Faculty Spotlight:
Jonathan Doh, PhD, Herbert G. Rammrath Endowed Chair in International Business and Faculty Director, Center for Global Leadership

In this interview series we will bring you inside the world of Villanova’s professors and explore how their work relates to creating a sustainable future. In this issue, we hear from Dr. Jonathan Doh, an accomplished Professor in the Villanova School of Business.

What is your academic background?
I completed my undergraduate degree in History at SUNY-Plattsburgh, my masters in Political Science at the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at SUNY-Albany, and my PhD in Business Administration at The George Washington University. My dissertation integrated strategic management, public policy and international business to analyze foreign investments in emerging market telecommunication during a period of privatization and liberalization.

How long have you been teaching at Villanova?
I have been at Villanova since 2001, and currently serve as the Herbert G. Rammrath Endowed Chair in International Business, and as the Director for the Center for Global Leadership. Additionally, outside of Villanova, I am currently serving as Chair of the Organizations and Natural Environment Division of the Academy of Management, the largest professional association of management scholars with over 16,000 members.

In your own words, how would you define sustainability and why is it important to you?
I like the simple definition that focuses on making decisions today that considers and stewards the future. I have always enjoyed the outdoors, and derive spiritual stimulation from nature. I subscribe to Emerson’s view of humanity, spirituality and nature which positions the spiritual and natural worlds as integrated. Also, I have small children and obviously want them to be able to experience the earth in all its beauty.

What is your current research focused on?
While I typically have 6-8 projects going on concurrently, I continue to be interested in corporate-NGO collaboration and interaction. I have also become interested in inequality and the forces that contribute to - and alleviate - it.

Do you collaborate with others for your research?
I collaborate with scholars - from PhD students to senior folks - from all around the world. These are mostly in business schools but not always.
Do you incorporate sustainability into the courses you teach?
Yes! I developed a new course on Global Sustainability Management that won a national award for curricular development. I also write cases for my international management text - which I also use in my own classes - and many of these have sustainability themes. For example, I have one on Chiquita and its turn toward sustainability. I am a big fan of interactive simulations and I have developed several of these related to GMO labeling, access to essential medicines, Dansko shoes and others.

If you could create one course out of thin air, what would it be?
A design course that focuses on sustainability, business and the arts in a global context.

What are your favorite outside of the office activities?
I enjoy listening to and playing music, especially alternative rock. I am an amateur musician and singer that performs occasionally, I can play guitar, bass and drums. I also enjoy being outside hiking, biking or cross country skiing. I am also an avid traveler, and have visited more than 50 countries around the world.

Villanova is now certified as a BEE Protective Habitat, by the Center for Food Safety and Beyond Pesticides. We have agreed to not use pesticides inside or outside a building that contain the toxic neonicotinoid compounds. Additionally, Villanova continues to choose plantings that are attractive to pollinators. This certification is an acknowledgment of the great work already being done by the Villanova Grounds Department.

PESC Student Application Open
Apply today to be a member of the President’s Environmental Sustainability Committee (PESC) Student working group. As a member of PESC you will be tasked with moving forward campus sustainability efforts, including meeting our goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. The Student working group addresses campus sustainability concerns as it relates to students. Past projects have included Nova Bike Share, Campus Sustainability Day, Earth Day of Service, and more. Members of the Student Working Group have the opportunity to lead projects, create new initiatives, and partner with faculty and staff across the University. Apply today! Applications are due by Wednesday, March 2.