

# HIGHLIGHTS

## 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**—far 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 hard 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 Dugan 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.



## Celebrating 175 Years

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.

## Student-Athletes Excel in All Arenas

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 28th 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 **NCAA Division I Men's Cross Country Championship**. 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.



# et al.

## VILLANOVA HOSTS VATICAN-SANCTIONED CONFERENCE

Following the 2016 Pontifical Council for Culture's "Sport at the Service of Humanity" global conference, Villanova was selected to host the first Vatican-sanctioned regional follow-up. The two-day event convened higher education delegates from across the US to discuss **faith in the context of intercollegiate sports**.

## FACULTY EARN PRESTIGIOUS NSF EARLY-CAREER GRANTS

Two rising teacher-scholars received CAREER awards from the National Science Foundation: **Jacob Elmer, PhD**, assistant professor of Chemical Engineering, who seeks to improve gene therapy by modifying the innate immune response to therapeutic transgenes in cancer cells; and **Janette Herbers, PhD**, assistant professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, who studies developmental processes among infants whose families experience homelessness and extreme poverty. (Read more about Dr. Elmer on Page 19 and more about Dr. Herbers on Page 7.)

## DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE NAMED

Villanova appointed **Teresa "Terri" Boyer, EdD, '95**, an innovative leader in economic and social equity for women, as founding director of the Anne Welsh McNulty Institute for Women's Leadership.

## NIH IMMUNOLOGIST ACCEPTS MENDEL MEDAL

The director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and pioneering HIV/AIDS researcher **Anthony Fauci, MD**, was awarded Villanova's Mendel Medal for his decades of research on infectious and immune-mediated illnesses. This accolade honors groundbreaking scientists who highlight that science and religion do not intrinsically conflict.

## SIGNAL PROCESSING EXPERT APPOINTED A FULBRIGHT DISTINGUISHED CHAIR

**Moeness Amin, PhD**, professor and director of Villanova's Center for Advanced Communications, was named the 2017 Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Advanced Science and Technology, a prestigious appointment that will take him to Australia. He also received the Institution of Engineering and Technology 2016 Achievement Medal for his significant contributions to signal analysis and processing.