montgomery, his wife, Jenny, and four children ages 4 to 13 were living in a house that was virtually falling down around them.

“The irony was, here is a man who’s feeding all these families—and his own family’s kitchen is barely functioning,” notes Korman.

The opportunity to help such a selfless family appealed to Brady. “Villanova taught me that we’re here to be more than just successful in business. We’re here to be successful and share our blessings,” he says.

Brady says not only did he acquire finance and marketing knowledge that give him an advantage over his competitors, but learned to think outside the box and plan strategically. “I also learned about business ethics—that we can all be successful without having to twist or cheat the system.”

Brady was a student athlete at Villanova, and his jersey is displayed on Villanova’s Football Wall of Fame. He earned first team All-East honors and, as team captain in 1989, led the Wildcats to the NCAA playoffs. He also acquired a desire to serve others.

“I will never forget Coach Andy Talley and our trips to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and seeing the kids’ eyes light up when we entered the room,” he recalls. “When ‘Coach T’ lost a dear friend to bone marrow cancer, he initiated a bone marrow donor program for athletes.

They were all wonderful examples of giving back.”

Another highlight of his Villanova years was meeting his wife, Lynda Seiler Brady ’90 VSB. Both forged a strong friendship with the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D., Villanova
president, and then a professor in the theatre department.

The couple traveled to Villanova to participate with Father Donohue in his inaugural St. Thomas of Villanova Day of Service in 2006. “Father Peter and his whole mission of service has been such a part of everything we’ve done,” Lynda Brady says.

“Martin Luther King said that your greatness is defined by your service,” notes Korman. “The Bradys didn’t decide to give back to the community just because a TV show was coming to town. They’ve been doing it for decades.”

**“Extreme” transformation**

The Montgomery family’s roof was falling apart, much of the siding was gone and the foundation was crumbling—but they could not afford repairs. They feared they would have to move out of their home for safety reasons, and not be able to continue with Salt and Light.

Brady Homes stepped in, taking on endless tasks in preparation for the construction. Brady obtained material donations from industry trade partners and vendors. “We put feelers out, and were overwhelmed by their support,” he says. “For us, this show is impossible without the builders who step up, who take on this crazy task of building a house in a week,” says Korman. “They waive their fees, they shut down their businesses for a month, and they do it with a smile on their faces.”

From the time the wrecking ball hit the house to the day the furniture was moved in, the house was built within 96 hours—a task that usually takes four months. “We were working twenty-four/seven, but it was so rewarding and satisfying,” Brady remembers.

His fellow Villanovan, Terence Dalton ’89 VSB, general manager and chief operating officer of Ian’s Natural Foods, was eager to help, and provided thousands of snacks to the volunteers.

The Bradys were so inspired that they decided on their own volition to remodel Salt and Light, Nathan Montgomery’s community food bank. They also held a food drive and raised $50,000 to replenish its resources. Lynda Brady and the six Brady children, ages 7 to 15, helped with that project. “The kids were too young to help with the construction, so they were thrilled to help with the food bank,” Lynda says.

Brady says he’ll never forget the looks on the Montgomery family’s faces when they first laid eyes on their new home. “It was a very uplifting experience, a huge morale booster not just among our own staff but within our industry. As I told our trade partners and vendors, it was an opportunity to be Superman, Santa Claus and Walt Disney all in one.”
Villanova students knew that traveling to Kenya would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. They didn’t realize that it would be a life-changing experience—their lives and the lives of those they set out to help.

“Traveling to Kenya allowed me to interact with a culture that was completely different from anything I have ever known,” says Thomas Meehan ’10 VSB. “The opportunity to work with villagers to come up with solutions to their everyday problems of a lack of food, water and education was an eye-opening experience.”

Meehan was one of a number of students and faculty from the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and the Business Without Borders (BWB) clubs who traveled to Kenya in March and August to help design a water system in one community and a self-supporting business plan.

In a remote village of Kenya, Villanova Engineering and Business students, including Abby Buskas, pictured left, shared their skills to help improve the quality of life for villagers.
“The challenges of traveling to Kenya and interacting with the Masai tribe helped me to realize the importance of being open to other perspectives and ideas rather than being closed off when engaging in this kind of activity,” adds Meehan, who is a member of Business Without Borders and Vice President of International Projects. “Overall, it was an extraordinary experience and I can’t wait to go back.”

“All our projects provide a wonderful opportunity from a service-learning perspective,” says Bridget Wadzuk, Ph.D. CE ’00, an assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the faculty advisor to EWB, “but the Kenyan experience required students to think creatively about a number of technical and economic factors.”

“Everything is student-driven,” says Wadzuk. “Students make all the contacts, abroad or domestic, as well as fundraising and supplying out-of-pocket expenses. I advise and provide technical guidance,” says Wadzuk.

According to Jordan Ermilio BME ’98, MSWREE ’06, special projects coordinator, College of Engineering, who has served as the professional advisor to the EWB chapter since its founding by Joe Detzel ME ’04, these trips show students how a project should be implemented in a developing country. “They give students the skills needed to identify, coordinate and implement EWB projects while keeping issues of sustainability in the forefront.”

In March students and advisers from EWB traveled to Kenya to work with the Masai tribe to help implement a water-control system dealing with a large wetland which offered no elevation. “Kenya is technically very different from other places since most water systems are gravity-centered,” said Wadzuk.

In August students and professors from Business Without Borders visited Mesha-nani, a rural village along the Kenya-Tanzania border that does not currently have a local water source or electricity. Because these communities lack developed water resources, the women and children spend 10 to 12 hours every other day fetching water from distant sources.

The engineering team’s work involved surveying the area, collecting data and interviewing the people—who spoke English for the most part—to learn of their needs and concerns.

The on-site team identified two potential sites, and with the help of three students who did not make the trip, came up with several alternative designs. The project managers will present these to Water Is Life—Kenya (WILK), the chapter’s NGO partner in that country.

While the engineering students studied the area to design an effective financially feasible water system, the business students focused on helping the 1,000 villagers devise ways to support themselves.

“We wanted to develop a relationship with the villagers,” says senior Abigail Butkus, who is Co-President of Business Without Borders. She explained that this is the first time Villanova business students participated in such a trip. “The villagers were so receptive that we accomplished more than we expected.”

According to Butkus, the Masai people herd livestock, sell jewelry to tourists and run a cultural village to support them. Raising livestock is their main business. Years ago they were removed from their native land by the Kenyan government to create Amboseli National Park.

Part of their agreement to relocate came with a promise from the government to install a water source and a portion of revenues from the park. They never did receive any of the proceeds from the park. The Kenyan government did install a water system, but it fell into disrepair and the village has been without a water source for a number of years.

“Through extensive interviewing of the villagers, we learned about their personal economic situations and priorities,” says Meehan. “We found that educating children is a priority and any extra money goes towards that goal.

“The villagers realized that even though there are jobs available at the various lodges throughout the Amboseli National Park, many people of their tribe lack the necessary skills to be hired,” says Meehan.

He explained that the villagers want to build a curio shop to sell their jewelry, but many of the people had never been in a real store before.

“We took 12 villagers on a field trip to two of the five-star lodges in the area to see hotel gift shops,” says Meehan. “This gave them ideas for setup and design as well as a general idea of pricing points.”

Although students become involved in these projects to help other people, ultimately the students themselves gain a great deal.

“We are not only getting a chance to use our classroom learning in a practical way, the entire experience enriches our lives professionally and spiritually,” says Butkus.

“Traveling to Kenya as part of the assessment team for our water project brought me out of the confines of textbook engineering problems and into a community with real challenges and needs,” says J.P. Gunn ’10, co-president of EWB.

“EWB has shown me the value and necessity of integrating community partners with sustainable design to change people’s lives, which has in turn changed my own,” adds Gunn.

“The most important aspect of the EWB program at Villanova is the partnership approach that we employ for all of our projects,” says Jordan Ermilio.

“This entails establishing good relationships with local organizations in various countries such as: Water is Life in Kenya, SITMo in the Philippines and Water for Waslala in Nicaragua,” says Ermilio.

“All of these project partners have well-established programs within their respective project areas, which means that our students can get directly involved with assisting communities in need while having a real impact in these areas as well,” concludes Ermilio.
The Parents Program has played a vital role in the educational experience of Villanova students for the past seven years. The program was formed at the urging of William F. Finneran ’63, VSB who at that time was a board member and vice chairman of Transforming Minds and Hearts: The Campaign for Villanova. Mr. Finneran understood that many parents, increasingly impressed with their sons’ and daughters’ Villanova experiences, would welcome the opportunity to support the University’s efforts through their time and financial contributions.

Since then, Villanova has held more than 50 parent-specific events across the country and engaged more than 2,500 parents. Parents in the program have helped open the doors to other parents by increasing parent attendance at Alumni Association events, distributing Villanova magazine to parents, creating the welcome phone call program for parents of freshmen, providing additional internship opportunities to Villanova students, introducing Villanova to secondary school guidance counselors across the country and securing new levels of philanthropic support.

In the years since the program’s launch, 44 parents have made gifts of $100,000 or more to the University, securing a total of more than $20 million in parent donations.

“Our new Parent Ambassadors will serve as a network of volunteers across the country. They will assist the University in simple ways that can make a big difference.”

— Patricia H. Imbesi, University Trustee, chair of Parents’ Executive Committee and sponsor of One Book Villanova

“The move-in day barbecues have been consistently well-received by Villanova parents and provide families a way to become acquainted with one another. It’s very important that Villanova continues to build a strong community and that we welcome all new students and their parents to participate in that community,” says Rev. John P. Stack, O.S.A., vice president for Student Life.
Committee members who attended their first meeting this fall are:

Michele Dearborn, Dubai (Gregory ’12 Engineering). Michele and her husband John are the committee’s first international members; Susan and David Gilbert, Connecticut (Lindsay ’12 A&S); Caren Hendren, Florida (John ’12 VSB); Lyn and Donald Kurz, Pennsylvania (DJ ’11 A&S and Jillian ’08 A&S); Elaine and David Nord, Connecticut (Garison ’12 VSB and Erika ’10 VSB); Sharon and Charles Shaver, Texas (Ryan ’12 A&S and Nicholas ’09 VSB); Cindy and James Thompson, Massachusetts (Mark ’12 VSB).

New members not pictured are: Donald Dinallo, New Jersey (Christopher ’11 A&S) and Marilyn and Michael Durham, Texas (Elizabeth ’12 A&S).

The Parents Executive Committee, chaired by Patti Imbesi of the Board of Trustees, meets twice annually to discuss issues of interest to parents and provide feedback to the administration. Members of the Parents Executive Committee include Villanova in their philanthropy at significant levels and share their skills and expertise to help forward University priorities.

Parent Ambassadors expand program

Because of the achievements and growth of the Parents Program, the Office of University Advancement formed the Villanova Parent Ambassadors to add opportunities for parent involvement. An extension of the Parents Executive Committee, this new parent group will assist with existing parent volunteer initiatives designed to foster a greater sense of community between the University and parents. Villanova Parent Ambassadors serve as well-informed representatives for the University. They share their time and provide financial support with an annual gift of $2,500 or more to the University. The group held its first annual meeting this past Parents Weekend, where members heard from an array of presenters including Ken Valosky, vice president for Administration and Finance, Jack Johannes, Ph.D., vice president for Academic Affairs, Steve Merritt, dean of Enrollment Management and Nancy Dudak, director of Career Services. This new initiative serves as a continuous and proactive effort to ensure that resources are in place to provide a valuable college experience for all Villanova students.

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On Friday October 23, at the start of Villanova’s 2009 Homecoming weekend, President Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., welcomed more than 300 members of the President’s Club to a reception in the Villanova Room at the Connelly Center on main campus. The annual event is an opportunity for the University and Father Donohue to personally thank donors for their exceptional gifts to the Villanova Annual Fund. These gifts support the University’s greatest needs such as faculty and academic programs, meaningful student life activities, increased financial assistance and capital projects, ensuring that Villanova students receive the highest quality education, complete with Augustinian values, that thoroughly prepares them for successful careers and rewarding lives. These alumni, parents and friends who contribute an annual gift of $2,500 or more, demonstrate a desire and willingness to participate in charting the future of Villanova, providing today’s Villanova students with expanded educational opportunities and setting an important example for all members of the University community.

1. President Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S, host of the annual President’s Club event, addressed the more than three hundred President’s Club members in attendance. Father Donohue thanked the University’s most generous supporters, expressed the significance of their recurring support and reported on the soon-to-be-finalized Strategic Plan.

2. Catherine C. Makoid ’81 A&S and Bonnie E. Spugnardi congratulate the evening’s special student speaker, Amanda Slattery ’10 A&S, an Honors and Communication major from Los Angeles, CA.

3. Kathryn N. and Paul J. Olsen ’69 A&S with Michele A. Stafiniak ’89 VSB.

4. Roselynn and Nicholas A. Calio ’65 ENG contribute to the University and specifically support the innovative academic programming of the College of Engineering.

5. Villanova Parents of Caroline ’13 A&S, Kelli and David W. Chitty ’83 VSB.
6. Michael J. O’Neill, Vice President for University Advancement, kicks off the reception as the emcee for the evening.


9. Rose O'Driscoll, MSN, RN, Assistant Dean for Administration, College of Nursing, J. Patrick Lupton, M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D., R.N., F.A.A.N, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor, College of Nursing; Therese M. Lupton, Carol T. Weingarten Ph.D., associate professor, College of Nursing and Michael S. Weingarten, Ph.D. ’95 VSB.

10. Jim Meehan ’71 VSB and wife Jean ’86 A&S meet with their good friends Karen and Richard Nocella ’73, ’77 A&S.


13. Rev. Kail C. Ellis, O.S.A., Ph.D., Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences greets Horace L. Kephart during the President’s Club reception.

14. Anthony Dellomo ’65 VSB, a member of the VSB Center for Global Leadership Advisory Council, and his wife Patricia.
There’s No Place Like Home —

Except Villanova

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FINDS HIS CALLING AT VILLANOVA

BY BETTY RUSSELL
Panama native Fernando Guardia ‘10 VSB is just now starting to understand the magnitude of the gift his parents gave him—a gift that brought him to Villanova University.

Guardia had planned to become a lawyer. In Panama, students can enroll in law school without an undergraduate degree. But his parents had a different vision for their son. They attended college in the United States and wanted their son to have the same positive experience. Guardia took his parent’s advice and visited several campuses.

“I chose Villanova University because it seemed like a warm, caring community and that’s exactly what it is,” he says. “Coming here was the best decision I ever made in my life.”

An enriching education

Guardia is graduating this year with a bachelor of science in Business Administration with a major in finance and a minor in real estate. A strong student, Guardia says growing intellectually and preparing for his future career were top priorities.

At Villanova, he learned business theories and practices, leadership skills, how to work as part of a team and effective ways to solve problems in the workplace. His undergraduate education took him beyond the classrooms at Villanova. He studied abroad at the University of Melbourne in Australia during the spring semester of his sophomore year, and he completed an internship in New York City last summer at Credit Suisse, an international financial services corporation in New Jersey. The volunteers planted a rooftop garden that will provide fresh produce for the community, tore down part of a fire-damaged house, worked on a mosaic mural and cleaned St. Bartholomew Church, which is a sister parish to Heart of Camden.

A lasting influence

Guardia came to Villanova to become a member of a close-knit community that helps students develop academically, emotionally, spiritually, culturally and socially. Not only did he grow personally, he also was instrumental in continuing that spirit and shaping the lives of other students and members of the community.

“Fernando is an incredible young man who exemplifies the strength of character and determination that we strive to model here at Villanova University,” says Kristina Ruiz-Mesa, assistant director of the Center for Multicultural Affairs and adjunct professor of Communication. “Whether tutoring children in Philadelphia, or giving a presentation in his VSB classes, Fernando is a natural leader with a thoughtful presence, remarkable work ethic and a healthy sense of humor. These qualities, paired with a desire to succeed in all he does, made Fernando a valuable asset to the student body and the entire Villanova community.”

A bright future ahead

Guardia wants to work in the United States and travel abroad before returning to Panama to raise a family. He’s taken steps to make his dreams a reality. At a time when jobs are scarce, Guardia already knows where he’ll be working when he graduates. He made such a positive impression during his internship at Credit Suisse that executives there have offered him a permanent position.

His parents’ encouragement years ago did more than start Guardia on the road to a successful business career. Guardia says the time he spent at Villanova gave him a broad education, confidence, friendships and memories—gifts that will last a lifetime.
Making a Difference, West to East

Portland firm expands to Philadelphia and sets up a scholarship program with Villanova

By Thomas W. Durso

PCC Scholarship recipient Megan Green.
About 10 years ago, when firms around Portland, Ore., were shuttling considerable charitable dollars to arts organizations, officials at Precision Castparts Corporation (PCC) had a different thought. Sure, the arts were worth supporting, but PCC had its eye on longer-term philanthropy.

“We wanted to make a difference in a child’s life,” says Chuck Zwick, PCC’s corporate director of leadership programs.

Duly inspired, the company launched a scholarship initiative that proved so successful out West that when PCC acquired a manufacturer in the Philadelphia suburbs, it replicated that effort on the East Coast. Because a senior leader at the firm is a Villanova alumnus, the expanded program includes a significant Villanova University component. The alumnus has chosen to remain anonymous, but his efforts are making quite an impact.

The Portland program identifies at-risk kids from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and pays for them to attend La Salle Catholic College Preparatory School in nearby Milwaukie. PCC welcomes about four new freshmen a year, so at any one time it is supporting around 16 to 18 students enrolled at La Salle. A half-dozen years ago, the firm supplemented the program by providing scholarships to some of those students to attend the University of Oregon.

When PCC purchased SPS Technologies of Jenkintown, Pa., Zwick was dispatched to Philadelphia to set up a similar charitable endeavor here. PCC soon began supporting students at Cardinal Dougherty High School whose grades were good, whose service commitments were strong, and whose financial needs were pressing. (The Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s recently announced decision to close Dougherty will cause PCC to shift its program to a different school, Zwick says.) From among that group, the company is offering to one deserving student per class full tuition support at Villanova plus a summer internship with SPS.

Freshman Megan Green, who intends to major in communications, is the first Dougherty student to earn a PCC scholarship. Megan Green ‘13 (third from left), as a high school senior, after being awarded a PCC scholarship to attend Villanova University.

“It will definitely help me to finish school debt-free,” Green says of her PCC scholarship. “And completing the internship in the summer exposed me to different fields. Having the hands-on experience helped me think about my career choices.”

“New directions, but think about my career choices.”

It wasn’t only the internship that pointed Green in new directions, but also her interactions with the helpful and knowledgeable PCC staff. Such interactions are purposeful, according to Zwick.

“We don’t just give money,” he says. “We’re involved. These students need to come back and see us every term to show us their grades and their own community service. We mentor them and coach them through situations.”

In addition to funding scholarships, PCC this fall began supporting Villanova’s Center for Multicultural Affairs in its effort to retain students. The Center is using PCC’s gift to bring counseling, tutoring and advising services to freshmen and sophomores whose academic standing puts them at risk.

“We recruit, we retain, we graduate happy,” says Teresa A. Nance, Ph.D., assistant vice president for Multicultural Affairs. “Not happy ‘ha-ha,’ but happy able to enjoy all that makes for the Villanova experience. What these funds will do is help us provide that ‘happy’ experience.

“Having the relationship we have with PCC, because they are not an anonymous donor to us, is terrific,” Nance adds. “We know who they are and how much they are involved. There’s a sense that they are concerned and care about what we do and how we’re doing it. It’s wonderful to have that kind of recognition and support for the program we’re doing.”

Green can attest to that level of involvement. After winning the PCC scholarship, she had a chance to meet the company official who launched the program. Afterward she wrote him a thank-you note—and was surprised to get a return letter.

“With him being so busy with a multi-million-dollar company, I didn’t think he’d write me back, but he did,” Green says. “It showed me that the key is making time. He’s a busy man, but he still made time because he cares about helping people. That was remarkable to me. It was handwritten and everything—it was legit. I was surprised. He was so nice; he told me, if you need anything, don’t hesitate to ask.”

The understanding that PCC staff have shown Green—especially their recognition that the transition to college, especially at an elite institution such as Villanova, can be difficult—has inspired her.

“It makes you want to go even far and beyond what they expect of you,” she says.

The enthusiasm shown by Green well reflects the desire that Precision Castparts hopes to spark in the students it supports. The growth in PCC’s educational support is a testament to the emphasis the firm places on improving young peoples’ lives.

“It’s important to the company,” Zwick says. “Our business model involves working with the community and tag-teaming with different high schools, the Boys & Girls Club, and other agencies. What we want to really do is help these kids become successful.”
Law School Dedicates New Building

Features “green” certification, twice the space and student-centered areas

On September 13, 1953, 63 men and 3 women who made up Villanova Law School’s first class began their studies in a cluster of rooms in old Falvey Library. Half a century later, 136 men and 119 women joined 480 returning students in a state-of-the-art building that boasts 175,000 square feet of space including 15 classrooms and 48,000 square feet of library space. “We’ve come a long way,” say Acting Dean and Professor of Law Doris DelTosto Brogan.

By Maureen McDonald
The new building opened its doors in July 2009, providing almost twice as much usable space. Its design meets the specific needs of legal education.

A soaring commons anchors the main floor and provides a public area and casual seating for students, faculty and staff. Bright, comfortable classrooms are tailored to the size and nature of the classes being taught and are equipped with state-of-the-art technology. The Martin G. McGuinn Ceremonial Courtroom provides an inspiring venue for trial and advocacy events.

The building’s hallmark is its student-centeredness. The most comfortable and spacious places are the student areas. For example, the Dougherty and Dowd library reading rooms are elegantly appointed, comfortably equipped and bathed in natural light by three floor-to-ceiling window walls. The Constance and David Girardi-Carlo student lounge overlooks the landscaped quad on the first floor, again boasting floor to ceiling windows. The Blank Rome Dining Room, a full-service cafeteria, and the Duane Morris reading room and coffee bar emphasize our commitment to the importance of quality of life for students who are working long hours. Numerous group study/break out rooms are located throughout the building.

Faculty offices are centered in one wing on two floors. This wing connects directly to the main classroom areas on both floors, creating a direct pathway from classrooms to offices, embodying Villanova’s ethic of an open available teaching faculty. Clinic faculty offices are near the clinic workspace on the first floor still within the faculty core, but readily accessible to students.

The clinic’s model law office occupies space on the main floor. It includes student work areas, storage, state-of-the-art case management technology and private client interview rooms.

The Library occupies almost an entire wing and anchors one of the main entrances. Comfortable, and equipped with the latest technology, the library’s open spaces, glass walls and high ceilings draw users.

All constituencies within the law school participated in discussions of the best interior design for our needs. Members of the staff, administration, faculty and students discussed where the Law School’s various functions should be located.

The completed building reflects comprehensive planning of everything from the number and type of classrooms to the location of offices and copy rooms to the number and location of outlets and data ports. A hard-working committee scrutinized drawings and blueprints too numerous to count, guided by the building experts in the University’s facilities department.

“Our architectural team from Smith-Group guided our discussions, listened to what we had to say and designed a building that allows us to deliver a twenty-first century legal education in a 21st century facility,” says law professor Anne Poulin, co-chair of the Law School building committee.

From the earliest concept stages, the Law School and University administration decided to pursue and obtain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the new building, reflecting an institutional commitment to the environment.

LEED is a rating program developed by the US Green Building Council (USGBC). It provides an objective assessment of how green a building is, considering all the environmental aspects of both construction and long-term operation of the building. USGBC is a national, non-profit organization whose purpose is to integrate, lead and educate the building industry and the economic and health-related advantages associated with environmentally responsible building. “We won’t know our LEEDS certification until spring,” says William James, associate dean for Administration and Information Services, “but we’re confident we’ll achieve at least Silver certification.”

Dedication ceremonies October 5 celebrated the extraordinary teamwork that produced exciting results. The Law School faculty, led by the Reverend Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., president of Villanova University, processed from Garey Hall to the new building, bringing with them symbolic items representing the law school’s rich traditions. They carried among other artifacts: the letter from the Pennsylvania Bar Examiners provisionally approving the Law School; the first edition of the Villanova Law Review; a photograph of the first class; a copy of Blackstone’s Commentaries that was shelved in the original library; the 2009 Public Interest Auction� the 2009 Public Interest Auction program and the football used in the annual Moot Court vs. Law Review game.

“We wanted to find a way to honor our time in Garey Hall, which served us well for so many years and where more than 9,000 men and women became Villanova lawyers,” explains Acting Dean Brogan.

Speaking to more than 800 gathered in front of the new building, Father Donohue; Acting Dean Brogan; Herbert F. Aspbury, chair, Villanova University Board of Trustees; and Joseph V. DelRaso ‘83, chair, Villanova University School of Law Board of Consultants welcomed guests and delivered dedication remarks. Edward G. Rendell ’68 Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, sent congratulations which were read by Father Donohue.

The Very Reverend Donald Francis Reilly, O.S.A., Prior Provincial, Order of St. Augustine, Eastern Province, led the rite of dedication and blessing accompanied by representatives of the Law school faculty, staff, students and alumni.

A reception and tours of the building following the ceremony provided the community with the opportunity to admire and enjoy the new spaces.
Fifteen Students,
Fifteen Weeks,
and the Documentary Film that Defied the Odds

BY COLLEEN LYNN CURLEY G.S. ’97
It’s January 2009—the start of the spring semester at Villanova University—and 15 students claiming an assortment of majors have gathered together for the first session of a new, six-credit course titled Social Justice Documentary Video, the idea for which had long been brewing in the mind of Stephen McWilliams, the University’s director of International/Human Services who teaches a few classes each semester. For years, he had been discussing with John O’Leary, Ph.D., assistant professor and internship coordinator in Villanova’s Communication department, the idea of a collaboration between the communications department and other areas of the University dedicated to social justice issues, interweaving already overlapping missions to create a course centered on the making of a documentary film portraying positive social change in the Philadelphia area.

A self-described activist with a background in theater, McWilliams was an ideal candidate to co-teach such a course along with the equally-suited O’Leary, who also serves as the director of Villanova’s Cultural Film Series. But they would need one more able body—one who could impart to students the technical aspects and art of filmmaking and direct the video.

Enter Dan Hunt, a long-time friend and collaborator of O’Leary’s and McWilliams’s, who would add to his resume of TV, motion picture and independent film work the title of ‘adjunct professor.’ If Hunt, as he says, didn’t know what he was getting himself into, that goes double for the 15 students he would greet on that first day of class with a grand challenge: to make a film that could win film festivals—even an Academy Award. “We were stunned,” says junior Lebanon, PA, native Margaux LaPointe, who served as “co-director” on the project. Stunned indeed—even scared, enough to consider dropping the course. As Selina Santiago of Bronx, NY, and one of several in the group with no prior film experience, explains, “I didn’t want to become ‘dead weight’ and slow the project down, but Dan reassured me that I could do it.” And he was right: Santiago excelled in learning and executing her main area, sound, with help from Hunt and Oakmont native Christopher Wright, ’09 E.E., a current Villanova graduate student who teamed with fellow engineering major and musical hobbyist Shea Quinn ’09 E.E. now employed...
by Lockheed Martin, to compose the film’s original theme song and score in only two weeks, and who treated Santiago to a sound system crash course.

“I wouldn’t have been able to do it without him,” she says, thankful that she didn’t abandon the seeming “answer to her prayers”—this unprecedented opportunity to explore her dual interest in film and service learning, or, more accurately, to harness the power of film “as a different and creative way to reach out to a society that has grown numb to its problems and make change happen.”

Indeed, the remarkable commitment and determination these students displayed as aspiring filmmakers was fueled by this opportunity and anchored by their common interest in social justice—which is, according to Wright, “what held the class together” despite the tremendous amount of work involved. Says O’Leary “we had seen in many students a passion for social justice, but, prior to this course, there was no mechanism—nothing organized for them to work as a team and pool their talents in pursuit of a major goal”—a goal, adds McWilliams, that would require “immersing students deeply in a real social problem and challenging them to raise awareness and document solutions”—in this case, using the far-reaching audio/visual tool of documentary film.

Today, the three co-teachers gratefully acknowledge Communication department Chair and Associate Professor Bryan Crable, Ph.D., and Center for Peace and Justice Education Director William Werpehowski, Ph.D., as well as University President Rev. Peter M. Donahue O.S.A.’75 A&S, and Rev. Kail C. Ellis, O.S.A., Ph.D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, for their support in making the Social Justice Documentary Video course a reality, for allowing its inaugural group of 15 students to create the triumphant Price of Life, a three-act chronicle of one South Philadelphia man’s transformation from ex-convict to community role model—a story so compelling, so well portrayed that it met Hunt’s challenge, making the list of the top 20 films under consideration for an Oscar nomination in the ‘Documentary – Short Subject’ category.

“It didn’t hit home that Dan was serious about that until the first shoot,” says LaPointe, adding that despite the great honor of being counted among the potential nominees, to win awards—Academy or otherwise—“is not why we made the film.” As incredible a learning experience as it was for members of the Price of Life team to travel to and tour in Los Angeles, CA; to hand-deliver the 25-page Oscar application and inhabit a trailer side-by-side with those of major motion pictures; to attend every screening of the student-made documentary’s week-long Hollywood premiere—all of that remains a relatively minor detail in this major, life-altering story.

Call to Action

When Steve McWilliams was devising the course concept and searching for “those great people laboring quietly, unselfishly to make a better world,” a chance conversation piqued his interest in the over-incarceration of African American males and its devastating effect on the family. Refining his search to “leadership in the African American community addressing the needs of ex-offenders and their families,” he unearthed online the National Comprehensive Center for Fathers (NCCF), an organization founded in 1999 to provide underprivileged Philadelphia men with the education, counseling, peer mentoring and employment assistance they need to successfully reenter society and reunify their families.

Beginning of a Beautiful Friendship

The first time McWilliams, O’Leary and Hunt visited NCCF to meet Executive Director Kofi Asante and his staff and discuss working with them on the documentary project, the group questioned, understandably, how 15 students at a suburban university could accurately portray the stories of men from impoverished Philadelphia neighborhoods they likely know only from negative media coverage. However, the leadership of
NCCF would quickly recognize the pure intentions of this compassionate Villanova team when they produced a short promotional documentary to benefit NCCF (a second course requirement) and in a longer documentary designed to help those caught in the city’s pervasive crime and drug-ridden culture and to prevent its youngsters, especially those without the guidance of a father figure, from falling prey to its false glamour.

It was an offer that brought Asante to the class’s second meeting for a discussion of NCCF and its clients, including a now reformed 38-year-old man named Robert Ali Childs. After visiting the center and interviewing him themselves, the students knew they needed to make Childs and his story the main focus of their film—a decision that was affirmed as the cameras began rolling and Childs began sharing the disheartening details of his past—his witness, as a child, to the drug, alcohol and spousal abuse perpetrated by his father; his favorite high school teacher who accepted the $100 Childs jokingly offered him for a passing grade; his inevitable slide into substance abuse, drug trafficking, gun violence and crime. Childs was hesitant at first, clearly questioning the students’ motives and sincerity, but began opening up when Hunt reminded him of how many people would be helped by his story. It was, says Childs, the ability to “save even one life”—and, just as significantly, the non-judgmental interaction with the students—that compelled him to “put it all on the line,” speak from the heart, and unearth memories which were often terribly painful to recount, even for this “natural born storyteller,” as LaPointe refers to him.

It was LaPointe, recalls Hunt, who, as an apprentice director, would immediately cut filming and take a walk with Childs, helping him to recover emotionally from a particularly tough sequence, her empathy fueling his desire to resume the shoot. Indeed, the collective, intrinsic sensitivity displayed by the student team engendered a level of trust that ushered forth not only Robert’s courageous outpouring but those of his peers at the Center, several of whom appear in the film they would later describe as one “made with integrity.”

Distinct from other, more traditional community service projects, notes Santiago, “we had to prove ourselves to the people we were seeking to help…We had to humble ourselves and really, objectively listen.” The extent to which they succeeded in doing so was summarized by the men’s reaction to the film; by Asante, who lauded the “phenomenal cross cultural experience” and barrier-breaking communication throughout the project; and by Childs himself, during a post-screening ‘Q&A’ session in Los Angeles, when he candidly stated: “These students became nurses to my soul.”

Coming Together

Just as one-on-one relationships between the students and the men of NCCF grew during film shoots, so too did the students’ relationships with each other, as they attended each three-hour class and worked daily in their off-campus editing studio—formerly Hunt’s dining room—that they filled with his
equipment after realizing they couldn’t very well overtake the University’s editing lab to distill 40 hours of footage into a 40 minute film.

“We set it up just like a production company,” says Hunt, “with each student assigned to a particular job”—screenwriting, camera operation, lighting, etc.—but with much cross-collaboration and pitching of ideas to the co-directors. And there was no shortage of ideas; from storyboarding to screenwriting to editing, these amateur filmmakers “really took ownership of the project,” affirms O’Leary, who says one of his proudest moments as an educator occurred as the students debated the film’s title. “It’s a really special moment,” he attests, “when you see that kind of passion.” And it remained aflame around the clock—well past midnight, as students huddled around the edit desk; in Wright’s basement, where he and Quinn reviewed scenes, striving to capture the mood each evoked playing keyboard, bass, guitar, and even beat-boxing; on early mornings when Wright would arrive at the School of the Future to teach band students a score he arranged for them to play in its auditorium at the October 15 Price of Life screening—the first of many to follow throughout the Philadelphia School District, where the men of NCCF hope to speak with students about the film as Wright did with the young band members—who, as a result, “really understood the issues presented in Price of Life and the meaning of the music,” he affirms.

The music is, indeed a strikingly powerful element that directs the emotional experience of the film, one whose every screening has brought audiences to tears. Unsettling minor chords, humming and vocals amplify the effect of off-beat camera angles and underscore the words of Childs; his mother, Barbara Boyd; and Childs’s NCCF mentor, Muhammad Shakur, while deliberately punctuating the interspersion of chilling statistics which place Childs’s story into a broader context, and define his plight as far from unique. The score’s first change from minor to major key follows Childs’s epiphany—sparked by his best friend’s death—when he finally comprehends the preciousness of life. “This was a turning point for him,” says LaPointe, “and what led him to NCCF,” the place, as Childs affirms in the film, that not only saved his life, but also offered him a platform to begin a new one.

Heightened by uplifting major chords, the final act spotlights Childs’s enthusiastic tour of NCCF, where he now works as an outreach specialist after graduating from the program as valedictorian, literally rescuing men who are in the dire straits from which he rose. These are the people whom the students define as their “target audience”—the people who believe the “lie” they are told as boys—outwardly or implicitly—that if they can’t make it as an athlete or an entertainer, they have to sell drugs to be successful,” explains Santiago, who laments a point made in the film: that many ex-convicts revert to their life of crime because no one will give them a chance. Price of Life speaks to them directly, showing them that there is another option—that it is possible to change. It also implores everyone else to relinquish preconceived notions or blame, to scrutinize their collective consciences and believe in that possibility, too.

The students can make this request of their audience because they have developed that very sensibility—that intellectual accountability—that Hunt—so much so that some of the students have decided to make this sort of documentary filmmaking their life’s work, replicating what they were able to do with Child’s story, that is, says McWilliams, “to give people some hope.” They recognize the truth in the words of His Excellency, Pope Benedict XVI: “The one who has hope lives differently.” Whether the helpers or the helped, in the struggle toward change, Price of Life testifies that the two can be, and often are, one and the same.
Alumni Making Movies

Over the years, Villanovans from film maker Hezekiah L. Lewis to actress Maria Bello have been no strangers to Hollywood, now two other alumni try their hands at the silver screen.

Where There’s a Will, There’s a Way (To Make a Film)

It didn’t take Tom Balsamides ’87 VSB, long to find work after graduation, accepting a position in the chemical industry’s personal care and cosmetics segment, and rising to vice president of sales for the same company where his career began. But all the while, his lifelong interest in film tugged at his heart and his sleeve, leading him into acting stints on shows including Law & Order and Third Watch and in multiple independent films.

Finding it increasingly difficult to “burn the candle on both ends” in his challenging sales executive by day, actor by night role—not to mention his responsibilities at home (he and his wife, Tamara, an artist, have been married for 14 years and are the parents of Anya, 12, and Molly, 9)—Balsamides, who simultaneously had been studying the art of directing and producing, lifted the curtain on a new, part-time filmmaking career.

Now on a self-determined schedule, he could offer creative advice to other producers and directors while amassing invaluable experience that would benefit him in writing his own screenplays, as well as in casting, shooting, and editing his films.

He not only has completed several screenplays to date, but also has formed his own company, IndieFilms LLC, complete with a website of the same name. There, in addition to video shorts, photos, etc., is a page archiving Balsamides’s podcasts. As a typical Villanovan with an intrinsic desire to help others, he uses this unique medium of online communication—a sort of audio blog—to share his insights and advice with practicing and aspiring filmmakers on everything from scriptwriting and storyboarding to budgeting a movie and even resisting procrastination.

Balsamides has had to put his podcasting on hold recently, though, as he is in the throes of producing his latest feature film, Hunting Season, to be released in 2010. His last film, a 15-minute short titled Early Release, was accepted into the prestigious New York International Film and Video Festival, among others, and, out of hundreds of entries, captured the NYI award for ‘Best Psychological Thriller.’

Betraying not an ounce of weariness, Balsamides describes his good fortune in having found a way to pursue his passion (mostly at night and on weekends), and cheerfully offers perhaps his finest piece of advice: “I believe in life if you find something you love, you can find a way to make it work.”

Turning Green on the Big Screen

Like the Price of Life team, John G. Hofmann ’90 VSB, and Michael Aimette ’90 VSB, know well the challenge of shooting a film under a serious time constraint. Their independently produced, dark comedy Turning Green, which opened in November in Los Angeles, New York and Chicago, was shot in 21 days over the summer of 2004, on location in Ireland and New York City.

“You figure things out as you go along,” says Hofmann. “It’s in the moment that you’re going to learn the most.”

Hofmann and Aimette, both fathers of a boy and girl, have been learning together since their days as Villanova roommates. After graduating as finance majors and working for the same Manhattan ad agency, they discovered that neither business nor media planning was for them. So Aimette took off for Galway, Ireland, to pen a “horribly failed novel” while amassing inspiration for the screenplay he would pen upon his return to the states. Hofmann, who had meanwhile been directing, producing, and editing for MTV and ESPN among other TV networks, rejoined his friend to embark on this mutual “true calling,” refine the script, and, as the title suggests, bring the project to life on the big screen.

That dream became a reality when producer Andrew Charas seized upon the script, calling it “one of the best we’ve ever read” and “funny as hell”—a quality that directly reflects the personalities of its two writers.

It’s not just by chance that Hofmann and Aimette’s first joint film venture centers in the Emerald Isle; both also share dual Irish-American citizenship (each with an Ireland-born grandparent) and thus an interest in the country’s culture and their own deep Irish roots. Turning Green is the result of the filmmakers’ desire to explore some of the “cultural inconsistencies” there through the eyes and experience of their likeable anti-hero, James, played by Donal Gallery, whose amazing performance—alongside cast members including Academy Award winner Timothy Hutton, Alessandro Nivola, and Colm Meaney (pictured above)—is the keystone of this Irish movie so intriguingly different from those American audiences are used to seeing.

Not surprisingly, Hofmann’s description of co-directing with a fellow Villanovan mirrors the sort of collaborative, all-inclusive process Dan Hunt and Margaux LaPointe strove to maintain in the making of Price of Life: “We had a constant open dialogue between each other,” he affirms, “and encouraged input from the crew.” It’s a remark strikingly similar to LaPointe’s on the student filmmakers’ own, ongoing dialogue: “This is how we got our best work done.”

No doubt, Hofmann and Aimette would agree.
In the hearts and minds of Villanovans, the memories of 2008–09 still burn brightly. But inside the Davis Center, where the 2009–10 Wildcats already have begun a new campaign, the page has turned. The focus is now on the day-to-day details that go into making possible a season like ’08–’09, which culminated at the NCAA Final Four in Detroit last April.

“We know,” says senior guard Scottie Reynolds, “that what we did last year doesn’t matter when we step between those lines.”

Reynolds, the man whose basket against Pitt lifted the Wildcats to the NCAA East Regional Final, is now the on-court leader of a squad that has to compensate for the graduation of four leaders from last season—Dwayne Anderson, Shane Clark, Dante Cunningham and Frank Tchusi.

“We all know that watching young men grow and move on is a natural part of the process,” states head coach Jay Wright. “You understand that these guys graduate and take the next step. But this is a harder group to say goodbye to than most. Each one of those guys grasped the meaning of leadership and selfless play. It made our jobs as coaches easier. Those guys had the respect of their teammates and they were determined to get better. So we did.”

Much of the leadership mantle now falls on the shoulders of Reynolds, who enters the new season with 1,620 career points. During the course of his career he has leaned on the veterans. Now, he is the rock around which the ‘Cats will be constructed.

Surrounding him is a core group of seasoned upperclassmen who have made substantial contributions to the Wildcats’ visits to the NCAA Sweet 16 and Final Four in the past two seasons.

Junior Corey Fisher returns after earning the Big East’s Sixth Man of the Year award. His classmate Corey Stokes finished fourth on the ’Cats in scoring last season. Junior forward Antonio Pena has made 39 career starts in his two seasons. Each will be counted on for production and guidance to their younger teammates, especially into December, when senior Reggie Redding is eligible to return to the lineup.

Six youngsters with impressive credentials bring a new dimension to the Wildcats in ’09–’10. Two—sophomore Taylor King and redshirt freshman Maurice Sutton—are holdovers, though neither appeared in a game last season. King is a former McDonald’s All-American who brings scoring and rebounding to the forward position. Sutton is a long, athletic shot-blocker who gained experience working against the frontline starters in practices.

Along with them comes one of the nation’s finest recruiting classes, led by guards Maalik Wayns (of Philadelphia’s Roman Catholic High School) and Dominic Cheek (St. Anthony’s High School) and forwards Mouphatra Yarou and Isaiah Armwood (both attended Maryland’s Montrose Christian Academy). The group includes four top 75 players and has been compared to VU’s 2002 crop of rookies that included Randy Foye, Jason Fraser, Allan Ray and Curtis Sumpter.

It all adds up to a roster that has pleased pundits.

But Wright, Reynolds and the rest understand the challenges only grow from here on out.

“We really like this group,” Wright says. “We have some older players who understand what Villanova basketball is all about and a group of newcomers with talent and a willingness to learn. It’ll be exciting to see how it all comes together.”
The scene in front of Villanova freshman Mouphtaou Yarou early on a September evening resembled a postcard. Seated in a dining room at the Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit, N.J., home of the annual men’s basketball fundraiser, the Villanova Classic, Yarou has a striking view of a sunset over the beautiful golf course.

Beside him were alumni, his teammates and friends of the program, including 1961 graduate and former basketball player, Dick Kaminski. Yarou, 6’10”, smiles often and mingles easily, though English is the newest of the languages he speaks.

“What you’re doing,” Kaminski tells Yarou, “takes a lot of courage.”

The journey from Yarou’s home in the African republic of Benin to Villanova is lengthy both in miles and perspective. Benin is a former French colony not known for producing major college basketball prospects.

“My country is a poor country,” Yarou says, “but there is no war.”

With 12 siblings, Yarou grew up speaking French and four of his country’s native dialects. His parents’ first priority was education, something that remains true today.

“Even now, when I call home my parents want to know about my classes and how I am doing in them,” he states. “We talk about my studies much more than we do about basketball.”

Athletics were no more than a diversion but Yarou’s gift for them attracted attention. At age 12, he was scouted as a soccer player by a French sports academy. Then, when he turned his attention to basketball, Yarou’s older brother Kader suggested he consider pursuing basketball and education in America. He came to the United States in the summer of 2007 with little fanfare but within the year was a coveted hoops prospect. By the end of his senior season at Montrose Christian Academy, he was viewed as one of the nation’s top big men.

He is settling into his new life. His English has steadily improved and a background in math and sciences has helped ease the academic transition. After originally contemplating a mechanical engineering major, he has begun to mull a Business degree after discussing it with Frank Tchuisi, a 2009 VSB grad and basketball player who followed a similar path from Africa (Cameroon) to Villanova. Tchuisi, who remains at Villanova as a graduate student, has offered Yarou some advice.

“You are going to go through times when you are homesick and miss your family,” Tchuisi says. “At those times, you learn to rely on your teammates, your coaches and your friends at Villanova. They become your family here. I think he appreciates that.”

“Mouph is an extremely intelligent young man,” says head coach Jay Wright, “and he has done a great job of fitting into the Villanova community in a short period of time.”
Villanova will be looking to build off the momentum of last season when the Wildcats went 19–14 overall, finished tied for fourth in the Big East Conference with a 10–6 mark and earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. To have success in 2009–10, Villanova will need to replace three of its top four scorers who accounted for 57.2 percent of the team's scoring from a year ago. The Wildcats will look to their seven returning letterwinners to lead the way this season.

Forwards
The Wildcats have the unenviable task of trying to replace two 1,000 point scorers at the forward spots as Laura Kurz and Lisa Karcic have graduated. Kurz turned in an outstanding senior season last year for Villanova. She averaged a team-best 17.4 points per game, a team-high 7.2 rebounds per contest, a team-best 45.2 percent shooting from the floor, in addition to recording a team-high 42 blocked shots. Kurz also ranked third on the team in three-point field goals with 44 and she became just the second player in program history to score 1,000 points in just two seasons. For her efforts last year, Kurz was a unanimous first team All-Big East performer.

Karcic finished her Wildcat career ranked 20th all time in scoring with 1,031 points. As a senior, she averaged 6.5 points per game and 4.9 rebounds per contest and she finished second on the team in three-point field goals made with 45. Karcic ended her college career with 190 made three-point field goals.

Villanova will look to a junior and three redshirt freshmen to fill the void at forward. Junior Amanda Swiezynski (6’0”, Exeter, N.H.) showed improvement late last season and looks ready for significant minutes this season. An intelligent player with great passing skills, Swiezynski has the ability to step outside and shoot the three-ball.

The redshirt freshmen trio of Megan Pearson (6’0”, West Chester, Pa.), Laura Sweeney (6’2”, Marlton, N.J.) and Emily Suhey (6’1”, Boalsburg, Pa.) will all be in the mix for playing time at the forward spots. Pearson is an outstanding three-point shooter who has great basketball instincts. Sweeney is a highly skilled performer who can score inside and outside, while Suhey is a tireless worker with a good feel for the game.

Guards
Villanova has the most experience at the guard position, as the Wildcats return three of their top four backcourt performers, including Maria Getty (5’9”, Centerville, Ohio), Kyle Dougherty (5’10”, Sayre, Pa.) and Tia Grant (5’11”, Lido Beach, N.Y.). All three are fifth-year seniors who bring a wealth of game experience to the Wildcats. Villanova’s top guard entering 2009–10 appears to be Getty. Last year, Getty led the team in three-point field goals made with 50 and she ranked second on the team in scoring at 8.3 points per game. She finished second on the team in assists with 65 and steals with 27.

Dougherty is a skilled player with a good passing game. She looks to be the leading candidate to earn the starting point guard spot this season. Dougherty is a very accurate mid-range jump shooter. Grant is one of the team’s best all-around athletes. Her
combination of size and quickness allows her to play the two-guard and small forward positions. Last season, she averaged 4.9 points per game and was one of the team’s top three-point shooters connecting on 33-of-82 for 40.2 percent from long range. Sophomore Sara Jones (5’9”, Philadelphia) also will be in the mix in the Wildcat backcourt rotation. Jones is a physical guard who has natural basketball instincts. She played in 25 games a season ago and should use the experience she gained to earn more minutes this year.

Villanova has three incoming freshmen who will compete for playing time in the backcourt. The three include Jesse Carey (5’10”, Chalfont, Pa.), Devon Kane (5’9”, Springfield, Pa.) and Rachel Roberts (5’9”, Marlborough, Conn.).

Center
The center position will be held by the junior tandem of Heather Scanlon (6’3”, Drexel Hill, Pa.) and Shannon Elliott (6’2”, Wilmington, Del.). Scanlon will provide the Wildcats with versatility at the center position. In addition to possessing strong post moves, Scanlon also has the ability to step outside and shoot the three-point shot. She has a very high basketball IQ. Last year she averaged 5.3 points per game and 3.5 rebounds per contest and she shot 42.3 percent from the floor.

Elliott started 24 of 32 games last year. She is an active player who always plays hard. A good rebounder, she has shooting range that extends to the three-point line.

### 2009-10 Villanova Women’s Basketball Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>December</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2009-2010 Villanova Men’s Basketball Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong> Lehigh Bethlehem, Pa. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>2 (Wednesday) DREXEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>vs. Maryland 2 7:30 p.m./Fox Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9</strong> Saint Joseph’s Villanova, Pa. 6 p.m.</td>
<td>6 (Sunday) at Saint Joseph’s+ 9:00 p.m./ESPN2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9 (Wednesday) at Temple+ CBS College Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11</strong> Binghamton Villanova, Pa. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>13 (Saturday) at Fordham 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>19</strong> Temple Philadelphia, Pa. 4 p.m.</td>
<td>19 (Saturday) at St. John’s* Noon/ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>22</strong> La Salle Philadelphia, Pa. 1 p.m.</td>
<td>23 (Tuesday) DELAWARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>28</strong> San Francisco Villanova, Pa. 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>27 (Wednesday) NOTRE DAME* (WC) 7:00 p.m./ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>29</strong> Drexel/Loyola (Md.) Villanova, Pa. 5:30/7:30</td>
<td>2009-2010 Villanova Men’s Basketball Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January</strong></td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 (Wednesday) DREXEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong> Providence Providence, R.I. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>vs. Maryland 2 7:30 p.m./Fox Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>6 (Sunday) at Saint Joseph’s+ 9:00 p.m./ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9</strong> Notre Dame South Bend, Ind. 2 p.m.</td>
<td>9 (Wednesday) at Temple+ CBS College Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12</strong> West Virginia Morgantown, W.Va. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>13 (Saturday) at Fordham 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>19 (Saturday) at St. John’s* Noon/ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16</strong> Marquette Villanova, Pa. 2 p.m.</td>
<td>23 (Tuesday) DELAWARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21</strong> George Washington Villanova, Pa. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>27 (Wednesday) NOTRE DAME* (WC) 7:00 p.m./ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>2 (Saturday) at Marquette* 3:30 p.m./ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23</strong> Connecticut Villanova, Pa. 2 p.m.</td>
<td>6 (Wednesday) DEPAUL* 7:00 p.m./ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>26</strong> Louisville Louisville, Ky. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>9 (Saturday) MARQUETTE*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>11 (Monday) at Louisville* 7:00 p.m./ESPN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>30</strong> Seton Hall Villanova, Pa. 2 p.m.</td>
<td>17 (Sunday) GEORGETOWN* (WC)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
<td>January</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BETV</strong></td>
<td>2 (Saturday) at Marquette* 3:30 p.m./ESPN2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6 (Wednesday) DEPAUL*</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9 (Saturday) MARQUETTE*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong> South Florida Tampa, Fla. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>11 (Monday) at Louisville* 7:00 p.m./ESPN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong> DePaul Chicago, Ill. 7 p.m. (CST)</td>
<td>17 (Sunday) GEORGETOWN* (WC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>20 (Wednesday) at Rutgers*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9</strong> Syracuse Villanova, Pa. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>23 (Saturday) at St. John’s* Noon/ESPN</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>20 (Wednesday) at Rutgers*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13</strong> Rutgers Villanova, Pa. 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>27 (Wednesday) NOTRE DAME* (WC) 7:00 p.m./ESPN</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>2 (Tuesday) SETON HALL*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>17</strong> Pittsburgh Villanova, Pa. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>6 (Saturday) at Georgetown* Noon/ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>8 (Saturday) at West Virginia* 7:00 p.m./ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20</strong> Cincinnati Cincinnati, Ohio 2 p.m.</td>
<td>13 (Saturday) PROVIDENCE* (WC) 7:00 p.m./ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>15 (Monday) CONNECTICUT* (WC) 7:00 p.m./ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23</strong> Georgetown Villanova, Pa. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>21 (Sunday) at Pittsburgh* Noon/CBS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CBSC</strong></td>
<td>24 (Wednesday) USF* 7:00 p.m./ESPN</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>27 (Saturday) at Syracuse* 9:00 p.m./ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. John’s</strong> Jamaica, N.Y. 2 p.m.</td>
<td>2 (Tuesday) at Cincinnati* 7:00 p.m./ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
<td>6 (Saturday) WEST VIRGINIA* (WC) 7:00 p.m./ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9-13 (Tues.-Sat.) Big East Tournament ESPN/ESPN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Providence</strong> Villanova, Pa. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>HOME GAMES IN CAPS played at The Pavilion unless otherwise noted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Providence Villanova, Pa. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>* Denotes BIG EAST Conference game</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* + Denotes Philadelphia Big Five game |

WC - Game played at Wachovia Center

1 – O’Reilly Auto Parts Puerto Rico Classic
2 – BB&T Classic, Washington, D.C.
3 – Izod Arena, East Rutherford, N.J.

Times and regional television information to be released at a later date
Students gathered in the parking garage to “sleep out” in the cold overnight to raise awareness about homelessness and hunger. Their home-made signs represent the plight of the Americans who go without food and/or shelter daily.
Leading the Fight Against Hunger

Villanova held its Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week (HHAW) the week of Nov. 15. “For me, the week was an opportunity to combine education and action,” says Margaret Shaia ’10, a student chair of HHAW. “Bread for the World and Habitat for Humanity hosted letter-writing campaigns and held food and clothing drives to support local charities,” says Shaia. “Events such as the Hunger Banquet and Faces of Homelessness Panel give students an interactive educational experience and ways to implement the fight for justice in their daily lives.”

These events are a culmination of efforts that began in 1975 by Rev. Ray Jackson, OSA, who recognized the power of education and held the first HHAW. Father Ray Jackson’s HHAW was a campus-wide event grounded in a “preferential option for the poor.”

Since then, HHAW has become the most widely organized hunger and homelessness event on campuses nationwide. Across the United States, more than 500 campuses and communities participate by organizing educational programs, fasts and sleep-outs, community service events, letter-writing campaigns and congressional call-in days. Art Simon, founder of Bread for the World, also was on campus to give an inspiring lecture.

In 2002, the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness presented Villanova with the National Build a Movement Award for its groundbreaking work. Cooperation on this event is university-wide.

“The food service contributes $6 for each meal students forgo on Fast Day to charities such as Oxfam, Catholic Social Services or Bread for the World,” says Shaia. “Students were involved in a letter-writing campaign to encourage legislators throughout the country to vote to reallocate foreign aid.”

St. Thomas of Villanova Celebration Focuses on Service

By Emily Walsh ’10

At the beginning of each academic year, Villanova University holds its annual St. Thomas of Villanova Celebration to honor St. Thomas of Villanova, the 16th-century Augustinian bishop of Valencia, Spain, and the patron of the University. Traditionally held on one afternoon in September, the celebration was expanded with the inauguration of University President Rev. Peter Donohue, O.S.A., and now includes a weekend-long series of events meant to spread Villanova University’s message of “Veritas, Unitas, Caritas,” which translates to “Truth, Unity, Love.” The celebration features a number of special events, including a University-wide Day of Service.

St. Thomas of Villanova was known for his great charity to the poor and marginalized, and the Day of Service is celebrated to pay tribute to the patron saint and his legacy.

This year, the St. Thomas of Villanova Celebration was held Friday, September 18, and Saturday, September 19. Friday’s events featured an Academic Symposium entitled “Restorative Justice: A Catholic Response to Crime and Punishment.” In keeping with the purpose of celebrating the legacy of St. Thomas of Villanova, Catholic social teaching was the featured perspective. The symposium focused on crime and punishment, featuring speakers who discussed restorative justice as the appropriate Catholic response to dealing with the punishment of criminals. The speakers included the Most Reverend Ricardo Ramirez, C.S.B., D.D., Bishop of Las Cruces, N.M., Jill A. McCorkel, Ph.D., associate professor of Sociology at Villanova University, and Joyce A. Zavarich, D.Min., associate director of Campus Ministry at Villanova University. The symposium was moderated by Barbara E. Wall, Ph.D., vice president for Mission and Ministry, and was held in the Villanova Room.

The celebration continued into Saturday with the fourth-annual Day of Service. More than 3,000 Villanova students, faculty, staff, alumni and families worked together to celebrate Villanova’s patron saint and his legacy of Caritas—(Love). The event began early on Saturday and continued into the afternoon as thousands of members of the Villanova community performed community service in partnership with neighborhood agencies throughout the Greater Philadelphia area. When the participants in the Day of Service returned to campus, the day ended with Community Liturgy in the Pavilion celebrated by Father Donohue and a community dinner that featured the presentation of the annual Distinguished Service Awards recognizing members of the University staff. Make plans now to participate in next year’s Day of Service!

Reconsiderations Conference Examines Augustine’s Legacy

Villanova University’s Augustinian Institute hosted an international conference on the thought and legacy of St. Augustine of Hippo, “Reconsiderations III,” this past September. This is the third conference; the first was held in 2003 and the second in 2006. Leading scholars from around the world participated in the event. The Augustinian Institute serves Villanova University as a resource for giving Augustine’s thought a vibrant and integral place within academic and community life. Villanova University is one of only two Catholic Augustinian institutions of higher education in the nation.
Villanova Recognized for Civic Engagement

Villanova encourages students, faculty and staff to engage in service experiences and research, both locally and globally, in order to learn from others, provide public service to the community and help create a more sustainable world. Therefore it's no surprise that the University recently became one of the first recipients of the Higher Education Civic Engagement Award from the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

On October 19, The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars presented Villanova University with its Higher Education Civic Engagement Award. Villanova was chosen for its support of civic minded service projects, and was honored at The Washington Center's annual Academic Affairs Awards Luncheon at the National Press Club.

“Villanova is doing an astonishing job of promoting service-learning and civic engagement within its local, national and international communities,” says Mike Smith, President of The Washington Center. “These types of projects are required of all of our students who intern in the nation’s capital, and it’s a pleasure to partner with a university that holds the same values.”

Civic engagement permeates Villanova’s academic and co-curricular curriculum. The University supports students and faculty in pursuing commitment to research and education for justice, with a special concern for the poor and compassion for the suffering. Furthermore, it teaches students to respect a worldview that fosters responsible stewardship of the environment.

“The educational experience at Villanova University is designed to build an awareness of the challenges we face together as a society and provide the tools to address them as active, engaged and compassionate citizens,” said the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Villanova University president, who accepted the award on behalf of the University. “We are proud of the service efforts of our students, faculty, staff and alumni around the world, and are deeply honored by this recognition from The Washington Center.”

The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars is an independent, nonprofit organization that serves hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and other countries by providing selected students challenging opportunities to work and learn in Washington, D.C., for academic credit.

Homecoming 2009 Villanova Will Always be Home

A little rain didn’t dampen the spirits of the 10,000 attendees of Villanova’s 2009 Homecoming Weekend.

Returning “home” for their first official reunion, several hundred members of the Class of 2004 enjoyed special gatherings throughout the weekend, including a special Five-Year Reunion Brunch on Sunday morning after Mass at St. Thomas of Villanova Church.

The popular Alumni Family Picnic, moved to the Pavilion, featured family fun and 18 tents for alumni interest groups, including a special new tent for V Club. The celebration offered food, beverages, music and games for Villanovans of every age.

The football game featured nationally-ranked Villanova against the University of Rhode Island. A steady rain for most of the game turned into a downpour for the better part of the fourth quarter as Villanova routed URI, 36–7, giving head coach Andy Talley his 200th career win.

Other activities included the annual “Dream for Eileen” 5k Run/Walk in memory of Eileen Lupton ’03 B.S.N., a field hockey game against Syracuse University and a men’s basketball scrimmage and autograph session at the Pavilion. Alumni and their children interested in applying to Villanova attended the Office of Admissions Legacy Day Program.

A Villanova Ice Cats Alumni Hockey Game, a Band and Band Front Reception and a Student Homecoming Celebration were further highlights of a fun-filled three days.
Special Olympians Get Their Game On

Villanova student volunteers participated in one of the most exciting events of the year, the 21st Annual Special Olympics Fall Festival, held November 6–8. As the largest student run Special Olympics in the world, Villanova’s Fall Festival welcomed more than 3,000 athletes, coaches and volunteers from across Pennsylvania to participate in a number of competitions, including bocce, long-distance running and volleyball.

The Special Olympics Student Committee also organized a variety of exciting events for the athletes. From the Opening Ceremonies to Olympics Town, athletes competed and enjoyed camaraderie. Saturday’s festivities included Olympic Town. Student organizations from across campus hosted activity booths for the athletes to visit between competitions. Arts and crafts, games and a karaoke booth were among the activities that athletes enjoyed while they took a break from their events. Special performances by Villanova a cappella groups, the Villanova Dance Team and Cheerleaders also were featured. Following Saturday’s competitions athletes enjoyed a Victory Parade and Dance. Competition continued on Sunday, and the weekend concluded with the Closing Ceremonies Sunday afternoon.

Villanova University alumni were some of the many volunteers who helped organize the Special Olympics Fall Festival, which was filled with athletic competitions, special events and more.
Augustinians Honored by Cardinal Brady, Primate of All Ireland

Two Augustinian friars of Irish descent were recently honored by the trustees and governing body of St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth in County Kildare, Ireland with the Faithful Servant Award for their continuing service to the Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

The Very Rev. Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’71 A&S, prior provincial of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova for the past eight years, and the Rev. George F. Riley, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’58 A&S, ’61 G.S., special assistant to the President of Villanova University for external and alumni affairs, received the honor on September at the annual Philadelphia dinner of the U.S. Friends of Maynooth.

Presenting the award was His Eminence Sean Cardinal Brady, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Patrick’s College.

The Faithful Servant Award was established as an opportunity for the Catholic Church in Ireland to recognize Irish-born or Irish-American priests who have, in the words of Cardinal Brady, “served the American Church with extraordinary fidelity and distinction.”

The Villanova Wildcats Football team beat the Temple Owls in the Inaugural Philadelphia Mayor’s Cup Game held September 3. It was a great start to a wonderful season!

A preeminent evolutionary scientist, Dr. Miller authored the acclaimed book *Finding Darwin’s God: A Scientist’s Search for Common Ground Between God and Evolution*, a lively and cutting-edge analysis of key issues that seem to divide science and religion. In his treatise, Dr. Miller contends that, properly understood, evolution adds depth and meaning not only to a scientific view of the world, but also to a spiritual one.

Dr. Miller also gained notice as a lead witness in the Pennsylvania “intelligent design” case that was the first direct challenge brought in U.S. federal court against a public school district that required the presentation of “intelligent design” as an alternative to evolution to explain the origin of life.

Villanova University established the Mendel Medal in 1928 to recognize scientific accomplishment and religious conviction as epitomized by Gregor Johann Mendel, Abbot of the Augustinian Monastery in Brünn, Austria, (now Brno, Czech Republic), who discovered the celebrated laws of heredity that now bear his name. The Mendel Medal is awarded to outstanding scientists who have painstakingly advanced the cause of science, and, by their lives and their standing before the world as scientists, have demonstrated that no intrinsic conflict exists between true science and true religion.

Charlotte Cloe Fox Wind, ’02 Wins Prestigious F. Otto Haas Award

The Barrymore Awards, held annually in Philadelphia, are a celebration of the Philadelphia Theatre community. On Monday, October 5th, the 15 annual awards ceremony took place at the Walnut Street Theatre, honoring theatre artists who have made significant contributions to the city’s theatre landscape. Villanova Theatre costume designer, costume shop employee, and 2002 MA in Theatre graduate Charlotte Cloe Fox Wind was this year’s recipient of the F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Philadelphia Artist. The award, which is the only one of its kind in the nation, carries a $10,000 prize intended to support the artist’s living expenses while he or she focuses on their craft.

Fox Wind, who has been nominated three times for this award, is the only costume designer to ever have won this prize, and couldn’t be more delighted. According to Fox Wind, this award represents an “acknowledgment of the breadth and body of my work thus far in Philadelphia, solidifying my place in this community.” She feels especially fortunate to be included in a “fantastic group of highly acclaimed artists” in this category, including some of the area’s most talented actors and designers.

In her career as a costume designer, Fox Wind has designed for Act II Playhouse, 1812 Productions, Arden Theatre Company and others. She has been nominated several times for the Barrymore Award for Excellence in Costume Design. In 2002, she also won the Barrymore Award for Lead Actress in a Musical in 2002 for her portrayal of Roxie Hart in Villanova Theatre’s production of *Chicago*.
Of the approximately 40,000 species of spiders in the world, all are known to be carnivorous—save one. That sole exception is the species Bagheera kiplingi, the first spider known to science that feeds mainly on plant food. Its novel behavior was co-discovered by Christopher Meehan ’09 A&S, ’09 G.S., then a Villanova undergraduate student, and Villanova professor Robert Curry, Ph.D.

The small Central American jumping spider was first noticed by Meehan while on a field project in Mexico for his Tropical Biology course taught by Dr. Curry. The spider lives throughout much of Central America and southern Mexico.

“This is really the first spider known to specifically ‘hunt’ plants; it is also the first known to go after plants as a primary food source,” Meehan says.

Bagheera kiplingi does not build webs to catch food. Instead, it has been observed feeding on the leaf tips of protein-packed acacia plants rather than the ants that guard the plant.

Meehan and Dr. Curry combined research efforts with Eric Olson of Brandeis University, who had independently observed the spider in 2001 in Costa Rica, and the two groups jointly published the discovery. The research also formed the basis of Meehan’s recently completed master’s degree from Villanova.

The research appeared in the October 13 issue of Current Biology, accompanied by an article highlighting the study’s importance. The research has broader implications, according to Meehan and Dr. Curry. It shows that coevolution between an ant and a plant can result in the development of plant structures that may be especially vulnerable to exploitation by third parties, including species such as spiders that normally focus on completely different kinds of prey.

“It’s exciting to give Villanova undergraduates the opportunity to make these kinds of discoveries by offering field courses,” says Dr. Curry.

Never before has the world had a view of Rome’s great basilicas like they do now, thanks to Villanova University students who are creating virtual reality tours for the Vatican through a unique internship program. Villanova University communications and computer science students are helping change the way the Vatican communicates with the rest of the world, using the internet, multi-media technology and social media. The University is the only institution to have this partnership with the Vatican. Anyone with access to a computer can tour some of Italy’s most historic cathedrals with just a click of the mouse. The first online tour, showcasing the Basilica of St. Paul, launched this past summer on the Vatican’s Web site. On November 9, thanks to the students’ work, the Vatican launched a virtual reality tour of the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the oldest of the four major basilicas of Rome, the cathedral of the Church of Rome and the official seat of the bishop of Rome, the Pope. Villanova’s Vatican Internship Program is made possible through a generous gift from Lawrence Waterhouse, a 1959 graduate of Villanova University’s College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of TD Waterhouse Investor Services, Inc. Check out the virtual reality tour on the Vatican’s Web site: www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san_giovanni/vr_tour/index-en.html
Students enrolled in the course Professional Practices in Civil Engineering have undertaken a project that may one day impact the construction of a fifth Delaware River crossing between Philadelphia and southern New Jersey.

The project is a technical and economic feasibility study in which students are evaluating several options, including a tunnel versus a bridge, and a passenger-rail crossing versus a combined rail-vehicular crossing. Although various agencies have discussed the possibility of building a fifth crossing sometime in the future, the students are the first ones to explore the conceptual planning, preliminary design and public-policy phases of such a project.

In the process, they are collaborating with executives at the Delaware River Port Authority and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, as well as leading engineers at Hatch Mott MacDonald and Figg Engineering Group. “Our students are working with top people,” said Prof. Frank Falcone, PE, BSCE ’70, MSWREE ’73, the course instructor. “The level of interaction they have on this project is unlike anything else they’ve experienced at Villanova.” In December, the students will present their final plan and profile for a tunnel, a steel bridge and a concrete bridge.
College of Engineering Alumni Receive Honors

College of Engineering graduates of all ages gathered in the Center for Engineering Education and Research on October 2 for the 33rd Annual Engineering Alumni Awards Ceremony and Reception, sponsored by the College of Engineering Alumni Society (EAS) and the Villanova University Alumni Association. Joining in the festivities were faculty, staff, students and administrators.

Following a buffet dinner, lab tours and student-project displays, the awards ceremony began. Robert Gordon ChE ’80, chair of the Engineering Alumni Awards Committee, welcomed everyone, and Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, A&S ’75, president of Villanova University, added his greetings. After the presentation of awards, Gary A. Gabriele, the Drosdick Endowed Dean of Engineering, summarized developments in the College, and EAS President Sean O’Donnell CPE ’00 thanked members for supporting EAS.

2009 EAS Award Recipients

**J. Stanley Morehouse Memorial Award**
Thomas J. Hanratty, PhD, ChE ’47

**John J. Gallen Memorial Award**
Amy Kleist Holovaty ChE ’97, MBA ’04

**Carl T. Humphrey Memorial Award**
Maury B. Bayer MSCPE ’04

**Meritorious Service Awards**
Anthony J. Donadeo EE ’95
William K. Lorenz ChE ’68
Nelson J. Shaffer MSTE ’81
Erin Vogel BSME ’05, MSME ’06

**Professional Achievement Awards**
Ron DeGregorio ME ’91
Irene Kropp MSWREE ’83
Sean McDermott EE ’88
Janice Peterson ChE ’82

Chemical Engineering Students Produce Biodiesel Fuel

Villanova University is getting more mileage out of its cooking oil, thanks to the efforts of a group of senior and graduate Chemical Engineering students. Under the advisement of Kenneth Muske, the Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Moritz Sr. Chair in Systems Engineering and Professor of Chemical Engineering, the students have designed and built a production facility for converting the waste cooking oil from Dining Services into biodiesel fuel, which is now powering diesel-run lawn mowers on campus. This initiative, which began as a senior design project last year by Adam Hoffman and Justin Yeash ChE ’09, is another example of how engineering students continue to promote sustainable practices through their research.

The facility is close to reaching full production and is expected to yield 50 gallons of biodiesel fuel every two weeks. The next phase of the project is to provide fuel for other diesel vehicles on campus. The University also has received a permit from the state that will make the fuel available for vehicles that use public roads. Dr. Randy Weinstein, professor and chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering, also plans to use the facility for undergraduate education and new research.
In September, the College of Nursing received approval for its Graduate Nursing Program’s new Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) option from the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, and students can enroll in January 2010. Both a master of science in nursing (MSN) degree and post-master’s certificate option were approved.

Why add the FNP option to the existing adult, pediatric and geriatric nurse practitioner specialties at Villanova?

“Family nurse practitioners are the most versatile as they can meet the health care needs of a wide range of patients in a variety of practice settings,” explains Elizabeth Blunt, Ph.D., R.N., A.P.N., B.C., assistant professor and coordinator of the nurse practitioner programs. “Our students have been asking for this option so they have flexibility in employment options including sites such as nurse managed health centers, retail clinics and emergency department and urgent care centers.”

Students benefit from the partnership with faculty who bring their clinical experiences and mentorship into the classroom and from the integration of procedures such as suture workshops into the curriculum. The FNP option is structured so that nurse practitioners with a population focus in an area other than family can complete the FNP requirements, usually within one year. For more information, visit www.villanova.edu/nursing.
Working to Improve Quality of Life for Girls With Cancer

Mary Ann Cantrell, ‘89 M.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., C.S., associate professor in the College of Nursing, is passionate about researching childhood cancer issues. With a new three-year grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Nursing Research, she is studying web-based interventions conducted by nurse practitioners to enhance hopefulness among girls who have survived cancer and thus improve their health-related quality of life (HRQOL).

Dr. Cantrell has been studying issues related to childhood cancer for 12 years, beginning with her dissertation research that examined the relationships among gender, stage of adolescence, hopefulness and self-esteem among adolescents with cancer in active treatment. She extended her dissertation research to examine these relationships between adolescents with cancer and a cohort group of healthy adolescents. In this study, she discovered that for females, both healthy and ill, self-esteem and hopefulness had a significant relationship.

This new study has been developed because “the emerging population of childhood cancer survivors has created the need for evidence-based interventions to promote effective psychosocial functioning and to enhance their HRQOL as they experience survivorship,” explains Dr. Cantrell. HRQOL has been identified as an important measurable outcome of the cancer experience among childhood cancer survivors.

Distinguished Lecturer Targets Health Care Solution for Elders

The College of Nursing welcomed alumna Mary Naylor, ‘71 B.S.N., Ph.D., R.N., FAAN as its 31st Annual Distinguished Lecturer on November 16 to address “The Transitional Care Model: A Path to Improve the Care of Older Adults and Family Caregivers.” Dr. Naylor is the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology and director of NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health for the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She is also a member of the College’s Board of Consultants.

For nearly 20 years, Dr. Naylor has led a multidisciplinary program of research designed to improve the quality of care, decrease unnecessary hospitalizations and reduce health care costs for vulnerable, community-based elders. To date, she and her research team have completed three funded randomized clinical trials testing and refining the Transitional Care Model, an innovative approach to addressing the needs of high risk chronically-ill elders and their family caregivers. With the support of several foundations, her research team has recently partnered with a major insurance organization and health care plan to translate this model into the “real world” of clinical practice and promote its widespread adoption. Dr. Naylor is involved in multiple studies and projects related to the care of elders and is the National Program Director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation sponsored Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative (INQRI) to generate, disseminate and translate research that demonstrates nursing’s contribution to the quality of patient care.

Lecture Focuses on Plight of Vulnerable Children in Haiti

The College of Nursing in September welcomed physician Leonardo Shamamba M.D., the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) HIV and AIDS Reach Out Coordinator in Haiti. He spoke about improving quality of life for orphans and vulnerable children in that country. This lecture was part of the College’s 15th Annual Health and Human Values Lecture Series.

Executive Education Programs

Beginning in February 2010, Villanova Executive Education will launch a series of world-class open-enrollment programs that will address topics including leadership, strategy, risk, international business, finance, accounting and systems thinking. Managers and executives will gain exposure to cross-industry perspectives, and benefit from access to current content that will allow them to maximize their impact in today’s chaotic environment. The unique program combines faculty and business leaders, who are recognized both for their deep industry experience as well as for their excellence in teaching and research. The Spring semester also marks the launch of the Mini-MBA—a multi-session executive education program designed to provide a broad overview of management essentials for individuals looking to build their knowledge base across multiple functional areas. For complete details on the Mini-MBA and other Villanova Executive Education open enrollment programs, and to register, please visit www.execed.villanova.edu.
New Center Advances Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship

Creating new ideas, concepts and opportunities is highly desirable. Organizations value individuals who creatively think of ways to improve outcomes. Students need the skills to think and act entrepreneurially. With those goals in mind, Villanova University’s Villanova School of Business (VSB) is launching a new Center of Excellence. Under the leadership of Patrick Maggitti, Ph.D., the Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship Center (ICE Center) will serve as a driver of scholastic, educational and professional development opportunities in the areas of innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship within VSB.

Spearheaded by Maggitti and associate director James Klingler, Ph.D., who has been developing entrepreneurial programs, the ICE Center will focus on innovative and creative thought within large and existing businesses and the inherent creative characteristics of college-aged students. “Villanova students must be entrepreneurial whether or not they choose to start their own company,” says Maggitti. “Not only is being able to think creatively important, but so is enabling and leading others to increase their own ability to develop useful creative outcomes.”

“The installation of the ICE Center highlights the emphasis and importance Villanova places on developing decision-makers capable of assessing and recognizing opportunities in both existing and new organizations,” says James M. Danko, The Helen and William O’Toole Dean. “Personally, I have always been an advocate for entrepreneurial programs due to my own interest and experience.”

“As an entrepreneur myself,” says Maggitti, “I know first-hand the value of having a strong network of support. Ideally, we can provide this for Villanova students thinking about starting their own business. For example, there is a tremendous opportunity to link our fantastic alumni as mentors to these students.”

Maggitti also becomes the inaugural Carmen and Sharon Danella Endowed Chair in Business Innovation, which was established to support the director position and to provide resources to advance innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship initiatives at VSB.

“It is support from our alumni that have helped to make the ICE Center a reality,” says Dean Danko. After expressing an interest for VSB to focus in this area, alumni Patrick F. Meyer VSB ’74 and Daniel J. Hogarty VSB ’61, and Kevin M. Curley VSB ’80 provided initial support.

Villanova University has established Centers of Excellence in VSB designed to focus attention on critical business issues and to leverage the expertise of faculty, often in a cross-disciplinary way. Centers support faculty research, teaching excellence, curriculum development, and the intersection of research and business practice.

Summer Business Institute Helps Non-Business Majors Expand Career Options

When it comes to starting a career, we encourage our students to reach for the sky. However, a tough economic climate dictates that job seekers be more diligent than ever. Whether graduates choose to work in engineering, law, medicine, technology, the arts, education, ministry or the nonprofit sector, they will be working within the larger framework of global business. Students with a solid understanding of managerial concepts and problem-solving provide an edge with recruiters, along with a level of professional confidence that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Since 2006, the Villanova School of Business (VSB) has been ranked among the top business schools in the nation by BusinessWeek. This increase in recognition has made majoring or minoring in business at Villanova extremely competitive. To enable non-business majors the opportunity to earn a minor in business, Villanova University has created The Summer Business Institute (SBI) at VSB to provide undergraduate students and recent graduates—either from Villanova or other institutions—with the fundamentals of business from VSB faculty. In just one summer (May 24–July 28, 2010), Villanova students earn a minor in business; while all other students receive an SBI Certificate. Optional on-campus housing is available.

The innovative SBI curriculum covers disciplines including economics, accounting, finance, management, information systems, strategy, marketing and business law. These topics are taught in an integrated manner from a global perspective, so that the basics of business make sense within the context of other professional fields. The experience is enriched by hands-on projects and site visits to companies.

“The SBI experience was an amazing one,” says Kevin Lavery, Villanova A&S ’10. “I immersed myself in a rigorous academic culture while learning the essentials of business.” In addition to the added value of a business minor, Lavery became eligible to participate in a high-profile Brand Marketing CoOp with McNeil Pharmaceuticals, which is typically only available to VSB students. Lavery adds, “In just one summer, I prepared myself for the world outside of college.”

Applications for SBI will be accepted from January 15 through April 30, 2010. Students and parents may learn more about SBI by going to www.business.villanova.edu/sbi or by contacting Patricia Burdo, assistant director of business minors, at sbi@villanova.edu or (610) 519-5951.
Goodwill Ambassador Award  
Richard J. Schleicher ’57, San Diego Chapter

Following retirement from a 30-year career as a Navy submariner, Capt. Dick Schleicher ’57 M.E., served as a science instructor in a Navy preparatory school program that offered scholarships to the Naval Academy as well as various NROTC schools throughout the country. Noting the sparsity of information about Villanova, he set out to promote the University. In 1990, when Villanova’s Admission Office formalized a program engaging alumni in student recruitment efforts, particularly within regions boasting large candidate concentrations, Schleicher accepted the challenge to organize the San Diego area alumni in what has become the Alumni Recruitment Network (ARN). For nearly 20 years, Dick and his team have promoted Villanova at local college fairs; initiated an award from Villanova at the San Diego Science & Engineering Fair; and organized both the annual Yield Reception and New Student Send-off Mass and Reception. He also serves on the Advisory Committee to the Office of University Admission.

This commitment to Villanova is not unusual; as a second generation Villanovan (his father graduated in 1929), Schleicher has supported his alma mater throughout his career. He credits Villanova’s long-standing Augustinian principles, Catholic tradition, and scholastic reputation for making the University “easy to promote.” With a reputation for going above and beyond, Schleicher is always ready and willing to answer a call for help from his alma mater. (He recently attended a college fair only one day after being released from the hospital!). It is his involvement with new students, he notes, that keeps him young.

Distinguished Service Award  
Jim Judge ’57, Detroit Chapter

For the sixth straight year, Jim Judge ’57 has successfully coordinated the Detroit Chapter’s Scholarship Golf Outing, which attracted its usual large number of players in 2009 despite Detroit’s hard-hit economy. Judge notes that hosting what has become the Chapter’s “signature event” at Oakland Hills Country Club—prestigious host of 14 major golf championships, including 3 PGAs; 6 U.S. Opens; 2 US Senior Opens; the Ryder Cup; and the U.S. Amateur—draws Villanova alumni from states as far away as Connecticut and the Carolinas. For the past two years, the Chapter has had the distinct honor of counting Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D. ’75 A&S, University President and native of Michigan, among the event’s esteemed guests.

The Chapter has raised more than $60,000 through these outings to benefit student scholarships for young men and women from Michigan—and proud, too, of Judge’s hard work behind the scenes is now recognized with the 2009 Distinguished Service Award.

Additionally, Judge has served on Reunion Committees and was thrilled to return to campus for his 50th reunion in 2007. He is also pleased to formally announce that the next Scholarship Golf Outing is slated for late May of 2010, and invites all alumni to watch the VUAA website for details and to join the Detroit Chapter for a most memorable and meaningful day on the course.
In 2008, Matt O’Malley ’04, ’08, VSB contacted University President Rev. Peter Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D. ’75 A&S and the VU Alumni Office to express his interest in reestablishing Villanova's Greater Philadelphia Chapter. The Alumni Office mailed a survey in August, O’Malley received hundreds of responses, with 60 alumni indicating an interest in volunteer positions. The board he subsequently organized with the Alumni Office and the committees that formed to cover athletics; networking and professional development; community service; marketing and fundraising, all contributed to the successful (and ongoing) development of a diverse set of programming for local alumni.

O’Malley stresses the challenge of being the closest chapter to campus, where graduates may feel a connection to Villanova by proximity and thus not share the same level of need for alumni interaction as their counterparts residing farther from the Chapel Church spires. So the immediate goal was to organize events that would draw a crowd—and did they ever! NCAA game watches throughout basketball season at Mad River Manayunk started with 100 people and jumped quickly to 150, then 250, finally topping out at over 400 for the “Final Four,” with three different news teams covering the events (O’Malley himself appeared on an ABC clip).

Of course, game watches are only a small part of the Chapter’s new offerings. It has hosted formal and informal networking events, and community service projects at a local nursing home and food bank as well as with Habitat for Humanity. The group also has planned several family-friendly social events like ice skating and a Camden Riversharks baseball game. Most recently, the Chapter’s fundraising and development committee hosted A Taste of Wine on the Main Line, which was attended by approximately 110 people and garnered $10,000 for Villanova’s Rainy Day Fund, a fund which pays books, lab fees and other school expenses when a student has financial need and cannot pay for these extras.

O’Malley humbly credits the Chapter’s Leadership Council for his award, noting that the overall effort is “much bigger than any one person.” The tireless group is currently devising a three-year strategic plan to expand services and activities, build a brand, and maintain an active chapter into the future.
Creative Achievement Award

Boston Chapter

When president Tim Saccone ’02, VSB and the Board of VUAA’s Greater Boston Chapter received word that the 2009 NCAA tournament was coming to their beloved city, they immediately resolved to do something special for the momentous occasion. In only a few days, the group collaborated on a t-shirt design featuring the Villanova “V” atop the Boston skyline and the words, “We’re shipping up to Boston” underneath. They then hurried off to the print shop for an order of 150 shirts that would be unveiled at their game watch for the first round Duke-Villanova match-up. Close to 600 people turned out for that event, and those cool shirts “sold out in no time,” says Saccone. So the team went back to the printer for another batch of shirts to sell during the VUAA-sponsored Villanova–Pitt event. More than 1,000 fans and alumni filled The Greatest Bar and Hurricane O’Reilly’s to capacity. And, of course, the shirts sold like hotcakes again.

Following Villanova’s “Elite Eight” win, the Chapter leaders regrouped and scrambled to make another set of shirts available for the “Final Four” game watch and reserved Game On, a sports pub underneath Fenway Park. The fact that the teams had shipped off to Detroit for the Final Four showdown with UNC didn’t stop Boston alumni from showing up in record numbers: Game On quickly reached its capacity of 500 and alumni soon took over Game On’s sister establishment, The Bleacher Bar. Unbelievably, Bleacher Bar quickly exceeded its 200-person maximum. At tip-off, there were very long waiting lines at each location.

By the tournament’s end, the Boston Chapter had sold nearly 400 t-shirts, raising approximately $3,000 for its scholarship fund, and earning the Chapter a VUAA Creative Achievement Award. Saccone, who still receives occasional t-shirt requests, notes that the Board has discussed designing another shirt to sell at alumni events throughout the year. Who knows how many scholarship dollars—and happy t-shirt wearers—that future endeavor will generate!!

Rev. Owen R. (Ray) Jackson, O.S.A. ’61
Community Service Award

Orlando Chapter

An award for achievements in community service could not be more well-deserved for Villanova University’s Orlando Chapter. Its widespread involvement in local and regional service initiatives, includes Orlando’s 2nd Harvest Food Bank and the Compassionate Hands and Hearts organization, an outreach for breast cancer patients and their families founded by WFTV Channel 9 news anchor and breast cancer survivor Vanessa Echols. Orlando Chapter member Brian Shields ’03 A&S Geo., a weatherman at WFTV Channel 9, was instrumental in brokering the Chapter partnership with Echols and Compassionate Hands and Hearts that led to a service event during last year’s holiday season. Speaking on behalf of the Chapter’s members, president Tim Slack ’65 A&S excitingly recalls teaming up with Echols and a group of VU alumni to bring Christmas cheer to a local breast cancer survivor by decorating her home.

Equally significant are the annual food drives with 2nd Harvest that the Chapter now combines with a game watch at Friday’s Front Row. Alumni and fans bring along their non-perishable food items, which Friday’s Front Row stores over the weekend for pick-up by 2nd Harvest the following Monday.

“The Orlando Chapter and 2nd Harvest Food Bank, headed by Mindy Ortiz, are enthusiastic about a continued partnership,” says Slack, who also notes that Orlando alumni have been as generous with food donations as they are with the clothing they regularly collect and distribute to the homeless. “This award,” says Slack, “is for all our alumni in Villanova’s Orlando Chapter who have worked so hard to give back to our community and we look forward to expanding our community involvement in the future.”
1950s

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


Vincent Bufano ’57 A&S, Bio., was honored at Mount Vernon (CT) Hospital’s Spring Gala for his 26 years of service on the board of trustees. A long time resident of Wilton, CT., he was an executive with Baxter Healthcare Corp. for more than four decades. He and his wife, Libby, have three daughters, a son and six grandchildren.

1960s

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

Donald E. Leisey, Ed.D., ’62 G.S.Edu., on April 16 received the Founders Award from the West Chester University 3E Institute (Educational Excellence and Entrepreneurship) honoring his role in conceiving the original model of entrepreneurial education. Dr. Leisey is the co-author of The Educational Entrepreneur: Making a Difference. He is also the founder of the company A+The Report Card Inc., educational products for students, teachers and parents. A past recipient of the West Chester University Distinguished Alumni Award, he is a resident of San Rafael, CA.

Francis DiBello ’64 A&S, Math., founder and chairman of the ITV Group, a Merritt Island, FL, based investment advisory firm for technology and aerospace companies, was named the new head of Space Florida News Service of Florida.

John A. Benigno ’68 A&S, Soc., received the Ziegler Prize from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia for his photograph “Moth Orchid II.” His studio, Photographic Images by John A. Benigno, is in Narberth, PA.

George F. Gumper ’68 A&S, Hist., ’71 G.S.Hist., director/psychologist of Ventnor, NJ Vet Center, was awarded the New Jersey Commendation Medal, the highest civilian award presented by the New Jersey National Guard, for exceptional work in veterans services.

Thomas V. Sanzone ’68 E.E., an executive at Hamilton Sundstrand in Houston, TX, received the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement in recognition of exceptional contributions to the space program.

1970s

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

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

Susan W. Salmond, Ed.D., ’73 Nur., has been appointed dean of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-School of Nursing. Caryl Andrea Oberman, Esq. ’74 J.D., was named a 2009 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer by Philadelphia Magazine and Law and Politics Magazine. Her office in Willow Grove, PA, represents Pennsylvania children and their families for special education matters, school discipline, gifted education and disability rights.

James C. Sipio, M.D., ’76 A&S, Bio., is chief of urology and urologic surgery for the Virtua, West Jersey Health System. He and his wife, Susan Dadino Sipio, ’79 Nur., are the proud parents of two sons.

Philip DiGiacomo ’78 VSB, Bus.Adm., was named vice president, sales and marketing at Anderson Packaging in Rockford, IL. James H.M. Savage, Esq., ’78 VSB, Bus.Adm., joined the Heffner Law Firm in Washington, D.C. He had been of counsel to Ruprecht Hart & Weeks in Millburn, NJ.

Barbara P. Barnett ’77 G.S.Mod. Lang., head of modern languages at the Agnes Irwin School in Rosemont, PA, received the 2009 Dorothy S. Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Award at the Secondary Level from the American Association of Teachers of French.

Kevin C. O’Malley, Esq., ’77 A&S, Pol.Sci., a partner in the Grand Rapids, MI law firm Varnum Attorneys at Law, was named to the board of directors of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

Paul J. Varello ’65 C.E., founder and chairman of Houston-based Commonwealth Engineering and Construction, CCL, has been named Chairman of the Board at Sims Metal Management Limited, the world’s largest listed metal recycler.

Robert Kulesher, Ph.D.,’74 A&S, Psy. received permanent tenure and promotion to associate professor at East Carolina University in the College of Allied Health Sciences.
25 Years Later —Déjà Vu?

John F. Colgan '85 VSB

That memorable weekend in 1985 began with three classmates and myself in a Saab 900 Turbo for an energetic and scenic 10-hour ride to the Final Four in Lexington, Kentucky. The weekend was a blur to include hovering in and around Rupp Arena, pre-production with CBS, tailgating with classmates in Winnebago's and an excursion to the University of Kentucky and the genuine hospitality of our fellow Wildcats.

During my years as a Villanova accounting major, I spent my free time as a production assistant working for CBS. Miraculously, as my college journey was winding down, my ninth and final CBS event was “working” the NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship. Graciously, my production supervisor allowed me to “watch” the entire game from various camera locations. The game hit a crescendo and impending mayhem ensued, I made my way onto the court to soak in the celebration with the team, coaches, cheerleaders and fellow classmates. As “Easy” Ed Pinckney was announced as the tournament’s Most Valuable Player, I recalled placing my ever-popular CBS Sports hat on his head as my salute to a champion, classmate and friend.

With classic memorabilia and phenomenal stories to show and tell, it was one of the greatest moments of my life! The memorabilia is always a tangible reminder yet the memories are indelible. That old cliché, “it seems like yesterday” frequently enters my mind as I love to reminisce.

Good luck to the 2009-10 team and bring a second championship back to a prestigious university!

johnfcolgan@yahoo.com
John W. Paulciulo, Esq., ’87 A&S, Hist., a partner in the Philadelphia law firm White and Williams LLP, was named chair of the business and corporate practice group.

Chris Duca ’88 VSB, Bus-Adm., authored The Gathering Storm of Director Liability for the June 2009 issue of Directorship Magazine, the leading boardroom publication for today’s corporate officers and board directors covering the practice of management, governance and strategy.

Roberta A. Healey ’88 M.B.A., was named vice president for philanthropy for Simpson Senior Services in Bala Cynwyd, PA. In this position, she will direct fundraising programs for their family of five communities. With more than thirty years in non-profit organization management and development, she is also a member of the adjunct faculty of Villanova University in their master of public administration program.

Kevin J. Nemsick ’88 VSB, Mkt., a resident of Boston with his wife and two sons, received an M.B.A. degree from Babson College Graduate School of Business.

Patrick Garvey ’89 A&S, Eco., welcomed a boy.

Beth Krewson DeTergo ’89 M.E., welcomed a girl.


1990s

Class of 1990: 20th Reunion, June 11-13, 2010

Class of 1995: 15th Reunion, June 11-13, 2010

Daniel Cummins, Esq., ’90 A&S, Engl., a partner in the Scranton, PA, law firm of Foley, Comerford, Cimini & Cummins, has created a blog entitled “Tort Talk,” in which he provides updates and analysis of cases and trends in Pennsylvania civil litigation law.

Patricia McGoldrick Cogan ’90 VSB, Bus. Adm., who earned an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix, announced that she and her husband, Timothy, welcomed a baby boy in August 2008.

Karen Doherty Raub ’91 VSB, Acct., welcomed a girl.

Scott Kraus ’91 VSB, Bus. Adm., was promoted to vice president of sales at Cardiovascular Systems Inc., a medical device company in St. Paul, MN.

Charles Eppolito III, Esq., ’92 VSB, Mkt., ’95 J.D., a partner in the litigation department and a member of the healthcare group at the Philadelphia law firm of White and Williams LLP, has begun his third term as secretary of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Laura Meyersburg Schliem ’92 A&S, Soc., welcomed a boy.

John Cacciola ’93 C.E., responsible for the planning, design and construction of four marquee projects at Villanova University (Davis Center, Driscoll Hall, Villanova Law School and the campus master plan), has joined the Philadelphia firm Nason Construction as vice president of operations.

Diane Cardenas Elliott ’93 A&S, Soc., welcomed a boy.

Anthony R. Leone ’93 A&S, Pol.Sci., who has his own law practice in Warwick, RI, has been named chairperson of the continuing legal education committee of the Rhode Island Association for Justice and is a state delegate to the American Association for Justice. He and his wife recently welcomed a baby girl.

Dorian Lugo-Bertran, Ph.D., ’93 G.S.Span.Lang./Lit., is a full professor in the communications department at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus.

Carol Luttrel ’93 G.S.Engl., in May 2009 received a master of energy and environmental policy degree from the University of Delaware. She is a document management specialist in the DuPont corporate remediation group in Wilmington, DE.


Carla Pregnolato Gorman ’93 A&S, Comm., welcomed a girl.

Daniel Sullivan ’93 VSB, Acct.,
John Ricco ’90 A&S, Comm., was promoted to vice president/assistant general manager of the New York Mets. He first joined the Mets as assistant general manager in 2004 after working for 12 years in the baseball commissioner’s office.

was named private banking group leader for the north suburban region of PrivateBancorp Inc. in Chicago.

Tracy Dovidio Foye ’94 VSB, Mgt., welcomed a boy.


Tina Niemburg Rezai ’94 Nur., welcomed a boy.

Erika Spangler Murdocca ’94 VSB, Acct., welcomed twin boys.

Mary-Ann Urbanovich ’94 G.S.H.O.S. received the 2009 Leader of the Year Award from the Greater Philadelphia chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners.


James J. Dunn ’95 VSB, Fin., was appointed vice president and chief investment officer at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC.

Sister Elaine Marie Glanz, I.H.M. ’92 G.S.Engl., professor in the English/communications department at Immaculata University, received the university’s 2008-2009 Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award.

Sister Elaine holds a Ph.D. in English from Lehigh University.

Alison Fee Crane ’95 A&S, Engl./Hist., welcomed a boy.

Jeffrey Focht ’95 G.S.Lib.Stud., dean of business and technology at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, PA, earned the Professional Staff Excellence Award as a model of outstanding leadership.

Bernard Mason ’95 A&S, Geog., welcomed his first great grandson. Mr. Mason was 75 years old when he graduated.

Susan Moran Pangis ’95 A&S, Comm., welcomed a girl.

Brian O’Connell ’95 A&S, Gen., assistant director of broadcasting for the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Sounders, was awarded the 2008 Emmy for sporting event/game-live unidentified program/special.

Kristin O’Rourke Salamanca ’95 A&S, Hum.Serv., was named one of 10 Chicago-area school teachers to receive the 2009 Golden Apple Award for excellence. There were 972 teachers nominated for this award.

Jennifer Prince Gross ’95 A&S, Hist./Pol.Sci., is a fourth grade teacher at Central Elementary School in Palmyra, VA.

Edward Fitzpatrick ’96 A&S, Pol.Sci., in March 2009 received the certified financial planner designation. He is a financial advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors in the Chicago area.

Jason Kramer ’96 VSB, Acct., welcomed a boy.

Catherine O’Neill Friday ’96 VSB, Acct., welcomed a girl.

Jonathan Peri, Esq., ’96 A&S, Theol., is vice president and general counsel at Neumann University in Aston, PA. He is listed in the August 2009 edition of Main Line Today, as a “Top Lawyer”.

Marc Reed ’96 VSB, Fin., welcomed a girl.


John Schofield ’96 A&S Pol. Sci., in June 2009 graduated from the Naval War College in Newport, RI, with a master’s degree in national security and strategic studies. He is currently serving as a public affairs officer aboard the USS George H.W. Bush in Norfolk, VA.

John Stafano ’96 VSB, Acct., and Jennifer Turner Stafano ’96 VSB, Mgt., welcomed a boy.


Linda Bender ’97 M.B.A., has started Ancient Joy Ministries in Philadelphia working with doctors to provide integrative body/mind medicine for individuals, families and communities. She specializes in bioenergy medicine and surgery, spiritual realeasement and biofield nutritional analysis and is available for group lectures to discuss any topic to promote community health. See www.AncientJoy.org.

Sean Casey ’97 VSB, Acct., welcomed a boy.

Jennifer Cullinane ’97 A&S, Comm., and Maria Forrester Cullinane ’97 Ch.E., welcomed a girl.

Jennifer DeLucia McDonald ’97 A&S, Bio., welcomed a girl.

Michael Haley ’97 C.E., is residing in Amsterdam with his wife, Courtney Gher, where he is an international category manager at Starbucks Coffee Co.


Jennifer Santos Corcoran ’97 A&S, Bio., welcomed a boy.

Timothy P. Costello ’98 VSB, Mkt., welcomed a boy.

Brian D. Harpish ’98 VSB, Acct., welcomed a boy.


Michael McGovern ’98 VSB, Fin., welcomed a girl.


Lance Rougeux ’98 A&S, Gen., ’02 G.S.Ed., is director of the Discovery Educator Network, a global community of more than 100,000 educators dedicated to supporting education through digital media and educational technology.

Amy Smith McLaughlin, Psy.D., ’98 A&S, Psy. in July 2009 was awarded the degree Doctor of Psychology from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is a school psychologist in the Phoenixville, PA, area school district.

Amy Santangeli Riciotelli ’94 VSB, Mgt., was promoted to senior vice president and New England sales manager for Citizens Bank in Providence, RI.


Keith Hassan ’99 VSB, Fin., and Lauren Simone Hassan ’99 VSB, Mkt., welcomed a boy.


Julie Horne Peach ’99 VSB, Acct., welcomed a boy.

Mary Nell Lacivita Murphy ’99 A&S, Comm./Span., welcomed a girl.

Brian Lisk ’99 G.S.Pol. Sci., director of distance learning at Richmond, NC Community College, was invited to be a guest lecturer at Prince Mohammad bin Fahd University in Al Khobar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Kevin Poole ’99 VSB, Fin., and Marianne O’Brien Poole ’99 Nur., welcomed a boy.


Kate Sweeney ’99 A&S, wanted to relive your memories from Homecoming, the Final Four, Orientation and Graduation?

Look back on your favorite Villanova experiences by purchasing a copy of the Belle Air yearbook.

Past editions of the yearbook are available for purchase through www.villinovayearbook.com.

Visit the website for more information.
Pol. Sci., is serving as co-chair of the Catholic Charities junior board in Manhattan. She is a past president of the Manhattan Villanova Alumni chapter.

Lindsay Terrill Flanagan ’99 VSB, Mgt., welcomed a boy.

2000s

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

Patrick Cook ’00 A&S, Hist., married Deardra White.

Lauret Geosits Maletsky ’00 A&S, Bio., welcomed a boy.


Daniel Klein ’00 Comp. Eng. and Melissa Roth Klein ’00 Comp. Eng. welcomed a boy.

Megan Mahoney Barbato ’00 VSB, Mgt., married Christian Barbato.

Molly Mellon ’00 VSB, Mkt. received an M.B.A. degree from Loyola University Chicago and joined the Beta Gamma Sigma honor society. She is a senior sales consultant with Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Chicago.

Shanley O’Keefe Walker ’00 A&S, Comm. welcomed a girl.

Lucio Angelo Privitello ’01 G.S.Phil., ’03 G.S.Ph.D. was promoted to associate professor of philosophy, with tenure, at Stockton College in Pomona, N.J.


Raise your voice for Villanova!

Show your pride and raise your voice for Villanova by making your annual gift today. We continue to be drowned out by our peers in alumni annual giving participation rates. It’s time now for us to be loud and proud. Let us hear you. Give today so that Villanova students, faculty and programs will have the resources to reach their full potential.

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Please print or type:
Name _____________________________________________________________
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Additional Villanova graduate degrees and years: _______________________________________________________________
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News for Class Notes
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Joseph L. Linares ’05 A&S, Psy, in May 2009 graduated from Seton Hall University Stillman School of Business with a dual M.B.A. degree.

Michael Orler ’05 G.S.Pol.Sci. was promoted to police chief in the Borough of Conshohocken in suburban Philadelphia.


Michael Giuliano ’06 M.E., married Melissa Hardy ’06 A&S, Bio.

Jeffrey Harrison ’06 M.E. and Kelly Kowal Harrison ’06 VSB, Fin. welcomed a girl.

 John McDonough, Esq., ’06 A&S, Pol.Sci. in May 2009 received a J.D. degree from Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law.

J. Matthew Orosz ’06 VSB, Fin. married Kathleen Tisone Orosz ’06 A&S, Pol.Sci.


Dante Cunningham ’09 A&S, Geog. in June 2009 was selected by the Portland Trail Blazers in the National Basketball Association draft. He was an integral part of the winningest class in Villanova basketball history. Over the course of four seasons, VU won 102 games, advanced to three NCAA Tournament Sweet 16s, a pair of NCAA Elite Eights and the school’s first Final Four since Villanova’s 1985 squad captured the crown.

Ryan DePaul ’09 VSB, M.S.Fin. is a financial advisor with ING Financial Partners.

In Memoriam

1930s
Alex J. Scarpia ’36 VSB, Eco. on October 31, 2008.
Sister Mary Bertrand ’38 A&S, Edu. on August 9.

1940s
David V. Ward ’45 E.E. on June 19.
John E. Skorka ’47 E.E. on June 19.

Kenneth J. Zitomer ’47 C.E. on death unknown.
Jerry Connors ’49 E.E. on May 5.
Francis P. Downing’49 Ch.E. in 1997.
Peter M. Knapp ’49 E.E. on April 22.

1950s
Anthony E. Constantino ’50 VSB, Acct. on April 4.
William N. Hamilton ’50 VSB, Eco. on March 4.
Daniel J. Murphy ’50 VSB, Eco. on June 2, 2008.
Stephen Romanik ’50 VSB, Eco. On September 16.
Eugene J. Shuchart ’50 VSB, Eco. on August 22.

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Class Notes

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1960s


1970s

1980s

1990s

Student
Lauren Giampa, sophomore VSB student, on May 12.

Faculty
James O. Brooks, retired faculty member died September 12.

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.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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| January 2, 2010 | Villanova @ Marquette  
Men’s Basketball  
Game/Reception                                      |
| January 11 | Villanova @ Louisville  
Gamewatch –  
Triangle Area, NC                                         |
| January 13–23 | Antiquities of the Nile Valley and the Red Sea – Travel Program                        |
| January 17 | Villanova vs. Georgetown  
Men’s Basketball  
Game/Reception                                                    |
| January 22 | Celtics vs. Trailblazers –  
Boston Chapter                                               |
| January 23 | Villanova @ St. John’s  
Men’s Basketball  
Game/Reception                                                   |
| January 31–February 8 | Island Life in Tahiti and French Polynesia – Travel Program                     |
| February 6 | Villanova @ Georgetown  
Men’s Basketball  
Game/Reception                                                    |
| February 9–23 | Expedition to Antarctica – Travel Program                                             |
| February 13 | Villanova vs. Providence  
Men’s Basketball  
Game/Reception                                                   |
| February 15 | Villanova vs. Connecticut  
Men’s Basketball  
Game/Reception                                                   |
| February 21 | Villanova vs. University of Connecticut Gamewatch – Chicago Chapter                  |
| February 25 | 4th Annual Scholarship Benefit – De Marillac Academy  
N. California Chapter                                        |
| February 27 | Villanova @ Syracuse  
Gamewatch – Chicago Chapter                                      |
| March 6 | Villanova vs. West Virginia  
Men’s Basketball  
Game/Reception                                                   |
| March 19–21 | Villanova Singers  
Legacy Event 2010                                             |
| April 8–16 | Cruising the Canary Islands – Travel Program                                        |
| April 17 | College of Nursing Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony                           |
| April 23–April 30 | River Life in Holland and Belgium – Travel Program                      |
| April 30 | 2nd Annual Boston Alumni Gala                                                       |
| May 3 | Carolinas Chapter 2010 Scholarship Golf Outing                                      |
| May 8–26 | European Coastal Civilizations – Travel Program                                     |
| May 21 | First Annual Triangle Area, NC Alumni Golf Outing                                   |
| June 11–13 | Alumni Reunion Weekend 2010                                                          |
| June 30–July 10, 2010 | Great Journey Through Europe – Travel Program                               |
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Villanova University

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