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(Right) Dr. Edward M. Sion, professor of astronomy and astrophysics, focuses on his students, who as undergraduates publish their stellar research in peer-reviewed journals. See page 42.
Introducing the VUAA’s New President

Denise Devine ’77 C&F, ’81 G.S. combines the values she learned from her family with her own determination to develop a successful business aimed at helping others. As Devine begins her tenure as president of the Villanova University Alumni Association (VUAA), she prepares to use the same qualities to guide her alma mater’s alumni relations.

In Lebanon, Pa., a small town near Harrisburg, she grew up as the fifth and youngest child of Julia, a sometimes factory worker and homemaker, and Adam, a tool and dye maker. From her parents’ example, she learned very early the value of hard work and the importance of education.

“My father was a very intelligent man,” Devine explains, “but very frustrated because he never went to college. As children of immigrants, both of my parents worked very hard. They got married during the Depression, so it was not easy.”

Devine now appreciates her small-town childhood, during her high school years she longed for new experiences. As she began her college search, she hoped for new adventures while staying close to her family. “On the practical side, I wanted to go away from home but I didn’t want to go too far,” she recalled. Villanova had offered her older brother a football scholarship, but he turned it down to join the military, and served in Korea.

From the day of her first campus tour, Devine knew she had chosen the right university. “Sometimes you just know… I was just enamored with Villanova, I just was,” she said. She excelled academically, graduating first in her class.

As an undergraduate, she pursued interests in accounting, chemistry and Honors courses. She also became involved with campus life. “I just loved being associated with the heritage and values of Villanova. I liked the fact that the chapel was right there. I loved the spiritual connection and the opportunity to do some social service,” she affirms.

She participated in the Accounting Society; the Finance Society; the Dance Team; and Beta Gamma Sigma, the international business honor society.

Devine continued her family’s tradition of hard work by paying her own tuition. While a student at Lebanon Catholic High School, she waitressed at the Hotel Hershey. During the summers in college, she worked at the Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup factory in Hershey, near her hometown.

“It was the best-paying job around,” she recalled. “We’d pack boxes manually—it wasn’t all automated then. The noise was deafening but it was a good experience. It gave me an appreciation for other people’s experiences and contributions. I’m very comfortable in different environments. I believe this has served me well in my various corporate, leadership and policy roles. Whether I am in the board room, research lab or on the manufacturing plant floor, I’m very comfortable and intently interested in connecting everyone’s efforts in a focused strategic direction.”

After graduation, Devine lived with a few Villanova friends on City Avenue, not far from campus, and began auditing and tax work at Arthur Andersen. She later joined Columbia Gas System, at the time the world’s largest integrated utility, as its tax manager. Devine furthered her career at Campbell Soup Company, first as a manager of tax research and planning and later as a director of finance and investment strategy.

As Devine cultivated her career, she and her husband, Frank X. Devine ’77 C&F, also began a family. It was her role as a mother that sparked Devine’s next career venture. While raising her family and working for a large food company, she noticed a lack of nutritious, convenient foods for children. After lengthy investigation and preparation, Devine in 1990 founded Nutripharm, Inc., a research and development company focused on innovative nutritional foods and nutraceuticals (dietary supplements). The company has a technology platform that has produced 19 U.S. and international patents to date as well as established licensing and strategic alliances with pharmaceutical companies.

In 1997, she established Devine
Foods, Inc., as an operating subsidiary to both manufacture and test-market various food product applications of Nutripharm’s technology. One product was a healthy and more substantive alternative to juice that kids—including her own—would enjoy. Called Fruice, this new drink has been test-marketed and was re-launched in September. At several locations, including Villanova’s Ice Cream Shop in the Connelly Center, the company also test-marketed a non-dairy, heart-healthy soft serve ice cream alternative called Simply Devine. A line of healthy frozen novelties is also nearing completion.

Devine Foods has co-developed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture a healthy smoothie drink for the school lunch program. The new product was the only smoothie approved by the Philadelphia School District under its new restrictive beverage policy.

Making an impact is what drives Devine. “Improper nutrition at a young age has so many implications for lifelong health. The childhood obesity epidemic has far-reaching societal implications as well,” she notes. “Healthy, yet convenient alternatives for young kids did not exist. I wanted to develop products to serve those unmet needs and by doing so contribute something of value in the broader societal sense at the same time.”

While Devine enjoys a rewarding career and family life, she also continues the volunteer service she had begun as an undergraduate. She has served on numerous association and nonprofit boards, as well as government commissions, and has volunteered extensively for Villanova. In addition to serving on the VUAA Board of Directors, Devine serves on the College of Commerce and Finance (C&F) Dean’s Advisory Council and C&F’s Center for Marketing and Public Policy Advisory Board.

In her new role as president of the VUAA, Devine plans to further the primary goals of the Alumni Association’s strategic plan. A Wildcat basketball fan, she says, “My family and I have been season ticket-holders for 20-some years. We live close enough that we have always been able to come back for the sporting events. But with the infrastructure the Alumni Office has put in place, I think there is a lot of opportunity to offer different types of activities. We can broaden the connection.”

Devine believes the VUAA will advance the goal of creating a virtual alumni center by capitalizing on the recent additions to Villanova ONLine (alumni.villanova.edu), the alumni Internet-based community. Villanova ONLine includes a searchable alumni directory, a class notes section and yellow pages to allow alumni to advertise their businesses at no cost. Devine believes the VUAA can use the technology in place to reach alumni who may be interested in lifelong learning activities and to provide advice on topics such as the college application process.

Devine will also lead the VUAA’s efforts to attain another goal: offering innovative and accessible programs. Planning for new career networking and community service programs is under way and will be supported by both the technology resources and the network of the 60 VUAA chapters around the world.

Through each of these endeavors, Devine hopes to create a universal Villanova connection and to strengthen the image of the VUAA throughout the University community. “The Villanova University Alumni Association is a very professional organization,” she says. “The Alumni Office staff works very hard. I want our alumni to know that the Alumni Office is accessible and its staff are very helpful, so they would be happy to help you with whatever you need.”

Devine has set an ambitious agenda for the VUAA, and she believes her passion, business experience and the work ethic she learned from her family will help her succeed as president. “I look for ways to connect dots. What makes me tick is making things happen. It’s always been about seeing something that isn’t happening and being involved somehow and making a difference.”

Devine invites you to contact her via e-mail at: Denise.Devine@Villanova.edu or by mail at: Denise Devine President, Villanova University Alumni Association 800 Lancaster Avenue Villanova, PA 19085-1673

SAVE THE DATE!

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND JUNE 9-11, 2006

Come back to campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend! Special recognition for the reunion class years ending in “1” and “6,” the Class of 1956’s 50-Year Reunion, the Class of 1981’s 25-Year Reunion and the Class of 1996’s 10-Year Reunion.

All alumni are invited to participate. Visit www.alumni.villanova.edu for the schedule and information on accommodations.

If you would like to be a part of your Reunion Class Committee, please contact Christine Denuel Acchione ‘88 A&S, assistant director of campus programs in the Alumni Office, at 1-800-VILLANOVA (800-845-5266) or e-mail christine.acchione@villanova.edu.
As dusk began to shade New York City’s financial district, a vibrant display of familiar Villanova blue and white lit up the night. This was the scene that greeted the more than 300 alumni, parents and friends who gathered for the Fall Campaign Gala at 55 Wall Street on September 29. These guests of Villanova University were treated to an evening of cocktails, fine dining and remarks by leaders of Transforming Minds and Hearts: The Campaign for Villanova. The highlight of the gala occurred when a delegation of current Villanova students—the true beneficiaries of this fundraising effort—were able in person to thank supporters for their generosity and to honor their investment in the future of the University.

A GRAND VENUE AND EVENT

With its Greek Revival and classical Roman style, stately Corinthian columns and soaring dome, 55 Wall Street provided a grand setting for this distinguished event. This mid-19th-century building, designated as a historic landmark, appropriately symbolized the campaign’s themes of investment, success and transformation. Over the years, this architectural gem has been the home of the New York Merchants’ Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange and the U.S. Customs House. After the renowned architects McKim, Meade & White doubled its size in the early 1900s, it served for many years as headquarters of the National City Bank.
The gala evening centered around the inauguration of the President’s Council: Transforming Minds and Hearts. This new recognition society, commissioned by the Steering Committee of The Campaign for Villanova, acknowledges those who have made commitments to the campaign for capital and endowment purposes. These alumni, parents and friends have made outstanding gifts in the early stages of the campaign, and their induction into the President’s Council underscores their belief in the importance of this fundraising effort and their confidence in its ultimate success.

“Although we are still at the relative beginning of this venture, we have made some significant progress,” said the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., ’58, University president. “This Fall Campaign Gala and the inauguration of the President’s Council is a time to pause and take note of what we have accomplished, and then use this energy to fuel future efforts.”

**GIVING COMES FULL CIRCLE**

The Fall Campaign Gala also provided an opportunity to bring past and present generations of Villanovans together to enable donors to hear firsthand of the impact of their generosity. From start to finish, Villanova students carried the evening. Student emcees guided the program that showcased talented Villanovans.

Other current students were on hand for a very special
A COMMUNITY UNITED
Before the night ended, the students of Villanova once again demonstrated to those gathered in this Wall Street landmark the range of diverse talents they possess. The Haveners, a student chorale ensemble, led everyone in singing the “Alma Mater.” Students and guests then lingered just a moment, mingling together and sharing their rich Villanova experiences. It was an opportunity for students and benefactors alike to offer thanks to one another—to the benefactors for showing such commitment and generosity, and to the students for carrying on the Villanova tradition of leadership and dedication.

The significance of the gala and the idea of reciprocity among generations of Villanovans was not lost on Brian Lambsback ’06 A&S, one of the student emcees. “My parents, who both graduated from Villanova, told me that when you receive many blessings in your life, you give something back,” he said in his remarks. “That is my wish. I hope that some day I will be fortunate enough to give back as you do…. Speaking for all of the students of Villanova, thank you for doing so much for me and for all of us.”

On that autumn New York evening, those gathered truly formed a community united.

PRESENT’S COUNCIL ESTABLISHED TO ACKNOWLEDGE EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT

The highlight of the Fall Campaign Gala in New York City on September 29 was the induction of the inaugural members of the new President’s Council: Transforming Minds and Hearts. The President’s Council represents a prestigious new level of recognition commissioned by the Campaign Steering Committee to honor those distinguished individuals who have made exceptional gifts for capital and endowment purposes to Transforming Minds and Hearts: The Campaign for Villanova.

“The President’s Council is a formal and lasting way to honor those who generously support the University and the campaign,” said the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A. ’58, University president. “At the gala we recognized Villanova’s alumni, parents and friends whose involvement has played a large role in the campaign’s early success. This support and the remarkable progress of the campaign to date give us full confidence in the successful completion of this important effort on behalf of the University.”

Membership in the President’s Council is bestowed upon those who have made commitments of $100,000 or above for capital or endowment purposes. Gifts of this magnitude are essential to achieving the University’s strategic objectives, establishing a solid foundation for the future and achieving the long-term vision of the University. These substantial gifts also encourage others to be actively involved in the campaign by attracting similar contributions from Villanova’s alumni, parents and friends.

“The importance of the President’s Council cannot be overstated,” said Father Dobbin. “Membership in the President’s Council signifies a tremendous commitment to the University and a belief in its mission. Support for the University at this level is an ultimate representation of the value our alumni, parents and friends place in a Villanova education, and signifies a willingness to be a part of charting the University’s future.”
OFFICIAL REGISTRY OF THE PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL:
TRANSFORMING MINDS AND HEARTS

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MRS. HARRIET C. BARRY
MR. AND MRS. MARTIN W. BRENNAN
BRUCE W. BUCK, ESQ.
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JIM AND SHIRLEY CURVEY
JIM AND MARY JO DANELLA
CARMEN A.* AND SHARON DANELLA
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BOB AND MARY ELLEN DARRETTA
BILL AND DEBBIE DAVIS
JIM AND KIM DAVIS
ANTHONY AND PATRICIA DELLOMO
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BILL AND NADINE GIBSON
THOMAS F. AND JO-ANNE M. GILMAN
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MR. AND MRS. FRANK MALLON
MR. AND MRS. ANDREW J. MARKEY
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J. JAY AND ELIZABETH MCANDREWS
RICHARD P. McBride, ESQ.
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MR. AND MRS. FRANCIS J. VAN KIRK
DENNIS, MARILYNDRA AND CHRISTINE VIANNA
LARRY AND TINA WATERHOUSE
ED AND ELAINE WELSH
MR. AND MRS. GERALD A. WHITE
SIDNEY AND JACQUELINE WOLGIN
BOB AND MARY GENE WOODS
DAVID E. WORBY, ESQ.
FOUR GIFTS WERE GIVEN ANONYMOUSLY

* DECEASED
Campaign Steering Committee member Arthur J. Kania, Esq., ’56 J.D., and his wife, Angela, are greeted by midshipmen from Villanova’s NROTC program as the couple arrive for the Fall Campaign Gala at 55 Wall Street on September 29.

(Left) The Fall Campaign Gala celebrated the most successful fundraising period in the University’s history—more than $60 million in commitments secured since December 2004. Acknowledging this early success are (from left) Gerald S.J. Cassidy, Esq., ’63 A&S, chairman of The Campaign for Villanova, and John G. Drosdick ’65 Ch.E., chairman of Villanova University’s Board of Trustees.

(Right) Bobbie Rammrath and her husband, Herbert G. Rammrath ’57 A&S, who is a member of the Leadership Gifts Committee.

(From left) Steering Committee member William M. Gibson ’66 C&F and his wife, Nadine, with Kitty Quindlen and her husband, John J. Quindlen ’54 C&F, a member of the Steering Committee.
Father Dobbin welcomes Topsy White and her husband, Gerald A. White ’57 Ch.E.

The highlight of the Fall Campaign Gala was the induction ceremony for the President’s Council: Transforming Minds and Hearts. The ceremony featured student ambassadors personally thanking each donor for his or her generous support of Villanova. Here Lauren Fawls ’06 A&S (center) expresses her appreciation to Joan Canuso and her husband, John B. Canuso ’63 C.E., who is a member of the Major Gifts committee, then formally inducts them into the President’s Council.

(From left) Betty Markey and her husband, Andrew J. Markey ’52 C&F, who is a member of the Major Gifts Committee, with James M. Danko, who is dean of Villanova’s College of Commerce and Finance.
Adrienne Fallon ’06 A&S, a Curve Scholar, speaks with James C. Curvey ’57 C&F after the President’s Council induction ceremony. The Steering Committee established the President’s Council to recognize those who have made commitments for capital and endowment purposes to Transforming Minds and Hearts: The Campaign for Villanova.

(From left) Liz Nicastro and her husband, Vincent P. Nicastro, who is Villanova’s director of Athletics, Herbert F. Aspbury ’67 A&S, who is a member of the Campaign Steering Committee and chairman of the Major Gifts Committee, and his wife, Vicki

(From left) Campaign Steering Committee member Michael B. Picotte ’69 C&F and his wife, Margi, with Kathryn Coleman and her husband, George W. Coleman ’78 C&F
More than 300 members of the Villanova community gathered at 55 Wall Street to celebrate the early public phase success of Transforming Minds and Hearts: The Campaign for Villanova. Among the guests were (from left) Steering Committee member Michael P. Monaco ’70 C&F and his wife, Candace; Elsie Nelson; and campaign vice chairman William B. Finneran ’63 C&F.

Major Gifts Committee member William S. Foley ’76 C&F and his wife, Susan Foley ’79 Nur.

John Duda ’07 M.E. (left) presents Terence M. O’Toole ’80 C&F and his wife, Polly, with a commemorative gift that acknowledges their membership in the President’s Council.
The December 2004 launch of the public phase of Transforming Minds and Hearts: The Campaign for Villanova has propelled this historic fundraising effort to impressive early success. More than $60 million in commitments has been secured since last December, bringing the current campaign total to more than $167 million—surpassing 55 percent of the $300 million goal. What’s more, the $60 million in commitments secured during the past 10 months represents the most successful fundraising period in Villanova University’s history.

“We have made great strides in our campaign,” said campaign chairman Gerald S.J. Cassidy, Esq., ’63 A&S in his address to those gathered at the Fall Campaign Gala on September 29. “You—our alumni, parents and friends—are responsible for this success, and we very much appreciate your support.”

The campaign, which focuses on growing the University’s endowment, seeks to bolster resources for student scholarships, endowed faculty positions, academic and student life programs and upgrades to University facilities. By enhancing Villanova’s ability to attract leading educators and top students, the campaign is strengthening the University’s already distinguished national profile. A strong endowment also increases the University’s borrowing power, ensuring that Villanova can plan for and proceed with strategic projects to meet evolving campus needs.

Campaign chairman Gerald S. J. Cassidy, Esq., ’63 A&S offered the opening remarks. The Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., ’58, University president, in his comments reiterated his plans to commit fully his time and energies to moving the campaign forward during the next year. Father Dobbin discussed the importance of the Steering Committee in providing direction and focus for the campaign. He then commended the hard work of the committee’s members and other campaign volunteer leaders.

“In my travels around the country,” Father Dobbin said, “one of the consistent themes that has emerged is the quality of our Steering Committee and the volunteer leadership. Their increased visibility and leadership roles as we move forward though the campaign will continue to drive our fundraising efforts.”

John M. Elizandro, vice president for Institutional Advancement, then gave a report on recent campaign progress and plans to continue the momentum through the public phase. Since last December’s public launch of the campaign, the Villanova community has responded with unprecedented levels of support, Elizandro reported. During this period, donors have pledged over $60 million to the University, including some of the largest gifts in the Villanova’s history. In fact, the past 10 months represent the most successful period of fundraising in the University’s history.

“When you have such good early numbers, when you have gifts at these levels, that encourages others to follow suit,” Elizandro said. “So not only does it provide resources we can use to meet our goals, but it also encourages those who haven’t yet made a commitment to come forward.”

The meeting concluded with a discussion of communications strategies and future campaign benchmarks, including a series of events planned to maximize the momentum and carry The Campaign for Villanova to a successful conclusion.
Discussion at the Steering Committee meeting on September 29 focused on the progress made during the early stages of The Campaign for Villanova's public phase. With more than $167 million in commitments, the campaign has exceeded 55 percent of its $300 million goal.

John M. Elizandro, vice president for Institutional Advancement, and John G. Drosdick '65 Ch.E., chairman of Villanova's Board of Trustees, review public phase benchmarks and strategies.

Arthur J. Kania, Esq. '56 J.D. and Edward J. Welsh Jr. '66 C&F

At its meeting, the Steering Committee, including Patricia H. Imbesi (left) and Emily C. Riley, explored ways to continue the momentum generated during the early stages of the public phase to ensure the campaign's overall success.

Herbert F. Aspbury '67 A&S (left) and John J. Quindlen '54 C&F reflect on Father Dobbins's comments regarding the importance of visible volunteer leadership. He noted that "in my travels around the country, one of the consistent themes that has emerged is the quality of our Steering Committee."

Terence M. O'Toole '80 C&F
Liftoff for a Legendary Job

As a NASA flight director, Brian T. Smith ’93 E.E. takes the controls to navigate for success and shoot for the stars.

Last spring, Brian T. Smith ’93 E.E. was selected as one of nine mission control flight directors in the class of 2005 at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Because of a flight director’s heavy responsibility, and the small number of people who have held this dream position, this is widely considered to be one of the most sought-after jobs at NASA (think of the voice on the receiving end of “Houston, we have a problem” from the 1995 film “Apollo 13”).

In America’s more than four decades of manned space flight, there have only been 58 flight directors, and it’s been five years since NASA has chosen a new group. NASA had encouraged many of its “stars” to enter the competitive application process. The program’s coordinators saw a shining candidate in Smith and appointed him as one of the nine.

Smith and his eight colleagues represent “one of the most diverse classes of flight directors” in NASA history, according to Jeff Hanley, chief of NASA’s Flight Director Office. There are now 30 active flight directors who guide human space flights from Mission Control at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

How in the universe did Smith arrive at this dream position?

Ask Smith if NASA was where he envisioned his future, and you’ll get a good-natured laugh and a surprising response. He said he was not a child, or even a senior at Villanova University, who lay awake dreaming of the final frontier or the famed Mission Control. He readily admitted that growing up in Upper Darby, Pa., he more likely could have been found zipping around the basketball court than peering through a telescope.

However, even without a career in mind, Smith’s path to success started...
at an early age. His earliest influences not only included the support of a close family and circle of friends, but also the values instilled in him by the Augustinians. At Monsignor Bonner High School in Drexel Hill, Smith began his eight-year journey in understanding the lives of Augustinian priests.

In hindsight, Smith realizes that the part-time jobs he held with the Augustinians had a major influence on the way he now lives his life. He recalls, “The emphasis on community living is just one example of how the Augustinian tradition is helping me today. A major aspect of my job is team work, which is just another form of a community. I am comfortable working in a team setting because of the positive experiences I had at Bonner, as well as at Villanova, in community-based settings.”

Smith entered Villanova not only inspired by the Augustinian way, but by the traditions of his closely knit family. His “Villanova family” includes 10 relatives who are alumni, among them his wife and his brother (see page 17). His father, Dr. Thomas Smith, is a former adjunct professor in the University’s mathematics department (1984 to 2002). Smith and his wife, Michele Danelutti Smith ’96 C&F, met when she was an undergraduate on campus. Villanova’s imprint has not diminished from these two graduates, who were engaged at the Grotto in April 1996. They exchanged their marriage vows in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church in November 1997.

As an undergraduate, Smith was unsure of his exact goals. Like many college students, he also was uncertain of his exact career path, but he did realize that his interests and talents best suited him for the College of Engineering. He attributes the real beginning of his interest in an engineering career to a 1992 summer job with August Design, Inc., in Ardmore, Pa. He worked alongside Edmund Dougherty ’69 E.E., ’86 M.S.C.S., president of the firm. At Villanova, Smith had studied electrical and computer engineering with Dougherty. Smith reflected of his summer job, “I experienced hands-on engineering work for the first time and enjoyed every day of this valuable and influential job.” His intriguing career path began to take shape not long after.

Advice that launched a career
By the time the charismatic Smith had graduated magna cum laude from Villanova in 1993, he was equipped with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering and a desire to enter the workforce. His first position was with L-3 Communications Systems East in Camden, N.J. Here the hardware engineer received some of the most important advice of his career, and perhaps the reason he is at NASA today. An older co-worker told him, “Hey, listen. Don’t make the mistake I did. Don’t let the needs of the company direct your career path. Take control over it and steer it in the direction you want it to go.” As Smith took this advice to heart, he could hardly have fathomed that navigating his career would turn into guiding the nation’s spacecraft from Mission Control.

Immersing himself in the working world, Smith aspired to greatness, rarely straying from his simple, yet decisive blueprint for success: an awful lot of hard work and a proactive approach to his career. “I wanted to look very hard at my objective and then go figure out how to make that happen,” he recalls.

While at L-3, Smith in 1996 earned a master’s degree in electrical engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. When L-3 assigned him to projects for Boeing,
which had a NASA contract to develop communications systems hardware for the International Space Station, Smith began to dream about a career with the space agency. He remembers pondering, “It is one thing to solve a problem in the lab. When 5 o’clock comes, and you have not figured it out, you can go home and know that when you arrive the next day, it will still be there. In space flight, you do not have that luxury….You need to be quick on your feet, and that attracted me.”

Smith decided in 1998 to apply for a position as a flight controller with United Space Alliance, a NASA contractor in Houston. It was then that an inkling of potential turned into an entirely new facet of a career, for Smith’s résumé matched exactly the electrical expertise that Alliance was seeking. As a radio communication expert, he was responsible for the communication and tracking system for the Space Station Interim Control Module. (Think of the brilliant young experts who problem-solved around Ed Harris in “Apollo 13,” in which Harris portrayed Gene Krantz. The legendary flight director led the team that safely brought back the three astronauts in April 1970 after their lunar mission came so close to disaster.)

For nearly seven years, Smith focused diligently on being a flight controller, including logging 3,000 hours of mission support for the Space Station since 2001. He completed his second master’s degree in 2004, this one in aerospace engineering from the University of Houston. He could not help but prepare himself for his next step.

Smith asked himself the questions that these days many people choose to leave out of their consideration. The potential job was exhilarating, but meant very little to Smith unless he could answer these internal questions. An acquaintance asked Smith if he looked forward to going to work each day. It was such a simple question, but it led Smith to consider just how important his answer would be. The friend relayed to Smith how lucky he was to be able to answer “yes.” In retrospect, Smith says, he, too, realized that “I am pretty lucky, and that’s the key….that’s when you know you’ve picked the right job, when you look forward to getting up every morning and going to work.”

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The possibility of being selected as a flight director captivated Smith. “It was only when I spent time as a flight controller that I started envisioning myself in that role,” he recalled. “I asked myself, Is this really what I want to do? Am I going to be happy doing that day in and day out? Do I think I could do that job well?” Smith asked himself the questions that these days many people choose to leave out of their consideration. The potential job was exhilarating, but meant very little to Smith unless he could answer these internal questions. An acquaintance asked Smith if he looked forward to going to work each day. It was such a simple question, but it led Smith to consider just how important his answer would be. The friend relayed to Smith how lucky he was to be able to answer “yes.” In retrospect, Smith says, he, too, realized that “I am pretty lucky, and that’s the key….that’s when you know you’ve picked the right job, when you look forward to getting up every morning and going to work.”

Excitement every day

Of course, as Smith is discovering, directing missions is quite a learning process. He and his eight NASA classmates transcended the ordinary concept of team as they persevered through the intense flight director training. The NASA nine functioned as a community of support and expertise as they learned their role in breathing new life into America’s manned space program. That effort gained a significant boost on August 9 with the safe return of the Space Shuttle Discovery, the first space flight since the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia and its crew of seven in February 2003.

After the thrill of being selected this past June, Smith has been preparing for the most challenging role of his career. His selection arrives on the wings of President George W. Bush’s initiative to forge new paths in space, which will keep NASA’s manned flight agenda brimming with possibilities.

Smith admitted, “There is going to be a lot happening at NASA for years to come as we execute the president’s vision of man getting back to the Moon and going to Mars.”

—Brian T. Smith ‘93 E.E.
Asked whether space travel is as, more or less exciting than the public perceives, Smith replied, “Much more exciting—especially compared to the portrayals in the media…. We see every day what goes on at NASA and see an awful lot of successes that maybe don’t get communicated widely throughout the country and the media. That excitement is what I get to live and experience every day. I wish that everybody in the country could see what goes on.”

For an energetic, ambitious man like Brian Smith, it is hardly surprising that he aspires one day to travel in space. Cognizant of the impact this dream would have on his family, he is not one to dwell on the possibility. Traveling in space is nowhere near his top priority now, in light of his new role at NASA.

If Smith were to travel into space, however, his presence most certainly would not go unnoticed by Philadelphians. For if he holds true to his promise to play the city’s pro football team fight song before each game, the sound emanating from outer space of “Fly, Eagles, Fly” might be tough to ignore on national television.

Smith, who manages to achieve a balanced approach, exudes a quiet sense of awe about the historical implications of his new position, yet simultaneously speaks with a reassuring confidence in himself and in his NASA teammates’ abilities. He stands with both feet planted firmly on the ground, his eyes locked unwaveringly on the safety of the crews and spacecraft whose well-being will soon be in his hands.

Reverent of the great flight directors who have guided space travel before him, beginning with Christopher Columbus Kraft Jr. in the early 1960s, Smith adheres strongly to their priority list: “The life of the crew, the well-being of the vehicle, the success of the mission.” He intends to put every ounce of himself into ensuring the success of these three goals. His dynamic, creative personality assures that he will approach his new role in a way that is uniquely his. He will have no trouble leaving his mark on the program as he does his part in lifting the manned space program to an entirely new level. The Villanova community—and soon the entire nation—will watch in rapt attention as Brian Smith and the flight director class of 2005 lead NASA into the next generation of space flight.

Lauren Humann ’06 A&S is an intern in the Office of Communication and Public Affairs. A history major and French minor, she plans to pursue a career in law or politics.
Building Dreams in Rural Georgia

A retired executive devotes his days to guiding 56 schoolchildren who are determined to make their “I Have a Dream” come true.

BY SARAH DEFILEPPI '06 A&S

When Thomas L. Kelly '65 A&S began conceiving his retirement plan with his wife, Kathy, it was not one that revolved around enjoying the comforts of a 401(k) and sun-filled days of rest and relaxation. Instead, this Villanovan decided to assume control of a drastically different full-time career in 1999 after leaving his position as president of Baxter’s Cardiovascular Devices Division in California.

At the age of 56, Thomas Kelly embarked upon a 16-year commitment to 56 Greensboro, Ga., first-graders and the development of the nation’s first rural “I Have A Dream” program. For Kelly, the sponsorship of the Greensboro Dreamers program attempts to fulfill a long-term personal obligation to help the underprivileged. In June, the Villanova University Alumni Association presented Kelly with a St. Thomas of Villanova Alumni Medal in recognition of his efforts.

Looking at his Villanova record, one would not necessarily have guessed that this Philadelphia native would later become wholeheartedly devoted to a path in child development. A biology major, Kelly had planned to go on to medical school or other advanced degrees that would carry him into the professional world. He has admitted to being a bit of a “wild man” during his undergraduate days, laughingly referring to himself as “far from your model social representative.” In speaking at the Vigil Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony on June 11 at Alumni Reunion Weekend, he even joked about his wife’s reaction to his receiving the medal: “I know you Thomas Kelly, and you’re no St. Thomas!”

Yet, despite his inclination toward science and getting into college hijinks with friends, the values impressed upon Kelly through his family and Augustinian schooling instilled within him a sense of dedication and obligation that he has carried with him to this day.

Family has always been an integral part of Kelly’s life. As the middle of three children, he looks back fondly on his time growing up in Overbrook and Winwood, Pa., appreciating what he calls “a great foundation from great parents.” As the son of Bob and Mary Kelly, he learned at an early age the concept of giving back to those less fortunate. His parents’ teaching also imbedded within him a strong sense of accountability and responsibility. “My father was a great guy but he was very much ‘These are the rules,’” says Kelly of his childhood. “If you got into trouble at school, he was the last person you wanted to see when he came home at night.”

Encountering the teachings of St. Augustine while enrolled at Malvern Preparatory School, and later at Villanova, furthered the sense of obligation that Kelly had acquired at home. Through his four years as a part of the University community, he learned from Augustine the importance of educating the young and working with the disadvantaged.

Reflecting on his Villanova years, which he cites as some of the best years of his life, he realized how blessed he had been. “From that, I developed an obligation to give back to those who were not as fortunate as those of us who had the chance to go to Villanova,” he recalls.
Partners in marriage and beyond

Luckily for Kelly, he was able to find a woman who shared his values and drive to help those lacking the same privileges. Thomas and Kathy Kelly, a Rosemont College graduate, have been together for 38 years after falling quickly in love. He was instantly attracted to her confidence and compassion. He describes her as “a truly beautiful person both inside and out, and my best friend.”

Together, they raised three children and established themselves in their individual careers. He worked for Johnson & Johnson and later Baxter International, and she served as the first female mayor of Clearwater, Fla., in the mid-1980s. At the age of 40, the two began to formulate their plans for the future. “We decided that if we continued to be blessed with health in our family and enough financial means, I would retire at age 55,” he says. “From the time we were married, we were always talking about what we could do for kids before we’re too old to do it. We just loved kids and felt that some are never given the opportunities that should be given to them. For 16 years, we both had the strong goal that we should give back, and that the best way for us to do so would be through the education of poor children.”

In the meantime, the two began to work part-time with local organizations to help improve the quality of life for those in need. In 1981, Kelly founded Ervin’s All American Youth Club in Clearwater, with help from Kathy’s office as mayor. Working with a friend, he developed a boxing club to help bring poor children off of the streets and into an activity. “Boxing was the carrot to get them involved, and then we quickly tried to work with the school system. We realized that the activities were not enough. We also needed to become involved with their education,” he said. Although the couple was never able to push the program as much as they would have liked, his job transfers brought them to new cities and programs whose goals and concepts aligned with that of their current project, “I Have A Dream.”

Making tracks on the other side

At the age of 56, Thomas Kelly began to make his retirement dreams a reality. The couple moved to Reynolds Plantation, a private community in Greene County, Ga., to be closer to two of their children. Situated 70 miles from Atlanta on a lake, the area is “a beautiful place,” he says, “but if you drive across Interstate 20, you hit what you would call ‘the other side of the tracks,’ where there is an area of extreme poverty filled with hurdles and obstacles for children.”

Greene County faces daunting socioeconomic statistics when compared to national levels. In two of six recent years, fewer than 64 percent of its high school seniors graduated. According to Kelly, fewer than 2 percent earn a college degree. He added that more than 50 percent of girls in the area give birth to an out-of-wedlock child while still teen-agers. Choosing this location, Kelly began a six-month research endeavor to find a program that suited his mission. He finally settled upon “I Have A Dream,” an organization founded in 1981 by Eugene Lang. The Dreamers model begins with the youngest pupils in school. Its mission is to guide promising students toward becoming productive citizens by providing them with long-term educational support in many forms, including college tuition assistance.

Kelly did not have to look far for a school to begin his Dreamers program. He found an immediate fit with Greensboro Elementary School, the first place on his list. “We clearly saw the school’s need,” he stated. “We immediately hit it off with the principal, Joan Antone, who has now become a longtime friend. She told me, ‘You aren’t going anywhere else. We need this here.’ We were sold on building it there after about the first two minutes.” After meeting with Antone and Beth Thomas, an enthusiastic and dedicated second grade teacher who would become the program’s director, the Kellys’ plan came into motion.

To form the Greensboro Dreamers, the Kellys asked each kindergarten teacher to list 10 to 15 students with the greatest needs, pupils who would show major benefits from the comprehensiveness of the “I Have A Dream” approach. The Rev. Kail C. Ellis, O.S.A., Ph.D., ‘69 M.A., dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, presents Kelly with a St. Thomas of Villanova Alumni Medal during the Vigil Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in June.
students, about half of the school’s kindergarten, were far from “cherry-picked,” Kelly said. The Dreamers represent a variety of backgrounds, challenges and skill levels. As Kelly explained, “They are 56 individuals with 56 different needs.” The children are now entering the sixth year of the program.

While the Kellys’ cause may be admirable, it is not one without difficulties. A talented business executive, Kelly had to adapt quickly to the world of education and shift into a vastly different mode.

“Instead of discussing product features and pricing with surgeons, I was discussing report cards and homework with first graders.”

—Thomas L. Kelly ’65 A&S

“Overnight,” Kelly said, “I moved from a California-based global business environment working with senior managers, customers and competitors, to a rural Georgia-based education environment with 6-year-old children, single moms, teachers, volunteers, no support staff, government bureaucracy and no funding. Instead of discussing product features and pricing with surgeons, I was discussing report cards and homework with first graders.”

At times, that became a difficult obstacle for both Kelly and Thomas, his project director and only staff member. The two have had to lean on one another to achieve success. Kelly contributing his skills from the business world and Thomas lending her background with her two master’s degrees in the field, as well as a wealth of educational experience and enthusiasm.

The Kellys and their Dreamers also encounter fundraising challenges and outside skepticism. While the Greensboro students face as many obstacles as those living in urban poverty, Kelly has been continually surprised at the difficulty of raising funds for his cause. “Everything is focused on the needs of inner-city children, and there are rarely any grants given outside of a city,” he explained. “No one talks about poor children living across the rest of the United States, yet in rural America, there are more single parents with poverty-level children and underperforming schools than in the inner city.”

Although Kelly has contributed a significant amount of personal funds to the Greensboro Dreamers, he constantly finds himself searching for more money. Each year, the cost of supporting the program requires raising $250,000 ($175,000 for operational costs and $75,000 for college funds). Kelly has remained persistent in his requests for aid. While it was difficult at first, he has grown accustomed to asking friends and others for money. He says he now embarrasses his wife, asking everyone he meets to make a donation to the Dreamers. Kelly is nothing if not determined and persevering.

The program and its participants must steer in the face of any naysayers who might doubt the lasting success of the Greensboro Dreamers. According to a May series in The Wall Street Journal, “Moving Up: Challenges to the American Dream” by David Wessel, American children coming from poverty-stricken backgrounds today are no more or less likely to elevate themselves above their parents’ economic status than their counterparts were 35 years ago. In his May 13 article, Wessel detailed the limitations of upward mobility that exist “despite the spread of affirmative action, the expansion of community colleges and the other social change designed to give people of all classes a shot at success.”

On behalf of his 56 Greensboro Dreamers, Kelly has worked diligently to make sure that failure to overcome social barriers is not an option.

When asked how he plans to overcome cynicism and statistics, Kelly launches into his heavily detailed and researched plan, one he formulated to combat the barriers of class in America. After speaking with poverty-level students who were unable to succeed once they were given the opportunity to attend college, he came to realize that their downfall often arose from a lack of academic preparation. Because of this, Kelly and his dozens of volunteers have maintained their direct involvement with the students’ schooling and have developed a comprehensive program encompassing the “whole child.”

The program provides tutoring and test preparation in all subjects and builds and reinforces the students’ confidence in their ability. The Dreamers also become versed in respect, responsibility, etiquette and the importance of community service and giving back. This will be continued throughout their 16 years of schooling, and becomes part of the tuition scholarships granted for college or vocational programs. To help his sponsored children reach their collegiate goals, Kelly constantly works to make sure that these students are prepared with the skills needed for college admittance. He receives a wealth of information and advice from prep schools and his alma mater.

Success beyond report cards

Both Thomas and Kathy Kelly find themselves blown away by the voracity of the children’s appetite for success. The two have discovered their greatest reward in watching their sponsored students climb their way onto the honor roll, proudly waving and sharing their report cards with them.

This rural Georgia program has bred success, not only through noticeable psychological improvements in the children, but also through academic records. In 2005, 97 percent of Kelly’s Dreamers met or exceeded standards on the Georgia CRCT Test, 63 percent achieved the top two categories of a statewide contest for essays and all 56 have made Honor Roll at least once. The program has even received national acknowledgement from “60 Minutes” on CBS-TV and People Magazine.

For Kelly, the children’s ability to become successful does not solely hinge on academics. He subscribes to the theory that his students need to evolve outside of the classroom, dreaming of the future as
they encounter new experiences in the world.

“I’ve talked to some people who have experienced difficulties entering college, and they spoke about going into college the first day where everyone is talking about their experiences in Europe, skiing, museums,” he explained. “Our kids are going to have those experiences.”

While many Greene County residents have never stepped foot out of their neighborhood or seen a building higher than two stories, Kelly’s Dreamers have participated in more than 50 field trips in the past five years, ranging from museums, theater and poetry readings to basketball games, the Nation’s Capitol and the Space Camp in Alabama. Pre- and post-field-trip discussions enable the Dreamers to think critically about their interests and focus on their future. With this sort of comprehensive personal development program, Kelly and his young Dreamers seem prepared to weather any storm.

Despite clocking in more than 40 oftentimes exhausting hours a week with the Greensboro Dreamers and dealing with the difficulties of fundraising, Kelly loves every minute of his retirement years. “During that first year, we occasionally questioned our sanity, but we have never questioned our decision,” he stated. “We’ve been in love with these wonderful children since day one.”

He looks upon his Dreamers as grandchildren. He thoroughly enjoys laughs and bus ride conversations with them, learning about their lives, watching them succeed. He cherishes the moments they share. He recalled, “One of the girls wrote Kathy and me a letter and said she would never forget the trip we took her on, and that someday she was going to pay back every penny that we spent on her, and that she loves us dearly. That’s a pretty darn good memory.”

Kelly’s experience with the Greensboro Dreamers also has been enhanced through a lot of help and support from his family. Kathy Kelly has been not only his life partner, but his partner in developing the program. “We’re very happy,” Thomas Kelly said. “I would imagine that a lot of people going into retirement years are looking for something to do, something to have meaning, something to do together. This sure has brought Kathy and me together on a project, and we enjoy it and do it together every day.” She also knows how to get him to take breaks from his work, with surprise dinners, trips to Clearwater Beach or suggesting that he hit the links. “She’s always telling me to get a life beyond the Dreamers,” he said.

Kelly also spends considerable time with his grandchildren and is endlessly appreciative and proud of the help from their three grown children. Their daughter, who five years ago was named the Young Person of the Year in Atlanta for recruiting 10,000 volunteers a year for a food bank, is already aligned in the family footsteps as the adoptive mother of a baby from China.

**Dreaming big**

For Thomas Kelly, receiving the St. Thomas of Villanova Medal was a great honor that serves as an acknowledgement that the he and his wife are beginning to fulfill their long-term obligation to give back to those in need. He explained, “I felt OK about myself in the business world and as a father and husband, but I really feel that I’m fulfilling an obligation shared by everyone in this county who is blessed.”

In Kelly’s mind, his work is far from completion. He is relentless in his quest to help those in need. In addition to the Dreamers, he has become increasingly involved in other facets of the community as head of the Employability Task Force and part of the county Healthcare Clinic. He hopes his desire to help will inspire others to a path of service.

“My frustration is getting the message out that if you give, you get back so much more,” Kelly said. “If I am just able to get someone to try it for one day, to come out for one day with the Dreamers, I know that I have them.”

If Kelly’s program stays on course, all 56 Greensboro Dreamers will soar through high school, disproving history and statistics and pushing toward their dreams for the future.

When asked for his own vision and dream of the future, Kelly referred to the 1967 classic movie, “To Sir, With Love,” in which a new teacher at an inner-city London school shakes up the teen-agers’ perceptions on life, encouraging them to pursue their dreams. “In the end, they sing ‘To Sir, with Love’ to him,” Kelly says. “I just envision someday these kids standing there and singing that song to me when they graduate from college. I will be absolutely dissolving into tears.”

To contact Thomas L. Kelly ’65 A&S and the Greensboro Dreamers, e-mail him at gdbdreamers@yahoo.com. Visit the Web site at www.gbdreamers.org.

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On the Road to Health in Darfur

In war-torn Sudan, Katherine “Katie” Fallon ’01 Nur. faced up to the daunting challenge of setting up health programs and delivering them to rural villagers.

BY JAYA MOHAN ’07 A&S

The plight of the Sudanese people in Darfur has fanned the fire of international concern, and on a more local level, the concern of Katherine “Katie” Fallon ’01 Nur. Though many people in the developed nations feel for the people of Darfur, there are few who have taken the steps to help them that Fallon has.

Fallon, who was based in Nyala, capital of the state of South Darfur, returned to Boston in April. Throughout the six blazing-hot months the Villanova alumna spent in Darfur, she helped build permanent health clinics, took the initiative to implement a children’s health and hygiene program, and started up mobile health clinics to travel to villages.

A staff nurse in the adult medical acute care unit at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in Boston, Fallon was one of the first two nurses chosen to receive MGH’s Thomas S. Durant Fellowship for Refugee Medicine in 2004, which supported her work in Darfur, which is Sudan’s western region. The fellowship was created in memory of the former associate general director of MGH, Dr. Thomas S. Durant. His lifelong work involved providing humanitarian aid to trouble spots around the world.

Durant Fellows receive a stipend and expenses to be used to respond to humanitarian disasters. They spend three, six or nine months in an area, interacting with existing organizations to provide aid to refugee populations.

Serving as a Durant Fellow enabled Fallon to acquire field experience in a humanitarian cause without risking the seniority she had gained as a nurse at MGH. It also gave her “a little taste of what Dr. Durant loved so much, which I think is the idea of the fellowship,” she mused in a recent interview. Fallon decided to work with the American Refugee Committee (ARC) International, and to provide medical care and health education for the Sudanese.

In Darfur, she would begin to realize a goal she had had since her senior year at Villanova. That spring, Fallon undertook a service trip to the Augustinian Mission in Chulucanas, Peru, for her community health course. Nine Nursing students, as well as several from Campus Ministry, traveled to a rural village during Spring Break to teach the residents basic health education topics such as first aid, nutrition and the Heimlich maneuver.

This weeklong introduction to humanitarian work, said Fallon, “opened my eyes to just how lucky we are over here.” That impression stayed with her and convinced her to continue sharing all that she had been lucky enough to receive.

A few years later, Fallon jumped at the chance to become a Durant Fellow and help others. She chose Darfur because “it was the focus of the whole world’s attention at the time,” she said. Because of the civil strife and the accounts of refugees fleeing the area, Fallon knew that help was needed there. “You want to go to a place where you feel like you can help rebuild something that really needs it” is how she expressed her mission.

What she did not realize was that she wouldn’t necessarily be rebuilding anything. Rather, she would be building these health programs from scratch.

Prior to arriving in Darfur, Fallon had

In the Darfur village of Donki Dreissa, Katherine “Katie” Fallon ’01 Nur. (eleventh from right in back row) and other volunteers joined with villagers in building a primary health-care clinic.
expected to be somewhat of an apprentice to veteran ARC workers, since she had very little experience in humanitarian aid. However, because of the crisis in Darfur, the structure she had been expecting (and, perhaps, hoping for) was not yet in place. Fallon ended up being at the helm of projects to help create this structure in a land torn apart by war.

Fallon’s desire to help others had trumped many of her fears of living in a completely foreign country for an extended period of time. And yet, once she landed in Khartoum, Sudan’s capital in the north, the culture shock manifested itself in the differences she saw between herself and the people of Sudan, ranging from clothing styles to food to the meaning of gestures. Fallon’s ride from the airport, provided by a Sudanese man who spoke little English, presented her with what she thought would be another prevalent obstacle: the language barrier.

However, she soon realized the truth of the warm and friendly reputation the Sudanese people have throughout Africa. This reputation “makes you wonder why they have so many problems because they’re just the most loving and helpful people,” Fallon contemplated.

Even the roving janjaweed rebels responsible for much of the destruction and terror plaguing the country had a measure of respect for the international volunteers, Fallon noted. This was shown by their reluctance to attack any parties in which a volunteer was present.

While Fallon’s status as an international volunteer offered some assurance that her safety would not be a major concern, she was aware that attacks occurred during her stay. Because she was slightly removed from accounts of the violence due to her status and the language gap, it was not until a volunteer fluent in Arabic spoke to the villagers after an attack that she understood the scope of the violence permeating their lives.

One of the midwives with whom Fallon worked, a woman named Hassannia, described how she and other women had survived an attack on the village of Donki Dreissa by hiding in the half-built primary health-care clinic. Hassannia told of how the survivors had witnessed the raping, killing and burning of people and buildings in their village. They also bore witness to a horrific act: They saw the janjaweed, who did not typically target children, take the children of this village and kill them by throwing them into the burning huts.

Even after enduring tremendous losses in Donki Dreissa, the villagers still managed to smile and welcome the volunteers, testifying to the strength of these people, Fallon observed. Upon finishing the construction of the clinic, the villagers celebrated first with the volunteers and then by continuing to dance all night long. When Fallon asked them why they danced for the entire night, they said, “Because before this, we didn’t have anything to dance for…but now we do.”

In providing primary health care for the people of Darfur, Fallon saw patients, both male and female and of all ages, who were suffering from fevers, respiratory infections and skin ulcers—all ailments that would have been less of a problem if the living conditions had been better, cleaner and safer. Contrasted with the medically complex cases Fallon had seen at MGH, she realized that the relatively simple health issues of the Sudanese were just as serious because of Darfur’s huge lack of resources. For this reason, Fallon understood the necessity of health education. By teaching the villagers more hygienic habits, such as washing their hands and hydrating themselves, she and the rest of the ARC team made certain that, at the very least, they would “leave them with some education so they can help themselves” after the volunteers had departed.

Fallon plans to continue helping others help themselves. Having been exposed to the enormous health needs that exist around the world, she said she is aware that “Once you leave America and you leave your comfort zone and the cocoon that we live in here…you realize that this world has so many bigger problems.” The nurse does not see how she could be justified in ignoring the lessons that her experience in Darfur had taught her.

In keeping with Durant’s philosophy that one person can make a difference, Fallon returned from Sudan with the conviction that while she is only one person, “at least I’m trying,” she said. “At least I’m giving it my best shot.”

This spring, Emmanuel College’s Department of Nursing awarded its 2005 Clara Barton Service to Humanity Award to Fallon. The school in Boston commended Fallon’s passionate approach to health education and service “to the most vulnerable of the world’s people.”

For more information about the Thomas S. Durant Fellowship for Refugee Medicine and helping medical professionals continue to provide emergency aid around the world, please visit www.durantfellowship.org.

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Augustinians Dedicate New Sculpture

BY MICHAEL DOLAN

The Augustinians of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova held a formal dedication ceremony at Villanova University on September 8 for a new sculpture by renowned artist Anthony Visco.

The sculpture, titled “St. Thomas of Villanova, Father of the Poor,” has been installed in front of the new chapel of the recently renovated St. Thomas of Villanova Monastery on campus. The statue was commissioned by the Augustinians, thanks to benefactors Bradley and Shirley MacDonald of Owings Mills, Md. Bradley McDonald ’71 A&S, is CEO of Medifast, Inc. and also a graduate of Monsignor Bonner High School and a retired Marine colonel. The statue was dedicated in memory of the couple’s mothers, Florence Southcott MacDonald and Margaret Kelly Malaby.

St. Thomas of Villanova, a 16th-century Augustinian, is the University’s patron. Known as the “Beggar Bishop” and the “Father of the Poor,” he was renowned for the care he provided to others. Born in 1486 in Toledo, Spain, he was an outstanding student and academician. In his late 20s, he decided to join the religious life, and entered the Order of Saint Augustine in 1517. He went on to become the Archbishop of Valencia, dedicating his life to the impoverished. As he fed the hungry, clothed the naked and invited those without shelter into his home, St. Thomas of Villanova truly followed the footsteps of Christ.

Visco’s sculpture captures the saint’s life in astonishing beauty. He is portrayed holding a young child and extending his arm to two other children, signifying his life of welcoming those who came to him for help, for food, for clothing and for shelter. Visco is one of Philadelphia’s finest artists, and his work can be seen throughout the region, including at the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia in Philadelphia.

The Very Rev. Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A., ’71 A&S, D. Min. blesses the statue, “St. Thomas of Villanova, Father of the Poor,” by artist Anthony Visco. Father Reilly is Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, which commissioned the work. (Inset) Father Reilly thanks the benefactors, Shirley and Bradley MacDonald ’71 A&S, who dedicated the statue in memory of their mothers.

The statue dedication is another highlight of the Augustinians’ current $25 million Embracing the Future campaign. For more information, visit www.augustinian.org.

Michael Dolan is director of communications for the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova.
Brooks Twins Team up on Leadership

BY AMANDA ROSELLI '06 A&S

Dr. Donna Brooks '87 M.A. and Lynn Brooks '85 M.A. are not only incredibly accomplished and identical twins, but they also are colleagues. Since 1997, their international training and consulting firm, Brooks Consulting, based in Blue Bell, Pa., has conducted extensive research on career and leadership success strategies. The two alumnae have brought their experience to Villanova University this fall to team-teach about leadership.

The sisters have co-authored three books published by McGraw-Hill: Seven Secrets of Successful Women (1997), Ten Secrets of Successful Men That Women Want to Know (2002) and their most recent, Ten Secrets of Successful Leaders (2005), for which they interviewed top CEOs worldwide for fresh insights on leadership.

The twins have been interviewed by major media outlets such as CNN, CNBC, CBS, Fox News, Business Week, USA Today and The Wall Street Journal. They have worked with prestigious organizations, including American Express, Citigroup, the London Business School, Merck, Merrill Lynch, Rohm & Haas, Verizon and Villanova, among others. Both sisters have lived, worked, studied and traveled abroad extensively, and each is skilled in several foreign languages.

Donna Brooks earned her master's at Villanova in communication and her doctorate in adult and organizational development. She has served as the U.S. executive vice president of the European Women's Development Network, based in Brussels.

Her twin, Lynn Brooks, who also earned her master's degree at Villanova in communication, has 15 years of experience in international sales and marketing with several multinational corporations.

This fall, the busy Brooks sisters are team-teaching both the introductory and capstone courses in Villanova's new leadership studies major for the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program in Part-Time Studies. Both of them have worked with leaders in many industries and are also leaders in their own right. It was fate that brought the sisters back to Villanova to teach, Donna Brooks said. She had been an assistant to Dr. Robert D. Stokes when he was in Career Development and she was taking graduate classes (he is now assistant vice president for Academic Affairs of Part-Time and Continuing Studies). The sisters met with Stokes for lunch as they were finishing up their latest book and he was developing the leadership program. Stokes asked them to teach, and since then, the program has taken off. Donna Brooks called the program “innovative,” “flexible” and “fresh” and emphasized how dynamic and cooperative its faculty members are.

Villanova is the ideal setting for the new leadership degree program, according to Donna Brooks. Throughout the sisters’ research on leadership, their findings have been consistent with the University’s core themes of social responsibility, a liberal arts approach, critical thinking, problem-solving and a philosophy based on Augustinian traditions and teachings. Some of the concepts that came up during their research, she said, were “extraordinary integrity, ethical behavior and social responsibility...which, of course, is all Villanova.”

Some people are born leaders, Donna Brooks noted. They have the intelligence, the skills and the personality. However, anyone can be a leader, if he or she is taught the right skills and way of thinking, and works hard enough at it, she believes. Everyone needs to have leadership skills because anyone could be put into a situation unexpectedly and called upon to take charge. “A lot of people tend to go into certain areas because they think they don’t need to [deal with people] but you’re pretty much not safe anywhere,” she said.

Great leaders are global leaders, according to the Brooks twins. These leaders can deal with an ever-changing environment and a diverse team. Global leaders have not only great technical skills but also a superior set of softer skills like compassion and ethical standards.

Identical twins Lynn Brooks '85 M.A. (left) and Dr. Donna Brooks '87 M.A. are team-teaching about leadership this fall at Villanova University. They are also colleagues at Brooks Consulting and teamed up to publish three books with McGraw-Hill.

With their years of research and experience, Donna and Lynn Brooks plan to bring to their students vivid real-life examples of what qualities the new type of leader embodies. Whenever the twins teach, those examples will be standing right in front of the class.

Ten Secrets of Successful Leaders is reviewed on page 63. More information on Villanova University’s new leadership degree program within Part-Time Studies can be found in the following story and at www.parttime.villanova.edu/programs/bis_ls.htm.

Amanda Roselli ’06 A&S is an Honors and English major with a concentration in writing and rhetoric. She is an intern in the Office of Communication and Public Affairs.
Part-Time Studies Offers New Degree in Leadership Studies

BY AMANDA ROSELLI ’06 A&S

A
dult learners now can choose a
new comprehensive program in
leadership studies that strikes a
balance between teaching leadership as
a concept and applying these leadership
skills. Villanova University’s division
of Part-Time Studies this fall launched
this new leadership studies major in its
Bachelor in Interdisciplinary Studies
(BIS) degree program, a 120-credit pro-
gram with a flexible core curriculum.

Leadership studies focuses on themes
such as personal development, com-
munity, ethics, conflict and change,
leadership tools and communication.
The new major requires a combination
of the BIS core courses and 10 specific
courses highlighting areas of interest
for today’s leaders. These include global-
ization; rapid scientific and social change;
advances in technology; and growing
diversity in the workforce, clients, stra-
tegic partners and the community.

Some of the courses will be offered in
FastForward format, an accelerated option
designed specifically for working adults.

The instructors for leadership studies
are as diverse as they are experienced. Dr.
Donna Brooks ’87 M.A. and her twin sis-
ter, Lynn Brooks ’85 M.A., whose jointly
authored book Ten Secrets of Successful
Leaders was just published, are team-
teaching the introductory and the cap-
stone courses. Other faculty include Dr.
Robert D. Stokes, assistant vice president
for Academic Affairs of Part-Time and
Continuing Studies; James McCloskey,
adjunct professor of communication;
Sue Metzger, program director for the
BIS-Information Systems program; Dr.
Benjamin R. Schuster, president of BRS
Associates, a public affairs consulting
firm in St. Davids, Pa.; and Dr. Perry
Martini and Dennis Haley of Academy
Leadership, LLC, in King of Prussia, Pa.

“We all hit it off immediately,”
said Donna Brooks of the instruc-
tors. “It’s a very dynamic, energetic
group that’s willing to share.”

A key element of this new leader-
ship studies program is the integration
of its courses. They are not stand-alone
but rather highly interdisciplinary and
will borrow from and build upon the
other courses. Faculty members are
encouraged to keep the lines of com-
munication open, and even to sit in on
each other’s classes. The faculty meets
periodically to discuss new ideas and to
update one another on their coursework.

Instructors say they intend to encour-
age discussion, expose students to different
perspectives and provide real-life examples
of leadership in action. Among the fac-
ulty, real-life examples will be abundant
because all of them have experienced
leadership first-hand in a variety of fields.

Stokes said Villanova was a natu-
ral fit for a leadership studies degree
because not only is it a national leader
in higher education, but also its gradu-
ates often become leaders in their fields.

Leadership can be taught to anyone
open to it, Stokes emphasized. “Leadership
is not a matter of being a born leader,”
he said. He views leadership as a com-
bination of skills, including having a
vision; being able to pull diverse people
and ideas together; having strategic and
technical skills; and being able to recog-
nize the individual as part of a team and
ultimately, as part of an organization.

In today’s work environment, lead-
ership is a critical skill that everyone
needs to interact efficiently. Villanova’s
part-time degree in leadership stud-
ies is geared to working adults who are
interested in expanding their knowl-
edge and expertise in this area.

The leadership studies program
also offers a minor and a certificate.
More information on the program
can be found at www.parttime.vil-
lanova.edu/programs/bis_ls.htm.

Radnor Commends Villanova’s Role in Undoing Racism

To celebrate Villanova University’s active role
in undoing racism within the community,
Radnor Township on September 14 gave
a special award to the University during Radnor’s
fifth annual Unity Breakfast, which is held on
campus.

The plaque was presented by David A. Bashore,
township manager, and Nickie Plumb, a member
of the Radnor Township Breakfast Committee.
Accepting the award for Villanova were Dr. John
Immerwahr, associate vice president for Academic Affairs and
professor of philosophy, and Barbara K. Clement, assistant vice
president for Communication and Public Affairs.

The breakfast, part of Radnor’s Undoing Racism Day, was held
in the Villanova Room of the Connelly Center. Harry G. Mahoney,
Esq., president of Radnor’s Board of Commissioners,
was the master of ceremonies.

Immerwahr welcomed the more than 200 guests
to Villanova. During the past summer, he remarked,
he had visited Harvard University. He asked the
breakfast guests if anyone knew that university’s
motto. “You are right,” he told the guest who replied.
“Harvard’s motto is Veritas, truth. But you should
know, it is only one third of Villanova’s motto, which
has added Unitas and Caritas, unity and love.” Immerwahr
spoke of how Augustinian tradition promotes learning and living
within a community, which is why Villanova is particularly proud
to host the Unity Breakfast each year.

Radnor held its first Undoing Racism Day and Unity Breakfast
as part of its yearlong centennial celebration in 2001-02.
Bernard Corr: A Higher Stake

Family’s oral history recalls the intensity of the benefactor for whom a beloved building on campus was named.

By Amanda Roselli ’06 A&S

Bernard Corr was a “nice tyrant,” according to his first granddaughter, Helen Smith Greenhalgh. Her memories of Corr were preserved by her son, Paul Greenhalgh, who recorded her recollections of family history. A writer who lives in New Jersey, he interviewed his mother on audiotapes before her death last April.

Corr’s name should be familiar to all Villanovans who have lived, worked and worshiped in Corr Hall because he was the man who donated $100,000 to build it. His gift was equivalent to more than $1.9 million today, based on the Consumer Price Index. Completed in 1914, Corr Hall was constructed for the Augustinian Seminary, and served as its principal building until 1964. According to Residence Life, it is now home to 50 Villanova sophomores and also provides office space.

On May 4, 1912, Bernard Corr attended the groundbreaking on the Villanova campus for the Augustinian Seminary building that his donation had made possible. He died later that year. He is depicted here as a young Irish immigrant from Lissan. Corr Hall, designed by Edwin F. Durang, reflected the Collegiate Gothic style elegantly exemplified in another campus landmark by the same architect three decades earlier: the St. Thomas of Villanova Church.

Bernard Corr “had a habit of slamming his cards on the table, and he loved to win.”

—Paul Greenhalgh, Corr’s great-grandson

Bernard Corr was born in 1826, Corr came to America in his 20s from Lissan, an Irish city near Belfast. Like many immigrants, he started off without much money. He bought a bar in Old City Philadelphia and, according to Paul Greenhalgh, made his money from importing Irish liquor and wine. However, in historian David R. Contosta’s book, Villanova University, 1842-1992, American—Catholic—Augustinian, Corr is described as a “wealthy entrepreneur who made most of his money in real estate and the stock market.” Corr married Catherine Timiny and they had six children—four daughters and two sons, one of whom he disowned for marrying a Protestant.

Corr was always interested in building churches, according to Greenhalgh. “He decided to build a church on Broad Street,” Greenhalgh said, and Philadelphia’s Archbishop Patrick J. Ryan “was happy to get the money.” But when Archbishop Ryan selected a lot “in the middle of the block,” Greenhalgh added, “my great-grandfather deeply resented that it wasn’t on the corner.”

In response, Corr decided to look elsewhere. “That’s why Villanova has Corr Hall—because the archbishop didn’t want to put the church on the corner,” Greenhalgh said.

However, spite was not the sole reason for building Corr Hall on Villanova’s grounds. “There was always a connection with the Augustinians,” Greenhalgh said. Corr’s son, Bernard Jr., graduated from Villanova in 1894, as did Corr’s son-in-law, J. Stanley Smith, an 1893 graduate. Greenhalgh noted how his entire family “loved” Villanova: “It was like home.” Over the years, many of his family’s special celebrations would be held at Corr Hall, especially weddings and anniversaries, he added. The Rev. Joseph Hickey, O.S.A., D.D., University president from 1924 to 1925, “started coming to all of our family functions and was referred to as another grandfather,” Greenhalgh said.

As a child, Helen Smith Greenhalgh lived with Corr for six years. She remembered unique traits about her grandfather. For example, he hated “new-fangled contraptions” such as electricity and telephones. On Friday nights, Corr would hold card games, with clergy members in attendance, including Archbishop Ryan and his successor in 1911, Archbishop Edmond Francis Prendergast. Corr “had a habit of slamming his cards on the table, and he loved to win,” Greenhalgh said.

Greenhalgh believes that his great-grandfather was a very intense person, the kind of guy on whose bad side no one would want to be. However, Greenhalgh emphasized that Corr did a lot of good and was very much into any Catholic cause.

Ultimately, Greenhalgh cited the independence and motivation of Corr, who died in 1912, as an inspiration in his own life. “I believe that the key to life is to take risks,” said Greenhalgh. By starting a new life in America, Corr “took the ultimate risk.”
ORIENTED TO TRADITION

VILLANOVA STYLE

Over four days in August, members of the Class of 2009 bonded and made friends, built rapport as Wildcats and whetted their appetite for campus life.

BY IRENE BURGO

“Villanova White and Blue, Tradition Grows With You” was the theme this year as Villanova University welcomed the Class of 2009 during the New Student Orientation on August 20-23. The four-day program featured activities designed to acquaint the 1,600 new students, as well as their parents, with all facets of campus life in the Villanova tradition: academic, communal, spiritual and social.

“We have been planning for your arrival since last October, and can’t wait for you to finally be here for Opening Day.” With those words, Ryan C. Werner ’06 A&S, 2005 student chairperson of New Student Orientation, sent a
Lauren Humann, a junior, and Ryan McCormick, a sophomore, both arts majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, served as Orientation counselors.
message to the incoming class that Villanova had planned an
enthusiastic welcome. Werner, who hails from Dallas, Texas, is
majoring in communication and political science.

Werner's enthusiasm was much in evidence as well among the
97 Orientation staff members, 76 of whom were carefully chosen
students. “We want you to find the answers to all of your ques-
tions,” the rising senior had assured the incoming students in a
summer newsletter. The Orientation experience, he recalled, is
“one of the most fulfilling and electrifying experiences of a life-
time.”

The day before Orientation, the staff helped new students
move in to the residence halls with all those iPods, teddy bears,
TVs, trunks and as many of the comforts of home as could fit.

For the parents who had escorted their college-bound daugh-
ters and sons on the opening day of Orientation, Villanova offered
information sessions. They gave parents insights on academic life,
majors and careers, as well as Villanova’s Augustinian connection
and mission. Parents also learned some strategies for this impor-
tant transition time for a family.

The Parents’ Resource Fair at the rear plaza of the Connelly
Center presented further information on student life. Parents
could talk with representatives from Athletics, Campus Ministry,
the Counseling Center, the Health Center, International Studies,
Multicultural Affairs, the Naval ROTC Program and UNIT
(University Information Technologies), among others.

That afternoon in the Grotto, the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin,
O.S.A., ’58, University president, welcomed students and parents.
Afterward, new students met their Orientation counselors; each
counselor had a group of 22 or so. Meanwhile, parents met with
deans of the colleges. Father Dobbin then celebrated a welcoming
Mass in the Grotto. A festive picnic dinner for families and friends
followed on Mendel Field.

Immediately after the picnic came that emotional time when
parents had to bid farewell to these new Villanovans. That eve-
ning, the new students participated in campus tours, a Philadelphia
area slide show, new student surveys and other activities.

The second day offered a session for transfer students and a
reception for Honors students, as well as numerous rotation ses-
sions on the many aspects of campus life. Two comedians enter-
tained in the evening.

The program for the third day featured academic orientations
for the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Commerce and Finance,
Engineering and Nursing, as well as rotation sessions on campus
life, a fun afternoon carnival on Mendel Field and an evening
reception for commuter students. That evening, students could
sample “Food Across America,” try their luck at casino night, hear
Burnt Sienna perform and view a film.

The fourth and final day continued the sessions on academics
and campus life. Following a picnic, the new students gathered for
the closing event, held in the Pavilion. Its highlight was the can-
dlelight ceremony commissioning the Class of 2009. Dr. Richard
Jackman, former adjunct professor of communication, offered the
closing remarks.

The next morning, these newest Villanovans—more relaxed
and more sure of where they were going and the resources they
would find there—headed off to class.
VILLANOVA WELCOMES STUDENTS FROM NEW ORLEANS

BY IRENE BURGO

It was Orientation all over again at Villanova University on September 6, but this time it was a special one to welcome 28 displaced students. These newcomers had been enrolled at Loyola University New Orleans, Tulane University and Our Lady of Holy Cross. All three schools were among those that had to shut down following the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Although there were no balloons and none of the hoopla of the traditional New Student Orientation, there were lots of smiles at the walk-in registration area in the Connelly Center's Radnor/St. David's Room. When the displaced students and their parents began arriving at 8 a.m., they were greeted by teams of Villanova administrators and staff who answered questions and helped them complete registration forms. Each of the incoming students received a Villanova tote bag containing a Villanova T-shirt, an information packet and other University-related mementoes.

Stephen R. Merritt '78 A&S, dean of Enrollment Management, invited the new students and their family members to attend St. Thomas of Villanova Day on September 8 to celebrate the opening of the academic year and Villanova's Augustinian tradition and heritage. Merritt alerted the newcomers that their introduction to Villanova included a half-day holiday from classes on that day.

Staff and administrators had worked tirelessly throughout the Labor Day weekend to make this complicated and wrenching transition as seamless as possible for both students and parents.

From random comments, it was clear that the newcomers were grateful to be enrolled and were ready to start classes. Several parents said they were pleased with Villanova's invitation to accept displaced students and with the heartfelt welcome they received.

Greg Marshall, a freshman Engineering major who had been preparing to begin classes at Tulane, said that the experience of being evacuated and then told that Tulane would not open was overwhelming. He found it gratifying to realize that people do care. His parents, Kim and Bill Marshall, said they knew nothing about Villanova until they arrived and drove through the campus; Bill Marshall added that “Villanova has been terrific.”

Freshman Arlene Grasser, also from Tulane, was referred to Villanova by a friend who is a current student. “The friend's father is an alumnus, and both were really excited about Villanova,” said her dad, George Grasser. She originally had applied to Villanova before Tulane, according to her mom, Janice Grasser, who added, “Villanova has been really helpful.”

James Foley, a sophomore nursing major from Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans, enrolled after two friends recommended the University.

Villanova’s offer of a tuition waiver solidified the decision of many of these students to make the University their temporary academic home. Villanova’s response to assist the students and enroll them for a semester with no financial consequences was handled on a case-by-case basis, according to Merritt. Since classes had begun on August 24, the University had to act quickly to make certain these students could be assimilated.

Many colleges and universities are assisting in the effort to welcome Gulf Coast students with the understanding that they will return to their home institutions when they reopen.

VILLANOVA HURRICANE RELIEF FUND

Stephen R. Merritt ’78 A&S also announced that the University had set up a Villanova Hurricane Relief Fund. Faculty, students, staff and alumni are raising money in a variety of ways to benefit disaster relief agencies such as Catholic charities in the affected region, as well as for specific needs in the Gulf Coast, such as schools and shelters, that have a connection to Villanova.

Donations may be sent to: Villanova Hurricane Relief Fund, 202 Dougherty Hall 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova, PA 19085. Checks should be made payable to: Hurricane Relief Fund: Villanova University.
On August 16, Thomas S. Connelly and his wife, Daniele, presented a historic 26-star 1842 American National Flag to the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbins, O.S.A., ’58, University president, and Villanova University at a ceremony in the Connelly Center. The year 1842, of course, is when Villanova was founded by two Augustinians, the Rev. Thomas Kyle, O.S.A., and the Rev. Patrick Eugene Moriarty, O.S.A., as an institution to educate the sons of Irish immigrants who were working on the Main Line.

The 26-star flag, the nation’s eighth official flag, acknowledges Michigan’s admittance into the Union on January 26, 1837. The flag was officially used from July 4, 1837, through July 4, 1845, when a star was added for Florida, which had been admitted as the 27th state on March 3, 1845.

According to Dr. Jeffrey Kenneth Kohn, a nationally recognized authority on American flags who examined the flag both before and after it was archivally framed, this 26-star flag is unique in a number of respects. It is one of fewer than 10 flags of this period to have survived. Of special interest is that its stars have six points compared with the usual five points on most American flags. This flag alone has painted stars.

The handsewn flag, approximately 6 x 9 feet, has stars in four vertical rows, painted in white on one side of the blue silk canton. The stripes are uneven—the white stripes are cotton muslin while the red ones are wool bunting.

Kohn said that the flag is in very good overall condition. There are several period repairs and some minor mothig scattered through the red stripes, as well as evidence of wind shear damage, especially at the fly end of the first stripe.

Tom Connelly is the fourth child of the same Connelly family that donated funds to build the Connelly Center, where the flag has been hung at the inner-campus entrance, near the Villanova Room. A longtime collector of American flags, specifically “art flags,” Connelly at one time had as many as 300 in his rare and beautiful collection.

How did Connelly decide to give this particular flag to Villanova? “The Connelly family has always had a special affection for Villanova and for Father Dobbins,” he replied. “I had been looking for a 26-star flag (1842) for some years, with the intent of presenting it to Villanova in honor of the school’s founding. I was most fortunate to have finally found this historic piece, and I thought this was an appropriate time to present it to the University and Father Dobbins.”

After accepting the flag, Father Dobbins thanked the Connelly family for their generosity and noted that David R. Contosta in his book, Villanova University 1842-1992, written to celebrate
Villanova’s 150th anniversary, had subtitled it American—Catholic—Augustinian. “That has great significance,” Father Dobbin continued. “As [the Rev.] Theodore M. Hesburgh, [C.S.C.], the former president of Notre Dame, wrote in his foreword in the book, ‘David Contosta hits just the right note in choosing American-Catholic-Augustinian for his subtitle and his unifying theme. The interaction of the first two elements has undoubtedly shaped every aspect of American Catholic life, but nowhere can the process be traced more fruitfully than in the history of America’s colleges and universities.’” Father Dobbin went on to note the strong relationship Villanova has had historically with the NROTC program.

“This flag is emblematic of our American-Catholic-Augustinian heritage,” he said.

Thomas and Daniele Connelly have five children, two of whom are enrolled at Villanova. Nicole is a freshman and Daniel is a senior majoring in economics.

COINCIDENCE? MAYBE NOT.

Trivia question: How many leaves are on the fronds incorporated into the seal of Villanova University, as well as Villanova’s logo? Are you counting? The answer is 26.

Thomas S. Connelly, who along with his wife, Daniele, recently donated to the University a historic American flag from 1842—the year Villanova was founded—believes it is no coincidence. “I suspect,” he said, “that the founding fathers of Villanova were aware of the significance of the number 26 and its historical relevance to the 26 states in the Union.” Now you know.
Emblems of the Land He Loves

Thomas S. Connelly has become a passionate collector of flags that have waved over some of the most colorful moments in American history.

BY BARBARA K. CLEMENT

If you want to know how Thomas S. Connelly—yes, the same family that endowed the Connelly Center—came to have a collection that at one time had as many as 140 rare United States “art flags,” you would probably begin with his wife Daniele’s dream of owning a French tapestry for their new home.

“She’s French,” Connelly explained, “and in the southern part of France where she comes from, many of the homes have beautiful tapestries. She found one for our new home in Colorado that she wanted me to look at. It was beautiful and expensive. A short time later, as I was traveling down South, I passed an antique shop and noticed a beautiful 38-star flag and realized that it had many similarities to the tapestry. It was about the same size, and it was cloth. Daniele was in the process of becoming an American citizen, so I thought a flag would be an appropriate gift. This flag had 38 stars, which honored the State of Colorado, and we had recently purchased a home in Colorado. And lastly, this flag was much less expensive than the tapestry!”

That was almost 20 years ago and since that time, Connelly has become a recognized collector of some of the rarest U.S. flags as artwork. Exactly what is an “art flag”? As he explained, “These are the flags that are ‘different’ in many ways. They were created by an artisan when a territory became a state; some flew over the state capitol for a very short time. Perhaps, they were stored away after that to keep them in good condition; all of them have wonderful and very colorful histories.”

A font of knowledge in all things flags, Connelly began our interview by telling me about how the American flag came to be in the first place. “During the 1700s,” he said, “we acted more like 13 different countries instead of 13 different colonies. Some colonists flew British flags noting their support for the king; some dissidents communicated their defiance by flying a flag with a snake cut into 13 pieces with the motto, ‘Don’t Tread on Me.’ There was even a white flag in New England with a pine tree on it. Essentially, there was nothing very unifying about any of the flags.

“There came a time, however, when the Continental Congress decided that if we were going to fight the British, we had better have one flag for our soldiers to carry into battle. None of the flags that were popular at the time seemed very appropriate…especially the flag with the snake.

“Where could they look for inspiration? General George Washington, who at that time was one of the wealthiest men in the colonies, came from an aristocratic British background. His
family had its own banner with alternating red and white stripes below three red stars, a crown and a raven. Some of the colonists who were in favor of independence—but only with the blessing and continued association with Great Britain—took the liberty of creating a flag that incorporated George Washington's red and white stripes (they used 13 to represent the colonies), and then placed the British Union Jack (the double cross of St. George and St. Andrew) on this new flag in the upper left-hand corner, which is considered the place of honor to show our heritage. This flag was very popular and was called 'The Grand Union' flag. In fact, if the colonies had been able to negotiate a peaceful resolution to the disagreement with England, today we might have a flag that looked pretty much like the general's, but with a Union Jack in place of his coat of arms."

However, a peaceful resolution was not to be. A year after the war with England broke out, the colonists still did not have a flag. This is when Francis Hopkinson entered the historical picture. Born in Philadelphia, Hopkinson, like his father, was a practicing lawyer, as well as an accomplished poet, essayist, music composer and harpsichordist. Hopkinson represented New Jersey in the Continental Congress and is frequently credited with designing the American flag. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence representing New Jersey and later served as a judge.

Hopkinson, an adept speaker, after only a short statement on June 14, 1777, was able to convince the Continental Congress that it should pass the first flag resolution. The wording was very vague. It authorized a flag to be commissioned that would have 13 alternating red and white stripes with white stars on a blue field. There was no language describing where the stripes and stars should be placed, only that they should be part of the flag's concept. The Congress, feeling the strain of the war on its purse strings, also cautioned Hopkinson that he should spend as little as possible on creating the flag. He took this caution to heart. According to legend, his wife had a dressmaker named Betsy Ross whom he visited with his commission to make a flag, advising her to be as frugal as possible. It is history that the Continental Congress received a bill from Betsy Ross for the making of one flag.

**Earthly rowsels and heavenly stars**

"How many points do we have on the stars of our U.S. flag today?" Connelly asked me. "There are five," he said, answering his own question, "and they are not really stars at all. They are rowsels." If this is news to you, you are not in the minority. Rowsels, those metal things on the backs of cowboy boot spurs, are what Betsy Ross fashioned when she folded white fabric, making it easier to cut...and more economical. The result: Our flag is defined by five pointed stars. Across the globe, stars on other national flags and banners have six to 10 points, and a heavenly association. Rowsels and spurs, on the other hand, have always had a darker, more sinister earthy symbolism, according to Connelly.

The collector's enthusiasm for "art flags" was apparent when he described some of the unusual flags he has come across over the years: "For a while, it seemed in the early history of our new nation that we were creating new flags every few months... sometimes every few days whenever a territory attained statehood."

Another complication in our flag's history would soon become apparent as more territories joined the Union. Because the original resolution to create a flag didn't specify that the number of red stripes had to remain at 13, every time a new state entered the Union, another red stripe was added to the flag. In 1791, when Vermont became a state, they added a 14th stripe. In 1792, Kentucky's entry added a 15th. The white between them was almost nonexistent. However, it wasn't until the early 1800s that Congress realized something had to be done or our flag would either have stripes that were too small or, if the stripes were incorporated at the proper size, the flag would soon be way out of proportion. And so Congress in 1818 passed another flag resolution to keep the number of stripes at 13 to recognize the original colonies. No matter how many states were admitted to the Union in a year, the flag would not change officially until July 4. A new flag would then be created to include stars for all the states admitted during the previous year.

Still, the number of flags being produced and recognized as official was soon out of control. When North Dakota and South Dakota became states on November 23, 1889, each flag flew officially for only a few hours. North Dakota was recognized as the 39th state and South Dakota six hours later as the 40th. In that one year, when the federal government recognized six new states, six new flags were created as officially representing the country.

**Parting with special friends**

As Connelly reminisced about having to part with a major portion of his collection, he explained, "There comes a time when your head has to over ride your heart. I had about 300 flags with maybe 120 to 130 of them framed, and most of those were of the larger size. Also, as our children were going off to college and 'flying the coop,' we were considering moving to a smaller home. After committing to buy a new home, I realized there was no place for the flag collection, so I sold the new home without ever moving into it. We then decided to reduce the size of the collection to a more manageable and 'movable' size."

During the 2000 Republican convention in Philadelphia, Connelly displayed about 90 of his flags at the Exhibit Hall. He readily admits that while he has sold a significant number of flags from his collection, he still can't resist buying a very special flag. "Several years ago," he said, "I came across a very interesting 27-star flag, which should have dated from the mid-to-late 1840s. But upon closer examination, I felt it could not have been any earlier than about 1860 to 1865, and then realized just what it was. This was the work of someone using the flag as their own personal political expression. There actually were 34 stars in our flag at that time; however, the Civil War was going on and seven states (at that time) had seceded from the Union. So this flagmaker decided to remove one star for each of those states, basically saying, 'They want to go, let them!'"

The flag that Connelly presented to the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., '58, University president, on August 16 (see preceding story) was a special favorite of his. "I knew when I saw it the first time that some day it would belong to Villanova," Connelly recalled. "This rare flag, which dates from 1842, is similar to the one that would have proudly flown over Villanova when it was founded. We are very pleased to have it be part of that wonderful heritage."

As for the future: Will Daniele ever get her tapestry? Will Tom continue to find drop dead gorgeous flags? The answers are probably No and Yes. Neither Daniele nor Tom had final comments.
CALL IT CSI VILLANOVA.
SUSPICIOUS CLUES KEEP APPEARING ON CAMPUS:
RED STAINS ON THE FLOOR, SHARDS OF BROKEN GLASS, A WHIFF OF LIGHTER FLUID.
NOT TO WORRY. IT’S ALL PART OF A FORENSIC CHEMISTRY LAB FOR STUDENTS.

BY IRENE BURGO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAOLA NOGUERAS
OU CAN RUN, YOU CAN HIDE, BUT NOT FOR LONG.
A new admonition for lawbreakers? According to Dr. Carol A. Bessel, associate professor of chemistry at Villanova University, the long arm of the law is reaching farther faster today, thanks to forensic science.

Bessel should know. For the past four years, she has been teaching “Criminalistics,” a course in forensic chemistry, as well as its lab component. As she teaches the skills used by crime scene investigators (CSIs) to net suspects, her students are learning there’s more than one way to catch the proverbial thief.

“Criminalistics” is not your father’s chemistry class. It’s not even close to how your sister might have studied college chemistry a few years ago. Bessel’s course, developed to show non-science majors how science applies to real life, is innovative and exciting. She challenges students through hands-on experience. Both the lecture and lab provide a taste of real-world LAPD- or CSI-type detective work.

“We teach about different kinds of evidence: fingerprinting, DNA, search warrants, search and seizure techniques—essentially what students need to investigate physical evidence from a crime scene,” Bessel said. If her course is popular with students, it is no wonder why. They not only learn about these investigative procedures but they get to put them into practice. In the lab, their attention is riveted on simulating real police work—how to recognize, preserve and prepare evidence—and they are having fun along the way.

On our visit to the course’s crime lab in Mendel Hall last spring, Bessel described the agenda for some of the typical sessions. She team-teaches the labs with Dr. Joseph B. Rucker and Dr. Deanna L. Zubris, both assistant professors of chemistry. With a little staging, the three faculty members turn the laboratory into a simulated crime scene, complete with the yellow “Crime Scene—Do Not Cross” tape used to cordon off the area. Faculty members, staff and students role-play the scenarios, acting as victims, witnesses, suspects, police officers and attorneys—whatever the occasion calls for.

Among the crime scenes Bessel and her colleagues recreate are arsons, shootings, stabbings and automobile hit-and-runs. “Studying arson is a favorite,” Bessel explained, “because the students learn to use real investigative techniques. If an arsonist has used accelerants like gasoline, alcohol or lighter fluid to start the fire quickly, you can analyze the debris from the blaze. In the lab, we made a contained fire and took the charred pieces of wood from it to analyze through gas chromatography. Students then looked at what kinds of materials could be involved and matched them to what the suspect had in his or her car.”

When the class investigates a simulated shooting, “The telltale evidence, such as blood splattered on a wall, can reveal various clues like how tall the offender was, and it can reveal the angle at which the victim was shot,” Bessel noted.

For authenticity, sometimes Bessel sets up the crime scene outside of Mendel Hall, often in parking lots behind the building or on the campus sidewalks. The faculty members try to make the scenes as realistic as possible, such as adding twists to the typical burglary or mugging. Students are asked to identify and capture the important physical evidence. For example, they may need to make plaster-of-Paris impressions of hand prints and shoeprints found at the scene. Students then compare these casts with authentic casts taken from the suspects. A close, detailed match could mean a conviction.

Dr. Carol A. Bessel (center), associate professor of chemistry, observes a student conducting a blood-typing experiment. The sample came from a car bumper suspected in a hit-and-run accident staged for the “Criminalistics” lab session.

Students also analyze dirt for pH (acidity or alkalinity), phosphate content and texture/color. “Knowing the chemical composition of soil can help investigators identify if the suspect and victim have been in the same geographical location at some point,” Bessel noted. “Unfortunately, this link is sometimes difficult unless the soil is unique in some way or unless they have both traveled extensively from one distinct location to another.”

As students search for and study evidence, they become adept at identifying the clues that would connect a suspect and a victim at the time of the crime.
Physical evidence these days can be as small as atoms or molecules, or it can be much larger, such as hairs, fibers, bullet casings and blood spatters. Students might use compound or electron microscopes to analyze fibers or hair. “You can easily differentiate between human hair and hair from a cat or dog,” she explained. “The hair of each species is distinct, and depending on the treatment, such as coloring or straightening, hair may be individualized to some extent. At a crime scene involving an assault, you can usually tell by examining the hair under a microscope whether the hair follicle has been forcibly pulled out rather than allowed to fall out naturally.

“When someone touches you, he or she is leaving evidence on you, and vice versa. This is the Lockhart Principle,” Bessel said. So those who think they have engineered the perfect crime are usually not considering what forensic science can reveal to law enforcers.

REALITY LAB WORK
The class enjoyed regular visits from law enforcement officials, including FBI agents and police investigators. Michael E. Byrnes Jr., a chemist who took classes in Villanova’s master's degree program in chemistry and who is now an FBI special agent, addressed the class. Byrnes brought with him a group of investigators. Bessel recalled, “They laid a crime scene in the lecture hall and went through it step-by-step. That's why we feel the course is very authentic; we mimic his training protocols in every way possible.”

The illegal drug trade has become one of the driving forces behind forensics, according to Bessel. “Because there is so much money tied up in drug trafficking, the convictions provide lucrative paybacks to the crime laboratories. The New Jersey State Crime Laboratory underwent vast renovations and improvements, paid for by confiscated drug monies,” she said. In the past 20 years, scientists and medical professionals have classified drugs as medically beneficial and/or addictive. As an example of how much money is tied up in illicit drugs, think of this, Bessel said: “Any $20 bill that you pick up has trace cocaine residue on it.”

The lab sessions enable students to observe the negative affects of drugs and alcohol by studying daphnia, a simple organism known as the water flea. By viewing daphnia under a microscope and observing their reactions (heartbeat and physical movements) to various substances, students learn how drugs such as alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, amphetamines and others affect the central nervous system. The effects of the drugs on daphnia can be extrapolated to the potential effects on human beings.

Students do quick pH tests of food samples and common household items such as soaps or cleaners to become familiar with acids and alkalines. To narrow in on unknown samples, including unlabeled pills, they also test the pH. To identify foods and beverages that might have been poisoned, students test for the trace metal content. Using an atomic absorption spectrophotometer, they identify ions of metals such as arsenic and lead, as well as of other known poisons.

Fingerprinting also is one of the skills students need to know. When Dr. Helen K. Lafferty, University vice president, visited a lab session, she allowed the students to fingerprint her. According to Bessel, “There are many different methods of lifting and interpreting fingerprints. Some fingerprinting methods react with the oils deposited on the skin, and others react with the moisture. This allows CSIs to obtain latent (unseen by the naked eye) fingerprints from many different types of surfaces. Textured or porous surfaces are specially difficult and challenging. Interpreting fingerprints and finding a match involves statistics and computer technology as well as the chemistry. It's not always easy.”

“WHENEVER SOMEONE TOUCHES YOU, HE OR SHE IS LEAV
and analytical chemistry areas are probably two of the hottest areas for funding right now because many chemists are looking for the smallest amount of material you can analyze and still have results that are consistent and reproducible.”

The challenge of being able to test ever smaller samples would certainly apply to DNA fingerprinting. DNA evidence can be controversial at times, due to the difficulties in accurately assessing extremely small samples. In investigations where the trail has grown cold, DNA evidence is often asked to reach back in time, over decades sometimes, to prove guilt or innocence, such as identifying offenders in rape cases or individuals in paternity cases. DNA evidence has absolved and led to the release of many individuals who had previously been convicted and incarcerated unjustly for crimes they did not commit.

The acceptance of DNA as evidence became more widespread after the 1995 O.J. Simpson trial for murder, when the “DNA wars” erupted over the results of the tests in five labs.

Bessel admitted that DNA evidence can be inconclusive. Good results depend upon the size of the sample as well as the quality of the evidence. “If you find a drop of blood, you have to be very careful because the effect of any trace contamination is magnified,” she noted. “Likewise, when a sample has been corrupted, contaminated or diluted by the elements, such as exposure to Sun or rain, it may be more difficult to make an absolute identification. Methods are improving very rapidly, however. Even with smaller samples, scientists are reporting higher accuracies in less time.”

THE SMOKING GUN AND A HIGH-TECH SNIFF TEST
Students are riveted by the subject matter of forensics, which is often in the headlines and on the nightly news. In class, they have an opportunity to explore new technologies and sometimes to
challenge the findings of experts. For example, they have been presented with the most recent trace metals analysis in regard to the "magic bullet" theory made famous in the John F. Kennedy assassination. They have discussed the implications of the new evidence when compared with the older evidence. They have also discussed the newer crimes of identity theft and how forgers can easily falsify personal checks by erasing the inks and changing the amounts.

With a little imagination, Bessel's students are learning a lot about the technology of sleuthing and how to do everything police investigators would do at a crime scene. When the class analyzes a crime involving a gun, Bessel provides real bullets and bullet casings for study, although no shots are fired. Students "must mark all evidence for chain of custody [a police term] during the investigation," noted Bessel. "Students must match the bullet casing to the bullet hole to see if the casing is from the particular bullet retrieved. You can measure the gunpowder residue because if you get shot, it will expand across your clothing. The closer the shooter is, the tighter the residue. Or if the gunshot breaks glass, you can tell the position of the shooter from the way the glass was broken—whether he or she was inside or outside the building. Depending upon the type of impact, glass breaks in different ways."

By the end of the semester, students have learned to think, act and speak a lot like CSIs. By following actual police procedures like the "chain of custody," they learn to diagram the scenes, keep a notebook of lab procedures, and identify and analyze evidence according to how it's done by CSIs in the real world.

The course even scrutinizes some of the latest technology, such as a new type of sensing instrument for airport security. "Authorities are beginning to utilize highly sensitive instruments, called mass spectrometers, to detect odors," Bessel noted. At some airport security checkpoints, "Passengers go through a small tunnel where air blows past them, and the instrument sniffs the air to search for nitrogen-containing compounds that are often used in explosives," Bessel said. "The instruments can also detect the smell of certain drugs carried by passengers. Such technology and testing probably are a level above us in the non-majors course, but science majors could probably analyze the data from these types of instruments," she noted.

**CAREERS IN FORENSICS**

Bessel believes her class is enjoying popularity because the students have seen many of the procedures on one or more police shows on TV. The Internet also provides expanded information on

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**Eyewitness Report From A Student**

Lisa DiTuro '06 A&S (left), an English major, took the "Criminalistics" course as a lab requirement for non-science majors because she had an interest in forensic science. DiTuro also thought the course would enhance her qualifications in applying for an FBI internship in Washington, D.C.

DiTuro said she hated to miss the lecture or lab. "I really enjoyed the class and was really excited to go to it because I learned real-life applications of chemistry," she said. "The lab was even better because we did the tests ourselves for fingerprints and ballistics. The course shows you the practical, real side of chemistry. I still learned how to do all the tests that I would have done in the 'General Chemistry' lab. And I got to use high-end equipment like a gas spectrometer and an atomic absorption spectrometer as well. We have a really high-tech chemical capability lab in Mendel Hall.

"One day we visited a lab in Mendel's basement, where there is a machine to test ballistics. This instrument allowed us to look at a bullet and see what gun it could have been fired from," DiTuro said.

According to Dr. Carol A. Bessel, associate professor of chemistry who teaches the course and lab, guns have distinct signatures, or marks, that they leave on the bullet when fired. The equipment gave students the opportunity to compare bullets under a microscope and see if they were fired from the same gun. "We used all these different tests to solve a crime that had been staged," said DiTuro.

During a typical lab day, students would walk in and find blood on the floor—fake blood, of course. Somewhere else in the room would be other evidence, like a footprint cast. "Another time," DiTuro recalled, "Everything was a mess in the room, sprawled all over the floor. It had been staged to look like someone had broken into the lab. And we had to solve the crime."

Other members of the chemistry department help out by role-playing. "In one of the labs, I headed the investigation. Another student and I went around and talked to the teachers or assistants," DiTuro said. "We asked them questions about where they were and if they had seen anything. You could tell the other teachers got a kick out of doing it. Some of them had to pretend they were disgruntled, for example. One person role-played being really angry about being
One of the other great things about the class, DiTuro pointed out, “was that we saw that Dr. Bessel really loved what she was talking about. You could tell that about her. She was always energetic. It was so different from other chemistry classes because she was so excited and very vibrant.”

“Unfortunately, after she applied, the FBI discontinued funding for it,” DiTuro recalled. “The labs gave us real hands-on experience on what investigators do.” DiTuro noted. Students were fascinated by the demonstrations a lie detector, and encouraged the class to ask questions. “The labs gave us real hands-on experience on what investigators really did,” DiTuro recalled. “Granted, it was a fake scenario, but we did real work. It was so different from other chemistry classes because we were actually applying what we were learning.”

In retrospect, DiTuro commented, “This course would have helped me get the FBI internship.” Unfortunately, after she applied, the Bureau discontinued funding for it.

“One of the other great things about the class,” DiTuro pointed out, “was that we saw that Dr. Bessel really loved what she was talking about. You could tell that about her. She was always energetic. It was an early morning class and sometimes it’s really hard to get up for those classes but I always wanted to go. Dr. Bessel woke you up because she was so excited and very vibrant.”
A white dwarf supernova before its explosion, as depicted by Russell Kightley Media, a scientific illustration firm in Australia.
Companions to a Bright Star

As undergraduate astronomy majors conduct and publish their advanced research with Dr. Edward M. Sion, together they gravitate toward the secrets of closely orbiting binary stars.

By Irene Burgo
Villanova University astronomy and astrophysics majors have their eyes on the stars, and for students learning to specialize in the study of celestial bodies, that’s where they should be. It is the nature of the profession. In the past four years at Villanova, 18 undergraduate astronomy majors have been doing advanced stellar research that has been published in three of the field’s leading peer-reviewed journals. Two of the students had their discovery image featured on a cover of a journal. Scientists consider such research to be exceptionally progressive work for undergraduates, because it is highly technical, demanding andstringently peer-reviewed. At many other universities, this research would be considered graduate-level.

Dr. Edward M. Sion, professor of astronomy and astrophysics, believes that the best way for his undergraduates to learn is to become totally immersed by doing this hands-on research, mentored by an expert. He teaches the required research course for astronomy majors. (Two other faculty members teach it alternately, and each one handles the requirements differently.) Sion allows students six months to complete the bulk of their research. If they are successful, within one year he and the students submit a paper for publication to a major peer-reviewed journal, with the students listed as co-authors. Peer review validates and drives scientific advances.

The tango of two stars

One project that Sion and his students have worked on together is the study of close double star systems known as cataclysmic variables (CVs). If removed from the context of astronomy, the term “cataclysmic variable” could imply a mysterious event or even a state of disaster. For astronomers, CVs are a class of binary stars containing a white dwarf star and a companion star.

In a CV binary star, “one star is an extremely dense, compact object called a white dwarf, which is a burned-out, collapsed star no bigger than Earth,” Sion explained, “while its companion star is a normal star, typically half or less the size of the Sun. The stars are gravitationally locked in what could be called a ‘stellar dance’ as they whirl around each other in less than four hours. They are so close together that the entire binary system would fit inside our Sun. This close proximity of the stars leads to what astronomers call a ‘stellar cannibalism,’ in which one star, through gravitational pull, strips mass from its companion star. The gas emitted from this activity spirals down a gravitational whirlpool, forming a swirling pancake-shaped disk before falling onto the extremely dense white dwarf.”

The companion star of a CV is usually a red dwarf, although sometimes it is another white dwarf. While non-magnetic CVs form a swirling disk as the gasses are drawn toward the white dwarf, in magnetic CVs, no accretion disc is formed because the gases are drawn to the star’s magnetic poles (see illustration on page 47). Sion investigates the formation, structure and evolution of white dwarf stars, the physics and evolution of CVs and theoretical studies of accretion physics.

In the Milky Way Galaxy, astronomers estimate there are probably more than 1 million CVs. So far, only the several hundred closest to our Sun have been studied, and these were recorded through their optical light flickering and X-ray emissions. The reason so few have been studied is because CVs tend to be rather faint sources of light, unless they are undergoing nova explosions or dwarf nova outbursts.

The white dwarf star is at the heart of the resulting stellar fireworks. According to Sion, when the disk of gas periodically collapses onto the white dwarf, it unleashes massive amounts of kinetic energy, equivalent to 200,000 trillion megatons of TNT. This is known as a dwarf nova outburst. “Once this energy is dumped onto the surface of the white dwarf, hydrogen accumulates until it undergoes thermonuclear fusion reactions that trigger what astronomers term the ‘classical nova explosion.’ This explosion releases 10,000 times more energy than the dwarf nova,” he noted.

“The results from studying CVs are of special interest because they help to solve the mysteries of these explosive binary star systems,” Sion said. “They also have direct consequences for understanding the physics of how matter from a gaseous disk accretes, or accumulates, onto collapsed objects. These are the mechanisms that power X-ray binary neutron stars and black holes, as well as the central engines of quasars and active galactic nuclei, which contain disks around supermassive black holes.” By the time students are ready to conduct research with Sion, usually in their junior year, they are very familiar with such scientific language.

Students publish and prosper

The expertise these 18 students have gained under Sion has led to 19 papers being published in The Astrophysical Journal, The Astronomical Journal and the Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, all published by the University of Chicago Press. These journals are three of the most prestigious, rigorously peer-reviewed publications in the field. For the astronomy majors, receiving published credit in these esteemed journals is a major achievement that speaks to their diligence and dedication to learning. It also is an excellent credential when applying to graduate school.

“The research done by undergraduates reflects an extraordinary level of involvement, both in quality and quantity of results,” Sion noted. Their findings revealed some major discoveries in the field.

Three of these students also were national Goldwater Scholars: Lisa Winter ’03 A&S, Joleen Miller ’04 A&S and John Bochanski ’02 A&S. Winter, who was guided by Sion both on her research project and senior Honors thesis, published a peer-reviewed paper prior to her graduation. The paper that she and Sion co-authored on her results, “Composite Accretion Disk and White Dwarf Model Analyses of the Quiescence of Dwarf Novae: EM Cygni, CZ Orionis, and WW Ceti,” appeared in The Astrophysical Journal (January 2003). Winter was listed as first author on the joint publication. “This paper really broke new ground because we analyzed systems with new combinations of models that had not been used before on the space data,” Sion said.

As students, Winter co-authored a paper with
Navy Lt. Joel Urban ’04 A&S that was featured on the cover of the November 2004 *Astronomical Journal*. Their article documented the discovery of the first nova shell ejected by a classical nova thermonuclear explosion around a white dwarf, and their cover discovery image was of this nova shell. “In astronomical terms, this is quite an important discovery,” Sion emphasized.

Undergraduate astronomy majors at Villanova also have published papers on:

- the temperatures to which the white dwarf stars in cataclysmic binary systems are heated by matter from the swirling gas disks surrounding them;
- how fast the white dwarf stars are made to rotate due to being spun up by the accreting matter from these swirling gas disks;
- the first chemical evidence that links the dwarf novae, whose outbursts are due to disk collapse, with the classical novae whose explosions are thermonuclear;
- chemical evidence that large abundances of atomic nuclei vitally important to the formation of the solar system are present in the white dwarf star’s atmosphere;
- the first chemical abundances in the atmospheres of highly magnetic white dwarf stars; and
- the identification of white dwarf stars in some cataclysmic binaries near the critical mass limit and on the verge of undergoing nature’s largest stellar explosion, the white dwarf supernova.

**5,000 Points of Light—and Counting**

**Villanova University has become the international repository for data on more than 5,000 white dwarf stars. There’s just one problem: Thousands of new ones are being discovered deep in space all the time.**

White dwarf stars are not visible to the naked eye. They must be observed with large orbiting telescopes like the Hubble Space Telescope or with ground-based ones like the two at the W.M. Keck Observatory on a dormant Hawaiian volcano. Hubble is able to observe even those white dwarf stars situated in star clusters located in the farthest areas of our Milky Way Galaxy. Hubble’s ability to locate the remote and cluster-residing white dwarfs, however, has added volumes to the workload of Dr. Edward M. Sion, professor of astronomy and astrophysics at Villanova University, and his colleague, Dr. George P. McCook Jr. ’59 A&S, ’62 G.S., chair of the department and professor.

“An isolated white dwarf star is a tiny stellar corpse, a still-glowing ember with so much mass as a star like our Sun, but crushed and squeezed into a superdense globe the size of a planet,” explained Sion. “A white dwarf star has a gravitational field 100 million times stronger than Earth’s gravity.”

Villanova’s astronomy department is a repository for all the new white dwarf stars discovered. As of mid-October, they number 5,448. Since 1978, Sion and McCook have authored and recorded their findings in the “Villanova Catalog of Spectroscopically Identified White Dwarfs.” During that time, supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), they have published several editions in *The Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series*. They have just received a three-year $142,000 NSF grant in continued support of the catalog and white dwarf star research using the database.

McCook has developed a Web site for the Villanova catalog ([www.astronomy.villanova.edu/WDCatalog/index.html](http://www.astronomy.villanova.edu/WDCatalog/index.html)). This database is continually updated.

“Users of the catalog worldwide can go to the Web site and retrieve the latest information,” explained Sion. For the two Villanova astronomers, this is a benefit, but the ever-increasing workload also has made it a challenge. “We have listed more than 5,000 white dwarf stars that have been identified spectroscopically. But Hubble is discovering thousands of new white dwarfs located in globular star clusters and open-star clusters. We’re faced with the problem of how to designate these newly discovered white dwarfs. We could assign a name (a WD number) that people use to refer to these white dwarfs. Or, we could make the list even longer and add new discoveries to the catalog.”

Only a few of the closest, brightest white dwarf stars are given Arabic names. For example, the brightest white dwarf star is Sirius B, which is the companion star to Sirius A (the brightest star in the night sky). “The vast majority of white dwarfs don’t have names because they are too faint, or they are not companions to a bright star,” Sion noted. Their names, other than the Villanova catalog designation, refer to the database used in the method or survey by which they were discovered.

About 97 percent of roughly 200 billion stars in our galaxy, including our Sun, will eventually evolve into white dwarf stars at the end of their lives. In approximately 4.5 billion years, the Sun will expend all of its thermonuclear fuel and become a white dwarf. Noted Sion, “These stars are destined to cool to invisibility as they travel through the endless voids of space.” —Irene Burgo

At the Mendel Science Center’s rooftop observatory, Dr. Edward M. Sion is shown with a telescope available to students.

The meticulous work ethic of these astronomy majors reflects not only the caliber of students Villanova attracts but also is a tribute to their faculty mentors. These student researchers have risen to the challenge of the stars, but at the same time, like the star systems they have studied, they, too, have evolved as undergraduates. Many have begun to move into stellar careers of their own.

Of the 18 students, seven of the eight females went on to graduate school in astronomy. “Many of the women were among the very best students I have ever taught,” Sion said. Their dedication and capabilities contradict “the recent unfortunate and controversial remarks made by the president of Harvard University citing
reduce and calculate the data to obtain information such as the data received from the orbiting telescopes and must best provide computer models they have constructed. Their models must fit the observation of the white dwarf star. Although it is considered direct must do this before another gas disk forms and blocks direct observents scrutinize these spectra taken just days after eruptions. They in order of wavelength, frequency or energy. out or dispersed into its component waves, separated and arranged by Hubble and other space telescopes. In spectra, the light is spread the observations provided by the space telescopes.

The stars are gravitationally locked in what could be called a ‘stellar dance’ as they whirl around each other...”
—Dr. Edward M. Sion

For laypeople, it’s interesting to ponder black holes and other mysteries of outer space and to pose such questions as What’s it like to be an astronaut? Are there planets with human-like life forms? Are we alone? These, however, are not the issues that occupy most astronomers. Like the density of matter in the stars they study, Sion’s astronomy majors have a dense mass of technical work to do. To prepare for it, they must master some intense coursework before they begin to conduct their research.

Sion assigns the student researchers tasks requiring proficiency in mathematics and physics. They monitor the explosive behavior and evolutionary changes in CVs by analyzing the data provided by orbiting observatories such as the Hubble Space Telescope, the Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE) and the International Ultraviolet Explorer (IUE). Although the IUE no longer is operating, Sion pointed out that it “has provided an archive of data that is like a goldmine, in terms of research material.” Both he and his students mine this gold.

Before the student researchers begin, Sion sits down with them and describes the requirements and his expectations step-by-step, outlining everything they need to do. He teaches them how to compute the stellar models they will need to make. After learning the ropes from the expert, the students compare their models to the observations provided by the space telescopes.

To observe CVs, the students use spectra (light data) produced by Hubble and other space telescopes. In spectra, the light is spread out or dispersed into its component waves, separated and arranged in order of wavelength, frequency or energy.

Via computers in the Mendel Hall astronomy laboratory, students scrutinize these spectra taken just days after eruptions. They must do this before another gas disk forms and blocks direct observation of the white dwarf star. Although it is considered direct observation, this process involves crunching the numbers—the data received from the orbiting telescopes.

The students compare this space observation data with the computer models they have constructed. Their models must fit the data received from the orbiting telescopes and must best provide fundamental information on the white dwarf star. The students reduce and calculate the data to obtain information such as the star’s surface temperature, rate of rotation, chemical abundances of the elements in the accreting gas, the mass of the white dwarf, and the rate at which gas leaves the accretion disk and falls into the white dwarf. For these students, the technical jargon and detailed workload don’t seem mind-boggling.

Sion, who is passionate about research, admits he is gratified when he announces that his students have been able to confirm valuable information. “It’s always a pleasure for me to work with students on research. They feel wonderful about doing it and it really helps them,” he says. “It prepares them for graduate school as well as anything else.”

Villanova astronomy faculty have involved undergraduates in research since the department’s founding more than 35 years ago, beginning with Dr. George P. McCook Jr. ’59 A&S, ’62 G.S. and Dr. Edward F. Guinan Jr. ’64 A&S. Sion notes, however, that other universities are now emphasizing undergraduate research. “Funding agencies like the National Science Foundation (NSF) are pushing to get undergraduates involved in research because it gives students hands-on experience,” he said. “Research is one of the best ways to teach because you are conveying an area in which you have expertise, and students are able to learn firsthand. Student researchers also have the opportunity to compare empirical data—observations—with theory.”

Another way Sion’s students conduct research is by using his computer programs to find a model atmosphere for a white dwarf star and its gas disk. Their goal, for example, might be to gather the relevant information to understand completely the structure and evolution of CV star systems and white dwarf stars.

“Using a model, they will keep adjusting the parameters like the mass of the white dwarf, or the rate of accretion from the disk, or the orbital inclination of the system, the surface gravity of the white dwarf, the chemical abundance of the chemical composition of the white dwarf’s atmosphere—all these and more,” explained Sion. “They will keep tweaking these parameters until they find a computer model generated that fits their observations exactly. They must look for the fit that best agrees with what their observations tell us about the properties of the system being investigated.” That’s how they begin to learn the process.

“The students then shift and juggle these parameters and vary them until their models achieve agreement with the observed spectrump,” noted Sion. “They then try to develop the big picture that reflects the evolution of these star systems they have analyzed.

“The astronomy department has one of the toughest programs on campus—in terms of challenge, not course load. We are extensively involved in research, and that adds strength to our program,” Sion noted. Last summer, Sion received a three-year $200,000 grant from the NSF to continue this research. “The undergraduate research course is a wonderful way to get students involved in professional research, especially those who are going to graduate school,” he said. “It is proof of their experience in this field.” For students who have completed the research and published their results, they truly leave Villanova with stars in their eyes.
In a magnetic cataclysmic variable (CV), a red Sun-like star loses stellar material to a compact white dwarf star with a very strong magnetic field. Because of this field, 100 million times stronger than our Sun's, no accretion disk can form around the white dwarf. Instead, the stellar material becomes caught up in this strong field and flows toward the white dwarf's magnetic poles.
Nevermore will bad knees inhibit Frank L. Henninger ’99 M.A. from climbing his favorite peak.

BY DESIREE MANISCALCO ‘06 A&S
PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANK HENNINGER ’99 M.A.

For the past 16 years, Frank L. Henninger ’99 M.A. has been the director of the University Shop at Villanova University. During his independent study for his master’s degree in liberal studies, he decided to use his notes and journal from a life-changing time in his past to compile a book for his directed reading seminar requirement. Henninger has just published that book: Compass Points: Finding A Mid-life Bearing on Mount Rainier (2005, Xlibris Publishing).
With every step Frank Henninger and his rope team took as they scaled the side of Mount Rainier last June, they could sense the snow and ice crumbling beneath them. As he and his guide, Peter Whittaker, crossed the crevasse in front of them, its sides began to disintegrate even more. Henninger was about to cross the chasm. Whittaker shouted to Henninger, “Anchor yourself, and stay steady. When you step forward, Frank, Mary Lee, you take one step forward as well. Understand?”

“Yes,” Henninger answered. Slowly and carefully he took a small step forward. Then, Mary Lee made her move.

Henninger felt the tightening of the rope around his body and the sudden added weight. Mary Lee had slipped into the deep and narrow gorge beneath them. Henninger remained anchored onto the icy incline. In front of him, Whittaker instructed Mary Lee to stay calm and motionless.

The guide behind Mary Lee on the rope team stepped up to the chasm and reached down, grabbing her back pack and lifting her out of the icy fissure and onto the snow behind Henninger, who

With its 41 glaciers, Mount Rainier dominates the skyline in the Seattle-Tacoma area. Frank L. Henninger ’99 M.A., seen here at Ingraham Glacier, had to face up to a problem plaguing him before he could attempt a fourth climb.
could sense the pressure lighten on his line. He took a deep breath and felt a sudden surge of emotion. The entire rope team had successfully made it across the crevasse with no injuries and an outstanding rescue.

FIRST STEPS TO THE HEIGHTS AHEAD
Twenty years ago, Henninger had climbed only a few small mountains in the East. During the late 1980s, he traveled to the West and got his first glimpse of the western landscape with its mountains that rose high above the clouds and made their counterparts in the East look like hills.

It wasn’t until 1990 that Henninger’s interest in mountain climbing took a giant leap forward. That happened when Skip Yowell, co-founder and current vice president of global public relations for JanSport, Inc., and Lou Whittaker, co-founder and owner of Rainier Mountaineering, Inc., came to Villanova University to give a slide presentation about Mount Kangchenjunga in the Himalayas. Lou Whittaker is Peter’s father: the Whittakers are America’s premier mountain-climbing family.

At the time, Lou Whittaker had just returned from the Himalayas, where he led the first successful American expedition to this third-highest mountain in the world, located on the border of India and Nepal. Henninger was mesmerized as he watched slides of the team climbing the icy terrain of Mount Kangchenjunga. He could feel the thrill and jubilation of the climbers as they reached the peak. For Henninger, something remarkable had just happened.

One afternoon, a few years later, Henninger received an invitation in the mail. It was from Yowell, asking him to join his group on its annual JanSport Dealers Climb on Mount Rainier (the University Shop, where Henninger is the director, carries JanSport products). Henninger stood for several minutes with the invitation in his hand. He remembered that in 1995 he and his wife, Melody Templeton ’88 M.A., had spent part of their honeymoon near Mount Hood in Oregon, and another part around Mount McKinley in Alaska. In Oregon, Henninger could see Mount Rainier in the distance for the first time. With these thoughts in mind, he made his decision. He would accept Yowell’s offer.

ICY ICON OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST
In his book, Compass Points: Finding A Mid-life Bearing on Mount Rainier, Henninger described this mountain as the crown jewel of the Cascade Range. It is a dormant, though episodically active volcano, like all of its smaller sisters in the Cascades. Its last eruption of any kind was during the 1840s.

Mount Rainier covers an area of 100 square miles in the state of Washington. Above its tree line can be found the largest single-mountain glacier in the United States outside of Alaska. There are 41 glaciers radiating from its summit, a total of 34 square miles of glaciers. The summit, Columbia Crest, at 14,410 feet towers above the surrounding landscape, much of it at sea level or close to it. Those living in the Seattle-Tacoma area, where Mount Rainier dominates the skyline, call it simply “the mountain.” It has earned a reputation as the hardest endurance climb in the lower 48 states.

During the summer of 1999, Henninger went on his first climb to Mount Rainier. The destination was Camp Muir at 10,188 feet. The morning before the ascent, he awoke early to write in his journal, a tradition he and his wife had started on their honeymoon. In Compass Points, Henninger tells of how he was following in some august footsteps as well. Many great adventurers before him had also kept their thoughts and observations in journals—Lewis and Clark, John Muir, Sir Edmund Hillary, Jack Kerouac and others.
Many of them, later in life, also compiled their notes into books. Henninger recalled that he felt especially close to Muir, who had written about his adventure in 1888 on Mount Rainier. In his writings, the renowned naturalist called Mount Rainier’s Paradise Valley “the most extravagantly beautiful alpine gardens I have ever beheld.”

That night, at the orientation meeting, Henninger met the 18 other men and two women who would be climbing with him. After a long evening of conversing and getting acquainted, Henninger fell asleep around 10:30 p.m., thinking that in less than 24 hours he would be lying in a sleeping bag in the cabin at Camp Muir at 10,188 feet on Mount Rainier.

FROM CRAMPONS TO A CANE

Following Henninger’s exuberant experience on his first climb, he signed up for two more climbs through JanSport in 2000 and 2002. During his second and third climbs, Henninger reached Camp Muir once again, and then Ingraham Flats at 11,200 feet. His family has always been very supportive of his climbing. Although his wife does not share his enthusiasm for mountaineering, she and his sons—Matthew ’00 A&S, Jonathan and David—know how important it has become to him.

Following the first two climbs, Henninger noticed that his knees had begun to bother him. They were painful and sometimes swollen. After a couple of weeks, however, they would return to normal and he would forget any physical discomfort he had felt. In the summer of 2002, when Henninger returned from his third climb, his knees were swollen and the pain did not go away. By fall, he found he could walk only with a cane. His wife insisted that he schedule an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon. He knew what had to be done after the surgeon examined him. He was out of options. He had to have surgery to replace both knees.

As Henninger was being wheeled toward the operating room, any fears he might have had about the surgery and the after-effects were eased by recalling an incident that had occurred on his third climb. As the sedation took over, he concentrated on that extraordinary encounter. It was very strange, he remembered about a day in 2003 when he had decided not to join his team on the climb. He had stopped at Ingraham Flats at 11,000 feet and was writing in his journal. After the team had climbed out of his line of sight, he sat on his backpack and took in the incredibly beautiful scenery of the surrounding mountains. As he wrote, he became conscious of a large shadow soaring overhead. When he looked up, he saw a raven circling above. After several minutes, the raven landed only a few feet away.

In Compass Points, Henninger wrote that Native Americans would not venture to Mount Rainier because they believed it to be a sacred place and home of the gods. In several Native American cultures, the raven is a sacred symbol with a dual personality. Because it is a very dark bird and eats carrion, it often is represented as having a connection to death. But it also is considered a pathway to the mystery of the universe and to mystical experiences and unknown changes. As Henninger was writing in his journal, the raven walked around the campsite for at least a half-hour, watching Henninger sit and write. The raven was in no hurry to leave and appeared to be quite comfortable in Henninger’s presence.

There were times during the ascent last June that Henninger and the other climbers could hear the ravens but could not see them because they were flying above a sleet storm. The climbers only knew they were there because of their calls, which reached down toward them.

As Henninger drifted into a deep sleep before his operation,
He knew what had to be done after the surgeon examined him. He was out of options.

he sensed the shadow of the great bird above him and felt the comfort of knowing he was in even greater hands than those of his surgeon.

18 MONTHS OF GRITTY DETERMINATION
The next morning, Henninger received some surprising news. When the surgeon came into the hospital room, he had two things to tell his patient. The first was that Henninger definitely had made the right decision to have the surgery. His right knee was in as bad a condition as he had thought, with little cartilage left. But his left knee had no cartilage left at all. The surgeon said he had no idea how Henninger had been able to walk with a knee in such condition.

The second thing the surgeon said was that with proper post-operative care, Henninger's mountain-climbing days were not over yet. If he worked hard in this post-op period, he could climb his mountain again. His new knees, the doctor continued, would work better than the old ones, and he wouldn’t feel the pain again.

The day after his surgery, Henninger began his physical therapy. For the next 18 months, he trained for his next climb. He compared the post-op training and therapy to climbing a mountain of another sort. He started off his first day of therapy just learning how to flex his ankles; then progressed to getting around using a walker and eventually to walking down the hospital’s fire escape steps, aided by a cane.

During Henninger’s six-month checkup in May 2004, the surgeon asked him if he had signed up for the climb scheduled for the summer of 2005, and cautioned him not to use his new knees as an excuse. If he trained the way he had explained he would, said the surgeon, then physically, he should have no problem climbing again.

A week later, Henninger called JanSport and signed up for his fourth climb. A year later, Henninger was packed and ready to head back to his beloved mountain.

WIDE-EYED VIEW FROM 12,500 FEET
After four climbs, Henninger has not yet experienced reaching the summit, but has reached 12,500 feet. He contacted Peter Whittaker and asked about summiting and if there would ever be a time when the weather would permit an attempt. Whittaker told him he would be welcome to try again, but he could never predict if there would be a right time. Henninger replied, “I don’t believe I have to summit to experience anything more than I’ve already experienced. You think that when you set out to climb a mountain like that, that’s what you’re there for; but after you experience everything in a climb, you realize there is so much more to encounter and learn other than summiting. It really becomes a secondary thing.”

Even though Henninger has not summited Mount Rainier, at 12,500 feet, he could have reached the top of Mount Hood, Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens, as well as any other mountain in Oregon and Washington, and still have been at a lower altitude than he had reached on Mount Rainier. “There is a comfort in knowing at that altitude there are other mountains I could have summited that were lower than Mount Rainier,” he says.

Through his four climbs to Mount Rainier, Henninger has taken away many memories and experiences that will remain with him for the rest of his life. One of those life-changing experiences is writing books. In Compass Points, Henninger relates his experiences during his first two climbs. He is working on his second book, which will focus on his meeting the raven, his third and fourth climbs, and his knee replacement experience.

During his fourth climb, Henninger learned from Ingrid Whittaker, Lou’s wife, that his mentor and friend at age 76 had been told he needed surgery to replace his badly damaged knees if he were to continue to climb to Camp Muir. But Lou Whittaker had convinced himself that surgery was not for him, and that he was through with mountain climbing.

Ingrid Whittaker knew of Henninger’s remarkable recovery and asked him to talk to her husband about how well Henninger’s new knees were working and how well Lou could do if he agreed to have knee surgery.

Henninger approached his mentor and said “Lou, I made it to 12,500 feet. Is that high enough for you?”

Lou Whittaker looked at Henninger for a moment, looked at his knees and then looked at his own. “Looks like yours are working pretty well for you… hmmm? Only 12,500 feet though?” he said with a slight smile.

Here was this legendary mountain climber considering having knee replacement surgery because of Frank Henninger’s climbing success. Henninger said he is eagerly waiting for the day when he gets that e-mail from Ingrid Whittaker saying that Lou had called the surgeon and scheduled an appointment. “That will be a happy day for me,” says Henninger, “because then I’ll know that my experience inspired him.”

Desiree Maniscalco ’06 A&S is majoring in communication. She plans to pursue a career in public relations following graduation.
For two special weeks last summer, Villanova University was the home of the first-ever Theater, Science & Magic Program. Sponsored by the computing sciences department, this inspiring day on campus for Philadelphia inner-city youngsters involved theater, magic, science and more.

Designed with a “Bill Nye the Science Guy” meets “Harry Potter” approach, this magic school at Villanova was taught by enthusiastic teen-agers from the area. Like J.K. Rowling’s fictional school for wizards, this school featured a train ride, a sorting ceremony and even Bertie Bott’s jelly beans.

With its enthusiastic director, Dr. Mary-Angela Papalaskari, assistant professor of computing sciences, guiding the program’s inaugural year, participants were treated to an exciting experience during its two weeks, from June 20 to July 1.

The dream of this project started in February with a meeting of representatives from many Villanova departments, including chemistry, chemical engineering, computing sciences, history, information systems, math, physics and theater, as well as University Information Technologies. The 13 faculty members and two undergraduates all volunteered their time. In offering the magic school, Villanova partnered with other groups, including SCIENCE Resources, a nonprofit organization that seeks to provide young students with outstanding science, math and engineering experiences by involving families and communities. SCIENCE Resources is...
based in Broomall, Pa. The Philadelphia Department of Recreation was also a partner.

The program’s aim was to challenge negative stereotypes about careers in science. The program is geared to getting young students (the “apprentices,” ages 6 to 10, and the “scholars,” ages 13 to 17) excited about the material, and to enlist the older group in teaching science in creative ways by integrating it with the arts.

As Papalaskari has noted, to engage more youngsters from underrepresented backgrounds in science, “We need to take the children behind the scenes and make them active participants, not only as consumers of creative science exhibits or activities, but also as creators.” The Villanovans decided that the best way to cater to the interests of their two targeted age groups was to demonstrate the magical side of science in an interactive chain of learning.

Week one was dedicated to the intellectual stimulation of the “scholars,” the 14 teen-agers who would teach. Although it might have seemed logical to select teens who were skilled in science, the program recruited well-rounded individuals who were creative, excited and ready to inspire the younger children around them. During the week, the teens learned lessons in science, theater and magic tricks, including from a professional magician and Villanova Theatre. Their science classes, taught by Villanova faculty, were dedicated to some mystifying principles and properties of the natural world. Their theatre classes focused on how to use improvisation, annunciation and the other techniques the “scholars” would need to create their characters in the magic school.

Each teen then took what he or she had learned in the morning and applied it to shaping lesson plans to hold the interest of 6-to-10-year-olds. In this way, the teens became teachers and gained valuable community service. Each “scholar” paid $300 to participate.

During week two, it was time for each of the 14 teens to shine. Three groups of the young students, “the apprentices” enrolled in the magic school, arrived by train to spend a day on campus after a week of preparation.

Villanova and SCIENCE Resources may have created the program, but they credit its success to the 14 dynamic teens. These “scholars” packed their magic school with theatrical skits, creative themes and classes inspired by the wonders of science they themselves had experienced the week before.

Usually home to undergraduates scurrying from one class or lab to the next, Villanova’s campus provided a perfect forum for these wide-eyed young visitors to learn first-hand about the magic of science. Each group was whisked from Philadelphia’s 30th Street Station to campus by the magical R5, one of the many valuable experiences for the children. The program directors are certain that the experience of visiting a college campus and classroom was in itself a pleasure.

The atmosphere created by the imaginative teens offered much more. One talented teen, a bagpiper, led the procession of young visitors from Dougherty Hall to the “whispering arches” of Corr Hall. The children twittered with excitement as the magic school’s faculty (the teens’ clever costumes strongly resembled academic robes) helped them gather their school supplies.

While the external magic was visible and audible all

(Left) The “scholars,” who had a week to learn what they would teach, put their theatrical skills to work to demonstrate the magic (and principles) of science to their “apprentices.” (Right) One “scholar,” a talented bagpiper, leads students to the “whispering arches” of Corr Hall, where they will gather their school supplies for the day.
over campus, the true magic took place in the Mendel Science Center and Tolentine Hall. There, the classrooms were brimming with the innovative ways the teens had chosen to demonstrate scientific principles and engage the “apprentices” in taking part. Yet, what was even more impressive was that these teen-age teachers confidently shared what they had learned. Shy participants emerged from their shells as they tested the techniques they had learned in theater sessions. Proud parents of the more introverted teens remarked during their visits that “This is magic.” The teens’ hard work was not lost on the eager young children, especially during the science experiments, when faculty and staff watched young faces light up with surprise and curiosity.

The program’s leaders are thrilled with the success of the first year, despite a late start in planning, and are looking forward to next year. The magic school’s positive impression on participants is only just beginning to emerge. With the help of a psychologist, faculty members hope to get a better sense of the long-term benefits for participants of all ages.

Based on immediate feedback from the teens, the leaders plan to extend next year’s program to three weeks. Adding a week would allow teens more time to learn and plan lessons, not to mention to become better acquainted with one another.

Also considered to be essential to the program’s success is the preservation of the age gap between the teen teachers and the visiting children. A certain level of awe helped teens to keep their young audience engaged and respectful, both during the skits and in the classroom. Leaders expect interest in the program to climb; however, they promise to keep class size to about 15 pupils to glean as positive a response next year.

The magic school is a welcome addition to the many summer programs at Villanova. What sets this program apart is its hierarchy of learning, in which the passionate faculty and undergraduate volunteers give a creative group of teens the tools to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with younger children. There is little doubt that this program has taken many steps to achieve its goal of breathing new life into encouraging youngsters to pursue careers in science.

For more information on SCIENCE Resources, visit www.science-resources.org. Next February at Villanova University, the nonprofit organization plans to hold the Greater Philadelphia Homeschool Science Fair, geared to homeschoolers in grades K-12.
Dean Johnson Reflects on Engineering Education

BY AMANDA ROSELLI ’06 A&S

“T’s going to be a future of change,” said Dr. Barry C. Johnson ’70 M.E., dean of Villanova University’s College of Engineering, when asked about his vision for the future on the occasion of the College’s 100-year anniversary. According to Johnson, engineers are at the forefront of change because technology drives change.

The College is responding to change innovatively. The creative opportunities it offers include:

- five-year master’s/bachelor’s programs in all seven engineering fields, as well as a joint graduate degree in technology management with the College of Commerce and Finance;
- distance education;
- the integration of digital media into the classroom; and
- the new interdisciplinary doctoral program. It focuses on research, technology development and technology management to prepare engineers for industry and academia.

In light of the increasingly globalized economy, engineers benefit from a more interdisciplinary approach to their studies. “I’m a firm believer that the engineering degree is the liberal arts degree of the future,” Johnson said. “Engineers have got to be able to understand Hemingway as well as they understand Fermi or Faraday.”

Engineers are some of the most well-traveled professionals. To communicate effectively with everyone around them—not only the technologists—they are becoming more adaptive. To achieve this, Johnson believes the College, as well as the University, would benefit from targeting a more diverse group of prospective students. It is not a matter of lowering standards, the dean said, but rather raising awareness of the engineering field and providing financial assistance to underrepresented groups. More diversity would expose everyone to different perspectives and prepare graduates for working in industry. The College has created reach-out programs in high schools and plans to expand them eventually to younger students.

Engineering at Villanova is undergoing physical changes as well. The College intends to renovate CEER (The Center for Engineering Education and Research), White Hall and the chemical engineering building. The Structural Engineering Teaching and Research Laboratory (see the following story) opened in June. Its state-of-the-art facilities offer opportunities for undergraduate research, an important component of education at the College. “Engineering is the search for truth,” said Johnson, who believes that research is essential to the Veritas (truth) in Villanova’s motto of Unitas, Veritas, Caritas.

As an alumnus, Johnson has a wish for both the College and the University. “Remember your roots and build on them,” he advised. “Our roots were to provide quality education for those who could least afford it…and that’s something we have really worked hard at and we will continue to work at.”

The College’s 100-year anniversary is a time to reflect on its history and think ahead toward a future of change, Johnson summarized. The centennial slogan is “Celebrating Our Past, Re-engineering Our Future.”

Happy 100th!

By AMANDA ROSELLI ’06 A&S

The College of Engineering kicked off its 100th anniversary celebration on September 30 with a student barbecue on the lawn outside of The Center for Engineering Education and Research (CEER).

The picnic featured live music by El Gigantor, a band whose members are Engineering students, as well as student exhibits, including a solar-powered car and a steel bridge. Student organizations recruited more members at tables in CEER’s lobby. Students and faculty showed their spirit by wearing T-shirts designed with Engineering’s 100th anniversary logo.

“We wanted the focus to be on students for the launch,” said Joan Chrestay, the College’s associate dean for external relations. “We have planned many other events for faculty and students during the next few months that will focus on the research efforts of our faculty, on the strong interaction between our alumni and the companies they work for.” These events include a distinguished speaker series that started in October, as well as a corporately sponsored alumni gala on December 3 at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.
On June 10, Villanova University’s College of Engineering hosted 150 guests at the grand opening of its Structural Engineering Teaching and Research Laboratory.

The lab went up in a record nine months. To lay its 3-foot-thick concrete testing floor last winter, it took 17 concrete trucks rotating continuously for 26 hours in close to 0 degree temperatures, according to HSC Builders and Construction Managers, a partner in building the lab. Located in a large open area, the highly reinforced floor will enable full-scale testing under static and dynamic loads. The lab also features a two-story concrete strong wall, specialized rooms with temperature and humidity controls, and 25-ton crane to move experiments around.

The W.M. Keck Foundation provided a $500,000 grant for lab equipment and to promote an innovative undergraduate curriculum. The grant’s principal investigators designed the structural engineering program. They are Dr. Ronald A. Chadderton, holder of the Edward A. Daylor Endowed Chair and professor and chair of civil and environmental engineering; Dr. David Dinehart, Dr. Shawn Gross and Dr. Joseph Yost, who are assistant professors of civil and environmental engineering; and Dr. Rebecca Hoffman, assistant professor of mechanical engineering.

In the lab, faculty, graduate students and undergraduates will engage in cooperative research and teaching. Faculty will also serve as mentors and team members on research projects.

Structural engineering, with its emphasis on urban infrastructure renewal, is a key strategic growth area for the College and for the University’s research and development portfolio, which is an important focus for this new lab, according to Dr. H. Keith Moo-Young, the College’s associate dean of graduate studies and research.

“The College of Engineering has four pillars of research strength: autonomous systems (CENDAC), communications, energy and environment, and now, infrastructure,” Moo-Young said. “A key to our interdisciplinary approach is that we have four cross-cutting themes that tie these pillars together: sensors and devices, performance materials, systems, and modeling and simulation design.”

As Dr. John R. Johannes, vice president for Academic Affairs, observed at the ceremony, “There is great symbolic importance in the new structural engineering lab. It is a manifestation of the University’s growth and vitality. This new laboratory is evidence of a concrete commitment of the academic strategic plan’s goals to enrich and advance undergraduate education and to provide faculty the wherewithal to bring their research interests and teaching to bear in cooperation with the undergraduates and graduate students.”

Held during Alumni Reunion Weekend, the ceremony had several keynote speakers and a blessing of the lab by the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., ’58, University president. The Rev. William A. McGuire, O.S.A., senior vice president for Administration, gave a benediction over the lab and the engineers who will be using it. “Among God’s co-creators, engineers hold a special place,” Father McGuire said.

Michael Nataro ’06 A&S, who was an intern in the Office of Communication and Public Affairs, studied in Lebanon over the summer and this fall is in Rome as a Villanova University intern in the Vatican Internet Office. A political science and philosophy major, he has an interdisciplinary concentration in Arab and Islamic Studies.
Focus on the College of Commerce and Finance

Dean with an Entrepreneurial Spirit Leads the Business School

BY MAUREEN MCKEW

The sign of an entrepreneur is the courage to dream one's dreams, the talent to seek and recognize opportunities to realize those dreams, and the skill to turn opportunities into successful strategies.

For James M. Danko, the new dean of the College of Commerce and Finance (C&F), an entrepreneurial spirit has taken him from being a one-person business operator to leader of a multimillion-dollar enterprise and, eventually, to a career in academia. He is in many ways the model for many businesspeople today who use their gifts in one career to segue to another.

Danko recently reflected about the path that led him to Villanova University. He also speculated about the aspirations he has for the university’s business school, one of which is raising its national profile.

“You read a lot about people changing not just jobs, but careers as well,” he said. “At the age of 37, having had my own medical and fitness equipment company for about 17 years, I started to get a bit restless. I had always been interested in the academic world and had taken courses throughout my career. I became seriously interesting in earning an M.B.A. at a top business school. I applied to the University of Michigan [U-M], which was the closest of the top-ranking business schools to my home in Cleveland, Ohio. Serendipitously, the same week I learned I had been accepted at Michigan, I received a letter from someone who had been scouting my business and wanted to know if I would consider selling it. In about 40 days, the buyer and I came to terms. Within three months, I was on my way to Michigan.”

A new career path

After completing the first year of the full-time M.B.A. program at U-M, Danko met Paul Danos, senior associate dean and a professor. By the end of their first conversation, Danos had invited Danko to work for him full-time, while suggesting he complete his degree part-time. Danko accepted the position, but also managed to complete his degree as originally planned.

Danko went on to fill a number of roles at the U-M business school: lecturer of entrepreneurial management, director of the executive skills program and director of M.B.A. program innovations. Among those innovations was U-M’s renowned Multidisciplinary Action Program (MAP), which transformed U-M’s M.B.A. by combining hands-on international business experience with traditional classroom education. During this period, according to Danko, U-M rose from seventh to second place in the BusinessWeek ranking. The business weekly cited these M.B.A. innovations as the reason for the jump.

Continuing his career in academia, at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Danko went on to become executive director of the M.B.A. program and lecturer in entrepreneurship. Later, he became associate dean at the E.W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College in Wellesley, Mass., where he was responsible for the school’s academic and administrative leadership.

While Danko rose through the ranks, his friend Paul Danos was doing so as well. In 1995, Danos was appointed dean of the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. Four years later, Danos and Danko joined forces once again.

“In 1999, Paul called me and said that Tuck was restructuring,” recalls Danko. Danos “was looking for an associate dean who would serve as a chief operating officer. He thought the job would be well-suited for me.”

At Tuck, Danko led the transformation of the executive education program from a traditional model to a high-impact, customer-focused one that could be customized to the goals and strategies of individual companies. Among these companies, organizations and agencies were Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Hasbro, the Minority Business Development Agency, Raytheon, the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council and Wyeth.

MBA Roundtable networks other innovators

In 2000, Danko was elected president of the MBA Roundtable. This international business school consortium with nearly 150 members serves to share knowledge about the design and delivery of graduate business programs. The MBA Roundtable hosts symposia and conferences; conducts research; and publishes journals, articles and surveys. The organization has moved to Villanova along with Danko, and will continue its work based in C&F. “The MBA Roundtable is a great way to stay connected to curriculum design and programs,” says Danko.

A great match

Danko has always retained the energy, ambition and restless that distinguish an entrepreneur. When he joined Tuck, he told Danos he would do so with the...
understanding that he wanted eventually to advance to a business school deanship. Several business schools had expressed a strong interest in inviting Danko to become dean. In Danko’s mind, Villanova and C&F provided a great fit for his own background.

“I was raised Catholic and attended both a Jesuit high school and college, John Carroll University. Although the Augustinian tradition is somewhat different, there are many commonalities, including a commitment to service and community. One is naturally inclined toward something that fits one’s background, and I do greatly respect the Villanova concept of leading with the heart and mind. I’ve been in the Ivy League and the Big 10, and those schools are great and provided me with a strong leadership background at premier business schools. However, I don’t feel compelled to be there. I see Villanova’s business school as a hidden gem that brings together a number of themes around ethics, a respect for integrating the practical side of business with the academic side, and entrepreneurship.”

Priorities and early plans for C&F

Raising the business school’s regional and national profile will be a priority for Danko, who recognizes and looks forward to addressing the need to differentiate C&F from a large number and variety of business schools in the Philadelphia area and in the nation.

Danko also realizes that a business school’s reputation rests not just on its M.B.A. programs. “We have an outstanding faculty and students in the undergraduate programs. I’d like the industry and those who rank business schools to change the conversation a bit and begin to think about the way an undergraduate business program is a good barometer of the strength of a business school. Right now it’s all about the M.B.A., but graduate programs are the source of only about 15 to 20 percent of all business degrees conferred. Looking at the numbers for all AACSB-accredited schools, it’s clear that the majority of business degrees are earned at the undergraduate level.”

He has a strong commitment to diversity as well. At Tuck, Danko focused on the school’s diversity initiatives, including its annual Diversity Conference and its Minority Business Executive Program—the first ever to be established in the United States, 25 years ago. Danko established solid connections through his work on these initiatives, including a partnership with the Minority Business Development Agency, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. He intends to continue these friendships and to call upon fellow leaders for collaboration and support.

Finally, the new dean hopes to be a stabilizing force for C&F administrators and faculty who have been through several leadership transitions. “I enjoy having the opportunity to bring people together in a positive, constructive way and to lead a school with such a strong foundation and potential for increased success,” he said.

Danko, his wife, Mary, and their two daughters, Melanie and Meredith, have moved into their new home in Wayne, Pa. Melanie and Meredith have enrolled at nearby Notre Dame Academy. “We’re almost unpacked,” the new dean said.

Meanwhile, he has been meeting with colleagues at Villanova and in the Philadelphia area business community as part of his initial 100-day plan to assess and analyze the context within which the college currently operates. “Actually, I began doing this before I officially arrived here as dean [in August],” he says. “It’s been my experience that people genuinely appreciate being asked for their input. It’s also been my experience that one of the essential components of leadership is the ability to listen and learn as a prelude to action. I’m in listening mode right now.”

Link Up to Start Up

BY LISA DI TURO ’06 A&S

Networking among an experienced executive, an entrepreneur, a faculty member and a graduate leads to a career launch.

It all started back in 1959. That was the year Richard J. Anthony Sr., now founder and managing director of The Solutions Network, Inc., graduated from Villanova University with a degree in liberal arts. But 46 years later, it is Travis McMenimon ’05 C&F who is benefiting. How do these two facts connect?

Anthony ’59 A&S has extensive experience in organization effectiveness, human resource management and performance improvement. His Pennsylvania-
“We help each other in pursuit of our own agenda,” said Anthony, whose consulting firm is often hired to help get these companies off the ground. “It forms an extensive network that is helpful to people in the room.”

Operating with a “You scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours” principle, the meeting last May welcomed four Villanova students who were invited to attend after winning the Start-Up Challenge. More than 100 Villanova undergraduates had participated in this business plan competition sponsored by the Villanova Entrepreneurial Society (VES). Start-Up awards $5,000 in cash prizes to students. They are “young people with different perspectives who are interested in entrepreneurism,” Anthony noted. It’s “a new ideal,” he added. “People are turned off by the corporate world and want to try their hands, some with nets and some without, by going into business for themselves.”

Here’s where the paths of Anthony and McMenimon intersect. McMenimon, who majored in management information systems and minored in entrepreneurship, at the time was vice president of VES and had been a member for two years. He co-founded the Start-Up Challenge, along with Adam Siegrist ’05 C&F, then president of VES.

McMenimon noted, “The Start-Up Challenge is the main vehicle for getting students out into the entrepreneurial community. We conceived the idea and made it happen. We found people to donate money, and got the concept out into the local business community, who really embraced it. We brought in outside entrepreneurial experts to judge the competition.”

One of those outside experts was Anthony, who was invited to be a Start-Up judge by Dr. James W. Klingler, assistant professor of management in the College of Commerce and Finance and faculty advisor for the VES. Anthony, who was thrilled by the program, Start-Up and the ingenuity of the participants, asked Klingler and the four winners to attend the May meeting of The Entrepreneurs Network. He suggested that each student sit at a separate table to ensure that they would interact with other attendees.

At first, the students were a little uneasy, not knowing what their roles would be, says Anthony. But they quickly settled into a comfort zone as more people arrived and they began to converse with others. All who attended had a satisfaction of having good people one minute to explain who they were and why they were there. The students were in the middle of it all, interacting and playing as active a role as the real-life entrepreneurs and investors.

Noted Anthony, “Besides creating a venue allowing students to come together with real-life entrepreneurs and an opportunity to join a company that is just starting out, there’s a satisfaction of having good people come together and share information, and sometimes good things come out of it. It’s just such a great match.”

Anthony said he wishes to see and help in the “continuing, expanding and building of the entrepreneurial program at Villanova.” He is an enthusiastic supporter of Klingler, as well as of Klingler’s associates and program. Anthony has extended an open invitation to Klingler to bring up to four students to future meetings. (Anthony was featured in the Winter 2004 Villanova Magazine for his idea that led to a Vatican internship for Villanovans. Villanova’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences awarded him an Alumni Medallion in 2004.)

Ken Schwenke was one of the “real-life” entrepreneurs at the networking meeting in May. Schwenke heads the Off-Campus Dining Network, an alternative to campus meal plans that is now offered at more than 30 colleges and universities nationally (there is a Wildcat plan, but it’s for a certain university in Lexington, Ky.). Off-Campus Dining Network uses a prepaid card to enable students to purchase meals at restaurants near their campus.

Schwenke thought his first Entrepreneurs Network meeting offered a “good forum for otherwise dissembled entities that don’t connect: academia, the business community and the investor community. There aren’t too many forums where you can get these three groups together.”

At the meeting, Schwenke and Klingler were able to sit down and talk. Schwenke found Klingler to be an “energetic and entrepreneurially focused professor,” and plans to help out in some of his classes. When Schwenke happened to mention that his company is in a growth mode and is looking to hire new employees, Klingler directed him to McMenimon.

As McMenimon put it, “The rest is history.” The May graduate started working for the Off-Campus Dining Network in July as manager of finance and information technology. He states that he is enjoying his new position.

While that meeting may have been the first time that Villanova students have taken part in The Entrepreneurs Network, they certainly proved to be more than novices. Villanova alumni, faculty and students will be coming together, and with the help of the Start-Up Challenge, The Entrepreneurs Network and enthusiastic angels, they will be launching their ideas and dreams into reality.
Off to a Flying Start

Reading The Kite Runner puts everyone at Villanova on the same page.

BY IRENE BURGO

With colorful kites, festive events and comments from readers, the campus hit the ground running with its “One Book Villanova” program on September 28. The high-flying events highlighted the bestselling novel The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini.

The program’s initial goal was to encourage students to read at least one book in addition to their required reading for course work. The program grew from conversations between Dr. Teresa “Terry” Nance, assistant vice president for Multicultural Affairs, and Joseph Lucia, University librarian and director of Falvey Memorial Library. They then established a committee, which selected the book, planned events and came up with motto: “One Book Villanova: Read It, Share It.”

Villanova distributed The Kite Runner free to all full-time matriculated students, as well as many faculty and staff, a feature that makes Villanova’s program unique.

The program’s launch, hosted by Nance, celebrated the novel’s kite theme. A drum-and-dance ensemble drew the Villanova community to the Connelly Center Plaza. Activities there included kite flying, a make-your-own kite workshop and the distribution of books to commuting students.

The Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., ’58, University president, offered welcoming remarks and a brief perspective on his reading of the book. Several faculty members and students also shared their opinions about the novel. A group of Villanova students even provided a “photo op” by assembling in the shape of a kite on the front lawn of Dougherty Hall.

“One Book Villanova” has now expanded to include a focus on literacy and cultural awareness. Throughout the year, events related to the novel’s themes will take place. Faculty and staff will lead book discussions. A film, a panel discussion on Afghanistan and a one-act play will be open to the public. On February 7, author Hosseini will deliver a talk on campus. His novel also will be part of Villanova’s Literary Festival in 2006.

Villanova is coordinating with the Lower Merion Township Library system to select future public events. At the end of the year, the University will donate its stock of The Kite Runner to urban schools. (See page 62 for a student’s review of the book.)

The “One Book Villanova” committee gathers at the launch with the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., ’58, University president. The program’s logo is on the podium.
The Kite Runner

By Khaled Hosseini
Riverhead Books, New York
371 pages, paperback
$14.00

Editor's note: The Kite Runner is the selection for the inaugural year of “One Book Villanova.” Students and interested faculty are all reading the same book, which will then become the basis for discussion groups, lectures and other events. (See page 61.)

In a post-September 11 world, the nations of the politically tumultuous Middle East are in the global spotlight every day. Books and novels pertaining to this region, especially Afghanistan, are providing an invaluable sense of perspective about a part of the world that is often baffling and intimidating.

Khaled Hosseini’s The Kite Runner draws the reader into an Afghanistan beyond the headlines. Through the eyes of Amir, the narrator, the reader understands how the country was ripped apart by decades of Russian occupancy and the erosive presence of the Taliban regime. Were it not for the fact that Hosseini’s degree is in medicine, the reader might find it unfathomable that The Kite Runner is his first novel. Hosseini crafts his storyline with a skillfulness and poise that is usually exclusive to more experienced writers. His New York Times best seller is so convincing that it resembles a memoir more than a novel.

While the novel becomes a portal into the chaotic changes that have occurred in Afghanistan through the past three decades, it is most compelling because of its core shaking storyline. This gripping story opens in 2001, when Amir receives a phone call that jolts him back to his childhood in Afghanistan. “I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975,” Amir begins in telling the story of two Afghan boys.

Through the eyes of Amir, Hosseini paints the picture of an Afghanistan that few can recall, for the landscapes to which the world has become accustomed are those that have been scarred by war and poverty. As children, Amir and his servant and best friend, Hassan, live carelessly in 1970s Kabul, immersing themselves in kite-flying competitions, an Afghan sporting tradition. Although their backgrounds divide them, their friendship is extraordinary. When a stomach-churning tragedy damages their relationship, Amir is left coping with guilt all his adult life. Even after many years of living in America, Amir finds that the distance from his homeland does little to suppress his tormented memories, which are very much alive in his mind.

When Amir returns to his homeland, he is forced to confront the past and to cope with an Afghanistan that bears little resemblance to that of his fruitful memory.

While some of the dramatic twists that occur toward the end of the novel do become far-fetched, this alters the impression on the reader very little. In simplest terms, this is an important book; it is provocative and striking on innumerable levels. The reader will be captivated by Hosseini’s quickly moving plots and pages, and will struggle alongside Amir in his burning guilt and continuous soul-searching. The Kite Runner lives up astonishingly to its critical acclaim.

—Reviewed by Lauren Humann ’06 A&S

The Irish Art of Controversy

By Dr. Lucy McDiarmid
Cornell University Press
270 pages, hardcover
$29.95

The path to independence is not one achieved without difficulty. For Ireland, the years leading up to the Celtic revival and the 1916 Easter Rising were laden with controversies that sparked national interest and concern.

As Dr. Lucy McDiarmid, a Villanova University English professor who teaches Irish Studies, explained in her new book, “Controversy in Ireland is not just a feature of high cultural nationalism; it is a type of unscripted public debate that continues to come into being.”

The Irish Art of Controversy focuses on five of the major cultural debates that fueled rallying for the cause of an independent Irish identity. Providing keen insight into a time of escalated tension between England and Ireland, McDiarmid’s book allows its readers to understand the breadth of the battle for Irish independence and the necessity of acquiring and embracing a culture that was distinctly Irish.

The book’s five sections highlight five struggles over language, theater censorship, art, the custody of poor children, and sexuality. McDiarmid details the Rev. Dr. Michael O’Hickey’s fight for implementation of the Irish Gaelic language in universities and Lady Augusta Gregory’s attempt to thwart all censorship barriers issued by England and Dublin Castle. The author explores the dramatic housing difficulties for the art collection of Hugh Lane, and the Irish mothers’
Ten Secrets of Successful Leaders

By Dr. Donna Brooks '87 M.A. and Lynn Brooks '85 M.A.
McGraw-Hill
166 PAGES, HARDCOVER
$24.95

If you happen to be one of the so-called “gold-collar” workers described in this book—those employees who possess complex technical skills, outstanding communication skills, passion, energy, adaptability and charisma—you can just sit back and wait for the opportunities to come to you. With that personality, you will not sit for long.

However, if you are one of the mortals among us—an aspiring leader, an employer desperate for leaders or a staffer who never thought of becoming a leader—then you need to be let it on a little secret. Dr. Donna Brooks ’87 M.A. and her twin sister, Lynn Brooks ’85 M.A., will let you in on 10 of them. Their new book, Ten Secrets of Successful Leaders, outlines “the strategies, skills and knowledge leaders at every level need to succeed.”

Based on their interviews with numerous CEOs, senior executives, hiring managers and team leaders at top corporations and universities globally, these two Villanovans compiled the major recurring themes into 10 easy-to-read chapters, each of which highlights a desirable skill. Through their straightforward language, real-life examples and bullet-point summaries at the end of each chapter, the sisters are determined to spill these valuable secrets.

Workers will want to master these skills to become what the Brooks twins call “The New Epic Leader.” They use the EPIC acronym to summarize the newest type of leader’s key characteristics, including “emotional intelligence, energy, ethics; passion, persuasion; intellectual horsepower, innovation, international perspective; curiosity, calm in crisis.”

Gone are the days when a leader merely possessed superior technical skills. Increasingly, corporations are looking for more intangible skills, such as compassion and adept performance in an uncertain world. The twins, whose previous McGraw-Hill books include Seven Secrets of Successful Women (1997) and Ten Secrets of Successful Men That Women Want to Know (2002), emphasize that these skills can, and should, be learned by everyone.

In the past, workers who preferred not to lead people would take desk jobs where they knew they could hide. In today’s highly integrated work force, hiding is impossible. As careers become more interdisciplinary, chances are that everyone will have to lead, even if on a small scale. The Brooks twins are on a mission to nudge these reluctant leaders out of their shells.

If you are still skeptical that these skills will take you to the top, remember this: The two consultants interviewed the people looking for leaders at companies such as Citigroup, IBM, Merrill Lynch and Sprint, among many others. These employers are desperate to hire those who possess the skills that this book outlines. Can you afford to pass up these secrets?

The sisters also team up at Brooks Consulting in Blue Bell, Pa., their international training and consulting firm. They are currently team-teaching at Villanova University (see pages 25 and 26).

—Reviewed by Amanda Roselli ’06 A&S

The CIA and Congress: The Untold Story from Truman to Kennedy

By Dr. David M. Barrett
University Press of Kansas
544 PAGES, PAPERBACK
$39.95

A government based on separation of powers cannot exist on faith alone,” according to Dr. David M. Barrett, associate professor of political science at Villanova University. In his new book he writes about this concept as it pertains to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and its relationship with the federal government, particularly with Congress, during the CIA’s first 15 years. The CIA and Congress: The Untold Story from Truman to Kennedy

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to Kennedy analyzes these formative years, from the CIA’s inception in 1947 through the Bay of Pigs debacle under President John F. Kennedy in 1961.


A historian of presidents, Congress and national security policies, Barrett searched in about 24 archives, not only delving into government records and newly declassified CIA documents but also the papers of many senators now deceased. He compiled his extensive research into a complete picture of the CIA/Congress relationship during the administrations of Harry S Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Kennedy.

This is the first history to be published of the relationship between the agency and Capitol Hill during the Cold War era, aside from one prepared by the CIA that has yet to be declassified. Before Barrett’s book, the consensus had been that Congress was hardly involved in or aware of CIA activity. But due to Barrett’s comprehensive research, it seems obvious that a lack of congressional oversight was not actually the case.

Barrett’s thorough research sheds light on a politically tumultuous time in U.S. history. He touches upon the post-World-War-II beginnings of the CIA, when congressmen, while keen to prevent more surprises like the Pearl Harbor attack, feared that the new agency would have the potential to become an American Gestapo. In his sections on McCarthyism in the 1950s, he tells how the Red Scare reached so far as to nearly infect the CIA. His scope takes in the various failures under the control of three directors of Central Intelligence—Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter (1947-50), Walter Bedell “Beetle” Smith (1950-53) and Allen Dulles (1953-61)—that comprise some of the most remarkable episodes in U.S. history.

Among the failures Barrett covers are the CIA action (or lack thereof) in terms of testing the Soviet A-bomb, the start of the Korean War, the 1960 shooting down of the U-2 reconnaissance plane over the Soviet Union and, most notably, the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion to overthrow Fidel Castro. Barrett uses these intelligence failures and the subsequent reactions from Congress to convey how “secrecy is the great enemy of democracy, and vice versa,” noted Thomas Powers, author of Intelligence Wars: American Secret History from Hitler to Al-Qaeda.

—Reviewed by Jaya Mohan ’07 A&S

Inquisition

BY JACK EDDINGER ’56 A&S
AUTHORHOUSE
273 PAGES, PAPERBACK
$19.45

Although set primarily in 1950s Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., Inquisition by Jack Eddinger ’56 A&S tells a tale of personal ambition and political corruption that could easily fit the political mores of certain 2005 politicians and their handlers.

Congressman Zachary Taylor Harris is a politician with boundless ambition and a voracious appetite for payback of his enemies. For example, steel magnate Eugene Garrett Palmer blocked Harris’ senatorial ambitions in the late 1930s. In 1950, as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Immigration Reform and Monopolistic Practices, Harris pounced on a merger of Palmer’s company, using his chairmanship as a means to destroy his political foes and keep his seat after nearly a quarter of a century.

Harris’ connections with shady underworld types, his shifting alliances, his attempt to inveigle the assistance of J. Edgar Hoover (no novel of Washington intrigue would be complete without an appearance by the legendary FBI director), his marital dalliances, his double-cross and blackmail of his law partner—all combine to create a portrait of a thoroughly unpleasant protagonist. Harris doesn’t have a single redeeming quality. His long-suffering wife does, however; Marion’s tragic romance with a war hero and subsequent illness make her an interesting, well-defined character.

The outcome of the story is, in one sense, predictable—Harris is, after all, a pretty bad hat—but the surprise is in how events unfold. He makes a mistake that even a freshman congressman would have avoided. But he is so blinded by ambition that he takes on someone completely incorruptible and just a bit smarter than he is.

The fast-paced novel jumps back and forth among three decades while presenting a colorful supporting cast of characters. Readers would be advised to keep a cheat sheet of their names to avoid becoming overwhelmed. They should also find a very comfortable chair because they’ll want to read it in one sitting.

Eddinger is a former newsman and U.S. Senate communications professional and his characters reflect long experience with politicians and powerbrokers on both the state and federal level. He teaches adults at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, writes fiction and non-fiction, and consults.

—Reviewed by Maureen McKew
1940s
Class of 1941: 65th Reunion, June 9-11, 2006

Jared S. Webre ’41 C&E, Eeo., a naval aviator during World War II, on the 60th anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb recalled a flight in 1945 when his C-54 cargo plane carried the tail section of a giant bomb from San Francisco Bay to Honolulu. A few weeks later, he learned about Hiroshima. During the war, Webre flew patrol bombers, taught aviation cadets and co-piloted cargo planes across the South Pacific. After the war, he worked for Ross Laboratories. He now lives in Allentown, Pa.

Class of 1946: 60th Reunion, June 9-11, 2006

The Hon. William J. Nealon ’47 C&F, Eeo., is senior judge of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Judge Nealon was the youngest federal judge in the country when President John F. Kennedy appointed him to the Middle District, which today covers 33 counties.

1950s
Class of 1951: 55th Reunion, June 9-11, 2006

Richard D. Wilson, D.D.S., ’55 A&S, Bio., was invited to speak at the Sixth International Congress on Dental Law and Ethics, held in Florence, Italy, in October. His dental practice is in Richmond, Va.

Class of 1956: 50th Reunion, June 9-11, 2006

Anthony J. Silvestri, Ph.D., ’58 A&S, Chem., a retired scientist and Mobil executive, was named to the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame. He was part of a Mobil research team that in 1972 discovered how to convert methanol to hydrocarbons, leading to Mobil’s Methanol-to-Gasoline (MTG) Process, the first synfuel process to be commercialized in 50 years. This new way to manufacture gasoline, used during the 1980s oil embargo, “may again play a vital role in a future of dwindling oil and gas resources,” according to the news release on his induction. Silvestri holds 28 U.S. patents and has authored or co-authored more than 60 papers.

Robert J. Coleman, Esq., ’59 A&S, Gen., chairman emeritus of the Philadelphia regional defense litigation law firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, received the Barrack Alumni Achievement Award from the Temple Law Alumni Association. Coleman was recently identified in the Top 100 List of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Super Lawyers. In June, he was honored by the Insurance Society of Philadelphia in recognition of his significant service as a member of its board of directors.

Ken MacGillivray ’59 A&S, Hist., teaches high school math at the Virginia Beach (Va.) City Public Schools. He has served as a Navy captain (retired), airline captain and engineering test pilot. He continues to publish poetry and also gives solo piano performances at events. During the summer, he can be found enjoying Cranberry Lake in New York.

1960s
Class of 1961: 45th Reunion, June 9-11, 2006

Joseph W. DuRocher, Esq., ’60 C&F, Eeo., retired public defender of Orange/Osceola counties in Florida, teaches at Barry University Law School in Miami Shores. He was awarded the law school’s 2005 Barry Allias for Justice Award.

Joseph M. Sullivan ’60 C&F, Eeo., a partner with the Media, Pa., accounting firm of Sullivan, Bleakley & Co., LLP, has been named an honorary member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Vincent L. Lamanna Jr., Esq., ’62 C&F, Eeo., has resumed a private practice of law in Avalon, N.J., after retiring in 2003 as county counsel for Cape May County.

Class of 1966: 40th Reunion, June 9-11, 2006

Thomas J. Balshi, D.D.S., FACP, ’68 A&S, Soc. and Glen Wolfinger, D.M.D., ’86 A&S, Bio., directors of Prosthodontics Intermedica’s Institute for Facial Esthetics, presented their trademark Teeth in a Day protocol to postdoctoral dental residents and faculty from Tufts University. The institute in Fort Washington, Pa., is a teaching center and source of research information.

Alan G. Fischer ’68 A&S, Soc., has retired after 32 years as a pilot for American Airlines. A veteran of combat flying in Vietnam, he currently resides in the San Diego area.

Navy Cmdr. Robert W. Cosgriff (Ret.) ’69 A&S, Hon., special assistant to the president at McMunn Associates Inc. in Reston, Va., has announced the publication of Silent Tasting, a collection of his poems (2005, Airleaf).

Joseph Pastrana, Esq., ’69 A&S, Soc., was promoted to U.S. administrative law judge at the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals in Cleveland.

1970s
Ronald W. Deitrick, Ph.D., FACSM, ’70 A&S, Phil., a tenured professor of philosophy at the University of Scranton, was selected as the Leahy Faculty Fellow, awarded annually for excellence in teaching, service and research to a faculty member in Scranton’s Panuska College of Professional Studies. He is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine and was named one of America’s Outstanding Teachers 2004. He has presented more than 15 scientific papers at national and international meetings in the last five years. In October, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign international symposium on Walking for Health, he presented a research paper on the physiological effects and benefits of walking. Deitrick, who was captain of Villanova’s first varsity tennis team, was one of the first Wildcats to reach the NCAA tennis championships.

Denis F. McLaughlin, Esq., ’70 A&S, Soc., ’73 J.D., a professor at Seton Hall University School of Law who has taught there since 1984, received the Miriam T. Rooney Award for distinguished service to the law school and also was named Professor of the Year by the Student Bar Association. His textbook, Cases, Text and Problems on Civil Procedure, is now in its third edition. McLaughlin resides in Rockaway Township, N.J., with his wife, Barbara, and their two children.

While vacationing in Italy, Bob Pesavento ’74 E.E., ’77 M.S.E.E. came across this Villanova sign in Tuscany, near Radda in Chianti.

John E. Piskai, D.D.S., ’62 A&S, Bio., received the prestigious Membership Award from The Academy of General Dentistry. He is a career staff dentist at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia and clinical adjunct faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine.
Tony Leodora '72 A&S, Edu., after two years as editor of Golf Styles Magazine, has been promoted to associate publisher/editor with responsibility for expansion of the magazine.

Class of 1971: 35th Reunion, June 9-11, 2006

John Loftus '71 C.E. was promoted to president/CEO at Cherry Hill Construction, Inc. in Jessup, Md.

Gary Neuser '72 A&S, Gen. is CEO and head of private client service at Credit Suisse First Boston in New York City.

The Rev. Keith A. Norris '73 A&S, Eng. is pastor of the Public Christian Ministry in Dinwiddie County, Va. A certified mental health professional, he provides treatment to children who have behavioral, social and academic problems, and also works with their families.

John H. Ogden, Esq., '73 A&S, Gen., who has a private law practice in Ramsey, N.J., has been appointed a trustee of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. He is a past president of the New Jersey Corporate Counsel Association and a member and past officer of the American Corporate Counsel Association, which awarded him its Excellence in Corporate Practice Award in 2000. Honored with the New Jersey Commission of Professionalism's 1998 Professional Lawyer of the Year Award, Ogden for his volunteerism was awarded the Distinguished Legal Service Award from the American Corporate Counsel Association and the West Group. He is a graduate of Fordham University Law School.

Walter B. Burlington Jr. '74 C&F, Bus. Adm., joined Adelphia Communications as area human resources manager of southern Virginia.

Ralph G. Spontak '74 C&F, Acct. was appointed senior vice president and chief financial officer of Province Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of Donegal Group, where he continues as senior vice president of investor relations and acquisitions. He resides in Middletown, Pa.

Dr. Carolyn Keefe '75 G.S., Rel. Studies, professor emerita of communication studies at West Chester University, was elected to the board of directors of ACTS Retirement-Life Communities Inc.

Class of 1976: 30th Reunion, June 9-11, 2006

Martin M. Doto '76 C&F, Eco., is vice president of insurance operations at Preferred Mutual Insurance Co. in New Berlin, N.Y.

Terry Harris '76 A&S, Edu., '93 G.S., Theat. continues an extensive career in television as actor and producer and as an educator and author. He is currently acting and modeling on the West Coast.

Florence "Flo" Kelly '76 G.S., Lib. Sci. retired as librarian at Crest Junior High School after 34 years in the Souderton (Pa.) School District.

Diane Schneider, Ph.D., '76 A&S, Chem. has been named associate director, clinical research and development, at Endo Pharmaceuticals in Chadds Ford, Pa.

Juliana Csongor, Ph.D., '78 A&S, Math., '81 G.S., Sec. Adm. has published her memoirs, No Royal Road (Lumina Press), under the penname of Julianna C. Adler. The book chronicles her life during World War II under a communist dictatorship and her escape following the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. She jumped from a moving train to escape, then fled to Canada and eventually settled in the Philadelphia area.

Mark DePaul '79 C&F, Bus. Adm. was appointed vice president, business development, at the Tucker Co., a freight management service provider in Cherry Hill, N.J. He earned his M.B.A. in 1985 from Philadelphia University and resides in Lansdale, Pa., with his wife and son.

Robert Moran '79 M.E. was promoted to program manager at Lockheed Martin Systems Integration-Owego in Lexington Park, Md. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in the Patuxent River area.


Brian Ruth '80 C&F, Bus. Adm., a guiding member of the “Masters of the Chainsaw” agency for professional chainsaw sculptors, recently exhibited his artistic talent at the Saratoga County Fair in Ballston Spa, N.Y., where crowds watched as he created and sold his beautifully crafted work in July.

Joseph Velten Jr. '80 G.S., Edu., an English teacher and chairman of the department at Archbishop Wood High School in Warminster, Pa., spent the summer studying Shakespeare at Oxford University's Exeter College. He was awarded this fellowship by the English Speaking Union of the United States.

Maryalice Morro '83 Nur., senior nurse executive and director of patient services at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Yokosuka, Japan, has graduated from the Johnson & Johnson Fellows Program in Management for Nurse Executives. She was one of 43 senior nurse executives from the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan selected for this program that took place at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.
Michael Murtaugh ’85 C&F, Acct. (right), president of MJM Graphic Communications, presented the Washington, D.C., high school Player of the Year Award to Dante Cunningham, now a freshman on the Villanova University men’s basketball team.

Class of 1986: 20th Reunion, June 9-11, 2006
Sister Mary Birster, I.H.M., ’86 G.S., Edu. Adm., principal at Immaculata High School in Somerville, N.J., received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) for her dedication to Catholic education. The award was presented at NCEA’s 102nd national convention, held in Philadelphia in March.

John L. Reed, Esq., ’86 A&S, Phil., a litigation attorney, has joined the national law firm of SolomonEdwardsGroup, LLC as business development manager for the Philadelphia office. His experience includes providing affordable solutions to combat the high cost of education.

David Facer ’87 C&F, Bus. Adm., is a candidate for an M.S. degree in executive leadership at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. At Akzo Nobel in Chicago, he is global business manager-petroleum applications. He and his wife, Tracey, and their three children reside in Naperville, Ill.

Kevin O’Rourke ’91 A&S, Gen. has been appointed principal at the Sharon (Mass.) Middle School.

Jeffrey Ferraro ’92 A&S, Eco. relocated to Stamford, Conn., with his wife and their two sons. He commutes to New York City for his job with the Bank of America.

Kenneth Batchelor ’93 A&S, Pol. Sci. was unanimously appointed by the Rose Tree Media (Pa.) School Board to serve as principal of Penncrest High School in Media. He holds a master’s degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania and is a doctoral candidate in the educational leadership program at Widener University.

James Hamlet, D.D.S., ’93 A&S, was promoted to vice president, operations of the mid-South region of Dunbar Armored Inc. in Richmond, Va.

Thomas Himmel ’91 Ch.E. earned an M.B.A. degree at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. At Akzo Nobel in Chicago, he is global business manager-petroleum applications. He and his wife, Tracey, and their three children reside in Naperville, Ill.

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Edward M. Petrosky, Ph.D., ’93 A&S, Psy., has a full-time private practice, specializing in psychoeducational testing, diagnosis of learning disabilities and eligibility assessments for standardized tests, such as the SAT, LSAT and MCAT.

Carla Prengnolo ’93 A&S, Comm., is national sales manager at WTTG/WDCA television in Washington, D.C.

Kristen Rothe O’Donnell ’93

Jonathan Fletcher ’89 A&S, Engl. was promoted to vice president, operations of the mid-South region of Dunbar Armored Inc. in Richmond, Va.

Brian C. Greenberg ’91 G.S., Tax., a CPA and Certified College Planning Specialist, is based in Marlton, N.J. He specializes in providing affordable solutions to combat the high cost of education.

David Facer ’87 C&F, Bus. Adm., is a candidate for an M.S. degree in executive leadership at the University of San Diego. He is founder and president of Activate Potential, a strategy and coaching firm.

Stephen J. Schlager ’88 C&F, Bus. Adm., associate vice president of Provider and Community Affairs for AmeriHealth Mercy Health Plan, presented a scholarship from his employer to Kristyna Carroll, a junior at Villanova University.

1990s

Carolyn Danzi Marasco, M.D., ’90 A&S, Comp. Prog. is a partner in Pediatrics for Health Point Medical Group in Tampa. She and her husband and their two young daughters live in Wesley Chapel, Fla.

Chris Elkins ’90 C&F, Bus. Adm. is senior manager, customer operations, at Columbia Sportswear Co. in Portland, Ore. She also is the co-director of the Answer to Cancer Foundation, which raises money for cancer research by hosting charity runs. The foundation has raised more than $100,000 in two years. Elkins is married and the mother of two young children.

Tanya Abrams St. John ’91 A&S, Comm., has left her job in advertising and marketing to become a “stay-at-home mom.” She and her husband are the parents of two children. Their home is in south Florida.

Mark J. Basso ’91 A&S, Hist., was promoted to vice president, operations of the mid-South region of Dunbar Armored Inc. in Richmond, Va.

James Hamlet ’91 G.S., Tax., a member of the Malvern, Pa., firm of Issinger & Co., Certified Public Accountants, has joined the board of trustees of the Catholic Leadership Institute.
A&S, Soc., a Realtor with Frank Howard Allen Realtors in Strawberry Village, Mill Valley, Calif., has been inducted into the 2005 Chairman’s Circle of Excellence. She and her husband, Keith, sponsored a San Francisco event benefiting Global Green, an organization committed to improving the environment, particularly in Third World regions.

Karen Cashman Young ’94 C&F, Acct. was admitted to partnership in the international accounting firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers in its Florham Park, N.J., office. She holds the CPA designation.

Fredric DiAntonio ’94 C&F, Mgt., broker and owner of Blue Ocean Realty in Wildwood Crest, N.J., earned the Certified Commercial Investment Member designation, recognizing his expertise in commercial and investment real estate.

Brian Fitzpatrick ’94 C&F, Acct. was named accounting supervisor in the Delaware management services division of Gunnip & Co., a CPA and consulting firm.

Robert D. Love ’94 M.B.A. has been appointed chief financial officer at Alfacell Corp., a biopharmaceutical firm in Atlanta.

Lisa Boyd Crouse ’95 A&S, Chem. received a master’s degree in occupational therapy from Tufts University.

Kelly Dromoter ’95 C&F, Mgt., a second grade teacher with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg (N.C.) Schools, in June participated in the Mayor’s Midnight Sun Marathon in Anchorage, Alaska, to raise money for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She placed second overall for women and 24th for all runners with a time of 3 hours, 7 minutes and 12 seconds.

Brian O’Connell ’95 A&S, Comm. was awarded an Emmy for outstanding Live Sports Coverage. As assistant director of broadcasting for the Seattle Seahawks, he is executive producer of their preseason telecasts.

Class of 1996: 10th Reunion, June 9-11, 2006

Jonathan Dalton, Ph.D., ’96 A&S, Psych. received his doctorate in clinical psychology from Fordham University and is a postdoctoral fellow at the Maryland Center for Anxiety Disorders at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Raul Damas ’96 A&S, Engl. joined the White House Office of Political Affairs in Washington, D.C., as associate director. His responsibilities include accompanying President George W. Bush on his travels and reporting on political activity in the states.

Tammy S. Davis ’96 G.S., Pol. Sci. was named procurator/advocate to the Diocese of Camden Tribunal by Bishop Joseph Galante. She is attending St. Charles Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., for advanced studies.

Lynn Piserchia Schiller, Ph.D., ’96 A&S, Psych. in May was awarded a doctorate in clinical psychology from Seton Hall University.

Nicole Ridgway ’96 A&S, Comm. is deputy chief of reporters at Forbes Magazine, where she heads a group of 25 reporters and also writes articles for both the magazine and Forbes’ Web site. Her book, The Running of the Bulls (Gotham Books), released in August, covers the intensity and drive of undergraduates at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, from classroom to Wall Street.

Andrew Weidl ’96 A&S, Comm. Arts, ’97 G.S., Hum. Res. Dev. is the West Coast college football scout for the Baltimore Ravens. He spent the past five years as a college scout for the New Orleans Saints and prior to that, was a player personnel assistant for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He has relocated from New Orleans to Scottsdale, Ariz.

Jennifer DeLuca McDonald, M.D., ’97 A&S, Bio., is a pediatrician at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in its West Grove, Pa., satellite office. She completed her pediatric residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and at the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del.

Marine Capt. Robert Fitzpatrick ’97 A&S, Pol. Sci. is on active duty at the Marine Corps Air Station in San Diego. He holds the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Sheila Richards ’97 Nur., ’04 M.S.N., is a nurse practitioner at Bryn Mawr (Pa.) Hospital.


Kelly Curtis ’98 A&S, Gen. in May was awarded a master’s degree in administration and supervision from Rutgers University.

Michael Lawrence ’98 C&F, Fin., of Miami, is a manager in the business risk services group of Ernst & Young, LLP in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.


Karen Wood Roberts ’98 C&F, Acct. was promoted to manager of the media information technology planning group at ESPN Inc. in Bristol, Conn.

Badiya Al-Shukri ’99 Nur. is a nursing administrator in the Ministry of Health in the Sultanate of Oman.


Sean Todd ’99 C&F, Mgt. is an account executive at Bio-Reference Laboratories, Inc. in Elmwood Park, N.J.


2000s

Kelli Foiles ’00 C&F, Acct. is human resources recruiter for Grant Thornton LLP’s New York offices.

Joanna Gatti Clarke ’00 A&S, Engl. is program coordinator for the Office of Executive Programs at Villanova University.

Sara Houck Solomon ’00 A&S, Comm. has been named assistant director of alumni relations at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va.

Stephanie Kapos Todd ’00 A&S, Hum. Serv. is an account executive with Pfizer in New Jersey.

Celeste A. Morello ’00 G.S., Hist., a self-employed historian, criminologist and author, has completed for publication the third volume of Before Bruno and How He Became Boss: The History of the Philadelphia Mafia. She specializes in Sicilian and U.S. history as they relate to the origins of organized crime in Philadelphia.

James Rasmussen ’00 C.E., of Baltimore, has launched RLC4Ever, a non-profit foundation designed to assist troubled men. For those interested in learning more, his e-mail address is james.rasmussen@villanova.edu.

Christine Sollazzo ’00 C&F, Mkt. in June was awarded an M.B.A. degree from Monmouth University. She teaches at Corpus Christi School in South River, N.J.

Class of 2001: Five-Year Reunion, October 20-22, 2006, at Homecoming

Navy Lt. Steven Armbruster ’01 A&S, Bio. is stationed at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Jennifer Behrman, Esq., ’01 A&S, Hn., ’01 A&S, Pol. Sci., ’04 J.D. passed the Pennsylvania and New Jersey bar examinations in
July 2004 and is a litigation associate at the Wynnewood, Pa., Law firm of Portnoff Law Associates.

Ryan S. Dunn ’01 C&F, Mgt., a principal at Dunn Twiggar Co. LLC, has completed the Leadership Lehigh Valley program, designed to develop the personal leadership skills and knowledge to be an effective volunteer leader in the community.

Michael Lardiere ’01 C&F, Fin., M.I.S., an analyst at Lehman Brothers in New York City, was named vice president of the Horace Greeley High School Scholarship Fund in Chappaqua, N.Y. He credits the fund for helping make it possible for him to attend Villanova University.

Brooke Bergmann ’02 A&S, Pol. Sci., was named field hockey coach at Canton (Mass.) High School.

Denika Brizuela, Esq., ’02 C&F, Acct. received a J.D. degree from New England School of Law and has begun a clerkship for New Jersey Superior Court Judge Wendel Daniels.

Marine 1st Lt. Carl Collier Gregory ’02 A&S, Pol. Sci., is on his second deployment to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Jennifer L. Liao, M.D., ’02 A&S, Bio., is a first-year resident in pediatrics at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. She received the Dr. Lee Winston Silver Award for Excellence in Pediatrics at her May graduation from Drexel University College of Medicine.

Catherine M. McKeon ’03 A&S, Soc., graduated from the University of Michigan with a master of social work degree, specializing in geriatrics.

Kristen Haynes ’05 A&S, Hum. Serv., spent last summer in Europe pitching and hitting for the Antwerp Royal-Greys softball team in Belgium. She had capped her college career at Villanova University by being named to the CoSIDA All-Academic softball team for Region II.

Air Force 2nd Lt. Brian R. Kolkebeck ’05 E.E. is stationed at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, where he is a developmental electrical engineer.

**Marriages 1980s-1990s**

Anthony Bauer ’91 A&S, Physics, married Ligu Zheng.
Samantha A. Feng ’91 A&S, Hist. married Alon Egozi.

Joseph George Boucher ’93 A&S, Gen., married Katherine Sorel.
Michael Philip Grela ’93 C&F, Acct., married Carole Elizabeth Werner.
Christopher Mills ’93 M.E., married Cynthia Trainor ’96 A&S, Engl.
Theresa A. Fox, Esq., ’94 A&S, Psy., married Matthew J. Driscoll, Esq.

Melissa McManus ’95 A&S, Comm., married F. Scott Welch.
Christine Marie Welsh ’95 A&S, Comm., married Jason Battenfield.
Mary Ann Gallagher ’96 A&S, Psych., married Matthew Mehler.
Genevieve O’Connor ’97 A&S, Comp. Prog. married Brian Foulk, Esq.
Kelly A. Pape ’97 C&F, Acct., married Bryan Ennis.
Christina Szep ’97 A&S, Gen., ’01 G.S., Educ., married Cory Donahue.


Christine Golata ’98 C&F, Mkt. married Michael Clement.


**2000s**

Jennifer Caponiro ’00 C&F, Mkt., married Marine Reserve Capt. Matthew N. McConnell.
Carly DiCostanza ’00 C&F, Fin., married Jeremy Kearnan.
Jennifer Kellihor ’00 C&F, Mkt., married James Stevens.
Kara Malhame ’00 C&F, Fin. married Aloysius Shaneley III.
Julia Mantovi ’00 C&F, Mgt. married Matthew Moschetta.
Thomas Mastrobuoni ’00 C&F, Acct., married Erin Salmon.
Lori Stecker ’00 C&F, Fin., married David Usery.

**Births 1980s**

Thomas Corrigan ’81 M.E., girl.
Barbara A. Bell ’85 A&S, Pol. Sci., girl.

Caitlyn Woods ’05 A&S, Bio., is a first-year student at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Elkins Park.

Christopher Grier ’01 C&F, Acct., married Vanessa Jant ’01 A&S, Psv.
Julie Holt ’01 A&S, Bio. married Jeffrey Penterson.

John Lackner ’01 E.E. married Katrina Kimball ’02 A&S, French Lang./Lit.
Kelly McAuliffe ’01 C&F, Mgt. married Dan Brandenburg.
McGarrison ’01 C&F, Fin., married Jennifer Behrman, Esq., ’01 A&S, Pol. Sci., ’01 Hon., ’04 J.D.
Michael Graito ’02 A&S, Hist., married Allison Steiper.
Marc Malloy ’02 A&S, Psv. married Amanda Freni ’02 A&S, Psy/Edu.

Brynn Edwards ’03 C&F, Mkt. married Evan Henderson.
Catherine McKeon ’03 A&S, Soc., married Dr. Christopher S. Palenik.

IceCats alumni gathered again for a game during Alumni Reunion Weekend in June.

Benigno Federici, M.D., ’85
David Gonsalves ’85 C.E., boy.
Gina Becker Faddis ’87
Loretta DiDonato-Romero ’87 G.S., Eng., twin boys.
Edward S. Barrow ’88
C&F, Acct., girl.
Kelly Conger Criezis ’88
Richard Devlin ’88 C&F, Acct., and Natalie McKenna Devlin ’89 C&F, Acct., girl.
Jeanne Ann McGrain
Post ’89 A&S, Gen., boy.
Jeffrey Tambero ’89
A&S, Mod. Lang., boy.

1990s
William Cahill ’90 C.E., boy.
Tracy Luiso Gallo ’90
Donna Latanich Stone ’90
A&S, Comm., boy.
Phil Colonna ’91 M.E.
and Elizabeth Motto Colonna ’92 A&S, Edu., boy.
Jennifer Walsh Cunningham
’91 A&S, Eco., girl.
Janet Hill Gibbons
’91 C&F, Acct., boy.
Edward Grasso ’91 M.E., boy.
Christine Caviston
Ilk ’91 Nur., girl.
Shavawn M. Lockhart
’91 C.E., boy.
Claire Kunz Milazzo
’91 C&F, Mkt., boy.
’91 A&S, Bio., boy.
Steven Portas ’91 C&F,
Acct. and Julie Ringdahl
Portas ’92 C&F, Mkt., boy.
Stephanie Manzella
Rahaniemis ’91 Nur., boy.
Daniel Rourke ’91
A&S, Eco., and Debra Romer Rourke ’96 C&F, Fin., girl.

Victoria Gallen Schutt ’91
A&S Arts, ’95 G.S., Tax., boy.
Kim Brickner Denicore
’92 C&F, Mkt., boy.
Christine Callahan Barry,
Sheila Sgreve-Daly Rizzo
’92 C&F, Mkt., girl.
Gregory Weidman ’92 E.E., girl.
Joseph Alduino Jr. ’93 C&F,
Fin. and Leah DeFelice Alduino
’93 A&S, Pol. Sci., boy.
Carleen Burns ’93
C&F, Acct., girl.
Claudine Andre
Fritz ’93 C.E., girl.
Dorothy Gabriel Getty
’93 A&S, Eng., girl.
Frank Ingarr Jr. ’93 M.E., girl.
Allison Romeo Gottfried ’93
G.S., Couns./Hum.Rel., boy.
Jean Rutkowski
Michael ’93 E.E., girl.
Susan Sawovoy Preaus
’93 A&S, Psy., boy.
Jon Anstine ’93 C&F,
Acct., and Stephanie DeCuritis
Anstine ’95 C&F, Mkt., boy.
Christopher Cahill ’94
Regina Crawford Gannon
’94 C&F, Mkt., girl.
Jennifer Fallat Barrett
’94 C&F, Fin., girl.
Megan Faulk May
Danielle Fignoni Garrity ’94
A&S, Spanish Lang./Lit., boy.
Dana Finn Leca ’94
A&S, Comm., boy.
Jennifer Giblin DiPillo ’94
A&S, Pol. Sci., twin boys.
Gail Haura Lisson ’94 A&S,
German Lang./Lit., girl.
Richard Kierman ’94 G.S., H.C.
Adm. and Antonia Geisler Kierman
Thomas Lanza ’94 A&S,
Edu. and Julie McDonough
Lanza ’94 Nur., boy.
Michele Malcher Connellan
’94 C&F, Acct., boy.

David (Droopy) Martin ’94
Christopher M. Massella
Kristin McKeon Nieto
’94 A&S, Comm., girl.
Kathleen Miles Stewart
Peter Myers ’94 C.E.,
’97 M.C.E., girl.
Michael Portas ’94
A&S, Eng., boy.
Rachel Winans Kuhn
’94 A&S, Comm., girl.
Christopher W. Basaman
John Beggs ’95
C&F, Fin., boy.
Eric Decker ’95 C&F, Fin.
and Carolyn Ryan Decker
’95 C&F, Acct., boy.
Thomas Di Sessa ’95
A&S, Comp. Sci., ’01
G.S., Comp. Sci., boy.
Frank M. Esis, M.D., ’95 A&S,
Bio., and Lauren Cunningham
Essis ’95 A&S, Psy., boy.
Matthew McGary ’95
A&S, Comm. and Bridget
Donoghue ’95 A&S, Bio., girl.
Vincent Mongiovi, D.M.D., ’95
A&S, Bio., and Elizabeth Petrelli
Mongiovi ’95 A&S, Econ., girl.
Matthew Sardy ’95 C&F, C.F.
Acct. and Amy Detrick
Sardy ’95 A&S, Psy., boy.
Joseph Sheehan ’95 C.E.,
and Laura Kaplan Sheehan
’95 A&S, Hum. Serv., girl.
Balakrishna Subramaniam
’95 G.S., Comp., Sci., boy.
E. Jason Windish ’95 Nur., girl.
Gina Buonaguro ’96 A&S, Eng., girl.
Jonathan Dalton ’96 A&S,
Psy., and Kathleen Collins
Dalton ’96 C&F, Acct., boy.
Katherine DeElligado Bulley
’96 C&F, Acct., girl.
Nancy Giordano Moloney
’96 A&S, Acct., girl.

Ian Harrison ’96 A&S,
Bio. and Lauren Anderson
Harrison ’96 Nur., boy.
Brian Hoey ’96 E.E., boy.
Gregory Holman ’96
C&F, Mkt. and Leigh Masters
Holman ’96 Nur., boy.
Chris Kudlac ’96 A&S,
Soc. and Kathryn Ivers Kudlac
’97 A&S, Psy., twin girls.
Yolanda Kunz Semelsberge
’96 C&F, Eco., boy.
Joseph Logan, D.O.,
’96 A&S, Bio., boy.
Daria Mengert Dattolo
’96 A&S, Comm., boy.
Katherine Reis Van Loan
’96 C&F., Acct., boy.
Robert Shearer ’96 A&S,
Comm. and Laura Baker
Shearer, Ph.D., ’95 A&S,
Eng./Phil., ’95 Hon., girl.
Diana Shoemaker McClure
’96 C&F, Acct., girl.
Kathleen Sullivan
Powell ’96 Nur., boy.
Heather Williams Walker
’96 C&F, Mgt., boy.
Jill Basile Martin ’97
A&S, Eng., girl.
Melinda Cahill Hebb
’97 C&F, Acct., girl.
Jennifer DeLucia McDonald,
Jennifer Diaz Buschowski
’97 A&S, Bio., boy.
Jennifer Gennaro Dake
’97 A&S, Gen., girl.
Amy Kleist Holovaty ’97
Ch.E., ’04 M.B.A., girl.
Jennifer McHale Smith
’97 A&S, Comm., girl.
Michael Nader ’97 C&F, Fin.,
and Tricia Healy ’97 Nur., girl.
Edward Overell ’97
Matthew Russo ’97 C.E., boy.
Correction: Michael Scarpeelli
’97 C&F, Acct. and Elaine Ceci
Scarpelli ’97 C&F, Mkt., girl.
Michael Simonetti ’97
A&S, Comp. Prog. and
Carrrie Moule Simonetti ’96
A&S, Hum. Serv., boy.
Melissa Sodolksi Skabich
’97 A&S., Engl., boy.
Russell Aborn ’98 C&F,
Fin. and Megan Siddell Aborn
Lori Carroll Isaeli, Esq.,
’98 A&S, Bio., ’98 A&S,
Hon., ’02 J.D., boy.
Brian Gargan ’98 C.E.,
and Marie Gribbin Gargan
’98 M.E., ’02 M.C.E., boy.
Louis Giammoni McKernan
’98 C&F, Mkt., boy.
Jennifer Lyden Pierzchalski
’98 C&F, Mkt., girl.
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News for Class Notes

Jeffrey Savaresi '98 A&S, Psy, and Melanie Rasic Savaresi '98 A&S, Phil./Soc., boy.
Karen Wood Roberts '98 C&F, Accct., boy.
Gregory Alcusky '99 Comp. Eng. and Mary Kate Trainor Alcusky '99 Nur., boy.
Jason Kling '99 C.E., boy.
Edward Lee '99 C.E.

2000s

Hilary Johnson Munger '00 A&S, French Lang./Lit., boy.
Catherine L. Parrish '00 G.S., Psy., girl.
Jessica Weiss Lennox '00 A&S, Eng., boy.
Christina L. Crawford '03 M.B.A., girl.
Julie Mabry Wenz '03 Nur., girl.

In Memoriam

1930s

William J. O'Brien '33 C.E., on June 27.
Nick Kotys '36 C&F, Eco., on July 28.

1940s

Francis "Frank" Carroll Helies '44 E.E., on July 27.
LeRoy "Lee" H. Collegegan '45 C.E., on June 7.
Joseph J. Huntofski '47 E.E., on January 15.
Walter Winiewski '48 C&F, Eco., on May 22.

1950s

Peter Paul "Pete" Limanni '50 A&S, Eco., on July 28.
Bernard Joseph Mallon '50 M.E., on August 18.
Charles J. Smith '50 E.E., on August 3.
Alvin T. Tomko '50 E.E., on June 8.
Sister Mary O'Rourke, S.H.C.J., '52 G.S., Edu., on July 11.
Paul A. Lloyd '53 C&F, Eco., on August 28.

Anne Kitts '56 A&S, Gen., on February 7.
Elizabeth McAleeese '56 Nur., on July 17.
Robert J. Smith Jr. '56 C&F, Eco., on April 22.
Don Xavier Bancroft, Esq., '57 C&F, Eco., on August 4.

1960s

Frank W. Mallozzi '60 G.S., Gen., on January 17.
Stephen P. Gallagher, Esq., '61 C&F, Eco., '70 J.D., on June 15.
Paul J. Downey, Esq., '62 A&S, Arts, '65 J.D., on August 11.
Sister Thomas M. Toner '68, G.S., Hist., on April 30.

1970s

Barry R. Faust '70 M.C.E., on June 13.
Thomas C. Greble, Esq., '71 A&S, Soc., on June 16.
Marie E. Carr '72 G.S., Edu., on June 28.
James F. Campbell Jr. '75 A&S, Gen., on June 27.
Joseph F. Savelli '76 M.E., on April 21.

1980s-2000s

John F. Walsh '81 Ch.E., on April 29.
Joan Foley Millsom '83 Nur., on July 6.
Kathy Rathz Reitnour '85 A&S, Eco., on June 20.
Diane B. Garforth '91 G.S., Eng., on May 16.
Laura Padlock '02 M.S.N., on June 20.

Friends

Joan "Babe" Canuso Fischer, on June 13.
Patrick B. Stanley Sr., on June 18.

Students

Jill Creedon, a junior Nursing major, on July 12.

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