PROGRAM

OPENING REMARKS
Michele Marcolongo, PhD, Drosdick Endowed Dean, College of Engineering
Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, University President

PRESENTATION OF FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS
STAFF WORK PROCESS IMPROVEMENT AWARD
Megan Amis ’20 MBA, Assistant Director, Marketing and Communications

AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE
Virginia Smith, PhD, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering

REMARKS
George R. Kolb ’84 VSB, Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
Elizabeth Andrews ’12 ChE, ’18 MSSE
Keith Lieberman ’93 CE, ’05 MSWREE
Eugene Fogarty ’58 EE
Ean Mulligan ’09 ME

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
David Guro ’84 ChE
April Barkasi ’96 CE, ’98 MSWREE
Philip Piro ’50 EE
Steven Benvenuto ’96 ME

DEANS’ AWARDS
ROBERT D. LYNCH AWARD
Kathryn Tsai ’20 EE

GARY A. GABRIELE AWARD
Annina Hogan ’13 MSChE

JOHN J. GALLEN AWARD
Peiman Naseradinmousavi ’12 PhD

CARL T. HUMPHREY AWARD
Patrick Smith ’82 ME, ’90 MSME

J. STANLEY MOREHOUSE AWARD
Robert McNally, PhD, ’70 EE
ENGINEERING SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Drosdick Endowed Dean
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George Kolb '84 VSB (Alumni Relations)

ALUMNI AWARDS COMMITTEE

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Bijan Mobasseri, PhD, Chair, Computer and Electrical Engineering Department
Sridhar Santhanam, PhD, Chair, Mechanical Engineering Department
Keith Argue, Assistant Dean of External Relations, College of Engineering
The Staff Work Process Improvement Award recognizes a staff member who has made recommendations that result in meaningful work process improvements and/or work redesigns in the College of Engineering.

MEGAN AMIS ’20 MBA
Meg Amis joined the College of Engineering in 2015 as the Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications, a role in which her primary responsibility is promoting the College’s graduate programs. She most enjoys work that allows her to tap into her creative side and her favorite part of the job is working with students, especially telling their stories through video. She shares, “I’m so impressed by how talented, humble and passionate they are; it makes me proud to share all the great things they are doing.”

Villanova has become like a second home to Meg. In addition to her position in the College, she serves as the marketing chair for the University’s parent group—the Parenthood Collective.

Established in 2014, the Award for Teaching Excellence recognizes a full-time engineering faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching leading to improved student learning. Nominations for this award are made by the students, faculty and staff.

VIRGINIA SMITH, PHD
Dr. Virginia Smith joined Villanova University in 2015 as an Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. An expert in water resources, her studies focus on river dynamics and how they change through time. In recognition of her contributions to this field, Dr. Smith was presented with the 2020 Early Career Award for Applied Research by the Universities Council on Water Resources. In only five years, she has served as principal investigator on related grants worth more than $3M.

Dr. Smith received her PhD studying hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, and sediment transport at the Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin. She began her collegiate academic career at the Georgia Institute of Technology where she received a BS in civil and environmental engineering. Upon graduation, Virginia joined the Peace Corps, where she spent two years working in Samoa on the National Water Project and myriad village development projects. She then worked in Asia and the South Pacific as an associate scientist for USAID’s Adapt Asia-Pacific Project. Dr. Smith also worked as the Water Coordinator for USAID in Afghanistan, overseeing water and natural resource management projects, before coming to Villanova.
The Alumni Award for Meritorious Service was instituted in 1984 by the College of Engineering. This award recognizes alumni who have given continuing support to the College of Engineering, been instrumental in directing exceptional students to Villanova, and assisted in the educational and service activities of the College.

2021 RECIPIENTS

ELIZABETH ANDREWS ’12 CHE, ’18 MSSE

As an undergraduate, Elizabeth Andrews served as president of the Society of Women Engineers and participated in several service break trips. Following graduation in 2012, she joined the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission through the Nuclear Safety Professional Development program where she became a qualified nuclear power plant inspector. Elizabeth has held many positions within the NRC including resident inspector at Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station and her current position as Health Physicist. In these positions, Elizabeth inspects nuclear power plants to ensure they are operating safely and in accordance with federal regulations.

In her free time, Elizabeth likes to read, listen to podcasts and go for walks with her fiancé, Peter, and their dog, Scotty.

KEITH LIEBERMAN ’93 CE, ’05 MSWREE

A Senior Partner at T&M Associates, Keith Lieberman is Mid-Atlantic Regional Operations Manager and Site Development Practice Leader. He leads a multi-disciplinary team of over 60 professionals designing projects resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars of infrastructure. His passion for delivering engineering solutions to T&M’s clients is contagious in the workplace, where he promotes a culture of collaboration and innovation. Keith is a member of T&M’s Board of Directors, Strategic Planning Committee and Diversity & Inclusion Committee. A recognized leader in the real estate development industry, he is a member of the Board of Trustees of NAIOP New Jersey. Keith also serves on the Civil Engineering Academic Advisory Committee at Villanova.

As a Civil Engineering undergrad, Keith participated in the first College of Engineering international service project in Panama, a program that continues today. After graduating, he volunteered for two years in Bolivia, working on rural potable water projects. Returning to the US, he received his Master’s in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering from Villanova.
EUGENE FOGARTY, PE, ’58 EE
Graduating from Villanova’s NROTC program, Eugene Fogarty qualified as an aircraft commander in the SH-3A helicopter and participated in the recovery of astronaut L. Gordon Cooper following the final flight of the Mercury space program.

After active duty, Gene was employed by the Philadelphia Electric Company where his assignments included start-up of the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Director of Research, and Chief Planning & Research Engineer. Upon retirement, Gene was a nuclear consultant, primarily with Ontario Hydro in Canada.

In addition to being a registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and California, Gene is a Life Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers where he served on the Standards Committee. He is also an emeritus member of the American Nuclear Society.

Gene is president of the development council of Assumption BVM parish in West Grove, PA, where he is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He served on the Avon Grove School Board and the Chester County Parks and Recreation Board.

Gene and his wife Eileen are particularly proud that four of their six children, along with a son-in-law and three of their twelve grandchildren, are Villanova graduates.

EAN MULLIGAN ’09 ME
Ean Mulligan has 11 years of experience in the energy industry, five of which have been in renewables. He currently works as the Vice President of Development at Foundation Solar Partners, a solar developer focused on developing and financing utility scale solar farms in PA and surrounding states. Previously, Ean worked at Cypress Creek Renewables overseeing a community solar portfolio of over 400MWs across 80 projects in the Northeast. He has worked in acquisitions, market development and project management on ground-mounted solar projects built mostly on the east coast. Prior to his career in renewable energy, Ean worked for Schlumberger as a drilling engineer and well site supervisor.

At Villanova, Ean played for the Rugby Football Club and was one of the founders of the Villanova Engineers Without Borders chapter and managed their first international water project in Thailand.

Ean earned his MBA from UCLA Anderson.
PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Alumni Award for Professional Achievement was instituted in 1984 by the College of Engineering. This award recognizes contributions to technology through substantial achievements in marketing, management or entrepreneurship, as well as achievements in strictly technical fields.

2021 RECIPIENTS

DAVID GURO ’84 CHE

As Director of Global Product Management at Air Products, David Guro is responsible for the strategic direction, overall growth, and profitability of Air Products’ generated gases and cryogenic air separation product lines.

Dave joined Air Products in 1984 with an initial assignment in the Process Engineering department and has worked in various positions within engineering, operations, R&D, and product management. Throughout his career, he has combined deep technical expertise and market insights to help Air Products develop and commercialize a variety of key product offerings. His pioneering work was foundational to the Hydrogen-for-Mobility and CO2-Solutions platforms that underpin Air Products’ growth.

Dave has participated in industry standards committees and served on the Board of Directors of the National Hydrogen Association, where he sat as the chairman of the Policy Committee. He is currently a member of the Villanova Engineering Alumni Advisory Board.

Dave holds a master’s in Chemical Engineering from Lehigh University.

APRIL BARKASI ’96 CE, ’98 MSWREE

After graduating from Villanova, April Barkasi entered the world with the hopes and dreams of making a positive impact on the quality of life in her community. She started working at a small consulting firm creating stormwater management plans for large industrial and institutional properties. She also worked for medium and larger companies to gain experience and perspective on the business and practice of the civil engineering industry.

Since 2010, April has been the President and CEO of the firm she founded, CEDARVILLE Engineering Group, llc. She grew the firm through some of the most difficult economic times and now has a team of more than 30 professionals. In 2020, she purchased a heavy civil construction company to complete the capabilities of the design-build firm. Her love for humanity and capitalism has also fueled a passion for redevelopment of economically stressed communities to create opportunities for employment and workforce development.
STEVEN BENVENUTO '96 ME

Steven Benvenuto is president of PrimeTest Automation, which specializes in the design and manufacturing of custom assembly and process automation for the automotive, electronics, aerospace, medical device, consumer goods, and energy industries. The company integrates leading industrial automation brands and is both a National Instruments Alliance Member and an Authorized System Integrator for Fanuc Robotics.

Steven started his career as a process engineer working in both the semiconductor and automotive industries. In 2001, he founded Performance Automation, a supplier of custom assembly automation utilizing industrial robotics and PLC technologies. As his business expanded, he recognized the growing need for data acquisition and analysis in automation. In 2005, he entered a strategic merger acquiring PrimeTest Corporation, an industrial test and measurement supplier, and established PrimeTest Automation. PrimeTest Automation has since become one of the largest automation houses in Florida.

Steven has served on the Fanuc Robotics President’s Council and is serving on Villanova’s Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board. He is a member of the South Florida Manufacturing Association and the Robotics Industries Association. Steven lives in South Florida with his wife Tiffany (Brandt) Benvenuto ’96 CLAS, and their three children.

PHILIP PIRO ’50 EE

Philp A. Piro was born in 1925 in White Haven, PA. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at 17 and served for seven years, three of which were on active duty as a radar operator and gunner on a carrier-based torpedo bomber covering the landings at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and four years at Willow Grove Air Base while attending Villanova on the GI Bill. After graduation in 1950, he started at RCA’s then newly-formed Missile and Surface Radar Division where he became program manager and established the world-wide radar tracking network for the National Air and Space Administration. He and his team were actively involved in NASA’s early satellite development programs that eventually put a man on the moon.

Subsequently awarded a Sloan Fellowship at MIT, Phil became vice president and headed the development of the Navy’s Aegis Missile System now installed on over 45 destroyers and cruisers throughout the world. Other programs included development of over-the-horizon radar technology with the British Air Ministry. After RCA he became president of Holman Auto Group consisting of many retail auto franchises and corporate fleet leasing.

Phil says, “Without Carolyn, a tolerant, understanding and cooperative wife of 67 years who raised seven children, these careers would not have been possible.” Phil retired in 1991 and continues to be an active board member at Hall Capital, a venture capital company based in Oklahoma.
DEANS’ AWARDS

THE GARY A. GABRIELE AWARD

Dr. Gary A. Gabriele served as the Drosdick Endowed Dean of the College of Engineering from 2006 to 2018. During his tenure, Dean Gabriele infused the University’s Augustinian values into the College through innovative curricula, pedagogy and research, with the goal of developing an intellectual and humanitarian engineer who is both a technical innovator and a contributor to the greater community.

In addition to expanding the College's hands-on experiences, growing its graduate programs and advancing its impact in engineering research, Dean Gabriele also was a strong supporter of providing more inclusive access to engineering education.

In 2018, the Gary A. Gabriele Memorial Award was instituted in his honor to recognize an alumnus who has promoted equity in the field. The recipient may have championed women or underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in engineering, supported STEM outreach activities to introduce socially, geographically and economically diverse students to the discipline, or encouraged, advanced and empowered these individuals in the workplace. The deserving alumnus must also have demonstrated a positive attitude toward promoting the name and programs of Villanova’s College of Engineering.

ANNINA HOGAN ’13 MSCHE

Annina M. Hogan, PE, RA, CME, LEED AP, earned a bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering from UCLA and her master's degree from Villanova University. She initially worked for Texaco, Inc. and then joined Remington & Vernick Engineers where she quickly ascended to Executive Vice President and Director of Municipal and Engineering Services. Annina developed and led various design teams in the preparation of plans and subsequent construction of numerous municipal, school district, healthcare, and state capital improvement projects. Her areas of expertise include facilities improvement, renewable energy, utilities, drainage, transportation, parks and recreation, permitting and grant applications, and water treatment and distribution. Since March 2020, she has taken on the additional role of Chief Operating Officer for the firm. She is a Registered Professional Engineer; a Registered Architect; a Certified Municipal Engineer; and a LEED-Accredited Professional.
THE JOHN J. GALLEN AWARD

The John J. Gallen Memorial Award was instituted in 1977 in honor of John J. Gallen, Dean of the College of Engineering from 1961 to 1975. Dean Gallen oversaw the expansion of the College to include the renovation of John Barry Hall to house engineering laboratories and built the Chemical Engineering building (now White Hall) on campus.

The Gallen Award recognizes the achievements of those whose technical efforts yield advances in the engineering profession. The emphasis is on technical contributions rather than administrative or management leadership, although the recipient may demonstrate these qualities as well. The recipient must have graduated from the College of Engineering less than 15 years ago and must have maintained a positive interest in promoting the name and programs of Villanova’s College of Engineering.

PEIMAN NASERADINMOUSAVI ’12 PHD

Dr. Peiman Naseradinmousavi earned his PhD at Villanova University in 2012 and was presented with the College’s Outstanding PhD Student Award. Today he is an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at San Diego State University. Before joining San Diego State, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Purdue University. Peiman’s research interests include robotics, smart flow distribution networks, nonlinear dynamics, control theory, optimization, magnetic bearings, and mathematical modeling. He serves as Associate Editor for ASME Letters in Dynamic Systems and Control, and the Journal of Vibration and Control. His robotics research has been publicized on NPR (KPBS) news. Peiman earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (dynamics and control) from Tabriz University in 2002.
THE CARL T. HUMPHREY AWARD

The Carl T. Humphrey Memorial Award was instituted in 1990 in honor of Carl T. Humphrey, who served as the first Dean of the College of Engineering from 1920 to 1938. During his tenure, the College added many honor societies and professional clubs.

The Humphrey Award recognizes the professional achievements of alumni who hold master's degrees from Villanova's College of Engineering. Emphasis is placed upon the recipient's demonstrated leadership in administration, management and planning, or substantial technical contributions, or some combination thereof in activities related to the engineering profession. The recipient must have earned a master's degree at least five years ago and must have demonstrated a positive attitude toward promoting the name and programs of Villanova's College of Engineering.

PATRICK J. SMITH ’82 ME, ’90 MSME

Patrick Smith is a Fellow at Air Products, an international supplier of industrial gases with customers in the refining, chemical, metals, electronics, manufacturing, and food and beverage industries. He is the Global Machinery Technology Manager and the Global Machinery Lead on the Operational Excellence Technical Team.

Patrick started his career with Ingersoll-Rand in the Pump Division in 1982 and joined Air Products in 1986 as a rotating machinery specialist. He has published dozens of articles on rotating machinery and has written and presented tutorials and case studies for the Turbomachinery Symposium. He has also presented multiple times at the annual Compressed Gas Association Safety and Reliability Seminar. Patrick is a registered professional engineer in the state of Pennsylvania, a member of CGA and has been a member of the Turbomachinery Advisory Committee since 2016.
THE J. STANLEY MOREHOUSE AWARD

The J. Stanley Morehouse Award was instituted in 1972 in honor of J. Stanley Morehouse, Dean of the College of Engineering from 1938 to 1961. During his tenure, the School of Technology became the School of Engineering, was officially accredited and later named the College of Engineering as Villanova gained university status.

The Morehouse Award recognizes outstanding leadership, as demonstrated in the planning or the administration of activities involving or related to the engineering profession. The recipient has maintained a positive interest in promoting the name and programs of Villanova’s College of Engineering. Implicit in the criteria is a level of leadership responsibility imposed by the recipient’s present position, which is unlikely to be reached in less than 15 years following graduation.

ROBERT MCNALLY, PHD, ’70 EE

Bob McNally had a long and successful career in the medical biotech industry since graduating from Villanova and subsequently earning his PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. From his early career in cardiac pacing, he co-founded CryoLife, a Georgia-based human heart valve and tissue-for-transplant company, which went public on the New York Stock Exchange (CRY). As a serial entrepreneur he was involved in a number of startups, most recently as the now-retired President and CEO of GeoVax, a vaccine company newly listed on NASDAQ (GOVX).

Bob is a past chairman and recipient of the Georgia Biomedical Industry Growth Award from the Georgia affiliate of the Bio Innovation Organization (BIO). He is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineers and a long time Georgia Tech advisory board member for Biomedical Engineering and the School of Business. At Villanova he is actively involved in the Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship Institute and the Engineering Entrepreneurship advisory boards. For years, he has been passionate about encouraging a bioengineering degree at Villanova and fostering engineering entrepreneurial activity through interdisciplinary curricula to support engineers becoming successful CEOs.

Bob and his wife Gert reside on St Simons Island, Georgia.
THANK YOU!

The College of Engineering thanks the Engineering Alumni Society for its continued support of our students and programs. We are always looking for alumni who are interested in sharing their time and talents with our students. We have many different opportunities, including mentoring, participation in the Villanova Engineering Service Learning program, and our K-12 STEM outreach programs.

For current updates and information, please join the College of Engineering on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. To learn more about how you can become involved, contact Assistant Dean of External Relations Keith Argue at Keith.Argue@Villanova.edu or 610-519-5024.