Hope Flies
Through drones and GIS mapping, Villanova advances Catholic Relief Services’ efforts in Madagascar
Dear Friends,

Signs of spring are beginning to pop up all over campus—and the budding flowers are far from the only growth we’re seeing at Villanova.

We’re excited to give more of our students an opportunity to live in community, as we put the finishing touches on an impressive new residence complex that will enable us to house more undergraduate students on campus than ever before. We look forward to what the future holds for our arts community as work continues on the new Performing Arts Center—a space that reflects the quality of our students, faculty and staff, the caliber of our productions and the talent of our performers and artists.

Our campus is being transformed before our eyes. We have just completed a historic campaign. We have never had more talented students in our classrooms and labs. Our faculty are among the brightest minds in their fields, challenging and inspiring students across our academic programs. Our athletic programs continue to bring national attention to our University. Our opportunities to make a greater impact through service across the globe are reaching new thresholds. And yet, the higher we climb, the more firmly rooted we remain in the values that have brought us to this point.

As St. Augustine said, “The higher your structure is to be, the deeper must be its foundation.” Our students and alumni often talk about the transformational journeys they’ve embarked on to become the best version of themselves. Similarly, we as an institution continue to grow and evolve as we become the best Villanova we can be. We have much to celebrate in this new season at our University, but we have so much more we can accomplish as Villanova continues to bloom.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, ‘75 CLAF
President
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**Nova-Worthy**

**University’s Credit Rating, Outlook Upgraded**

Citing Villanova’s strong financial position and rising national profile, the credit rating agency Standard & Poor’s recently upgraded the University’s bond rating to AA-. “This upgrade demonstrates that the University is financially stable, sustainable and a prudent steward of its resources,” says Kenneth G. Valosky ’82 VSB, executive vice president. “We are on solid ground as we continue to increase our commitment to providing educational access through financial aid and enhance our academic programs and campus facilities.”

An upgraded bond rating from S&P results from an independent assessment of the University’s financial position, and its signals to investors that Villanova’s bonds are a high-quality investment. The higher rating makes the University’s bonds more attractive to investors, which in turn should result in increased demand, favorable pricing and reduced interest costs on future bond issues.

Villanova’s bonds are considered the University’s strong national profile; its credit-worthiness, also recently reaffirmed Villanova’s ability to recruit increasing numbers of high-achieving students and its growing selectivity; its strong operating practices and prudent financial management, and its increasing financial resources, boosted by the success of the recently concluded capital campaign, which raised more than $760 million.

**A Captivating Act to Follow**

**Thought-Provoking Issues Take Center Stage in Villanova Professor’s Award-Winning Plays**

James Ijames, MFA, assistant professor of Theatre, says a friend described his plays as “hammer-funny.” They strike hard with humor to break through the audience’s bias and preconceived ideas, allowing incisive themes of race, gender and socioeconomic class to enter.

Turns out “hammer-funny” breaks down critics, too—one of Ijame’s recent works, Kill Move Paradise, was awarded the National Arts Club’s 2018 Kesselring Prize, which honors and supports emerging playwrights in the development of their work. As a result, Ijames received $25,000 from the Club Kesselring Fund and the chance to develop his work during a two-week residency at the organization’s historic clubhouse in New York City. The club also staged readings and scenes from Ijames’ plays in November. In Kill Move Paradise, four black men find themselves stuck in a cosmic waiting room in the afterlife. Inspired by the slainings of unarmed black men around the country, Ijames describes his play as “a portrait of the slain, not as degenerates who deserved death, but as heroes who demand that we see them for the splendid beings they are.” Despite the characters’ unjust killings, they become symbols of hope and hint toward society’s collective transformation.

Critics and audiences beyond the region have taken notice of Ijames’ efforts. Kill Move Paradise, which they originally hails from Bessemer City, a small town outside of Charlotte, N.C., was staged at the Villanova Theatre in 2015 and is set to premiere in the Edinburgh University Theatre Company in 2017. Critics have praised the play as “hammer-funny” and “a cosmic waiting room in the afterlife.”

In reviewing Villanova for these changes, both agencies cited the University’s strong national profile, the credit rating agency Standard & Poor’s recently upgraded the University’s bond rating to AA-. Outlook Upgraded

**A Thought-Provoking Issue in Villanova Professor’s Award-Winning Plays**

**Playwriting Awards**

2015 Kesselring Prize, given by the National Arts Club
2017 Whiting Award, given by the Whiting Foundation
2016 Terrence McNally New Play Award
2015 Poe Fellowship in the Arts for Playwriting
2011 F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Artist
2001 Independence Foundation Fellowship in Performing Arts

Thought-Provoking Issues Take Center Stage in Villanova Professor’s Award-Winning Plays...
After discovering that news fatigue has been proven to cause stress and anxiety, Ryan Burke ’08 VSB, creative producer at Google Creative Lab, developed “Tell Me Something Good”—a feature for the Google Assistant that provides a daily dose of good news. Just say “Hey Google, tell me something good,” and receive a short news summary about people who are working to make the world better. These news summaries are curated through the lens of solutions journalism—an approach that has been proven to empower and uplift audiences by reporting not just the problems in society but also the emerging solutions.

“Tell Me Something Good”

Ryan Burke ’08 VSB

Learning to write fluently in Arabic takes practice. That’s something Barbara Romaine, an Arabic instructor in the Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies, emphasizes to students when they’re struggling to master the challenging Arabic writing system. When she couldn’t find the type of educational materials she needed to help them get that practice, Romaine created her own. “After using this makeshift approach for a few years, it occurred to me that perhaps my idea amounted to a potential textbook in and of itself,” she says. What began as a workaround is now a published workbook in its second printing with Georgetown University Press.

Write Arabic Now! A Handwriting Workbook for Letters and Words got off the ground with the help of an instructional mini-grant from the Villanova Institute for Teaching and Learning, which provides funding to full-time Villanova faculty members to develop new teaching and learning approaches. Using handwriting samples from fellow Arabic instructor Lana Iskandarani, the workbook allows learners to practice letter formation on tracing paper that is bound into the book. It also comes with audio of the practice words so students simultaneously learn how to pronounce the words they’re writing.

“The audio component is vital, since the way a word is represented on the page and the way it is spoken are inextricably linked,” Romaine says. “It is wonderful to have the privilege of witnessing each new generation of students encountering Arabic for themselves, and having their own experiences unlocking the language’s mysteries.”

Nova-Worthy

Good Eggs

Becoming the first university of its size to commit to offering 100 percent certified humane, pasture-raised shell eggs by 2021, Villanova has earned a spot in Farm Forward’s Leadership Circle. The program recognizes pioneering institutions that raise the bar in institutional food purchasing, leveraging their buying power to change the way animals are raised for food.

New Center Aims for Medical Breakthroughs

On the leading edge of research into gene therapy and its implications for the treatment of cancer and other diseases, Villanova’s College of Engineering has launched NovaCell, the Center for Cellular Engineering. The NovaCell lab will use state-of-the-art equipment and systems to explore personalized medicine, in which a patient’s own cells can be genetically modified to fight disease.
To Sleep, Perchance to Text
Nursing Professor’s Research Highlights Sleep Texting Phenomenon

S
leepwalking and sleep talking aren’t that out of the ordinary—just sleep texting? Turns out it might not be either. More than 25 percent of college students reported sending or responding to a text message in their sleep, in a survey conducted by Villanova Nursing Professor Elizabeth Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN.

Featured in more than 200 media outlets, including Good Morning America, The Guardian and TODAY, the findings gained massive interest after Dr. Dowdell co-author Brianne Clayton, RN, ’14 FCN, ’18 MSN, published their study in the Journal of American Health.

The idea came about while Dr. Dowdell was working with a group of Villanova undergraduate nursing students on research into internal behaviors in high school students. “That’s when I first heard the term ‘sleep texting,’ and I wanted to know who’s doing it,” she says.

Dr. Dowdell conducted a survey of approximately 272 college students to get some answers. She found 93 percent kept their cell phones in their bedrooms with them at night, and those students who sleep text were more likely to report sleep interruption and sleepwalking than those who do not sleep text. Turn off or mute your phone at night—or at least use airplane, sleep or do not disturb mode.

Pay attention to your parents’ habits. Sleep texting is a behavior related to dependence on cell phones and Wi-Fi technology, which is why we really need to have conversations with young people about the need for boundary areas,” she says.

“Remind them they control the technology—it does not control them. We role model that behavior. There are times we have to leave our phones on, but there are also times when we can and should turn them off. We have to take an active role in managing our technology.”

25% of college students reported sending and responding to text messages while sleeping

Behavioral Research Lab Enables Collaboration

Located in Bartley Hall, the new Laboratory for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research provides a physical space for Villanova School of Business faculty and students to conduct research studies using surveys, interviews, focus groups and other primary sources. Its state-of-the-art tools for data collection also make it a valuable resource for course projects that require primary data collection and other activities that call for cutting-edge research practices.

What It Means to Be the First

Students, faculty, staff and alumni, including University President the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, ’75 CLAS, shared their stories as the first in their families to attend college during Villanova’s inaugural First Generation Celebration Week. Here are a few of their stories:

Kathleen Kalata
ON THE ROLE OF ACADEMICS AS MANAGEMENT MENTORS IN A CONTEMPORARY INSTITUTION

“My parents were Polish farmers who came to the United States for the opportunity for a better life. Without even a high school degree or a full understanding of English, this was not an easy task. My mom would credit it to every morning, ‘God gave you gift. With this gift, God also has high expectations. You must use this gift to help you to help others.’ My mother’s motto was the reason behind my applications and acceptance to Villanova University. It is my contribution to continue studying and taking advantage of every opportunity Villanova has to offer. Lastly, her words will be my motivation to ‘pay it forward’ and help other students to reach their dreams like my day to day.”

Sebastian Tor
ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

“My dad was a World War II veteran who planned on attending college using the GI Bill but had to go to work to support his family. For example, you could help your parents meet through mortgage paper work, to buy your family’s first home. Or, you could be an interpreter for your mother during jury selection. I am the first in my family to receive a bachelor’s degree, but I sure had a lot of support from my family to the wall in my parents’ home. That’s because ‘my degree is, in reality, our family’s degree’.”

Ellie Berry
NFU PELICAN, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF INTERCOLlegiate AFFAIRS AND LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

“I grew up in West Philadelphia with two hard-working parents and two siblings. I was fortunate to have had parents who valued education and sacrificed to send me to preparatory and private schools, an older brother who earned a college degree and a cohort of friends who were college bound. As a result of hard work, I was fortunate to have earned a BA, MS and PhD by the age of 28. It was necessary for me to always meet with guidance for each stage of education. I was very thankful for having emotional support from my parents, even if they did not fully understand the magnitude of the tasks I faced.”

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VOICES
Nova-Worthy
How Villanova’s Center for Irish Studies Is Helping to Carry on Princess Grace Kelly’s Legacy

Making Irish Connections Across the Globe

SOUNDS of Irish poetry and music filled the Kelly House once more when the historic East Falls home of the late Princess Grace Kelly opened its doors for an event for the first time last April. Villanova’s Center for Irish Studies helped to organize the reading by Irish poets Collette Bryce and Vona Groarke, two of its esteemed former Charles A. Heimbold Jr. Chairs.

“It was especially apt and touching—the only performing that Princess Grace undertook after her marriage was poetry reading, and she had a great love of her Irish heritage,” said her niece Susan Kelly vonMedicus, who teaches for the Center for Irish Studies and the Department of Theatre and Studio Art at Villanova.

When her cousin, Albert II, Prince of Monaco (Princess Grace’s son), purchased the home to restore it to its former glory, vonMedicus suggested Villanova as the lead academic partner for events, such as lectures, contemporary author readings and music.

Now that partnership is expanding to include the Princess Grace Irish Library in Monaco, which houses more than 9,000 volumes of Irish books, literature, music and poetry that belonged to Princess Grace. “The library was founded to not only house its extensive collection, but to also create a place for new scholarship in Irish Letters with residencies, lecture series and a children’s room,” vonMedicus says.

In fall 2020, Villanova’s Center for Irish Studies will host a conference at the library focused on Ireland and the arts, inviting Irish scholars from around the world. “This collaboration is really important for Villanova because it takes us beyond the dyad connection between Ireland and America and internationalizes the program,” says Joseph Lennon, PhD, co-director of the conference at the library.

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The collaboration... takes us beyond the dyad connection between Ireland and America and internationalizes the program.

Joseph Lennon, PhD

Did You Know?

For his novel Solar Bones, Villanova’s 2010 Heimbold Chair Mike McCormack won the International Dublin Literary Award, one of the largest prizes in the world for a single work of literature. “He’s one of the hottest fiction writers right now, and we’re fortunate to have him teaching two courses here this semester,” Dr. Lennon says.

Villa Nova-Worthy

The Bigger Picture

Anthony Busa ’19 COR, landed dream opportunity to work with National Geographic and an independent photographer in 2017 and 2016, which took him deep into remote Mongolian and Tibetan communities.

Photographs he took on those excursions, displayed in the Villanova Art Gallery last fall, capture unique moments, as well as the spirit of cultures that are vanishing due to modernization and globalization.

“As a photographer, I do my best to understand and appreciate different ways of life, and, through the photographs, I try to help others attain a meaningful understanding and appreciation,” Anthony says.

PHOTO: ANTHONY BUSA

Nova-Worthy

Nova-New Orleans to Villanova

Villanova has become the 50th partner institution of The Posse Foundation, one of the nation’s premier college access, success and youth leadership development programs. Founded in 1989, Posse recruits groups of high-achieving students with academic and leadership potential from cities around the country, and then works with its college and university partners to place the groups of students—called Posse Scholars—in each institution.

Villanova has committed to provide 10 Posse Scholars per year for the first cohort of Posse Scholars at Villanova in fall 2020. "This collaboration... takes us beyond the dyad connection between Ireland and America and internationalizes the program."
Computer Science Professor Frank Klassner, PhD, and three Villanova students are currently organizing a weeklong trip to the Pope’s summer home later this year. They plan to capture thousands of images to create a seamless interactive tour that allows visitors to roam the gardens and rooms of the 17th-century Papal Palace online.

“It will be a much larger scale than what we’ve done before because it will take you inside of the Castel Gandolfo palace and also outside on its garden grounds,” says Dr. Klassner, director of Villanova’s Center of Excellence in Enterprise Technology.

It will be the ninth project to come out of an exclusive decade-long internship program between Villanova’s Computer Science Department and the Vatican Museum. Dr. Klassner has served as the project lead for a total of eight virtual reality tours created for the Vatican’s website, including the Sistine Chapel, the Basilica of St. Peter and, most recently, the Redemptoris Mater Chapel, a space reserved exclusively for the Pope.

Completed in December, the Redemptoris Mater tour was three years in the making. Dr. Klassner and two student interns—Zachary Rahn ‘16 CLAS and Albert Hermida ‘18 CLAS—captured 800 photographs of the space and painstakingly stitched together 200 to 300 of those images to create an interactive virtual tour. Using historical resources from the Vatican Museum, the tour also provides the historical background and significance behind the chapel’s stunning architectural detail and imagery.

“I’m happy to be contributing our expertise in this area to support the Vatican’s outreach efforts online,” Dr. Klassner says.

“Many don’t realize it, but the Church has a tradition of employing the newest technologies to reach people across the world for nearly a century—going back to Guglielmo Marconi’s first radio broadcast with Pope Pius XI in 1931.”
Blockchain Reaction

New MBA Elective Tackles Complex Technology

Even if you’ve never heard of it, blockchain technology is poised to change the world. In the next decade, William “Bill” Wagner, PhD, expects blockchain technology—already a $100 billion-a-year industry—will underlie nearly every line of business and become a critical aspect of finance and government services.

“There is a huge gap in the knowledge of what blockchain is and can do. It is very critical for students to become ‘blockchain literate,’” says Dr. Wagner, associate chair of Accounting and Information Systems in the Villanova School of Business.

An expert on this relatively new technology, Dr. Wagner has co-authored an introductory textbook on blockchain and worked to incorporate it into the VSB curriculum—including a new MBA elective. Education in blockchain has expanded to academic courses in the College of Engineering and the undergraduate Business program.

So what is blockchain? “Think of it as a credit card—minus the credit card company,” Dr. Wagner says. The technology can be used to validate transactions just as a credit card company does, but with much lower fees.

It stores information in a distributed ledger of transactions, one that all the blockchain participants can see without revealing their own identities. With bitcoin, a popular kind of blockchain-based currency, the user can transfer funds to another person or company almost instantly, without the aid of an intermediary such as a bank to validate the transaction. The participants in the blockchain network function like a bank to make sure that the transaction is valid. Then all the transactions are encrypted and stored on the blockchain so that it is impossible to tamper with them.

A global race is underway, with countries and companies competing to be the first to adopt blockchain and to set the encryption standards to secure the information. “This technology is changing rapidly, in ways that we may not be able to anticipate yet, potentially disrupting whole industries. As a result, entrepreneurs and new companies are springing up to use blockchain in the hopes of making the world faster, cheaper and more efficient,” Dr. Wagner says.
Decoding Russian History
History Professor Covers 1,000 Years in Video Lecture Series for The Great Courses

Stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean, Russia spans 11 time zones and two continents—making it the world’s largest country by area. Villanova’s Lynne Hartnett, PhD, has a lot of ground to cover in a new video course on Russia’s history she developed for The Great Courses. A 24-lecture series, “Understanding Russia: A Cultural History” explores the political, cultural and social fabric that weaves history as spreading across the country’s geographical magnitude. “Russia developed as an empire, rather than as a culturally homogeneous entity, and so the effort to define what it meant and means to be Russian was just as relevant in the era of Ivan the Terrible as it is in Putin’s Russia today,” says Dr. Hartnett, associate professor of History and director of Villanova’s graduate program in History.

In exploring Russian identity, she examines the lives of everyday Russian people alongside the contributions of historical and cultural Russian figures like Leo Tolstoy, Peter Tchaikovsky and Mikhail Bulgakov. “We miss out on key aspects of Russian history if we limit ourselves to the study of rulers and revolutionaries,” she says.

For more than a decade, Villanova students have delved into these intricacies and nuances in Dr. Hartnett’s classes. She was excited to share some of her scholarship with a wider public through The Great Courses. In exploring Russian identity, she examines the lives of everyday Russian people alongside the contributions of historical and cultural Russian figures like Leo Tolstoy, Peter Tchaikovsky and Mikhail Bulgakov. “We miss out on key aspects of Russian history if we limit ourselves to the study of rulers and revolutionaries,” she says.

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3,286 cumulative GPA of Villanova student-athletes

17 student-athletes with perfect 4.0 GPA

31 consecutive semesters with student-athlete GPA greater than 3.0

8 consecutive semesters with GPA above 3.2

380 student-athletes named to the Athletic Director’s Honor Roll

Studying Like Champions

Student-athletes at Villanova—constantly ranked among the nation’s best for their combination of academic and athletic success—have continued their record of academic achievement.

In November, the NCAA released new Graduation Success Rate data, which shows the proportion of student-athletes on teams who earn a college degree. The NCAA report showed that all Villanova athletic programs had a GSR that beat the national average for their sports, and 12 teams recorded perfect 100% GSR scores.

A closer look at the teams’ other strong academic stats show they score high across the board:

Did You Know?

An internationally recognized expert in modern Russian history and culture, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Adele Lindenmeyr, PhD, shares her expertise on the podcast “What Really Happened” with Andrew Jenkins. The episode titled “The Boris and Bill Show” took a look at the relationship between US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Villanova’s Wambaa African Dance Company daces you to sit still during one of the performances. When the music starts—maybe an infectious Afrobeat song or just a driving drumbeat—a dozen or so dancers enter in perfect unison, legs fluid, arms rhythmic and powerful. They move with the kind of precision that comes with hours of practice, but they perform with the joy that comes from friendship, community and out-and-out fun.

Founded in 2012, the dance company chose the name Wambaa, combining syllables from three different Nigerian dialects that all mean “come.” Everything the company does, from open-door workshops to high-energy performances at basketball games, charity events and dance showcases, is designed to be inclusive. Members represent a wide variety of backgrounds—both in dance experience and cultural roots—so the student-choreographed numbers often fuse traditional African styles with step, modern, hip-hop and other movement that originated across the African diaspora.

“While we are a dance group, we try to form relationships with everyone on campus, from Athletics to academic departments to other student organizations,” says student co-President Kared Pierre ’19. “We love to interact with students, faculty, alumni—anyone who wants to share our diverse cultures and roots through the experience of dance.”

Her co-leader, Opochemi Famakinwa ’19 CLAS, put it this way: “When people see us dancing by the Oren, they might say, ‘I can’t dance!’ but our answer is, ‘Sure, you can!’ You can come to a Wambaa workshop, learn a new way to move and through that, you learn a little about our culture.”

Unity in Motion
Student Group Builds Bridges through Dance

Student Group Builds Bridges through Dance

Did You Know?

Average night of the performances a semester, Wambaa members practice for two hours, twice a week, all year long.

SPRING 2019

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO: PAUL CRANE

PHOTO: PAUL CRANE

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PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

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PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES
A Case-by-Case Basis

Even before Villanova Law Professor Steven L. Channerson, JD, was named to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, he envisioned creating a workshop that would bring together sitting judges, practicing lawyers, criminal justice experts and law students to debate the sentencing of reformed, real-life cases. Participants would read materials about the cases, including the police reports and court transcripts. They would then craft and be ready to explain their own sentencing judgments ahead of the workshop.

This distinctive 360-degree legal experience, adapted from programs at Yale and Minnesota universities, would consider complicated questions, like why similar criminal cases could result in one defendant being sentenced to one year in state prison and another a stint in state prison. Criminal cases could result in one defendant receiving a complicated question like ‘why similar criminal cases could result in one defendant being sentenced to one year in state prison and another a stint in state prison.”

Channerson runs the workshop alongside Mark Bergstrom, adjunct professor at Villanova Law and executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, which works to create sentencing guidelines for felony and misdemeanor crimes in the state. Villanova Law students enjoy a nontraditional classroom experience while Pennsylvania judges receive continuing judicial education credit.

“The is one of the very few workshops on this topic in the country and has a very high reputation across the Commonwealth,” Bergstrom says. Offered in conjunction with the Commission and the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts, the workshop is held at the Inn at Villanova over two long weekends. It typically starts with comparatively simple cases, often involving drugs or theft, before delving into more serious cases. In the evenings, experts on sentencing discuss topics like risk assessment and the proper role of prisons. The experience gives students the opportunity to learn about all the factors that affect sentencing decisions and to explore potential careers in practicing criminal law.

“The in the workshop, participants often improve sentences that are all over the map. Yet, when we drill down, we frequently discover reasonable explanations for those differences. Our model allows all the participants to learn from each other,” Channerson says.

Each participant brings a unique perspective to the workshop, deepening the discussions. And experienced legal practitioners find that Villanova Law students ask questions that challenge long-held assumptions. “We’ve always done it this way” is never taken as the right answer,” says Channerson.

Did You Know? Appointed by three successive governors of Pennsylvania, Channerson served as a member of the Commission on Sentencing from 2002 to 2015, including three years as chair. Formed in 1978 to promote an effective, humane and rational sentencing policy across the Commonwealth, the commission is composed of members of Pennsylvania’s House of Representatives and Senators, other Pennsylvania government officials, judges and lawyers.

Bird Watching

CPS Alum Serves as Injury Video Review Technician for the Philadelphia Eagles

B"I align the technology and support the resources to initiate and follow through with the NFL’s concussion protocol on the sidelines.”

Ron Tedesco ’18

Philadelphia Eagles fans spend a lot of time watching the ball, but Ron Tedesco ’18 CPS never takes his eyes off the players. As part of the independent medical staff that carries out the NFL’s Game Day Concussion Diagnosis and Management Protocol, he’s on the sidelines of every home game at Lincoln Financial Field. A recent graduate from Villanova’s College of Professional Studies, Tedesco puts his IST in Information Systems to work full time as the director of Information Technology at National Elevator Industry Benefit Plans.

For all preseason, regular season and postseason games, two certified athletic trainers are stationed in a booth overseeing the field to observe the game and monitor the broadcast feed to identify potential player injuries, with an emphasis on concussions and other head and neck injuries. As they identify plays for review, they can send video down to the field for the team doctors to review to help diagnose potential injuries.

For the past five seasons, serving as an Injury Video Review Technician, Tedesco says he has been “a second version of instant replay; dedicated to injury review and player health. I align the technology and support the resources to initiate and follow through with the NFL’s concussion protocol on the sidelines.” He liaisons with both staff, who review game action and make notes about what they see, and with the neurologist on the field.

4 Big East Titles

won by Villanova Track & Field, Women’s Swimming & Diving and Men’s Basketball

Ron, Steven, Elie, Stephen

Four Villanova teams have added to their dominant run at the conference with Big East team titles.

Women’s Indoor Track and Field was in record 20th team championship while recording the highest score in the meet’s history. The Wildcats were nine individual events, including a 1-2-3-4 sweep of the mile race.

Men’s Indoor Track and Field finished its own team championship title in its sixth season.

The Women’s Swimming and Diving team ruled the pool again, securing its sixth straight Big East Championship. The Men’s Basketball team also won a Big East Tournament trophy, defeating Seton Hall, 76–72, to secure its record-setting third consecutive Big East title.

PHOTO: RON TEDESCO

Image}

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Women’s Indoor Track and Field was in record 20th team championship while recording the highest score in the meet’s history. The Wildcats were nine individual events, including a 1-2-3-4 sweep of the mile race.

Men’s Indoor Track and Field finished its own team championship title in its sixth season.

The Women’s Swimming and Diving team ruled the pool again, securing its sixth straight Big East Championship. The Men’s Basketball team also won a Big East Tournament trophy, defeating Seton Hall, 76–72, to secure its record-setting third consecutive Big East title.
Hope Flies

Through drones and GIS mapping, Villanova advances Catholic Relief Services efforts in Madagascar.

BY SUZANNE WENTZEL

PHOTO: JOHN SHETRON

2021
As he packed his bags to return to Madagascar in June 2018, Eric Wagner ’12 CLAS checked off the items on his list: toothbrush, socks, umbrella, charger, ... drones. The Villanova alumnus, an expert in geographic information systems, or GIS, was fulfilling a promise he’d made the previous summer to Catholic Relief Services in the world’s fourth largest island: to personally deliver unmanned aerial vehicles and related equipment. ■ Villanova has enjoyed a 13-year institutional partnership with CRS, the overseas relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in the US. Since 2015, the University has been involved year-round with helping CRS and its Malagasy partners to carry out a project funded by the US Agency for International Development in Madagascar. The project’s goals in this nation off the southeastern coast of Africa are to promote the health and nutrition of pregnant women and young children, increase and diversify household incomes, and build communities’ resilience to disasters. ■ On site and in the classroom, faculty, staff and students have shared their time and knowledge in areas such as water infrastructure, health, hygiene and microlending. Now they’ve added drone technology, which can take humanitarian work to new levels.

VILLANOVA-CRS 2018
20 STUDENTS 7 AREAS OF STUDY
BUSINESS ENGINEERING FRENCH GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT PEACE AND JUSTICE POLITICAL SCIENCE NURSING

A VIEW FROM ABOVE
After they arrived in Madagascar, Wag-
nier, then an instructor and GIS lab manager at Villanova, and two graduate students laid the foundation for CRS staff to become proficient with drones. During two weeks of classroom presentations and hands-on tutorials, the Villanovans imparted their expertise, teaching staff how to develop and carry out a flight plan and to fly drones through manual controls.

The opportunity to educate others by building on what they had learned at Villanova was exciting for the graduate students. “A significant number of drone applications involve the integration of GIS software,” says Nick Zoccoli ’17 COE, who will finish his master’s in Civil Engineering in May. “My coursework in the Department of Geography and the Environment provided strong background knowledge in GIS, which aided in my explanation of certain drone concepts to the new users.”

The lessons were a success. Novice operators were soon collecting imagery of projects such as water delivery sys-
tems and dune stabilization. “It was definitely rewarding to receive a video from Madagascar showing the successful application of the drones only months after our teaching experience,” Zoccoli says. “Because drones can get detailed, real-time imagery superior to that of satellites, increasingly experienced users in Madagascar will be able to make informed decisions and respond quickly—for example, in getting aid to villages devastated by a tropical cyclone. Drones also are more affordable and efficient than helicopters at assessing situations from above.”

Wagner, an FAA-certified drone pilot and now a solution engineer at Esri, an international GIS company, had discussed the advantages of drones with CRS when he and a team from introducing drone technology to conducting research for water-related projects. Villanovans collaborate with CRS staff in Madagascar on humanitarian initiatives.
of Villanovans visited Madagascar in summer 2017. The staff liked what they heard. But where and how would they get the proper equipment? He was on it, Wagner said.

Back at Villanova, Wagner and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Information Technology team customized a computer to do the sophisticated processing required for the data the drones would collect. With CRS funding, Wagner also purchased two aerial survey drones and eight trainer drones. At every step, he got input and feedback from staff in Madagascar.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

The introduction of drones was not the only reason why 2018 was a remarkable year in the Villanova-CRS partnership. A record 20 Villanova students received two-month, CRS-related internships. The 15 selected to support work in Madagascar came from nursing, engineering, French, geography and the environment, and business. In the three regions of Madagascar where most of the Villanovans interned, the mix was interdisciplinary.

“In summer 2018, we used an integrated approach to place the students,” says Josh Poole, the CRS country representative in Madagascar. “Students from different majors worked in each of three clusters, tackling the challenges of their respective communities from an interdisciplinary perspective.”

For example, nursing students in the cluster that worked with the Diocesan Development Council of Toliara gathered data on malnutrition and illnesses, such as diarrhea and malaria. The group of students then used their GIS skills in analyzing and mapping geographical data to visualize the findings. “By combining forces, we were able to map which areas had the most problems with which diseases so that local leaders could address these issues and better allocate resources,” Gaby Molina ’19 FCN says.

Beyond the number of students and the interdisciplinary benefits, Villanova’s partnership with CRS “has reached a high-water mark,” says Dan Griffin, who oversees the partnership for the University. First, an unprecedented number of undergraduates participated in 2018. Second, they got to work in the field with professionals and those closest to each situation. Students didn’t simply tag along. They applied their skills to the real problems of people whose lives they felt privileged to enter.

“They applied their skills to the real problems of people whose lives they felt privileged to enter.”

The best part of my job,” says Griffin, who served with CRS for 14 years, “is when students discover the compassion and genuine solidarity that motivate the best humanitarian service.”

Being “in the field”—the agricultural kind—was, to the surprise of Zainis Bob-Grey ’19 VSB, the best part of her experience. Zainis was involved with the Saving and Internal Lending Communities, a microfinance program. One of her tasks was learning about farmers’ production processes. She met with local growers and toured the often-swampy farmland. “I think of myself as a tech person,” Zainis says.

In the classroom and in the field, Villanovans and CRS work closely with Malagasy communities to develop their own solutions to local needs.

PHOTOS: CRS MADAGASCAR/VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

GLOBEPLOTTERS

With slices of pizza at hand and music in the background, Villanova students can be found glued to their computer screens in the Geographic Information Systems lab, doing their part to help with disaster relief and development. They are members of GlobePlotters, Villanova’s student chapter of YouthMappers, an international network of universities that uses web-based, open-source GIS technologies to help communities be more resilient.

Started by GIS “alumni” of the 2017 Madagascar trip, the chapter contributes to humanitarian mapping projects around the world, especially those that require emergency responses.

“Helping people in vulnerable areas is the most rewarding aspect of the club,” says Amanda Bristowe ’19 CLAS, one of the chapter’s founders. “It’s amazing that technology allows a group of students from Villanova to assist with a disaster thousands of miles away and see the impact they are creating through mapping.”
Zainis says, “But I realized how important it was for me to walk around with and talk to the farmers. It gave me a new perspective on agribusiness.”

**GOT A MAP FOR THAT?** Five undergraduate skilled in GIS interned in Madagascar in 2018. Another three stayed stateside, providing GIS support for countries in Africa via CRS headquarters in Baltimore. The demand for students with this knowledge reflects how, globally, the collection, analysis and visualization of geospatial data has become essential across industries for identifying problems, devising solutions and tracking results.

In Madagascar, which deals with food insecurity, natural catastrophes and environmental degradation, GIS can be a lifesaving tool. Villanovans help CRS and the organizations they work with to understand how to use the data they have and which data they should be amassing.

“The map is the starting point to determine how projects can be run and the people better served,” Wagner says. “By analyzing the data, you can see who takes advantage of opportunities and who doesn’t, and then figure out why. Are people not coming to food distribution centers or mobile health clinics because the route is impassable? The road unsafe? The distance too great?”

In 2018, much of the GIS work focused on collecting agricultural data. Trekking through rain forests and across wetlands, students used GIS applications on their smartphones to map property boundaries so that farmers can more accurately estimate crop yields. As part of a data and statistics team in southwestern Madagascar, Andres Serbia ’19 CLAS mapped a canal and the agricultural parcels that it irrigates. His analyses will be useful in considering the impact of extending the canal to increase rice productivity.

“We created data sets that future generations will be able to use for better analysis.”

Other students focused on infrastructure development and natural resource management. Teamign with the ECAT Development Office in Mananjary, on the eastern coast of Madagascar, Adolfo Gonzalez ’19 CLAS used GIS to quantify data from satellite imagery to measure the success of tree-planting efforts, a critical initiative in areas where deforestation has led to ecological crises.

The Villanovans also trained their partners to use GIS analysis and mapping to organize and interpret existing data. For example, the students mapped levels of malnutrition in children ages 2 to 5, as well as the success of investments made by savings communities. They also introduced staff to a host of GIS applications and software.

**BEHIND THE NUMBERS** From the seriousness of testing drinking water for arsenic—more than half the population lacks access to potable water—to the enrichment of exploring Malagasy culture, Villanovans lived the University’s values. Students collaborated to bring new knowledge to light and worked with local people, joining in efforts to improve the quality of their lives, while respecting each person’s dignity.

“In the lab at Villanova, we would collect data and not think much about it,” says Jamie McGee ’19 CLAS. “But when we were in Madagascar, we saw that those numbers represented kids we were meeting and hanging out with. Those numbers showed that their villages weren’t doing well. It made much more of an impact.”

For Barbara Wall, PhD, vice president for Mission and Ministry, helping CRS to promote the common good in Madagascar goes to the heart of what matters to this Catholic and Augustinian university. “We are partnering with an agency of the US Catholic Church in a part of the world that recently emerged from a history of colonialism and poverty,” Dr. Wall says. “Our students and faculty are growing in solidarity with these communities, working together for a more just and sustainable environment.”

**INVESTING IN WHO WE ARE**

Seeking the good of those who are marginalized, and bringing knowledge to better the world. These two values are not afterthoughts at Villanova. They guide its mission, unify its academic enterprise and calibrate its achievements.

That’s why Villanovans are committed to the work of faculty and students in and on behalf of Madagascar—and why one alumnus couple is so committed to Villanova, establishing the Michael I and Theresa M Mruz ’72 Global Peacebuilding and Social Justice Fund in 2016. Through the fund, the Mruzes support, expand and evolve the CRS partnership in Madagascar and other initiatives through the Office for Mission and Ministry.

When it comes to promoting social justice and human welfare—hallmarks of the Madagascar experience—the Mruzes recognize the importance of cross-college collaboration and strong external partnerships. Thanks to their generous gift, Dan Griffin says, “students are seeing and learning that real-world, complex problems require a multidisciplinary approach.”
The Villanova alumnae who gathered in the Finneran Pavilion one evening in November represented an array of life experiences. They were teachers, surgeons, researchers, nurses, artists, engineers and entrepreneurs. Some were recent graduates, while others had been students here decades ago, representing the era when women had first been fully admitted to Villanova.

Yet the women all shared one aspect of their life stories— they had once been Villanova student-athletes. They had trained, competed, studied and excelled as Wildcats, and that experience had shaped their lives. At a gala that November evening, it was a time to bring together the generations of women athletes who have woven their stories into the rich fabric of the Villanova athletic tradition over the past 50 years. A time to celebrate all they have achieved, and the community that has supported them along the way.

“At heart, being an athlete is about having ambition. It’s about having a vision for yourself and your team. It’s about working hard, overcoming obstacles and striving to be your best self. All while elevating your team and those around you,” said Nnenna Lynch ’93 CLAS, a Track and Cross Country All-American and Rhodes Scholar who is now a Villanova Trustee, in her keynote address at the 50th anniversary celebration. “To have the health, energy and talent to participate, let alone the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level, is an amazing gift. And it’s a particular honor to represent this institution.”

Built over the decades by dedicated athletes, coaches and University leaders from a handful of teams into a powerhouse that has won national championships and...
Women became a part of Villanova’s Athletics program at the same time they were taking their place in campus classrooms. There had been female students in some programs prior to 1968, but that year all academic programs were made officially co-educational.

In fall 1968, a group of female tennis players approached Robert Langran, PhD, then the coach of the Men’s Tennis team, asking him if he’d coach a women’s team as well. They played their first two matches, and “Wearing the ‘V’ on your singlet makes you feel like a superwoman,” says Gina Procaccio ’87 ’98, who competed in Track and Cross Country for Villanova and has been head coach of the women’s teams since 2000. “You don’t want the tradition’s excellence to stop with you.”

Harry Perretta ’85 MA has witnessed the evolution of Villanova Women’s Athletics since its very early days. Head coach of the Women’s Basketball team for 41 seasons, he has seen the difference that Villanova’s approach to building community and supporting student-athletes has made in his players’ lives. “Students always come first. Everyone in this community cares about one another,” he says.

One of Perretta’s current players, Jannah Tucker ’14 ’25 CLAS, can attest personally to the supportive culture. Jannah transferred to Villanova before her junior year, recovering from knee injuries and from the trauma of a past experience with domestic abuse. Her spirit, confidence and skill level have been rebuilt at Villanova through the care of her coaches and teammates, as well as through the relationships she’s built with alumnae of the program. “The Women’s Basketball alumni are more than just names on a plaque—they come back to campus and are mentors for current players like me,” she says. “It inspires me to ask myself, ‘What am I doing to do my part forward for the next generation?’”

It’s that emphasis on legacy that sets its athletes up for success and fulfillment as athletes, as students and as people. “Women’s Athletics at Villanova represents the collective dream of so many Villanovans. It is on their shoulders that we were able to build it,” says Lynn Tighe ’97 CLAS, Villanova’s senior associate Athletics director, chief Athletics administrative officer and senior woman administrator, as well as a former student-athlete herself.

“Their stories are part of an achievement that begins with donning the Villanova uniform and competing as Wildcats.”

Women’s Athletics at Villanova represents the collective dream of so many Villanovans. It is on their shoulders that we were able to build it.”

Lynn Tighe ’97 CLAS

TRACING THE WILDEATS’ TRAIL

Women’s Athletics at Villanova

- The first women’s varsity sports were tennis and basketball in 1969.
- Women’s tennis became a varsity sport in the 1969–1970 season.
- Women’s basketball became a varsity sport in the 1969–1970 season.
- The first women’s varsity sport to add a conference title was track and field in 1970.
- Women’s athletics at Villanova evolved over time, adding sports like volleyball, soccer, and softball.
- The evolution of women’s athletics at Villanova demonstrates the progress and achievements of female student-athletes.

Villanova Magazine
How are you? “I’m fine.” Many times, that’s where the conversation ends. Except, what if that’s just the beginning?

Not just of a conversation, but of the whole experience of being a Villanovan and cared for by this community?

Every September, over the course of one evening, more than 100 Villanova faculty and staff volunteers visit every first-year student in the campus residence halls. The task is simple: to ask every student they meet, “How are you?” and really listen to what they have to say. We check in on each other, a simple gesture that starts with one small question that’s no longer a platitude, but an act of caring.

The program is called House Call, and it was started at Villanova 17 years ago as a Student Life initiative and brought to life by Paul Pugh, former dean of students, and the Office for Residence Life. A version of the program is also offered for commuter students, who are invited to a luncheon at the start of the year.

Hopefully everything is fine, even great—they love their classes; they feel at home on campus; they’re making tons of friends. But maybe there have been some challenges, ones you’d expect from young adults going through a major transition in their lives: they miss home; they’re still adjusting to new surroundings; they feel a bit overwhelmed by all the new people and experiences.

There is a practical component to House Call—staff members can follow up immediately about any concerns expressed that evening, whether it’s an emotional support that needs to be extended or a facilities issue that needs to be addressed. But the main purpose is deeply personal, to show first-year students that there is an entire community supporting them, willing to knock on their door, just to make sure they’re OK and thriving. The program is the embodiment of what it means to be Augustinian, to live and learn in community and to be present for one another in a personal and intentional way.

House Calls provides a moment of connection in the rush of a student’s first weeks here. And with 96 percent of first-year students returning to Villanova for their sophomore year—a rate well above the national average—that one evening may contribute to the larger feeling of belonging that is the hallmark of the Villanova community.

Through Villanova’s House Call program, faculty and staff volunteers start conversations with first-year students.

BY MARIAN BUTCHER

Villanova Magazine

SPRING 2019
Built to Last

How does Villanova’s project management team keep up with all of the new developments on campus? We spent a day with senior project manager Marilou Smith ’84 COE to find out.

BY COLLEEN DONNELLY
People who have worked with Smith during her 22 years in Facilities Management at Villanova wouldn’t be surprised to see that she gets a head start on her to-do list before the sun even comes up. She has a reputation as a problem-solver who always steps up. “Marilou is a great engineer and project manager and has a good perspective and balance in her approach to issues that crop up,” says Robert Morro, vice president for Facilities Management.

Since ground broke on the construction in 2015, Smith has worked with 60-plus outside consultants—from architects and engineers to traffic experts and parking lot specialists—“She has to mediate competing priorities and timelines with all of those people, and she’s very skilled at taking complicated issues and distilling them down to what’s really important to us,” Morro says.

STEWARDSHIP AT WORK

Smith is one of eight full-time project managers at Villanova, who have a wide range of experience in mechanical, electrical, and civil engineering. Led by Steve Hildebrand, assistant vice president for Engineering and Construction, the team tackles an average of 150 projects per year—from relatively minor jobs like an office refresh to game-changers like the $65 million Finneran Pavilion renovation.

When a new job comes in, Hildebrand looks at the type and size of the project and chooses a project manager based on current workload, expertise, the intensity of the job and familiarity with the particular building. “The broad base of expertise our team has—not only in terms of engineering specialty but of field experience—is crucial to support the wide range of needs we have across campus,” he says. “Every project that we approach is extremely important to the client, so the attentiveness, expertise and management we lend to any of these jobs is the same regardless of the size. Each job is part of our mission to build a better University.”

Their blueprint is the campus master plan. Commissioned in 2008 by University President the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD ’75’CLAS’81, it is the first documented campus master plan in the University’s history, Morro says. Bit by bit, his team is helping to bring the vision for the future of Villanova to life. “We’re blessed to have strong team players who are extremely dedicated,” Morro says. “I always tell my folks that we have a lot of clients to serve. Stewardship is the main role of our department. The reason we have in-house project managers is because they understand Villanova, and they can convey what’s important to us to the myriad contractors and consultants who work for us.”

For many years, Smith was one of those consultants. Not long after graduating from Villanova with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1984, she landed a position as a design engineer at PWH Engineering, a firm based in Philadelphia. Her alma mater (continued on page 41)
It takes untold attention to detail to make a brand-new building blend with a 177-year-old campus.

1. By October 2018, Villanova’s Performing Arts Center had already begun to take shape on the corner of Lancaster Avenue and Ithan Avenue.
2. At least once a week, Smith does a walk-through of the Performing Arts Center with site superintendent Jack Garrett from LF Driscoll.
3. Artistic architectural details like this cast-stone cross give the new buildings an old-world look.
4. Smith also does a weekly walk-through of the Commons residence buildings, where contractors are now working on the interior finishing.
5. With 5,000 tons of stone in a precise blend of colors, the building facade matches the collegiate gothic look of Villanova’s campus.
6. Stonemasons in Lancaster, Pa., fabricate the walls for the Performing Arts Center—then each of the 330 precast stone panels is driven to campus and erected on site.
Leading the Way in Stormwater Management

In less than a year, the Commons on Lancaster Avenue—Villanova’s newest residence buildings—will be complete on the Commons. The systems in place on the site will transform 2,466 items on the punch list, so the list for this project will likely number in the tens of thousands. “We’re talking about a project that has so many layers of inspection down to the precise detail that we need to help cost the new buildings.”

Did You Know?
The term “punch list” is attributed to a time when contractors would punch a hole in the wall of a new building, or even write a list of errors to be handled before the job was completed. The list consists of all items not ready for final inspection, and it provides a final opportunity to identify any issues that need correction before occupancy.

With 138 students scheduled for move-in this August, the Commons are the next project on senior project manager Marilou Smith’s docket for completion. Once the contractors finish construction, the Commons are expected to have 2,466 items on their punch list. “We’re building the diverse stormwater management control measures throughout the development on Lancaster Avenue. “Stormwater management is a huge challenge in this region—so true Villanova fashion, we took this opportunity to go above and beyond what is required,” Smith says. The systems installed on the site will capture approximately 2.2 inches of rainfall, more than 100 percent above the 1 inch required by Radnor Township code. And we’re doing it in really inter

For the past two years, senior project manager Marilou Smith has worked closely with Neway Engineering, as well as Villanova Center for Resilient Water Systems Lead Bridget Wadzuk, PhD, LEED AP, and Director Robert Trave, PhD, to incorporate cutting-edge stormwater management control measures throughout the developments on Lancaster Avenue. “Stormwater management is a huge challenge in this region—so true Villanova fashion, we took this opportunity to go above and beyond what is required,” Smith says. The systems installed on the site will capture approximately 2.2 inches of rainfall, more than 100 percent above the 1 inch required by Radnor Township code. And we’re doing it in really inter

Seemingly small details can have a significant impact on a massive projec

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Seemingly small details can have a significant impact on a massive projec
During Orientation, incoming students packed the house in Vassy Theatre for a special performance by the Association for Change and Transformation. Based on actual Villanova students’ experiences, the Touch of Diversity skit challenges prejudices, encourages uncomfortable conversations and provides space for first-year students to discuss allyship at Villanova. Since its inception 17 years ago as the senior thesis project of Sean Camoni ‘99 CLAS, the skit has continually earned a spot as the highest-rated and most memorable workshop of the Orientation program.
For his new play XXX Genies, Jack Gillooly’s ‘64 MA was selected as the 2018 Free Speech Play Contest winner by the Nittany Theatre at the Barn in Boalsburg, Pa. He describes the play as a comedy about the “corporatization of American higher education.” Gillooly, a prolific playwright, has staged plays extensively in the United States and UK, and received two US Fulbright Awards and two National Endowment for the Arts grants, among many others, for his work that spans four decades.

Kylie (Walton) Cottrell ‘86

When Hurricane Harvey stormed through Texas, Carla Krystyniak ‘15 CSLW found her newly adopted hometown at the epicenter of the disaster, which caused billions of dollars in damage. Low-income communities in Houston were hit especially hard, and Krystyniak was compelled to use her legal training to help. She applied to become an Equal Justice Works fellow serving in the Disaster Recovery Legal Corps, where she worked with Lone Star Legal Aid to help low-income survivors access a range of disaster-related legal services, including government benefits, housing, employment and bankruptcy.

Mary Cushing Doherty, Esq., ‘78

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Class Notes

1996
Walter Graeser, Ph.D., ’05 CLAS published three new books: Planning Future Cities: Industrial Segregation and City Imagined.

Triantafillos Parapudis, Ph.D., ’95 CLAS received an honorary doctorate from Georgian Court University for his work in education.

1997
Amanda Klockars-McMullen, Ph.D., RN, BSN, ’97 FCM was promoted within Christiana Care Health System to vice president of Ambulatory Quality and Safety and Primary Care Operations.

1999
Jennifer Riley ’99 CLAS, ’01 MA was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Stars.

2000s
2000 Cameron R. Smith ’00 VIP joined Garvey Schubert Baver as principal in the firm’s Seattle office.
Dan Mollor, M.D., ’00 CLAS is the editor of Harvard Business School’s magazine HBR: Alaverti.

2001
Christian Reid ’01 CLAS was promoted to senior director, 4106 Program, at CVJ Health.
Stephanie Thomas Alop ’01 VSB welcomed a boy.

2002
Stephanie A. Bockrick, Esq., ’02 CLAS, ’02 CWLS, ’12 LLM was honored as one of The Legal Intelligence’s 2018 Lawyers on the Fast Track and was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Stars in the area of estate and probate.
Eva Zelinka ’03 VSB welcomed a boy.

2003
Mark Fischer ’04 CWLS was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list for civil litigation: defense.
Kelly McNamara Pezzuto ’04 VSB welcomed a boy.
Brian Peach, Ph.D., ’04 FCN completed his doctorate in Nursing Science with a concentration in Epistemology at the University of Florida and accepted a position as an assistant professor at the University of Central Florida’s College of Nursing in Orlando.

Cowan F. Torreggano ’04 MA earned his executive educational specialist degree from Seton Hall University in May 2018.
Drew Bolen ’05 CLAS and his wife, Katie Bolen, welcomed a boy, Jackson Parker Bolen.
Ashley Frielberger-Shinay ’05 CLAS and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed a boy, Benjamin Conley.

2004
Drew Libby ’05 VIP and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed their first son, Blake Carter Libby.

2005
Mark Markakis ’05 CWLS was admitted to the partnership of RP&S in NJ, where he works in the New York Metro-Audit practice.
Charles J. Messina, Esq., ’05 CLAS was elected partner at Gannett Burns.
Christopher M. Santis ’05 CWLS was named to the 2018 Delaware Super Lawyers Rising Stars. He focuses on corporate bankruptcy, business reorganization and other insolvency-related matters.


2006
Robin Aradon, Esq., ’06 CWLS was featured at a fall networking reception for women in law and business co-hosted by the law firms of Conrad O’Brien and Volpe and Kosky. She is also a New York Times best-selling author and vice president of Fitness Programming and head instructor at Peloton.
Mark Giannino ’06 VIP and Nicole Lombardo Giannino ’07 VSB welcomed a boy, Lucas Anthony.

2007
Morgan Green-Sadler ’06 CLAS joined the Chemical Abstracts Service as an account manager for the Mid-Atlantic territory in July 2018.
William G. Boss, Esq., ’06 CWLS was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Rising Stars list in the area of personal injury—general plaintiff.

2008
Sarah Fitzpatrick ’07 CLAS and her wife, Katie, welcomed a boy.
Michael Kernicky ’07 VIP is vice president, Wealth Management.

John L. Hennessy, Ph.D., ’73 COE received the Turing Award—commonly known as the “Nobel Prize of computing”—for his pioneering work designing the computer microprocessors in tens of billions of devices, from computers to smartphones. Dr. Hennessy, former president of Stanford University, is the chair of Alphabet Inc., a parent company of Google, and shared the honor with Google engineer David Patterson.

Where the Heart Is

Thousands of Villanovans returned to the University to celebrate their Homecoming Weekend in October, enjoying a family festival and Field Hockey and Football games on campus.

The Villanova University Alumni Association also honored three alumni at Homecoming. The St. Thomas of Villanova Alumni Medal, the YUAA’s highest honor, was bestowed upon Robert “Bob” Byrnes ’53 VSB (below, right), a past recipient of the University’s annual Alumni Award, which recognizes an alumnus who serves as a role model to students.

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The Loyalty Award was given to Frank Culotta ’57 CLAS (below, center), anchor for NBC10 News in Philadelphia and a past recipient of the University’s annual Alumni Award, which recognizes an alumnus who serves as a role model to students.
Three Villanovans—Sarah Hannah ’18 FCN, Julia Shults ’18 CLAS and Kelsey Goldstoff ’18 FCN—are serving this year as Augustinian Volunteers, dedicating 10 months of their lives to service, community and spirituality. Hannan and Goldstoff are serving as nurses at the St. Vincent de Paul Village Family Health Center in San Diego. Shults is serving as a low-income and homeless caseworker at Help of Oajai in Ojai, Calif.

Transportation engineer Luis Gaitan ’10 COE has spent his life inspiring others, whether through his youth mentorship program, “I Run This City: Camden NJ,” or serving in the Navy in Afghanistan. His vivid life story, filled with neighborhood ties and a young engineer’s urge to assemble household appliances, inspired Martha Freeman, a children’s fiction author, to pen the novel Zoya about Gaitan’s childhood in East Camden, N.J. The tale, which was nominated for the Edgar Award for best mystery, pits the fictional “Z” against a mastermind who has created an extended power outage that has left the whole town in the dark.

In 2012, Lauren Nolan-Sellers ’00 CLAS left a teaching career behind to chase her dream of becoming an interior decorator. In addition to founding her award-winning company, Trust the Vision Décor, she created the Aspiring Designers Academy, an online community for new designers and decorators to find resources to help launch or grow their design businesses.
In Memoriam

Charles J. Hinski ’50
1950s


Joseph N. Proctor ’50, VSB, Aug. 29, 2011.

Jack J. Biddle ’50, PhD, VSB, June 4, 2012.


John H. Mullen ’50, MD, CLAS, May 1, 2013.


John J. Boyle ’50, MD, CLAS, Dec. 21, 2013.


John H. Mullen ’50, MD, CLAS, Aug. 11, 2015.


John J. D’Arrigo ’50, MD, CLAS, May 9, 2023.

Taking the Pulse of a Hospital

Paul Minnick '18 used his culminating DNP research project as an opportunity to bring Virtua Voorhees Hospital department leaders into the same room and onto the same page.

1. THE INNOVATOR
Addressing a long-standing issue in health care inspired Paul Minnick ‘18 DNP, senior vice president and chief operating officer at Virtua Voorhees Hospital, a 400-bed regional medical center in southern New Jersey. Minnick had been a nurse executive for nearly 30 years when he decided to go back to school. “I wanted to challenge myself by applying theoretical nursing principles to current practice,” he says. “And I wanted to help role model the importance of education for my colleagues.”

2. THE PROBLEM
Health care facilities across the country and the world are looking for ways to cut across silos and specialities to ensure patients are getting the care they need in the right place, at the right time, by the right provider. Inefficient health care delivery and unnecessary medical services account for 44.5 percent of all financial waste in US health care, according to estimates from the Institute of Medicine. On top of the financial cost, poor care coordination among health care providers results in poor quality outcomes for patients.

3. THE BIG IDEA
Every day at 9:30 a.m. in the hospital’s first-floor boardroom, Minnick calls to order a standing-room-only, 15-minute meeting of 45 department leaders, including doctors, nurses and administrators. This is the Safety Huddle, where everyone gets up to speed on the major events that have occurred at the hospital in the last 24 hours and what the next 24 might bring. The focus is on preventing medical errors and discussing “near misses,” which are unplanned events that did not result in patient harm, but had the potential to do so before the problem was corrected.

4. THE OUTCOME
When Minnick started the huddles in January 2018, it was sometimes a challenge for people to speak openly. Now, colleagues thank each other for raising issues and even break out into spontaneous applause to praise those who caught problems in time. “We recently cared for a homeless, pregnant patient with schizophrenia, and the Safety Huddle provided an opportunity for key staff to come together to discuss how to meet her multiple needs,” Minnick says. “The interdisciplinary collaboration is just brilliant.”

Each issue, Villanova Magazine will give readers a glimpse of a culminating project for a Villanova student or group of students. In these experiences, students get to apply what they know, pursue what they love and present what they discover.
Undercover Campus

Originally located in St. Mary’s Chapel, this pipe organ found its new home in St. Thomas of Villanova’s choir loft when the church was completely restored in 1993. The builder made a case for the organ using white oak salvaged from a Philadelphia church and refinshed it to match the Victorian Gothic style of the church’s original woodwork when it opened in 1887.