Mars: fertile ground?

Faculty and students experiment with growing plants in a "Martian" garden.
There’s a time to welcome students to Villanova, and a time to bid them farewell. As president, I find these moments to be far more sweet than sorrowful.

Each May, thousands of students leave what has been their home to take the next steps in their journeys. But their departure means that our global Nova Nation will be infused with new life, energy and vision. It will be stronger, more capable and more likely to do what it does best: ignite change.

For this, I am grateful, inspired and proud. Those newest alumni are the hope not just of the future, but of today. Through the education and experiences they had at Villanova, they are ready to apply their knowledge to set the world aflame and build up communities of love wherever life takes them. How? By the same means that they did so on campus—the melding of mind and heart.

And as surely as new waves crash onto the shore, new students, with big dreams, restless hearts and exuberant spirits, come and reinvigorate this campus. As they learn, question, debate and innovate, they too will write their own exciting chapter in the Villanova story. They will define their own ways of drawing on their talents and gifts to serve others and benefit the common good.

This ongoing cycle from Orientation to Commencement and back again energizes me—and, I’d like to think, all of us. It pushes Villanova forward, allowing us to explore new paths while also enriching our Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition. It’s our way of being ever ancient, ever new.

Our newly designed Villanova Magazine reflects this mission and momentum. The new look and format capture the vitality of campus; the achievements of faculty, staff, students and alumni; and the strength of the University’s position locally, nationally and globally. It shows, through word and image, how generations of Villanovans embrace and live out the Augustinian values of Truth, Unity and Love.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, Ph.D., ’75 CLAS
President
In This Issue

p22
Mars: fertile ground?

Faculty and students experiment with growing plants in a “Martian” garden

p4
Remembering Dean Gabriele
The late Gary A. Gabriele, PhD, led the College of Engineering to new heights

p7
Campaign Shatters Expectations
Unprecedented numbers of donors and gifts make for a historic Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change

p14
Commencement 2018
Villanova celebrates, salutes and sends forth to ignite change its newest alumni, the Class of 2018

p21
Lineup
Student-athletes close out 2017–18 with impressive feats in the classroom and in competition

p30
Francis & the World
Villanova convenes prominent scholars to analyze the first five years of Pope Francis’ papacy

p36
All Can Be of Service
Student club embarks on its first spring break service trip, challenging disability stereotypes and assumptions

p40
Art Imitating Life
New stained glass windows in Corr Chapel depict holy people with inspiring stories
In Memoriam: Dean Gary A. Gabriele, PhD
The First Drosdick Endowed Dean of the College of Engineering expanded education and research at all levels

Curricular innovations
During Dean Gabriele’s 12 years at the helm, the undergraduate engineering experience evolved tremendously. The College developed a nationally recognized first-year curriculum designed to make students more creative problem solvers and strengthen their understanding of engineering fundamentals. Through this program and other initiatives, Dean Gabriele and fellow administrators promoted a pedagogy valued at Villanova: interdisciplinary teaching and learning. They knew that engineers don’t work in silos, so they encouraged collaboration across departments, such as new minors in Sustainability Studies and Engineering Entrepreneurship.

With the launch of the Multidisciplinary Design Lab, students with different majors teamed up on actual engineering problems presented by industry partners. Avenues for tackling technological and societal needs opened up year-round with the creation of the first Drosdick Endowed Dean of the College of Engineering. “He was a champion of interdisciplinary teaching in all aspects of Villanova’s engineering program,” says University President the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, ’75 CLAS. “Gary was committed not only to innovation in the classroom, but to providing our students with the skills to innovate,” says Professor Andrea Welker, PhD, associate dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Engineering. “He was a champion of instilling in our students an entrepreneurial mindset and believed that innovative engineers make the world a better place.”

Opening doors
Under Dean Gabriele, the College continued to develop ways for Villanova engineers to share their knowledge to benefit society. Through outreach programs, Engineering majors engaged K-12 students in activities that introduced them to, and got them excited about, the field of study. The College increased collaboration with low-income communities around the world, working as partners to find engineering solutions in areas such as water, energy and health care. “Gary ensured that the College of Engineering continues to develop well-rounded engineers capable of igniting change and impacting their chosen fields in a challenging world,” says Nancy Dissenti, PhD, ’69 CBE, a member of Villanova’s Board of Trustees who is also the retired president and CEO of Honeywell International’s Specialty Materials Division, and founder and CEO of HTM Vital Signs LLC, a medical device startup company.

Dean Gabriele and the College were dedicated to increasing the diversity of the faculty and student body and to attracting even higher-achieving students. Since 2006, each new class has been more diverse and academically impressive. Their successes with attracting female engineering students and faculty have put Villanova well ahead of national averages.

Student and faculty research collaborations deepened with the establishment of new centers of excellence focused on sustainability, energy-smart electronic systems and analytics of dynamic systems. As an engineering dean at a Catholic university, Dean Gabriele took seriously his responsibility to foster education and research that addressed the problems of an increasingly interdependent world, and his peers at other institutions valued his contributions and example: “Villanova Engineering flourished under Gary’s leadership, in all respects,” wrote Peter Kilpatrick, PhD, McCloskey Dean of Engineering at the University of Notre Dame, in an email. “But beyond being a great dean and a wonderful colleague, Gary was a great person, full of all the virtues that really count.”

Those virtues guided Dean Gabriele’s many relationships and activities on behalf of the College. Whether he was conversing with students, visiting alumni or meeting industry partners, he exemplified what Villanova Engineering is and aspires to be.

what is now the Harris Summer Innovation Program. In addition, the unveiling of the Career Compass Program ensured that students were developing professionally from their arrival to graduation. “Gary was committed not only to innovation in the classroom, but to providing our students with the skills to innovate,” says Professor Andrea Welker, PhD, associate dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Engineering. “He was a champion of instilling in our students an entrepreneurial mindset and believed that innovative engineers make the world a better place.”

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Growing research
Greater numbers of applicants also sought out Engineering’s graduate and doctoral program. The College created and grew graduate and research strengths in areas consistent with Villanova’s values — especially in the areas of sustainable engineering. The College’s nascent PhD program flourished, and the number of those degrees it began to award helped the University to achieve doctoral status.

“Gary really embraced and championed the importance of our Augustinian values in all aspects of Villanova’s engineering program.”

The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, ’75 CLAS

R ich in ideas and gifted at col labo rating, Gary A. Gabriele, PhD, led Villanova University College of Engineering into a new era. The strategic plan he and colleagues developed after his appointment in 2006 is filled with checkmarks denoting goals realized. Those accomplishments include the first Drosdick Endowed Dean’s tireless, far-sighted efforts to make the College a premier institution. They also shape the legacy of the extraordinary leader who passed away May 14, surrounded by his wife, Cindy, and their four daughters.

Dean Gabriele came to Villanova with a wealth of experience. He had been a division director at the National Science Foundation and had held various leadership roles in his 22 years at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The Burlington, Vt., native, who was an avid sailor, had earned his bachelor’s at Norwich University, and his master’s and doctorate at Purdue—all in Mechanical Engineering.

Hsi vision for all students in the College was that their education prepare them to succeed—as engineers, for sure, but also as doctors, lawyers, CEOs and any other leaders they chose. He believed in integrating scientific inquiry into a larger, holistic approach to life and work—one that included intellectual, interpersonal and spiritual dimensions.

“Gary really embraced and championed the importance of our Augustinian values in all aspects of Villanova’s engineering program,” says University President the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, ’75 CLAS. “Under his leadership, the College was nationally recognized for developing an intelligent and humanitarian engineer who positively contributes to the common good. The entire Villanova community is incredibly grateful for Gary’s numerous contributions and transformative leadership. He is dearly missed.”

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Nova-Worthy

Dean to Help Shape Legal Education
Mark Alexander, JD, The Arthur J. Kestin Dean of Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, was elected to a three-year term on the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools, a nonprofit comprised of 279 law schools and serving more than 500 law school faculty.

Partnership with Archdiocese
The Archdiocese of Philadelphia recently entered into a unique partnership with Villanova’s Center for Church Management to provide animating scholar centers, the Arthur J. Kania Center for Catholic School Leadership and the Charles Widger School of Law. The partnership was established after working together to develop the Certificate in Church Management offered by Villanova’s Center for Church Management.

Campaign Shatters Expectations
We reached. We exceeded. We soared. And now, we have more resources than ever before to ignite bold and brilliant change. The Greater Great: The Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change had the University’s most ambitious fundraising initiative to date — ended May 31, having far exceeded its initial goal of $500 million and setting records for philanthropy at Villanova. Thanks to the profound generosity of alumni, parents and friends the University has begun a new chapter, its pages thrilling with untold stories of monumental campaigns.

Total amount raised, surpassing goal by more than $200 million

78,035 donors

30% participation

by undergraduate alumni in FY18 — which nearly doubled over 10 years, putting Villanova in top 25 nationally

295 scholarships

New endowed scholarships

40 facilities

New or renovated, including the Finneran Pavilion and Performing Arts Center

10 centers and institutes

Including the Anne Welsh McNulty Institute for Women's Leadership, and the Charlotte and James V. O'Donnell ’63 Center for Professional Development

$760 million

We invite you to explore the University’s most ambitious fundraising initiative ever before to ignite bold and brilliant change.

To learn more or make a gift, visit GoVillanova.com/IgniteChange or call 866-852-4584.

Together We Are Greater

Donna Sullivan Havens, PhD, RN, FAAN, ‘83 MSN is the new Connolly Endowed Dean of the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. Dean Havens has more than 20 years of national and international experience in nursing practice, academia, administration and research. Throughout her career, Dean Havens has served in a number of leadership roles, including at the Pennsylvania State University College of Nursing and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing, where she served as interim dean. Most recently, she was a visiting international scholar at the School of Nursing, Midfievery and Social Work at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. Dean Havens’ career as a practitioner, teacher and scholar has been distinguished by her passionate commitment to community and global initiatives to improve the health of underserved populations. “I am both honored and excited to return to my alma mater… The College is where I was mentored to become the nursing professional that I am today, so returning to Villanova seems most appropriate,” she says.

As a transformative dean

Deborah “Dee” Silvers Adams ‘66 FCN and her husband, Nick, have made a $5 million commitment to provide anchor support for the naming of the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. The largest philanthropic commitment in the College’s history, the Adams’ gift honors the legacy of M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN, the College of Nursing’s visionary dean of nearly 40 years, who passed away in 2017. The College’s naming, announced in December, was made possible through philanthropic support. More than $228 million in gifts and pledges have been made by alumni, parents and friends in honor of Dean Fitzpatrick; in total, $33.9 million was raised in support of the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing during the Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change.

ALUMNA RECOGNIZED FOR NURSING LEADERSHIP

Mary Duffin Naylor, PhD, RN, FAAN, ‘71 FCN—the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology, and director of the New Courtland Center for Transitions and Health at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing—has been honored as the inaugural recipient of the M. Louise Fitzpatrick Award for Transformative Leadership. "I am both honored and excited to return to my alma mater… The College is where I was mentored to become the nursing professional that I am today, so returning to Villanova seems most appropriate," she says.

A Villanova nursing student advances a hearing to a Philadelphia elementary school student.

College Sets Strong Foundation for Villanova Nursing’s Future

Onna Sullivan Havens, PhD, RN, FAAN, ’83 MSN is the new Connolly Endowed Dean of the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. The College of Nursing’s visionary dean of nearly 40 years, who passed away in 2017. The College’s
Haste Saves Waste
Students Recover Parsnips for Food in Need

At the last of the dinner crew exits Dougherty Dining Hall at night, another group of students enters. This crew, on a mission, to pick the salad bar clean in about 15 minutes.

Dr. Palus, an associate professor of Public Administration, and oil-free options.

In the first six months of this year, Villanova’s FRN chapter reclaimed more than 1,440 pounds of cold food. Dining Services, which makes its food fresh every day, supervises every step of the process to ensure that food safety regulations are met. It also keeps track of what the chapter collects to adjust its purchasing.

“We may recover less food, but that is a good thing,” Elaina says. “The students don’t see the food being delivered,” says Elaina Palus, PhD. “What matters most is the impact it has on someone else’s life. It’s about turning something that would otherwise be wasted into something valuable.”

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“She flew in from...
A More Robust Nova Network

Villanova’s new, official platform for professional and social networking offers alumni, parents and students a slew of options for engaging with each other and advancing in their careers. The reimagined Nova Network allows users to find other Villanovans, discuss topics with fellow Wildcats and join groups based on locale or interests. They also can take advantage of professional development tools, industry information and job postings.

To log on and start making connections, visit novanetwork.villanova.edu.

“In today’s world, the value of smart, well-prepared, caring students skilled in dialogue across lines of difference is incalculable.”

DR. TERESE A. NANCE

Teresa A. Nance, PhD, associate vice provost for Diversity and Inclusion, chief diversity officer and associate professor of Communication at Villanova, received the Frank W. Hale, Jr. Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education. The award recognizes her visionary leadership in higher education diversity, equity and inclusion.

Working for a Cure

On his desk, Josh Richards ’05 COE, ’07 MS keeps a statue of Jesus washing the feet of St. Peter. It embodies the concept of servant leadership and reminds Richards of one of the key reasons he has devoted his career to developing a treatment for skin cancer: “to bring glory to God,” he says.

Richards also brings honor to his alma mater. At Amgen, one of the world’s leading biotechnology companies, he helped produce the first US batch of a novel skin cancer drug and established the clinical manufacturing processes to mass-produce it.

In 2015, the drug, called Imlygic, was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. Imlygic is a genetically modified virus that is injected into a tumor, where it kills cancer cells. It also activates the immune response, stimulating the destruction of cancer cells elsewhere in the body. The drug has shown promise in treating advanced melanoma.

For Richards, one of the most memorable experiences of working in biotechnology came at the Imlygic launch ceremony, when a cancer survivor who had been successfully treated with the drug gave a speech thanking every member of the Amgen team that created it. “That was a very touching moment,” he says.

Richards emailed two Chemical Engineering professors at Villanova to share the news: Randy Weinstein, PhD, now interim dean of the College of Engineering and associate vice provost for Teaching and Learning, and Vito Punzi, PhD.

“My foundation was built at Villanova. I’ll hold on to those values of Veritas, Unitas, Caritas for the rest of my life.”

Josh Richards ’05 COE, ’07 MS

Continuing Fight Against Human Trafficking

Awarded another round of funding from the NoVo Foundation, the Villanova Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation is furthering its efforts to support survivors of human trafficking in Pennsylvania and across the US. The CSE Institute educates and provides technical assistance to policymakers, law enforcement officials and other responders, promoting multidisciplinary collaboration that focuses on victims and the trauma they have experienced.

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11,500+
registered Nova Network users

Villanova’s new official platform for professional and social networking offers alumni, parents and students a slew of options for engaging with each other and advancing in their careers. The reimagined Nova Network allows users to find other Villanovans, discuss topics with fellow Wildcats and join groups based on locale or interests. They also can take advantage of professional development tools, industry information and job postings.

To log on and start making connections, visit novanetwork.villanova.edu.
When Vanessa Zommi Kungne ’17 MS was looking for a plant that could benefit people who, like her mother, had diabetes, the moringa tree, which grows in her native Cameroon, fit to a T—and a tea.

Since 2015, Kungne has been perfecting and expanding production of Afya Tea, which is made from nutrient- and antioxidant-rich moringa leaves and may help lower blood-sugar levels. Afya, which means “healthy” in Swahili, describes the product and the state of Kungne’s company. It produces an average of 900 pounds of tea a year. With the installation of more sophisticated equipment this summer, output is expected to reach three tons per month.

For most of her time as a tea maker, Kungne has run the Cameroon-based business from Villanova. After winning several entrepreneurial prizes in Africa, Kungne, a graduate of Catholic University Institute of Buea, left her homeland and came to Villanova to earn a master’s in Chemical Engineering.

She appreciates how much the faculty mentored and supported her. “My professors helped me keep my chin up when life got tough—and when I faced my first snowfall,” says Kungne, who, in May 2016, was named one of the most promising African entrepreneurs by Forbes. Now she is earning her MBA at the Villanova School of Business and having an equally positive experience. Her growing knowledge is strengthening her abilities as a business leader, and she looks forward to one day returning home and contributing to her country’s development and well-being.

Drink to Your Health
Villanova Degrees Help Tea-Maker Grow Business

Nutrient-packed moringa leaves are harvested by farmers in Cameroon.

We plan to penetrate markets such as Nigeria, South Africa and the US.*

Vanessa Zommi Kungne ’17 MS

On a campus full of landmarks, here’s another for the list: the pedestrian bridge over Lancaster Avenue opened in March, blending seamlessly with the campus landscape and quickly becoming a must-stop location for photos. Across the bridge toward main campus, the spires of St. Thomas of Villanova Church soar dramatically skyward. Eastward from the bridge, the view of the construction of the new residence hall community is ever-changing and always impressive.

Elsewhere around campus, construction continues on a number of exciting projects. At the Finneman Pavilion, the new glass-enclosed entrance is in place and the interior work is continuing ahead of a grand re-opening this fall. Mendel Field is in the final phase of a project to add walkways, terraces and patios, and the Performing Arts Center has started to take shape after ground was broken earlier this year.

To see the latest photos and stay up to date on all of the changes happening around campus, visit villanova.campustransformation.com.

Renderings Made Real

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PHOTO: JOHN SHELTRON

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Vanessa Zommi Kungne ’17 MS

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Business In Togo

The Villanova School of Business offers the best online graduate business programs in the country, according to U.S. News & World Report. The publication awarded the school the No. 1 spot in its annual Best Online Graduate Business Program ranking. One of the strengths that earned Villanova this honor was a perfect score for student engagement.

American Professor Ruth McDermott-Levy, RN, ’96 MS, ’08 PhD received a Fulbright award to study how climate change affects human health in Finland.

The director of the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing’s Center for Global and Public Health, Dr. McDermott-Levy will teach and do research at the University of Eastern Finland.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES
Cheers and tears abounded as Villanova recognized and bid farewell to the Class of 2018. Faculty, staff, administrators, families and friends gathered on campus May 18 and 19 for the University’s 175th Commencement Ceremony and related celebrations. More than 3,180 bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral and professional degrees were conferred across six colleges.

Connections Across History and Culture

AN HONORED LEGACY

James Murphy, PhD, director emeritus and founder of Villanova’s Irish Studies Program, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Literature from the National University of Ireland Galway, in recognition of his commitment to promoting Irish Studies globally and developing cultural and academic relations between Ireland and the United States.

Villanova’s Irish Studies program flourished under Dr. Murphy’s leadership, initiating the Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Chair of Irish Studies for an Irish writer and establishing the Villanova Center at NUI Galway. Elevated by donations during the Campaign, it became the Center for Irish Studies, offering courses in seven disciplines.

The son of Irish immigrant parents and one of Irish America’s Top Irish Americans, Dr. Murphy says his background shaped his connection to the country, especially the western part, and subtly led him to his academic career. “Ireland was always in the air of my growing up. I breathed in a world of brogues and ballads,” he says.

HISTORY PROFESSOR WINS BOOK PRIZE

Marc Gallicchio, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of History, was recently named a winner of the prestigious Bancroft Prize in American History and Diplomacy for his book, Implacable Foes: War in the Pacific, 1944–1945, co-authored with Waldo Heinrichs, PhD, professor emeritus at San Diego State University.

The Bancroft Prizes are awarded annually by the Trustees of Columbia University. Winning books are judged in terms of the scope, significance, depth of research and richness of interpretation they present in the areas of American history and diplomacy.

Implacable Foes is Dr. Gallicchio’s fourth book exploring the War in the Pacific and its influence on the Cold War. Looking to learn more about this era, particularly aspects of the war not often dramatized? Dr. Gallicchio recommends four of his favorite films depicting this era: The Americanization of Emily (1964), The Last Emperor (1987), Empire of the Sun (1987) and Letters From Iwo Jima (2006).

Making “Big Data” Compute

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences students Elizabeth Ryan ’19, Demetrios Papakostas ’18, Thomas Longo ’19 and Vincent Mutolo ’19 won “Best Insight” at the inaugural American Statistical Association DataFest Philadelphia competition, hosted by Villanova’s Center for Statistics Education in April. The students analyzed a real-world dataset from Indeed, the world’s top job website, and found a novel way to increase the company’s profit by limiting job postings in densely populated areas to increase the clicks to each job.
The idea for the course came to Kelly-Anne Diamond, PhD, an archaeologist who specializes in Egyptology, and Michael Zimmerman, MD, PhD, an anthropologist and retired pathologist, when they met for the first time over coffee. Integrating Dr. Diamond’s expertise in ancient funerary practices and Dr. Zimmerman’s background in autopsying mummies, the two Villanova professors of History and Biology, respectively, created “Egyptian Mummies and Modern Science.”

The interdisciplinary class blends the cultural, medical and ritualistic—with just a pinch of gruesomeness. It covers what disease reveals about living conditions in ancient Egypt—for example, extended families shared homes and infections—and what mummies reveal about the evolution of disease.

Students read translations of funerary texts, known collectively as the Book of the Dead, and of medical papyri, which gave advice about the evolution of disease. Students also are exposed to ancient movies: The course wraps with 1932’s The Mummy, starring Boris Karloff. Another topic is the process of mummmifying and which ailments—such as cirrhosis of the liver and hemorrhaging in the lungs—have been found in postmortems.

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From touch-screen ordering at restaurants to self-driving cars, automation has become essential to the modern way of life. It also continues to change how people work, perhaps even hurting their health, says Pankaj C. Patel, PhD, the Frank J. and Jane E. Ryan Family Endowed Chair in Strategy and Innovation, and co-author of a new study in Social Science & Medicine.

Dr. Patel's research shows that occupations that are more likely to be automated also report a higher rate of physical and mental health problems among employees, building on previous findings that anxiety, depression and stress related to job insecurity deteriorates workers' overall well-being.

In addition to publishing extensively on this topic—with 13 articles published so far in 2018—Dr. Patel also mentors Villanova's budding entrepreneurs and promotes the connection of business theory to practice through research. For example, Dr. Patel assigns his entrepreneurship class the task of creating a Kickstarter campaign. By testing ideas on a small scale like crowdfunding, they receive feedback in order to adjust and improve the business model.

Dr. Patel says that—for better or worse—automation is only going to become more common.

“This is the new normal. But how can we live with automation, not just deal with it?” he says. Dr. Patel suggests there are several steps employees can take to help adapt to future automation:

1. **Engage** with the automation process. Work with the employer to seek solutions—job rotation, for example—and offer expertise to help improve the automation process.

2. **Develop** transferable automation skills, as well as the automated tasks that require human involvement. This increases a worker's capital, allowing him or her to gain a similar job sooner, in the case of job loss.

3. **Invest** in skills that promote new automation. Learn how to introduce the automation process into an industry, which will set a worker apart from others and create value through work process improvement.

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**Practical Advice on Adapting to Automation at Work**

**Business Professor's Research Shows Robots Stress Out Workers**

**PHOTO: THE PHILADELPHIA RECORD**

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**PHOTO: KRISTIAN SUMMERER/MACHINERY**
NCAA Kudos for Wildcats’ Classroom Performance

Wildcats student-athletes have reached a new milestone in academic achievement. It was announced in May that, among all Division I schools, Villanova had the highest percentage of its sport programs (82 percent) earning NCAA Public Recognition Awards. The University set a program record, with 11 teams being recognized.

This awards program evaluates the academic performance of student-athletes using points earned each semester by student-athletes for their academic standing and retention. Public recognition awards are given annually to the teams whose multiyear APR scores rank in the top 10 percent of their sport nationwide.

The latest APR data comprise the 2013-14 through 2016-17 academic years. Sixteen of Villanova’s sports programs had a perfect score.

Heads up to Head Softball Coach Maria DiBernardi

Head softball coach Maria DiBernardi retired, following 34 seasons in which she amassed an all-time record of 880-758-12, including three 40-win seasons. The winningest coach in program history, DiBernardi led the Wildcats to 17 Big East Tournament appearances and three second-place finishes since the inception of the tournament in 1990.

Her impact on the sport extended beyond the field, including serving as the president of the Big East Conference Softball Committee from 1997 until 2000. DiBernardi strove to create well-rounded student-athletes through a strong personal support system for her team, from frequent individual meetings with her players to holiday dinners at her home, that stayed with her players long after graduation, even inspiring many former players to pursue successful coaching careers.

“Maria’s dedication and loyalty to Villanova has left a legacy few could ever match. We cannot thank her enough for all of her contributions to Villanova softball, the Athletics Department and the entire University,” says Director of Athletics Mark Jackson.

She is a five-time All-American, a top middle distance runner. Taryn Ashby, a Communication major, is one of the most decorated student-athletes in school history. She is a five-time All-American, a top middle distance runner.

Capping a season in which the team recorded the best start in its history and was ranked as high as fourth in the nation—the highest in program history—by the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association, the Men’s Lacrosse team earned its third-ever bid to the NCAA Tournament. Senior Christian Cuccinello was selected by USILA as an Honorable Mention All-American, and his 168 career goals is tied for fifth all-time in program history.

The men captured first place in the distance medley relay and the 4x4 Mile relay. Sophomore Casey Comber became the first Villanova men’s runner since John Marshall in 1982 to anchor two winning relays in the same year.

The women took the titles in the distance medley relay, 4x1500 meter relay and 4x800 — completing what is known as a “distance triple.” It is the second straight year, the third time in five seasons and the seventh time overall that the Wildcats have achieved the feat. Senior-associate head coach Jessica O’Donnell, associate head coach, led the Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country teams to their ninth-ever bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The University received a $1 million commitment from Kyle Lowry—a three-time NBA All-Star guard for the Toronto Raptors and US Olympic gold medalist—and his wife, Ayahna. To recognize this donation, which is the largest single gift from a Villanova Basketball alumna, the University will christen the Kyle Lowry Men’s Basketball Locker Room in the Finneran Pavilion.

Slam Dunk Gift

At the annual Senior Student-Athlete Reception May 17, Men’s Basketball player Jalen Brunson and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country athlete Siofra Cleirigh Buttner took home top honors as the male and female Senior Student-Athletes of the Year for academic and athletic excellence.

Brunson, a Communication major, led Villanova to its second national title in the last three seasons. He graduated as one of the most decorated student-athletes in school history. Cleirigh Buttner, who also majored in Communication, is a top middle distance runner.

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Mars: fertile ground?

Faculty and students experiment with growing plants in a "Martian" garden.

BY SUZANNE WENTZEL
Villanova Magazine  SUMMER 2018

As he meandered around his home inspecting his olive and banana trees, gardening enthusiast Edward Guinan, PhD, Va CLAS ’78, brought to mind an idea. Hmm. Would it work? It was 2017, and Dr. Guinan, a professor of Astrophysics and Planetary Science, had recently been tapped by the media to comment on advances in plant habitats aboard the International Space Station. In his remarks, Dr. Guinan shifted the focus from the ISS to the fourth planet from the sun, speculating about the challenges of one day growing food on Mars to support human missions.

And then it occurred to him: Why didn’t he experiment with growing vegetables in Martian-like soil? After all, he taught a class in astrobiology at Villanova. He could try out the experiment at home and, if it had merit, add the active-learning component to his course.

What started as a cool, innovative idea yielded a surprising harvest, garnered international coverage and evolved into a substantive research project that shows no signs of stopping—thanks to the atmosphere at Villanova. With its committed teacher-scholars, enthusiastic students and emphasis on collaboration, the University nurtures this kind of flourishing.

DESTINATION: DEEP SPACE

The fact that Dr. Guinan would pursue this line of thought reflects his fascination with Mars. (The opportunity to channel Matt Damon’s character from the blockbuster movie The Martian was a bonus.) While his research focuses primarily on habitability of and life on extraterrestrial planets, stellar and solar astrophysics, and binary and pulsating stars, Dr. Guinan has been interested in Mars since childhood.

The planet also looms large in NASA’s view of must-visit places. The agency hopes to send astronauts to orbit Mars in the early 2020s, while Elon Musk’s SpaceX has 2024 circled as a milestone year in its books. The prospect of crewed, interplanetary expeditions is more science than fiction—and lends urgency to the question of how humans will sustain themselves.

For Dr. Guinan, the question is all the more pressing because of Mars’ potential as a reservoir—for humankind, should a catastrophe on Earth imperil the species. For years, he has been involved in scientific groups dedicated to reducing global risks and preparing for the unimaginable. One plan: the creation of habitable space colonies.

“Because Mars has sunlight and lots of permafrost, it has the capability to be terraformed—that is, made earth-like to support life in specific regions,” says Dr. Guinan, who, with a team of European investigators, found in a theoretical study in 2002 that Mars had lost most of its original atmosphere but retained a significant amount of frozen water. But could food be grown on the planet? By developing this educational tool for his students, Dr. Guinan hoped to find out.

After developing the experiment and doing a trial run at his home, Dr. Guinan unveiled it to students in fall 2017. Their assignment was straightforward. Working in groups, they were to select and cultivate nutritious plants that might grow in Mars-like conditions. Wait—Mars-like conditions? In suburban Philadelphia? Dr. Guinan had that criteria covered. First need: a greenhouse. On Mars, plants would have to be grown in heated, pressurized structures. The Department of Biology had graciously allotted space in its campus greenhouse.

Second: Martian “soil” or regolith. True, no-samples of the planet’s iron-rich red dirt have made the journey to Earth yet, but scientists have a good idea of its makeup, and a regolith simulant can be purchased online. Dr. Guinan had stocked up on 100 pounds.

Third: Reduced lighting, as Mars is one-and-a-half times as far from the sun as Earth is. No worries there, either. The students’ patch was in a dimmed section of the greenhouse.

With additions like kale and dandelion from Dr. Guinan, the groups picked their plants. Among them: lettuce, green onions, basil, carrots, peas—the class’s nod to Gregor Mendel—sweet potatoes, mint, garlic and… hops—maybe to have craft beer at a Mars bar?

Not far into the experiment, students hit a brick wall. Regolith is super clayish and, for tender roots, nearly impenetrable. Part of the lab, thus, involved growing plants in soil amended with fillers, including a commercially produced growing medium used in potting mixes and shredded cardboard.

RED THUMBS UP

At semester’s end, students nibbled on their harvest and graded the plants’ performances. Outside of lettuce, nothing survived in straight regolith. In the mixed soil, however, almost all the plants got passing marks.

In January, students accompanied Dr. Guinan to the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society in National Harbor, Md. They presented their project, “Red Thumbs: Mars Gardens (continued on page 28)”
Researchers maintain a worm farm, which produces fertilizer for the plants.

Innovative thinking, faculty-student collaborating and hands-on learning made the Martian garden project as fun and memorable as it was educational. Most alumni who have studied in the department—known today as Astrophysics and Planetary Science—would say the same about their time as undergraduates. As they soar in their respective fields, they remain grounded in their Villanova experiences.

Sean Carroll, PhD, ’88 CLAS

Even if they’ve never attended his talks, read his books, downloaded his lectures, come across his articles or followed his blog, many folks have probably learned a thing or two about the universe from Sean Carroll, PhD, a research professor of Physics at Caltech.

Dr. Carroll, who earned his doctorate at Harvard, enjoys educating the public about science. He regularly shares his expertise on popular radio and TV programs, and he’s a consultant for the entertainment industry. Productions such as Thor, Bones and The Big Bang Theory have benefited from his input.

Insatiably curious, Dr. Carroll digs everything from literature to fossils (literally; he goes dinosaur hunting). He credits Villanova with immersing him in philosophy and in the no-manual-available nature of research. “It was an important moment in my life as a young scientist,” Dr. Carroll says. “I realized that I had to make it up as I go along, so to speak.”

Sean Foran ’08 CLAS

Incoming freshman Sean Foran wanted to study “everything from the subatomic to the galactic.” He also wanted the knowledge to address environmental concerns. A degree in Astrophysics from Villanova was the perfect launch. Along his trajectory since then, Foran has spurred community organizing around water issues as an AmeriCorps volunteer and earned a Master of Social Work at Monmouth University.

Now a policy analyst for a member of the Albuquerque City Council, Foran did much of the research and number crunching to make the city’s visionary $25 million solar project viable. Foran is grateful for his “scientific background and analytical skills, which helped the project get up and running.”

Camille Carlisle ’09 CLAS

Touring Villanova’s campus, Camille Carlisle spied a poster for MIT’s graduate program in Science Writing. She made two decisions. First, she wanted a career in that field. Second, she wanted the journey to begin here.

As the science editor at Sky & Telescope, Carlisle—who did get that master’s at MIT—appreciates how well her studies in English and Astrophysics at Villanova prepared her for learning, courtesy of Confessions, that “hammering away at God with questions” can deepen faith; to discovering, courtesy of a senior astronomy course, that essay writing reveals “what you do and don’t understand.” Carlisle credits Villanova with “building the whole person.”

The Sky’s Not the Limit

PHOTO: DAVID AARON TROY

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Feature
in the University,” to a packed room, highlighting the experiment’s pedagogical benefits and science results.

Dr. Guinan, department colleague Scott Engle, PhD, ’03 CLAS and Astrophysics major Giannina Guzman ’19 CLAS also co-authored a paper that will be submitted to an educational journal in astrobiology and presented at the International Astronomical Union General Assembly in Vienna.

By all accounts, the low-cost, easily replicated science project was a success. But this was not “The End” of Villa-nova’s veggie tale.

Word of the project spread—the hops angle proved to be especially buzz-worthy—and, a week later, The New York Times dedicated a science feature to it. Soon media outlets across the country and beyond were publicizing the experiment and interviewing Dr. Guinan. From school-children to citizen scientists, people joined in the Martian garden conversation.

**THE GRAVITY OF THE RESEARCH**

At Villanova, Drs. Guinan and Engle were already resolved to continue the Martian garden when Giannina, most recently of the mint-and-garlic group, asked if they knew of a semester-long research project she could take on. Her timing was perfect. For the rest of the academic year, Giannina was the garden’s chief caretaker.

As part of her work on what became a controlled, scientifically rigorous experiment, the junior from San Juan, Puerto Rico, researched the nutrient density, pH thresholds and organic-matter needs of various plants. Soon, radishes, soybeans and barley—to complement the hops—made their garden debut.

Giannina tested the effectiveness of adding acidifier and of varying the proportions of regolith simulant to organic builder. Since one potential source of the latter is worm excrement, Giannina also monitored a newly acquired worm farm, feeding the wriggling inhabitants wilted lettuce from her fridge.

This research project was not Giannina’s first as a Villanova student. To hone her programming skills, she had helped build a database, user interface and dynamic website so that information in a historical, print-only astronomy reference housed at Villanova could be digitally available. This summer, she has an internship with NASA’s Goddard Center for Astrobiology.

“Doing research and writing papers with faculty are amazing experiences,” says Giannina, who plans to pursue a doctorate and, one day, travel in space. “The professors here are so student-oriented. They have no problem designing projects that fit what you want to experiment with and learn about.”

For their parts, Dr. Guinan and Dr. Engle will continue to expand the research and build on its results. Other parties, too, who are interested in challenges related to colonizing Mars are eager to work with them. One big problem is that Martian soil—the real stuff—contains compounds hazardous to humans. A tech company in California has contacted the professors about jointly pursuing funding from NASA to develop a process to remove these toxins, as well as to experiment with plantlike organisms that can break up and aerate dense soil.

Wherever this research leads, participants can’t help feeling jazzed that they are contributing to pioneering and increasingly critical work. Perhaps in the not-too-distant future, explorers will be surviving on Mars because they are able to dine on microgreens, carrots and kale. They may even clink frosty mugs in Villanova’s name.
Ever since Jorge Mario Bergoglio was introduced to the world as Pope Francis in March 2013, the 266th pontiff has been busy identifying priorities, tending his global flock and exercising his role as a head of state. Through his writings, audiences, speeches, travels and tweets, the former archbishop of Buenos Aires has had a powerful, if complicated, effect as a spiritual leader and communicator.

That effect has a lot of people talking. Many laud Francis’ simplicity and concern for the poor, but some also challenge his ideas on change and reform within the Church. Debates swirl across dinner tables, church aisles and social media platforms as people from all walks of life try to better understand this pope.

Context always helps—and Villanova recently took steps to provide some.

Using the occasion of both the five-year anniversary of the papal election and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council, Villanova invited some of the world’s most prominent experts to campus for an unprecedented theological and historical analysis of Francis’ papacy. “Dr. Massimo Faggioli and I wanted to provide a forum to examine the pontificate of Pope Francis and its relationship to the unfinished work of Vatican II,” says Barbara Wall, PhD, vice president for Mission and Ministry, which organized the conference.

**Answering the Call**

From across the globe came women and men, laity and ordained, to take part in “Francis, a Voice Crying Out in the World: Mercy, Justice, Love and Care for the Earth.” Hosted by Villanova’s Institute for Catholic Social Thought April 12–15, the conference featured nine keynote speakers, dozens of session panelists and a total of 140 participants. Archbishop Christoph
“Pope Francis finds many ways to be a bridge builder — the meaning of the Latin word ‘pontifex.’ One of the most efficient has been through Twitter. As of July 1, he had 1,622 tweets and 17.9 million followers. In messages on timely issues and timeless truths, he prays, teaches, encourages, corrects and convalesces. (Villanova students interning at the Vatican helped to launch the @Pontifex account in 2012.)

**PONTIFEX**

“Poverty is not an accident. It has causes that must be recognized and removed for the good of so many of our brothers and sisters.”

**SANDO**

“The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to achieve holiness in the midst of our everyday lives.”

**RACISM**

“A person’s dignity does not depend on them being a citizen, a migrant, or a refugee. Saving the life of someone fleeing war and poverty is an act of humanity.”

**HOLINESS**

“Care for the environment is always a social concern as well. Let us hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

**POLITICS**

“Political activity must truly be conducted at the service of the human person, with respect for creation and the common good.”

**MURDER TERRORISM IN THE US**

“A person’s dignity does not depend on them being a citizen, a migrant, or a refugee. Saving the life of someone fleeing war and poverty is an act of humanity.”

**PEACE**

“Poverty is not an accident. It has causes that must be recognized and removed for the good of so many of our brothers and sisters.”

**POVERTY**

“Care for the environment is always a social concern as well. Let us hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

**THE REV. IKENNA PASCHAL OKPUSIKA**

“Political activity must truly be conducted at the service of the human person, with respect for creation and the common good.”

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“The conference placed Pope Francis within the Church’s tradition without idolizing him.”

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**FRANCIS**

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**FRANCIS**

“The conference placed Pope Francis within the Church’s tradition without idolizing him.”

**Pope Francis finds many ways to be a bridge builder — the meaning of the Latin word “pontifex.” One of the most efficient has been through Twitter. As of July 1, he had 1,622 tweets and 17.9 million followers. In messages on timely issues and timeless truths, he prays, teaches, encourages, corrects and convalesces. (Villanova students interning at the Vatican helped to launch the @Pontifex account in 2012.)

“Poverty is not an accident. It has causes that must be recognized and removed for the good of so many of our brothers and sisters.”

“Care for the environment is always a social concern as well. Let us hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

“Political activity must truly be conducted at the service of the human person, with respect for creation and the common good.”

“A person’s dignity does not depend on them being a citizen, a migrant, or a refugee. Saving the life of someone fleeing war and poverty is an act of humanity.”

“The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to achieve holiness in the midst of our everyday lives.”
“Francis’ leadership eminently embodies the principle of selfless and self-sacrificing service of the Gospel.”

The Rev. Adonai Hassan Kole, M.A., Ph.D., the president of the Conference of Major Religious Superiors of Africa and Madagascar

Healing Humanity and the Planet

Several leaders in their respective fields discussed how the pope advances the Church’s commitment to social justice. As his predecessors have done for more than a century, Francis draws on the Gospel and Church teaching to respond to the signs of the times.

For example, guided by the principle that human beings are called to be stewards of creation, Francis has addressed the urgency of the environmental crisis. He spelled out the causes and consequences of destructive behaviors in his encyclical Laudato Si’. That document is high on the reading list of economists Jeffrey Sachs, PhD, the director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and an adviser to the United Nations. In his keynote, Dr. Sachs echoed a critical insight from the document: “If a market economy is not embedded in a moral framework, it will never defend the common good.

Francis repeatedly summons the world to address human rights violations. In her keynote, Margaret Archer, PhD, an eminent English sociologist and the president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, chronicled the academy’s efforts to investigate, at Francis’ request, the scourge of human trafficking. Its #EndSlavery initiative has made impressive strides.

In her closing talk, “The Pope on Migration,” Professor of Law Michele Pistone, JD, director of the Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Immigrant Training Studies for Advocacy and Community Empowerment and scholarly perspectives. University-based, online, interdisciplinary certificate program designed specifically to train a community of immigrant advocates.

Going Forth

Francis believes in the power of dialogue to bear fruit, and Villanova hopes this conference will do the same. To engage the larger public, the University has uploaded the keynotes to YouTube and will publish many of the talks in its Journal of Catholic Social Thought.

Organizers also encouraged attendees to return to their institutions and keep discussions going—a commission that inspired Sister Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Religious Studies, at Trinity Washington University.

“The conference brought together speakers and participants around critical issues facing the Church and grounded those conversations in prayer and community so that we can go forward, search for truth and live the mission of Vatican II.”

For eyewitness accounts of the Second Vatican Council, Villanova can turn to Bernard Prusak, JD, a former chair of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, and a faculty member since 1965. As a young man pursuing a doctorate in canon law in Rome, Prusak was history being made from a front-row seat. Technically he was on the boat, as his advisor was to distribute papers and collect votes from the bishops in the section of St. Peter’s Basilica to which he was assigned.

For Dr. Prusak came the opportunity to be faithful to their Augustinian heritage, a trip generated by the council’s final session, which he was assigned. He was present for the council’s final session, held from October to December 1965, when nine of the 16 documents were approved.

The memory that is most poignant for Dr. Prusak came Dec. 7, Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I removed the sentences of excommunication that their respective churches, Roman Catholic and Orthodox, had leveled against each other 900 years earlier. Dr. Prusak says, “It was a powerful message that upped the antiseptic at the April conference: Believers with opposing ideas about Francis are not enemies. As with any theological matter, they need to dialogue. “Empathizing with those you disagree with is fundamental—so that not to have to understand what they mean,”

Pope Francis has made the Church visible among those who are most abandoned, most forgotten and most in need.

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, ctb, archbishop of Newark, N.J., was keynoter.

To find scholars to speak at breakout sessions on Francis and the environment, organizers only had to look across campus for some of the panelists. The College of Engineering is already in applying the concepts of Laudato Si’. Building on the pope’s 2015 encyclical, the College emphasizes in its Sustainable Engineering curriculum and research the cyclical nature of products and processes, noted Bill Lemen ’68 COE, the program director and one of the panelists.

For example, Villanovans are working with a global beauty company to explore biological sources for petroleum-based products.

Faculty and students also travel to various countries to provide technical services for the sustainability of water-supply infrastructures in low-income developing communities in keeping with Catholic social teaching, the College teams with “organizations that have the capacity to implement local solutions,” explained panelist Jordan Emile ’18 COE, ‘18 MS, director of Engineering Service Learning.

For Dr. Prusak says, “I think that happened with Francis and me.”

Two prominent Catholic thinkers with different visions of the Church and the current papacy decided that exchanging limited character tweets was not the most productive form of debating. In January, New York Times columnist Ross Douthat and church historian Massimo Faggioli, PhD, a professor of Theology at Villanova, met face to face for the discussion “Francis @ Five: Assessing the Legacy of Pope Francis in Five Years.” After His Electors’ tested at Fordham University.

The opportunity for a personal encounter to listen to—and, at times, disagree with—each other’s arguments and concerns paid off. It sent a powerful message that came up more than once at the April conference: Believers with opposing ideas about Francis are not enemies. As with any theological matter, they need to dialogue. “Empathizing with those you disagree with is fundamental—so that not to have to understand what they mean,”

Pope Francis, in turn, encouraged school officials to be faithful to their Augustinian Catholic identity by addressing “ethical and cultural challenges” and promoting “the practical solidarity needed to combat the grave inequalities and injustices that mark today’s world.”

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In many ways, the experience Andrew Wykowski ‘20 VSB had on a spring break service trip with the student group LEVEL was similar to that of many others who spend their breaks serving others: there was challenging manual labor, opportunities to better understand the needs of others and important lessons about collaboration and compassion.

But for Andrew, perhaps the most meaningful moment was the afternoon he and others in LEVEL, which aims to make Villanova more inclusive for people of all abilities and disabilities, spent with students at the Community School of Davidson, in North Carolina. There, as they decorated “kindness rocks” with positive messages, he talked with children, many of whom had disabilities, about their fears that their futures would be limited. The children were not all that different from Andrew himself, who was diagnosed with dyslexia as a child. He also has overcome a physical challenge: Four years ago, he was paralyzed when he broke his neck in a swimming accident. Over the course of several months, he regained the ability to walk, albeit with some difficulty. Andrew’s message to the children was simple: “Never let anything hold you back.” He encouraged them to chase their dreams, including college. And he shared his own experiences from Villanova, where, with the support of LEVEL and the Office of Disability Services, students with disabilities build friendships and find the social and academic resources they need to thrive at Villanova. This year, for the first time, they were also able to participate fully as a group in one of the University’s most treasured traditions: the spring break service trip.

“I n March, 20 members of LEVEL traveled by van to North Carolina. Their task for the week was to volunteer with organizations whose missions align with LEVEL’s, but it was also to demonstrate that everyone, regardless of disability, can be of service and ignite change in the world.”

“LEVEL’s work is a reminder that everybody has their own challenges and their own strengths.” says Rachel Heckler ‘19 FCN, secretary of LEVEL.

Gregory Hannah, assistant director of Disability Services at Villanova and LEVEL adviser, helped plan the trip over two years, working with staff at two accessible equestrian centers that serve families and veterans. Part of the planning was to ensure that all of the diverse physical needs of the students could be met, while selecting projects that would be challenging yet valuable for all.

“Everyone wanted to be sure that the first LEVEL service trip was just right,” Hannah says.

That meant accounting for every detail, so that whether a student was blind, used a motorized scooter or had an invisible disability, like a seizure disorder, he or she would be safe and supported. Through tireless work during the week-long trip, the students erased assumptions about the limits of people with disabilities—some that they had believed about themselves. And, along the way, they strengthened bonds.
"I am amazed at the kind of journey you can go through in a week. LEVEL is such an inclusive group that we became like a family," says Sarah Godschall ’19 COE, a trip leader.

"Being a part of LEVEL has been the highlight of my Villanova experience, and this trip embodied everything that we in LEVEL strive to do," adds MacKenzie Ward ’18 CLAS, LEVEL president.

"Priming the Team for Success" The students volunteered at the Discovery Trail at Rocky Creek in Statesville, N.C., refurbishing and beautifying features along the 3.2-mile sensory trail used by children and adults on horseback for experiential therapy and education. The Discovery Trail is accessible to people with disabilities and provides a safe environment in which to engage with nature and wildlife. Its core mission aligns with LEVEL’s mission to provide access, support and a full experience to all, regardless of ability.

The service at Rocky Creek, as well as leadership exercises the group did at Triple Play Farm, an equine therapy center, were organized by Tracy Byrnes, an equine specialist in mental health and learning at both organizations.

Byrnes said that she was amazed to see firsthand Villanovans’ resilience, passion and work ethic, which she had heard about from her husband, former Villanova University Alumni Association President Robert “Bob” Byrnes ’76 VSB.

"We are constantly working to rid the stigma of disabilities and mental health, and this trip nailed it every day. They were, by far, the best group of young adults we have ever had," she says.

"Can do! Aptitude" The students completed an incredible amount of work at Rocky Creek. They gardened; built and refurbished benches, a play-scape for goats, a cross-country jump for horses; kaleidoscopes and braille boards; and painted rocks with inspirational messages for visitors to the Discovery Trail.

"Everyone on the trip contributed to our success," says group leader Brandon McNab ’20 COE.

College of Professional Studies student Matthew Stevens was a key member of the bench-building team. With verbal coaching from others, Matthew, who is visually impaired, used power tools to sand and drill benches, skills he acquired at a school for the blind.

"Just because I’m blind doesn’t mean anything. I’m not limited at all," Matthew says.

While seven days seems too brief for a life-changing experience, for the students who left campus as a group and came back as a family, it was just right.

"I want to incorporate LEVEL’s mission of inclusion of people with all abilities into my life," Sarah says. "I have a fire inside to keep working to change the world."

"We all were blessed to have a Villanova experience that shaped our lives. It is ours, the alumni, to ensure that the current students, able-bodied or disabled, have that experience and more," Muscarella says.

Then to Now LEVEL was founded by Ariana Meltzer-Bruhn ’14 CLAS, in partnership with Gregory Hannah of Villanova’s Office of Disability Services and IPV ’15 in 2015. After breaking her foot her freshman year, Meltzer-Bruhn was inspired to help build a more inclusive, accessible community and raise awareness of able-ism—discrimination in favor of able-bodied people.

Now, LEVEL is an essential part of campus life. Meltzer-Bruhn continues to be inspired by the LEVEL experiences. In August, she still starts medical school at the University of Pennsylvania and hopes to work with patients who have suffered traumatic brain injuries.

While growing in membership and scope, the club has strengthened its partnership with ODS, which Christa S. Bialka, EdD, assistant professor of Special Education, says is rare in higher education. LEVEL has also incorporated an academic component through Dr. Bialka, who requires her Disability Studies students to partner with a student in LEVEL. This not only applies class theory, but fosters friendship between students from all majors and their LEVEL peers.
Art Imitating Life
BY MARIAN BUTCHER

The goal is to be enveloped in the space by the sacred windows,” says Barbara Wall, PhD, vice president for Mission and Ministry, who is leading the project. “Through the windows, we want to show our commitment to Augustinian traditions and to inspire particularly the young people who come here.”

Three new windows, designed by the Rev. Richard Cannuli, OSA, MFA, ’73 CLAS, professor of Studio Art, have already been installed. The first, a commemoration of the 15 Villanovans who died in the terrorist attack Sept. 11, 2001, was installed in 2006.

Two others were installed earlier this year. One depicts St. Rita of Cascia, a 14th-century Augustinian nun in Italy who was known as an advocate for peace, and St. Nicholas of Tolentino, a 13th-century Augustinian friar known for his devotion to poor souls in purgatory. Opposite those saints is a window dedicated to Blessed Oscar Romero, a Salvadoran archbishop who was martyred in 1980 and will be canonized later this year; and to Servant of God Dorothy Day, a staunch pacifist and advocate for the poor who founded the Catholic Worker Movement.

Father Cannuli begins each window by searching for inspiration in the lives of the people depicted—what they were passionate about, where and how they lived, and how they expressed their faith. He sketches the figures and chooses the symbols and colors that will add depth and detail to the window.

Once his sketch is finalized, he creates a small-scale watercolor and sends it to Vetrate Artistiche Toscane, a stained glass studio in Siena, Italy, where artists labor for as long as a year to turn the small sketch into a painting, and then to piece together the window.

For centuries and still today, preaching and teaching have often been done through religious art. Each window tells a story about the pursuit of holiness as portrayed in the lives of the holy people of the Catholic tradition. Other windows that will be produced over the coming years will depict:

- St. Kateri Tekakwitha, a 17th-century Mohawk woman who was known as the “Apostle to the Mohawks” and is long, exacting and arduous. But the moment when sunlight first streams through the window, casting vivid pools of color onto the brick floor of the chapel, is worth the wait.

- Servant of God the Rev. Bill Atkinson, OSA, ’73 CLAS, the first quadriplegic to be ordained a Catholic priest, and accomplished liturgical musician who advocated for the breaking down of racial and cultural barriers.

- St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, also known as Edith Stein, a German philosopher who converted from Judaism to Catholicism and worked with Jewish missionaries in occupied New York before being martyred.

- Blessed Thomas Jihyoe of Korea, a 17th-century Korean man who was martyred for his faith during the persecution of Christians in Japan.

- St. Thomas of Villanova, a 16th-century Spanish bishop who is now being considered for sainthood.

- St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, a 19th-century Italian nun who was a Carmelite nun and was canonized in 1946.

- Servant of God the Rev. John McKillof, OSA, a missionary to Peru, Cuba and the Philippines.

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Villanovans are supporting the effort to bring these brilliant windows to their rightful station. John ’63 VSB and Anne Gartland and Barbara Wall, PhD, vice president, Mission and Ministry, donated the funds for the windows shown here, respectively. These commitments are among the many ways in which gifts made during the Villanova Campaign to Ignite Change continue to transform the University. For information on how to support this project, contact Tim McMahon, senior associate vice president for University Advancement, at tim.mcmahon@villanova.edu.

**White Dove** above St. Nicholas and St. Rita signifies the Holy Spirit, the Peacemaker.

**Plumbers and Star** represent souls going to heaven, as St. Nicholas was known for his prayers and Masses offered for souls in purgatory.

**Lilies** signify his purity.

**White Bees** lived in a hive at St. Rita’s convent.

The thorn under St. Rita’s forehead shows where she received the stigmata of Christ’s crown of thorns.

Robes are blessed on her feast day.

**The Fig Branch** reminds us of her act of obedience—she was given a fig branch that she watered and nurtured into a full-grown tree—and represents the Trinity.

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**Blessing** depicted because Romero was associated with celebrating Mass.

**Cross and Palm Branch** are symbols of his martyrdom.

**“No War” Flag and Hat** reflect Day’s work as a peace activist.

**Dove with Olive Branch** symbolizes peace.

**Staff and Book** reflect Romero’s role as a spiritual shepherd, leading his flock and imparting knowledge, while his raised hand is a sign of blessing.

**Bread** is a symbol of Day’s work to feed the poor.

**Plowshares** reflect the presence of the Redeemer as a gardener.

**Garments** reflect Romero’s role as archbishop, and his vestments are red because he was a martyr.

**Sunflowers and Pumpkins** represent plants grown in Day’s garden in New York City.

“**Blessed**” designation will be updated to “saint” once Romero’s canonization occurs in the fall.
In November, NOVAdance’s yearlong fundraising effort culminated in a 12-hour silent disco marathon in Jake Nevin Field House, raising nearly $360,000 for BePositive, the Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation, which helps children fight cancer.
Class Notes

1950s

Robert F. Lima ’57 CLAS, ’61 MA was named knight commander of the Imperio/Orden Hispanica de Carlos V in Segovia, Spain. He also was honored to record his poetry in Spanish and English for the Library of Congress Hispanic division.

1960s

Reginald Perez ’60 CLAS, a Villanova Medal winner, is the leader of Team CCI, a finalist in the competition that will empower children in developing countries to teach themselves basic reading, writing and arithmetic in their native languages.

William M. Savino ’71 CLAS, partner with Berlin Radler, became a recipient of Long Island Business News’ New York Ikon Award. The award recognizes business leaders, performers, entertainers and artists in New York for their years of experience, late of achievements, and ability to lead, motivate and teach others.

1970s

Edward Donahue, MD, ’70 CLAS retired after a 34-year career as a surgeon and chief medical officer at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix.

Mark R. Cuker ’75 CLAS joined Philadelphia business law firm Brennan-Vanderbilt American Insurance National Conference in Houston. He spoke on the gender wage gap and the need for increased diversity in the workforce.

1980s


Kevin Curley ’80 VSB received the Anson C. Loew (Sell Pinned) Award from the American/ Irish Fund Gala, where the Rec. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, ’75 CLAS provided the benediction. Curley also was named to the Foote MacCormick Dallas Gaelic Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Col. David Green ’80 CLAS is retiring after working for the US Department of the Navy since 1981, including a 32-year career serving in the US Marine Corps. He plans to sail, travel and spoils his grandchildren.

Thomas G. Purcell ’80 CLAS, ’84 VSB was elected president and chief executive judge of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas.

Brian Steller ’78 CLAS has been named to the 2018 Florida Super Lawyers list.

Thomas Swick ’74 CLAS was elected president of the Raven’s wood Award. The award recognizes philanthropic contributions to the performing arts, leadership, community service, academic achievement and patient care.

Anthony Rolle ’78 VSB of McGlnisky Railroad Company has been named to the 2018 Lawnstein Antitrust Lawyers. Brian Steller ’78 CLAS was appointed president of the Raven’s Wood American Inn of Court.

Lisa S. Hunter ’79 CLAS was named to the 2017 Advanced Practice Nurses of Common Pleas judge of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas.

Anthony Mitchell ’79 CLAS was named to the 2018 Florida Super Lawyers.

Matthas Serresmote ’75 CLAS spoke at the 138th annual International Medical Conference about volunteer considerations regarding medical students.

Ronald Steger ’76 CLAS was appointed to the Great Lakes Device & Dock Corp. board of directors.

Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes business leaders, performers, entertainers and artists in New York for their years of experience, late of achievements, and ability to lead, motivate and teach others.

The competition challenged teams from around the world to develop scalable software that will empower children in developing countries to teach themselves basic reading, writing and arithmetic in their native languages.

Class Notes
America will turn 250 years old in July 2026, but it’s not too early to start getting ready for the celebration, and a Villanova alumnus has been tapped to lead the planning. Daniel M. DiLella ’73 VSB, president and CEO of Equus Capital Partners Ltd., and a Villanova trustee, has been appointed chairperson of The Semiquincentennial Commission for the United States of America, formed by Congress to prepare an overall program for commemorating the 250th anniversary of the nation’s founding.

1984

Richard Marino ’84 CLAS was elected to the board of supervisors of Yorba Linda Township, Montgomery County, Pa., for a six-year term.

1995


Gonna Steer ’92 VSB is the founder and CEO of Time Network, a video and social network for time-starved women, reinforcing the growing need among busy women for online community complete with access to both expert coaching and peer-to-peer advice.

1996

Thomas J. Barbar ’86 CLAS was selected secretary of the Massachusetts Bar Association for its 2017–2018 year.

Massachusetts Bar Association president, relationship manager, and as general counsel and chief compliance officer for the Pennsylvania Trust Co. He also serves as an adjunct faculty for Villanova University’s Charles Widger School of Law Master of Laws in Taxation program.

2019

Daniel E. Cummins ’90 CLAS, partner with the Scranton, Pa., civil litigation law firm of Foley Comerford & Cummins, was recently notified of his selection to appear in the Best Lawyers of America Directory in the practice area of Personal Injury Litigation—Defense. Cummins is the only civil litigation defense attorney in northeastern Pennsylvania to be selected in this category by the national publication. In addition, Cummins also was advised of his selection for inclusion in the 2018 edition of Marquis Who’s Who in America. He is a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association. Michael Stornack, Esq., ‘97 CLAS was hired by the Center for Innovative Food Technology as the executive director of the organization.

2019

Francisco J. Vasquez ’97 VSB was recognized for 30 years of service working for Worthington Industries. He is currently employed as corporate purchasing manager of the Worthington Armstrong Venture.

2019

Susan VonNoorden-Scannl ’97 CLAS recently moved from the Chancellor’s Office at Rutgers Biomedical Health and Science to the School of Nursing as associate dean of Clinical Affairs. She is also the interim CEO of Rutgers’ federally qualified health center in Newark, N.J.

2019

Mark Cuthbertson ’88 VSB was re-elected as chairman to his fifth consecutive four-year term of office serving the residents of the town of Huntington, NY, with the banks Commercial Lending division. He is responsible for originating commercial loans. Lines of credit, equipment loans and real estate mortgages for businesses in the metro Philadelphia market.

2019

John Campbell ’82 VSB was named director of Investor Relations at Wolfe Fargo Bank.

1993

Jennifer Dominy Fox, JD, MBA, CFP, ’85 VSB was appointed president of the Brex More Trust’s Corporate Management division.

Neil Dhar ’83 VSB was appointed by PCW to be the US firm’s leader of Financial Services. Dhar is responsible for overseeing the strategy and leadership of PCW’s US Financial Services practice, which includes the asset and wealth management, banking and capital markets, and insurance sectors.

2019

Carol LaRottell ’86 MA, who received a master’s of Environmental and Energy Policy in 2009, retired from working at DuPont after 22 years and now teaches English as an adjunct professor at the University of Delaware.

2019

Tricia Tischel ’93 VSB joined Long & Foster’s Art Herling Team in Wayne, Pa., specializing in working with homeowners and sellers. Prior to her real estate career, she taught English at Devon Preparatory School for 13 years.

2004

Brian Shea ’94 CLAS was hired by Ann Black Solutions of Ann Plc as the resident managing director of the Construction Services group in the New York region. Prior to joining Ann, Shea served as head of the Construction division at Arch Insurance Group for more than 10 years.

1989

Ian P. Burns, PE, ’95 COE, has been selected as the resident managing director of Entech Engineering Inc.’s principal leadership team.

2009

Ronald Zajoklinich ’95 COE was promoted to vice president at Dewbury, a privately held professional services firm.

2019

Jason T. Laffreicq, Esq., ’95 CLAS joined Roger, Hiran & Darrell as partner in the Philadelphia office.

George Schwartz ’95 MA retired from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard Sept. 30. 2017. During more than 30 years of service, he served both on active and reserve duty at the US, Germany, Kosovo and Afghanistan. He also led several disaster response efforts for the Pennsylvania National Guard. In his final military role, he served simultaneously as assistant adjutant general for the Pennsylvania National Guard and as the deputy commander for Reserve Affairs at the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. His awards include the Legion of
2000s

Chris Kane ’50 co-founded The Dog Spot, an all-inclusive dog care facility with 25 current operating locations, and plans to expand nationally, opening between 10 and 12 new locations in 2018.

Allison O’Sullivan Trousdale ’00 CLAS welcomed twin girls.

Mike Scotto ’00 and Vincent Whitman ’00 donated places in a hose bundle outside of Good Counsel to honor their friend Christopher Zona, who would have graduated in 2001. All three men grew up together in Manton Island and subsequently became Villanova students and roommates.

2001

Dean E. Morrill, Esq. ’01 CLAS joined The Growth Coach in business development and operations strategy, working with business owners, law firms and sales teams to help grow their businesses.

Jennifer J. Riley ’01 CLAS has been recognized as a Rising Star by the Pennsylvania Super Lawyers publication for the sixth consecutive year. She is a co-author of Civil Law and Practice in Pennsylvania, and she has been published and presented nationally on the use of technology in family law. The Law Offices of Jennifer J. Riley has also been recognized by the 2017 Law Firm 500 Award as No. 20 on the list of the 500 fastest growing firms in the country.

2002

James Fessel and ’02 CLAS has been named a Rising Star in the San Diego Super Lawyers 2018 Edition.

Heather Garboden ’03 CLAS was named vice president, Financial Planning and Analysis, at American Airlines.

Thomas M. Giblin Jr. ’02 CLAS’02 was sworn in as a deputy mayor and councilman for Hammonton, N.J.

Edward LaPine ’02 CLAS, director of Jensen Hughes’ Manhattan office, received Consulting-Supplying Exploer’s 2017-40 Under 40 Award. Joel McNaughton ’02 CLAS has been selected as a winner of the 2017 Law Firm 500 Award as No. 20 on the list of the 500 fastest growing firms in the country.

2003

Jame Francis ’03 CLAS has been named a Rising Star in the San Diego Super Lawyers 2018 Edition.

Laura Quilty Vultaggio ’04 CLAS, ’06 CLAS welcomed a girl, Carmella Mary.

2004

Ian Frank ’04 CLAS ’06 MA received the Edward B. Marrow Award for Sports Reporting and the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Award for Outstanding Sports Journalism for his coverage of the Villanova Men’s Basketball teams 2016 National Championship on KYW Newsradio in Philadelphia and CBS News.


Laura Quilty Vultaggio ’04 CLAS and Edward Eric Vultaggio welcomed their second son, Patrick Dennis Vultaggio, Jan. 7, 2017, in New York City.

2005

Quinn M. Schmiege ’05 CLAS joined the law firm of Gallagher Sharp LLP as an associate.

2006

Mike Ferrasoli ’06 CLAS and Molly Grace Ferrasoli ’07 CLAS welcomed their son, Henry Christopher Ferrasoli, born Aug. 12, 2017.

Jessica Pummali Hoffmann ’06 CLAS and Luke Hoffmann ’06 CLAS welcomed a boy.

2007

S. Deepika Kalyanam ’07 COL has spent more than 20 years as an assistant district attorney in the Bronx, NY, investigating and prosecuting challenging cases, including those involving corruption and violence in jails and in the construction industry. For his skill as a prosecutor and dedication to public service and ethics, Piegrossi has received the Thomas E. Dewey Medal from the New York City Bar Association, given annually to an outstanding prosecutor in each of the city’s five district attorney’s offices.

Lawrence D. Piegrossi ’94 COL has also authored a book, Social Influence in Personal and Professional Contexts, which was published by Kendall Hunt Publishing.

Laura O’Brien Adams ’09 COL was awarded the Young Professional of the Year Award by the American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey.

2008

Kathleen Caldwell ’09 COL welcomed a boy.


Jonathan Limberakis, DMD, ’10 COL opened his pediatric private practice in Arlington, PA.

Stephanie Mostone ’10 FCN received the Pennsylvania State Professional Engineering Exam and now holds the title licensed professional engineer. In addition, Kalyanam received the Pennsylvania Water Environment Association Top Membrane Award in honor of her extraordinary personal service to the association, while working to promote water and wastewater collection systems understanding, operation and maintenance; and training and continuing education.

Danielle Bo ’07 VSB and Brian Gasper ’07 COL welcomed a boy, Christian Matthew.

Ashley Newman ’08 CLAS was named to the 2018 NY Super Lawyers Rising Stars.

2009

Ralph Gigliotti ’09 COL recently co-authored a book, Investigating and Prosecuting White-Collar Crime, which was published by Kendall Hunt Publishing.

Lauren O’Connor Adams ’09 COL was awarded the Young Professional of the Year Award by the American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey.

2010

Theodore Francis, CLAS, ’06 welcomed a girl, Josephine Agnes Kravitz.

D’Antuono ’01 CLAS accepted the role of director of marketing at CWSL.

2011

Mike Scotto ’00 CLAS was awarded the Young Professional of the Year Award by the American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey.

2012

Joel McNaughton ’02 CLAS was awarded the Young Professional of the Year Award by the American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey.

2013

Allison O’Sullivan Trousdale ’00 CLAS welcomed twin girls.

Mike Scotto ’00 and Vincent Whitman ’00 donated places in a hose bundle outside of Good Counsel to honor their friend Christopher Zona, who would have graduated in 2001. All three men grew up together in Manton Island and subsequently became Villanova students and roommates.

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Jennifer J. Riley ’01 CLAS has been recognized as a Rising Star by the Pennsylvania Super Lawyers publication for the sixth consecutive year. She is a co-author of Civil Law and Practice in Pennsylvania, and she has been published and presented nationally on the use of technology in family law. The Law Offices of Jennifer J. Riley has also been recognized by the 2017 Law Firm 500 Award as No. 20 on the list of the 500 fastest growing firms in the country.

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Jessica Pummali Hoffmann ’06 CLAS and Luke Hoffmann ’06 CLAS welcomed a boy.

2018

S. Deepika Kalyanam ’07 COL has spent more than 20 years as an assistant district attorney in the Bronx, NY, investigating and prosecuting challenging cases, including those involving corruption and violence in jails and in the construction industry. For his skill as a prosecutor and dedication to public service and ethics, Piegrossi has received the Thomas E. Dewey Medal from the New York City Bar Association, given annually to an outstanding prosecutor in each of the city’s five district attorney’s offices.

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Lauren O’Connor Adams ’09 COL was awarded the Young Professional of the Year Award by the American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey.

2019

Theodore Francis, CLAS, ’06 welcomed a girl, Josephine Agnes Kravitz.

D’Antuono ’01 CLAS accepted the role of director of marketing at CWSL.
In Memoriam

1930s

Edgar T. Gibson '34 CLAS, July 4, 1937.

1940s

Edward K. Stanish, MD, '40 CLAS, July 9, 1941.
Roger L. Logan '42 CLAS, Aug. 25, 1943.
George A. Baird '43 COE, Oct. 13, 1943.
Vincent D. Bradley '43 VSB, Nov. 6, 1943.
John J. Callahan '43 CLAS, Jan. 19.
Robert J. Casey Sr. '44 COE, Oct. 30, 1944.
William Butler '44 CLAS, Jan. 8, 1945.
Herbert J. Senter '45 VSB, Jan. 19.
Thomas E. Boyle '46 COE, Dec. 31, 1946.
Alfred Petrakis '48 CLAS, Jan. 30.
Joseph V. Topper Sr. '48 VSB, Feb. 4.
Clark D. Stockdale Jr. '49 CLAS, March 6, 1949.

1950s

Philip D. DiBlasi '50 VSB, Feb. 7.
Harold D. Red '50 COE, Aug. 18, 1950.
Daniel J. Dzeto '50 VSB, Aug. 28, 1950.
Charles F. Hartnett '50 COE, March 5, 1950.
James J. McConlogue '50 CLAS, March 11.
Philip J. McKay Sr. '50 COE, Dec. 18, 1950.
Horace V. Schos '50 VSB, March 25, 1950.
Samuel R. Delano '51 CLAS, March 26, 1951.
Michael J. Halloran '51 CLAS, Sept. 28, 1951.
Tom W. Link '51 CLAS, Feb. 2.
Edward F. McElravey '51 CLAS, Feb. 2.
Richard J. Motz '51 COE, Feb. 2.
Edward W. Ziegler Jr. '51 VSB, Jan. 23.
Robert P. Grevenman '53 CLAS, April 9, 1953.
Walter E. Hebach '53 COE, Dec. 27, 1953.
Richard J. Komyon '52 COE, March 12.
Arthur D. Klepper '52 COE, March 5, 1952.
Joseph J. McShane '53 CLAS, Nov. 17, 1953.
James J. Finhewer '54 VSB, March 26, 1954.
William P. Irwin '54 CLAS, March 6.
William J. Reynolds '55 VSB, April 3.
John W. Shepherd '56 COE, Dec. 27, 1956.
Julian J. Givel '57 CLAS, Sept. 23, 1957.
Anthony J. Brady '57 COE, Oct. 6, 1957.
John W. Dalton '58 VSB, March 6.

1960s

John E. Polkynski '59 VSB, March 16.
Edward A. Utsch '59 VSB, Jan. 8.

1970s

Joseph M. Biele '70 VSB, March 16, 1970.
George J. Cooper '70 COE, Dec. 9, 1970.
John E. Askew '71 COE, March 27, 1971.
James M. Askew '71 COE, March 27, 1971.

1980s

Roger H. Moriarty '52 VSB, Aug. 11, 1981.
Gerald A. Dr.Clampt '82 CLAS, Nov. 3, 1982.
William F. Mullin '82 VSB, Feb. 6, 1982.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam
In Memoriam

Louis Casciato '62
Robert J. Capone '62
April 1.


Charles Martini '62 VSB, Jan. 3.


Joseph S. Tarell '64 COE, Nov. 27, 2017.

Kathryn Little Clarke '64, Esq., '68 CLAS, May 3, 2017.

Barbara Recupido '65 CLAS, Sept. 8, 2017.


Rocco J. Losito '77 2017.

Raymond Olfky '68 MEE, March 6, 2017.


Frank M. Essis '81 MS, Feb. 27, 2017.


Rita M. McCarter, staff, CWSL, Feb. 27, 2017.


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.

Attention, Racers!

Engineering students use an iconic Nintendo video game to help children improve their ability to focus.

**BIG IDEA**

Since the first installment was released in 1992, the Mario Kart series of video games has mushroomed, and generations of players have enjoyed pitting characters against each other in go-kart-style racing. Now, through the implementation of neurofeedback technology by Villanova students, children with attention deficit disorders may be able to use the games to improve their ability to focus.

Seniors in Electrical and Computer Engineering teamed up to design a system that measures players’ brain waves to determine how focused they are as they race their karts. If a player loses concentration, that information is relayed through various electronic devices and causes the player’s kart to slow down. Once the player refocuses, the vehicle regains its speed.

**PARTICIPANTS**

Nathan Cheong
Stephanie Jones
Scott Miller
Daniel Tagliaferro
Mark Jupina, PhD, associate professor and adviser

**HOW IT WORKS**

**NARBISSUS BRAND NEUROFEEDBACK GLASSES:** This product combines sensors, an app and a Bluetooth armband to track and transmit brain activity.

**ARDUINO MEGA:** After receiving the brainwave data, this microcontroller board converts them to signals that can be read by a computer program. It also communicates with an LED circuit in a 3-D printed box, which shows the user’s level of concentration.

**RASPBERRY PI:** This small computer reads the signals and runs the Mario Kart game and a background program to tell the final link in the chain, “Tag. You’re it.”

**MAKEY MAKEY:** Once “tagged,” this device handles the brakes. Dipping concentration levels prompt it to create the effect of brake presses on the user’s kart. Rising levels removes this effect.

**NEXT STEPS**

The system is designed for one player using a keyboard. Next steps include having multiple players who use gaming controllers. Once the system is more portable and user-friendly, the group hopes that it will be an effective tool for therapists.

“There are a lot of uses for this technology,” says Dr. Jupina. “It is to the point where something like this could eventually be put on the market.”

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**NOVATION #GoingNova**

What an amazing start to their Villanova experience! Continuing a new tradition, students of the incoming class of 2022 shared their energy and excitement about becoming Villanovans via social media with the hashtag #GoingNova.

To submit your Villanova photo for consideration, email vusocialmedia@villanova.edu.
To help actors embody their characters on stage, designers delve for dramatic looks in the award-winning Theatre Department’s costume shop in Vasey Hall. The University broke ground on the department’s future home—the $60 million Performing Arts Center—in January. Learn more about other campus updates on page 13.