



DEVELOPING THE WHOLE STUDENT

The Advising and Professional Development Program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is a comprehensive program that integrates faculty advising and alumni participation in order to demonstrate that the Liberal Arts and Sciences are a foundation for whatever one chooses to do in life. This distinguishes Villanova's approach from that of other advising programs in that it emphasizes the interrelationship between personal, intellectual and professional development.

Deep respect for the uniqueness of the individual and the knowledge that learning is a continuous process form the basis for the relationship between the faculty advisor and the student. This relationship is a shared responsibility. Advisor training, which brings the newest and most creative ideas to the faculty, is ongoing. Additionally, the faculty meets regularly to discuss ways to enhance advising with comprehensive initiatives that compliment the uniqueness of our University and our students.

Beginning with the first meeting during Orientation, advisors seek to engage students in discussions about the value of a liberal arts and sciences education as a foundation for life-long learning. "A Liberal

Arts and Sciences education provides you with a range of skills that will prepare you for a world that is constantly changing," said Faculty Advisor, Dr. James McGann. Those skills include problem solving, communication, leadership, analytical, and critical thinking skills—which will help them be successful in any profession.

Discussions between advisors and advisees occur in both individual and group sessions throughout the student's first and second-year until they declare the academic major. Both individual and group sessions cover such topics as adjusting to University life; thinking about what you value; areas of interest and how that relates to course selection; discussions about grades and academic success; and academic majors.

Faculty advisors refer students to other offices on campus that will serve their needs. Students share concerns about roommate problems, so advisors will refer students to Residence Life. As the advisor gets to know students' interests, he or she will refer them to academic departments for discussion about the major and to other student services offices, which handle internships, service learning courses, and study abroad. In

addition, faculty advisors provide students with informed access to the vast array of academic support services, including the Math Learning and Resource Center, Writing Center, Language Labs, and the University's Center for Learning Support, Counseling Center, and Office of Campus Ministry.

"We are looking at students' personal development as inseparable from their professional development," said Dr. Nancy Allen, Director of the Office of Advising and Professional Development. "As students begin the University experience, they are unaware of the many opportunities available to them when they graduate from Villanova. To show them, we invite alumni to campus to share their experiences with our students. As faculty advisors, we tell students that their degrees in the Liberal Arts & Sciences will prepare them for many professional paths, and our alumni provide the models."

During the spring 2008 Semester, seven alumni sessions were held for First-Year students. With groups of no more than twenty students, alumni engaged students in active dialogue about intellectual,

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personal, vocational and professional growth. The following alumni shared their journeys:

Karen Buleza, Class of 1999, Biology major. Karen works at Tibotec Inc, a division of Johnson and Johnson, as a manager of Phase I, II and III studies in HIV.

Ryan Costello, Class of 2004, Honors, Political Science and English major with a Chinese Minor. Ryan currently serves as the Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff for U.S. Senator Bob Casey, Jr. of Pennsylvania, where he handles special projects and advises on China issues.

Naomi Karam Koerwitz, Class of 1988, Political Science and Communication major. Naomi is Director of Political Coverage for NBC News and has held various positions with NBC and MSNBC.

James (Terry) McGrath, Class of 1975, General Science major. Terry received his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania and owns the Rocky Hill Veterinary Clinic, working primarily with small and exotic animals.

Kathryn N. Nelson, Class of 1999, Psychology major. Katie received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from The Catholic University of America and has extensive experience in clinical and research psychology, focusing on serious mental illness, suicide, and mood and anxiety disorders.

Travis P. Nelson, Esq., Class of 1998, Political Science major. Travis is currently an attorney in the Financial Services Practice Group of Pepper Hamilton LLP, resident in Philadelphia and Princeton, New Jersey. Before entering private practice, Travis was an attorney at the U.S. Treasury Department.

Lynne O'Brien, Class of 2001, Philosophy and Spanish major with an Education minor. Lynne is currently working with the Major Trials Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney.

During the fall 2008 Semester, two alumni panel discussions and a keynote speaker will be held, and students will be invited to attend a workshop in Professional Writing. The Advising and Professional

Development Program works with the Office of Career Services to prepare students for life and work in the 21st century. These activities enable students to see multiple academic and vocational possibilities. With the self knowledge that they gain through these events, students make decisions about future professions and graduate programs.

According to Christopher Wiley, Biology 2010, "The Advising and Professional Development Program allowed for the extra attention I needed in figuring out my course in life. It gave me the resources I needed to get on the right track. The events inspired me to think in terms of the long-run and have a clearer idea of my future. I would definitely recommend for anyone who is still searching for their vocation in life."

For more information go to <http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/college/advising/> or call 610-519-4661.♣

CONTRIBUTED BY LYNDA CAPUZZI,
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ADVISING AND
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

YOU ARE INVITED SUBSCRIBE TO THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Are you looking for a better way to stay connected to your child and his or her academic endeavors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences? Then we invite you to subscribe to the College's e-newsletter, Inside A&S. Please visit this Web site at www.villanova.edu/subscribe/eneews,

enter your e-mail address, and you'll be a couple of short clicks away from receiving the College's monthly e-newsletter in your personal Inbox.

In the e-newsletter, you'll find information related to news, special events, and other happenings

involving the College. We welcome your feedback, too, so please feel free to get in touch with us. Write to **Kate Szumanski**, director of college communications, at kathryn.szumanski@villanova.edu.♣

HEALTH AND SAFETY, PARENTS CONCERN



According to the College Parents of America Survey (year?), 43% of college parents rank health and safety their second top concern. Among future college parents, it is ranked the number one concern, at 74%, according to the same survey. More specifically, parents of college-bound students are concerned with binge drinking and its consequences. With 90% of all sexual assaults involving alcohol and 49% of all college students engaging in binge drinking, parents concerns are not only timely but valid.

So what steps have Villanova University taken in addressing these concerns. Below are a few:

1. Alcohol Edu for College- Alcohol Education is an online alcohol educational program required of all first year students. Students are taught the effects, dangers, consequences of alcohol, ways to drink responsible, ways to help a friend that may be experiencing alcohol poisoning, and available resources on campus. For more information about how to take the course, please visit www.villanova.edu/healthpromotion.

2. Office of Health Promotion- The Office of Health Promotion is located on the main campus in the Health Services Building. This office provides a wealth of information regarding alcohol and other college health topics in various forms of media including print and video. Students are also

able to schedule an appointment or walk-in to speak to a staff member about alcohol and other college health topics.

3. POWER- Peers Offering Wellness, Education and Resources are a group of trained Villanova peer educators who provide education and awareness through interactive games. The POWER peers are effective in providing students with the tools to make healthy choices in a fun environment. POWER also participates in National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness (NCAAW) in October. This past October, POWER collaborated with Villanova Emergency Services, public safety, Radnor Police and Fire Department, and Pennsylvania's Department of Transportation to provide awareness on campus regarding alcohol use by creating a mock DUI car accident.

Even at a distance parents can be a positive influence in enforcing responsible drinking. Below are some tips:

1. Stay Involved

- Call frequently. As upperclassmen, students begin to become more involved in organizations increasing their interaction and exposure with other students and college culture.
- Learn about roommates, college friends and their behaviors.
- Discuss the consequences of

alcohol use and abuse with your child.

- Be aware of your child's experiences and activities.
- Discuss with your child how alcohol can affect academics and relates to violence and/or sexual assault.
- Pay them an unexpected visit.
- Refrain from glorifying your own college experiences with alcohol, as it reinforces the idea that college is a time to make risky decisions.

2. Getting Assistance

- Recognize the signs of alcohol abuse – poor grades, difficult to get in contact with, isolation.
- If you suspect there is a problem utilize appropriate resources- Villanova's University Counseling Center provides individual and group counseling services year-round.
- Learn more information at www.villanova.edu/healthpromotion ♣

CONTRIBUTED BY KIMBERLY A. HILL, M.ED,
COORDINATOR OF PEER EDUCATION
PROGRAMS

FOR SOPHOMORES

'MoreNova is a series of programmed events specifically designed for Villanova University sophomores. These opportunities will contribute to the complete development of the student by creating a sense of belonging and providing direction during the second year of college. 'MoreNova seeks to enhance the Villanova experience by presenting challenging topics in diversity, addressing common sophomore questions and concerns, and providing opportunities to network and connect on campus. Another focus of the 'MoreNova program is to foster the sense of community through exercises in leadership and team building. 'MoreNova is an innovative program addressing hot topics in colleges and universities nation wide.

Transitioning from freshman year to sophomore year can be quite a challenge. Freshman are generally guided through their first year with the help of orientations, programming, and advisors, leaving little time for freshman to wander astray. Once students return as sophomores, amidst the pressures of declaring a major, finding an internship, making life decisions and maintaining relationships they often feel abandoned. For this reason, some researchers commonly refer to sophomores as "students in

transition" or "the forgotten students."

As a result, students often fall into the "sophomore slump." This refers to a time when sophomores may feel stressed, unmotivated, lonely, or overwhelmed. Three general areas cause these feelings:

Academics

- Choosing a major, maintaining a more difficult class load, attending classes with juniors or seniors;



Decision making

- What to do with life goals, the reality of college debt, challenging/changing previously held family values;

Relationships

- Friendship ties from home, friendship ties at school, relationships with parents, desire for intimacy.

Many of these issues can be avoided by taking care of the physical well being—eating healthy foods, getting enough sleep, and exercising. Other issues may demand the help of an

academic advisor, career counselor, parents, campus minister, etc. Another important piece of avoiding the sophomore slump is to get involved! Whether through a club, sport, volunteerism, or other interest group, getting involved plays a major role in avoiding the slump. 'MoreNova is one way that you can help to prevent the sophomore slump!

'MoreNova is FUN and it's a great way to meet people! Sophomore year is a time to learn more about yourself and your community.

'MoreNova offers programs which may help sophomores find others that share similar interests and talents. The program connects sophomores to useful on-campus resources as a means of problem solving

some of the common issues/concerns associated with the second year student.

'MoreNova calendars will be available to all sophomores and second-year students. Events range from presentations, to reunion dinners, to panel discussions, to a weekend get-a-ways. A range of topics such as diversity, networking, careers, study abroad, and team building are included in the programming.♣

CONTRIBUTED BY LORI BLAKE,
STUDENT LIFE

A FEW REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Students seeking financial assistance for the 2008-2009 academic year need to complete their financial aid file by April 30, 2008. In order to be considered as “on-time”, the Office of Financial Assistance (OFA) must receive your 2008-2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) along with the Villanova University Institutional Financial Aid Application and signed copies of student and parents’ and/or stepparent’s 2007 U.S. Federal or Puerto Rico Tax Return along with all tax schedules, W-2’s, 1099/1099R’s and verification of Social Security Income of all household members if Social Security benefits are received. Remember that you need to reapply for financial aid for each year that you seek assistance.

We need to emphasize the importance of filing for assistance by the April 30, 2008 deadline. Late applicants will be aided only if funds remain available (this includes consideration for Villanova University Grant assistance as well). Additionally, we remind students and parents to check NOVASIS frequently for the status of their application.

Applications were mailed to students at their permanent

address mid January, 2008. If you did not receive an application but wish to apply for aid, you may download the Villanova University Institutional Financial Aid Application from the OFA website at www.finaid.villanova.edu and click on “Forms.”

In order to file the FAFSA electronically you will need the U.S. Department of Education PIN to complete the process. Since the PIN serves as your signature, you will need one PIN for the student and one for a parent in order to complete the FAFSA electronically. If you have your PIN from last year, you may use that PIN. If you do not have your PIN, you may request one at www.pin.ed.gov.

If you have not applied for financial assistance in the past but are considering doing so for the 2008-2009 academic year, we invite you to explore our website (www.finaid.villanova.edu) for financing opportunities and further instructions.

Electronic Financial Aid Award Letters

The Office of Financial Assistance expects to complete financial aid packages for on-time returning undergraduate filers by July 15, 2008. However, don’t look in your home mail box for the paper

award notice. The Office of Financial Assistance no longer mails paper financial aid award letters. Instead, students are sent an email notifying them that their financial aid award letter can be viewed in NOVASIS. Please alert your child to check their Villanova University email account for the reminder that will link them to NOVASIS to retrieve their financial aid award.

If you have any questions regarding financial assistance, do not hesitate to contact our office at 610-519-4010 or email us at finaid@villanova.edu. ♣

CONTRIBUTED BY BONNIE LEE BEHM,
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Parents’ Connection is a publication of the Office of Student Life at Villanova University in Villanova, Pa. Your comments and suggestions are welcome and may be sent to:

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Editor
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GRADUATION 2008 UPDATE

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Army ROTC Commissioning
1:30 p.m. in Old Main Building,
Widener University

Friday, May 16, 2008

Naval Commissioning Mass
1:00 p.m. in St. Thomas of Villanova Church
Naval Commissioning Ceremony
2:30 p.m. in the Villanova Room,
Connelly Center

President's Reception
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Connelly Center - **NEW!**
Graduates and their guests are invited to
attend a special reception hosted by
Reverend Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A.,
Villanova University President.
Details coming soon!

Saturday, May 17, 2008

College Specific Activities:

Villanova School of Business:

Recognition Ceremony in the Pavilion
8:30 a.m.- Continental Breakfast
9:30 a.m.- Ceremony

College of Nursing:
Convocation
9:30 a.m. in St. Thomas of Villanova Church

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences:
Medallion Ceremony
2:00 p.m. in St. Thomas of Villanova Church
*(The Medallion Ceremony is for academic
Medallion recipients only and their guests.
Individual Liberal Arts and Sciences departments
host receptions or ceremonies on Sunday after
Commencement)*

College of Engineering:

Recognition Ceremony
2:30 p.m. in Mendel Field

Baccalaureate Mass

5:00 p.m. in the University Stadium
Seating is unlimited

Sunday, May 18, 2008

Commencement Ceremony
10:00 a.m. in the University Stadium

Guest seating in the stadium is unlimited.
However, in the event of severe weather, the
Commencement Ceremony will be moved

indoors to The Pavilion. If the ceremony is
moved indoors, guest seating will be limited to
two guests per graduate in the Pavilion and two
guests in the Jake Nevin Field House for a live
simulcast. Tickets for the indoor ceremony and
the simulcast will be distributed to each
graduate in conjunction with cap and gown
distribution during May 14, 15 and 16. Students
will be notified via e-mail regarding cap and
gown pick-up times as the date approaches.

Receptions for the graduates and their guests
will immediately follow the ceremony. The
locations of individual receptions will be
printed in the Commencement program.

Information will be mailed to each graduate in
the coming weeks regarding Graduation
Announcements, Academic Attire and other
specific details. As information is available, it
will be posted on the web at
www.parents.villanova.edu. Following the
Commencement link, you are also able to
access information regarding local hotels and
restaurants.

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OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

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