

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES



ESPIRITUS
NOVA®
1842

The Campaign for Villanova University



From the Dean

As the William and Julia Moulden Dean, I am honored to lead the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) as we embark on *Espiritus Nova: The Campaign for Villanova University*. CLAS has flourished over the past decade. Admissions become more competitive each year. Our highly motivated students win prestigious national fellowships and awards. Our dedicated faculty, supported by increased resources for research, earn national recognition for their discoveries while mentoring students in classrooms and labs. Responding to dynamic changes in fields of knowledge and society's needs, we have developed innovative academic offerings, including new undergraduate majors and graduate programs.

At the same time, CLAS remains the intellectual heart of Villanova, as it has been since 1842. We draw inspiration from the dynamic legacy of St. Augustine and his restless pursuit of wisdom and truth. With 45 academic departments and programs, offering more than 40 majors as well as 24 master's programs and doctoral programs in Philosophy and Theology, CLAS is the most academically rich and diverse college on campus.

Espiritus Nova will take CLAS to even greater heights through strategic investments in our key priorities. With a goal of \$75 million for CLAS, the campaign will accelerate the College's impressive progress and elevate the University as a whole.

Our priorities range from expanding student financial aid to supporting our talented and dedicated faculty and include: naming the Center for Inclusive Education, created to support the professional development of students from under-resourced backgrounds; naming the Office for Undergraduate Students, which plays a vital role in ensuring every student's success; expanding experiential learning and research opportunities for our students; making vitally important investments in new instrumentation and lab facilities for the sciences; and substantially supporting our Centers of Excellence which enrich scholarship and foster interdisciplinary collaboration across fields as diverse as Astrophysics, Biodiversity, Irish Studies, Peace and Justice, and more.

I invite you to learn more about the College's most critical initiatives and join us as we work together for *Espiritus Nova: The Campaign for Villanova University*.

Adele Lindenmeyr, PhD

William and Julia Moulden Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Investing in Future Villanovans

As an Augustinian Catholic institution, Villanova is called to educate people regardless of their socioeconomic status. This is the bedrock on which the University was built more than 180 years ago. Today, that foundational commitment is also shaping our future. Endowed scholarships help remove the financial barriers keeping high-achieving students from Villanova, creating an academic community rich in talent, diverse in background and enhanced by a wealth of perspectives. Currently, Villanova does not meet 100% of demonstrated financial need for undergraduate students. Villanova's goal in this campaign is to narrow the need gap by raising \$300 million for endowed scholarships, with a specific goal of \$20 million for the College. Reaching this goal will make Villanova comparable to peer universities and will position CLAS to attract and enroll the most academically gifted students from across the socioeconomic spectrum.



Yolanda Peat '25 CLAS

Recipient of The Robert M. Courey '83 and Thomas J. Keebler '84 Scholarship for Education Abroad; Michael C. Linn, Esq., '74 Endowed Scholarship for Study Abroad Programs in Political Science

From the moment Yolanda Peat toured campus, she knew Villanova was the school for her. "I could tell this was a place I could contribute to and be transformed by," says the lifelong

Pennsylvanian. What was less clear to her was how she would pay for a Villanova education.

The scholarships she received provided the answer—and set in motion four years of engagement in Villanova's dynamic community. As a first-year student, she joined the Social Justice and Inclusivity Living Community and became actively involved in the Center for Access, Success and Achievement (CASA), the campus home for underrepresented Villanova students. Since sophomore year, Yolanda has also been part of the CLAS Academic Reform Committee, a student group that works directly with William and Julia Moulden Dean Adele Lindenmeyr, PhD, to examine and improve educational policies and programs at the College. "I love this group," says the Political Science major, "because it recognizes that as good as something is, we can always make it better." Yolanda has her sights set on a career in education law, and she has a driving conviction that positive change begins with commitment to community.



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Yolanda Peat '25 CLAS

Researching for the Common Good

Recognized leaders in their disciplines, CLAS faculty conduct groundbreaking research that garners prestigious grants as well as international and national recognition. At the same time, they are deeply committed teachers who continually design new courses and employ innovative learning strategies in order to educate and inspire our students. Our faculty embrace experiential learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, engaging undergraduate and graduate students as true partners in the research and creative process.

Endowed faculty positions have evolved into one of the most prestigious and permanent investments that can be made in any institution of higher education, enabling the College to recruit and retain, on a competitive basis, outstanding faculty who make significant contributions in teaching, research and scholarship.



Judith (Judy) Giesberg, PhD

Robert M. Birmingham Chair in the Humanities

Acclaimed historian Judith Giesberg, PhD, is nationally recognized for her pathbreaking research and commitment to the humanities.

A professor of American History at Villanova, Dr. Giesberg researches civilians in the Civil War-era North. Her work has attracted broad public interest, and she has been featured in national media outlets, including *CBS Evening News*, *The Washington Post* and National Public Radio.

Dr. Giesberg has also undertaken impactful digital humanities projects.

Launched in 2017, her project “Last Seen: Finding Family after Slavery”

digitizes “Information Wanted” advertisements placed in newspapers by African Americans looking for family members lost during slavery. The website, informationwanted.org, that features the ads has been accessed more than 12 million times, and the project has been featured widely in the media. Dr. Giesberg recently published a book, *Last Seen: The Enduring Search by Formerly Enslaved People to Find Their Lost Families*, detailing a few of these deeply moving stories of family, loss and resilience.



Aaron Bauer, PhD

Gerald M. Lemole, MD, Endowed Chair in Integrative Biology

Aaron Bauer, PhD, professor of Biology, is a world-renowned herpetologist who has described more new species of reptile than any other living scientist.

Dr. Bauer’s research focuses on the morphology, or the study of the form and structure of animals, and systematics, or the study of biodiversity, of geckos and other lizards. Dr. Bauer regularly travels around the world to study geckos, how they adapt to their environments and how they respond to threats such as climate change. He involves Villanova students—both graduate and undergraduate—in his research, and many of his papers are

co-authored by his students.

Dr. Bauer has published more than 900 manuscripts in prestigious journals and has published nine books. He has been the principal investigator or co-principal investigator on nine successful National Science Foundation research grants.

Key Campaign Initiatives

Center for Inclusive Education

Today, experiential learning opportunities are a vital piece of a comprehensive Villanova education and essential to post-college success. But for students from under-resourced backgrounds, these opportunities—which range from internships to research projects to service experiences to study abroad programs—are often financially out of reach. Some carry a cost, others provide only minimal compensation, and still others incur lodging and living expenses. Cost can also prevent students from participating in summer courses and other cocurricular academic enrichment programs. The Center for Inclusive Education addresses these challenges. By providing stipends for experiential learning, professional development and academic enrichment, the Center allows CLAS undergraduate and graduate students who face financial challenges the opportunity to fully participate in learning that takes place outside the classroom.



Office for Undergraduate Students



The Office for Undergraduate Students (OUS) helps ensure CLAS undergraduate students receive the support and resources they require to succeed, both in the classroom and in the future as they pursue careers. Through academic advising, as well as professional development programming and coaching, OUS helps students from all the College's majors identify their strengths, explore professional and educational options and develop skills for post-graduate success. With programming and staff encompassing academic advising, health professions advising and professional development and internships, as well as retention and student success, OUS continues to be responsive and anticipate new ways to support CLAS students.

Investment in Scientific Facilities

CLAS boasts outstanding teacher-scholars in the sciences; they are leaders in their fields who engage talented students in their innovative research across disciplines as diverse as Astrophysics, Biology, Biochemistry, Environmental Science, Psychology and Neuroscience. Our science students go on to become leading health care practitioners, successful C-suite executives and innovative research scientists. In order to maintain Villanova's reputation for top science education and continue to attract the brightest students and most talented faculty, the College is poised, with your help, to make significant investments in our facilities and instrumentation.



Campaign Giving Opportunities

Naming gifts for Centers and Center Directorships

- Name the Center for Inclusive Education: \$5 million
- Name the Office for Undergraduate Students: \$5 million
- Name a new Center Directorship: \$2 million

Transforming Science Facilities

From a new Astronomy Planetarium and an upgraded CAVE Automatic Virtual Environment to advanced instrumentation and facilities for Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Sciences and Geography, gifts in support of our science facilities enable us to attract and retain the very best faculty and students.

- Giving opportunities: \$300,000 to \$3 million

Faculty Support

Endowed support of our talented and dedicated faculty ensures the highest level of teaching and research for generations to come.

- Endow a Faculty Chair: \$2.5 million+
- Endow a Full Professorship: \$1.5 million
- Endow other faculty positions: \$500,000 to \$1 million
- Name a Faculty Grant: \$125,000 and above

Student Support

You can support our outstanding CLAS students in a variety of ways—all of which will have a transformative impact on their lives today as well as their future paths.

- Endow a scholarship for undergraduate or graduate students: \$100,000+
- Support summer research programs or funds for faculty mentored research: \$100,000 for an endowed fund to \$1 million to name a summer program
- Endow an experiential learning program: \$1 million to \$2 million

The Dean's Fund for Strategic Initiatives

This fund allows Dean Lindenmeyr to act quickly and strategically to pursue key opportunities and high-impact programs that benefit our students and faculty and further the College's academic mission.

- Gifts of any size

About the Campaign

Espiritus Nova: The Campaign for Villanova University reflects the strong, generous and unshakeable spirit that connects us all as Villanovans. With a goal of \$1.25 billion, it is the most ambitious fundraising effort in the University's history. Achieving this goal will strengthen our academic preeminence, enrich our campus and amplify our collective Augustinian Catholic impact—across the nation and around the world. Like St. Augustine himself, we have a restless drive to improve to become the very best version of ourselves, and when Villanovans put hearts and minds together, we are unstoppable. Your involvement in the *Espiritus Nova* campaign will continue Villanova's legacy as a transformative experience that embodies the strength of spirit, brilliance of mind and warmth of heart of St. Augustine.



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