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Hope Flies

Through drones and GIS mapping, Villanova advances Catholic Relief Services' efforts in Madagascar





PHOTO: JOHN SHETRON; ILLUSTRATION: PETER JAMES FIELD

Spring Forward

Dear Friends,

Signs of spring are beginning to pop up all over campus—and the budding flowers are far from the only growth we're seeing at Villanova.

We're excited to give more of our students an opportunity to live in community, as we put the finishing touches on an impressive new residence complex that will enable us to house more undergraduate students on campus than ever before. We look forward to what the future holds for our arts community as work continues on the new Performing Arts Center—a space that reflects the quality of our students, faculty and staff, the caliber of our productions and the talent of our performers and artists.

Our campus is being transformed before our eyes. We have just completed a historic campaign. We have never had more talented students in our classrooms and labs. Our faculty are among the brightest minds in their fields, challenging and inspiring students across our academic programs. Our athletic programs continue to bring national



attention to our University. Our opportunities to make a greater impact through service across the globe are reaching new thresholds. And yet, the higher we climb, the more firmly rooted we remain in the values that have brought us to this point.

As St. Augustine said, "The higher your structure is to be, the deeper must be its foundation." Our students and alumni often talk about the transformational journeys they've embarked on to become the best version of themselves. Similarly, we as an institution continue to grow and evolve as we become the best Villanova we can be. We have much to celebrate in this new season at our University, but we have so much more we can accomplish as Villanova continues to bloom.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Peter M. Donohue,
OSA, PhD, '75 CLAS
President

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Additional photos by Paul Crane, John Shetron, Villanova Athletics, Villanova University and Getty Images.

Pictured on cover: In Madagascar, Julia McMahon '19 MS and Nick Zaccoli '17 COE, '19 MS shared their GIS expertise with CRS staff, who use drone technology to assess water infrastructure and other humanitarian projects from the sky.

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Built to Last

How Villanova's project management team keeps up with new developments on campus

PHOTO: PAUL CRANE



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Nova-Worthy



University's Credit Rating, Outlook Upgraded

Citing Villanova's strong financial position and rising national profile, the credit rating agency Standard & Poor's recently upgraded the University's bond rating to AA-.

"This upgrade demonstrates that the University is financially stable, sustainable and a prudent steward of its resources," says **Kenneth G. Valosky '82 VSB**, executive vice president. "We are on solid ground as we continue to increase our commitment to providing educational access through financial aid and enhance our academic programs and campus facilities."

An upgraded bond rating from S&P results from an independent assessment of the University's financial position, and it signals to investors that Villanova's bonds are a high-quality investment. The higher rating makes the University's bonds more attractive to investors, which in turn should result in increased demand, favorable pricing and reduced interest costs on future bond issues.

Moody's, another independent assessor of institutions' credit-worthiness, also recently reaffirmed Villanova's A1 rating and upgraded its outlook from stable to positive.

In reviewing Villanova for these changes, both agencies considered the University's strong national profile; its ability to recruit increasing numbers of high-achieving students and its growing selectivity; its strong operating practices and prudent financial management; and its increasing financial resources, boosted by the success of the recently concluded capital campaign, which raised more than \$760 million.

A Captivating Act to Follow

Thought-Provoking Issues Take Center Stage in Villanova Professor's Award-Winning Plays

James Ijames, MFA, assistant professor of Theatre, says a friend describes his plays as "hammer-funny." They strike hard with humor to break through the audience's bias and preconceived ideas, allowing incisive themes of race, gender and socioeconomic class to enter.

Turns out "hammer-funny" breaks down critics, too—one of Ijames' recent works, *Kill Move Paradise*, was awarded the National Arts Club's 2018 Kesselring Prize, which honors and supports emerging playwrights in the development of their work. As a result, Ijames received \$25,000 from the Club Kesselring Fund and the chance to develop his work during a two-week residency at the organization's historic clubhouse in New York City. The club also staged readings and scenes from Ijames' plays in November.

In *Kill Move Paradise*, four black men find themselves stuck in a cosmic waiting room in the afterlife. Inspired by the slayings of unarmed black men around the country, Ijames describes his play as "a portrait of the slain, not as degenerates who deserved death, but as heroes who demand that we see them for the splendid beings they are." Despite the characters' unjust killings, they become symbols of hope and hint toward society's collective transformation.

Critics and audiences beyond the region have taken notice of Ijames, who acts, directs and writes plays. His play *White* is set to premiere in the UK at the Edinburgh University Theatre Company. *The New York Times* included Ijames on its list of "Black Male Writers for Our Time," "who are producing literature that is essential to how we understand our country and its place in the world right now."

His most recent play, *Youth*, was staged at the Villanova Theatre in the spring. The play follows a group of young people questioning what they know about themselves and weaves together magical realism and rousing, gospel-inflected songs in an exploration of living and loving in a world where anything is possible.

... It radiates an urgent and hypnotic theatrical energy."

Ben Brantley,
The New York Times
review of
Kill Move Paradise



▲ Ijames (pronounced like "times" without the "t") has found a home in the Philadelphia theatre scene as a performer, a director and a playwright. He originally hails from Bessemer City, a small town outside Charlotte, N.C.

PHOTO: RYAN COLLARD



First debuted at the National Black Theatre in Harlem, N.Y., *Kill Move Paradise* tells the story of four young black men stuck in a cosmic waiting room in the afterlife.

PHOTOS: JOHANNA AUSTIN

- ▶ Playwriting Awards
- 2018 Kesselring Prize, given by the National Arts Club
- 2017 Whiting Award, given by the Whiting Foundation
- 2015 Terrence McNally New Play Award
- 2015 Pew Fellowship in the Arts for Playwriting
- 2011 F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Artist
- 2011 Independence Foundation Fellowship in Performing Arts

\$3 million
National Science Foundation grant

Boosting Inclusiveness in STEM Fields

Villanova has received a \$3 million National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant to support the advancement of women and underrepresented faculty in the science, technology, engineering and math fields. Led by the project's principal investigator, **Amanda Grannas, PhD**, associate vice provost for Research and professor of Chemistry, a multidisciplinary team will explore and address how institutions like Villanova can increase participation of women and underrepresented groups in STEM-related fields. With the goal of providing a model that other colleges and universities may follow.

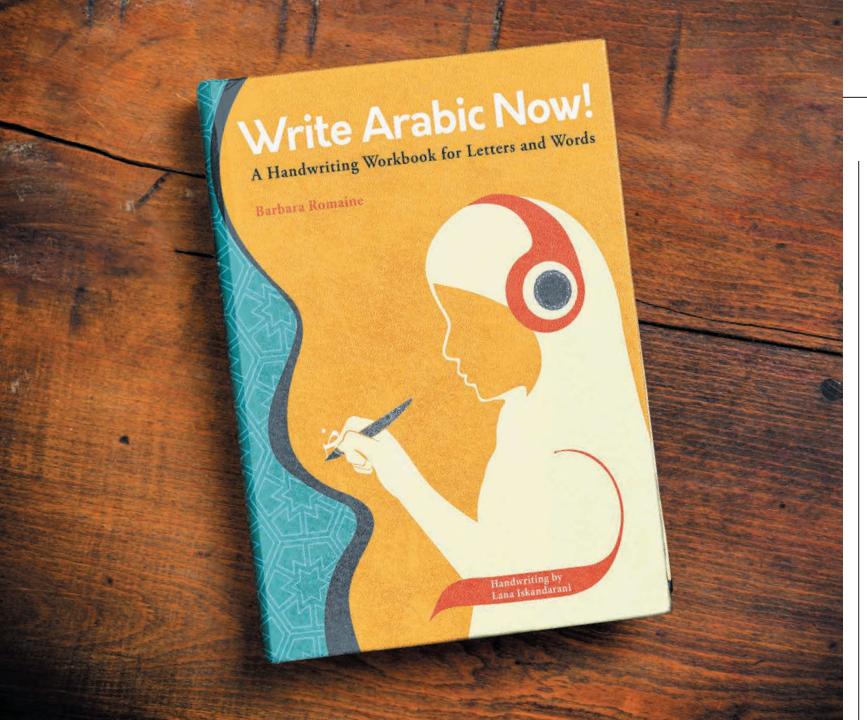
“We’re consuming more news than ever, and sometimes it can feel like there are only problems. I wanted ‘Tell Me Something Good’ to deliver stories about real people who are making progress solving real issues.”

RYAN BURKE '08 VSB

After discovering that news fatigue has been proven to cause stress and anxiety, Ryan Burke '08 VSB, creative producer at Google Creative Lab, developed “Tell Me Something Good”—a feature for the Google Assistant that provides a daily dose of good news. Just say “Hey Google, tell me something good,” and receive a short news summary about people who are working to make the world better. These news summaries are curated through the lens of solutions journalism—an approach that has been proven to empower and uplift audiences by reporting not just the problems in society but also the emerging solutions.



PHOTO: MAHER MAHMOOD



Practice Makes Perfect Arabic

Innovative Workbook Helps Students at Villanova and Beyond

Learning to write fluidly in Arabic takes practice. That's something **Barbara Romaine**, an Arabic instructor in the Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies, emphasizes to students when they're struggling to master the challenging Arabic writing system.

When she couldn't find the type of educational materials she needed to help them get that practice, Romaine created her own. "After using this makeshift approach for a few years, it occurred to me that perhaps my idea amounted to a potential textbook in and of itself," she says. What began as a workaround is now a published workbook in its second printing with Georgetown University Press.

Write Arabic Now! A Handwriting Workbook for Letters and Words got off the ground with the help of an instructional mini-grant from the Villanova Institute for Teaching and Learning, which provides funding to full-time Villanova faculty members to develop new teaching and learning approaches.

Using handwriting samples from fellow Arabic instructor Lana Iskandarani, the workbook allows learners to practice letter formation on tracing paper that is bound into the book. It also comes with audio of the practice words so students simultaneously learn how to pronounce the words they're writing.

"The audio component is vital, since the way a word is represented on the page and the way it is spoken are inextricably linked," Romaine says. "It is wonderful to have the privilege of witnessing each new generation of students encountering Arabic for themselves, and having their own experiences unlocking the language's mysteries."

29,000

pounds of certified-humane eggs Dining Services purchases each year



Good Eggs

Becoming the first university of its size to commit to offering 100 percent certified humane, pasture-raised shell eggs by 2021, Villanova has earned a spot in Farm Forward's Leadership Circle. The program recognizes pioneering institutions that raise the bar in institutional food purchasing, leveraging their buying power to change the way animals are raised for food.

New Center Aims for Medical Breakthroughs

“
The way a word is represented on the page and the way it is spoken are inextricably linked.”

Barbara Romaine





Behavioral Research Lab Enables Collaboration

Located in Bartley Hall, the new Laboratory for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research provides a physical space for Villanova School of Business faculty and students to conduct research studies using surveys, interviews, focus groups and other primary sources. Its state-of-the-art tools for data collection also make LAIR a valuable resource for course projects that require primary data collection and other activities that call for cutting-edge research practices.

Hope for Bettering the World

Villanova recently honored individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the Catholic intellectual tradition and to justice and peace.

The Civitas Dei Medal was awarded to Cardinal Walter Kasper, theologian and president emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, for his more than six decades of work advancing the Catholic Church's ecumenical engagement and fostering dialogue with other world religions.

The Adela Dwyer-St. Thomas of Villanova Peace Award was presented to Bryan Stevenson who, as the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has advocated tirelessly on behalf of the marginalized and condemned. Stevenson's book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, was the 2018 One Book Villanova selection.

25%

of college students reported sending and responding to text messages while sleeping



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

To Sleep, Perchance to Text

Nursing Professor's Research Highlights Sleep Texting Phenomenon

“We have to take an active role in managing our technology.”

Elizabeth Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN



Sleepwalking and sleep talking aren't that out of the ordinary—but sleep texting? Turns out it might not be either. More than 25 percent of college students reported sending or responding to a text message in their sleep, in a survey conducted by Villanova Nursing Professor **Elizabeth Dowdell, PhD, RN, FAAN**.

Featured in more than 200 media outlets, including *Good Morning America*, *The Guardian* and TODAY, the findings gained massive interest after Dr. Dowdell and co-author **Brianne Clayton, RN, '14 FCN, '18 MSN** published their study in the *Journal of American College Health*.

The idea came about while Dr. Dowdell was working with a group of Villanova undergraduate nursing students on research into internet behaviors in high school students. "That's when I first heard the term 'sleep texting,' and I wanted to know who's doing it," she says.

Dr. Dowdell conducted a survey of approximately 372 college students to get some answers. She found 93 percent kept their cell phones in their bedrooms with them at night, and those students who sleep text were more likely to report sleep interruption and to keep their phone in the bed with them. With plans to expand upon this research, Dr. Dowdell hopes to study a larger sample size to investigate just how intrusive sleep texting is to sleep quality.

"I suspect sleep texting is a behavior related to dependence on cell phones and Wi-Fi technology, which is why we really need to have conversations with young people about the need for boundaries," she says.

"Remind them they control the technology—it does not control them. We role model that behavior. There are times we have to leave our phones on, but there are also times when we can and should turn them off. We have to take an active role in managing our technology."

Don't Lose Sleep Over It

Here are a few tips Dr. Dowdell offers to sleep a little more soundly with fewer phone interruptions:

- 1 Make your bedroom a "no-phone zone."

- 2 Turn off or mute your phone at night—or at least use airplane, sleep or do not disturb mode.

- 3 Use a separate alarm clock to lessen the need to have your phone near the bed.

- 4 If you must keep your phone near you, program it so that only select people can call or text if they need to reach you while you sleep.

ILLUSTRATIONS: JASON RUGGIERO

What It Means to Be the First

Students, faculty, staff and alumni, including University President the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, '75 CLAS, shared their experiences as the first in their families to attend college during Villanova's inaugural First Generation Celebration Week. Here are a few of their stories:



Kathy Kalata

'20 VSB, DATA ANALYTICS AND MANAGEMENT MAJOR WITH A CONCENTRATION IN CONSULTING



Boratha Tan

'16 COE, HYBRID SYSTEMS AND COMPONENTS ENGINEER, FORD MOTOR COMPANY



Barry Selinsky

PhD, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT, PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY



Eloise Berry

PhD, '92 CLAS, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS AND LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

"My parents were Polish farmers who came to the United States for the opportunity for a better life. Without even a high school degree or a full understanding of English, this was not an easy task. My mom would reiterate to us every morning, 'God gave you a gift. With this gift, He also has high expectations. You must use this gift He gave you to help others.' My mother's motto was the reason behind my application and acceptance to Villanova University. It is my motivation to continue studying and taking advantage of every opportunity Villanova has to offer. Lastly, her words will be my motivation to 'pay it forward' and help other students in similar hardships like myself day to day."

"Being part of the first generation can often mean that you are experiencing many other 'firsts' alongside your family. For example, you could help your parents sort through mortgage paperwork to buy your family's first home. Or, you could be an interpreter for your mother during jury selection. I am the first in my family to receive a bachelor's degree, but I sure had my share of 'firsts' with the rest of my family. For me, being first generation requires a healthy balance of personal growth and a deep love for family. I don't have my degree with me at my home in Detroit—it hangs on the wall in my parents' home. That's because 'my' degree is, in reality, our family's degree."

"My dad was a World War II veteran who planned on attending college using the GI Bill but had to go to work in the coal mines to support his extended family. He and my mom sacrificed to ensure that their four kids all had the opportunity to attend college. We ate a lot of spaghetti and bologna, and my brothers and I caddied and washed dishes at the local country club during the summer months. While it wasn't easy, all four of us graduated from college and ended up with advanced degrees, including my PhD in Biochemistry. My parents were proud of our accomplishments, and we were privileged to have parents who challenged us to succeed."



From New Orleans to Villanova

Villanova has become the 59th partner institution of The Posse Foundation, one of the nation's premier college access, success and youth leadership development programs. Founded in 1989, Posse recruits groups of high-achieving students with academic and leadership potential from cities around the country, and then works with its college and university partners to place the groups of students—called Posse Scholars—at each institution.

Villanova has committed to provide 10 Posse Scholars per year from the New Orleans, La., area with full-tuition scholarships, as well as academic, social and professional development support. The first cohort of Posse students will enroll at Villanova in fall 2020.

“Villanova has found in The Posse Foundation a strategic partner whose values closely align with our own. We each believe in the transformative strength of community and the importance of developing leaders from all walks of life who can go on to positively impact the world,” says University President the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, ‘75 CLAS.

“

This collaboration ... takes us beyond the dyad connection between Ireland and America and internationalizes the program.”

Joseph Lennon, PhD



Making Irish Connections Across the Globe

How Villanova’s Center for Irish Studies Is Helping to Carry on Princess Grace Kelly’s Legacy

Sounds of Irish poetry and music filled the Kelly House once more when the historic East Falls home of the late Princess Grace Kelly opened its doors for an event for the first time last April. Villanova’s Center for Irish Studies helped to organize the reading by Irish poets Colette Bryce and Vona Groarke, two of its esteemed former Charles A. Heimbolt Jr. Chairs.

“It was especially apt and touching—the only performing that Princess Grace undertook after her marriage was poetry reading, and she had a great love of her Irish heritage,” said her niece **Susan Kelly vonMedicus**, who teaches for the Center for Irish Studies and the Department of Theatre and Studio Art at Villanova.

When her cousin, Albert II, Prince of Monaco (Princess Grace’s son), purchased the home to restore it to its former glory, vonMedicus suggested Villanova as the lead academic partner for events, such as lectures, contemporary author readings and music.

Now that partnership is expanding to include the Princess Grace Irish Library in Monaco, which houses more than 9,000 volumes of Irish books, literature, music and poetry that belonged to Princess Grace. “The library was founded to not only house her extensive collection, but to also create a place for new scholarship in Irish Letters with residencies, lecture series and a children’s room,” vonMedicus says.

In fall 2020, Villanova’s Center for Irish Studies will host a conference at the library focused on Ireland and the arts, inviting Irish scholars from around the world. “This collaboration is really important for Villanova because it takes us beyond the dyad connection between Ireland and America and internationalizes the program,” says **Joseph Lennon, PhD**, the Emily C. Riley Director of the Center for Irish Studies and associate dean of International and Interdisciplinary Initiatives. He and vonMedicus will serve as co-directors of the conference.



Did You Know?

For his novel *Solar Bones*, Villanova’s 2019 Heimbolt Chair Mike McCormack won the International Dublin Literary Award, one of the largest prizes in the world for a single work of literature.

“He’s one of the hottest fiction writers right now, and we’re fortunate to have him teaching two courses here this semester,” Dr. Lennon says.

PHOTO: ANTHONY BUSA



The Bigger Picture

Anthony Busa ’19 COE, landed dream opportunities to work with *National Geographic* and an independent photographer in 2017 and 2016, which took him deep into remote Mongolian and Tibetan communities.

Photographs he took on those excursions, displayed in the Villanova Art Gallery last fall, capture unique moments, as well as the spirit of cultures that are vanishing due to modernization and globalization. “As a photographer, I do my best to understand and appreciate different ways of life, and, through the photographs, I try to help others attain a meaningful understanding and appreciation,” Anthony says.



PHOTO: ZACHARY RAHN

It's Never Been Easier to Visit the Vatican

Villanovans Create Virtual Tours of the Holy See's Sacred Spaces

66

I'm happy to be contributing our expertise in this area to support the Vatican's outreach efforts online."

Frank Klassner, PhD



Computer Science Professor **Frank Klassner, PhD**, and three Villanova students are currently organizing

a weeklong trip to the Pope's summer home later this year. They plan to capture thousands of images to create a seamless interactive tour that allows visitors to roam the gardens and rooms of the 17th-century Papal Palace online.

"It will be a much larger scale than what we've done before because it will take you inside of the Castel Gandolfo palace and also outside on its garden grounds," says Dr. Klassner, director of Villanova's Center of Excellence in Enterprise Technology.

It will be the ninth project to come out of an exclusive decade-long internship program between Villanova's Computer Science Department and the Vatican Museum. Dr. Klassner has served as the project lead for a total of eight virtual reality tours created for the Vatican's website, including the Sistine Chapel, the Basilica of St. Peter and, most

Digging Deep

Last year, Frank Klassner, PhD, and Computer Science students from Villanova ventured deep into the earth to create a virtual tour of a live archeological site beneath the Vatican. An ancient Roman burial ground, the Necropolis of the *Via Triumphalis* houses more than 1,000 tombs and graves dating from the 1st century BC through AD 320.

Renowned for its beauty, the Redemptoris Mater Chapel in the Vatican is often called "the Sistine Chapel of the 21st century."



The Mendel Medal was designed by John Sinnock, the eighth chief engraver of the US Mint.

PHOTO: DISTINCTIVE COLLECTIONS, FALVEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Showing Its Mettle



PHOTO: PAUL CRANE

1929

first year
Mendel Medal
was awarded

47

recipients awarded

6

Nobel Laureates
received the
Mendel Medal

2018 Mendel Medal Recipient

An internationally renowned pioneer in climate change research, **Veerabhadran Ramanathan, PhD**, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric and Climate Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, received the 2018 Mendel Medal.

In the 90 years since its inception, the award was given annually from 1929 to 1943, bestowed eight times between 1946 and 1968, and then reestablished in 1992 after a 25-year hiatus as part of Villanova's sesquicentennial celebrations.

"The Mendel Medal is a symbol of Villanova's choice to celebrate the compatibility of science and religion by honoring outstanding scientists who have given practical demonstration of the fact that between true science and true religion there is no intrinsic conflict."

The Rev. Kail C. Ellis, OSA, PhD, special assistant to the President and dean emeritus of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

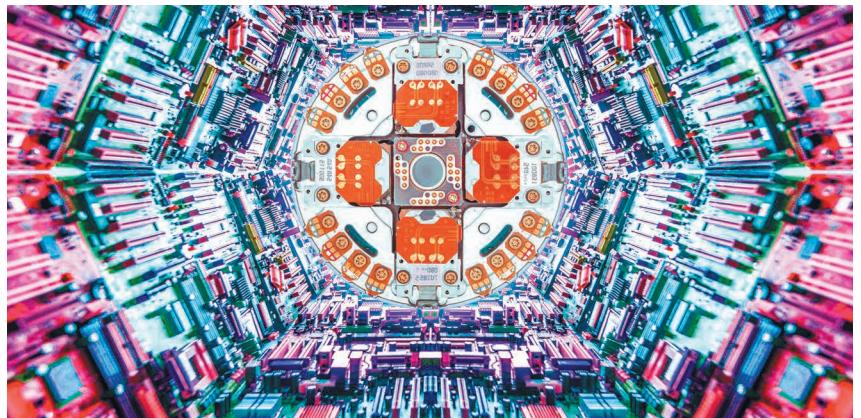


PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Blockchain Reaction

New MBA Elective Tackles Complex Technology

Even if you've never heard of it, blockchain technology is poised to change the world. In the next decade, **William "Bill" Wagner, PhD**, expects blockchain technology—already a \$100 billion-a-year industry—will underlie nearly every line of business and become a critical aspect of finance and government services.

"There is a huge gap in the knowledge of what blockchain is and can do. It is very critical for students to become 'blockchain literate,'" says Dr. Wagner, associate chair of Accounting and Information Systems in the Villanova School of Business.

An expert on this relatively new technology, Dr. Wagner has co-authored an introductory textbook on blockchain and worked to incorporate it into the VSB curriculum—including a new MBA elective. Education in blockchain has expanded to academic courses in the College of Engineering and the undergraduate Business program.

So what is blockchain? "Think of it as a credit card—minus the credit card company," Dr. Wagner says. The technology can be used to validate transactions just as a credit card company does, but with much lower fees.

It stores information in a distributed ledger of transactions, one that all the blockchain participants can see without revealing their own identities. With bitcoin, a popular kind of blockchain-based currency, the user can transfer funds to another person or company almost instantly, without the aid of an intermediary such as a bank to validate the transaction. The participants in the blockchain network function like a bank to make sure that the transaction is valid. Then all the transactions are encrypted and stored on the blockchain so that it is impossible to tamper with them.

A global race is underway, with countries and companies competing to be the first to adopt blockchain and to set the encryption standards to secure the information. "This technology is changing rapidly, in ways that we may not be able to anticipate yet, potentially disrupting whole industries. As a result, entrepreneurs and new companies are springing up to use blockchain in the hopes of making the world faster, cheaper and more efficient," Dr. Wagner says.

“
It is very critical
for students
to become
'blockchain
literate.'

Bill Wagner, PhD



PHOTOS: HALKIN/MASON PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC

A Slam Dunk

FROM ITS GRAND UNVEILING at the Hoops Mania basketball kickoff event in October to the final sold-out home game of the season leading up to March Madness, the Finneran Pavilion was a fan favorite throughout its inaugural season.

"The Finn" received a \$65 million renovation in 2017-18, kicked off by a \$22.6 million gift from William B. Finneran '63 VSB. Fans can now enjoy upgraded gathering areas and concessions, an interactive history exhibit that celebrates the storied Villanova Athletic tradition, and high-tech audiovisual displays throughout the arena.

"The Finneran Pavilion is a completely reimaged, transformed space that has made the entire Nova Nation proud," says Mark Jackson, director of Athletics.

The 6,501-seat arena was sold out for every Men's Basketball game this season. But one seat was always empty—the Lone Chair is symbolically reserved as a tribute to servicemen and women who have lost their lives, become prisoners of war or been listed as missing in action.



► Finneran Pavilion was packed for the Men's Basketball team's first game—and win—of the season versus Morgan State on Nov. 6.

Studying Like Champions

Student-athletes at Villanova—consistently ranked among the nation's best for their combination of academic and athletic success—have continued their record of academic achievement.

In November, the NCAA released new Graduation Success Rate data, which shows the proportion of student-athletes on a team who earn a college degree. The NCAA's report showed that all Villanova athletic programs had a GSR that beat the national average for their sports, and 12 teams recorded perfect 100 GSR scores.

A closer look at the teams' other strong academic stats show they score high across the board:

3.286
cumulative GPA of
Villanova student-athletes

17
student-athletes
with perfect 4.0 GPA

31
consecutive semesters
with student-athlete
GPA greater than 3.0

8
consecutive semesters
with GPA above 3.2

380
student-athletes named
to the Athletic Director's
Honor Roll

Decoding Russian History

History Professor Covers 1,000 Years in Video Lecture Series for The Great Courses

Stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean, Russia spans 11 time zones and two continents—making it the world's largest country by area. Villanova's **Lynne Hartnett, PhD**, had a lot of ground to cover in a new video course on Russia's history she developed for The Great Courses.

A 24-lecture series, "Understanding Russia: A Cultural History" explores the political, cultural and social fabric that weave a history as sprawling as the country's geographical magnitude. "Russia developed as an empire, rather than as a culturally homogeneous entity, and so the effort to define what it meant and means to be Russian was just as relevant in the era of Ivan the Terrible as it is in Putin's Russia today," says Dr. Hartnett, associate professor of History and director of Villanova's graduate program in History.

In exploring Russian identity, she examines the lives of everyday Russian people alongside the contributions of historical and cultural Russian figures like Leo Tolstoy, Peter Tchaikovsky and Mikhail Bulgakov. "We miss out on key aspects of Russian history if we limit ourselves to the study of rulers and revolutionaries," she says.

For more than a decade, Villanova students have delved into these intricacies and nuances in Dr. Hartnett's classes. She was excited to share some of her scholarship with a wider public through The Great Courses, an online streaming service that gives more than 4 million learners access to college-level courses that fulfill curiosity rather than credits.

Producing 24 video lectures that cover 1,000 years at once compelled Dr. Hartnett to think about the arc of Russian history in a different way. "I found commonalities across time that proved quite surprising," she says. "As a result of finding links I hadn't searched for before, my teaching at Villanova has even greater nuance."



Did You Know?

An internationally recognized expert in modern Russian history and culture, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Adele Lindenmeyr, PhD, shared her expertise on the podcast "What Really Happened" with Andrew Jenks. The episode titled "The Boris and Bill Show" took a look at the relationship between US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Unity in Motion

Student Group Builds Bridges through Dance

Villanova's Wazobia African Dance Company dares you to sit still during one of its performances. When the music starts—maybe an infectious Afrobeat song or just a driving drumbeat—a dozen or so dancers enter in perfect unison, legs fluid, arms rhythmic and powerful. They move with the kind of precision that comes with hours of practice, but they perform with the joy that comes from friendship, community and out-and-out fun.

Founded in 2012, the dance company chose the name Wazobia, combining syllables from three different Nigerian dialects that all mean "come." Everything the company does, from open-door workshops to high-energy performances at basketball games, charity events and dance showcases, is designed to

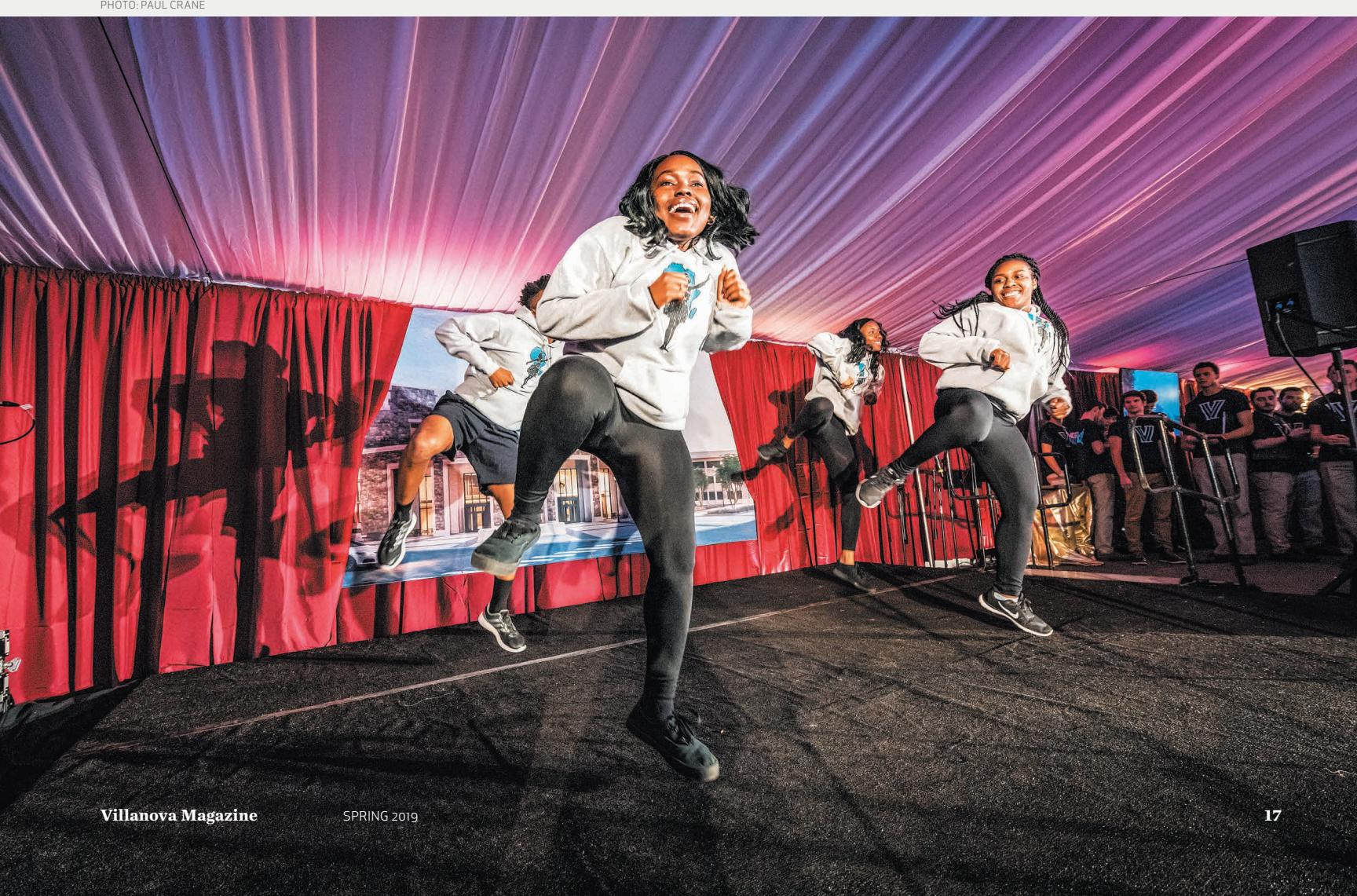
be inclusive. Members represent a wide variety of backgrounds—both in dance experience and cultural roots—so the student-choreographed numbers often fuse traditional African styles with step, modern, hip-hop and other movement that originated across the African diaspora.

"While we are a dance group, we try to form relationships with everyone on campus, from Athletics to academic departments to other student organizations," says student co-President **Karol Pierre '19 COE**. "We love to interact with students, faculty, alumni—anyone who wants to share our diverse cultures and roots through the experience of dance."

Her co-leader, **Opeyemi Famakinwa '19 CLAS**, puts it this way: "When people see us dancing by the Oreo, they might say, 'I can't dance!' but our answer is, 'Sure, you can!' You can come to a Wazobia workshop, learn a new way to move and through that, you learn a little about our culture."

Did You Know?

Averaging eight to 10 performances a semester, Wazobia members practice for two hours, twice a week, all year long.



A Case-by-Case Basis

Even before Villanova Law Professor **Steven L. Chanenson, JD**, was named to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, he envisioned creating a workshop that would bring together sitting judges, practicing lawyers, criminal justice experts and law students to debate the sentencing of redacted, real-life cases. Participants would read materials about the cases, including the police reports and court transcripts. They would then craft and be ready to explain their own sentencing judgments ahead of the workshop.

This distinctive 360-degree legal experience, adapted from programs at Yale and Minnesota universities, would consider complicated questions, like why similar criminal cases could result in one defendant serving time on probation or in jail, and another a stint in state prison.

The result of Chanenson's vision is the Villanova Sentencing Workshop, which entered its 17th year this spring. A nationally

recognized criminal sentencing expert, Chanenson runs the workshop alongside **Mark Bergstrom**, adjunct professor at Villanova Law and executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, which works to create sentencing guidelines for felony and misdemeanor crimes in the state. Villanova Law students enjoy a nontraditional classroom experience while Pennsylvania judges receive continuing judicial education credit.

"It's one of the very few workshops on this topic in the country and has a very high reputation across the Commonwealth," Bergstrom says.

Offered in conjunction with the Commission and the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts, the workshop is held at the Inn at Villanova over two long weekends. It typically starts with comparatively simple cases, often involving drugs or theft, before delving into more serious cases. In the evenings, experts on sentencing discuss

topics like risk assessment and the proper role of prisons. The experience gives students the opportunity to learn about all the factors that affect sentencing decisions and to explore potential careers in practicing criminal law.

"In the workshop, participants often impose sentences that are all over the map. Yet, when we drill down, we frequently discover reasonable explanations for those differences. Our model allows all the participants to learn from each other," Chanenson says.

Each participant brings a unique perspective to the workshop, deepening the discussions. And experienced legal practitioners find that Villanova Law students ask questions that challenge long-held assumptions. "We've always done it this way" is never the right answer," says Chanenson.

No wonder some people call the workshop "graduate school for sentencing."

ILLUSTRATION JIM FRAZIER

Did You Know?

Appointed by three successive governors of Pennsylvania, Chanenson served as a member of the Commission on Sentencing from 2002 to 2015, including three years as chair. Formed in 1978 to promote an effective, humane and rational sentencing policy across the Commonwealth, the commission is composed of members of Pennsylvania's House of Representatives and Senate, other Pennsylvania government officials, judges and lawyers.



PHOTO: RON TEDESCO

Bird Watching

CPS Alum Serves as Injury Video Review Technician for the Philadelphia Eagles

Philadelphia Eagles fans spend a lot of time watching the ball, but **Ron Tedesco '18 CPS** never takes his eyes off the players. As part of the independent medical staff that carries out the NFL's Game Day Concussion Diagnosis and Management Protocol, he's on the sidelines of every home game at Lincoln Financial Field. A recent graduate from Villanova's College of Professional Studies, Tedesco puts his BIS in Information Systems to work full time as the director of Information Technology at National Elevator Industry Benefit Plans.

For all preseason, regular season and postseason games, two certified athletic trainers are stationed in a booth overseeing the field to observe the game and monitor the broadcast feed to identify potential player injuries, with an emphasis on concussions and other head and neck injuries. As they identify plays for review, they can send video down to the field for the team doctors to review to help diagnose potential injuries.

For the past five seasons, serving as an Injury Video Review Technician, Tedesco says he has been "a second version of instant replay, dedicated to injury review and player health. I align the technology and support the resources to initiate and follow through with the NFL's concussion protocol on the sidelines." He liaises with booth staff, who review game action and make notes about what they see, and with the neurologist on the field.

“I align the technology and support the resources to initiate and follow through with the NFL's concussion protocol on the sidelines.”

Ron Tedesco '18 CPS



Run, Swim, Dive, Swish, Win

Four Villanova teams have added to their dominant runs in the conference with Big East team titles.

Women's Indoor

Track and Field won its record 16th team championship while recording the highest score in the meet's history. The Wildcats won nine individual events, including a 1-2-3-4 sweep of the mile race.

Men's Indoor

Track and Field dashed to its own team championship, the team's fifth title in six seasons.

The Women's Swimming and Diving team ruled the pool again, securing its sixth straight Big East Championship.

The Men's Basketball team also won a Big East Tournament trophy, defeating Seton Hall, 74-72, to secure its record-setting third consecutive Big East title.



Field Hockey Returns to the Big East Tournament

The Wildcats punched a ticket for the Big East semifinals when they defeated Old Dominion via shoot-out decision 2-1. It was the team's first appearance in the Big East tournament since 2015.

Abby Siana was named to the Big East All-Tournament team on the strength of her performance, netting a goal in the game. She had seven goals on the season, during which she was named Big East Offensive Player of the Week.

The Women's Swimming and Diving team ruled the pool again, securing its sixth straight Big East Championship.

The Men's Basketball team also won a Big East Tournament trophy, defeating Seton Hall, 74-72, to secure its record-setting third consecutive Big East title.

4 Big East Titles

won by Villanova Track & Field, Women's Swimming & Diving and Men's Basketball

Hope Rises

Through drones and
GIS mapping, Villanova
advances Catholic
Relief Services' efforts
in Madagascar

BY SUZANNE WENTZEL



As he packed his bags to return to Madagascar in June 2018, Eric Wagner '12 CLAS checked off the items on his list: toothbrush, socks, umbrella, charger, ... drones. The Villanova alumnus, an expert in geographic information systems, or GIS, was fulfilling a promise he'd made the previous summer to Catholic Relief Services in the world's fourth largest island: to personally deliver unmanned aerial vehicles and related equipment. ■ Villanova has enjoyed a 13-year institutional partnership with CRS, the overseas relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in the US. Since 2015, the University has been involved year-round with helping CRS and its Malagasy partners to carry out a project funded by the US Agency for International Development in Madagascar. The project's goals in this nation off the southeastern coast of Africa are to promote the health and nutrition of pregnant women and young children, increase and diversify household incomes, and build communities' resilience to disasters. ■ On site and in the classroom, faculty, staff and students have shared their time and knowledge in areas such as water infrastructure, health, hygiene and microlending. Now they've added drone technology, which can take humanitarian work to new levels.

VIEW FROM ABOVE After they arrived in Madagascar, Wagner, then an instructor and GIS lab manager at Villanova, and two graduate students laid the foundation for CRS staff to become proficient with drones. During two weeks of classroom presentations and hands-on tutorials, the Villanovans imparted their expertise, teaching staff how to develop and carry out a flight plan and to fly drones through manual controls.

The opportunity to educate others by building on what they had learned at Villanova was exciting for the graduate students. "A significant number of drone applications involve the integration of GIS software," says Nick Zoccoli '17 COE, who will finish his master's in Civil Engineering in May. "My coursework in the Department of Geography and the Environment provided strong background knowledge in GIS, which aided in my explanation of certain drone concepts to the new users."

The lessons were a success. Novice operators were soon collecting imagery of projects such as water delivery systems and dune stabilization. "It was definitely rewarding

**VILLANOVA-CRS
2018**

**20 STUDENTS
7 AREAS OF STUDY**

- BUSINESS
- ENGINEERING
- FRENCH
- GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- PEACE AND JUSTICE
- POLITICAL SCIENCE
- NURSING

to receive a video from Madagascar showing the successful application of the drones only months after our teaching experience," Zoccoli says.

Because drones can get detailed, real-time imagery superior to that of satellites, increasingly experienced users in Madagascar will be able to make informed decisions and respond quickly—for example, in getting aid to villages devastated by a tropical cyclone. Drones also are more affordable and efficient than helicopters at assessing situations from above.

Wagner, an FAA-certified drone pilot and now a solution engineer at Esri, an international GIS company, had discussed the advantages of drones with CRS when he and a team

► From introducing drone technology to conducting research for water-related projects, Villanovans collaborate with CRS staff in Madagascar on humanitarian initiatives.

PHOTOS: CRS MADAGASCAR/VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY





PHOTOS: CRS MADAGASCAR/VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

of Villanovans visited Madagascar in summer 2017. The staff liked what they heard. But where and how would they get the proper equipment? He was on it, Wagner said.

Back at Villanova, Wagner and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Information Technology team customized a computer to do the sophisticated processing required for the data the drones would collect. With CRS funding, Wagner also purchased two aerial survey drones and eight trainer drones. At every step, he got input and feedback from staff in Madagascar.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS The introduction of drones was not the only reason why 2018 was a remarkable year in the Villanova-CRS partnership. A record 20 Villanova students received two-month, CRS-related internships. The 15 selected to support work in Madagascar came from nursing, engineering, French, geography and the environment, and business. In the three regions of Madagascar where most of the Villanovans interned, the mix was interdisciplinary.

"In summer 2018, we used an integrated approach to place the students," says Josh Poole, the CRS country representative in Madagascar. "Students from different majors worked in each of three clusters, tackling the challenges of their respective communities from an interdisciplinary perspective."

For example, nursing students in the cluster that worked with the Diocesan Development Council of Toliara gathered data on malnutrition and illnesses, such as diarrhea and malaria. The group of students then used their GIS skills in analyzing and mapping geographical data to visualize the findings. "By combining forces, we were able to map which areas had the most problems with which diseases so that local leaders could

address these issues and better allocate resources," Gaby Molina '19 FCN says.

Beyond the number of students and the interdisciplinary benefits, Villanova's partnership with CRS "has reached a high-water mark," says Dan Griffin, who oversees the partnership for the University. First, an unprecedented number of undergraduates participated in 2018. Second, they got to work in the field with professionals and those closest to each situation. Students didn't simply tag along.

They applied their skills to the real problems of people whose lives they felt privileged to enter.

"The best part of my job," says Griffin, who served with CRS for 14 years, "is when students discover the compassion and genuine solidarity that motivate the best humanitarian service."

Being "in the field"—the agricultural kind—was, to the surprise of Zainis Bob-Grey '19 VSB, the best part of her experience. Zainis was involved with the Saving and Internal Lending Communities, a microfinance program. One of her tasks was learning about farmers' production processes. She met with local growers and toured the often-swampy farmland. "I think of myself as a tech person,"

"By combining forces, we were able to map which areas had the most problems with which diseases so that local leaders could address these issues and better allocate resources."

Gaby Molina '19 FCN

GLOBEPLottERS

With slices of pizza at hand and music in the background, Villanova students can be found glued to their computer screens in the Geographic Information Systems lab, doing their part to help with disaster relief and development. They are members of GlobePlotters, Villanova's student chapter of YouthMappers, an international network of universities that uses web-based, open-source GIS technologies to help communities be more resilient.

Started by GIS "alumni" of the 2017 Madagascar trip, the chapter contributes to humanitarian mapping projects around the world, especially those that require emergency responses.

"Helping people in vulnerable areas is the most rewarding aspect of the club," says Amanda Bristowe '19 CLAS, one of the chapter's founders. "It's amazing that technology allows a group of students from Villanova to assist with a disaster thousands of miles away and see the impact they are creating through mapping."

Zainis says. "But I realized how important it was for me to walk around with and talk to the farmers. It gave me a new perspective on agribusiness."

GOT A MAP FOR THAT? Five undergraduates skilled in GIS interned in Madagascar in 2018. Another three stayed stateside, providing GIS support for countries in Africa via CRS headquarters in Baltimore. The demand for students with this knowledge reflects how, globally, the collection, analysis and visualization of geospatial data has become essential across industries for identifying problems, devising solutions and tracking results.

In Madagascar, which deals with food insecurity, natural catastrophes and environmental degradation, GIS can be a lifesaving tool. Villanovans help CRS and the organizations they work with to understand how to use the data they have and which data they should be amassing.

"The map is the starting point to determine how projects can be run and the people better served," Wagner says. "By analyzing the data, you can see who takes advantage of opportunities and who doesn't, and then figure out why. Are people not coming to food distribution centers or mobile health clinics because the route is impassable? The road unsafe? The distance too great?"

In 2018, much of the GIS work focused on collecting agricultural data. Trekking through rain forests and across wetlands, students used GIS applications on their smartphones to map property boundaries so that farmers can more accurately estimate crop yields. As part of a data and statistics team in southwestern Madagascar, Andres Serbia '19 CLAS mapped a canal and the agricultural parcels that it irrigates. His analyses will be useful in considering the impact of extending the canal to increase rice productivity. "We created data sets that future generations will be able to use for better analysis."

Other students focused on infrastructure development and natural resource management. Teaming with the ECAR Development Office in Mananjary, on the eastern coast of Madagascar, Julie Greenwald '19 CLAS used GIS to quantify data from satellite imagery to measure the success of tree-planting efforts, a critical initiative in areas where deforestation has led to ecological crises.

The Villanova students also trained their partners to use GIS analysis and mapping to organize and interpret existing data. For example, the students mapped levels of malnutrition in children ages 2 to 5, as well as the success of investments made by savings communities. They also introduced staff to state-of-the-art software.

BEHIND THE NUMBERS From the seriousness of testing drinking water for arsenic—more than half the population lacks access to potable water—to the enrichment of exploring Malagasy culture, Villanovans lived the

University's values. Students collaborated to bring new knowledge to light and worked with local people, joining in efforts to improve the quality of their lives, while respecting each person's dignity.

"In the lab at Villanova, we would collect data and not think much about it," says Jamie McGee '19 CLAS. "But when we were in Madagascar, we saw that these numbers represented kids we were meeting and hanging out with. These numbers showed that their villages weren't doing well. It made much more of an impact."

For Barbara Wall, PhD, vice president for Mission and Ministry, helping CRS to promote the common good in Madagascar goes to the heart of what matters to this Catholic and Augustinian university. "We are partnering with an agency of the US Catholic Church in a part of the world that recently emerged from a history of colonialism and poverty," Dr. Wall says. "Our students and faculty are growing in solidarity with these communities, working together for a more just and sustainable environment." ■

INVESTING IN WHO WE ARE

Seeking the good of those who are marginalized, and combining knowledge to better the world: These two values are not afterthoughts at Villanova. They guide its mission, unify its academic enterprise and calibrate its achievements. That's why Villanova is so committed to the work of faculty and students in and on behalf of Madagascar—and why one alumni couple is so committed to Villanova, establishing the Michael J. and Theresa M. Mruz '67 Global Peacebuilding and Social Justice Fund in 2016. Through the fund, the Mrzes support, expand and evolve the CRS partnership in Madagascar and other initiatives through the Office for Mission and Ministry.

When it comes to promoting social justice and human welfare—hallmarks of the Madagascar experience—the Mrzes recognize the importance of cross-college collaboration and strong external partnerships. Thanks to their generous gift, Dan Griffin says, "students are seeing and learning that real-world, complex problems require a multidisciplinary approach."

PHOTOS: CRS MADAGASCAR/VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY





50

YEARS of Champions, Trailblazers & Visionaries

Villanova Celebrates
Women's Athletics

BY SHAWN PROCTOR

The Villanova alumnae who gathered in the Finneran Pavilion one evening in November represented an array of life experiences. They were teachers, surgeons, researchers, nurses, artists, engineers and entrepreneurs. Some were recent graduates, while others had been students here decades ago, representing the era when women had first been fully admitted to Villanova.

Yet the women all shared one aspect of their life stories—they had once been Villanova student-athletes. They had trained, competed, studied and excelled as Wildcats,

and that experience had shaped their lives.

At a gala that November evening, it was a time to bring together the generations of women athletes who have woven their stories into the rich fabric of the Villanova athletic tradition over the past 50 years. A time to celebrate all they have achieved, and the community that has supported them along the way.

“At heart, being an athlete is about having ambition. It’s about having a vision for yourself and your team. It’s about working hard, overcoming obstacles and striving to be your best self. All while elevating your

team and those around you,” said Nnenna Lynch ’93 CLAS, a Track and Cross Country All-American and Rhodes Scholar who is now a Villanova Trustee, in her keynote address at the 50th anniversary celebration. “To have the health, energy and talent to participate, let alone the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level, is an amazing gift. And it’s a particular honor to represent this institution.”

Built over the decades by dedicated athletes, coaches and University leaders from a handful of teams into a powerhouse that has won national championships and

earned countless accolades, more than 300 women are now Villanova student-athletes on 13 teams.

"There is so much history around our women's athletic programs at Villanova, as well as incredible accomplishments. We celebrate these amazing women every day," says Mark Jackson, director of Athletics.

Women became a part of Villanova's Athletics program at the same time they were taking their place in campus classrooms. There had been female students in some programs prior to 1968, but that year all academic programs were made officially co-ed.

In fall 1968, a group of female tennis players approached Robert Langran, PhD, then the coach of the Men's Tennis team, asking him if he'd coach a women's team as well. They played their first two matches the following spring. Dr. Langran remained the coach of both teams for the next 25 years, while also teaching Political Science.

"There's a strong foundation for athletes today—it started with these women," he says.

Women's Basketball formed around the same time. Marie Maguire '69 COE, a passionate basketball player since childhood,

recalls playing pickup games with friends on campus before she and Rosemarie Greyson Fleg '69 CLAS started a women's team during their senior year. A half-century later, Maguire can still feel the thrill of taking the court in front of 500 cheering fans on March 12, 1969, for the first Women's Basketball game in what is now Jake Nevin Field House.

"It was so exciting to finally have achieved this milestone," says Maguire, captain of the first team and now an owner of a sales-force development firm.

Women who came later have felt the same power of donning the Villanova uniform and competing as Wildcats.

"Wearing the 'V' on your singlet makes you feel like a superwoman," says Gina Procaccio '87 VSB, who competed in Track and Cross Country for Villanova and has been head coach of the women's teams since 2000. "You don't want the tradition's excellence to stop with you."

Harry Perretta '95 MA has witnessed the evolution of Villanova Women's Athletics since its very early days. Head coach of the Women's Basketball team for 41 seasons, he has seen the difference that Villanova's approach to building community and supporting student-athletes has made in his players' lives.

"Students always come first. Everyone in this community cares about one another," he says.

One of Perretta's current players, Jannah Tucker '19 CLAS, can attest personally to the supportive culture. Jannah transferred to Villanova before her junior year, recovering from knee injuries and from the trauma of a past experience with domestic abuse. Her spirit, confidence and skill level have been rebuilt at Villanova through the care of her coaches and teammates, as well as through the relationships she's built with alumnae of the program.

"The Women's Basketball alumnae are more than just names on a plaque—they come back to campus and are mentors for current players like me," she says. "It inspires me to ask myself, 'What am I going to do to pay it forward for the next generation?'

It's that emphasis on legacy that sets its athletes up for success and fulfillment as athletes, as students and as people.

"Women's Athletics at Villanova represents the collective dream of so many Villanovans. It is on their shoulders that we were able to build it," says Lynn Tighe '87 CLAS, Villanova's senior associate Athletics director, chief Athletics administrative officer and senior woman administrator, as well as a former student-athlete herself.

"Women's Athletics at Villanova represents the collective dream of so many Villanovans. It is on their shoulders that we were able to build it."

Lynn Tighe '87 CLAS

A Tradition by the Numbers

9
NCAA Team Champions

48
NCAA Individual Champions

400
All-Americans

63
Conference Team Champions

7
NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Winners

3
Rhodes Scholars

32
Academic All-Americans

Villanova student-athletes are tenacious and competitive. They're driven to win championships, but also to earn the greater prize—an education that prepares them for a rewarding future, and relationships that will connect them to Villanova for the rest of their lives.

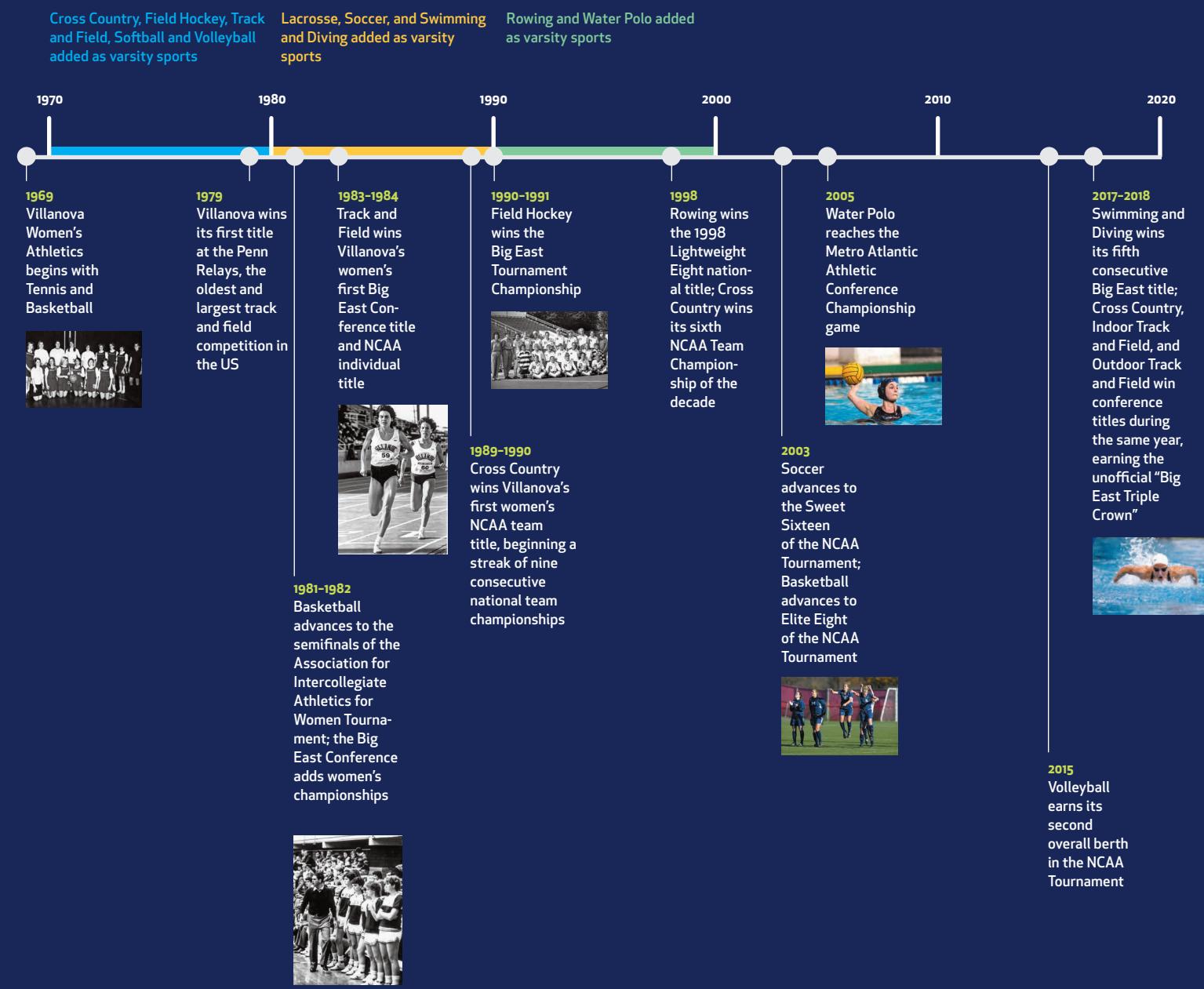
The blend of athletics, academics and personal development created a strong foundation for volleyball standout Megan O'Brien '99 CLAS, a member of the team that qualified for Villanova Volleyball's first NCAA tournament in 1997.

"Our coaches supported the whole person as part of a values-driven education. I still carry with me the work ethic and heart from being at Villanova," says O'Brien, now an art director in Los Angeles.

Tiera Fletcher '07 COE, '14 JD, an All-American Track athlete at Villanova and now a patent examiner for the US Patent and Trademark Office, says her coaches gave her strong direction.

"My experience as a Villanova player played a pivotal role in my success as a student-athlete and has molded my character," she says. "I was motivated to be mindful of my choices and priorities, not only as an individual, but also as an example for others." ■

Tracing the Wildcats' Trail



PHOTOS: VILLANOVA ATHLETICS

How are, you?

Through Villanova's House Call program, faculty and staff volunteers start conversations with first-year students.

BY MARIAN BUTCHER

“How are you?” “I’m fine.” Many times, that’s where the conversation ends. Except, what if that’s just the beginning? Not just of a conversation, but of the whole experience of being a Villanovan and cared for by this community?

Every September, over the course of one evening, more than 100 Villanova faculty and staff volunteers visit every first-year student in the campus residence halls. The task is simple: to ask every student they meet, “How are you?,” and really listen to what they have to say. We check in on each other, a simple gesture that starts with one small question that’s no longer a platitude, but an act of caring.

The program is called House Call, and it was started at Villanova 17 years ago as a Student Life initiative and brought to life by Paul Pugh, former dean of students, and the Office for Residence Life. A version of the program is also offered for commuter students, who are invited to a luncheon at the start of the year.

Hopefully everything is fine, even great—they love their classes; they feel at home on campus; they’re making tons of friends. But maybe there have been some challenges, ones you’d expect from young adults going through a major transition in their lives: they miss home; they’re still adjusting to new surroundings; they feel a bit overwhelmed by all the new people and experiences.

There is a practical component to House Call—staff members can follow up immediately about any concerns expressed that evening, whether it’s an emotional support that needs to be extended or a facilities issue that needs to be addressed. But the main purpose is deeply personal, to show first-year students that there is an entire community supporting them, willing to knock on their door, just to make sure they’re OK and thriving. The program is the embodiment of what it means to be Augustinian, to live and learn in community and to be present for one another in a personal and intentional way.

House Calls provides a moment of connection in the rush of a student’s first weeks here. And with 96 percent of first-year students returning to Villanova for their sophomore year—a rate well above the national average—that one evening may contribute to the larger feeling of belonging that is the hallmark of the Villanova community. ■

Senior project manager
Marilou Smith '84 COE
and Vice President for
Facilities Management
Robert Morro atop the
roof of Villanova's future
Performing Arts Center.

Built to Last

How does Villanova's project management team keep up with all of the new developments on campus? We spent a day with senior project manager Marilou Smith '84 COE to find out.

BY COLLEEN DONNELLY



PHOTO: PAUL CRANE



At 5:45 a.m. on a brisk winter morning, Marilou Smith '84 COE rounds the corner from Ithan Avenue to Lancaster Avenue in a well-worn pair of Brooks running sneakers. She makes a mental note of some items to discuss with contractors on the construction site later in the day.

A late bloomer to running, Smith took up the pastime as an outlet around the same time she took on the single biggest project of her 35-year career and of Villanova's campus enhancements so far. The \$285 million transformation of Lancaster Avenue entails construction of the Commons residence hall complex, Villanova's first Performing Arts Center, a pedestrian bridge, a 1,200-vehicle parking garage, a two-story addition to the existing parking garage on campus, a surface parking lot and new streetscapes along Lancaster Avenue.

With the Ithan Avenue parking garage and pedestrian bridge spanning Route 30 complete, the August 2019 finish line for the Commons is in sight—with the 2020 opening of the Performing Arts Center not far behind it.

"The sites are part of my running loop, which gives me an opportunity to see what's going on," Smith says. "I can identify any potential issues and address them promptly so they don't become a major problem."

Anyone who's worked with Smith during her 22 years in Facilities Management at Villanova wouldn't be surprised that she gets a head start on her to-do list before the sun even comes up. She has a reputation as a problem-solver who's always a step ahead. "Marilou is a great engineer and project manager and has a good perspective and balance in her approach to issues that crop up," says Robert Morro, vice president for Facilities Management.

Since ground broke on the construction in 2015, Smith has worked with 60-plus outside consultants—from architects and engineers to traffic experts and parking lot specialists. "She has to mediate competing priorities and timelines with all of those people, and she's very skilled at taking complicated issues and distilling them down to what's really important to us," Morro says.

STEWARDSHIP AT WORK
Smith is one of eight full-time project managers at Villanova, who have a wide range of experience in mechanical, electrical and civil engineering. Led by Steve Hildebrand, assistant vice president for Engineering and Construction, the team tackles an average of 150 projects per year—from relatively minor jobs like an office refresh to game-changers like the \$65 million Finneran Pavilion renovation.

When a new job comes in, Hildebrand looks at the type and size

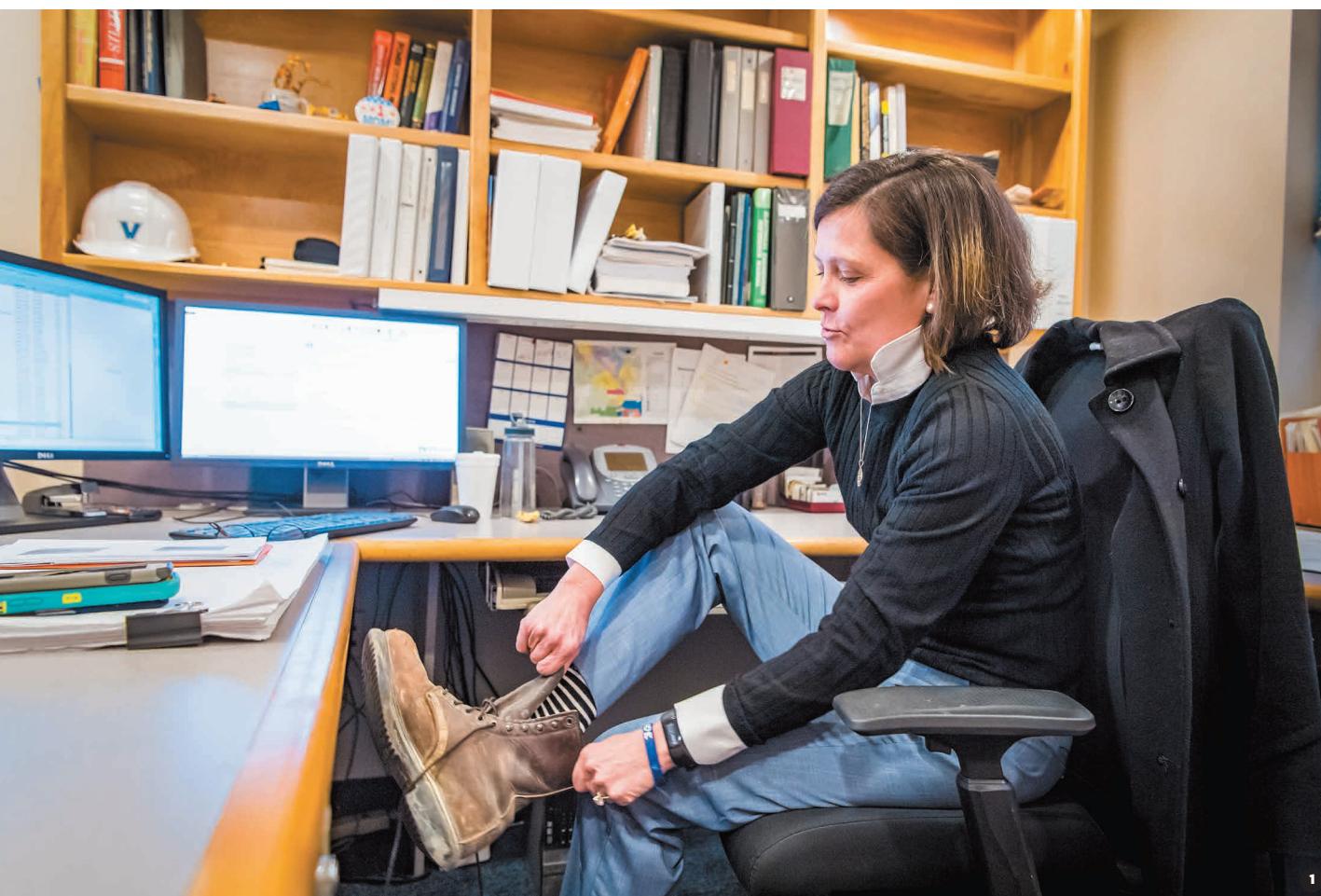
of the project and chooses a project manager based on current workload, expertise, the intensity of the job and familiarity with the particular building.

"The broad base of expertise our team has—not only in terms of engineering specialty but of field experience—is crucial to support the wide range of needs we have across campus," he says. "Every project that we approach is extremely important to the client, so the attentiveness, expertise and management we lend to any one of these jobs is the same regardless of the size. Each job is part of our mission to build a better University."

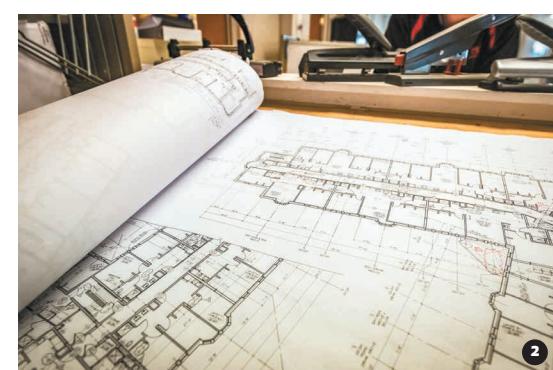
Their blueprint is the campus master plan. Commissioned in 2008 by University President the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, '75 CLAS, it is the first documented campus master plan in the University's history, Morro says. Bit by bit, his team is helping to bring the vision for the future of Villanova to life.

"We're blessed to have strong team players who are extremely dedicated," Morro says. "I always tell my folks that we have a lot of clients to serve. Stewardship is the main role of our department. The reason we have in-house project managers is because they understand Villanova, and they can convey what's important to us to the myriad contractors and consultants who work for us."

For many years, Smith was one of those consultants. Not long after graduating from Villanova with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1984, she landed a position as a design engineer at PWI Engineering, a firm based in Philadelphia. Her alma mater (*continued on page 41*)



PHOTOS: PAUL CRANE



1-3 | Smith usually spends mornings in her office triaging email to ensure projects keep moving, then she dons construction gear to meet with contractors on site to review construction progress, discuss updates and look over architectural drawings.

5

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TIPS *You Can Use*

Planning to tackle some projects of your own this spring? Here are five basic tactics Villanova's project managers use every day:

1 Nail Down the Details

Make sure you have clearly defined expectations. Identify the scope, budget, timeline and types of expertise you'll need to get the job done. Get buy-in from key stakeholders.

2 Keep Communication Lines Open

Make sure everyone working on the project is clear about their task and what they are providing upon completion. Be consistent, open, honest and clear with everyone.

3 Manage Project Risks

Identify risks as they approach and manage them before they get out of hand. A risk is only a *potential problem*—and with prompt attention, it doesn't have to become an actual one.

4 Avoid Scope Creep

Don't let your new sink become a full-scale kitchen renovation. Scope creep happens when new elements are added to a project without revisiting the original plan to look at how it will impact the budget, schedule and resources needed.

5 Schedule Regular Check-ins

Check in regularly throughout the project's lifecycle to ensure the work is meeting expectations and moving along as scheduled to avoid any major surprises at the end.

**It takes
untold
attention
to detail
to make a
brand-new
building
blend with a
177-year-old
campus.**



PHOTOS: PAUL CHANE

1 | By October 2018, Villanova's Performing Arts Center had already begun to take shape on the corner of Lancaster Avenue and Ihlan Avenue.

2 | At least once a week, Smith does a walk-through of the Performing Arts Center with site superintendent Jack Garrett from LF Driscoll.

3 | Artistic architectural details like this cast-stone cross give the new buildings an old-world look.

4-6 | Smith also does a weekly walk-through of the Commons residence buildings, where contractors are now working on the interior finishing.

7 | With 5,000 tons of stone in a precise blend of colors, the building facade matches the collegiate gothic look of Villanova's campus.

8 | Stonemasons in Lancaster, Pa., fabricate the walls for the Performing Arts Center—then each of the 330 precast stone panels is driven to campus and erected on site.



Leading the Way in Stormwater Management

In less than a year, the Commons and the future Performing Arts Center have transformed from steel-beam skeletons to striking stone facades. Quite as significant—though not as visible to the untrained eye—is the impact on Villanova's environmental footprint.

For the past two years, senior project manager Marilou Smith '84 COE has worked closely with Nave Newell Engineering, as well as Villanova Center for Resilient Water Systems Lead Bridget Wadzuk, PhD, '00 COE and Director Robert Traver, PhD, to incorporate cutting-edge stormwater management control measures throughout the developments on Lancaster Avenue.

"Stormwater management is a huge challenge in this region—so in true Villanova fashion, we took this opportunity to go above and beyond what is required," Smith says.

The systems in place on the site will capture approximately 2.2 inches of rainfall, more than 100 percent above the 1 inch required by Radnor Township code. "And we're doing it in really interesting, different and innovative ways," Dr. Wadzuk says. "We're talking about resiliency, which is a step beyond sustainability. We're building a diverse stormwater management portfolio that treats and reuses water in many different ways."

Previously occupied by a nearly 10-acre parking lot of impenetrable asphalt, the site now incorporates a green infrastructure that will reduce stormwater runoff, filter pollution and replenish the groundwater supply.

10
rain gardens

9
infiltration trenches

2.2
inches of rainfall captured

2
cisterns that filter and reuse a portion of the water runoff from the roofs to help cool the new buildings

Plugging Away at the PUNCH LIST

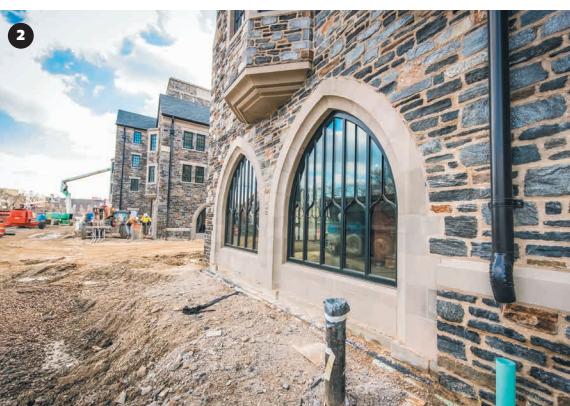
With 1,138 students scheduled for move-in this August, the Commons is the next project on senior project manager Marilou Smith's docket for completion. Once the contractors finish construction on this complex of six new residence buildings, Villanova's Facilities Management team begins the massive task of getting it move-in ready.

"Just think about one room in your house times a thousand," says Robert Morro, vice president for Facilities Management. "There are more details than you can imagine."

That's where the punch list comes in. An essential element of every construction project, this list details all the items that need to be completed before the job gets the final stamp of approval.

The \$65 million Finneran Pavilion renovation had 2,466 items on the punch list, so the list for this project will likely number in the tens of thousands. "We have many, many layers of inspection down to the precise detail to ensure we have a fabulous end product," Morro says.

Did You Know?
The term "punch list" originated at a time when contractors literally punched holes in a list to mark which items needed attention.



1 | Smith takes a moment to enjoy the view from the Performing Arts Center. The Commons were built at an angle—87 degrees to be precise—to follow the natural curve of Lancaster Avenue and to provide a clear view of the church spires from the Performing Arts Center.

2 | The arched windows with gothic tracery on these student lounges in the Commons recall the collegiate gothic details of Corr Hall.

3 | Jonathan Shanus, a project engineer for Torcon, looks over the drawings for the Commons residence buildings with Smith.

PHOTOS: PAUL CRANE

soon became one of her clients and the renovation of Picotte Hall at Dundale (the Morris Estate at the time) was her first project. Within two years, Smith was asked to join the Facilities Management team at Villanova University.

Her first project for Facilities Management happened to be her last design project for PWI Engineering—the expansion and renovation of Mendel Hall in 1996. Since then she has overseen hundreds of jobs on campus, including Driscoll Hall, which houses the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing; the Sheehan and Sullivan residence hall renovations; Café Nova and renovations to the dining area and kitchen in Dougherty Hall; the Health Services Building; and the Structural Engineering Teaching and Research laboratory.

An alumna, parent, staff member and neighbor of the University, Smith's lifelong and multifaceted relationship with Villanova informs her understanding of the many clients that Facilities Management serves and their needs. "Being a neighbor and parent has certainly helped me to grow as a better project manager and steward of the University. I see things from different perspectives," she says.

For instance, the planning process for the Commons included input from many of the University's neighbors. Smith tried to keep their concerns in mind, particularly when designing the exterior lighting as well as the landscape buffering along the driveway behind the residence halls.

"I want these buildings to look as if they have always been here," Smith says. That's what she told the

architects. "They exceeded all expectations. You see these details on the drawings but when they're actually in place, it's just amazing," she says. The architects were extremely intentional in every single aspect of these buildings. Each one contains something that makes it unique.

"When you walk through those arches, it's spectacular. It's too hard to say I have one favorite feature," Smith says.

There's the eclectic mix of brick, stone and faux slate. The series of arches staggered just so, to make the entrance look like an endless archway. The decorative cast stone elements that adorn the turrets and faux chimneys. The tiny windows that speckle the back-stair towers. The black casement windows that give the building an old-world look. The cast stone panels over the arches that leave space for future ornamental art or statues.

It's a type of architectural detail more reminiscent of the early 20th century than the 21st century. "I want this campus to stand the test of time," she says. "I come from a long line of Villanovans—my father, my grandfather, three of my brothers, a lot of cousins, nieces and nephews and three of my four sons. We pretty much have Villanova in our blood.

"I love what I do; I love to build things. When I look at a project, I know I'm going to be looking at it every day, and I want to be proud of it." ■

Open Dialogue

During Orientation, incoming students packed the house in Vasey Theatre for a special performance by the Association for Change and Transformation. Based on actual Villanova students' experiences, the Touch of Diversity skit challenges prejudices, encourages uncomfortable conversations and provides space for first-year students to discuss allyship at Villanova. Since its inception 17 years ago as the senior thesis project of Sean Camoni '99 CLAS, the skit has continually earned a spot as the highest-rated and most memorable workshop of the Orientation program.



PHOTO: JOHN SHETRON

Class Notes

1960s

1963

John Gartland '63 VSB and his wife, Anne, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 28, with a Mass at Corr Chapel, followed by a reception.

J. Edmund Mullin, Esq., '63 CLAS, '66 CWSL was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list in the area of land use/zoning. He was also named Lawyer of the Year in Philadelphia for land use/zoning.

1964

John Spina '64 COE was inducted into the Niagara Frontier Aviation and Space Hall of Fame.

1967

Ron Kita '67 VSB received a US patent related to gravity modification.

1970s

1971

William Savino '71 VSB, a partner at Rivkin Radler LLP's commercial litigation and insurance coverage practice groups, entered the prestigious Chambers USA Directory rankings in recognition of his work as an insurance market litigator.

1978

John A. Bednarz Jr., Esq., '78 CWSL was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list in the area of workers' compensation law.

1986

Mary Cushing Doherty, Esq., '78 CWSL was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list in the area of family law.

1972

John Tyler, MD, '72 CLAS traveled to Greece and will be celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife, Betty. He works as a physician at Maine Maritime Academy.

1973

James Hedtke '73 CLAS has published his sixth book, *American Civil War: Facts and Fictions* (ABC-CLIO, 2018). He is a professor in the History and Political Science Department at Cabrini University, where he has taught for 45 years.

1976

Michael J. McDonald '76 CLAS, Lackawanna County lawyer and a founding partner in the Scranton, Pa., law firm McDonald and MacGregor PC, will begin his third one-year term as secretary of the 26,000-member Pennsylvania Bar Association.

1977

Deborah M. Lerner, Esq., '77 CLAS, '86 CWSL was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list.

1978

Thomas J. Barbar '86 CLAS was appointed as an associate justice of the Middlesex Probate and Family Court by the governor of Massachusetts in October 2017.

1980s

1980

Joseph J. McGrory Jr., Esq., '80 VSB was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list in the area of municipal law. He was also elected as a voting member to the Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates.

1981

Brett Cederdahl '81 COE was project manager of a team that received the US Department of Energy Secretary's Project Management Achievement Award and National Nuclear Security Administration Excellence Award for the Transuranic Waste Facility project at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

1983

Santo Marabella, PhD, '81 VSB wrote *The Lessons of Caring*, an e-book written to be a source of inspiration and support for the contemporary caregiver.

1984

Robert Lutz, BMe, '83 COE was elected chair of studies, Information Technology, at Georgia Gwinnett College.

1984

Judith Yanacek, LCSW, '84 CLAS, president and CEO of New Vitae Wellness and Recovery, was named among the 2018 Women of Influence by Lehigh Valley Business.

1985

Tom Daniels '85 COE was named the associate laboratory director of Facilities and Operations at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

1986

Kimberly Haze Coffey '85 FCN, president of TalexMedical LLC, presented InfantEar, a device that nonsurgically corrects ear deformities on babies as they grow, to the PACT Capital Conference.

1986

Thomas J. Barbar '86 CLAS was appointed as an associate justice of the Middlesex Probate and Family Court by the governor of Massachusetts in October 2017.



PHOTO: EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS



PHOTO: OBSERVER MEDIA GROUP

When Hurricane Harvey stormed through Texas,

Carla Krystyniak '15

CWSL found her newly adopted hometown at the epicenter of the disaster, which caused billions of dollars in damage. Low-income communities in Houston were hit especially hard, and Krystyniak was compelled to use her legal training to help. She applied to become an Equal Justice Works fellow serving in the Disaster Recovery Legal Corps, where she worked with Lone Star Legal Aid to help low-income survivors access a range of disaster-related legal services, including government benefits, housing, employment and bankruptcy.

For his new play *XXX Genius*, **Jack Gilhooley '64 MA** was selected as the 2018 Free Speech Play Contest winner by the Nittany Theatre at the Barn in Boalsburg, Pa. He describes the play as a comedy about the "corporatization of American higher education." Gilhooley, a prolific playwright, has staged plays extensively in the United States and UK, and received two US Fulbright Awards and two National Endowment for the Arts grants, among many others, for his work that spans four decades.

Kyle (Walton) Cottrell '86 CLAS commissioned a painting to honor the service of women in the Marine Corps, titled *Semper Fi Sisters: A Legacy of Leadership*. It was unveiled at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery and is on display in the Office of the Assistant Commandant of the US Marines in the Pentagon.

1987

Gregory P. Noone, PhD, JD, '87 CLAS was part of the international effort investigating the Myanmar government's atrocities committed against the Rohingya population. Dr. Noone worked as an investigator in the refugee camps in Bangladesh and as one of the legal experts on the findings reported by the Public International Law and Policy Group. The second edition of the book he co-authored,

International Law and Armed Conflict: Fundamental Principles and Contemporary Challenges in the Law of War, published by Aspen Wolters Kluwer, was released.

1988

Kathleen Barnett Einhorn '88 CLAS, chair of Genova Burns' complex commercial litigation and intellectual property law practice groups, was named by *New Jersey Law Journal* as one of its 2018 Top Women in the Law.

1989

Steve Tarallo, MBA, '89 COE has joined Dewberry, a privately held professional services firm, as associate vice president.

1990

Diana Guerrero-Maciá '88 CLAS was promoted to full professor and chair at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

1990

Tom Kunetz, MS, '88 COE was elected and installed as president of the Water Environment Federation.

Lisa Sheehe-Hilmi '88 CLAS was elected to the board for

the Insurance and Litigation Industries," in the May/June 2018 edition of *The Pennsylvania Lawyer* magazine.

Michael C. DiLorenzo '90 CLAS is the assistant US attorney in the National Security section of the US Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. He received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for leading the successful prosecution of Ahmed Abu Khatalla for the terrorist attack on the US Special Mission and Annex in Benghazi, Libya, which resulted in the death of four Americans, including the US Ambassador to Libya.

Michael J. Kearney Jr., JD, '90 VSB joined Robinson+Cole's Tax Group as a partner in the firm's Stamford, Conn., office. He is an experienced tax lawyer with a broad-based transactional tax practice involving corporations, partnerships and LLCs.

Christopher Maerklein '90 COE, senior advisor engineer at Naval Nuclear Laboratory, was awarded the National Intelligence Exceptional Achievement Medal.

Brian T. Smith '92 CLAS was promoted to sergeant first class with the New Jersey State Police.

Charles Eppolito III '92 CLAS, a partner with White and Williams LLP, became president of the 26,000-member Pennsylvania Bar Association at its annual meeting.

Lawrence Andrew Gill '93 CLAS completed a second master's degree from Boston University in May 2018.

Vlas Parapanides '93 CLAS was inducted into the Central Regional Distinguished Alumni. He co-wrote the films *Immortals* and *Death Note*, and he is working on the script for *Heroes and Gods* for Netflix.

Precie Schroyer, PhD, '93 CLAS was promoted to associate dean of Academic Affairs at Northampton Community College's Monroe Campus.

1990s

1990

Daniel E. Cummins '90 CLAS, a partner with the Scranton, Pa., law firm of Foley, Comerford & Cummins, published an article, "Out of Control: Self-Driving Vehicles Will Change

1995
Walter Greason, PhD, '95 CLAS published three new books: *Planning Future Cities, Industrial Segregation and Cities Imagined*.

Triantafilos Parlapanides, PhD, '95 CLAS received an honorary doctorate from Georgian Court University for his work in education.

1997
Amanda Klockars-McMullen, PhD, BSN, RN, '97 FCN was promoted within Christiana Care Health System to vice president of Ambulatory Quality and Safety and Primary Care Operations.

1999
Jennifer Riley '99 CLAS, '01 MA was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Stars.

2000s

2000
Cameron K. Smith '00 VSB joined Garvey Schubert Barer as principal in the firm's Seattle office.

Dan Morrell, MA, '00 CLAS is the editor of Harvard Business

School's magazine *HBS Alumni Bulletin*, which received the 2018 Robert Sibley Magazine of the Year Award.

2001
Christian Reid '01 CLAS was promoted to senior director, 340B Program, at CVS Health.

Stephanie Thomas Alsop '01 VSB welcomed a boy.

2003
Stephanie A. Henrick, Esq., '03 CLAS, '07 CWSL, '12 LLM was honored as one of *The Legal Intelligencer's* 2018 Lawyers on the Fast Track and was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Stars in the area of estate and probate.

Esa Zelenka '03 VSB welcomed a boy.

2004
Mark Fischer '04 CWSL was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list for civil litigation: defense.

Kelly McMullin Peralta '04 VSB welcomed a boy.

Brian Peach, PhD, '04 FCN completed his doctorate in Nursing Science with a concentration in Epidemiology at the University of Florida and accepted a position as

an assistant professor at the University of Central Florida's College of Nursing in Orlando.

Cosmo F. Terrigno '04 MA

earned his executive educational specialist degree from Seton Hall University in May 2018.

2005
Drew Boles '05 CLAS and his wife, Kate Boles, welcomed a boy, Jackson Parker Boles.

Ashley Freiberger Shinay '05 CLAS and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed a boy, Benjamin Cowley.

Broc Libra '05 VSB and his wife welcomed their first son, Blake Carter Libra.

Sean Marikakis '05 VSB was admitted to the partnership of KPMG LLP, where he works in the New York Metro Audit practice.

Charles J. Messina, Esq., '05 CLAS was elected partner at Genova Burns.

Christopher M. Samis '05 CWSL was named to the 2018 Delaware Super Lawyers

Rising Stars. He focuses on corporate bankruptcy, business restructuring and other insolvency-related matters.

Crystal Stine '05 CLAS, '06 MA authored *Holy Hustle: Embracing a Work-Hard, Rest-Well Life*.

2006

Robin Arzón, Esq., '06 CWSL was featured at a fall networking reception for women in law and business co-hosted by the law firms of Conrad O'Brien and Volpe and Koenig. She is also a *New York Times* best-selling author and vice president of Fitness Programming and head instructor at Peloton.

Mark Giugliano '06 VSB and Nicole Lombardo Giugliano '07 VSB welcomed a boy, Lucas Anthony.

Margaret Grow-Sadler '06 CLAS joined the Chemical Abstracts Service as an account manager for the Mid-Atlantic territory in July 2018.

William G. Roark, Esq., '06 CWSL was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Rising Stars list in the area of personal injury—general: plaintiff.

2007
Emmett Fitzpatrick '07 CLAS and his wife, Katie, welcomed a boy.

Michael Kernicky '07 VSB is vice president, Wealth

Where the Heart Is

Thousands of Villanovans returned to the University to celebrate their Nova pride for Homecoming Weekend in October, enjoying a family festival and Field Hockey and Football games on campus.

The Villanova University Alumni Association also honored three alumni at Homecoming. The St. Thomas of Villanova Alumni Medal, the VUAA's highest honor, was bestowed upon **Robert "Bob" Byrnes '76 VSB** (below, left), former VUAA president and chair of the Annual

Giving Committee for Villanova's recently concluded comprehensive capital campaign.

The Loyalty Award was given to **Frank Culotta '64 VSB** (below, right), a longtime supporter of Villanova Athletics and former board member of the Villanova University Varsity Club. The Young Alumni Medal was given to **Keith Jones '07 CLAS** (below, center), anchor for NBC10 News in Philadelphia and a past recipient of the University's annual Ethos Award, which recognizes an alumnus who serves as a role model to students.



John L. Hennessy, PhD, '73 COE received the Turing Award—commonly known as the “Nobel Prize of computing”—for his pioneering work designing the computer microprocessors used in tens of billions of devices, from computers to smartphones. Dr. Hennessy, former president of Stanford University, is the chair of Alphabet Inc., a parent company of Google, and shared the honor with Google engineer David Patterson.

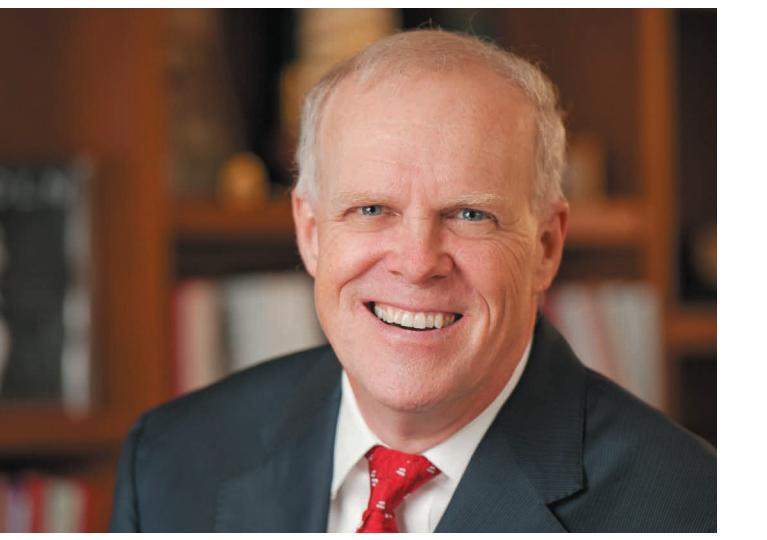


PHOTO: LINDA A. CICERO/STANFORD NEWS SERVICE



PHOTO: BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

In 2012, Lauren Nolan-Sellers '00 CLAS left a teaching career behind to chase her dream of becoming an interior decorator. In addition to founding her award-winning company, Trust the Vision Décor, she created the Aspiring Designers Academy, an online community for new designers and decorators to find resources to help launch or grow their design businesses.

2010s

2010

Beth (Awalt) Mayr '10 CLAS married Nick Mayr Aug. 11, 2018, in Baltimore, Md.

Meghan Butters Houser, Esq., '10 CWSL has been

Management, at the Kernicky Group, which has joined Janney Montgomery Scott LLC in Media, Pa.

John F. Walko II, Esq., '07 CWSL was named to the 2018 Pennsylvania Rising Stars list in the area of state, local and municipal law.

2008

Christian S. Guthrie '08 CLAS welcomed a boy.

Katie Kent '08 CLAS married **Arya Morshed '09 CLAS**.

Michael McGravey '08 CLAS successfully defended his dissertation, "Jean-Luc Marion and Gianni Vattimo's Contributions for the Postmodern Faith," and will graduate with his PhD in systematic theology from Duquesne University.

2009

Nada Melissa (Whaley) Ayers, PHR, '09 MS has accepted a position as vice president of Human Resources at TW Metals LLC.

Maura Burke, Esq., '09 CWSL was named to *Benchmark Litigation's* 40 & Under Hot List as an emerging leader in law.

Ashley Ferguson '09 COE married Sean Gallagher.

Jacqueline Lembeck '09 CLAS joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Blue Bell, Pa., as an associate in the Labor and Employment department and the Education Practice Group.

Rob Meo '09 VSB and Kristen (Marzocca) Meo '10 CLAS welcomed a girl.

Anthony Pannone '09 COE and Kristina Grauer Pannone '09 CLAS welcomed twin boys, Dominic and Vincent.

named partner at the law firm of Weiss, Saville & Houser PA in Wilmington, Del. Her practice focuses on plaintiffs' personal injury and workers' compensation claims.

Cory Cousart '10 CLAS married Erin Fitzpatrick Aug. 18, 2018, at St. Mary's Church in Simsbury, Conn.

Courtnee Nia Jordan-Cox '10 MA earned her PhD in Industrial and Organizational Psychology with a concentration in Organizational Leadership from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Sara Parr Gill '10 CLAS and Eddie Gill '10 CLAS welcomed a boy.

Alexandra (Zack) Kaval '10 CLAS, '12 MS launched Grace Space Christian Coaching. She

now works as a full-time certified life coach for Christian women.

2011

Ryan Conway '11 VSB was promoted to associate director at Assembly Media.

2012

Michael A. Podgorski '12 MA achieved the telc B2+ Certificate for the German language from Sprachenakademie Aachen.

2013

Meredith Del Mauro '13 VSB and A. Jimmy Johnston '13 VSB married at St. Rose of Lima Church in Short Hills, N.J., Oct. 7, 2017.

Louis DiGiacomo '13 CLAS and Darcy Schneider '13 CLAS married at St. Thomas of Villanova Church June 30, 2018, with many Wildcats in attendance.



PHOTO: KAT WIRSHUP

Three Villanovans—Sarah Hannan '18 FCN, Julia Shults '18 CLAS and Kelsey Goldstoff '18 FCN—are serving this year as Augustinian Volunteers, dedicating 10 months of their lives to service, community and spirituality. Hannan and Goldstoff are serving as nurses at the St. Vincent de Paul Village Family Health Center in San Diego. Shults is serving as a low-income and homeless services caseworker at Help of Ojai in Ojai, Calif.



PHOTO: JOHN SHETRON

Transportation engineer Luis Gaitan '10 COE has spent his life inspiring others, whether through his youth mentorship program, "I Run This City: Camden NJ," or serving in the Navy in Afghanistan. His vivid life story, filled with neighborhood ties and a young engineer's urge to disassemble household appliances, inspired Martha Freeman, a children's fiction author, to pen the novel *Zap!* about Gaitan's childhood in East Camden, N.J. The tale, which was nominated for the Edgar Award for best mystery, pits the fictional "Luis" against a mastermind who has created an extended power outage that has left the whole town in the dark.

The Rev. Chimere G. Holmes, MSEd, LPC, '13 MA was recognized by *Main Line Today* magazine as one of the 2018 Women on the Move for her ministerial acumen and impressive clinical endeavors.

Jim Lanahan '13 CLAS was named Fundraising Professional of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals—Greater Philadelphia.

Michelle Parziale '13 COE married Brian Elliott Aug. 18, 2018, in Sharon, Mass.

Darcy Schneider '13 CLAS was named one of suburban

Philadelphia's Top Teachers and appeared in *Main Line Today* magazine in August 2018.

2014
Cali L. Eckler, Esq., '14 CWSL joined Rivkin Radler LLP as an associate in the firm's Professional Liability, Directors and Officers Liability, and Employment and Labor Practice groups.

Ross Goren '14 CWSL joined Weber Gallagher as an associate in the Workers' Compensation Group.

2015
Meredith Clark, PHR, SHRM-CP, '15 CLAS was promoted to vice president at Urban Engineers.

Brian F. Dunstone, Esq., '15 CWSL joined Weber Gallagher in the Civil Rights and Municipal Liability Group in Philadelphia.

Mark Lattanzi '15 VSB married **Gillian Turner '15 FCN**.

2016
Steve Bertil, Esq., '16 CWSL has joined the Philadelphia-based law firm of Finegan Krekstein & Harris PC as an attorney in the Real Estate Group.

2018

Timothy Abel '18 MA received the Community Outreach and Service Award from the Philadelphia section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Michael Montross '18 MA married **Vivianne Alves de Sa '17 MS** July 21, 2018, in Annapolis, Md. Montross is the associate head coach of the Villanova Men's Soccer team and Alves de Sa is the retention manager in the Office for Undergraduate Students in Villanova's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Class Notes Publication Policy:

Villanova University accepts submissions of news of professional achievements or personal milestones for inclusion in the Class Notes section of *Villanova Magazine*, online and in print. Concise submissions can be emailed to classnotes@villanova.edu; submitted to the online Class Notes at classnotes.villanova.edu; or sent by mail to Katie Zirpoli, *Villanova Magazine*, Alumni Office, Garey Hall, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA 19085. Digital photos should be 300 dpi, JPEG or TIFF format, and at least 3 by 5 inches. (Please note that we no longer accept headshots.) Villanova University reserves complete editorial rights to all content submitted for Class Notes (including the discretion to decline any submission), and posts and publishes listings in as timely a fashion as possible as space permits. The Class Notes published in this issue of the magazine were submitted between April and December 2018. Reasonable steps are taken to verify the accuracy of the information submitted, but the University cannot guarantee the accuracy of all submissions. Publication of achievements or milestones does not constitute endorsement by Villanova University.

In Memoriam

1930s

Joseph D. Kelleher '50 COE, April 12, 2016.
Thomas E. Delate, Esq., '39 CLAS, June 14, 2018.

1940s

Albert J. Sindall '40 CLAS, July 2, 2017.
Joseph B. Conway, PhD, '43 COE, Aug. 29, 2018.
Joseph J. Gerngross Sr. '45 COE, June 9, 2018.
Hugh F. Hart '45 COE, Sept. 25, 2018.
William J. Kuzman, MD, '45 CLAS, Aug. 31, 2018.
John R. Rushton, MD, '45 CLAS, July 21, 2018.
William E. Pease, MD, '46 CLAS, May 25, 2018.
The Honorable William J. Nealon '47 VSB, Aug. 30, 2018.
Harold W. Ritchey '48 COE, Aug. 23, 2018.
Lawrence B. Judge '49 COE, Sept. 18, 2018.
William R. Molnar '49 COE, Oct. 21, 2018.

1950s

Joseph T. Allen '50 VSB, Sept. 18, 2017.
William M. Coates '50 CLAS, May 4, 2018.
Peter J. D'Ambrosio '50 CLAS, June 18, 2018.
Donald Griffin '50 VSB, May 22, 2017.
Charles J. Hinski '50 VSB, Sept. 8, 2018.

1930s

Anthony J. Mazullo Jr., Esq., '53 VSB, '59 CWSL, March 15, 2018.

1940s

Joseph A. Lynott Sr., Esq., '50 CLAS, Nov. 22, 2018.

1950s

William J. Neff '50 COE, July 3, 2017.
Joseph R. Quill, MD, '50 CLAS, July 7, 2018.

1960s

Robert J. Wise, Esq., '53 VSB, July 3, 2018.

1970s

Philip A. Valvardi '50 CLAS, Dec. 16, 2017.

1980s

Paul J. McGinley '51 CLAS, Sept. 30, 2018.

1990s

Joseph A. Moran '51 VSB, Oct. 11, 2018.

2000s

Theodore L. Reimel, '51 VSB, April 26, 2018.

2010s

Theodore Soroka '51 CLAS, Sept. 15, 2018.

2020s

George E. Claffey '52 VSB, Nov. 10, 2018.

1930s

Frank P. D'Alonzo '56 CLAS, Aug. 6, 2018.

1940s

Cornelius L. Robert L. Mozzi '53 CLAS, Aug. 23, 2018.

1950s

John P. O'Connell '53 COE, Nov. 26, 2018.

1960s

James R. Ennis Jr. '56 COE, May 17, 2018.

1970s

James E. Hippler '56 COE, Oct. 5, 2018.

1980s

Charles A. Sanbe, DO, '53 CLAS, July 31, 2018.

1990s

John P. Neff '50 COE, July 3, 2017.

2000s

Robert J. Wise, Esq., '53 VSB, July 3, 2018.

2010s

Philip A. Valvardi '50 CLAS, Dec. 16, 2017.

2020s

Paul J. McGinley '51 CLAS, Sept. 30, 2018.

2030s

Joseph A. Moran '51 VSB, Oct. 11, 2018.

1930s

Dorothy M. Witmer '57 FCN, Aug. 20, 2018.

1940s

Richard E. Dolan, Esq., '58 CWSL, Sept. 21, 2018.

1950s

Edward C. Dowling '60 CLAS, Oct. 5, 2018.

1960s

Sister Mary A. Rusin '62 MS, June 29, 2018.

1970s

Joseph S. Jordan '60 COE, May 17, 2018.

1980s

James S. Buggy '63 COE, Aug. 19, 2018.

1990s

Deacon Edward J. McCarthy Jr. '58 VSB, Nov. 4, 2018.

2000s

John J. Jordan '56 CLAS, July 26, 2018.

2010s

Donald H. McComb '58 VSB, June 3, 2018.

2020s

John L. Lawder '56 COE, July 8, 2018.

2030s

Deacon Edward J. McCarthy Jr. '58 VSB, Nov. 4, 2018.

1930s

William A. Magee '58 VSB, May 23, 2018.

1940s

Ronald V. Long '60 CLAS, Nov. 9, 2018.

1950s

Eugene C. Cappetelli '63 CLAS, June 14, 2018.

1960s

Sister Mary F. Marsh, RSM, '60 MA, Feb. 2, 2018.

1970s

Frank K. Gabriel '63 COE, June 4, 2018.

1980s

Margaret McLaughlin Duffy, PhD, '60 FCN, July 8, 2018.

1990s

William J. Ziganto '63 MS, July 27, 2018.

2000s

Joseph D. Freney '64 VSB, Oct. 21, 2018.

2010s

Peter S. Riegel '66 MS, June 1, 2018.

2020s

Francis T. Shandi '66 VSB, Nov. 21, 2018.

2030s

Anthony J. Fulginiti '64 VSB, Oct. 16, 2017.

1930s

Ellen Corcoran Spaur '60 FCN, Aug. 21, 2018.

1940s

Joseph P. Puchalik '62 COE, '64 MS, Sept. 10, 2018.

1950s

The Rev. John J. Dennis, OSFS, '65 MA, Oct. 9, 2018.

1960s

Joseph F. Malott '65 VSB, Dec. 15, 2017.

1970s

David D. Knoll, Esq., '68 CWSL, Sept. 4, 2018.

1980s

Sister Mary Joan Rice '65 MA, July 1, 2018.

1990s

John E. Sargent, Esq., '65 VSB, Nov. 7, 2018.

2000s

Robert E. Davis '66 COE, June 4, 2018.

2010s

George A. Hagen '71 CLAS, Aug. 21, 2018.

2020s

Charles B. McElrone '72 CLAS, Oct. 31, 2018.

2030s

Robert W. Mahoney, Esq., '71 CWSL, April 6, 2016.

1930s

Bruce H. Donald '65 MA, June 28, 2018.

1940s

Marcella (Mimi) Daly Robinson '68 CLAS, May 18, 2018.

1950s

The Rev. John J. Dennis, OSFS, '65 MA, Oct. 9, 2018.

1960s

Joseph F. Malott '65 VSB, Dec. 15, 2017.

1970s

David D. Knoll, Esq., '68 CWSL, Sept. 4, 2018.

1980s

Sister Mary Joan Rice '65 MA, July 1, 2018.

1990s

John E. Sargent, Esq., '65 VSB, Nov. 7, 2018.

2000s

George A. Hagen '71 CLAS, Aug. 21, 2018.

2010s

Charles B. McElrone '72 CLAS, Oct. 31, 2018.

2020s

Robert W. Mahoney, Esq., '71 CWSL, April 6, 2016.

2030s

George A. Hagen '71 CLAS, Aug. 21, 2018.

1930s

Sister Alicia Schweitzer '70 MS, Oct. 14, 2017.

1940s

Stephen C. Paskevich '72 MS, Oct. 30, 2018.

1950s

Ted Andrew Kirchner, Esq., '76 CLAS, '79 CWSL, Oct. 5, 2018.

1960s

Nan Dow Mulford '90 MA, July 16, 2018.

1970s

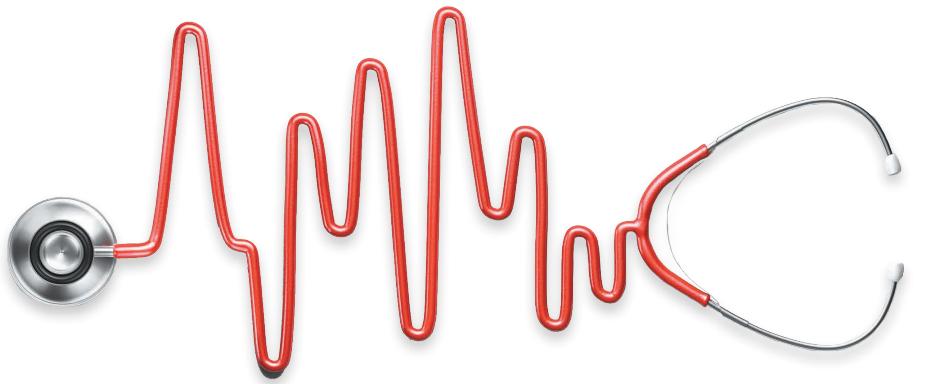
Madeline Ruocco, Feb. 19.

1980s

David Sorrentino, Dec. 17, 2018.

1990s

The Rev. Charles C. Garst '90 MS, Nov. 22, 20



Taking the Pulse of a Hospital

Paul Minnick '18 used his culminating DNP research project as an opportunity to bring Virtua Voorhees Hospital department leaders into the same room and onto the same page.

1**THE INNOVATOR**

Addressing a long-standing issue in health care inspired the culminating research project for Paul Minnick '18 DNP, senior vice president and chief operating officer at Virtua Voorhees Hospital, a 400-bed regional medical center in southern New Jersey. Minnick had been a nurse executive for nearly 30 years when he decided to go back to school. "I wanted to challenge myself by applying theoretical nursing principles to current practice," he says. "And I wanted to help role model the importance of education for my colleagues."

2**THE PROBLEM**

Health care facilities across the country and the world are looking for ways to cut across silos and specialties to ensure patients are getting the care they need in the right place, at the right time, by the right provider. Inefficient health care delivery and unnecessary medical services account for 44.5 percent of all financial waste in US health care, according to estimates from the Institute of Medicine. On top of the financial cost, poor care coordination among health care providers results in poor quality outcomes for patients.

3**THE BIG IDEA**

Every day at 9:30 a.m. in the hospital's first-floor boardroom, Minnick calls to order a standing-room-only, 15-minute meeting of 45 department leaders, including doctors, nurses and administrators. This is the Safety Huddle, where everyone gets up to speed on the major events that have occurred at the hospital in the last 24 hours and what the next 24 might bring. The focus is on preventing medical errors and discussing "near misses," which are unplanned events that did not result in patient harm, but had the potential to do so before the problem was corrected.

4**THE OUTCOME**

When Minnick started the huddles in January 2018, it was sometimes a challenge for people to speak openly. Now, colleagues thank each other for raising issues and even break out into spontaneous applause to praise those who caught problems in time. "We recently cared for a homeless, pregnant patient with schizophrenia, and the Safety Huddle provided an opportunity for key staff to come together to discuss how to meet her multiple needs," Minnick says. "The interdisciplinary collaboration is just brilliant."

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

NOVA NATION **V's Up**

Where is Villanova? Everywhere! Responding to a call on social media, students and alumni shared photos of the remarkable places they've visited, and how they've taken their Nova pride with them—from landmarks to natural wonders, stunning vistas to outer space.

To submit your Villanova photo for consideration, email vusocialmedia@villanova.edu.



ROW 1 Julia Leinhauser '19 VSB; Michael McHale '18 COE and Michael Hennessey '18 MS; Andy Allen '77 COE; Lia Scafura '17 COE and Sophia Lagdameo '17 COE, '22 MS. **ROW 2** Jonathan Royden '12 CLAS and Brendan Lokka '12 CLAS; Cardon Furry '20 COE; Paolo Caponog '20 VSB; Sean Knowles '20 VSB, Harrison Reilly '21 VSB, Jack Lynch '20 VSB and Jeff Wang '21 VSB; Haley Randall '20 CLAS. **ROW 3** Elizabeth Holmes '21 COE; Amanda Findlay '17 CLAS, '19 MS; courtesy Dana Schmidt, Visit Philly. **ROW 4** Cara Mastrangelo '20 CLAS; Kate McLain '10 VSB, Spencer Curtis '10 VSB, '13 JD and Taylor Curtis '10 COE, '13 JD.



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Villanova, PA 19085

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Undercover Campus

Originally located in St. Mary's Chapel, this pipe organ found its new home in St. Thomas of Villanova's choir loft when the church was completely restored in 1993. The builder made a case for the organ using white oak salvaged from a Philadelphia church and refinished it to match the Victorian Gothic style of the church's original woodwork when it opened in 1887.

