

## Lifeguards Save Swimmers- Blue White Saves Students! \$82,500 in scholarship awards to 21 students!

Many of our supporters are now spreading the message that the scholarship awards given out by The Blue White Scholarship Foundation are used to “Bridge the Gap” for those students who are still short AFTER receiving both Grant money from Villanova and AFTER taking out the maximum in government loans. Keep up the incredible good work. Blue White Raised 30% More Money in 2017 than 2016 !!!



Feature Story– Page 12 & 13  
*Where Are They Now?*  
BWSF Scholar-Laurie Barge'04

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The Blue White Scholarship Foundation (BWSF) is a private 501(c)(3) organization that is composed of and operated by Villanova Alumni and friends. We are “Villanovans Helping Villanovans” Although the Scholarship Awards are sent directly to Villanova, BWSF is not affiliated with VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY®. The following words are marks registered with the United States Federal Patent and Trademark Office for Villanova University: VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY®, VILLANOVA®, WILDCATS™. The Villanova “V” is also a registered service mark that is copyright and trademarked by VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY®. All other content is subject to copyright and may not be copied or reproduced. Copyright © 2017 All Rights Reserved.

# Executive Director's "Year End Report"



Our Fiscal Year ended May 31st and I wanted to give you a short recap of the FY 2016-2017 financial results. **Member cash contributions increased by over thirty percent, an increase of over \$55,000.** I believe this is entirely due to the tremendous efforts of our Donors, a number of whom have begun to give several times a year, and also have significantly increased the amounts of their gifts. This is in addition to a substantial increase in leadership gifts from our Board of Directors, who work tirelessly throughout the year to get the word out to the Villanova alumni community regarding our mission and accomplishments. We also had some significant gifts in kind (printing services, computer programming, etc.) . These donated professional services count as

contributions for IRS purposes, which increased our overall revenue by more than twenty percent.

**Expenses:** By continuing to operate a home office, using non-profit bulk mailings, part-time workers, paid student interns, and other cost-cutting measures, the expenses for the year remained relatively flat, resulting in an increase in net income. This is significant, inasmuch as **our scholarship awards this year increased by more than one third, from \$62,000 to \$82,500. Even with this increase, the total unmet need of the applicants was over \$400,000, and that is why our goal for Fiscal Year 2018 is to increase our scholarship awards to a minimum of \$100,000. We need your help to hit this ambitious mark, and "Bridge the Gap".**

**Revenue and Donors:** Contribution continue to rise. We have donors from all across the United States, and from overseas as well. Once again, the number of donors renewing their contribution went up by 10%, and the number of new donors making significant contributions continues to increase. Donors making monthly contributions doubled, and this has helped significantly with our cash flow. **Once again, we are determined to reach a minimum goal of \$100,000 in scholarship awards by May, 2018. Pleased help us reach this goal!**

**Scholarship Process:** This year 135 donors acted as judges for our scholarship selection process. Fifty-two application packages were distributed by e-mail and by mail to the judges, who evaluated and scored the applications over a two-month period. The Foundation's Scholarship Committee then made the final selections, awarding \$82,500.00 in scholarships, based upon the judges' recommendations, as well as input from the University's Office of Financial Assistance. We believe that this process is the most significant activity of our annual schedule, involving a substantial effort by our staff, as well as a large number of our donors, who continue to report that they are tremendously impressed with the quality of our applicants, and the significant financial need that these applications demonstrate.

**Communication:** Emphasis upon both alumni and students will continue in the Bi-Monthly Newsletters mailed to your homes. Your feedback has been incredible, and I thank you for it. Many of you have two homes or go away for extended periods of time. Please contact the office (610) 519-0777 and let us know your temporary address. We try to save money by mailing in bulk and get the non-profit rate for doing so. Contrast this with the mailing of individual Newsletters, which is extremely expensive, since we must pay First Class for individual pieces of mail. **Social Media:** We will have several campaigns this year where we are sending out stories and notices by E-mail and Facebook. **YOUR HELP IS CRUCIAL.** More on this in the next BWSF Newsletter.

**Special Thank You's:** To all of you that participated in the Mother's Day Raffle, I extend my most heart-felt gratitude. We needed to raise \$20,000 and between the Mother's Day Raffle and Web-site donations the last month, we did it.! The additional 23 extra tickets sold in 2017 made a difference. In addition, all three of our winners donated either their entire winnings or a portion of their winnings back. This fund-raiser netted \$10,500. Finally, when I saw that we had double the amount of students apply for help this year over last year, I responded by starting a Campaign called "We still Need Your Help" and many, many of you went to the Web-site and made additional donations. Thank you for possessing the real grassroots compassion to help these incredibly deserving students.

# Executive Director's "Year End Report"

**The Year Ahead:** We have now started the next Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and I wanted to say "Thank You" for all of your valuable feedback and suggestions. One example is the results of a survey that was sent to "Lapsed Donors", asking them why they had stopped giving. One such donor replied with questions about what kind of Villanova students we were helping. From this I began to understand that people needed more explanation on the type of scholarships we are awarding, and the type of students we are helping. **We are now emphasizing our "Bridge the Tuition Gap" theme**, highlighting the type of students we are benefitting - **Juniors & Seniors from middle-class families, who are working their way through school, and who demonstrate their dedication to helping their parents to "foot the bill" for their Villanova degree.** We will continue to emphasize this theme throughout our information campaigns, and we are continuing our efforts to reach a wider audience among the more than 100,000 Villanova alumni. All of you can help in this effort by re-circulating these news letters to "get the word out" about the good work we are doing, not just to provide tuition assistance, but to broaden our efforts on behalf of our "Blue White Scholars", in our mentoring program, business networking, and attendance at alumni social events. Keep up the good work in this regard, and always know that I am open to any and all suggestions as to how we can improve our efforts on behalf of these students. In our August "Acts of Kindness," features one donor spent the time to write a two page letter. His feedback, constructive criticism and suggestions were invaluable. When I called him to say "thank you" and asked about his life, I realized that a one page article wouldn't do him justice. Thus, I am starting his story here.

## July Acts of Kindness – Robert Biese '66



Bob Biese graduated from Villanova in 1966 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and he was a member of the National Mechanical Engineering Honor Fraternity, Pi Tau Sigma. In February of that year he met Christina Lewis, a day-hop freshman at Rosemont, who grew up in a nearby neighborhood and enjoyed ice skating on a pond, which had long since become the location of the South Campus. Eleven months later the two were married and began a life together in New Jersey, where Bob had grown up.

For the first three years of his career, Bob worked in new product development in the Advance Products Division of Worthington Corporation. He was blessed to be under the tutelage of one of the world's most renowned designers of pumps and hydraulic equipment. During that time Chris and Bob's family began growing. Three years later, in April of 1969, the two moved to Reading Pennsylvania with the first two of their eventual five children, all of whom arrived during the first seven years they were married. The "bookend kids" Robert and Whitney, are NOVA grads of '91 and '97. (Continued..... On page 17)

- Congratulations to Brett and together!

Jeremy

Plymette on their marriage

- Congratulations to Dr. Samantha



tha Cerra  
el & Blue

Blakeslee (Our Billboard



Mod-White Scholarship Recipient 2005) and her husband Matt, who just had a son, named Charlie David! (Picture on Right)

- Congratulations to Ken Gerg (left) who, at 81years young, finished his 29th General Clinton 70 Mile Canoe Race from Cooperstown N.Y to Bainbridge, NY.



# Our Outstanding 2017-2018



**Joseph  
Asprea '18**

Political Science



**Andrew  
Camaj '19**

Finance &  
Accounting



**David  
Castelli '18**

Mechanical  
Engineering



**Brian  
Foley '19**

Chemical  
Engineering



**Kylie  
Frankowski '19**

Accounting &  
Marketing



**Patricia  
Gresco '19**

Math & Secondary  
Education



**Kathleen  
Hirthler '18**

Mechanical  
Engineering



**Matthew  
Hughes '18**

Chemical  
Engineering



**Victoria  
Kenney '18**

Communication



**Rita  
Marino '18**

Communication

# Blue White Scholarship Recipients!!!



**Christian  
Mazzie '18**

Marketing &  
Real Estate



**Ryan  
Mazzie '18**

Finance &  
Accounting



**Sarah  
McAssey '19**

Communication &  
Economics



**Michelle  
Milone '19**

Accounting &  
Finance



**Sara Rose  
Monahan '18**

Chemical  
Engineering



**Loren Paz '19**

Cognitive &  
Behavioral  
Neuroscience



**Kayla Quigley '18**

Finance &  
Economics



**Christopher  
Rura '19**

Astronomy &  
Astrophysics



**Maverick  
Somich  
'19**

Computer  
Science



**Allyson  
Weaver  
'18**

Nursing



**Preston  
Whiteman  
'18**

Mechanical  
Engineering

# Meet Our Scholars

These students are what drive the Blue White Mission year-in and year-out. We understand that not everyone can attend Blue White's events to meet the scholars in person, so we are bringing them to you. Each Newsletter will feature some of our outstanding scholars, sharing their background, and showing you how your contributions are assisting them. Our goal is to inspire you to share our mission with other alumni and your children who attended Villanova, so they too will be inspired to support the Blue White mission to "Bridge the Gap." for students who have unmet financial need, and are "Working Their Way" through college.



## Preston Whiteman

**Hometown**  
Camp Hill, PA

**Major**  
Mechanical  
Engineering

**Activities & Involvement:** Villanova Men's Club Volleyball, Competitive Shooter

**Career Aspiration:** Career in clean energy field

**Favorite Quote:** "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me'." -Erma Bombeck

**Extraordinary Circumstances:** Preston's father passed away from cancer a year ago, and amidst this great hardship, there was uncertainty surrounding the financial burden that would come with Preston's continuation at Villanova.

**Work Experience:** Preston has worked for a Contracting Company as Assistant Contractor and as a Teaching Assistant at Villanova. This Summer Preston has a research fellowship in computer modeling for Nano colloidal film (protective cover for phones & computers.)



## Rita Marino

**Hometown**  
Wildwood Crest, NJ

**Major**  
Communication

**Activities & Involvement:** Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity, Community Outreach of Villanova

**Career Aspiration:** Business Writer

**Favorite Quote:** "Comparison is the thief of joy" - Theodore Roosevelt

**Extraordinary Circumstances:** Rita is the youngest of seven children and does not have the luxury of a college fund. She currently works two jobs to help pay tuition and her family is still dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

**Work Experience:** On campus, Rita has worked as a cashier in Dining services and also interns at QVC. She works 20 hours a week during the school year and full time during the Summer.



## New! Program Launch Mentor or Be Mentored

Laurie Barge '06 ( Featured S.R.  
“Where Are You Now?” Story)  
is now mentoring 2017-2018  
S.R. Christopher Rura shown below.



### Christopher Rura

**Hometown**  
Homer City, PA  
**Majors**  
Astronomy &  
Astrophysics

**Activities & Involvement:** Faith and Learning Scholars, Student Advisor for Faith and Reason, Back on My Feet, Villanova Singers, Villanova Pastoral Musicians, Villanova Astronomy Society, Physics Club

**Career Aspirations:** earn a Ph.D. and work at NASA facilities, the United States Naval Observatory, or private contractors such as Space-X and Orbital-Industries.

**Favorite Quote:** “If not me, then who?” -1st LT Travis Manion

**Extraordinary Circumstances:** His Father had a major medical illness that has resulted in high medical bills.

**Work Experience:** Works in the V.U. Public Observatory and has interned with the U.S Naval Observatory. He also has worked for the PA Department of Transportation as a flagger .



### Michelle Milone

**Hometown**  
Kinnelon, NJ  
**Majors**  
Accounting &  
Finance

**Activities & Involvement:** VSB Peer Advisors, VSB Ambassadors (Student Recruitment Chair), St. Thomas of Villanova Day of Service Committee (Transportation Chair), Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity, Accounting Society (Social Media and News Event Coordinator)

**Career Aspirations:** Audit Partner at a Big Four Accounting Firm

**Favorite Quote:** “Believe you can and you’re half-way there” -Theodore Roosevelt

**Extraordinary Circumstances:** Michelle’s brother had to take a medical leave of absence her parents responsible for helping with two college tuitions as well as medical bills.

**Work Experience:** On campus, Michelle worked in the coffee shop. Summers, she has worked as a hostess and lifeguard, and the Durst Organization a NYC Real Estate firm. This summer she is an Accounting Intern at BASF

# Student Spotlight: Rita Marino-Writer

Have you ever perused the internet for new clothes or home goods? Ladies-Admit it, I know you have. On most retail sites, just above the product makeup (i.e. dimensions or material) is a two to three sentence snippet that entices customers to buy the product and help imagine how it would fit in their lives. My job is to write that product description blurb and organize the bullets in an easy to understand order. The first product description I wrote during my summer internship was about woman's pants. I needed to make pull up, rayon pants sound like the hottest fashion trend in America The type of garment that all women, young, and dare I say it, mature ladies would just die to have in their closet. The latest and greatest fashion trend. But how? Here is what I wrote as a description for the host of the evening show:

**DESCRIPTION:** *Evoke closet envy with these printed, slim leg Susan Graver pants. ( Ok I dropped the designer name and even used the word openly "envy." Next, I started to create a picture: A subtle elastic waistband allows for ultimate comfort, while sophisticated side slits complement chic wedges or your fav summer sandals.*

My journey at QVC started the spring semester of my junior year in the corporate communication department. For four months I learned the intricacies of dealing with crisis management, media coverage, and overall

- Fabrication: Uptown Stretch;
- Features: pull-on style, full flat elastic waistband, all-over print, two front pockets, side slit on outside of leg
- Rise, slightly below the waist
- Fit: fitted: cut to follow the lines of body
- Leg Shape: slim leg; fits close to the body through the entire leg
- Inseam: missy/plus inseam 28"
- Content: 77%rayon/20% nylon/3%spandex
- Care: machine wash, line dry

brand image. I tracked media, wrote articles, and crafted award nominations. Although I loved corporate communication, at the young age of 21, I was itching to learn more and further grow as a writer. As my internship contract ended, I submitted my resume to the copywriting department and was offered a summer position.

Copywriting, not to be confused with the legalities of copyrighting, is writing the words, product descriptions, or phrases, aka copy, on the website or printed content. Basically, many of the words that most of us imagine as faceless or naturally coming into existence, are actually dreamed up by the copy team. I am lucky to be a copywriter. Each day I am challenged to think creatively, write concisely, and catch peoples' attention, all while doing the thing I love most—writing! With an eloquent stringing of words, a copywriter can bring something as simple as a bracelet or tank top to life.

QVC fans always pepper me with questions regarding my proximity to celebrities. Thus far, I have seen two live shows, one with the HGTV Property Brothers and the other with David Venable, meeting both, along with host Jennifer Coffey and celebrity makeup artist Mally. Since filming is live out of the West Chester studio, I have spotted Shark Tank's Kevin O'Leary eating in the cafeteria and went on a backstage tour. Despite the glamour of the lights and cameras, my favorite perk of the job is the sample sale where employees can buy QVC merchandise, like designer makeup, at extremely discounted rates.

Come August, my time at QVC will end and I will return to Villanova to complete my senior year. Upon graduation, I wish to continue business writing, in copywriting, corporate communication, or PR. I am so grateful not only to QVC for giving me the chance to develop my writing capabilities, but also to Blue White for helping support my college education. As the last of seven children, I never had the luxury of a college fund and even while working two jobs, always experienced a financial gap. Thank you .God bless you for your generosity. *Rita*



When standing to take my picture, Property Brother Jonathan proclaimed that he had a better idea and swooped me up.

# Student Spotlight: Preston Whiteman-Marksman

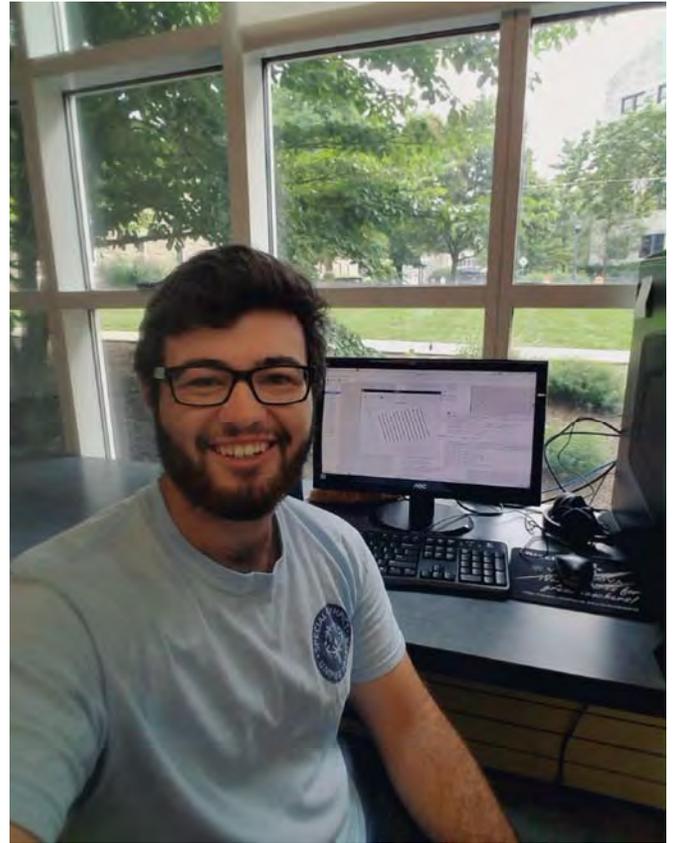
## A Summer of Research and Competition

In April, I was awarded a Villanova Undergraduate Research Fellowship (VURF), so I am able to spend my summer conducting research at Villanova. My research focuses on Nano-colloidal films, which have uses in cutting edge electronics, with applications such as anti-glare and anti-fog screens. Because these films are difficult and expensive to run tests on, my goal is to create a computer model of them. This would allow tests to be run as simulations, a much easier and cheaper option. If successful, I may have the opportunity to present my work at the IMECE world conference this November.

Outside of the lab, I am a competitive shotgun shooter. I started in seventh grade, when my mom learned about a local youth shooting team. Nine years later, I am now one of the oldest on my team that includes fifth graders through college. As I have grown in experience, I have focused more on coaching and mentoring the younger shooters, trying to give them the same help and guidance that was shown to me. Each year, we compete in the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) state and national competitions. Having won the state competitions for skeet and sporting clays, I joined over 3,000 youth shooters from around the country in Marengo, Ohio for the national competition. After



a week of shooting, I fell just outside the podium in several events, but saw several my teammates walk away with awards. Despite it becoming harder to fit shooting into my professional and academic schedule, I have already begun planning for next year!



**At the 2016 competition, I finished with three National Championships Trophies & 3 Runner-Up title's.**

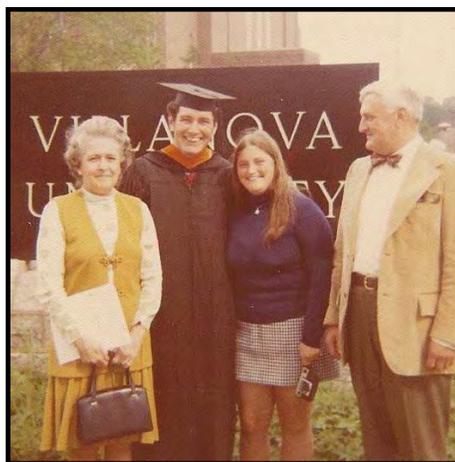
# July Donor of the Month- Ed Gallagher '73

## *Why I give....*

I have longstanding ties to Villanova University. My father attended a semester before the war, then he left to teach kids how to fly fighters. After the war I had two uncles who graduated from Villanova and a majority of priests who taught me in high school were Augustinians.

Being the oldest of seven children there was never a question that I had to attend a local college and live at home. Villanova, St. Joseph's and LaSalle were the logical choices for a Catholic school but only VU offered Electrical Engineering, the major I favored at the time.

Senior year at Bonner I borrowed \$100 from my father's sister for my application and thus began a ten year journey to graduate from Villa-



**Ed –Proud sister and parents!**

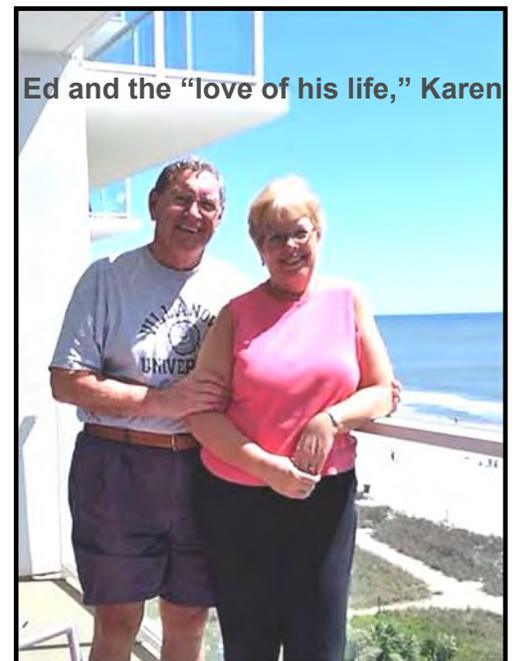
nova. In the spring of 1963 I entered school intending to be an Electrical Engineer and also joined the navy ROTC program. Little did I know I bit off more than I could chew. I did not get any scholarship offers so to pay for school I worked two jobs all summer, roofing and grocery store clerk. During the school year I kept the job at the grocery store and occasionally delivered oil with my father. Going into what should have been my first semester as a junior I hit the perfect storm, no money and low grades. I had a guardian angel on the board that got me permission to pay my tuition monthly but nothing helped my grades. ROTC booted me out and I lost my 2-S deferment so in October 1966 I enlisted in the Navy for four years, the best thing that could have happened to me. The four years in the Navy allowed me to have a great time maturing and developing my life skills especially time management, leadership and study habits.

After returning to Villanova I managed a 4.0 that first semester, repeating a few courses and clearing up a few "F"s". Thanks to the guidance of Dean Gallen, I switched my major to Civil Engineering (no more calculus) and with the help of Mr. McNichol obtained part time employment with McCormick and Taylor. This meant with the G.I. Bill a student loan and the part time job I could pay for the new tuition which had more than doubled in the four years I had been away. When I started school you could work as a roofer all summer and pay for a good bit of your tuition. In fact two of my closest younger brothers also paid for their education at Drexel University and LaSalle University utilizing loans, roofing work and a co-op program. That just is not possible with tuition today.

Thanks to the patient professors at Villanova, I finally graduated on a Friday in May 1973 with a Bachelor of Engineering Civil Engineering. Monday morning right after graduation I began working for a national heavy contractor on the subway system in Washington D.C. and thus began a fast and furious career in construction. On November 17<sup>th</sup> of that year I married the love of my life Karen. We have now, with God's blessing, three successful children and five lovely grandchildren.



**BWSF Ambassador - Ed Gallagher**



**Ed and the "love of his life," Karen**

# August Donor of the Month- Thomas E. Keating '56

## Tom doubled his monthly donations!!!

Tom grew up in Ventnor City (the yellow card on the monopoly board) a very small town in South Jersey. As a small boy, Tom thought South Jersey was a state because his grandfather told him he lived in South Jersey, not New Jersey. A little known fact is that South Jersey tried to secede from New Jersey— farm country vs. the industrial north.

Tom's best job was being the president of the Ventnor City Lifeguards— not much pressure and one perk he received was that he had the opportunity to escort Miss Ventnor City to the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City.

Tom attended high school in Atlantic City because Ventnor did not have a high school. He rode a trolley car to school every day that cost 5 cents, or hitch hiked. After high school, Tom became a truck driver. He told his father that his goal was to eventually drive a very large truck. After one year of unloading freight cars and loading his truck, college did not seem like such a bad idea! So he went off to Villanova. At Villanova, Tom earned a B.S in Economics & Finance. He credits Professor Dougherty, his teacher for Statistics and Finance/ Stock Market Analysis course, for having a great influence upon the direction he took for a career. After Villanova, he went to graduate school at Stanford, where he completed the Business Executive Program and the MIT Financial Management program.

Tom served as the CEO of Travelers Investment Management Company as well as the Travelers Corporation of Bermuda. Tom worked as the head of the Travelers Asset Management and Pension Services Division in Hartford, CT for 37 years, where he managed 25 billion dollars in pension and 401K assets for corporations. He is now retired from the Travelers Corporation and Citi Group. Tom has been quite an active participant in several business related organizations including the Employee Benefits Research Institute, the International Investor Roundtable, the American Pension Conference, and the Profit Sharing Council of America.

Tom is very involved with his community as he was the past president of the Cashiers Valley Rotary Club, Optimist Club, and the Sapphire Valley Country Club. He also served on the Finance Council at St. Jude Catholic Church. He also volunteers in personal ways, serving as a Big Brother in Big Brothers Big Sisters, (Giving back runs in the family, Tom's wife Lynn won the 2016-2017 Outstanding Big Sister Award for the State of North Carolina) delivering Meals on Wheels, tutoring at local schools, and serving on the Council of the Cashiers Boys and Girls Club. Tom will be joining the Blue White Scholarship Foundation Board Endowment Advisory Board in the Fall 2017.

Through the years, Tom has been a loyal supporter of Villanova in a variety of ways. He is a regular contributor to the Villanova Annual Giving Campaign and the Blue and White Scholarship Foundation. He and several of the friends he went to Villanova with, return faithfully to reunions, most recently attending their 60th in 2016.

Tom and his wife, Lynne, have been married for 36 years this July. They live in Cashiers, NC. They have five daughters, 13 grandchildren, and one great granddaughter who loves to come to the mountains and enjoy the rustic, scenic lifestyle of their Western North Carolina home.



**Tom Keating with his dogs Zachary and Fanny (looking on)**



## **Where Are They Now ? Laurie Barge '04**

**At Villanova I was an Astronomy and Astrophysics major and my dream was always to work for NASA, specifically to work on the robotic exploration of other planets. Right after graduation in the summer of 2004, I did an internship at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, where my project was about detecting organics in Mars samples in preparation for the then-upcoming Curiosity rover mission (which launched in 2011). At the end of that summer I moved to Los Angeles to start graduate school at the University of Southern California (USC) in geological sciences, as a USC College Merit Fellow and later as a NASA Harriet G. Jenkins fellow. My thesis project was about chemical self-organization in geological systems, so I was looking at interesting patterns that minerals make that are not biological but still seem to imply some past organic chemical process. I did lab experiments at USC and field work in the Navajo Sandstone formation in Utah, studying analogs of small iron oxide spheres ("concretions") similar to what had been discovered on Mars by the Opportunity rover in 2004. As a graduate student I also worked at JPL as an intern making landing site hazard maps for the future Mars landers / rovers (using images from HiRISE), and in the summer of 2008 I did a petro physics internship at Marathon Oil Company in Houston, Texas.**

During the graduate school years I became a part of the NASA Astrobiology early-career community which cemented my desire to do astrobiology as a full time job. To build my network in that area I went to various exciting programs like a summer school in Spain, winter school in Hawaii, the astrobiology graduate student conference in Stockholm, and my first keynote talk was at an earth science conference in Australia. I originally got into this to work on space missions, but it was a pleasant surprise that being a scientist also involves so much interesting travel!

Currently I'm a Research Scientist in Astrobiology at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA. I study the emergence of life on Earth and ways that we can detect life on other worlds. Some of what I do is similar to a university professor: my research group of undergraduate / graduate students works on planetary science projects that we publish in scientific journals and present at conferences. Our research is lab chemistry based and we make our own synthetic "early Earth seafloor minerals" or "Mars minerals" and use them to drive reactions like organic synthesis for the origin of life. I'm also fascinated by underwater geothermal vents and am working on projects with collaborators from all over the world to understand how hydrothermal vents might lead to life on the icy moons of Jupiter and Saturn. You can see me describing some of our vent research here: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/make-your-own-vent.html>.

The other half of what I do is working on missions. Right now I am the Investigation Scientist for the HiRISE instrument on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which has been studying Mars from orbit since 2006. HiRISE (the High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment) is a very high-resolution camera that images geological features on Mars and can also image the rovers and landers on the surface. In my Investigation Scientist role I help coordinate between the HiRISE instrument team at the University of Arizona and the MRO mission at JPL so that they can get the best possible science data. One of the first things I worked on in this role was helping to coordinate taking a photo of Earth and Moon from Mars, which was used for calibration purposes: <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/jpl/earth-and-its-moon-as-seen-from-mars>. So many factors go into taking a special image like this and it takes a lot of work to execute it properly!

I graduated with my Ph.D. in Geological Sciences in 2009. Then I pursued working at JPL. I did two postdocs: one as a Caltech Postdoctoral Scholar at JPL working on origin of life in hydrothermal systems, and one as a NASA Astrobiology Institute Postdoctoral Fellow working with the "Icy Worlds" team at JPL to study ways that life could exist on Jupiter's moon Europa or Saturn's moon Enceladus. Being a post-doc was fun since it was the first time I could build my group of students and my own research program. I traveled even more for work in those years, including many trips to Europe and frequently to Tokyo to see collaborators that I work with on vent experiments. I've learned that doing research science, especially planetary science, is a huge endeavor that requires you to keep up a big network of friends and colleagues worldwide, so it's always a high priority for me to visit collaborators, attend conferences, and host them visiting me here in LA. In 2015 my post-doc ended, I solo hiked the Camino trail in Portugal and Spain, and then I accepted my full-time job at JPL.

P.S. Now I live near downtown Los Angeles with my husband. He's a JPL Engineer leading the avionics section that programs the flight software; he has worked on the Curiosity rover that landed in 2012, the InSight mission to Mars that will launch in 2018, and the Psyche mission that will go to an iron-rich asteroid. We actually met because we were both student interns in that NASA Goddard internship program in 2004; we've been together ever since that summer and were married in 2010. We enjoy the LA urban lifestyle - apartment living, taking the metro to free concerts, and exploring the city. I spend my non-working hours having adventures with my two running clubs, cycling, and doing half marathons and other races in fun locations like Vegas or Hawaii (soon upcoming is a 200-mile relay race with friends at Niagara Falls!).

# Planning an Out-of-this-world-night:

Ever get so wrapped up in the hustle and bustle of your life that you forget to slow down and enjoy the moment? We, too!

However, existing just above our heads is one of the world's greatest beauties: the sky. Whether you are craving some quality time with your significant other, kids, or friends, this guide will help you plan the perfect summer stargazing night.

## What you need to do:

**Pick a good site:** The darker it is, the easier it is to see the night sky. Look for a spot with minimal light pollution. For those city dwellers, driving 15-20 minutes outside the city will help avoid excessive lights.

**Check the weather:** Best star-watching conditions require clear skies. If the forecast is calling for clouds, you'll have to reschedule.

**Find good company:** We suggest calling up family and friends with whom you've been meaning to catch up.

## What to bring:

**Seating:** Bring some chairs to recline or fuzzy blankets to lay back and snuggle.

**Snacks:** What's a night out without tasty food? We recommend pre-made s'mores, a thermos for warm beverages and some freshly cut fruit.

**Binoculars:** Fancy telescope equipment is not needed to see the night sky. A cheap pair of binoculars will do, or you can rely solely on your eyes.

**Music:** Create a playlist or pack a radio to add some tunes to the night.

**Starwatching help:** Print star watching sheets or download an app to help identify constellations.

# THE ULTIMATE STAR- GAZING GUIDE,

*Information according to seasky.org*

## 2017 Celestial Calendar of Events

**August 11,12 - Perseids Meteor Shower.** The Perseids is one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak.

**August 21 - New Moon.** The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky.

**August 21 - Total Solar Eclipse.** A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon completely blocks the Sun, revealing the Sun's beautiful outer atmosphere known as the corona. The last total solar eclipse visible in the continental United States occurred in 1979 and the next one will not take place until 2024. This year will be especially stunning for viewers in North America, as the sun will undergo the most amazing celestial disappearing act seen there since 1979. In August, a total solar eclipse will cross the United States from coast to coast, changing daytime skies into dark twilight for a few minutes along a narrow path from Oregon to S. Carolina.

**September 5 - Neptune at Opposition.** The blue giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun.

**November 13 - Two of the brightest celestial objects in our skies, the bright planets of Venus and Jupiter will have a super close encounter at dawn.** The two worlds will appear to be separated by only 18 arc-minutes, or about equal to the apparent width of a half-lit moon. Since this conjunction event will take place so low to the horizon, the planets will be battling the glare of the morning twilight, and binoculars will make viewing more enjoyable.

**December 13 - Geminid Meteors.** The annual Geminid meteor shower will reach its peak activity this night for viewers in the Americas. The Geminids are known to be quite prolific, with rates as high as 60 to 120 shooting stars an hour at peak times. This year's event will be special because sky-watchers will only have to contend with the waning crescent moon until about local midnight. Once the moon sets, the best viewing will be in the predawn hours of December 14—at this time the shower will peak.

# August Acts of Kindness-Matt Dillon '92



**Matt Dillon, President of Pantheon Technology Consulting, Inc. (610)**

Everyone has those days when they just can't get their computer to work or maybe it's their printer, so you can imagine my joy when I received a phone call from Mr. Matt Dillon offering his expertise. I immediately said "yes" to his offer and made an appointment. He arrived the day all the computers crashed. He immediately implemented a plan to network all the workstations, each with Windows 7 or 10 and the series 3600 printers so that the different operating systems could work together smoothly. Performance issues were solved! He then went to work on database system and is working to "clean it up" so that the donor contact information can be used in the following ways:

1.) easier to access 2.) donor entries could be integrated with BWSF QuickBooks software so that donor contact information and all transactions are synchronized between the two repositories, without the need for any double-entry 3.) Create new forms so that, for example, someone can look up an individual record and see pertinent information in a single

view on the screen 4.) Create Reports so that, for example, someone can:

- i) Generate a list of current and previous year donors to whom an upcoming BWSF newsletter can be mailed
- ii) Generate a list of recent donors to whom a "thank you" letter can be mailed

Soon Matt will even work on improving other technical issues through out the year. So now you know why Matt has been chosen to feature for our August –Acts of Kindness, and he has been asked to join the Board of Directors< but who is Matt?

Matt Dillon is the President and a Principal Consultant of Pantheon Technology Consulting LLC, a firm specializing in Information Technology (IT) business systems analysis and technical communications for clients. He helps software application development companies, organizations and teams understand the needs of the user communities who depend on them, and build solutions that achieve business objectives.

Prior to consulting, Matt was a Business Systems Analyst, Technical Communicator and Project Manager for software companies and information technology (IT) departments of other companies across multiple industries. He has prepared requirements, user stories, design specifications, case studies, software user "help" and other technological documents lauded by clients for their precision, creativity and readability.

Matt's clients have included Wal-Mart, Lowe's, Independence Blue Cross, Capital One and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Matt is a member of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania chapters of the Association of Information Technology Professionals, the International Institute of Business Analysis and the Society for Technical Communication. Matt received a Bachelor's degree from Villanova University and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Maryland.

Matt is a loving husband and proud father of three children who play high school and recreational sports. His toughest assignment of late has been trying to defy the laws of physics by being in multiple places at the same time to watch all of their games! He and his family live in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.



( Continued from Page 2) Of the other three, Kimberly and Lee graduated from Shippensburg and Tiffany from Albright. Looking back Bob said how great it might have been had there been a BWSF in the days he and Chris had three in college at once and one applying. At the time, the only financial avenues available to them were student loans. He remembers their mantra at the time as, "Eat a hot dog or pay a bill?"

The move to Reading in 1969 had been a career change into the world of consulting to the fossil and nuclear power industry at Gilbert Associates, now Worley Parsons. A project manager, senior Project Manager and Senior Consultant for most of that time, Bob retired from Worley Parsons in December of 2012, 43 years later. Of the many highlights of his career perhaps two stand out as unique. The first is when his team of nearly 240 developed qualification

# July Acts of Kindness— Robert Biese '66



# *Class of 1972 & DPE/DPM Reunion Pictures*



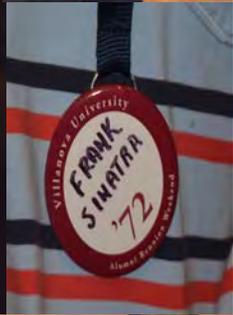
*Above: Class '72 – School Reunion, Top Right: Tom Lewis & Nick Ficca  
Below on Right: DPE Handmade Pledge Paddle,  
Directly Below: DPE Class of '72*



George Nardella, Nick Ficca, Frank Sinatra, Jerry Nardella & Ed Sullivan



Frank Sinatra & Ed Sullivan  
(really!)

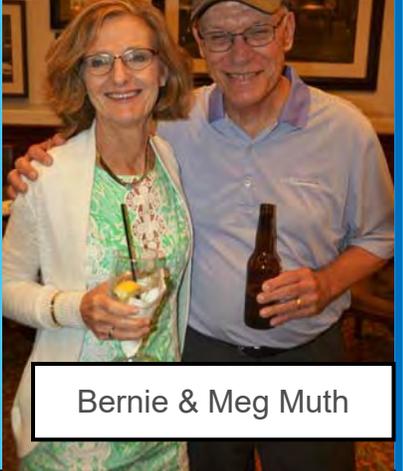


Bob Navarre & Dave Miller



Phil Feliciano, Jerry Nardella, Joe Hare & Nick Ficca  
( The Boys Are Back In Town– Let The Good Times Roll)

*Go  
Cats  
Go!*



Bernie & Meg Muth



Tom Morrison & Frank Daley



Phil Feliciano, Steve Furnary & Nick Ficca



# BlueWhite Scholarship Foundation

P.O. Box 412 Villanova, PA 19085  
www.BlueWhiteClub.org

**JULY—AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Helping Students Graduate by “Bridging the Gap”*

## SAVE THE DATES!

- ◆ Lobster Dinner, Avalon NJ  
Saturday: August 12
- ◆ Come Meet the students &  
Benjamin Franklin at the  
“Pay It Forward” Ceremony  
Sunday: September 17
- ◆ Fall Fundraiser— Philly  
Sounds of Sinatra  
Saturday: October 21
- ◆ Homecoming Football Tailgate  
Sat: Oct. 28 Stadium Lot 3-6  
Saturday: October 28

