Campaign Exceeds Goal While Enriching Educational Experience

The bold vision for the Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change becomes more and more an impressive reality. Even as pledges and gifts continue to come in, faculty and students are reaping the benefits of the highly successful campaign, which continues through May 2018. As of Dec. 31, 2017, the campaign reached $732.4 million—for exceeding its $600 million goal—thanks to generous gifts and pledges from more than 74,000 donors, 49 percent of whom made a gift to Villanova for the first time. Undergraduate alumni participation hit an all-time record of 28 percent by May 31, the end of fiscal 2017. In addition, $27.9 million in gifts and pledges were designated to the endowment in fiscal 2017. Ongoing support brought the campaign’s total contribution to the endowment to $308 million in gifts and pledges by Dec. 31.

The confirmation of these campaign dollars has at work abounds and amazes. With the help of 38 new endowed scholarships in fiscal 2017, Villanova can attract even more outstanding students. And new and renovated spaces around campus were dedicated, among them, the Dagan Polk Family Reading Room, a 24-hour study area in Falvey Memorial Library; the Kevin M. Curley Family Exchange, a multifunctional venue in Bartley Hall; and the Andrew J. Talley Athletic Center, an addition to the Jake Nevin Field House.

In January 2017 Villanova launched a celebration of its founding by Irish Augustinian friars in 1842. What followed was a yearlong series of special events, programs and exhibits that honored the generations of Villanovans who came before and recognized those working today to ensure a bright future for the University. Throughout the year, the entire community—students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends—had opportunities to reflect on Villanova’s remarkable history of transforming minds and hearts, and its impact as the nation’s Augustinian Catholic university.

Villanova Wildcats Notched Another Outstanding Year of Achievements in the Classroom and in Competition:

- In the NCAA’s latest Academic Progress Rate data, a record 15 Villanova programs earned public recognition awards for ranking in the top 10 percent of their sport nationwide.
- A total of 320 Wildcats, Villanova’s highest number ever, were named to the 2016–2017 Big East All-Academic Team, leading, for the second straight year, all conference schools with the most selections.
- For the 26th consecutive semester, Villanova’s student-athletes maintained a GPA above a 3.0.
- With a 95 percent Graduation Success Rate—a measure of academic performance among Division I athletic programs—Villanova continued to rank among the nation’s best; 14 programs posted a 100 percent GSR.
- Patrick Tiernan ‘17 (pictured below) won the 2016 Achievement Medal for his significant contributions to the field of engineering. Previously, Tiernan had become the first athlete in conference history to win the Big East cross country title four times.
- The Women’s Swimming and Diving team clinched its fourth consecutive Big East title, and sophomore Darby Goodwin was again named the Big East Women’s Most Outstanding Swimmer.
- Men’s Basketball captured the Big East regular-season and tournament titles. In addition, the Wildcats held the No. 1 ranking in one or more major national polls for eight weeks.

Student-Athletes Excel in All Arenas

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