A Modest Friar, a Monumental Legacy: The Year of Gregor Mendel

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
- University Co-sponsors Mendel Exhibit
- Aspbury ’67 Elected to Chair Trustees
- Two Student-athletes Defy the Odds
A Word from the President

A Multifaceted University for the 21st Century

As you will see throughout Villanova Magazine, there is a growing sense of momentum on campus these days. From a new era of volunteer leadership and exciting educational partnerships, to individual accomplishments and community-wide cultural events, this is an exciting time to be a Villanovan. These stories and many more are featured in this issue, and I am pleased to share with you just a few highlights.

At its April meeting, the Villanova University Board of Trustees elected Herbert F. Aspbury ’67 A&S as chairman. Herb succeeds John G. “Jack” Drosdick ’65 Ch.E., who will continue to serve on the board. Herb and Jack represent a community of alumni, parents and friends who share a strong commitment to Villanova’s Catholic and Augustinian mission and who give generously of their time and resources to help shape the University’s future.

Villanova has partnered with The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia to present “Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics.” This exhibit opened May 24 at the Academy and uses rare artifacts and interactive technology to tell the story of Mendel’s life and research. Villanova celebrates on a daily basis the accomplishments of this friar, teacher, scientist and mathematician whose legacy—both as a scientist and an Augustinian—remains a vital part of contemporary study. I encourage you to visit the Academy and see the Mendel exhibit, which runs through September 28.

Our Augustinian ideals drive an ongoing search for peace, truth and justice. This spring, our Office for Mission Effectiveness sponsored a forum, “Catholic Social Teaching and Access to Health Care.” With access to affordable health care one of the most pressing issues in the world today, Villanova was privileged to host this gathering of leaders from across the nation who addressed the crisis from a Catholic Social Teaching perspective.

In January, Villanova reaffirmed its position as a cultural resource for the entire community as hundreds of local residents joined students, faculty and staff in a packed Pavilion to hear author and Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculée Ilibagiza. Her inspiring story of how faith saved her life in the face of unspeakable loss was part of One Book Villanova, which annually engages Villanovans and the local community in reading and discussing one designated book and participating in events throughout the year.

An important part of our mission is to engage our students in an atmosphere of academic excellence and rigor. The students inspire the entire Villanova community with their accomplishments, which once again earned them distinction in national fellowship competitions. Among the award winners were Amy Knop-Narbutis ’08 A&S and Michael Athy ’08 A&S, who were named Fulbright Scholars, and Alexandra Bausch ’09 A&S, who won a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Jose James ’10 A&S received honorable mention in the Goldwater Scholarship competition while Haig Norian ’08 E.E received honorable mention in the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship competition.

Our students are impressive on all fronts. Last summer, four-time All American Villanova track and cross-country runner Frances Koons ’08 A&S was diagnosed with kidney cancer. After surgery last August, she courageously made her way back to high-level competition. Bill Sepich ’09 A&S juggled and excelled in two Division I sports, qualifying for the 2007 Big East Conference Championships both in swimming and indoor track and field during the same season.

On campus, the progress can be defined in a more “concrete” sense. Our academic environment will be enhanced by the College of Nursing building opening this summer, and by a new School of Law facility slated for completion in fall 2009. These new structures further represent our commitment to being a multifaceted 21st-century university.

As we continue to move forward, we witness every day how new developments at Villanova are transforming our students—helping them lay the groundwork to pursue lives of passion and purpose.

The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S
University President
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Among the Spring Semester interns in the Office of Constituent Publications were
(from left) Anthony Maalouf ’08 G.S., Amanda Slattery ’10 A&S, Lindsay Kos ’09 A&S,
Tainah Michida ’08 A&S and Michael Nataro ’06 A&S, ’08 G.S. Three of the
interns—Maalouf, Michida and Nataro—graduated in May.
In 1929, Villanova College (now University) conferred the first Mendel Medal on John Albert Kolmer, M.D., a noted Philadelphia physician and a national leader in preventive medicine and public health. Dr. Kolmer, who earned his master of science degree at Villanova in 1915, achieved wide recognition through his research in immunology, serodiagnosis (diagnosing disease based on reactions in blood serum) and chemotherapy, according to the Temple University School of Medicine, where he worked for many years.

As the first recipient of the Mendel Medal, Kolmer began a rich tradition at Villanova of honoring the world’s premier scientists—true innovators whose work in the many diverse realms of science is heralded as revolutionary.

The University is celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Mendel Medal with a yearlong celebration devoted to Mendel’s lasting impact on scientific discovery and exploration, the concept of sustainability and an in-depth look at Mendel himself. The man known widely as the “father of modern genetics” was a revolutionary himself, an Augustinian friar, naturalist, mathematician and botanist whose experiments in the 19th century have helped shape the world’s collective understanding of genes, crossbreeding and heredity. He is the namesake of the state-of-the-art Mendel Science Center on campus, and his legacy remains a vital part of contemporary study of the natural and physical sciences at the University.

Mendel Medal recognizes dedication and commitment to scientific research

Villanova’s Board of Trustees established the Mendel Medal in 1928 to honor of Gregor Johann Mendel (1822-1884). Before becoming Abbot of the Augustinian Monastery in Brünn, Austria (now Brno, the Czech Republic), through his experiments in his monastery garden, Mendel discovered the celebrated laws of heredity, which now bear his name. Villanova awards the medal to outstanding scientists who have—through painstaking work—done much to advance the cause of science, and, by their lives and their standing before the world as scientists, demonstrated that between true science and true religion, there is no intrinsic conflict.

Through the Mendel Medal, the trustees sought to recognize scientific accomplishment and religious conviction. The Mendel Medal is one of the highest awards the University bestows, and was given annually until 1943. Between 1946 and 1968, the medal was awarded eight times. After a hiatus of 25 years, it was...
Dr. Janet Rowley, Dr. Ruth Patrick and Dr. Peter C. Doherty.

This fall, the University will present the Mendel Medal to the Rev. George V. Coyne, S.J., Ph.D., an astronomer and former director of the Vatican Observatory Research Group in Tucson, Ariz. The ceremony will take place on September 6 in Philadelphia at The Academy of Natural Sciences, the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas.

At the ceremony, Father Coyne will speak on “The Dance of the Fertile Universe: Did God Do It?” He says he plans “to present in broad strokes what I think is some of the best of our modern scientific understanding of the universe,” then look at the origins of the universe as “a ballet with three ballerinas: chance, necessity and fertility.”

The award ceremony coincides with the traveling exhibition, “Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics,” whose tour at the Academy, from May 24 to September 28, is co-sponsored by Villanova.
Villanova partners with the Academy to present a groundbreaking exhibit

“The 80th anniversary of the Mendel Medal marks an important milestone for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the entire University, and gives us a great opportunity to celebrate Mendel’s enduring scientific legacy,” said the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S, University president. “Villanova is pleased to partner with The Academy of Natural Sciences to bring this prestigious traveling exhibit to Philadelphia. I had the opportunity to view the exhibit in Chicago. It is well done and will allow every visitor to experience the Augustinian’s rich heritage of scientific discovery and academic excellence, which continues today at Villanova.”

The Academy is one of only four national tour venues for the Mendel exhibit. The University is a proud co-sponsor of the exhibit, which promises to introduce and explore Mendel’s life and work in a compelling and interactive way for all visitors. For some, this will be their first time encountering the Augustinian friar and his pioneering research; for others, it will be an ideal time to delve even deeper into the life and work of this well-known scientist.

“We are honored to partner with the Academy to present this exhibition, which highlights the brilliant life and significant work of Gregor Mendel,” noted the Rev. Kail C. Ellis, O.S.A., Ph.D., ’69 G.S., dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (A&S). “The opportunity to bring to the public’s attention the important, groundbreaking achievements of Mendel, whose work remains to this day a vibrant part of the sciences at Villanova, is an exciting one. I encourage all members of the Villanova community to visit the Academy during the exhibition’s Philadelphia tour to experience it.”

Villanova embraces the opportunity to serve as an intellectual and cultural resource not only to its own students and faculty but also to the Greater Philadelphia region by co-sponsoring the Mendel exhibit with the Academy. The College’s robust and rigorous scientific offerings at the undergraduate level include majors in astronomy and astrophysics, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computer science, environmental science, mathematics and physics. A&S also offers master’s degree programs in applied statistics, biology, chemistry, computer science and mathematics. The exhibit on Mendel enables the University to showcase and share its vast scientific resources and expertise with every visitor who walks through the Academy’s doors.

“Collaborating with the nation’s only Augustinian university, also our accomplished neighbor, adds to the rich overall experience of authenticity in the Mendel exhibit,” observed Dr. William Y. Brown, president and chief executive officer of The Academy of Natural Sciences. “We’re excited to reach college-age students and hope to inspire more to regularly visit our museum.”

The partnership represents a chance to showcase Mendel before a large audience, according to Dr. R. Kelman Wieder, a professor of biology at Villanova and the College’s associate dean for the sciences.

“One of our goals in partnering with the Academy in presenting this exhibition is to educate visitors so that they can appreciate the significance of Mendel’s research and how, without his work, our current knowledge of the human genome would be nonexistent,” Dr. Wieder noted. “Mendel laid the foundation from which all breakthroughs in genetic research came to be, and that is something that most people just don’t know.”

Using a fascinating combination of rare artifacts and interactive technology, the exhibit tells the story of Mendel’s life and research in the 1800s. After eight years of experiments with 28,000 garden peas, in 1865 the Augustinian friar presented two lectures on plant hybridization before the Society for the Study of the Natural Sciences in Brünn. Most scientists

Visit the Mendel Exhibit in Philadelphia

“Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics”

May 24 through September 28

The Academy of Natural Sciences
1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
(see inside back cover)

Through Villanova University’s partnership with the Academy, the Mendel exhibit is free for all Villanova students, faculty and staff with a valid Wildcard.

This exhibit and its national tour were developed by The Field Museum in Chicago, in partnership with The Vereinigung zur Förderung der Genomforschung in Vienna, Austria, and The Mendel Museum in Brno, Czech Republic.

Please visit www.ansp.org
Mendel is considered ‘the father of genetics,’ yet few people know the rich story of his humble beginnings and how they led to his groundbreaking experiments,” noted the Academy’s Dr. Brown. “This exhibit is important in terms of shedding light on the man behind the science in order to inspire general appreciation and understanding of his monumental contribution to genetics.” He added that the exhibit is “the extraordinary story of how this monk, working by himself with relatively simple tools, came to crack some of science’s toughest mysteries. This exhibit is good for Philadelphia and the region because it is the first of its kind here. It is an example of our continuing mission to bring the wonderful contributions of science to the general public.”

Fall symposium to highlight Mendel’s work and legacy

Many other special events and initiatives will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Mendel Medal, including a two-day interdisciplinary symposium on campus. “Mendel in the 21st Century: The Scientific, Social, and Ethical Impact of Genetics in Our World” will take place at Villanova on September 21-23. The symposium will feature speakers, presenters and plenary sessions devoted to such topics as the philosophy and history of genetics; biodiversity and evolution; genomics and medicine; biotech and pharmaceutical; and genetics, agriculture and global sustainability.

Dr. Angela J. DiBenedetto, an assistant professor of biology at Villanova whose own research expertise is genetics, chairs the committee organizing the symposium. It promises to reach a wide and varied audience of scholars and researchers interested in Mendel’s work and legacy.

“To today, the impact of modern genetics can be seen in virtually every field of endeavor,” explained Dr. DiBenedetto. “Genetics has helped us understand the mechanisms of evolution, development and disease; engineer bacteria to clean up toxic spills; identify victims of crimes or disasters, and innocent individuals wrongly accused in criminal courts; improve the yield and quality...
of crops and livestock; and presented us with new and extraordinary medical capabilities and ethical challenges.”

The University’s unique connection to Gregor Mendel has been a powerful draw to the invited speakers, many of whom were delighted to have been asked to participate, according to DiBenedetto.

To emphasize the inclusion of the wider community in the scope of the symposium, the opening address will take place at The Academy of Natural Sciences on September 21 at 7 p.m. The keynote speaker is Dr. Sean B. Carroll, a professor of molecular biology and genetics and an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Carroll’s research has centered on the genes that control animal body patterns and play major roles in the evolution of animal diversity. Major discoveries from his laboratory have been featured in *Time*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The New York Times*, *Discover* and *Natural History*. He is the author of *The Making of the Fittest and Endless Forms Most Beautiful: The New Science of Evo Devo*. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Villanova’s “Year of Sustainability”

Taking the spirit of Mendel even further, Villanova will devote the 2008-09 academic year to an in-depth, campus-wide focus, the “Villanova Commitment to Sustainability.”

“For the University to truly make a commitment to sustainability, and to integrate sustainability into the curriculum, the program must have a strong cross-campus component. Sustainability is an inherently multi-disciplinary subject and quite naturally must have a strong cross-campus component. Sustainability, and to integrate sustainability into the curriculum, the program must have a strong cross-campus component. Sustainability is an inherently multi-disciplinary subject and quite naturally must have a strong cross-campus component. Sustainability is an inherently multi-disciplinary subject and quite naturally must have a strong cross-campus component. Sustainability is an inherently multi-disciplinary subject and quite naturally must have a strong cross-campus component. Sustainability is an inherently multi-disciplinary subject and quite naturally must have a strong cross-campus component. Sustainability is an inherently multi-disciplinary subject and quite naturally must have a strong cross-campus component.”

The University’s commitment to Sustainability will feature initiatives that support and advance environmental performance and economic prosperity. Faculty and staff will facilitate the development and implementation of sustainable policies, practices and curricula, Galgano said. “There will be events and programs that will educate the campus community about sustainability and the environment, foster collaboration between schools and colleges within the University, implement procedures to reduce our environmental footprint, link our efforts with other schools in the region and develop resources that promote student and faculty research.”

The goal of this initiative is to explore topics related to environmental, economic and cultural sustainability in a variety of contexts, such as student and faculty education/development, curriculum development, research, sustainable campus programs and community outreach.

“By making this commitment, Villanova will demonstrate leadership in the field as an academic institution,” Galgano said. “For the University to truly make a commitment to sustainability, and to integrate sustainability into the curriculum, the program must have a strong cross-campus component. Sustainability is an inherently multi-disciplinary subject and quite naturally benefits from the expertise and perspectives associated with Villanova’s various academic units.”

Galgano added, “We want to provide a platform upon which faculty and students can conduct research as an integral part of the learning experience, which would greatly enhance student education and promote a strong sense of connection to and caring for the local community and ecosystems of which they are a part.”

Kathryn A. “Kate” Szumanski ’95 A&S, ’97 G.S. is the director of college communications in Villanova’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In addition to her undergraduate and master’s degrees from Villanova, she has a master’s degree in journalism from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Prior to working at the University, she was a reporter and editor at a number of newspapers and magazines.
Passing the Torch

As Herbert F. Aspbury ’67 A&S succeeds John G. Drosdick ’65 Ch.E., they share a longtime loyalty, a philanthropic spirit and a strong commitment to Villanova’s Catholic and Augustinian mission.

By Jennifer Schu

Photos:
(Left) John G. “Jack” Drosdick ’65 Ch.E. at the December 2007 gala celebrated the successful conclusion of Transforming Minds and Hearts: The Campaign for Villanova.

(Right) Herbert F. Aspbury ’67 A&S, the new chair of the trustees, looks forward to helping maintain and further the University’s momentum. “People are so engaged,” he noted.

The first time Herbert F. Aspbury ’67 A&S stepped on the Villanova University campus was in the fall of 1963, on the first day of his freshman year. A teenager from the village of Millbrook, N.Y., two hours north of Manhattan, “I knew Villanova by reputation, but had never seen it,” he recalled.

By the time he’d experienced his first Villanova spring—“there’s nothing like it,” he said—he had fallen in love with the University for good. Throughout a professional career that has spanned the globe, Aspbury has made time to return to campus as much as possible. He has become actively engaged in its present and future—as a member of Villanova’s Board of Trustees, as a
board member for 10 years and as president (2001-03) of the Villanova University Alumni Association (VUAA), as a guest lecturer in the Villanova School of Business and as an enthusiastic and tireless donor and fundraiser.

Today, nearly 45 years after he took a leap of faith and chose Villanova sight unseen, Aspbury this April was elected chairman of Villanova's trustees, a culmination of his involvement in the University. He succeeds John G. “Jack” Drosdick ’65 Ch.E., chairman, chief executive and president of Sunoco, Inc., who served in the role since 2001.

Two individuals who have helped shape Villanova’s future

For the University, it is a seamless transition between two highly accomplished alumni who love Villanova—and who have worked closely together for many years to advance its mission and goals. Aspbury has served as a Villanova trustee since 1999, most recently as vice chairman and chair of the board’s Finance and Audit Committee.

Both Villanovans have led lives of extraordinary professional and philanthropic productivity. They have given generously and unstintingly to their alma mater, in terms of both time and financial support. Both played an instrumental role in Transforming Minds and Hearts: The Campaign for Villanova, the $300 million capital campaign that successfully concluded in December 2007.

And both men share a strong commitment to the Catholic and Augustinian mission of the University. Drosdick and Aspbury have served under two Villanova presidents, the Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., ’58 A&S and the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S. In 2005, the two trustees assisted in the search for and selection of Father Donohue as the successor to Father Dobbin, who had served for 18 years. The two key volunteers are colleagues whose longtime commitment to Villanova has contributed to the University's overall success and provided many students with the opportunity for a Villanova education.

Drosdick’s active involvement with the University is consistent with his success in the corporate world. In more than 30 years working in all levels of the oil industry, he has assumed positions of ever-increasing responsibility, culminating in his current position at the helm of Sunoco. He has succeeded not only as an engineer, but as a business leader—a well-rounded kind of success that reflects well on his Villanova education.

Aspbury, a resident of New Canaan, Conn., has spent his career in banking. In addition to leading the North American Division at Manufacturers Hanover, he was also the London-based head of Europe for Chemical Bank following the 1991 merger of the two institutions. He retired in 2000 from Chase Manhattan Bank, where he served as the senior managing director for Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Drosdick: Villanova is “at a terrific point”

As he steps down as chair of Villanova’s trustees, Drosdick is very pleased with the choice of his successor and with the makeup of the board.

“I’m just delighted, because Herb was my vice chairman, and it has been a two-man job—so it makes turning it over to him absolutely seamless,” Drosdick said. “We have an incredible set of skills on the board, and the endowment is in good hands. The committees and committee chairs have done such a great job.”

Drosdick added, “If you look at where we are right now—with the new Davis Center for Athletics and Fitness, the new College of Nursing building, the new School of Law building and Father Donohue’s master plan—the University is just at a terrific point.”

Over the years, Drosdick often has been struck by the “unselfishness” of board members, he said. He has witnessed a spirit of service among trustees that is in keeping with the Augustinian tradition of service for which Villanova is known, and added that there is a general awareness among students coming to Villanova that service will be a big part of their experience at the University.

“The Augustinians have done a wonderful job of keeping that theme at the very core of what it means to be a Villanova graduate,” Drosdick noted. “I’ve been to many graduations and without exception what the student speaker talks most about is service—which is really alive and well at Villanova.”

Some of Drosdick’s best memories include working with Father Dobbin during the final years of the latter’s presidency, when the many initiatives Father Dobbin had put into place began to bear fruit, surrounding the University with
renewed vibrancy. “Father Dobbin took our endowment from literally nothing to a new higher level. It was wonderful to see all of the things he had initiated really begin to gel,” Drosdick said.

Drosdick is equally enthused about Father Donohue, with whom he has worked for the past two years. “To find a first-class replacement to take the University to the next level, and to have such a smooth transition between Father Dobbin and Father Donohue, is a tribute to the Augustinian priests and how broad-ranging they are,” Drosdick noted.

The couple in 2006 made a commitment to create an endowed fund to support the Villanova School of Business’ Center for Global Leadership and he chairs the center’s advisory council.

Pride in Villanova

As he steps down as chairman—he will continue to serve as a trustee—Drosdick has given Villanova a tremendous gift that will benefit students for years to come. He has made a commitment of $2.5 million to endow the position of dean of the College of Engineering. It will provide the dean, Dr. Gary A. Gabriele, with the flexibility to support the important needs of the College.

Aspbury: “Potential for the future is enormous”

In preparing to assume his new role of chairing Villanova’s trustees, Aspbury said he is thrilled, honored and also very excited about the task at hand.

“As I joined the VUAA Board of Directors in 1994, I became intrigued by how much the University had grown and evolved since my graduation in 1967,” he said. “As a Villanova trustee for the past nine years, I’ve seen that our potential for the future is enormous.”

Aspbury majored in English in Villanova, with a minor in history. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School Program for Management Development.

In 1991 Aspbury and his wife, Vicki, established and endowed a scholarship at Villanova for students from single-parent households.

The couple in 2006 made a commitment to create an endowed fund to support the Villanova School of Business’ Center for Global Leadership and he chairs the center’s advisory council. In 1992, the VUAA awarded Aspbury an Alumni Medal for his outstanding and extended service to the University.

“Herb will bring tremendous wisdom and enthusiasm to the role of chairman of Villanova’s Board of Trustees,” said Father Donohue. “He has been actively involved in many different aspects of the institution, embraces its mission and has a keen sense for what needs to be done to prepare Villanova for the future.”

Father Donohue added, “Herb Aspbury, Jack Drosdick and the entire Board of Trustees represent a community of alumni, parents and friends who are willing to share their knowledge and experience to benefit the University and move it forward. We are fortunate to have this kind of leadership at Villanova, and I look forward to working with Herb in his new role.”

Jennifer Schu is a communication associate in Villanova’s Office of University Communication. Her articles have appeared in national and regional publications, including Harvard Management Update, Workforce Management, Business Ethics and Runner’s World. She holds a B.A. in English from Franklin & Marshall College.

“Thirty or 40 years ago, as a new Villanova student and then a graduate, I would never in my wildest dreams have expected this honor.”

—Herbert F. Aspbury ’67 A&S

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It’s the characters cornered by their own lives that attract Claire Keegan, who held the Heimbold Chair this spring.

By Kathleen Scavello

When you ask Claire Keegan a question, be prepared for a disarming candid answer. No matter the subject, the internationally acclaimed Irish short story writer will return an unflinchingly direct reply.

This spring, Keegan held the Charles A. Heimbold Jr. Endowed Chair in Irish Studies at Villanova University. While on campus, she taught a fiction workshop and a course in the Irish Short Story. The County Wicklow native is particularly keen on reshaping what she sees as many Americans’ lightweight view of her fellow countrymen.

“Americans in general have a very open and positive and optimistic view of the Irish character. I actually think it’s sometimes two-dimensional. I think [the Irish] are considered kind of nice little people no matter how tall we are, or how brilliant or how bright,” Keegan stated.

“There’s something about our status being from a small, green island that keeps us as kind of small, and sweet, and insignificant to some degree. I don’t think we’re taken seriously.”

Keegan herself is quite serious when it comes to writing and teaching—and was a fitting choice for the Heimbold Chair, which is held each spring by a distinguished Irish writer. Inaugurated in 2000, it has become one of the most prestigious Irish Studies positions in the United States. The Heimbold Chair is the gift of Charles A. Heimbold Jr. ’54 A&S.

Keegan is the author of two award-winning short story collections, Antarctica (1999) and Arrows in Flight (2002). Her latest book, Walk the Blue Fields, is due for release in the United States this summer. Her writing is clearly her life force.

“It’s what I love and what I live for, for the most part. I love what I do, but it’s very difficult to write, and I get scared of writing,” she revealed.

“I’m sure there are other lives I’d rather have, but with my temperament and my love of literature, there’s just nothing else I could be. I don’t have a choice. Not writing is much harder than writing,” she added.

And, while Keegan deeply desires to share her love of writing with her students, she said she came to Villanova with no preconceptions.

“I didn’t come with any agenda in mind. I came over to find out what the open response of your students would be to Irish texts and to see what they themselves had to write about,” Keegan explained. “I didn’t come over here as an academic. I came over here as an artist. That’s why I’m hired. I just want to make the texts live again in the eyes of young people and see what they have to say about them. If literature can’t do that and doesn’t do that, it’s of no use.”

The Irish author’s visit to Villanova is not her first experience living in the United States. At age 17 she left Ireland for Loyola University in New Orleans, imagining it might be “a hedonistic alternative” to her homeland. She did not find it to be so. After studying in America, Keegan returned to Ireland and lived for a
year in Cardiff, Wales, where she earned an M.A. in creative writing and taught undergraduates at Cardiff University.

Dr. James J. Murphy, director of Villanova's Irish Studies Program, thinks the University was fortunate to have Keegan in residence. “There’s no question that she is one of Ireland’s most important short story writers. Her reputation is international. That’s saying something, since the Irish have a long and rich tradition in that genre,” he commented.

When Keegan isn’t writing or teaching, she enjoys films, and loves horses, dogs (her border collie, in particular) and walking. Yet she’s never happier than when facing the challenge posed by a story waiting to be written. She finds the contained nature of the short story genre compelling.

“I think it’s [short story writing] like a high-wire balancing act. I like its intensity. Everything about it seems crucial and yet, cannot obviously be so,” she said.

“I like that it’s shaped into a corner—your character is almost in a corner before the story begins,” Keegan explained. “He’s cornered by his or her own life and then suffers the emotional consequences of whatever happens in the meantime. I like that. I think it’s realistic.”

Two of Keegan’s favorite writers are Russian short story writer and playwright Anton Chekov and Irish writer John McGahern, who died in 2006. She also admires the American tradition of short story writing going back to Sherwood Anderson, she said.

Keegan feels that her Villanova students, whom she characterizes as much quieter than their Irish counterparts, produced some interesting work in her fiction workshop. “Like many people they write about their families, what we learn to do and learn not to do,” she said.

The author’s post-Villanova plans include a return to her home in rural Ireland, followed by a book and speaking tour to Japan, Argentina and Germany.

“I’m going home to walk my dog on the beach in the evening and write every morning,” she said. “I’m very happy that I [have] a very quiet house [where I can] do what I love.”

—I didn’t come with any agenda in mind....
I just want to make the texts live again
in the eyes of young people
and see what they have to say about them.
If literature can’t do that
and doesn’t do that, it’s of no use.”

—Claire Keegan
The Indomitable Power of

A survivor of the Rwandan genocide attests to how she came to forgive those who had slaughtered almost a million people—among them, members of her family.

Immaculée Ilibagiza is a living testament to the conviction that no situation is beyond the reach of prayer. For it was prayer alone that enabled the author of this year’s One Book Villanova selection, Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust, not only to survive what is widely considered one of the worst genocides in human history, but to emerge triumphant from the experience as an inspiration to all.

The author sat down with Villanova Magazine during her January 29 visit to campus to recount how she endured 91 petrifying days in 1994, huddled in a cramped bathroom with seven other women while savage killers bent on their extermination marauded outside. Ilibagiza reflected on the source of spiritual strength that helped her to forgive those who had mercilessly slaughtered up to 1 million of her countrymen, including her beloved parents, two brothers and numerous other family members. And, she spoke of how meeting hate with love can defuse the most depraved evil.
A POISED AND SERENE WOMAN IN HER MID-30s, Immaculée Ilibagiza exudes graciousness, love and genuineness. Tall, of noble bearing and classic features, Ilibagiza’s outward beauty seems but a mirrored reflection of her innate gentleness and courage. A masterful storyteller whose direct gaze draws the listener into the warmth of a circle at once intimate and universal, Ilibagiza tirelessly retells with breathtaking poignancy her story of deliverance from ethnic prejudice and mortal danger, and victory over staggering personal loss.

Asked to identify her source of strength, Ilibagiza answered unhesitatingly: “I think it is confidence in God really, in my faith, in knowing that He is there, that He is in control. He is in charge,” she explained.

“That makes you feel like, ‘I’m not the [only] one. I exercise my prayer and I know He’s there, He can do it and I want to do it for Him. It allows me to be free and to be happy because somebody’s got my back,’” Ilibagiza added.

Faith, the genocide survivor said, can be fickle.

“Sometimes we don’t really truly believe in God even though we say we do. When it comes to complaining and blame—if it is happening this way, He knows better. Then we just move on to: What can I do next? And, He’s there anyway,” Ilibagiza commented, emphasizing, “If I don’t have faith, I don’t have any reason to live.”

Raised in a devout Roman Catholic family, Ilibagiza, her educator parents and her three brothers prayed together each night.

“We always leaned down in front of the cross and said a number of prayers and meant it from our hearts. In our discussion in the living room every night, we always talked about our experiences of prayer,” she related.

Ilibagiza’s father, Leonard Ukulikiyinkindi, was a man of staunch faith who awakened his daughter’s appreciation for the power of prayer. After she was barred from attending high school because of her Tutsi ethnic background, he prayed every night for three years that she would be admitted to a suitable school. When it happened, Ilibagiza recalled realizing that “Oh, prayer changes things!”

Yet it was not until those 91 days crouched in the pastor’s bathroom that the power of prayer hit home in its enormity.

“Something shifted more than ever where I got a personal relationship with God,” Ilibagiza noted.

Impatience and lack of tenacity often hinder us from attaining the purity of prayer that calls forth powerful results, she said.

“When I’m going through a hardship, I never say, ‘Oh this is bad, that means it’s all bad.’ You go through hardship, if you...
The Indomitable Power of Prayer

hold on, God has a way of changing it, to pass you through that,” the Rwandan holocaust survivor explained.

“Sometimes we prefer to jump so we can get there quicker, and by jumping we get hurt,” she added.

Ilibagiza believes that everything happens for a reason. “There is nothing that happens that He doesn’t know,” she said. “Anything—I wish everyone could take that [away with them]—that happens to them in every situation, bad or good, seemingly, it is all for the best.”

How was Ilibagiza able to forgive those who had shattered her life through hatred and violence?

“I don’t think I was such a hero that I was a forgiving person. Forgiveness, I understood it, because it was given to me as a grace,” she said.

While in hiding, Ilibagiza wrestled mightily with extremes of intense anger and a fervent desire to forgive before she could grasp the self-destructive nature of anger.

“When somebody hurts you this much, you can’t rest anymore. You can’t put your trust in them. So, who’s suffering—you—or them?” Ilibagiza asked.

Her saving grace came, again as answered prayer.

“Jesus’ words on the cross really came through: ‘Forgive, them, for they know not what they do.’ They don’t know what they do, oh my God! There’s something they’re lacking. It’s the lack of love. The love in their hearts has died and has blinded them…[to the point] that where they are going is going to be bad for their children and for themselves,” Ilibagiza asserted.

Although perpetrators may appear to “get away with murder,” Ilibagiza knows different.

“Where have you heard on earth [of] somebody killing 500 people and just living in peace? Have you heard it? Where is one example? There’s always a bad end,” she added.

Her hope, Ilibagiza said, is that offering love in return for hate will awaken at least a stirring of regret in wrongdoers. The smallest act of love, she insisted, can transform a negative situation.

“A little bit of hatred—you never know how big it can grow to hurt the world, not just you. A little bit of love, you plant somewhere. You never know how much it will grow to save the world.”

Forgiving her family members’ murderers, Ilibagiza said, is the greatest tribute she could pay her lost loved ones.

How She Survived

Best-selling author shares her story with thousands of Villanovans who read her book.

BY ANTHONY MAALOUF ’08 G.S.

A crowd of about 3,500 Villanovans and community members poured into the Pavilion on January 29 to hear Immaculée Ilibagiza, this year’s One Book Villanova author. In her best-seller, Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust, the genocide survivor told how rediscovering her faith saved her life.

One Book Villanova is a distinctive educational program that engages all segments of the campus community—students, staff and faculty—in reading, reflecting and discussing together the designated book.

The Villanova University Spiritual Dance Group set the mood for the evening, performing to “Redemption.” Les Belles d’Afrique, a Washington, D.C.-based African dance troupe, followed with a lively traditional Rwandan song and dance, coaxing audience members to join in. Among them were the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S, University president, and a jubilant Ilibagiza.

Dr. Rachel Baard, a Lawrence C. Gallen post-doctoral fellow in the Villanova Center for Liberal Education, introduced the speaker, who crossed the stage to a thundering standing ovation. Ilibagiza began by expressing surprise at the far-reaching impact of her book.

“When I was writing Left to Tell, I didn’t think there would be 100 people reading this, much less all of you,” she said. Left to Tell was a New York Times bestseller, with 250,000 copies sold worldwide. It has been translated into 10 languages. Proceeds from the book go to the Left to Tell Charitable Fund, founded by Ilibagiza; it has collected more than $150,000 for orphans of Rwanda.

Ilibagiza then took the audience back to Rwanda in that terrible spring of 1994. (For the full details of her story, please see the interview.)

When the genocide finally ended about 100 days later in July 1994, as many as 1 million Rwandans—both Tutsis and moderate Hutus—were dead. Ilibagiza had survived by spending 91 days in hiding in a tiny bathroom with seven other terrified women.

“My survival was a gift from God, and I wasn’t going to give up that easily,” Ilibagiza explained.

Orphaned by the genocide, Ilibagiza—who was then 22 years old—was taken under the wing of a friend’s mother, who took her and her bathroom hideout compatriots to Kigali, the nation’s capital. There, Ilibagiza landed a job at the United Nations office.

In 1998, Ilibagiza emigrated to New York City, where she continued to work for the United Nations. Her personal relationship with God strengthened as she learned how to love and forgive unconditionally.

“I’m grateful that such a horrible thing can be turned into something beautiful,” she said.

Anthony Maalouf ’08 GS graduated from Villanova University in May with a master’s degree in political science. In addition to contributing numerous articles, he assisted in the production of the Summer 2007, Fall 2007 and Winter 2008 issues of Villanova Magazine. He hopes to apply his education and writing skills in a career in government or the political arena.
“Now I can free them. It’s almost like I give them a chance to shine for what they have done, more than for theirHaving died. My focus became more about the life they led,” she added. Writing Left to Tell over a three-week period was a cathartic experience, she said. “I wrote nonstop, crying and laughing, and typing—I didn’t want to stop.” Completing the book, however, left her “the most heartbroken I’ve ever been,” she added.

Ilibagiza didn’t look at her manuscript again for another four years, when, urged to “pray like you did before,” she was led to a publisher three days after completing the final edit with Steve Erwin.

Education, like faith, Ilibagiza reflected, played a key role in her survival and in finding her life purpose. As a schoolgirl in Rwanda, she said she was attracted to “people who had done things in the world.” “[I read] the life of John Paul II and how he lost his family when he was young—his mom, his dad. And, I was like, he’s the Pope…and he’s changing the world. So, I said, nothing should ever stop us. When I was [hiding] in the bathroom, I said, ‘You know what? It doesn’t end here,” Ilibagiza recalled.

Nor did it. Her 91-day plunge into the heart of darkness more than a decade ago ultimately metamorphosed into a bright beginning of reconciliation and renewal—not only for Ilibagiza but for the millions she has inspired by being left to tell.

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Villanovans Join Catholic Relief Services’ Delegation to Rwanda

By Christine Guerrini ’09 A&S

In January, Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculée Ilibagiza shared with the Villanova University community her moving story of love and forgiveness in the face of unspeakable brutality and tragedy. Her book, Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust, was this year’s selection for One Book Villanova, which engages all segments of the campus community in reading, reflecting and discussing together a designated book.

This summer, One Book Villanova is taking the program a step further. A delegation of six to 10 Villanova faculty and staff members will travel to Rwanda as part of a Catholic Relief Services (CRS) delegation.

For 10 days, delegation members will work with Rwanda Catholic Relief Services on programs in HIV/AIDS, health, peace-building, agriculture, justice and the genocide trials. A tentative itinerary includes visits to the Gisozi Genocide Memorial Site and Murambi Genocide Memorial; meetings with local parish priests and Michael A. Arietti, the U.S. ambassador to Rwanda; and attendance at a trial in the Nyuba Parish.

Villanovans were selected to join the delegation based on their demonstrated dedication to relief services and the ability to enhance the University by sharing their experience upon their return to campus.

CRS began providing humanitarian and development assistance in Rwanda in 1963. In the 1980s, the international humanitarian agency focused mainly on agriculture and the reduction of poverty. However, when genocide and civil conflict arose in 1994, CRS took a greater hand in emergency programs for victims. Today, it continues to provide programs that reduce poverty, build stronger and more peaceful communities, and educate Rwandan youth on important health issues.

Through their first-hand experience this summer, the Villanova delegation not only will help change the lives of Rwandan citizens, but also will increase awareness of conditions in Rwanda among Villanovans and in the surrounding community.

Christine Guerrini ’09 A&S is majoring in English with concentrations in writing and rhetoric.
The spirit of St. Augustine is alive and thriving at Villanova University...and in the community outreach programs Villanova supports. That spirit flourishes on Tuesday evenings at Unity Clinic, a free health-care facility in South Philadelphia, where a nurse practitioner from the College of Nursing, with assistance from other Villanova nursing volunteers, treats needy patients. Lively conversation in several languages fills the three-room clinic as an Augustinian priest greets patients and helps them check in.

Augustine’s ideals are significantly reflected in the work of the Rev. John E. Deegan, O.S.A., ’57 A&S, ’60 G.S., who founded Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (ADROP), and who volunteers his time for Unity Clinic and other ADROP programs. The mission of this Augustinian-sponsored project is to match needs with known resources. Father Deegan brought together church and civic leaders from South Philadelphia to assess the needs of the people in this demographically changing part of the city. The needs they identified, in priority order, are: primary health care, legal advice and skill building for citizenship, and educational progress.

Father Deegan is ADROP’s executive director and also heads the Justice and Peace Program for the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. After serving two terms as Prior Provincial, Father Deegan sought to develop a major program to help the needy. He focused on the underprivileged parishioners in several Augustinian parishes of South Philadelphia: Old St. Augustine’s, St. Nicholas of Tolentine and St. Rita of Cascia, as well as the general area south of Washington Avenue.

In creating ADROP to develop programs to help the poor, Father Deegan was inspired by a theme cherished by St. Augustine. As Bishop of Hippo Regius in North Africa, Augustine petitioned the Emperor Honorius to re-establish a former position in the western Roman Empire, a position known as “defenders of the rights of the poor.”

“The request was never acted upon, but Augustine worked tirelessly to bring relief to the poor of his day,” Father Deegan said. “ADROP’s goal is to address poverty and its causes. We wanted to merge the resources of the Augustinians and the talent of Villanova University faculty members with the needs in the city. But we did not wish to duplicate services offered by the
City of Philadelphia,” he added. As a result, ADROP established Unity Clinic to meet the need for basic health care.

ADROP’s advisors are Villanova faculty members, administrators and parishioners who are experts in their respective fields,” Father Deegan said. The nonprofit organization is served by a Board of Directors.

To establish Unity Clinic, Father Deegan enlisted the expertise of the College of Nursing’s Dr. M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor. She recruited the College’s nurse practitioner faculty members to set up the framework and develop a facility that would simultaneously serve as a clinical site to instruct Nursing students, especially M.S.N. candidates preparing for careers in advanced practice as nurse practitioners.

**Primary care for those in need**

Unity Clinic is located on South Broad Street, in the former out-patient department of the St. Agnes Continuing Care Center of the Mercy Health System, which contributed space. The free clinic is open to all uninsured adults in South Philadelphia on Tuesday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m.

The facility’s health-care team is headed by nurse practitioners, assisted by Nursing students. The nurse practitioners provide primary care for the patients and clinical instruction for the students. Nursing alumni, volunteers and other health professionals offer their expertise and time. A collaborative practice agreement is in effect with James Flowers, D.O., a physician who is on call for consultation. Nearby Methodist Hospital provides lab work at no cost as a contribution to the community.

The three nurse practitioner faculty members from the College are Dr. Elizabeth Blunt, assistant professor and coordinator of the Nurse Practitioner Program; Elise Robinson Pizzi, assistant professor; and Joan LaJoie ’04 M.S.N., adjunct clinical instructor. Another Villanovan and nurse practitioner, Judith Hamilton ’72 Nur., ’82 M.S.N., provides care as a volunteer.

“The nurses are enthusiastic and energized about their roles,” Pizzi observed. They treat a variety of conditions, the most common being diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol and acute respiratory problems. They draw diagnostic blood studies and prescribe medications (nurse practitioners in Pennsylvania have legal authority to prescribe). Unity Clinic provides select generic medications at no charge to patients and participates in mass immunization programs. “The clinic is one place of service...
for what is now a diverse and very different community from what once was a large Italian neighborhood,” Dr. Blunt said. “The patients are working individuals who lack health-care insurance. They don’t have access to care because they work during the day or because it is unaffordable, and there are few health services available at night.”

Many of the clinic’s patients are Indonesian immigrants, some of whom speak Mandarin and Indonesian. There are also some Spanish-speaking patients. From the beginning, since most of the patients do not speak English, Father Deegan had foreseen the need for translators and so networked with the local health-care system to engage them. “Our interpreters are great—wonderful young people who are always interested in our patients, and have cemented our relationship with them,” Blunt said.

Each Tuesday evening, Father Deegan rolls up his sleeves to lend a hand with checking in patients, filing and performing other routine office duties. He is pleased to have witnessed Unity Clinic grow from a handful of patients to some 500 patients of record—those who rely solely on the clinic for their basic health-care needs. He praised the many Villanovans who serve. “The Villanova nurses and volunteers are dedicated and very helpful,” he said.

**ADROP meets other vital needs as well**

As an umbrella organization, ADROP provides many other services. In identifying needs, the civic and church leaders had discovered that families also would benefit from legal advice. For this, Father Deegan recruited the expertise of Michele R. Pistone, J.D., professor of law, director of Clinical Programs and director of the Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant Services (CARES) at Villanova’s School of Law. She gathered a group of law student volunteers who offer free legal information to patients on-site while they wait for health-care services.

“The law students impart valuable advice on a one-on-one basis, emphasizing skills needed for citizenship—paying taxes and the immigrants’ status, rights and responsibilities—as well as basic economic skills,” Father Deegan said. ADROP also addressed the third major need disclosed in its survey: finding a venue for teaching English to the immigrants. Father Deegan collaborated with Sister Marii Lauren Donahue of the Archdiocese’s Spanish language ministry. With computers donated by the Augustinian parish of Our Mother of Good Counsel and a software program called Rosetta Stone (supplied by ADROP), tutoring for the immigrants has been offered free of change at donated space in the Tolentine Community Center in South Philadelphia. “The language instruction is extremely helpful to the Indonesian and Spanish-speaking women, who mostly work as housekeepers,” Father Deegan added.

Father Deegan’s endeavors also led to serving the children of the working immigrants through tutorial programs, including Musicopia, a music workshop offered at St. Nicholas of Tolentine elementary school in South Philadelphia. “These are strong programs, and we are interested in continuing and increasing them,” said Father Deegan. “As Augustinians and Catholics, we believe it is our moral obligation to help those in need. You can’t just throw money at poverty. Charity must be joined with advocacy to effect systemic change leading to justice.”

The Augustinian priest has been meticulous in his forethought and planning for the clinic, as well as for ADROP’s many linked programs. Father Deegan is always looking for new opportunities where ADROP might offer help. For example, he is working with Dr. Thomas M. Arvanites, who chairs Villanova’s sociology and criminal justice department, and Dr. Brian Jones, a professor of sociology. Father Deegan said their goal is “to match their expertise with the needs of these parishes in the city to discover the demographic changes that will affect the future needs of the neighborhood and the Church.”

Unity Clinic and ADROP’s other outreach initiatives are vital examples of the commitment to service inherent in the Augustinian tradition and Villanova’s mission.

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**“Charity must be joined with advocacy to effect systemic change leading to justice.”**

A Call for Access to Health Care

Drawing from a Catholic Social Teaching perspective, a dozen leaders propose solutions to this national crisis.

By Jennifer Schu

When the Most Rev. Michael J. Bransfield became Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, W.Va., three years ago, the native Philadelphian quickly noticed two things: the state’s rugged beauty, and the fact that much of his new flock was in poor health.

He discovered to his dismay that West Virginia ranks 46th in the United States in terms of life expectancy and first for high blood pressure, arthritis and loss of teeth by age 65. A full 35 percent of the state’s working-age population have no health-care coverage.

The lack of affordable health care, a nationwide problem, was the subject of a March 26-27 conference, “Catholic Social Teaching and Access to Health Care,” at Villanova University. Sponsored by the Office for Mission Effectiveness, it took place in the Connelly Center.

The conference brought together more than a dozen thoughtful leaders, including Bishop Bransfield, to address the crisis from a Catholic Social Teaching (CST) perspective.

The U.S. Catholic community has consistently worked for universal access to affordable health care, a goal that reflects CST’s core principles.

Millions of Americans have no health-care coverage; employer-sponsored health insurance premiums continue to rise at a faster rate than overall inflation and wage gains, and the consequences of being uninsured or underinsured are increasingly dire.

Bishop Bransfield had penned a pastoral letter calling for an in-depth focus on health and well-being in West Virginia. He challenged communities to heed God’s mission of healing body, mind, heart and spirit.

“The health and well-being of our people is at once a struggle and an opportunity to be the best possible selves,” he said.

“The U.S. is the only modern nation that does not guarantee basic health care to all of its citizens. Inability to access health care results in poor health outcomes, human suffering, loss of productive lives and an increase in health-care costs,” noted Dr. Petit de Mange, an assistant professor in the College of Nursing.

“The most vulnerable individuals in U.S. society—such as the poor, the very young, the disabled and the elderly—most often have the greatest health-care needs and the most difficulty accessing health care in a timely manner,” Dr. Petit de Mange noted.

“The speakers presented possible solutions to the crisis. Bouman discussed a “single payer” system that essentially eliminates the health insurance industry, allows for powerful bargaining for medical goods and services to drive down costs, and provides true universal coverage.

“The advocacy thrust of the recent documentary “Sicko” and a system along the lines of that offered in France and Canada, a single payer approach has failed to gain traction in the United States, he noted.

“Liability reforms such as caps on malpractice damages are another way to improve access because they help to control escalating costs,” noted Moreland, an assistant professor in the School of Law. “Under the current liability system,” he said, “physicians are driven out of high-risk specialties such as obstetrics, and engage in defensive medical practices such as ordering unnecessary tests, which increases the cost of health care to everyone.”

The conference’s goal was well-addressed, highlighting key issues in public policy and health-care delivery, noted Dr. Barbara E. Wall, Villanova’s special assistant to the president for Mission Effectiveness.

To share the information and proposed solutions with a wider audience, the Office for Mission Effectiveness will publish the conference papers in its Journal of Catholic Social Thought.

“As a Catholic university, Villanova commits itself to research and education for justice, with a special concern for the poor and compassion for the suffering,” said Dr. Wall. “The timing of this conference—in a presidential election year—was especially fitting, and it is our hope that it helped to bring further attention to what has become a very serious issue in our country today.”
Sister Kathleen agreed, yet cautioned, “Religion is often used as a weapon to divide us. Today materialist views of science and a fundamentalist view of religion are driving a wedge into an already difficult situation.”

She added, “Only open dialogue will allow for creative responses to this crisis.” Teilhard masterfully integrated science and religion by grasping the bigger picture, deftly melding Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution with Christian theology, said Sister Kathleen.

“Teilhard’s synthesis required a major shift in his understanding of both science and religion as they were understood in the early 20th century. He had an extraordinary ability to look at the whole of the phenomenon, an approach sorely lacking in our day,” she remarked.

The French Jesuit was interested in a more holistic view of the cosmos, one that treated human consciousness as a special event in the evolutionary story, according to Sister Kathleen. Teilhard looked beneath the surface of a phenomenon to find new evidence to discover his spiritual core. This revolutionary view, which ran counter to the Genesis account of Creation, put Teilhard at odds with the Roman Catholic Church, which prevented his works from being published until after his death in 1955.

Teilhard’s assessment of the cosmos relies heavily on vivid scientific imagery, constantly referring to weaving and spinning, fibers and threads, Sister Kathleen said. This imagery today connects concepts in psychology, physics and mathematics that relate to complexity, superstring and cellular phenomenon theories.

All the elements of physical science—including elementary particles, atoms, molecules, organisms and more complex structures—can be observed in Teilhard’s vision of the cosmic tapestry, she pointed out.

Teilhard's imagery formed the basis of Sister Kathleen’s presentation, “Teilhard and the Texture of the Evolutionary Cosmos,” the latest offering in the Vivian J. Lamb Lecture Series on Augustinian Thought and the Sciences. Sponsored by Dr. Michael G. Lamb ’75 A&S and his wife, Dr. Kathleen Lamb, under the auspices of The Augustinian Institute at Villanova University, the Lamb Lecture Series twice a year presents lectures by noted scientists, theologians, academicians and scholars on the synthesis of faith and science.

“This series seeks to be a forum for open and honest dialogue between faith and science, both terms understood as broadly as possible, inspired by the deep Augustinian conviction that Truth is One,” the Rev. Thomas F. Martin, O.S.A., director of The Augustinian Institute and associate professor of theology and religious studies, said in introducing Sister Kathleen.

A professor of physics at Chestnut Hill College, Sister Kathleen holds a doctorate in physics from Drexel University. She has published research on molecular physics and chaos theory and is a former president of the board of directors of the Metanexus Institute. Her current research centers around the religious essays of Teilhard and “the relationship of his synthesis to modern development in science,” Father Martin added.

The science/religion dialogue is “among the most critical of our age,” Sister Kathleen agreed, yet cautioned, “Religion is often used as a weapon to divide us. Today materialist views of science and a fundamentalist view of religion are driving a wedge into an already difficult situation.”

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Texture, so important in Teilhard’s field training as a geologist and paleontologist, made him acutely sensitive to the warp and weft of the universe, which he
Teilhard de Chardin “had an extraordinary ability to look at the whole of the phenomenon, an approach sorely lacking in our day.”

—Sister Kathleen Duffy, S.S.J., Ph.D.

“Sometimes Teilhard refers directly to the texture of the cosmos. He goes a step further and ventures into the realm of spirit, referring to the intellectual texture of the investigator’s mind, the texture of soul, the texture of spirit,” Sister Kathleen said. All are irreplaceable and interdependent.

The Augustine and Culture Seminar (ACS) lecture series, now in its second year, offers Villanova University freshmen an opportunity to go beyond their classrooms and maximize their education. The series features speakers from many fields of study, including theatre, music, theology, engineering, politics and diversity. While freshmen are required to attend three of the series, many go to far more because of the interesting and varied topics.

The Fall Semester series began on September 17, 2007, with the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S, University president, who talked about Villanova’s recent signing of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. The following week, Villanovans ventured into the world of Greek philosophy with Dr. John S. Immerwahr, an award-winning professor of philosophy at Villanova, who applied the lessons to Plato to life today.

Philadelphia cartoonist and abstract painter Todd Marrone, at an open forum on October 4, reminded the freshmen that their artistic ideas matter. Dr. David Burrell, the Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Professor in Philosophy and Theology at the University of Notre Dame, on October 23 spoke on Christian-Islamic Relations.

A former Ennis Fellow in humanities, Dr. Phillip Cary, returned on October 29 to deliver the keynote address, bringing students closer to St. Augustine with a talk about the saint’s life.

More than 300 students and faculty turned out on November 12 for a presentation by Dr. Kwame A. Appiah, the Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University. He discussed “Gaining a Global Perspective in a Diverse World.” That same week, another former Ennis Fellow, Dr. Paul Wright, now an assistant professor of English and Honors at Cabrini College, spoke about Machiavelli’s The Prince. Also returning to Villanova was James J. Christy ’65 M.A. On November 27, he entertained 200 freshmen on the topic of performing Shakespeare. Two days later, it was a full house again in the Connelly Cinema when Dr. Timothy Prestero, founder and CEO of Design That Matters, a nonprofit engineering and design firm in Cambridge, Mass., revealed “Everything You Wanted To Know About How to Change the World but Were Afraid to Ask: an Engineer’s Humble Answer.” He focused on designing technology to aid poor countries.

The ACS series concluded with two very special events in December. Students participated in a celebration of Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, and enjoyed an exceptional organ recital by Dr. Christopher T. Daly, a professor of humanities at Villanova.
Seminar Honors Sophomores’ Award-Winning Writing

By Anthony Maalouf ’08 G.S.

Congratulations to the Winners!

Meredith Portnoy ’10 A&S
Celina Mariceth Ramos Award for the Honors Program ACS Prize Essay
“Mississippi Race Relations and Faulkner”

Cayce L. Lista ’10 A&S
Honorable mention
“The Road to Truth: Faith Journeys in Vipers’ Tangle”

Andrew Moriarty ’10 A&S
Honorable mention
“Class and Gender: an Examination of Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice as a Critical Work”

Katherine Collins ’10 A&S
Margaret Cecilia Baney Award (general category)
ACS prize essay
“He did Not Laugh: Isaac’s Story in Genesis 22”

Honorable mention
“Act 5, Scene 6”

Kevin Riley ’10 A&S
Honorable mention
“Africa in Crisis: Water Scarcity in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Solution to the Problem.”

The Augustine and Culture Seminar (ACS) is a traditional slate of courses taken by freshmen at Villanova University. With its heavy writing emphasis, the seminar helps students complete challenging projects in their first year, getting them off to a good start at Villanova.

Since 1992, the ACS program has been helping many students begin their college career at Villanova, and many of the award-winners praised the program. Michael V. Smith ’10 VSB noted that some of his best days were spent in Delurey Hall, the residential site of his ACS learning community. “We really took a lot from this program,” he said. ”We studied together, we traveled together... basically we learned together, and there can’t be a better way.”

Often, great writing emerges from the year-long program, and on December 11, 2007, several sophomores were honored for their award-winning work last year. Dr. John A. Doody, director of the Villanova Center for Liberal Education and a professor in the ACS series, directed the ceremony.

Meredith Portnoy ’10 A&S won the Celina Mariceth Ramos Award for the Honors Program ACS prize essay, “Mississippi Race Relations in Faulkner.” Portnoy’s faculty mentor, Dr. Carol Newell, a Lawrence C. Gallen Teaching Fellow, said, “Writing is as tricky as juggling, but Meredith does it so well.”

Two Honors Program students received honorable mentions for their essays: Cayce L. Lista ’10 A&S for “The Road to Truth: Faith Journeys in Vipers’ Tangle” and Andrew Moriarty ’10 A&S for “Class and Gender: an Examination of Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice as a Critical Work.” Dr. Doody noted that Moriarty won a writing award earlier in a competition sponsored by Falvey Memorial Library.

Katherine Collins ’10 A&S won the Margaret Cecilia Baney Award (general category) ACS prize essay, “He did Not Laugh: Isaac’s Story in Genesis 22,” was comprised of a narrative from Isaac’s point of view and an essay. There were two honorable mentions. The first was to a group of students. Stefanie Casto ’10 A&S, Jacquelin Giacobbe ’10 A&S, Jaime O’Brien ’10 A&S and Smith put their heads together and composed the script “Act 5, Scene 6,” an alternate ending to Byron’s Don Juan. The other honorable mention went to Kevin Riley ’10 A&S for his essay, “Africa in Crisis: Water Scarcity in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Solution to the Problem.”

During the ceremony, the Rev. Kail C. Ellis, O.S.A., ’69 G.S., dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, lauded the dedication of those who teach the seminar. “We owe a great deal to the ACS faculty for their cooperative efforts,” he said. “ACS sets the tone for our first-year students and the excellent work they begin.”

Congratulations to the Winners!
Innovative Business Education

A bold new curriculum prepares Villanova School of Business students for lifelong success in the global economy.

By Bethanie Anderson

"The more things change in the global business environment, the more U.S. business schools stay the same," states Peter Navarro, a University of California-Irvine business professor, in his April 22 BusinessWeek article, "Business Schools: A Study in Failure."

In a study of the top 50 M.B.A. programs, Navarro found that "fully two-thirds of the top schools adhere all too closely to a cookie-cutter curriculum based on the non-integrative teaching of traditional functional silos such as finance and strategy. It is precisely the reliance on this functional silo design that has been criticized by would-be reformers for more than 30 years."

The Villanova School of Business (VSB) was ahead of the curve among business schools across the nation because in recent years it has redefined itself, becoming a pioneer of a new and different model. VSB faculty, staff, students and alumni have driven a series of aggressive and positive changes—from the school's overall strategic goals to its specific educational objectives. The result is that today, VSB is acknowledged within the business education industry as a trailblazer of bold curricular changes at the undergraduate level.

"My goal is to see VSB recognized as the top Catholic business school in the U.S., and among the top 10 premier business schools nationwide."

—James M. Danko,
The Helen and William O'Toole Dean
The most dramatic change VSB has implemented is a comprehensive redesign of its undergraduate business curriculum, which will be introduced to freshmen this fall. The new curriculum focuses on four areas: a global mindset, innovation, ethics and technology. It incorporates fresh, multidisciplinary ideas in topic integration, team-teaching and new areas of emphasis—all of which promise to enrich the VSB undergraduate learning experience.

According to James M. Danko, the Helen and William O’Toole Dean, VSB has an obligation to infuse everything it does—both academically and organizationally—with a level of creativity and agility that mirrors the real world of global business. “Practicing what we preach is the only way to ensure that our students are equipped to lead global organizations after they earn a VSB degree,” Danko said. “Technical business knowledge is extremely important. During their time here, however, our students also need to learn how to think differently—to perceive the world and its diverse cultures, organizations and business challenges holistically. They need to learn in an environment that pushes them to experience problem-solving, analytics and technology in new, creative ways, and to do so in an ethical manner.”

In Danko’s view, VSB’s ability to provide students with an outstanding business education comes from the inside out. In tandem with the curricular redesign, Danko explained, the VSB faculty formally reorganized itself. A VSB Task Force on Faculty Organization was created, and set out to identify new ways to enhance the faculty’s efforts across research, teaching and creative approaches to business education. Its goal was to empower faculty with greater opportunities for excellence through cross-disciplinary collaboration, course creativity, new research streams and freedom from traditional academic silos.

The result of the task force’s work was a restructuring of traditional faculty departments into five VSB Academic Areas: Accounting & Information Systems, Economics & Statistics, Marketing & Business Law, Finance and Management & Operations. The task force also created four new clusters of faculty activity that support innovative, collaborative research and teaching opportunities. These four VSB Strategic Initiative Groups are: Analytics, Business Innovation, Financial Services and Corporate Social Responsibility.

This faculty restructuring further supports the major curricular changes under way. The VSB Undergraduate Curriculum Task Force, led in its first year by Andrea DeMaskey, associate professor of finance, and in its second year by Walter Tymon, associate professor of management and operations, set out to identify opportunities for radical change and improvement that could be achieved without sacrificing the successful curricular components that were already in place.

Nearly all undergraduate business curricula in the nation—including Villanova’s—were built upon an educational model that grew out of the 1950s. While this approach was acceptable within a U.S.-centric manufacturing economy, it is no longer suitable within the global knowledge and experience economy that students face today. Although modifications had been made through the decades—for example, to better prepare students for the service economy—DeMaskey,
Tymon and other task force members knew that such modifications were no longer sufficient. "It is a completely different world today and it will only continue to change with increasing rapidity," said Tymon. "A completely new approach to business education is the only way to adequately prepare our incoming students."

In the course of its work, the task force invited the input of academicians, corporate leaders and students. The group studied new pedagogical models, business trends and market needs. The ultimate result of the task force’s work is VSB’s new highly integrated, rigorous curriculum, infused with team teaching, guest speakers, simulations, global perspectives and hands-on projects.

The new curriculum will continue to provide students with the two most distinctive foundational components of a Villanova business education: outstanding technical business skills and an emphasis on the liberal arts in the Augustinian tradition. The difference in the new curriculum is the connection of these components to a big-picture understanding of business within a global context.

For example, the new Business Dynamics course for freshmen is an integrated, six-credit yearlong course with one objective: to provide VSB students with a context for their entire business learning experience. "When students begin their first semester of college with an accounting course, it’s extremely difficult to understand how debits and credits relate to the larger world of business practice," said Danko. The goal of Business Dynamics, he explained, is to emphasize the overarching purpose of business within society, and the manner in which a business vision is actualized. The course highlights the skills of effective leaders, and emphasizes innovation and openness to change as fundamental business and personal skills. It further integrates global, political, ethical and technological dimensions of business.

"Once students learn to think creatively about business challenges from a systemic, big-picture perspective, they are on the right track," Danko added. "Then functional knowledge not only makes sense; it serves a larger purpose."

Throughout the VSB curricular redesign process, the real-world intersections of disciplines that have been traditionally separated within business education were a prevailing discussion theme. In their initial work, task force members focused on the intersections between finance and financial accounting, between operations management and managerial accounting, and between management and marketing. The outcome of this focus was the creation of three new team-taught courses: Financial Management and Reporting, Business Processes and Competitive Effectiveness. "In the real world of business leadership, problems are not isolated to particular academic areas. Challenges, goals and teams overlap in complex business systems," said Tymon.

"We’re trying to capture this as much as possible within the new curriculum."

The dramatic organizational and curricular changes occurring at VSB are remarkable—not just within the Villanova University community, but within the larger worldwide business education community.

Commentary like Navarro’s in BusinessWeek and that of other national experts naturally has led to deep introspection at business schools in recent years. Accordingly, the implementation of changes at VSB has piqued the interest of other business school leaders. In the past six months alone, Dean Danko has been invited twice by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)—the international business school accrediting body—to speak at conferences about the VSB faculty reorganization and curricular redesign to audiences of fellow deans and business faculty. News of VSB’s innovative work in each of these venues was met with overwhelming interest and enthusiasm.

"My goal is to see VSB recognized as the top Catholic business school in the U.S., and among the top 10 premier business schools nationwide," Danko said. "Such affirmation from our peers underscores the fact that the curricular changes we’re making are, in fact, highly attuned to market needs."

Bethanie Anderson is senior communications associate at the Villanova School of Business. She has served on the board of directors of the MBA Roundtable, and as editor of the industry magazine MBA Innovation. Prior to Villanova, Anderson was a writer/editor at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. She frequently contributes to business school industry initiatives and articles, and her work has been featured in GMAC®, AACSB and AMBA publications.

"Technical business knowledge is extremely important. During their time here, however, our students also need to learn how to think differently—to perceive the world and its diverse cultures, organizations and business challenges holistically."

—Dean Danko
Villanova Celebrates Official Opening of the Daniel M. DiLella Center for Real Estate

BY BETHANIE ANDERSON

On April 2, Daniel M. DiLella ’73 VSB, president and CEO of BPG Properties, Ltd., and more than 150 Villanova University dignitaries, students, alumni and advisory council members, as well as local real estate industry leaders, gathered at The Union League of Philadelphia to celebrate the official opening of the Daniel M. DiLella Center for Real Estate at the Villanova School of Business (VSB).

DiLella, along with the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S, University president, and James M. Danko, the Helen and William O’Toole Dean of the Villanova School of Business, offered remarks at the celebration.

“VSB students, parents and corporate recruiters have long expressed a desire to see the field of real estate become an area of academic focus and professional development at VSB,” said Dean Danko. “We’re extremely pleased that, thanks to Mr. DiLella’s generous gift, we now have the opportunity to provide such educational and career opportunities in real estate to our students.”

DiLella funded the center in November 2007. President and chief executive officer of BPG Properties, Ltd., he is an active philanthropist in the Philadelphia community, supporting a variety of humanitarian, educational and cultural causes. He has been especially dedicated to helping college students—funding scholarships, technological learning resources and special programs at Villanova for many years. He also serves as a member of the VSB Dean’s Advisory Council, providing guidance on strategic, curricular and operational issues. The new DiLella Center marked his largest philanthropic contribution ever, and promises to change the face of business education at Villanova.
DiLella, who financed his own college education by working and pursuing scholarships, stressed the importance of giving back, and called upon everyone in the room to consider doing so. He said of his gift, “When I was a student, Villanova provided me with the knowledge and opportunities I needed to develop the career I have today. It is my hope that this new Center for Real Estate will provide young people who are interested in real estate, as I was, with the resources they need to pursue successful and rewarding careers in the field.”

Over the past several months, DiLella; Dean Danko; Shawn Howton, director of the DiLella Center and an associate professor of finance; and James Vesey, business fellow at the DiLella Center and principal of Vesey Capital, have recruited 25 high-level business advisory council members to the center. The new council, which convened for its first meeting on April 2, will provide strategic guidance on the center’s mission and activities, its impact on curricula at VSB and the expansion of career development opportunities for students in the field of real estate. Vesey is teaching a new VSB course, Real Estate Investment, and beginning in fall 2008 the business school will offer a minor in real estate. VSB students have already begun a Real Estate Society, which now has more than 50 active members and is advised by Howton.

The fundamental components of the DiLella Center’s mission are:

- to support faculty research, teaching and curricular innovation to ensure that any VSB student has the opportunity to focus upon, and succeed in, the field of real estate if he or she so desires;
- to offer real estate as an area of concentration at VSB through a major, a minor and a track;
- to encourage real estate students to pursue and obtain successful internships and careers through the involvement and mentorship of alumni and corporate recruiters;
- to serve as a major thought leadership resource within the business community—and within academia—for real estate expertise;
- to bring together VSB stakeholders—including students, parents, faculty, staff, donors, alumni and corporate partners—to build and continuously improve upon VSB’s progress in the area of real estate; and
- to establish an administrative structure at VSB that provides ongoing energy and support to advancing scholarly research, teaching and business leadership excellence in the area of real estate.

For more information on the Daniel M. DiLella Center for Real Estate, please visit www.business.villanova.edu.

The Villanova Real Estate Society offers students the opportunity to learn from real estate professionals, professors and alumni and provides access to jobs and internships. Several members gathered with Villanova alumni, parents and friends to celebrate the opening of the DiLella Center. They are (from left) Sultan Alkusayer ’11 VSB; Daniel M. DiLella ’73 VSB; John Rybas ’10 VSB; Katie Ciullo ’08 VSB; Dean Danko; Alex Fumary ’10 VSB; Sean Howton, the DiLella Center’s director; Michael V. Smith ’10 VSB; and James Vesey, business fellow at the DiLella Center and principal of Vesey Capital.
From Football to Filmmaking

With two master's degrees and several short films to his credit, Hezekiah Lewis ’98 A&S, ’02 G.S. returns to teach at Villanova.

By Anthony Maalouf ’08 G.S.

Hezekiah “Heze” Lewis ’98 A&S, ’02 G.S. grew in San Bernardino, Calif., in a neighborhood plagued by poverty and drugs. When he was 8 years old, his mother introduced him to the sport of football, setting him on a path to athletic and academic excellence and a promising future.

Lewis became a star athlete in high school. Soon, recruitment letters came flooding in, including an offer from Villanova University, which he accepted. As a three-year starter and co-captain of the Wildcats football team, the defensive back earned both All-Conference and All-Academic honors. He graduated in just three and a half years with a double major in sociology and communication, and a triple minor in theatre, business and Africana Studies. Lewis received a Presidential Graduate Fellowship to attend Villanova’s graduate school, where he earned a master’s degree in theatre in 2002.

In 2005, after his career had taken him coast-to-coast and across the globe, Lewis returned to Villanova, this time to teach. As an assistant professor of communication, he shares his gifts with students and as an award-winning screenwriter and film director he shares his craft with the world.

Starring on the field and on the stage

Lewis has been interested in theatre and film since middle school, when he carried a video camera wherever he went, and filmed his friends. When he arrived at Villanova in 1995, those interests temporarily took a backseat to his athletic pursuits.

However, during Lewis’ sophomore year, the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S, then chair of the theatre department and now University president, approached Lewis about playing a lead role in the one-act musical, “Once on This Island,” that Father Donohue was directing. Lewis jumped at the opportunity and gave a memorable performance in 1997 Villanova theatrical production he directed when he chaired the theatre department.

Rave Reviews from Three Mentors

“I’ll never forget when he auditioned for ‘Once on This Island.’ Auditioning for Papa Ge, the demon of death, he had the perfect evil laugh. He was meant for a career in theatre and brought in other athletes, who might have never considered acting.”

—The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S, University president, recalling when Lewis played the leading role in a 1997 Villanova theatrical production he directed when he chaired the theatre department

“Hezekiah Lewis reminds me of why I became a teacher: He is intelligent, creative, curious and most important a caring human being who will leave anywhere he goes better for his being there. We are extremely fortunate to have him as an engaged member of our Villanova community. He is one of the most exciting new faces we have at Villanova today.”

—Dr. Teresa A. Nance, assistant vice president for Multicultural Affairs

“Heze was an outstanding football player. He drove himself on the field and in the classroom. His success has carried over to the film industry.”

—Andy Talley, head football coach
As a demon. Then in 2000, he played the apostle St. Peter in “The Passion of the Christ.” As time went on, his continuing involvement in theatre began to influence his football teammates. Darren Lenz ’00 A&S; Jason Moreen ’01 A&S, ’03 G.S.; and Nathan B. McIntyre ’96 A&S all joined him in theater productions.

Father Donohue remembered the influx of talent from Athletics at that time. “When Heze arrived, he brought with him several other [student-athletes] into the productions. Nothing like that had ever happened before,” he said.

Lewis recalled, “I realized that I wasn’t just at Villanova University to play football. I could become a well-rounded man here.” In fact, his interest in theatre kept him at Villanova for graduate school.

**Further mastering his art at UCLA**

Armed with boundless creativity, energy and enthusiasm and his newly minted master's degree, Lewis returned to California and enrolled in the prestigious UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, where he directed and produced several award-winning short films. Among them were: “Please, Ashley” and “Curtain Call.” Another film, “Memoirs of a Smoker,” documented the life of drug addicts in downtown Los Angeles. In 2006, Lewis directed a stage production of *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* and in 2007, a stage production of *True West*. By June 2007, he had earned his M.F.A. in directing film and television and was in the production phase for “Warrior Queen”—his most ambitious project yet.

**On location in Ghana**

“Warrior Queen” transports viewers to colonial Ghana in 1900. Based on a true story, it portrays the saga of Yaa Asantewaa, the Asante queen and revolutionary who led an armed revolt against British rule in a courageous battle for freedom from colonization.

To ensure authenticity, Lewis and his production team filmed on location and hired Ghanaian actors for the cast. Many Ghanaians live in dire poverty, and so the team brought along supplies to hand out. Lewis recalled giving a young boy named Richard a new pair of shoes.

“He hugged them, kissed them and even slept with them, like a teddy bear. Little experiences like that will be etched in my mind forever,” Lewis said.

The world premiere of “Warrior Queen” headlined this spring’s campus Cultural Film Series. The film that he wrote and directed, about an hour in length, was presented March 15 to 17 at the Connelly Center Cinema, where his film “Warrior Queen” had its premiere in March.

Athlete, actor, director and now scholar can be added to this Renaissance man’s list of traits.

“They really support each other,” noted Hezekiah Lewis ’98 A&S, ’02 G.S., seen here in the Connelly Center Cinema, where his film “Warrior Queen” had its premiere in March.
Once a student, now a teacher, but always a learner

In teaching Film Production, Lewis engages Villanova students and talks about his experiences. As a capstone project, students create their own production, which they later present to production professionals.

Lewis is happy to be back. “Villanova University is probably one of the best places, I’ve ever been,” he said.

This sentiment could be due in part to three mentors from his student years: Father Donohue; Dr. Teresa A. Nance, assistant vice president for Multicultural Affairs; and Andy Talley, head football coach. For Lewis, they are like an extension of his family.

Villanova has become a more diverse community, particularly for African Americans, Lewis observed. He praised Dr. Nance for her extensive work in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, where she has been involved in recruiting students, faculty and staff of varied backgrounds.

Lewis commended Talley for his dedication to the members of the football team, for whom he creates a welcoming, family-like atmosphere.

“We didn’t see colors or races on our team: We saw community and brotherhood,” Lewis said. While Villanova still has some goals to reach, its changes since his student days are very meaningful to him as an African-American student, alumnus and now faculty member.

Education at Villanova, education in life

Since his graduation, Lewis has shaped a career that has taken him all over the world. Now, his students have a chance to learn from him. His experiences as a filmmaker are reflected in the classroom through his hands-on way of teaching. His insight into Ghana’s colonial history will be shared with many through “Warrior Queen” on the big screen.

There is just no limit for Hezekiah Lewis, who insists he is still a learner. “My Villanova education taught me as much about life as it did about theatre and film,” he said.

The most important thing for any human being, he believes, is to continue one’s education, not just by earning degrees, but in the full sense of the word. “Textbooks and certificates are good,” Lewis affirmed, “but the value of hands-on experience and person-to-person interaction is paramount, and that’s what I hope to bring to the campus and community—as a teacher, professional and fellow Villanovan.”
On and Off Campus

Measuring the Tangible Effects of Climate Change

Scientists are finding an unexpected result from the melting of Canada’s long-frozen soil.

By Holly Stratts

During a four-year study, Dr. R. Kelman Wieder and a team of biologists traveled to the western Canadian wilderness six to seven times a year to track the effects of warming climate conditions in permafrost areas. Their stays lasted from two or three days to as long as two weeks.

“In general you find permafrost where the mean annual air temperature is freezing, or below, and lately that temperature is on the rise and thawing has begun,” noted Dr. Wieder, who is associate dean for sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a professor of biology at Villanova University.

Permafrost areas are where soil remains frozen for at least two consecutive years, according to the biologist. The study focused on the vast peatland areas of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where permafrost areas of the boreal forest region reach their southernmost limit. One of his colleagues in the study and longtime collaborator, Dr. Dale Vitt, a professor of plant biology at Southern Illinois University, previously had shown that the permafrost is melting across the study area at the rate of about 100 square miles per year.

In its frozen state, permafrost is neutral to the atmosphere. However, when temperatures rise and the thaw begins, the permafrost releases methane, produced by bacteria living in the waterlogged peat deposits. As Wieder explained, “We don’t talk about methane that much because there is much more carbon dioxide in the world. But on a molecule-to-molecule basis, methane is a potent greenhouse gas. In the atmosphere, there is more carbon dioxide, but it is less effective as a greenhouse gas, while there is less methane, but it is much more effective. When permafrost melts in peaty environments, there is a greater release of methane, relative to releases from frozen peaty soils prior to melt.” This enhanced methane release would contribute to ongoing greenhouse warming.

While the majority of the effects documented during their study reflected commonly accepted scientific thinking, the scientists had a discovery in store. “We were surprised to find that the wet areas that are created when permafrost melts take more carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere than they did prior to melt; we didn’t expect to find this,” said Wieder.

“Species that existed before the thaw are replaced by a new suite of species, particularly wet-loving Sphagnum mosses that grow like crazy, converting atmospheric carbon dioxide into new moss growth by photosynthesis. We thought that permafrost melting would be a disaster in terms of carbon dioxide release, but it turns out that in the short term, the wet areas that are created by melt are actually enhancing the capability to take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. This should contribute to lessening ongoing warming.”

Considering the offsetting roles of carbon dioxide and methane, after permafrost melt in peat bogs, the negative effects of climate warming from enhanced methane release may at least diminish and possibly even outweigh the positive effects of stimulated carbon dioxide uptake. Nonetheless, as time progresses after permafrost melt, the wet areas undergo changes in vegetation composition and become drier.

The research team suggests that 70 years after permafrost melt, methane release will have declined to the point where the peaty areas once again will be dominated by the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to make new peat, thus dampening ongoing climate warming.

This research, part of a $796,500 grant from the National Science Foundation, was published in 2007 in the journal Global Change Biology. The lead author was Dr. Merritt Turetsky ’97 A&S, now an assistant professor of plant biology at Michigan State University. After majoring in biology at Villanova, she studied for her doctorate under the guidance of Dr. Vitt. The authors also include Kimberli Scott, a senior research technician in Wieder’s lab for the past seven years.
Philadelphia’s Mayor Nutter Opens Symposium on Citizenship in a Diverse World

Inaugural event honors journalist and Civil Rights activist Claude A. Lewis.

By Anthony Maalouf ’08 G.S.

A s a young man, Claude A. Lewis was denied accommodation at hotels and refused service at restaurants due to his race. He transformed these experiences into activism, participating in the Civil Rights movement as a journalist. His work brought him face-to-face with leaders like Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before he became a prominent columnist for the Evening Bulletin and Philadelphia Inquirer. Lewis also taught Honors courses as an adjunct professor at Villanova University, before being awarded an honorary doctorate by Villanova in 1998.

Following Lewis’ recent retirement from the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Honors Program on April 7 inaugurated the Claude A. Lewis Annual Symposium: Citizenship in a Diverse World.

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter attended the inaugural symposium to praise Lewis as a courageous and “moral leader” who inspired many, including the mayor himself. Nutter said that Lewis’ contributions to good citizenship in a diverse world are a reminder to “think globally” but “act locally.”

Nutter discussed Philadelphia’s education challenges, which include a 45 percent high school dropout rate and only an 18 percent postsecondary matriculation rate. The mayor’s goal is to overcome these challenges by forming regional partnerships with the city’s neighbors in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties. Philadelphia’s success is in their interest, Nutter explained. “Remember we’re all part of the same community. Cut my finger and yours, and we bleed the same red blood,” he said.

Nutter also joined Lewis and Dr. Edwin L. Goff, director of the Honors Program, on a panel.

Lewis began his remarks by praising the progress that African Americans have made over the past few decades, particularly in the presidential candidacy of U.S. Sen. Barack Obama. Nutter, an avid supporter of U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, chuckled, “Well, as long as the Democrats reclaim the White House.”

The politically charged panel discussion drew applause from the audience, and the longtime columnist continued to comment on the upcoming presidential election. Presupposing the outcome, Lewis declared, “I think it’s wonderful that we will have either the first black or the first woman president.”

During his remarks, Lewis greeted a group of students who attend the Microsoft School of the Future, a newly constructed high school that incorporates technology into all aspects of the curriculum. For example, all of its books are electronic, and students learn to work with programs like Microsoft PowerPoint almost immediately. The innovative school is the result of a joint venture between the Microsoft Corporation and the School District of Philadelphia.

One by one, the high school students addressed both Lewis and Nutter, explaining the unique nature of their school. For example, their report cards indicate “Advanced” in place of an A, “Proficient” in place of a B, “Basic” in place of a C, etc. Each student voiced enthusiasm for the Microsoft school. One even offered his regrets that it is not a boarding school.

In a lighter moment, Lewis joked to the young men, “You can’t really meet any girls with—”
What is preventing poor countries from producing or importing enough food to feed their own population? How can the United States contribute to improving the capacity of governments and people to feed themselves? These are two pressing questions Villanova University students answered this semester through participation in the Global Solidarity Network (GSN).

The GSN is a newly formed collaboration between Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Villanova, Cabrini College, Seattle University and Santa Clara University. This unique pilot project, now in its second semester, makes use of modern information and communication technology tools to make social justice education more real and available to students and faculty.

“The point is to bring us closer to the people in the poorer nations of the world that are struggling for justice and human dignity, and to collaborate with them and gain a more in-depth understanding of their situation and how we can be part of the solution,” said Dr. Suzanne Toton, associate professor of theology and religious studies at Villanova and a GSN site administrator.

This semester’s issue was food security, which the CRS defines as “having physical and economic access to sufficient food to meet dietary needs for a productive and healthy life today without sacrificing investments in livelihood security tomorrow.” During the Fall Semester, 396 students and 15 faculty members from Villanova, Cabrini and Seattle examined the issue of migration through a live video conference with CRS’ El Salvador country director and the CRS migration policy advisor.

Between February 18-29 and April 14-25, classes in the four universities examined the issue of Africa’s food security through essay responses, interactive online discussions and live video conferences. The February module was led by Bruce White, CRS policy advisor for food security and hunger, and Thomas Awiape, of the CRS Ghana field staff. The April module was led by Tom Remington, CRS agriculture advisor and country representative in Burkina Faso.

Through correspondence with CRS advisors and students from other universities, Villanova students gained perspective on the issue of food security. During the semester, the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Nursing and Engineering; the Villanova School of Business; and the Graduate School participated in the GSN.

Partnering to form GSN, in conjunction with CRS, exemplifies Villanova’s commitment to social justice and peace-making throughout the world. “We as educators really have to do a much better job of helping our students to become more educated in regard to policy: trade policy, aid policy and economic political policy and its impact on the poor in order to help them better understand their responsibility to shape that policy,” Toton said. She thought the live video conference, in which students interacted with CRS experts in the field, had the most impact because it “really made the issue come alive in very human terms.”

Dr. Barbara E. Wall, special assistant to the president for Mission Effectiveness and an associate professor of philosophy, said the GSN will “connect the work of CRS with the collegiate world and try to create an interface between Catholic students in college and what is happening throughout the world.” She added, “I think that as with any pilot, it is a young program and it has tremendous potential, and we don’t know where that potential will take us, but it’s an exciting possibility.”
Adults Go Back to School for a Day

By Anthony Maalouf '08 G.S.

Villanova-area community members had the opportunity to relive their college days on February 3 when they attended One Day University, hosted by Villanova University at the Connelly Center. More than 300 adults enjoyed returning to the classroom.

The day-long enrichment program was presented in partnership with New York City-based One Day University, which gathers some of the best professors from the nation’s top schools to deliver their most popular lectures.

“Many people long out of college are fascinated to go back for just one day,” said Steven Schragis, co-founder of the New York City-based One Day University. The program enables them to learn from “the finest professors in the country,” he added.

Among the distinguished presenters was Villanova’s Dr. Brian Jones, a professor of sociology, who joined faculty from Harvard University, Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania in presenting some of their most popular lectures to a packed Villanova Room.

Dr. Andrew Delbanco, the Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities and director of American Studies at Columbia, gave the opening lecture, “Melville, Moby Dick and the American Experience,” which provided deep insight into interpreting the classic novel. He reminded the audience that Moby Dick, which featured an unforgettable character—the vengeful and bloodthirsty Captain Ahab—was ridiculed in Melville’s time, and that the dark nature of Ahab’s character was “too much” for Americans in the 1850s.

“[Moby Dick] became really popular in the 1930s, when fascist dictatorships took over in Europe,” Dr. Delbanco said. As a menace and hijacker of power, Ahab was compared to Hitler, Mussolini and others.

Psychology was the next topic. Shawn Achor, head teaching fellow for Harvard’s very popular course, Positive Psychology, began “Positive Psychology and the Science of Happiness” by citing a 1979 Ellen Langer study. Researchers placed male volunteers in their 70s within a confine in which everything surrounding them was from the year 1959. The objective was to get the older men to think like youths again—and resulted in increased physical flexibility, posture, eyesight, memory and cognitive ability. By the experiment’s end five days later, the men even appeared younger.

Achor said that positive psychology like the Langer experiment is presently needed in American society, where the depression rate today is eight times greater than during the Great Depression. Happiness matters, Achor asserted, because it affects one’s health and life. Statistically, those who are happier tend to be the ones who secure jobs, hold on to them, are productive, perform better and remain more resilient to disease compared to those who are unhappy.

Following a lunch break, Dr. Jonathan Steinberg, the Walter H. Annenberg Professor of Modern European History at Penn, spoke on “Hitler—the Man and the Mystery.”

The source of Hitler’s success was his charisma, according to Dr. Steinberg. As a young leader in the Nazi Party, Hitler was a vigorous speaker who drew a large following. This, coupled with the fact that after World War I Germany was ruined economically and its people demoralized, eventually lifted the World War I veteran to power.

Steinberg mentioned that Dr. Joseph Goebbels, who is remembered (and reviled) as Hitler’s minister of propaganda,
opposed Hitler’s politics when he first heard of him. Even so, Goebbels converted to Hitler’s movement after hearing him speak for the first time in 1926.

“From that point on, Goebbels surrendered his will to Hitler, doing the will of the Fuhrer as commanded,” Steinberg said. “But this is the dangerous power of charisma, and when we surrender ourselves and our will to another, we do ourselves a great disservice.”

Dr. Jones was the day’s final speaker, presenting “Is American Society in Decline? No and Yes.” The Villanova sociologist discussed Robert D. Putnam’s book *Bowling Alone*, which sheds light on the loss of social capital in America today. He noted that Americans are becoming less engaged in society and are even skeptical of democracy. Seeking to determine the causes of this lack of “social capital,” Jones explained that Americans are workaholics.

“We are working more and taking less and less vacation. Even Japan surpassed us in average vacation days, 28 for them, compared to 14 for us. On top of that, we don’t always use them!” he said. Relaxation and vacations are vital to the average American worker, and can even reduce heart-related disease by 40 percent, Jones added.

The sociologist also spoke to the declining marriage rate. In 1972, 70 percent of Americans were married. In 1998, marriage rates fell to 48 percent. While work is up and marriage is down, the positive aspect seems to be family ties. Jones pointed out an increasing trend in family socializing, such as visiting grandparents. “But we’re not socializing with our own neighbors,” he said.

One Day University returned to campus on May 3. For more information, visit www.onedayu.com.

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**Ford Regional Sales Manager Keynotes Engineers Week**

**BY AMANDA SLATTERY ’10 A&S**

Find a job you love and you’ll never work a day in your life,” declared Peter Fong ’86 M.E., ’95 M.B.A. in his Engineers Week keynote address on February 21.

Fong himself has a job he loves—that of regional manager for the mid-Atlantic market of Ford and Lincoln Mercury Sales Operations. He said his mechanical engineering degree from Villanova University has helped him throughout his life and career.

After graduating, Fong joined the U.S. Navy as a naval aviator. During flight school, he discovered that his background in engineering provided the necessary foundation for all that he was learning. Eventually, Fong returned to Villanova as the senior class instructor and advisor for the NROTC Unit. While holding this position, he was able to earn an M.B.A. He said he eventually left the Navy to join Ford Motor Company because he viewed the auto industry as “the most dynamic industry out there.”

Fong revealed that Ford is in the process of making key changes and has a new business plan to stay competitive in a changing market. He discussed the technology being implemented in new vehicles, including Microsoft Sync (a hands-free technology for music, telephone and texting) and SIRIUS Travel Link (a navigation system with up-to-date gas prices, sports scores, weather and traffic reports). In view of rising gas prices, another feature of many of Ford’s new vehicles is the EcoBoost system, a major part of the company’s sustainability plan. This engine technology is designed to be more fuel-efficient, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and improve performance.

Joining Fong at the event was Ashley Hiser ’03 VSB, ’07 G.S., who works in marketing for Ford and Lincoln Mercury. Hiser helped run the technology used in the presentation. Engineers Week is organized on campus by the College of Engineering as part of the national Engineers Week. This year, Villanova’s Engineers Week was sponsored by Ford and Pacifico Maple-Newtown Lincoln Mercury.

Fong serves on the Board of Directors of the Villanova University Alumni Association. The alumnus said he hopes to recruit Engineering graduates for jobs with Ford Motor Company. Fong credited his alma mater with providing him with many opportunities and he encouraged Engineering students to keep working hard.

“Performance is what is going to provide you with opportunity,” he said.
College Democrats Host Congressman Sestak

BY MICHAEL NATARO ’06 A&S, ’08 G.S.

U.S. Rep. Joe Sestak (D-Pa.) visited campus on February 18 as a guest of the Villanova University College Democrats. About 50 students attended a Q&A session in which he addressed some key issues, including health care and national security.

After 30 years of serving in the U.S. Navy, in November 2006 Sestak was elected to Congress to represent Pennsylvania’s 7th District, which includes most of Delaware County and parts of Chester and Montgomery counties.

In his comments on health-care reform, the core issue in his motivation to run for Congress, he cited the fact that thousands of Americans, children in particular, do not have health care.

“The primary reason I ran for Congress in 2006 was not necessarily because of the war, or any other issue. I ran to pay this country back,” Sestak said. “My little girl, Alex, has had multiple operations on her brain to remove a number of tumors. If it weren’t for my health-care plan from the U.S. Navy, we would not have had the health-care insurance to give her the care she needs.”

Despite his background as a Navy admiral, in addressing the issue of national security, Sestak did not call for more military power for the U.S. armed forces, or for an increase in foreign or domestic intelligence.

“National security begins at home,” he said. “Health, economic and educational security, along with energy and environmental security, are the surest ways to guarantee national security.”

Sestak told the students that he has two jobs as a congressman. “One, I am here to listen to the people. I urge you, as my constituents, to voice to me your concerns,” he said. “Two, my job is to exercise good legislative judgment on many important and pressing issues in this country today. If I did not do this, I would not be rehired by the people.”

Students from both sides of the political spectrum attended the session, noted Eric Biersmith ’06 A&S, ’07 G.S., former president of Villanova’s College Democrats. “This is evidence of the politically engaged nature of the Villanova student body. Congressman Sestak was a very charismatic speaker, and it was important he came to campus in the attempt to get college students more politically involved.”

Australian Economist Discusses Asia’s Growing Importance

BY TAINAH MICHIDA ’08 A&S

The United States may wish to pay more attention to the economic rise of its Asian counterparts in the years to come, noted Dr. Peter Drysdale, professor emeritus of economics at the Australian National University (ANU). On November 13, 2007, he delivered a lecture on “The Rise of Asia and its Impact on America.”

Dr. Drysdale is the founder of ANU’s Australia-Japan Research Centre, which focuses on the East Asian political economy. He also oversaw the inauguration of the East Asian Bureau of Economic Research, a forum on the issues faced by these economies.

He was introduced by Dr. A. Maria Toyoda, an assistant professor of political science at Villanova University and director of its East Asian Studies Program.

“The opportunity to develop a connection between this campus and what we do on the other side of the world—I hope it materializes,” said Drysdale.

Using Japan as an example, he described the progress of the rise of Asian nations—what he called “a long and complex process.” Japan’s rise took place in three separate generations of economic reforms, he said. The first occurred in the mid-1800s, when Japan first declared its borders open for trade with foreign countries. The second generation, from the early 1900s through the U.S. occupation of Japan (1945-52), was a “more complex process,” involving “reforming local economies and preparing for penetration by the West.” The third generation, beginning with the boom in the Japanese economy, was a “collective action to manage the interdependence that emerges among nations,” the economist said.
Historian’s Book Takes a New Look at the Berlin Blockade

BY LINDSAY KOS ’09 A&S

The Berlin Wall divided East and West Berlin for 28 years.

“I

n general, when we think about things, events and processes like the Cold War, we think about them in terms of definitive moments to be captured, celebrated and demarcated,” said Dr. Paul Steege, associate professor of history at Villanova University. Yet he also noted that this philosophy is often fallible, and history is not solely defined by moments created from the top down.


With the infamous Berlin blockade (June 1948 through May 1949) obliquely at the center of his book, Steege undermines the power of events as absolute explanations of what happened in history. Instead, he develops a perspective of historical analysis that focuses on the daily activities of Berliners in this postwar period.

During the blockade, Berlin was divided into four occupation sectors with little economic and political stability. According to standard accounts, the Soviets tried to starve the Westerners out of their zones, and heavily restricted travel across them. Supply airlifts from the United States became the saving grace to Berliners and finally gave them the strength to defeat the Soviets.

Yet the real story was much different, Steege claims in his book. He says there was no absolute blockade or intentional attempts to starve Berliners, and that holes in the blockade made it easy to travel between zones. In addition, the airlifts were not the only way Berliners received food and supplies, as a widespread black market enabled many to purchase necessities. Thus, Steege poses the question: If this standard account is faulty, what are the implications for this iconic event and the ways in which the Berlin blockade affected the Cold War?

Steege discussed how the stories from the ground became pivotal in unpacking the way the blockade and the airlift assumed an iconic status. Steege wants to treat Berliners not as passive objects, but as deeply important creators in telling the story. He claims there is a general willingness to give ordinary people a role in ending the Cold War, but not in constructing it. Thus, Steege challenges that the Cold War is about more than communism vs. democracy, but rather about the roles everyday people play in creating history.

The historian concluded with a quote from President John F. Kennedy’s June 1963 speech in West Berlin, during which he said “Ich bin ein Berliner” (I am a Berliner), shortly after East Germany had erected the Berlin Wall. Steege criticized Kennedy’s reduction of Berlin to a merely iconic location that symbolized freedom, and raised the question that if the city was just an icon of the Cold War and everyone was a ‘Berliner’ in the struggle for democracy, what about the true Berliners and their battles to survive? In the end, the story is both a cautionary and optimistic tale, as it suggests that ordinary people can have the power to transform history if only their voices are allowed to be heard.

Drysdale also called attention to what he predicts will happen in 10 to 15 years in the global economic scenario. “East Asia slowly grows in importance,” he noted. “China alone becomes a more important economy than the North American economy.” He added, “This is not a thing just happening in East Asia—it has great implications for exchanges happening in the world.”

The economist believes much attention should be paid to the issues that East Asian economic power may bring, such as the need to manage a balance of power.

Dr. Paul Steege, associate professor of history at Villanova, discussed his book, Black Market, Cold War. It depicts everyday life in postwar Berlin at the start of the Cold War.

JOHN WELSH

ECONOMIC REFORM IN JAPAN

JAPAN OPENS BORDERS TO INTERNATIONAL TRADING      LOCAL REFORM: PRE-EMERGENCE OF WESTERN INFLUENCE      EMPHASIS ON GLOBAL TRADING AND INTERNATIONAL INTERDEPENDENCE      CHINA ASSUMES GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROMINENCE

MID-1800s | EARLY 1900s-1952 | 1952-PRESENT | NEAR FUTURE

“Tainah Michida ’08 A&S graduated in May from Villanova, where she pursued a double major in communication and sociology. She interned in the Office of Constituent Publications and looks forward to a career in journalism.

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The Freedom School, sponsored annually by the Center for Peace and Justice Education at Villanova University, is a tribute to the life and work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. For more than a decade, faculty and students have participated in the event, which this year took place on January 24. A variety of speakers delivered lectures on a wide spectrum of topics, among them race and sports, corporate rights, Rosa Parks, globalization, torture, the working poor and environmental justice as a Civil Rights issue.
Author Offers Insights on the Three Abrahamic Faiths

By Michael Nataro ’06 A&S, ’08 G.S.

More than 100 students, faculty and staff gathered to hear acclaimed author and journalist Yossi Klein Halevi’s January 16 lecture on “A Religious Jew’s Journey into Christianity and Islam in the Holy Land: Is Reconciliation Possible?” It was, fittingly, the first of many lectures offered in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Villanova University.

The lecture was hosted by the Center for Peace and Justice Education. The goal was to provide a contemporary example of peaceful cross-cultural and interreligious understanding to honor Dr. King’s legacy as a peacemaker and a visionary who promoted tolerance and dialogue.

Halevi is a contributing editor to The New Republic and author of At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden, a testimony to interreligious dialogue and peaceful understanding. His book has been acclaimed by scholars and churchmen, including the Rt. Rev. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, who called it “a heartbreaking book which is full of wonders.”

In his talk, Halevi detailed his “journey of religious empathy,” which took place prior to the outbreak of violence known as the Second Intifada between Israel and the Palestinians in 2000. Halevi, who describes himself as a religious Jew, had the opportunity to spend time praying with Muslims in their Sufi circles, and to live and pray with Roman Catholic monks in a contemplative monastery.

“Each of the three great monotheistic faiths—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—uses mysticism to become intimate with God,” Halevi said.

In Islam, one of the most powerful practices is prostration in the prayer lines, Halevi noted. As a Jew, he was unaccustomed to such traditions. He also was drawn to the nature of Sufi prayer, which involves a great deal of dancing and chanting. By contrast, in the context of monastic Christianity, he began to understand the power of silence and how it focuses prayer. Halevi admired the nature of Christianity in that its universal faith professes a responsibility to all people based on a shared human kinship as actual children of the same one God. Contrasting that to his own faith, he asserted that Judaism is more theologically focused on the relationship with the Jewish people, as a nation, with God.

“One unintended benefit of secularism is that it allows people to embark on an interfaith quest,” he said. “In the absence of rigid religiosity, in the West in particular, people now have the opportunity to affirm and celebrate such an ecumenical experience.”

Father Doyle Discusses Poverty and Racism

By Anthony Maalouf ’08 G.S.

The Rev. Michael J. Doyle ’65 M.A. spoke on January 22 to Villanovans on the topic of racial injustices in urban environments. Father Doyle’s lecture was one of several in a larger program of campus events honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that week. Father Doyle is the pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Camden, N.J., a position he has held for the past 35 years. He has published works in prose and poetry, focusing on his Irish roots and Camden’s needs. In May 2007, Villanova University awarded Father Doyle an honorary doctor of humanities degree for being a tireless advocate for the poor and a determined advocate for peace, both at home and abroad.
Students enjoyed free veggie burgers, discovered ways they can support Villanova University’s campus-wide commitment to sustainability, listened to an outdoor concert, learned about environmental links to cancer and much more during Earth Day 2008.

The three-day celebration kicked off on April 17 with a keynote address by Dr. Sandra Steingraber, an internationally recognized ecologist and author of Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment. A Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Ithaca College, she spoke on “Contaminated Without Consent: How Exposures to Chemical Pollutants Violate Human Rights and What We Can Do About It.”

Dr. Steingraber is an expert on the environmental links to cancer and reproductive health. At age 20 she survived bladder cancer—what she calls a ‘quintessential environmental cancer.’ She then became a mother at 40, so she holds the issue close to her heart.

“The new science is mounting a powerful challenge to the way we currently regulate toxic items,” Steingraber explained. “We measure everything, but we don’t take into account the timing of exposure.”

There are points in life or “windows of vulnerability” during which a person is most susceptible to specific toxins, according to the ecologist. For example, female smokers during their fertile years might enter menopause two years earlier.

“Women who smoke are killing off their eggs much faster,” Steingraber said, adding that male fertility is also vulnerable to environmental toxins.

Heavy metals such as lead and mercury also pose risks to a child’s brain development, even in the mother’s womb. Exposure to lead, for example, may paralyze brain development, Steingraber said. She pointed out the recent decline in lead levels and the fact that it has been banned from paint and gas. “Lead levels have plummeted and IQ levels have risen,” she noted.

The festivities continued the following day with the annual Earth Day breakfast seminar, which this year focused on “Sustainability@Villanova.” Five speakers discussed the steps the University is taking to become a more sustainable campus. The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S, University president, who last summer signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, offered the opening remarks.

“We realize just how fragile the connection is between the Earth and ourselves,” Father Donohue said. “I am very proud of the work Villanova does, but I think there’s more we can do. It is important for us as an educational institution to show students how to keep ‘green.’”

Timothy J. Dietzler ‘82 VSB, director of Dining Services, highlighted his department’s ‘green initiatives,’ including recycling food waste and a new composting program. In addition, Dining Services has partnered with Aqua Health Waters, which will donate a percentage of its Villanova water sales to the Uganda Rural Fund and Catholic Relief Services, and with Pura Vida Coffee, which will provide Fair Trade coffee while donating portions of profits to Catholic Relief Services.

Dr. Paul Rosier, assistant professor of history, is chair of Villanova’s Earth Day Committee and played a major role in organizing the three-day event. He discussed the new department of geography and the environment, as well as the Environmental Leadership Learning Community, which is now in its second year.

Lauren Acosta ‘09 A&S testified to the strengths of the latter, in which students have been working on a semester-long project to encourage their classmates to change their environmentally harmful habits and examine how nature plays an important role in their lives. “It’s amazing to see how students from all schools in the University can incorporate their different viewpoints into working on the same environmental issue,” Acosta said.

Later in the day, students enjoyed free refreshments, viewed informative presentations of student Environmental Science projects and received tips on how to make their environments greener both indoors and out. They also had the opportunity to learn about the University’s Environmental Studies Concentration and the new department of geography and the environment.

The festivities concluded with an “Earth Day Rock n’ BBQ,” featuring a concert by bands Ipso Facto, Parkwright, 5point and Akimbo at the Oreo, as well as an outdoor barbecue on Sheehan Beach.

For more information, visit www3.villanova.edu/environment/sustain/index.html.
The Office of University Admission received a record number of applications for the fall 2008 freshman class. Even the national publication The Chronicle of Higher Education took notice, featuring Villanova University in a January article on swamped admissions offices. Villanova accommodated its record volume by following its usual admissions procedure of ensuring that each and every application is read and reviewed at least two times. As of May 1, the total number of applications was 15,095 for a freshman class with an enrollment goal of 1,595.

**College of Nursing Celebrates Raising of Cross on New Building**

On a beautiful April morning, the Villanova University community gathered to celebrate as the cross was raised onto the roof of its new College of Nursing building. Dr. M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Connelly Endowed Dean and Professor (left), joined Robert (’50 M.E.) and Marie Fitzmyer, who donated the cross, as the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., ’75 A&S, University president, offered a blessing.

**A New Record in Admissions**

Within minutes, construction workers had the cross moving high overhead and settled on its permanent home atop the tower in the center of the $32 million, 75,500 square-foot facility. The state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly building is due to be completed this summer.

Constructed of copper with gold leaf, the cross is just over 7 feet tall. Its design mirrors the style of the crosses topping the two spires of the St. Thomas of Villanova Church, a campus landmark.

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The nation was riveted this past spring by the tight race in the Democratic presidential race between U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) and U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.). That made the opening of Villanova University’s Matthew J. Ryan Center for the Study of Free Institutions and the Public Good especially timely. Fittingly, the Ryan Center’s inauguration on February 21 featured as its first offering a lecture by a Villanovan who is a national expert on presidential politics.

Dr. Dante Scala ’93 A&S, associate professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire, in his talk on the 2008 presidential election focused on the ongoing race between the two Democratic senators.

Since the beginning of this presidential race, conventional wisdom had been turned on its head, Dr. Scala noted. In the summer of 2007, the bid of U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) for the Republican nomination appeared to be finished, and Clinton looked like she would be the inevitable Democratic nominee. The early primaries, however, proved both assumptions to be wrong. The race for delegates, which had been neck-and-neck, was like a tennis match, he said.

“Both candidates had been holding serve, but Wisconsin, where Obama won by 17 points, was a breaking of serve,” Scala observed.

In explaining Obama’s surge to the top early on, Scala pointed to the resonating message of the candidate’s campaign: “change, reform and hope.” Traditional presidential campaigns are won by having large sums of money, momentum and a strong message. By those measures, Clinton would be ahead. However, in this election year, Dr. Scala noted, the message has taken priority.

The outlook is anything but certain. Just weeks after Scala spoke of Obama’s apparent front-runner status, Clinton won primaries in Ohio and Texas, making the race less certain. She followed those wins a month later with a victory in the hotly contested Pennsylvania primary.

Scala maintained that the general election would be as unpredictable as the primaries.

“So throw out those old maps [from 2000 and 2004],” he concluded, saying that the best way to predict this one might be to just “say the opposite” of what the pundits say, because so much can change.

The Ryan Center, named in memory of the late Matthew J. Ryan ’54 VSB, ’59 J.D., is based in the department of political science, and is under the direction of Dr. Colleen A. Sheehan, professor of political science.

Ryan, who represented Delaware County, served 40 years in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. During this long tenure, he held leadership positions in the Republican caucus. The House elected him as Speaker of the House, a position he held from January 1981 to January 1983 and again from January 1995 until his death in March 2003. Widely heralded as an elder statesman, Ryan, for whom The Capitol Annex in Harrisburg was named in 1999, believed that a strong educational background in civics was essential to the integrity of the democracy we live in.

The Ryan Center at Villanova will provide that civic education for students, faculty, elected officials and community members.

For more information on the Ryan Center, visit www.matthewryancenter.org.
Conference Shows Students What It Takes to be a Successful Entrepreneur

BY ANTHONY MAALOUF ’08 G.S.

What can be more exciting than running one’s own business? However, it is more difficult than it sounds. The planning alone requires substantial time and money, but after attending the second annual “Beyond Ideas: the Art of Entrepreneurship” conference, students were off to a good start.

Villanova University’s colleges and schools collaborated with the Career Services Office, Academic Affairs and the Villanova University Alumni Association to put together the multidisciplinary conference on January 12. The Delaware County Keystone Innovation Zone also co-sponsored the event.

Dr. James W. Klinger, interim director of Villanova’s Center for Entrepreneurship, and Ken Schwenke, former executive vice president at Sodexho, a leader in food and facilities management, presented “Business Planning: The Essential Roundup.” The session addressed the importance of having a business plan that is detailed enough to help entrepreneurs communicate ideas to potential team members and investors.

Business objectives and philanthropy are not mutually exclusive, as explained in “Service Based Business: the Heart of the American Economy.” The presenters were Janice Duffin ’01 M.S.N.; Wil Reynolds, head of SEER Interactive, a Philadelphia Internet-marketing agency; and William Madway, a Villanova School of Business (VSB) instructor and owner of Madway Business Marketing.

Steven J. Christini ’95 M.E., founder and president of Christini Technologies, and Dr. Pritpal Singh, a Villanova professor and chair of electrical and computer engineering, presented “Product Based Business: New Technology Is Booming.” Students looking to make a difference ventured to “Social Entrepreneurship: How to Change the World.” Presented by Dr. Lowell S. Gustafson, a Villanova professor and chair of political science, the session focused on the capacity for doing well and doing good at the same time.

In “Getting Your Business Started: Nuts and Bolts,” Carolynn Iafarate, founder of Industry Sales Tax Solutions, LLC, and Edmund Dougherty ’69 E.E., ’86 G.S., a Villanova assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering and president of Ablaze Systems, LLC, provided a checklist to start a new business.

The student participants in “I Have a New Idea,” led by Donald Labowsky, general manager of Microsin, LLC, a manufacturer of medical devices, presented their ideas confidentially to experienced entrepreneurs.

Three experts shared advice on how to obtain funding for a new idea at “Financing Your Future Enterprise: Who Can Help?” The speakers were Zareh Baghdasarian ’83 E.E., president and CEO of Tahoe Associates, a private investment company; William J. Hurley ’62 A&S, business fellow in VSB’s management department; and Jean Krack, executive director of the Institute for Economic Development and a coordinator for the Delaware County Keystone Innovation Zone.

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Three experts shared advice on how to obtain funding for a new idea at “Financing Your Future Enterprise: Who Can Help?” The speakers were Zareh Baghdasarian ’83 E.E., president and CEO of Tahoe Associates, a private investment company; William J. Hurley ’62 A&S, business fellow in VSB’s management department; and Jean Krack, executive director of the Institute for Economic Development and a coordinator for the Delaware County Keystone Innovation Zone.

Cowan Honored by Philadelphia Public Relations Professionals

BY AMANDA SLATTERY ’10 A&S

William Cowen, an instructor in Villanova University’s communication department, was recently awarded the Frank X. Long Award by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). Considered the world’s largest organization for public relations professionals, PRSA works to advance the standards in its field. The award honors a public relations professional who exhibits excellence in creativity and writing, as well as a passion for public relations.

Cowan, the public relations area coordinator in the communication department, teaches courses at both the undergraduate and the graduate level. He also serves as the advisor of the Villanova Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) and as director of the Villanova Communication Alumni Network (VCAN).

He also is the founding president and owner of Metropolitan Communications LLC, a public relations agency based in Philadelphia.
All-American Runner Outdistances Cancer

BY LINDSAY KOS '09 A&S

Male. Over 40 years old. Smoker. Obese. High blood pressure. That’s the typical profile for an individual at risk for kidney cancer—and one that Frances Koons ’08 A&S, an elite student-athlete in impeccable shape, certainly did not fit. Yet the four-time All-American runner on Villanova University’s cross country and track and field teams was diagnosed with kidney cancer during the summer of 2007.

Today, through luck, perseverance and heart, Koons has successfully rebounded from cancer—and has been excelling again on the track.

In high school, Koons was a Pennsylvania State Cross Country Champion and a Foot Locker National Cross Country All-American. A native of Allentown, Pa., she chose to attend Villanova on a full athletic scholarship. She was attracted by the rich tradition of distance running and the opportunity to be coached by Gina Procaccio ’87 VSB, one of the best middle distance runners in Villanova history.

As with most athletes, Koons found her freshman year in college to be an adjustment from high school. She struggled with low iron, a common problem for female athletes, and redshirted outdoor track. Yet during her sophomore year—2005-06—Koons began to make her mark on collegiate distance running, benefiting from training with her elite teammate, Marina Muncan ’06 A&S. Koons garnered All-American honors during indoor and outdoor track, and at the prestigious Penn Relays led off the winning distance medley relay team.

Determined to keep improving on the national scene, the goal-driven Koons trained intensely during her junior year. “I knew I was due for a breakthrough,” she said. “Marina had graduated, and I knew I had to step it up and lead the team.”

Her perseverance and hard work paid off during the 2006-07 cross country season. She won the 2006 Big East Cross Country Championship and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship, and placed second at the prestigious NCAA Pre-Nationals.

It was just before the Pre-Nationals that Koons felt a persistent pain in her side and visited a hospital emergency room, where doctors performed scans and tests. They diagnosed the pain as a harmless and small ovarian cyst. However, on Koons’ diagnosis sheet, her doctor noted that they had detected a mass on her kidney, which he recommended she should have checked out. In prime fitness and in the middle of her best season yet, Koons didn’t think much of the suggestion. “I never thought I could have cancer,” she reflected.

And so she continued to train. Disappointed by an uncharacteristic 87th-place showing at the 2006 NCAA National Cross Country Championship meet, she geared up for indoor and outdoor track. In record-breaking shape, she got off to a quick start with a 9:01 personal best in the 3,000-meter run, wins in the mile and 1,000-meter runs at the 2007 Big East Indoor Championships and an 8th-place individual finish in the 3,000-meter run at the 2007 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Approaching the 2007 outdoor track season, she was expecting another stellar spring, but felt unusually weak in training and races. “I knew there was something going on, but I didn’t know what,” she recalled. “We reduced my mileage and training intensity, but I still wasn’t getting where I needed to be. It was frustrating, but I kept pressing forward.”

When her performances fell short of expectations, Koons became disheartened—yet never suspected that the mass on her kidney was cancerous.

“As a Villanovan, we have certain expectations,” she said. “We want to win Penn Relays, we want to win the Big East Conference Championships. In retrospect, knowing that I had something in my body that didn’t belong, I still think...
I could have run better. I learned a lot, and although learning experiences are some of the hardest to swallow, they will help you in the future.”

While home last summer, Koons consulted a urologist upon her mother’s urging. A CAT scan determined the mass was solid, and the doctors were 95 percent sure it was cancerous. A second opinion at the University of Pennsylvania confirmed the diagnosis.

Chest X-rays and bone scans revealed that the cancer fortunately was contained to the kidney. Koons’ ovarian cyst the previous fall had turned out to be a lifesaver; without that scan, the cancer would have gone undetected and would have spread. There are few warning signs of kidney cancer. Once it metastasizes, there are few treatment options available.

“At first I was in denial. Then I got sad…and then angry. That’s a normal human reaction to something you can’t control,” Koons explained. She was faced with choices: removal of the entire kidney; surgery to remove the tumor (an extremely invasive procedure with a recovery time of one year); or laparoscopic surgery, a far less invasive procedure with six weeks’ recovery time.

The Penn doctors referred Koons to a surgeon at North Shore University Hospital in New York. Dr. Louis Kavoussi, a pioneer in laparoscopic surgery, told her family he could complete the surgery and leave the kidney intact.

Koons recalled, “He said, ‘Listen, you’ll be fine’ about a million times. I felt good because this is his thing…his surgery. He made me really confident that I’d recover quickly.”

Compassion and support from family, friends and complete strangers inspired Koons. “When you find yourself in a situation like mine, the kindness of the human spirit truly shows its best side,” she said.

On August 7, 2007, the tumor—roughly the size of a ping-pong ball—was removed, and the cancer diagnosed as clear cell renal cell carcinoma. Koons did not have to undergo chemotherapy or other follow-up treatments, but must return for two CAT scans per year to make sure the cancer does not reappear.

Koons remained positive throughout her surgery. “It’s good to keep in mind that if you get cancer, there is so much treatment out there. Cancer is not a death sentence anymore,” she said.

After only six weeks’ rest, she gradually eased back into walking as exercise, then slowly built up mileage through running. In January she began to run workouts. On March 29, in her first race after her cancer surgery, she nabbed an NCAA Regional qualifying mark in the 1,500 meters. In April at the prestigious Penn Relays, she anchored Villanova’s distance medley relay team to a seventh-place finish, rallying with a personal best time of 4:34.6 for 1,600 meters. The next day, she anchored Villanova’s 4x1, 500-meter relay team to a respectable third place finish with her 4:18.6 split.

Koons then focused on the 5,000 meters at the NCAA East Regional in late May, a distance she had not previously tackled. She came in third, qualifying for the national championship.

A math major, Koons will remain at Villanova next year and use her fifth year of eligibility to compete for the Wildcats while pursuing a master’s degree in applied statistics. She hopes to work in statistical research, possibly at a biopharmaceutical company. She has always dreamed of advancing research in Type I diabetes because her father struggles with the disease.

After her collegiate eligibility expires, she hopes to compete on the professional level and some day at the Olympics. “I realize it’s a lofty goal,” she said, “but that’s the dream, and I’ll do whatever it takes to get there or as close as possible.”

Running has always been Koons’ passion. The second of five children in a close-knit family (her older brother is stationed in Iraq), she lists her parents, Fred and Lisa, as her two biggest inspirations. “My family doesn’t care if I win or lose, but it’s extra special when I do win because I can share it with them, too,” she noted. She expressed her humble and appreciative nature as she recalled that her favorite individual race wasn’t one of her national-caliber victories, but rather winning her first race in seventh grade.

“That was one of the best moments because almost my whole family was there,” Koons recalled. “My dad couldn’t be at that race for some reason, but when I called him and told him I won, he got a little choked up. That moment is something that has stayed with me forever. Part of why I run is not just for myself, but for everyone else who is rooting for me, too.”

Koons hopes to be a role model for anyone dealing with cancer. “I think I’m good evidence that you can get through something like this. It is depressing to find out you have a diagnosis like cancer, because it’s scary and hard for your family to deal with. You just have to keep positive. I realize how blessed I am to have my health now, and to have gotten through this.”

“When you find yourself in a situation like mine, the kindness of the human spirit truly shows its best side.”

—FRANCES KOONS ’08 A&S
Bill Sepich ’09 A&S grew up knowing one thing: the smell of chlorine. As a collegiate athlete, he sidelined his passion for swimming to walk on to Villanova University’s cross country and track and field teams. This past winter, Sepich made his dive back into the pool and accomplished an unprecedented feat: qualifying for the 2007 Big East Conference Championships in two different sports during the same season.

“Since the Big East Conference implemented qualifying standards in the sports of indoor track and field and swimming and diving, no student-athlete has qualified for both championships, which are traditionally held on the same weekend,” noted Jim Siedliski, Big East associate commissioner for Olympic sports.

The Philadelphia media were quick to pick up on Sepich’s accomplishment, as was Sports Illustrated, which featured him in its April 7 issue, giving credit to an extraordinary athlete.

An avid swimmer since the age of 7, Sepich followed in his parents’ footsteps; both swam for Seton Hall University. His father, Bill, coached him as a star on the Burlington County YMCA swim team as Sepich simultaneously blossomed as a runner at Delran High School in southern New Jersey.

To discover his undeveloped potential, Sepich made the decision to halt his swimming career in college and focus primarily on track. Turning down full scholarship offers from smaller universities, he decided to walk on at Villanova. He explained, “I wanted to explore more about running, and it felt great to know I was going to be part of a team with one of the most respected coaches in the nation, Marcus O’Sullivan.” (A four-time Olympian, Marcus O’Sullivan ’84 VSB ’89 M.B.A. is the Frank J. Kelly Endowed Track and Field Coach.)

Sepich headed for the Main Line, full of ambition and promise. During his freshman and sophomore years, however, he struggled with injuries due to incredibly flat feet.

“I wanted to be a full-time runner, but that wasn’t working for me. Marcus said since I did so well in the pool in high school, why back off and change that?”

Sepich started swimming again, and immediately began reaping the benefits. “Taking the pounding off my legs and getting my upper body in shape really helped,” he recalled.

Unexpectedly in fall 2006, Rick Simpson, head coach of swimming and diving, spotted Sepich’s form and efficiency in the pool. He later asked O’Sullivan if Sepich could compete in dual meets for the swim team.

O’Sullivan happily agreed. “I thought it would give Bill a sense of goal orientation and purpose. He swam a couple of meets that winter, and made some healthy improvements that I felt were complimentary to what he was doing on the track,” the track coach said.

In December 2007, Sepich achieved his first Big East qualifying mark in swimming. At the end of January, he lowered his 1,000-meter-run mark to 2:29.41 and qualified for the Big East Indoor Track and Field Championships.

To O’Sullivan’s and Simpson’s delight, although the two championships were on the same weekend, they were in close proximity for the first time in recent history. This rare occurrence enabled Sepich to complete the double.

Sepich kicked off the Big East weekend with the swimming competition on Long Island, N.Y. He swam well in the medley and freestyle relays, but was disappointed in his 100-yard backstroke. “I was actually more excited to be on the relays than my individual event,” he said. “The atmosphere was electric, and just made you want to swim fast.”

After an exhausting three days of competitive swimming, he headed to New
York City for the track championships. In the 1,000-meter-run preliminaries, he felt the effects of swimming on his legs and did not advance to the finals. O’Sullivan commented, “Ultimately, I think the journey to have made both championships was in itself the reward.”

Will Sepich attempt to double his feat next indoor season? “I think I’ll stick to one championship next year,” he laughed. “I think everyone’s goal after making it to Big East is to score. I watch all of the other great runners Villanova has, and I want to be on that stage before I graduate.”

Sepich hopes to combine his running and swimming talents to train for triathlons. Simpson said, “I wouldn’t be surprised if he becomes a world-class triathlete. I think he has more to go next year in terms of his collegiate career, but I think his athletic career is far from over.”

Off the track and out of the pool, Sepich maintains a 3.39 G.P.A. as a biology major. He is enrolled in Villanova’s joint program with Thomas Jefferson University’s College of Health Professions that will enable him to earn both a B.S. in biology and a doctorate of physical therapy in seven years.

“I think Billy’s contribution is more a representation of what the essence of a collegiate student-athlete is,” O’Sullivan concluded. “As a coach, if you can step outside the path of the prestigious history of the program and just be a coach for a moment, where you’re getting an ordinary kid to improve, it’s very rewarding.”
Men’s Basketball Team Dances to the “Sweet 16”

By Michael Sheridan

A lone voice, peering at a flat-screen monitor in the lobby of the men’s basketball office in the Davis Center for Athletics and Fitness, first heralded the news.

“We were all watching in the Connelly Cinema as they announced the Midwest bracket,” explained Jay Wright, head coach of the Wildcats, on Selection Sunday. “They flashed Clemson as the No. 5 seed, and then we heard someone cheer in the lobby. Then we saw Villanova come up—and it was bedlam.”

Indeed, in that thoroughly 21st-century moment, with one plasma screen’s feed fractionally ahead of another’s, Villanova University had earned its fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament invitation in men’s basketball. Seven days and two victories later, the Wildcats were a part of the exclusive March fraternity known as the “Sweet 16.”

“This was really a testament to the leadership of our captains—Dwayne Anderson, Shane Clark, Dante Cunningham and Scottie Reynolds,” said Wright.

The ride from a Labor Day exhibition tour of Canada to Detroit’s Ford Field was not without its hills and valleys. Villanova won 10 of 11 in November and December 2007, highlighted by a remarkable rally from 15 points down with 3:15 left to a 68-67 victory over LSU on December 6. Yet the BIG EAST schedule loomed as formidable, and nothing that unfolded over the following 10 weeks diminished that assessment.

An impressive 81-71 win at Syracuse on January 19 gave the ‘Cats a 13-3 record and a No. 18 national ranking. But just as things seemed to have fallen into place, Villanova stumbled, dropping five consecutive games.

Yet the insertion of Anderson into the starting lineup on February 9, and the maturation of the team’s leaders, helped change the season’s course. With important home court wins over West Virginia and UConn, Villanova won seven of its final 11 games to put itself in position for serious consideration from the committee.

The joy of Selection Sunday followed the ‘Cats to Tampa, where they again rallied from a deep hole—this one 18 points in the first half—to beat Clemson, and followed that with a triumph over Siena. Even when No. 1 seed Kansas eliminated Villanova, it was difficult not to look back on a 22-13 season without satisfaction.

“We had our ups and downs but the guys kept working,” stated Wright. “It wasn’t always pretty, but by the end of the year we were playing Villanova basketball.”
Running—The Sacred Art: Preparing to Practice
By Dr. Warren A. Kay '74 A&S, '78 M.A.
SkyLight Paths Publishing
121 pp., Paperback
$16.99

Running does, indeed, provide an efficient way to burn calories for weight loss; it helps tone muscle and is great for cardiovascular health,” writes Kay. “But recently, men and women across the country have recognized that, like yoga, running can also be a spiritual exercise—a means to spiritual enlightenment or spiritual fulfillment.”

Kay teaches readers how to experience their daily runs as sanctuary, prayer, meditation, sacrament and pilgrimage. These spiritual experiences are quite simple, he says, emphasizing that a spiritual run does not mean literally “seeing Jesus” on your run, but rather developing your runs as a place to go to renew your mind and appreciate the beauty the Divine instills in the world.

He begins each chapter with rousing quotes for contemplation, and at the end of each chapter includes questions to write about in a spiritual running journal as well as thoughts to ponder during your next run. Through keeping such a journal and practicing contemplative running, readers will soon begin to notice a change in their spiritual attitudes toward running and life.

At the same time, Kay stresses that spiritual running requires discipline and effort over time. Performing it takes practice, as does every new skill. Nonetheless, Kay’s book is easy to grasp and applies to runners of all abilities and people of all faiths. He is not trying to mystify anyone with intangible ideas, and he defines his terms well and explains them in a straightforward manner. He includes personal stories and reflections, and guides readers toward their goals as a friend rather than as a lecturer.

A former member of Villanova University’s track and field team, Kay boasts a personal best of 1:53.4 in the 880-yards and was coached by the late Wildcat track legends Jumbo Elliott and Jack Pyrah. Kay earned his doctorate in theology at the University of Zurich. At Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass, he serves as assistant coach of the cross country and track teams, as well as department chair and associate professor of religious and theological studies. He teaches a popular course called The Spirituality of Running.

—Reviewed by Lindsay Kos ’09 A&S

Days of Gratitude: A Brief History of a Chesapeake Steamboat and the Town Named After Her
By William M. Denny ’70 M.E.
American Literary Press
52 pp., Paperback
$9.95

In recounting the history of this early method of navigating the upper Chesapeake Bay, author William M. Denny ’70 M.E. noted, “For close to a century, the western border of the town of Rock Hall, Maryland, ended at a small, unofficial town that took its name from a steamboat ‘Gratitude’ that docked there every day for more than 25 years. When ‘Gratitude’ began service to Rock Hall in 1887, she was one of the newest and most reliable modes of transportation on the Chesapeake Bay. When ‘Gratitude’ left Rock Hall for the last time in 1914, the 100-year history of steamboats on the Chesapeake had already begun its decline, and in another 50 years, steamboats would be gone forever.”

Denny discovered that the first trip of a steamboat on the Bay occurred on June 13, 1813. “The steamer ‘Chesapeake’ departed from Baltimore and slowly made her way south to the capital city of Annapolis,” he wrote. “The second trip ever made by a steamboat on the Bay was one week later when ‘Chesapeake’ steamed from Baltimore and went east across the Bay to Rock Hall.”

Prior to steam machine technology, passengers and goods traveled by sailboats whose schedules were completely ruled by winds and tides. But with steamboats, “Fixed schedules for departures and arrivals meant that people and businesses could accomplish tasks that were previously impossible,” Denny wrote. “The industry grew so rapidly that 75 years after the first voyage, and exactly midway in the 150-year history of steamboats on the Bay, more than 50 steamers crisscrossed the Bay each day. It was at this peak of the steamboat era that ‘Gratitude’ arrived to provide service to Rock Hall and Kent County.”

The author chronicles the history of all of this steamer’s illustrious voyages in a quickly developing part of Maryland’s Eastern Shore. He includes many photographs, maps, illustrations and posters to paint a visual picture of this era in the evolution of what remains a spectacular and enchanting region.

After graduating from Villanova University, Denny served for four years in the Navy as an engineering officer on two destroyers. He then spent more than 30 years in the commercial nuclear power industry. In January 2006, this history buff retired from engineering to pursue other interests.

—Reviewed by Holly Stratts
Thank you to alumni, chapter volunteers and fans for their support at basketball events, Coaches’ Nights, receptions and game watches throughout the season! There are many exciting events designed for alumni to enjoy Villanova Basketball. Visit alumni.villanova.edu in late August for the 2008/09 basketball events, schedules and registration information.

**New Student Receptions Welcome the Class of 2012**

Villanova alumni are hosting accepted students from the Class of 2012 and their families at New Student Receptions over the summer months. Designed to make the transition to college a little easier, these receptions are a great way for new students and their families to meet fellow classmates, current students, parents and alumni who can answer questions and share their Villanova experiences. New Student Receptions are held at locations around the country and internationally. If you would like to be involved in the New Student Reception program or know an incoming freshman who would like to attend, contact the Alumni Office at 1-800-VILLANOVA (800-845-5266).

**Villanova Singers Legacy Event**

Among those gathering for the Villanova Singers Legacy event were (from left) John Dunphy, director of Music Activities at Villanova; Paul Orleman ’73 A&S, Edu.; Brian Meneely, associate director of Music Activities (and current director of the Villanova Singers); Paul Gladney ’04 A&S, Arts; and Bill Ippolito ’72 A&S, Arts.

More than 200 Villanova Singers and 80 guests gathered on campus for a wonderful weekend of friendship and song on April 4-6. Brothers in song from six decades—the founding Class of 1956 through current members—enjoyed a memorable and moving weekend. Plan to attend the next Legacy event in late March 2010. More details and photos are available at www.vusingerslegacy.com.

**Paul A. Tufano ’83, ’86 Elected President of VUAA Board**

The Villanova University Alumni Association (VUAA) welcomes Paul A. Tufano ’83 VSB, Acct., ’86 J.D. as the new president of the Alumni Board of Directors. Tufano is senior vice president and general counsel of Independence Blue Cross. He has previously served as president of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the VUAA. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Consultants of Villanova’s School of Law and as a member of Villanova’s Board of Trustees.

**University Senate—Alumni Senator Elections**

Voting for alumni representatives to the University Senate will run from June 16-30. Voting will take place online at alumni.villanova.edu. For a paper ballot, please contact the Alumni Office at 1-800-VILLANOVA (800-845-5266) no later than June 24 to ensure receipt. Candidate statements will be posted online and are also available in paper form by request to the Alumni Office.
VUAA Travel Program for 2009 Announced at Reunion

Our travel program for 2009 was announced at a complimentary wine-and-cheese reception at Alumni Reunion Weekend in June. Whether you choose an African safari in exotic Tanzania or a sailing trip in the Aegean Sea to the Greek Isles or a tour of the magnificent art treasures of Spain, Italy and France in the Ancient Wonders of the Mediterranean, the Villanova University Alumni Association (VUAA) offers a destination you’re sure to love.

If you would like to receive a copy of our brochure detailing the trips for 2009, or if you would like more information about the VUAA Travel Program, please contact Pat Gillin at 1-800-VILLANOVA (800-845-5266).

Two Trips Added for 2008 Travel Program

Village Life in Switzerland—Alpine Lakes and Mountains
September 11-19, 2008

Stay at the Royal Plaza Montreux, a luxurious five-star lakeside hotel, while you explore the scenic beauty and Alpine splendor of the “Swiss Riviera.” An exceptional value, Village Life in Switzerland focuses on the scenic region surrounding Lake Geneva and the historic town of Montreux. Enjoy a private reception at the hotel featuring Swiss wine and cheeses, a visit to the classic Alpine village of Gstaad, a tour of the fortified medieval village of Murten, a cruise to Neuchâtel, a cogwheel train ride on the slopes of Mont Blanc, lunch in the Grand Hotel and an insider’s view from Hans Roggen (a native of Murten who served in the Papal Swiss Guard for 20 years) and so much more!

Make your reservation today for this exceptional opportunity at an incredibly attractive price.

Yuletide Traditions—Salzburg and Vienna
December 6-14, 2008

Experience an authentic, old-fashioned holiday in Austria, where the legends and traditions of bygone eras come alive each Advent and Christmas season. Many traditions associated with Christmas in the United States and around the world, from Christmas trees and toy nutcrackers to Advent calendars and carols like “Silent Night” and “O Tannenbaum,” can be traced to this region in Europe.

Enjoy a four-night stay in the deluxe Hotel Alstadt Radisson in Salzburg, where you will take a walking tour of this historic city, including Old Town (a UNESCO World Heritage site), Mozart’s birthplace, the elegant Mirabell Palace and more. Enjoy a lunch at the historic Stiftskeller Restaurant and an evening with a traditional storyteller, including Christmas cookies and Glühwein (hot spiced wine). Visit one of Austria’s famous Christmas Markets and the charming village of Oberndorf and its church built to commemorate the site where “Silent Night” was first performed. Enjoy seasonal music at the Mirabell Palace and the Mozarteum.

Travel to Vienna for three nights in the deluxe Vienna Marriott Hotel. Tour the city and the opulent summer residence of the Habsburgs at Schönbrunn Palace. Enjoy a drive through Vienna on a private antique streetcar and take part in a special Christmas cookie-baking workshop in Schönbrunn’s kitchens.

Make your reservation soon to enjoy the holidays in this fairy-tale setting with alumni and friends!

Events Calendar

The Villanova University Alumni Association (VUAA) and its local chapters have developed a diverse events calendar to attract alumni with varied interests. For further information regarding these events, including cost and location, please call 1-800-VILLANOVA (800-845-5266) or visit the Events Calendar at alumni.villanova.edu.

Pennsylvania, Delaware and Southern New Jersey Region
September 27
Jessica’s Race Against the Sun
October 24-26
Homecoming 2008
October 25
Annual Villanova Icecats Alumni Hockey Game

New York, Connecticut and North/Central New Jersey Region
June 16
Long Island Ducks Baseball Game
June 17
Central Connecticut Scholarship Golf Outing
June 23
Fairfield/Westchester Scholarship Golf Outing
October 9
Monmouth/Ocean Counties Scholarship Golf Outing

Mid-Atlantic Region
November 18
BECAPPO Networking Event in Washington, D.C.

Midwest Region
June 25
Chicago Cubs Game and Pre-Game Party

Southern Region
June 16
Atlanta Scholarship Golf Outing
Class Notes

1950s
Robert A. Natuelli ’52 A&S, Engl. was selected in a nationwide competition to attend the Sirenland Writers Conference in Postano, Italy. His recent short story, “Hollywood Marines,” appeared in the literary anthology Daily, Honor, Valor.

Francis Ncary ’53 VSB, Eco., with his wife, Gwen, celebrated 50 years of marriage at a special Mass in St. Francis Church in Greenlawn, N.Y. Among those attending were his children: Frank ’80 VSB, Eco.; Brian ’83 A&S, Hon.; and daughter Barbara.

1960s
Joseph F. Schubert ’60 E.E. is chief executive officer at Schubert Communications Inc. in Downingtown, Pa. The company provides business-to-business marketing communications.

Thomas L. Fagan ’66 G.S., Appl. Stat. was appointed executive vice president of Stellar Services Inc., an information technology firm in West Chester, Pa.

T. Timothy Ryan, Esq., ’67 A&S, Pol. Sci. has been named chief executive officer at the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, based in the New York City office. He had been vice chairman of investment banking for financial institutions and governments at J.P. Morgan and a member of the Investment Banking Coverage Management committee.

Thomas Balshi, D.D.S., ’68 A&S, Soc., founder of The Institute for Facial Esthetics, is featured in the global issue of Beyond Black, showcasing the world’s top plastic surgeons and including cutting-edge implant dentistry. Dr. Balshi and his team in Fort Washington, Pa., are renowned for their trademarked protocol, Teeth In A Day.

Philip Friedrich ’69 A&S, Soc., is executive consultant at Take Charge Consultants Inc. in Coatesville, Pa., where he integrates strategic planning and leadership development projects with federal government agencies.

1970s
James A. Anderson, Ph.D., ’70 A&S, Soc. has been elected chancellor of Fayetteville State University (FSU) in North Carolina. His career includes serving as vice provost, vice president and professor of psychology at the University at Albany; chair of Xavier University’s psychology department; and an 11-year tenure as vice provost at North Carolina State University. FSU, part of the University of North Carolina, enrolls almost 6,700 students.

The Rev. Joseph Calderone, O.S.A., ’71 A&S, Soc., ’73 G.S., Arts was elected interim president of Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass. The Augustineian college has 2,000 students. Father Calderone had served as chaplain at the Villanova University School of Law.

Leroy Jenkins ’71 A&S, Soc., ’75 J.D. was promoted to deputy general counsel at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Gerard “Jerry” Hempstead ’72 A&S, Gen. was awarded the lifetime designation of Distinguished Logistics Professional (DLP) by the American Society of Transportation and Logistics Inc. He has completed a 32-year career with Airborne Express and DHL and most recently helped design and plan a domestic hub and ground transportation network in China.

Phyllis Strohmeyer ’72 A&S, Gen., in addition to serving as mayor of Rochelle Park, N.J., is director of outpatient services for West Bergen Medical Healthcare, with locations in Ridgewood, Ramsey and Oakland.

Donald P. Fusilli Jr., Esq., ’73 C.E. was named chief executive officer of the new marine sciences subsidiary at David Evans Enterprises Inc. in Portland, Ore.

Mental Healthcare, with locations in the 1950s
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1970s
James A. Anderson, Ph.D., ’70 A&S, Soc. has been elected chancellor of Fayetteville State University (FSU) in North Carolina. His career includes serving as vice provost, vice president and professor of psychology at the University at Albany; chair of Xavier University’s psychology department; and an 11-year tenure as vice provost at North Carolina State University. FSU, part of the University of North Carolina, enrolls almost 6,700 students.

The Rev. Joseph Calderone, O.S.A., ’71 A&S, Soc., ’73 G.S., Arts was elected interim president of Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass. The Augustineian college has 2,000 students. Father Calderone had served as chaplain at the Villanova University School of Law.

Leroy Jenkins ’71 A&S, Soc., ’75 J.D. was promoted to deputy general counsel at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Gerard “Jerry” Hempstead ’72 A&S, Gen. was awarded the lifetime designation of Distinguished Logistics Professional (DLP) by the American Society of Transportation and Logistics Inc. He has completed a 32-year career with Airborne Express and DHL and most recently helped design and plan a domestic hub and ground transportation network in China.

Phyllis Strohmeyer ’72 A&S, Gen., in addition to serving as mayor of Rochelle Park, N.J., is director of outpatient services for West Bergen Medical Healthcare, with locations in Ridgewood, Ramsey and Oakland.

Donald P. Fusilli Jr., Esq., ’73 C.E. was named chief executive officer of the new marine sciences subsidiary at David Evans Enterprises Inc. in Portland, Ore.

Mental Healthcare, with locations in Ridgewood, Ramsey and Oakland.

Stephen J. Nolan ’73 A&S, Pol. Sci. was named by President George W. Bush as U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Botswana. A career member of the senior foreign service, Nolan had served as executive director of the Bureau of African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. David J. Battistini ’74 C.E. joined the Vineland, N.J., office of Prennoni Associates, a consulting engineering firm, as municipal division manager and senior engineer. The firm is headquartered in Philadelphia. Most recently he had been city engineer for Vineland.

Tony Ponturo ’74 A&S, Eco., is vice president of global media and sports marketing for Anheuser-Busch Inc. and president and CEO of Busch Media Group. In 2006 The Sports Business Journal named Ponturo the seventh most influential person in sports business, and in 2007 Business Week named him the 20th most powerful person in sports business.


Dr. Holly A. Robinson ’74 G.S., Arts in November 2007 was named commissioner of Bright From the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Dr. Robinson oversees an annual budget of more than $400 million and manages state programs to improve the quality of early care and education services for Georgia’s youngest citizens.

The Rev. Joseph DiMauro, O.S.F.S., ’75 G.S., Edu., associate dean of students at DeSales University in Center Valley, Pa., is the author of...

Barry A. Cooke, Esq., ’76 A&S, Pol. Sci., a shareholder with the Woodbridge, N.J., law firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, PA, was designated a Super Lawyer by Law & Politics Magazine. He is a member of the personal injury team in the firm’s Eatontown office.

Jean R. Ruttenberg ’76 G.S., Edu., is executive director of The Center for Autism in Philadelphia. The center received the Significant Achievement Award from the American Psychiatric Association for developing a comprehensive program to treat autistic children.

Dr. Christine Ligas Tracy ’77 A&S, Eng., of Ann Arbor, Mich., is an assistant professor of English at Eastern Michigan University. She earned a doctorate in communication and rhetoric at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Michael D. Huggins ’79 VSB, Acct., joined ScientX, S.A. as president and chief executive officer and as a member of its board of directors. He will use his background as a spinal orthopedic industry executive to shape the strategic direction of this largest independent spinal implant company in Europe. He is based in New York City.

1980s

Michele M. Dorris ’80 Ch.E. in 1980 joined Rohm and Haas Co. as a chemical engineer, and has held leadership positions in the commercial, manufacturing and information technology areas. She co-chairs the Rohm and Haas Women’s Leadership Network, an organization of more than 4,000 women; is a member of the Society of Women Engineers; and most recently was appointed to the board of trustees of the Alice Paul Institute.

Michael J. O’Connor, Esq., ’80 A&S, Gen., ’83 G.S., Pol. Sci., founder of Michael J. O’Connor and Associates, a law firm with 14 offices throughout Pennsylvania, is serving a second one-year term as state deputy for Pennsylvania. In October 2007, he was installed as a member of the board of directors of the Knights of Columbus, where he is a past Grand Knight of the council in Frackville, Pa. He also served as its district deputy, state advocate and state legislative chairman.

Gerard Cuddy ’81 A&S, Eco., is the new president and CEO of Beneficial Bank in Philadelphia.

Richard Hayden ’81 J.D., as noted in the January issue of Philadelphia Magazine, is a Philadelphia attorney and Harrisburg lobbyist who will (unofficially) be one of the most trusted and influential voices in the administration of Michael Nutter, Philadelphia’s newly elected mayor.

Madonna Marion-Landais ’81 G.S., Sec. Adm., in January joined the Villanova School of Business as associate dean for external relations. For the previous six years, she had been vice president for institutional advancement at Rosemont College, and for seven years before that she served as associate director of Alumni Affairs at Villanova University.

Dr. Lawrence J. Mulligan ’81 VSB, Fin., senior principal scientist at Medtronic in Andover, Minn., has collaborated with the University of California, San Diego, in publishing three papers on cardiac resynchronization therapy and computational modeling. He has been awarded his 10th patent.

Ronald R. Pirollo ’81 VSB, Acct., ’02 M.B.A., joined American Financial Realty Trust in Jenkintown, Pa., as assistant vice president and corporate controller.

Robert Rissolo ’81 A&S, Eco., a well-known professional piano player, has performed for many celebrities, including U.S. Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Bobby Valentine, Boomer Esiason, Harry Connick Jr., Lowell P. Weicker Jr., David Dinkins and the “Today” show crew. He has also played at the Larchmont Yacht Club, Westchester Country Club, Stanwich Country Club and Winged Foot Club. He is available to play at Villanova University events by calling (203) 323-4379.

Linda Gормley Hanna ’82 G.S., Sec. Edu., a professor of elementary education at West Chester University, is the author of a new book, Barbaro, Smarty Jones & Ruffian: The People’s Horses. Dr. Hanna’s book covers many aspects of thoroughbred horseracing, and advocates for greater responsibility within it. In telling about the lives of these three dynamic “fan favorites,” she shares her intense research. The foreword is by Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell ’68 J.D.

Dr. Gregory P. Muldowney ’82 Ch.E., ’83 M.Ch.E., engineering research manager for chemical mechanical planarization at Rohm and Haas, has been promoted to the rank of Fellow within the senior technical community. Recognized and valued for his research, he is a prolific inventor with 34 U.S. patents and nine pending applications.

Dr. Mary R. Sudzina ’75 G.S., Sec. Edu., was named professor emerita of educational psychology at the University of Dayton. She is the author of the text Case Study Applications for Teacher Education and the video “Teaching and Learning with Case Studies.”


Barry A. Cooke, Esq., ’76 A&S, Pol. Sci., a shareholder with the Woodbridge, N.J., law firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, PA, was designated a Super Lawyer by Law & Politics Magazine. He is a member of the personal injury team in the firm’s Eatontown office.

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1980s

Michele M. Dorris ’80 Ch.E. in 1980 joined Rohm and Haas Co. as a chemical engineer, and has held leadership positions in the commercial,
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Rosemarie Burke Dempsey ’83 VSB, Bus. Adm. is president and owner of Burke Consulting Services in West Chester, Pa., an insurance sales and consulting business offering life, disability and long-term care insurance.

Paul Calello ’83 A&S, Eco. was appointed chief executive officer of Credit Suisse Investment Bank in New York City. He had been based in Hong Kong as group CEO in Asia-Pacific.

Charles Guida ’83 A&S, Comm., ’91 M.B.A. has relocated to Henderson, Nev., to become president of the St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation. He will manage fundraising for the three St. Rose Dominican Hospitals, part of the Catholic Healthcare West, a system of 40 hospitals in California, Nevada and Arizona. Guida is one of seven foundation presidents who oversee fundraising policy for the 40 hospitals. He, his wife and their five children moved from Rhode Island in April.

David G. Wolf ’83 VSB, Bus. Adm. earned a master’s degree in organizational leadership from Cabrini College and is a candidate for a doctoral degree in organizational leadership at Eastern University.

Frank Coladonato ’84 VSB, Acc. is vice president finance at inTEST Corporation in Cherry Hill, N.J., where he oversees the finance and accounting function of the company’s global operations. He also assists in reviewing potential merger and acquisition targets for this company that produces testing products for semiconductor manufacturers.

Kathleen Donnelly ’84 Ch.E. directs an organization of 1,300 engineers and technicians who provide critical support equipment and aircraft launch and recovery systems for the Navy and Marines at the Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station in New Jersey. She and her husband and their two children live in Toms River.

Mark C. Labrum, Esq. ’84 VSB, Fin. was named litigation partner at the trevose, Pa., law firm of Fenningham, Stevens & Dempster LLP, where he concentrates in the areas of product liability defense, construction litigation, zoning and land use. He and his wife and their two daughters live in Hatfield.

Michele Finn Johnson ’85 Ch.E., ’93 G.S., Water Res. Eng. is president of Artemis Consulting Group Inc., a nationwide environmental
strategies firm in Tucson, Ariz. Johnson was named one of 14 national Women-Owned Business Stars of 2008 by the Women’s Business Enterprise Council, based on their leadership and inspiration to other women-owned businesses.

Michael Kaminiski ’85 M.E. was promoted to senior vice president of worldwide engineering at FP International, a leading manufacturer of innovative protective packaging products. The firm is headquartered in Redwood City, Calif.

Peter Fong ’86 M.E., ’95 M.B.A., regional manager for the mid-Atlantic market of Ford and Lincoln Mercury Sales Operations, in February delivered the keynote address for Villanova University’s Engineers Week celebration. (See page 35.) Fong is a member of the Villanova University Alumni Association’s Board of Directors.

Christopher Duca ’88 VSb, Bus. Adm., president of Navigators Pro in New York City, was named a member of the Young Presidents’ Organization, whose 20,000 members worldwide learn, exchange ideas and share strategies.

Christian Tecca ’88 A&S, Comp. Sci. is managing director at Geesink Norba Group in Emmeloord, the Netherlands. He, his wife, Kim, and their four children are relocating to the Netherlands.

Jeanne Burkle Clark ’89 A&S, Comm. was promoted to managing partner at MEC Interaction, a global media communications agency in Manhattan that specializes in direct response and interactive marketing.

Elizabeth “Betsy” Hunt, M.D., M.P.H., ’90 A&S, Bio, was named the first director of the Johns Hopkins Simulation Center, part of Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore. This new unit enables staff to practice and learn in a simulated environment to improve safety within patient care.

Dr. Francis R. Wood ’90 G.S., Edu., ’91 G.S., Couns./Hum. Rel. was appointed superintendent of schools in Highland Park, N.J. She holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Widener University.

Peter Armstrong ’91 VSb, Acct. joined Ernst & Young in Philadelphia as a senior manager in the business advisory services practice. His focus is on finance and performance management.

Navy Cmrdr. Elizabeth Jackson ’91 VSb, Mkt. is heading to Djibouti, where she will be the deputy of contingency contracting operations for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. This multi-service operation works against terrorism and piracy, and provides humanitarian aid to many African countries, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan and Tanzania. She can be reached at betjayson@yahoocom.

Louis Polisano ’91 VSb, Fin. is chief executive officer at ISA Consulting in Blue Bell, Pa. The company offers business intelligence, performance management and data integration consulting.

Jeri Smith-Ready ’91 A&S, Eng/Hon., a writer who lives in Westminster, Md., announces that her fourth published novel, Wicked Game, about a radio station run by vampires, was released by Pocket Books Inc. This book is the first in a new series. Her Requiem for the Devil was reviewed in the Spring 2005 Villanova Magazine.

Joseph Hackett ’92 A&S, Engl. writes that in 2007 he had a co-starring role in the NBC show “ER,” and will appear in two feature films due out this year. One of them, “A Woman Called Job,” is slated for the Sundance Film Festival. He and his wife, Heather, reside in Los Angeles, where he runs a small production company.

1990s

Greg Aschman ’90 VSb, Acct. is head of investor relations at Alcoa in New York. He had been finance director for Alcoa’s building and construction systems business, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Vincent LaMonaca ’92 A&S, Psy., ’98 J.D. was elected partner in the Philadelphia law firm of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP. His practice includes financial services litigation insurance recovery and defense, and products liability.

Thomas Loughery ’92 VSb, Mgmt., of Jim Thorpe, Pa., has formed a new company, EasyHandsFree, which supplies and installs hands-free car phone systems.

James Marrocco ’92 E.E. was promoted to principal project engineer at ATK in Fort Worth, Texas. He oversees the technical aspects of homeland-security-related aircraft programs.

Melissa Grimm ’93 VSb, Mgmt. is director of corporate and public affairs for Aqua America Philadelphia Magazine (January 20) listed her as part of the brain trust in the administration of Philadelphia’s newly elected mayor, Michael Nutter.

Matthew E. Haggerty ’93 A&S, Pol. Sci., ’05 M.B.A. is chief executive officer of Times-Shamrock Communications, a nationwide media organization based in Scranton, Pa. He had been general manager of Times-Shamrock Interactive Media, where he managed Internet business relationships with Yahoo Inc. and the online content and advertising strategies of all Times-Shamrock properties.

Amanda Layton, Esq., ’93 A&S, Soc., an attorney in the Philadelphia law firm of WolfBlock, was elected to the board of directors of A Chance to Heal Foundation, a nonprofit organization specializing in preventing eating disorders.

Frederick B. Rolf ’93 VSb, Acct. is chief financial officer at MeMedia, a growth-oriented technology firm.

Brian T. Smith ’93 E.E. is NASA’s lead flight director assigned to the International Space Station and the European Space Agency’s Jules Verne automated transfer vehicle, which was launched from France in March. A magna cum laude graduaté of Villanova University, he earned a master’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania while serving with L-3 Communications Systems East in Camden, N.J. He was featured in the Fall 2005 Villanova Magazine.

Mathew H. Werthman, Esq., ’93 A&S, Comp. Prog. was named a partner in the Philadelphia law firm of Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branzburg & Ellers LLP.

Nicole Gamba ’94 Nur. is nurse manager for inpatient and outpatient pediatrics at a National Institutes of Health facility in Bethesda, Md.

Dr. Pete Iovine ’94 A&S, Chem. earned his Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. An assistant professor at the University of San Diego, he will be eligible for tenure this year. He was awarded a National Science Foundation Career Award, which is given to untenured faculty in support of their research and teaching.

Kristin McIlhenney ’94 A&S, Phil., after 10 years as a history teacher at Greenwich Academy in Connecticut, is now a candidate for a doctoral degree in urban geography in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

Sheila Connolly ’95 A&S, Engl. has been hired by NBCSports as a feature producer for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. She will spend August in China producing profiles of the athletes and other features for the network. This is her second Olympics—she worked the 2006 Winter Games in Torino, Italy.

Tamm S. Davis ’96 G.S., Pol. Sci. graduated in May from the religious studies division of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. She serves as a procurator for the Diocese of Camden (N.J.) Tribunal.


Lt. Cmrdr. Patrick Finney ’96 E.E. was deployed to Afghanistan in February. He recently received his M.S. degree in fire protection from the University of Maryland and celebrated the birth of his second child, daughter, Sloane, in October 2007. He is married to Mary Kathryn Johnson Finney ’97 A&S, Hum. Serv., ’99 G.S., Edu.
Michael Muchowicz ’96 A&S, Bio. is clinical supervisor of home health therapy at Palos Community Hospital in Palos Heights, Ill., as counsel in the legal department.

Sneha Patel Desai, Esq., ’96 VSB, Mgt., joined BASF Corp. in Florham Park, N.J., as counsel in the legal department.

Jennifer Graeke ’97 Nur. is clinical educator/manager in the emergency department at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. She is a candidate for an M.B.A. degree at The Johns Hopkins University and a member of the Washington, D.C. Metro Emergency Nurses Association.

James R. Haelele ’97 VSB, Fin., ’99 VSB, Acct., has been promoted to partner in the Moorestown, N.J., tax service firm of Haelele Flanagan.


Jason A. Martini ’97 VSB, Acct., was promoted to vice president in the capital markets division of Sovereign Bank in Wyomissing, Pa.

Lori M. Nasif, D.M.D., ’97 A&S, Bio. is in her sixth year in private practice as a general, cosmetic and implant dentist in Fort Lee, N.J. She and her husband, Sebu Idiculla, D.M.M., a dental specialist in Manhattan, are the parents of two daughters and reside in Oradell.

Michael J. Warren ’98 A&S, Educ., a language arts teacher at Central Middle School of Science in Anchorage, Ala., was honored at a gala in Los Angeles with a 2007 Milken Educator Award, the largest teacher recognition program in the United States. He led his students in using “geocaching” to research their city. Each Milken Educator receives $25,000 from the Milken Family Foundation.

Amy Lanza Wiedmann, Esq., ’98 A&S, Comm., is an associate in the litigation and appeals group of Rivkin Radler LLP, a national law firm with offices in New York and New Jersey. She is a J.D. graduate of the City University of New York.

Victoria Heller Johnson, Esq., ’99 A&S, French Lang./Lit., an associate in the Philadelphia law firm of Fox Rothschild LLP, was named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyers “Rising Star.” She was one of only six healthcare attorneys selected and is based in Exton, Pa.

Mark A. Bartholomaei, Esq., ’97 A&S, German Lang./Lit./Pol. Sci., an associate in the Pittsburgh office of the Philadelphia law firm of Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, was named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyers “Rising Star.” He serves as counsel to a leading generic pharmaceutical company in defense of its products liability cases and frequently participates in and speaks at seminars. In May, he spoke on “Lawyering in the International Market” seminar in South Africa. He is fluent in German and is an adjunct professor at the Community College of Allegheny County.

Steven S. Poulathas ’99 VSB, Acct., ’02 J.D. joined the Cherry Hill, N.J., law firm of Flaster/ Greenberg as an associate and member of the corporate/tax, mergers and acquisitions, and trust and estate practice groups.

Amy Lanza Wiedmann, Esq., ’98 A&S, Comm., is an associate in the litigation and appeals group of Rivkin Radler LLP, a national law firm with offices in New York and New Jersey. She is a J.D. graduate of the City University of New York.

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Lauren Kelly ’99 A&S, Educ./Engl. is a seventh grade reading and language arts teacher in Oakhurst, N.J. She holds a master’s degree in school administration from the University of Scranton.

Michael D. Pareato ’99 C.E. is senior project manager at Jones Lang LaSalle in Chicago. He earned an M.B.A. degree from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.

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2000s

Kevin Amoruso ’00 VSB, Mgt., resides in Ringwood, N.J., where he and his wife, Renée, celebrated their first wedding anniversary.

Dewey Hammond ’00 A&S, Comm., of San Francisco, is managing editor of Yardbarker.com, a Web site in Emeryville, Calif., dedicated to letting fans and athletes “debate sports, read and write articles, and watch videos.”

Olivia Martel ’00 A&S, Engl., ’03 G.S., Engl. is the community programs coordinator at the Princeton University Graduate School. She creates events and programs encouraging graduate students to stay connected to Princeton. Formerly, she was an academic advisor for the College of Arts and Sciences at Northeastern University.

Qian Qi ’00 G.S., Bio. spent time after graduation teaching and traveling throughout the United States, China, North Korea and points beyond. He plans to publish a travel book when he settles in China.

Navy Lt. Roger Raber ’00 A&S, Hist. is serving aboard the USS Kauffman, homeported in Norfolk, Va. He plans to retire from active service.

Janine Begley Fong ’01 VSB, Fin. in March 2007 received a master’s certificate in human resources from Villanova University.

Kevin Jakubowski ’01 A&S, Comm./Engl., a screenwriter, had his first feature film, “Assassination of a High School President,” première at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. The noir-comedy, which he co-wrote, stars Bruce Willis and Mischa Barton. It will be in theatres nationwide this summer.

Brett Gordon ’02 VSB, Mgt. joined DVFG Advisors, LLC, a financial planning firm in Conshohocken, Pa.

Brad Ingersley ’02 VSB, Mkt. sold the screenplay for a thriller, “The Low Dweller,” that will pair Leonardo DiCaprio and Ridley Scott again. Variety and The Hollywood Reporter noted his feat of selling a first screenplay on spec, after a hot bidding war.

Kevin Falvo ’04 a&S, Comm. was awarded the Philip J. Levin Scholarship as a second-year student at the Rutgers School of Law-Camden. He is a dean’s list student; treasurer of the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity; and a member of the Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion, the Health Law Society and the Federalist Society.

Byron White ’04 a&S, Fin. was executive editor of the University of Miami School of Law Review.

Stephen Basiga ’04 VSB, Fin., ’04 VSB, Accct. was awarded the Philip J. Levin Scholarship as a second-year student at the Rutgers School of Law-Camden. He is a dean’s list student; treasurer of the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity; and a member of the Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion, the Health Law Society and the Federalist Society.

While serving with the Army in Iraq, three Villanova classmates got together to discuss old times. They are (from left) Andrew Conway ’05 VSB, Intl. Bus./Mkt.; William Kobbe ’05 VSB, Accct.; and Andrew Graziano ’05 VSB, Accct. Graziano proudly wears his Nova cap.

Kara D. Beverly, Esq., ’04 A&S, Eco. has joined the Cleveland law firm of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burchoughs, LLP as an associate in the employment and workers’ compensation practice.


Army 1st Lt. Justin Drakonski ’04 A&S, Pol. Sci. and Army 1st Lt. Kevin Falvo ’04 A&S, Engl. are both in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and have been deployed to northern Iraq for the next year.

Kelly Hoisington ’04 VSB, Fin./Intl. Bus., is a public relations specialist for Lincoln Financial Group in Charleston, S.C.

Julianne Kalasinski ’04 A&S, Comm. is communications director at United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania in Scranton. He is one of four co-founders of a young professionals networking organization called POWER (Professionals Organized and Working to Enrich the Region). The Web site is www.nepapower.com. He holds a master's degree in communications from Marywood University.

Meghan Klaric ’04 A&S, Chem., ’04 A&S, Hon. in May 2007 received a master’s degree in chemistry from the University of Southern California. She will begin her second year at the Villanova University School of Law next fall.

Daniel S. Morris ’05 A&S, Pol. Sci., ’07 G.S., Pol. Sci., who will begin his second year at the Rutgers School of Law-Camden next fall, received the Hon. Clarence E. Case Scholarship. He is a dean’s list student, a staff editor for the Rutgers Law Journal and a member of the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity.

Shawnta Simmons ’05 G.S., Pub. Adm., is communications coordinator for the Bermuda International Business Association, a nonprofit organization that works with businesses and government to promote Bermuda internationally.

Rong Cheng ’06 G.S., Pub. Adm., is a research assistant with the population science division at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia.
Vicki Clark ’06 G.S., Pub. Adm. was appointed director of housing and financial literacy for the Greater Baltimore Urban League.

Rishi Mathur ’07 G.S., Pub. Adm. is a program analyst at the Adult Residential Licensing Center in Norristown, Pa.

Anthony Maalouf ’08 G.S., Pol. Sci. was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Newtown Square, Pa. He is a beneficiary of Rotary’s Scholarship Grant Program.

Marriages

1980s


Kristin Enggelder ’89 VSb, Fin. married Robert D. Maher.

1990s

Tracey Gangi ’92 C.E. married Jeff Johnson.

Olimpia Rea ’93 C.E. married Robert Brucato.


Chris Barton ’96 C.E. married Helenanne Baker.


Michelle Humowicki ’96 C.E. married Ryan Rodenberg.

Kate Haseltine ’98 A&S, Gen. married Scott Romplick.

Kristen Kenney ’98 A&S, Phil. married Shawn Youngblood.


Lindsay Terrill ’99 VSb, Mgt. married Andrew Flanagan.

Katherine Selbstbitschka ’99 A&S, Psy. married Keith Badey.

2000s


Brian Russo ’00 VSb, Acc. married Taci Sacco ’00 VSb, Gen.

Janine Begley ’01 VSb, Fin. married Jeff Fong.

Matthew Fielder ’01 A&S, Comp. Sci. married Joyce Condon ’02 VSb, Fin.

Kevin Bosse ’02 A&S, Pol. Sci. married Melissa Cox.

Matthew Levinson ’02 VSb, Accct./Fin. married Adrien Weeks.

John McMichael ’02 A&S, Psy. married Maureen Godfrey.


Dr. John Dawson ’03 Ch.E. married Erin Ingvalson.

Charles Gallagher ’03 M.M.E. married Colleen Carroll ’02 A&S, Soc., ’05 J.D.


Patricia McRedmond ’03 VSb, Fin. married Oliver Nisenson.


Melissa A. Squarea ’04 A&S, Comm. married Joseph D. Fordyce.

Eric Barron ’05 A&S, Astr./Astro. married Lisa Winter ’03 A&S, Hon., ’03 Astr./Astro.


Edward Horstmann ’05 M.B.A. married Angela DiFabio ’01 VSb, Mgt. Info.


1990s


Dennis Shin ’91 C.E., girl.


Michael Buono ’93 A&S, Gen. and JoAnn Brantku Buono ’95 A&S, Psy., boy.

Brian Goebel ’93 A&S, Gen., boy.

Frank J. Ingarra ’93 M.E., boy.

Kristin Julason Damato ’93 VSb, Mgt., boy.


Margaret Nahas Fitzgerald ’93 A&S, C.E., boy.


Scott A. Meyers ’94 C.E., twin girls.

Tina Nienburg Rezaei ’94 Nur., boy.

Christopher Rizzo ’94 VSb, Accct., twins, boy and girl.


Will Grimmer ’96 C.E. and Jennifer Zapata Grimmer ’96 VSb, Accct., girl.


Lynn Pisccher Schiller ’96 A&S, Psy., girl.

Kelly Rostel McFeely ’96 VSb, Accct., girl.


Chris Cashman ’97 A&S, Geo., girl.


Michael Nader ’97 VSb, Fin. and Tricia Healy Nader ’97 Nur., boy.

Genevieve O’Connor Faulk ’97 Comp., Sci., boy.

Kyra O’Hea Tucker ’97 Nur., girl.

Christopher Pernetti ’97 VSb, Fin. and Susan A’Dario Pernetti ’99 VSb, Fin., girl.

Christopher Duff ’98 VSb, Fin. and Caroline Travieso Duff ’97 Nur., girl.


Jennifer Lyden Pierzchalski ’98 VSb, Mkt., girl.


Marissa Taffaro Tesdeo ’98 VSb, Mkt., girl.


Sean Camoni ’99 A&S, Comm./Hon. and Michele Calabro Camoni ’01 A&S, Psy., girl.


April Quartell Eck ’99 A&S, Hum. Serv., twins, boy and girl.

Rebecca Roeco Kelly ’99 A&S, Gen., girl.

Lisa Singleton ’99 VSb, Acct., boy.

2000s

Christy Bergamino Errico ’00 VSb, Acct., girl.
Kristopher Harrison ’00 A&S, Soc. and Marina Knappman Harrison ’00 A&S, Comm., boy.
Sean Hoelzle ’00 E.E./Comp. Eng. and Melissa Lord Hoelzle ’01 A&S, Psy., girl.
Elizabeth B. Soviero ’00 A&S, Psy., girl.
Kevin Arch ’01 VSb, Fin. and Rebecca Rahl Arch ’01 A&S, Comm., boy.
Keith Lovas ’01 C.E. and Kendra Zenker Lovas ’03 A&S; Edu./Psy., boy.
Seamus Robins ’01 Ch.E., girl.
Neil Almario ’02 VSb, Mkt., girl.
Ryan Halla ’02 C.E. and Kelsi McBroom Halla ’01 VSb, Acct., ’01 VSb, Fin., girl.
Patrick Palomo ’02 VSb, Fin. and Lauren Battista Palomo ’02 Ch.E., girl.
William Binder ’03 VSb, Bus. Adm./Mkt. and Ann Fischer Binder ’04 VSb, Accct., girl.
Chad Moore ’03 M.B.A., boy.
Michael Seibert ’05 M.E., ’06 M.M.E., girl.

In Memoriam

1930s

Art Carlton ’37 C.E., on December 31, 2007.
John Simons ’38 Ch.E., on December 28, 2007.

1940s

Joseph J. Libot ’41 C.E., on December 23, 2006.
Donald White ’45 Ch.E., on January 13, 2007.
Clyde A. Cobb ’49 M.E., on March 5, 2007.

1950s

Joseph Jerome Selinger ’50 VSb, Eco., on February 14.
John T. Breslin ’51 C.E., on January 22.
The Rev. Ralph Charles Shurer, O.S.A., ’51 A&S, Phil., who retired in 2003 from teaching at Villanova University after more than 40 years in the classroom and biology lab, on April 8.
Edward Raymond Casey ’52 VSb, Eco., ’60 J.D., on January 31.
Mark A. DeMarco, Esq., ’52 VSb, Eco., on January 16.
Richard Donald Connor Sr. ’53 VSb, Eco., on December 26, 2007.
Donald A. Fitzgerald ’53 VSb, Eco., ’56 J.D., on December 26, 2007.
Eldridge MacEwan ’53 A&S, Gen.
Edward Francis McMahon ’54 C.E., on September 22, 2007.
Robert M. Serena ’56 VSb, Eco., on March 24.
Gregory G. Giles ’58 VSb, Eco., on January 20.

1960s

Alvin E. Decker ’60 VSb, Eco., on November 25, 2007.
Dr. Edward J. Schaller ’61 Ch.E., on December 10, 2007.
Walter R. Bailey ’64 A&S, Hist., on March 23.
Catherine Buffington ’64 Nur., on November 4, 2007.
Dr. Stephen Feinstein ’64 VSb, Bus. Adm., on March 4.

Quentin Dougherty ’67 VSb, Eco., on December 13, 2007.

1970s

Carol Hopke ’72 A&S, Math., on January 2.
David Vaughn Knuth ’73 C.E., ’79 M.C.E., on January 7.
Samuel Bowens ’74 G.S., Sec. Adm., on January 7.
James J. Cipriano ’75 VSb, Acct., on February 15.
Christopher Joseph Gaertner ’75 VSb, Bus. Adm., on February 11.
Sister Mary of Nazareth McDonald ’77 G.S., Lib. Sci., on February 11.
Delmar L. Houshower ’79 G.S., Arts, on September 13, 2007.

1980s-1990s

Carla Kietze ’85 G.S., Lib. Sci., on February 27.
Bonnie A. Grant ’88 VSb, Bus. Adm., on February 27, 2007.
Meet the brilliant 19-century Augustinian friar who became the “father of modern genetics.” Recreate Mendel’s famous pea experiments to discover the laws of heredity for yourself, understand the basics of genetics and meet modern Mendels — scientists on the cutting edge of the field today.

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