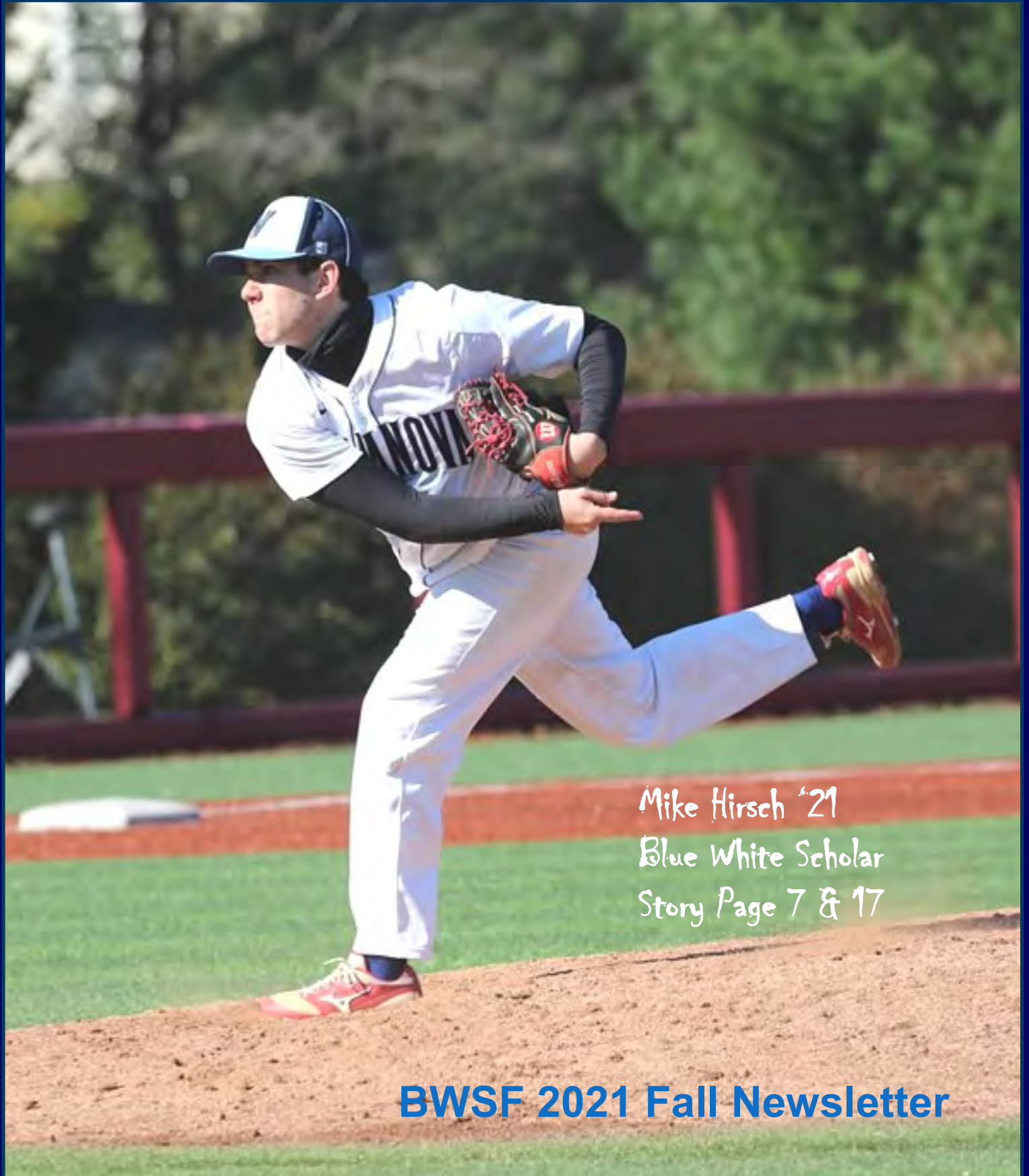


We are getting back in the Swing of it!



Mike Hirsch '21
Blue White Scholar
Story Page 7 & 17

BWSF 2021 Fall Newsletter



Executive Director's Message



The phrase, “*you never really appreciate something until it’s gone*” has never rung so true as it has until now. Being able to walk around freely and enjoy friends inside and outside was taken for granted. Thank goodness, for our

young cats it appears that the students will be able to go back to school, not wear masks and socialize again. Clubs will be allowed again on campus, intramural sports, band, music ministry etc. will be allowed again.

Students will allowed to eat together again and allowed to visit the dorms again too. So we are getting “*back in the swing of it!*” Update on Scholarships:

This year we are offering both scholarships and paid internships as well as the mentoring program for our Blue White Scholars. There will be 14 students participating. The average amount is \$8,000

We have also added additional scholarship support based on the level of participation of scholarship recipients in fundraising activities.. There are three easy ways to help raise money beyond your annual contribution. (1) ShopRaise (2) Buy a Cyber Monday Raffle Ticket— in lieu of attending an in person event (3) Play our \$5..... 50-50. Available the night before and day of each Mens Basketball Game

Kate

#1 Game on! For just \$5 purchase a 50-50 raffle ticket before every Villanova Men's Basketball Game!
Buy your tickets up to 48 hours in advance online at our website: www.BluewhiteScholarship.org
The average winnings were \$100+ last year!



#2 WIN - Winning- Winner

When you SHOP on line , please use ShopRaise
It's a FREE App. We get 2-4% back on all purchases.

1500+ Retailers. There's no extra cost to you!

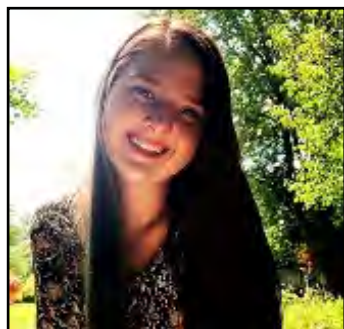
Download @ www.BlueWhiteScholarship.org.



Blue White Scholarship Announces



Holly Beske '22
Economics



Emily Bresnan '22
Psychology
(Repeat Scholar)



Ryan Dery '23
Political Science &
Humanities
(Repeat Scholar)



Paige Erdman '22
Marketing & Business
Analytics
(Repeat Scholar)



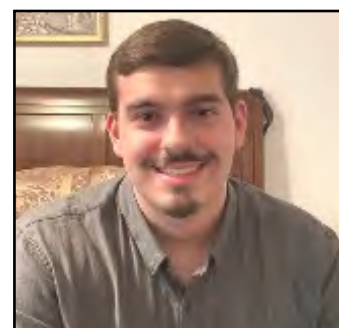
Angelica Garcia '22
Electrical Engineering



Julia Herrman '23
Psychology



Dan Lewis '22
Computer Engineering
(Repeat Scholar)



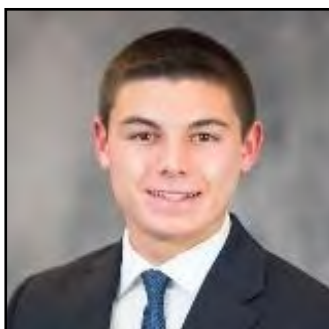
Peter Nikitin '22
Geography



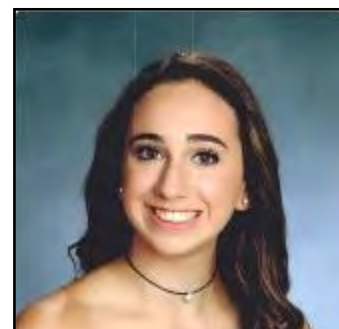
Emily Pingelski '22
Civil Engineering
(Repeat Scholar)



Patricia Santos '22
Nursing



Chris "CJ" Shaw '22
Finance & Accounting
(Repeat Scholar)



Francesca Stadtman '22
Chemical Engineering
(Repeat Scholar)

Our 2021-2022 Recipients



Erin Welch '23
Biology



Natalie Williams '22
Biology

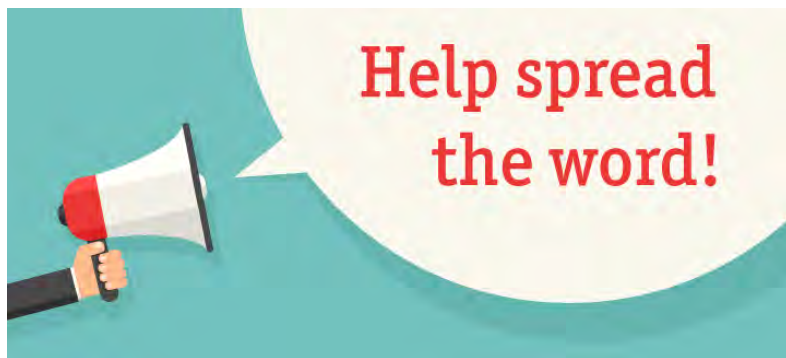


THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES

Many of you spent countless hours in the reading, evaluating, and scoring of the student's applications. This took place along with the hours spent by the Villanova University Office of Financial Assistance, determining which students had the most need and who would best reflect the values of a Blue White Scholar.



Our mission is to “Bridge the Financial Aid Gap” You are making a real difference!
Please help spread the word of our mission with other alumni and your children who attended Villanova. making a real difference, then spread the word!
—Ask others to support our Students



Anna Dos Santos '21

Hometown
Basking Ridge, NJ

Major
Biology & Spanish

Career Aspirations: Within the next 10 years, I aspire to have completed medical school and be working as a practicing Family Medicine physician.

School Activities: Cell Biology and Physiology Undergraduate Research laboratory, started Villanova's first medical research journal club, pre-med advisor, Community Outreach of Villanova

Extraordinary Circumstances: Upon coming to college, my family underwent a series of strenuous situations that dramatically changed our financial condition. Three years after my mother's passing, my father remarried and had two children making me the eldest child of six children. My family comprises of 4 boys, my adopted sister, as well as myself. Furthermore, within the next five years, my father will be paying for the college tuition of my two brothers and I. It is imperative to note that my family is single income, with my dad being the only provider. Most importantly, because of my mother's passing, my father elected to depart from the military prematurely without ever receiving a G.I. bill. After serving 20 years in the military, it quickly transpired that my father could not risk staying in the military and being deployed all the while working as a single parent. When discerning where I would go to school, I thought I would receive a G.I. bill to help assuage Villanova's high tuition. However, my father's necessary decision to leave the military completely changing my family's financial landscape



Colin Donnelly '21

Hometown
Havertown, Pa

Major
Civil Engineering

Career Aspirations: Work for a civil engineering firm in the Philadelphia Area.

SUCCESS— Colin was able to complete his degree in civil engineering from Villanova! Colin is currently working full time for Arco Design as a Design Manager.

School Activities:

Club Rugby, Intramurals, American Society of Civil Engineers, Sigma Chi Fraternity

Favorite Quote: “Remember kid, there's heroes and there's legends. Heroes get remembered but legends never die; follow your heart kid, and you'll never go wrong.” – Babe Ruth, *The Sandlot*

How the Blue White Scholarship helps me:

This scholarship means so much to me as it allows me to focus more on my classes rather than having to work extra shifts throughout the week. This semester I will be working with Athletics, as a Teaching Assistant, and on the Golf Staff at Merion so this scholarship will help tremendously and allow me to work less shifts during the school week. Over the past year, I have also made everlasting connections with the wonderful family here at the Blue White Scholarship Foundation

Sending Thanksgiving Wishes to our BW Family

Nothing beats a thankful heart and thanksgiving is the perfect occasion to let your heart speak for all the things that you are grateful for. Thanksgiving is a very special day where we get to be thankful to God and everyone else in our life for all the good things. Thanksgiving is a blessing in disguise. So, be thankful for everything and let the sheer happiness take over your day. Count your blessings one by one and let the happiness and the positivity spread. Send some warm thanksgiving messages to everyone associated with you and let the love flow.



Madison Dugan '21

Hometown
Shrewsbury, MA

Major
Accounting and Management

Career Aspiration: To work as an auditor after school and become a Certified Public Accountant, then eventually become the CEO/CFO of a company.

SUCCESS– Madison began last Summer and passed her last CPA Exam in June. She is now an auditor for PwC in New York City!

School Activities:

Special Olympics, NOVAdance, RUIBAL, Women in Business, Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, Rho Gamma Sorority Recruitment Liaison

Favorite Quote:

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel" – Maya Angelou

Work Experience:

I started babysitting when I was about 12 years old. Once I turned 16 I got a waitressing job at a local diner, working Saturdays and Sundays. By senior year of high school, I held three concurrent waitressing jobs. The summer after freshman year I interned at a consulting firm, and they asked me to continue working for them remotely from school. Last summer I am interning in Boston and take the train over an hour each day, so I could live at home and save money. Luckily I was able to get a job offer right out of Nova and will now be working at a big 4 accounting firm.

Thank you so much for your generosity and dedication to this foundation. I am thankful each and every day for the opportunity to attend Villanova University. It is humbling knowing that alumni care so much about the next generation of Villanovans. I cannot wait to do the same someday.



Mike Hirsch '21

Hometown:
Somers, NY

Major:
Accounting and Business Analytics

SUCCESS– Mike accepted a full time offer with FTI Consulting in New York City. He will be working for FTI as a forensic accountant!

School Activities: Club Baseball, Intramurals, Villanova Band

Favorite Quote: *"Whether you think you can or think you can't, You're right" - Henry Ford*

Work Experience:

When I was at school, I dedicate a lot of my outside time towards working intramurals, and I try to pick up extra shifts as often as possible, which sometimes leads to long days and late nights, but it's worth it to me. I also became a supervisor for intramurals in January 2020, so I would have more opportunities to work. For my last year, I did a forensic accounting internship with FTI Consulting which is helping me pay for my housing, tuition, and my car/insurance payments.

How the Blue White Scholarship helps me:

Thank you for taking the time to review over my application and choosing me to be a repeat Blue White Scholar. I imagine the field was very competitive, which makes it even greater of an honor that I was selected again. I worked very hard on both this application and my academics throughout my time school, so it's very rewarding to see that hard work pay off again.

This holiday season, please designate us as your charity of choice - Amazon Smile



Ryleigh McCue '21

Hometown
Broomall, PA
Major
Nursing

Career Aspirations: Obstetric or Pediatric Nurse

Favorite Quote: “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” -Aesop

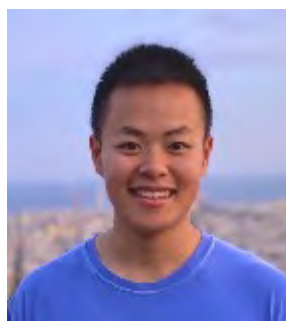
Extraordinary Circumstances: My dad passed away from cancer when I was only three, leaving my mom to raise four kids alone. Four college tuitions was not something that she could afford and we all had to do our part and work to save up tuition money. Since high school I've scooped ice cream, babysat and worked in a daycare to save up as much money as I can for school.

Jobs worked to help pay for school:

- Baskin Robbins (2013-2017)
- Babysitting (2015-present)
- Daycare teacher (2017-present)

How Blue White is Helping Me:

The Blue White Scholarship came at the perfect time for me. Being the youngest of four in a single parent household, I have been working since high school to save up for tuition. However, with places being shut down due to Covid-19, I was unable to return to work this summer. I rely on my summer job for help with tuition costs for the semester and for my spending money while at school. The money that the foundation is so generously granting me will help me relax a little more knowing that part of my tuition is taken care of.



Kevin Lu '21

Hometown
Peru, Illinois
Major
Biology and Spanish

School Activities: Member of Villanova Cheerleading, EMT at Villanova EMS, Outreach Coordinator of Villanova Amnesty International/No Lost Generation

Career Aspirations: I have been accepted to medical school at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

Favorite quote: “You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.” - Zig Ziglar

How the Blue White Scholarship Helps Me:

Thanks to the Blue White Scholarship, I have the opportunity to focus on my studies during these challenging times. I am also able to focus on my extracurricular and volunteer activities on campus without the added burden of worrying about the financial stress that comes with college.

Work Experience:

I recently completed a paid scholarship through Villanova's Philadelphia Area Social Justice Internship (PASJI) sponsored by Campus Ministry. I interned virtually at the Centro de Cultura, Arte, Trabajo, y Educación (CCATE) this summer. Last summer, I worked as an international camp counselor with student groups from China and Mexico.

#3 - Cyber Monday Raffle
Please Support our Fall Fundraiser!



Ticket Cost: 1 tix for \$50 or 3 tix for \$100

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

How did you hear about this raffle? (Circle one)

- Student - Newsletter - Email - Website - Board Member -
Student/Board member who sold you ticket (if applicable):
(name) _____

Buy Raffle Virtual Ticket Now!



1st Prize: \$500
2nd Prize: \$250
3rd Prize: \$100

*A Benefit for the Blue White Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c)(3)
We "Bridge the Financial Aid Gap" for Villanova students*

HAVE A LAUGH WITH BLUE WHITE JOKES

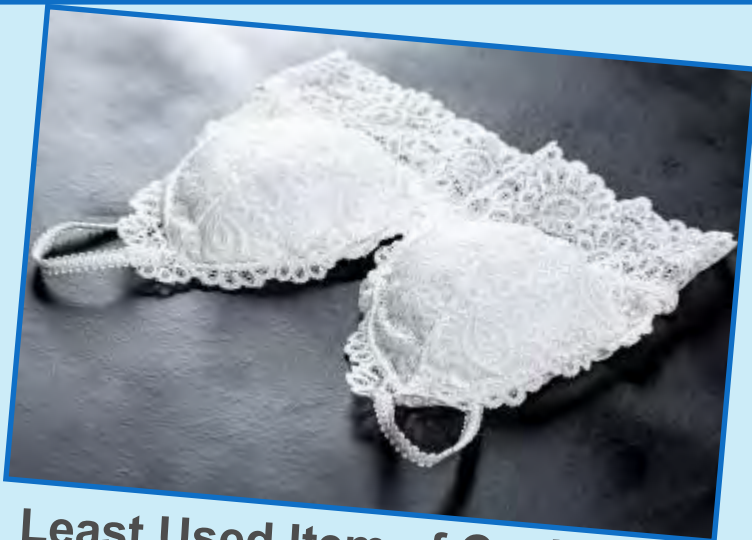


Some Humor from Blue-White Donors:

- 1 A woman told her friend, "I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising." She said, "So, I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But by the time I got my leotards on, the class was already over."
- 2 A businessman boarded an international flight and found a fancy young woman seated next to him wearing a large diamond ring. During the flight, he asked her about the ring. "It is the Klopman diamond, but it comes with a terrible curse," she said. "What's the curse," he asked. She replied, "Mr. Klopman."
- 3 A retired man now volunteers to entertain patients in assisted living homes and hospitals. He visited one hospital in Brooklyn and brought along his portable keyboard. After telling jokes and singing songs at patients' bedsides, he said farewell and, "I hope you get better." One elderly gentleman replied, "I hope you get better, too."



The Realities of life at home:



**Least Used Item of Covid-19
Quarantine**

**Most Used Item of
Covid-19 Quarantine**



We want to hear from you!

If any of our readers have funny photos, stories, jokes, or other content, please send them into us via email at katecellucci@bluewhiteclub.org. We will send out free blue-white apparel to anyone who sends useable content!

GIFT LANGUAGE FOR YOUR WILL

When making or revising a will, we encourage you to obtain the assistance of a legal professional.

Below are various types of gifts that can benefit
The Blue White Scholarship Foundation

1. Outright gift in your will

(a) Specific dollar amount:

"I bequeath the sum of \$_____to
BWSF (Blue White Scholarship Foundation)
for its general purposes (or for a designated
purpose)."

(b) Specific property (personal property):

"I bequeath <DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY>
to **BWSF** (Blue White Scholarship Foundation)
for its general purposes (or for a designated
purpose)."

(c) Specific property (real estate):

"I devise all of my right, title and interest
in and to the real property located at
<DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY> to **BWSF**
(Blue White Scholarship Foundation) for its
general purposes (or for a designated purpose)."

(d) Percentage of estate:

"I devise and bequeath_____percent (%) of my estate to **BWSF** (Blue White
Scholarship Foundation) for its general purposes (or for a designated purpose)."

(e) Share of, or entire residue, of estate:

"I devise and bequeath (all/or %) of the remainder of my property to **BWSF** (Blue White
Scholarship Foundation) for its general purposes (or for a designated purpose)."

2. Conditional gift in your will

Insert the conditional language in one or more of the above provisions. For example:

"If (one or more individuals) does not survive me, I bequeath the sum of \$_____to **BWSF**
(Blue White Scholarship Foundation) for its general purposes (or for a designated purpose)."



Did you Know?

The quickest way to undo an otherwise carefully-thought-out estate plan is the use of a **bank, brokerage or retirement account**. The reason for this is because the beneficiary designations on these accounts generally **override** a will. **So, in theory, a wonderfully planned will can come undone if beneficiaries on these accounts do not match those named in the will.**



Corporate Address:
683 Gulph Road,
Wayne PA 19087
Ph: 610-519-0777
Tax ID#: 23-3095631

Blue White Hosted it's Annual Donor Reunion Golf Outing this Summer



Fraternity brothers gather at Overbrook Golf Club for a round of golf and a luncheon

Over the years, hundreds of our donors who are members of fraternities and sororities have been loyal supporters. We want to thank all of the Brothers and Sisters who came out to our June golf outing this year, and all of our donors who make events like this possible for Blue-White. We understand that without our loyal donors, we cannot serve our purpose. This being said, we'd like to give back to our donors by inviting all alumni to attend our next annual reunion event in June of 2022 !

Blue White Scholarship Foundation
"Success is Education"



20 Years Since the 9/11 Tragedy: a Moment of Silence, a Moment of Love

On September 11, 2021, the 20th anniversary of the terrorist's attacks upon our soil, we must again remember, honor and reflect on those who perished, and the families and friends they left behind. We must keep our Flags flying, and participate in ceremonies that will keep the memories alive for the past, present and all future generations.

On 9/11, during the day, we must reserve a moment of silence, to reflect on the events, especially our victims and family members. At the same time, we must express our love for the victims and family members by reflecting, remembering and honoring them on this day of infamy. It is said love is the melting together of two hearts. Our hearts and as well as those who have perished and left behind will be united. This attack on our victims, Country, and our principals must never be forgotten.

We honor those who perished in New York World Center Tower's attack which included: Flight 175, passengers (51), crew members (9), Flight 11, passengers (76), crew members (11) and those in the

Towers, Firefighters, Police, Response Teams, Medical, and other agencies and individuals (2605), for a total of 2,752 victims. I lost fifteen of my fellow Villanova graduates in the Towers: W. David Bauer '78, James Berger '78, Dennis Cook '90, Christopher Dincuff '92, Jefferey Dingle '90,



Christopher Duffy '00, William Fallon '70, Peter Gelinas '90, Michael Gould '94, Amy Jarret '94, Jeannine Jones '94, Jennifer Kane '97, Danielle Kousoulis '93, Matthew Vianna '00, and Kaaria Mbaya '86. The Villanova Community will cherish these lives forever.

We honor those who perished in the Pentagon attack in Arlington Virginia which included: Flight 77, passengers (53), crew members (6), and those in the Pentagon that included military and civilian

personnel (125) for a total of 184 victims. I lost my Northrop Grumman Corporation co-worker, Julian Cooper.

We honor those who perished on a field near Shanksville Pennsylvania, Somerset County, whose actions on board the aircraft, prevented the aircraft from continuing on the course to what has been determined our White House, included: Flight 93, passengers (33), crew members (7), for a total (40) and an unborn child.

We too must continue to love our Country, appreciate and express that we are Americans, and thank our military, and various agencies who are responsible for the protection of our Country.

On September 11, 2020 and all future September 11 days, we must remember our 911 victims, not, who they were, but who they are.

God Bless America, Our 9/11 Victims and Families, Our Military, Our Veterans, Our Wounded Warriors, Our Citizens.

In remembering, there is peace.

* This tribute was written and provided by Mike Skurecki '91

Student Spotlight: Madison Dugan '21 - Becoming a CPA

Sophomore year I declared a major in accounting at the Villanova School of Business. I made my decision after a summer internship my Freshman year. The owner of the company sat at the conference table each day and we spoke about the Wall Street Journal, things occurring in business, and he provided mentoring and advice. He was an older man, very old school, and had started his career at Arthur Andersen. We sat down at the end of the summer to discuss my future plans and he said, **“So Madison, are you going to major in Accounting, or Advanced Accounting?”** I initially laughed, but after listening to him explain the benefits of an accounting major, and how far it had gotten him in business, I realized I really could not go wrong.



Madison & her dad Graduation '21

Accountant Exam. The CPA Exam consists of four individual assessments, each taking months to study for. Most people do not begin to study until after graduation, but I was fortunate enough to have the necessary credits after completing my junior year. I studied for and passed the first exam over the summer, then continued to study first semester and I passed my second exam over winter break. During my last semester at Nova, I studied and passed my third exam and received my CPA certification prior to beginning full time work. **Having a CPA certification is a tangible accomplishment to not only put at the end of my name, but help propel me in the business world.** I

am very thankful for my Villanova professors who helped get me started on this path.

Although I am excited to be starting my career in public accounting, I am so excited about what will come next. I am not sure the longevity of my career in accounting, but I **am lucky to get such a strong foundation, allowing me to do whatever I set my mind to after that. Maybe I'll want to make partner in public accounting, or become an executive at a healthcare company, or even go into consulting. I think ultimately I want to become involved with a philanthropic organization, either as an executive or serving on a board, and of course one day Pay It Forward to the Blue White Scholarship Foundation.**



Madison is now working as an audit associate at PwC

As I got further into my accounting curriculum, I grew to like the material, because to me it made sense. I liked the way that each problem was a puzzle, the instant gratification that came with getting something to balance, and the flexibility and opportunities it afforded me. When working for

a Big Four accounting firm, especially in Audit, you gain great insight into the working of a business, especially into the financials, and gain great business knowledge. I have always been interested in the healthcare industry, and even once considered attending medical school. I realized I could combine these two things by going into the business side of medicine. Scholarship Foundation. I **decided to pursue this passion and will be starting off my career as an Audit Associate in the Healthcare Industry at PwC in New York City.**

When my summer internship got reduced to a virtual two week experience, I took advantage of my newfound time and began studying for the Certified Public

Student Spotlight: Colin Donnelly '21 - Villanova Rugby

Coming from St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia, I already knew seven other students in my class at Villanova University. Having these guys helped with the adjustment to living away from home for the first time, but it also meant that I wasn't branching out and meeting as many people as I had hoped that I would. Little did I know, rugby would change this very soon. My roommate and I went to the first practice not knowing what to expect,



2021 Villanova Rugby Team

As I now look back on my rugby career, as well as my college career, I am just thankful for all the memories I made. So often, college is talked about in a professional development standpoint, but, for me, rugby helped me socially during an important time in my life. Without this sport and the Villanova team, who knows how I may have transitioned.

Though I may not have realized at the time, the sport has taught me many valuable lessons off the field that have helped me to complete college and start my career as a design manager at a general contracting firm. Not only am I thankful to my teammates and coaches, but I am thankful for Blue-White for even putting me in a position to attend Villanova.. The friends and memories provided to me via Blue-White and Villanova Rugby will stay with me for life, and I will be sure to help pay it back so that future Villanovans will be able to have the same amazing experience I did.

Though my college career has finally come to a close, I will continue playing rugby casually whenever I can, and will definitely be back on campus to catch a game this fall. I think it will be important for me to remember all the lessons rugby taught me, but more importantly, I will want to remember the fun times I had playing the sport because it truly was a staple of my childhood and adolescence.

Having the older guys to look up to and go to for advice with classes in schoolwork really helped me settle into my new home at Villanova

I have always enjoyed rugby in both high school and college because the teams are actively looking for more guys to play. There are no cuts or tryouts, which creates an environment in which anybody can just come, pick up a ball, and take their mind off school or anything else for a couple hours. Over the years, I have learned that you never know what someone is truly going through or what is in their "invisible backpack" as we called it in high school. My high school team had a motto: "No man runs alone" that I now take with me wherever I go. This phrase applies to the game of rugby because running alone might result in a turnover for your team, but this phrase also demonstrates the brotherhood and comradery that comes with rugby. Every guy, no matter the situation, always has each other's back, picking each other up when your down. It is a true brotherhood.



Colin making a pass to his Teammate

after playing four years at a serious program in high school. As soon as we got there all the guys were extremely welcoming, incorporating all the new guys as if we had been there for years. **One of the seniors on the team (a former Blue White Scholar), Matt Hughes took me under his wing from day 1 and introduced me to all the guys. It became like a second family for me.**

Student Spotlight: Anna Dos Santos '21 - Becoming a Doctor

My life leading up to college was a hectic one. Secondary to being brought up in a military family, I have been able to spend my childhood years living abroad in Italy as well as in different parts of the United States. From the moment I stepped on campus, I have sensed an overwhelming feeling that each professor, alum, and those in administration want to see students succeed. Coming to Villanova was the first time in all those years of relocating from place to place that I finally felt at home and had such a strong support system.



Anna With her Mom at her Kindergarten Graduation

Undoubtedly, the most influential person in my life has been my mother.

Despite losing her at the young age of 15 to Stage IV non-small cell lung cancer, my aspirations in life reflect her

strength and love. For two long, harrowing years my mother battled an aggressive form of lung cancer and as a young adult I have committed my life to turning the pain and trauma I developed from that experience into something positive.

Despite how grueling the situation was, the relationship between my mom and her physicians changed me forever.

Fortunately, one of my mom's providers manifested the power of wholeheartedly caring for your patients and not solely placing emphasis on curative treatments.

Unlike others, this one physician always gingerly addressed each concern, stayed to wipe every tear, and never left the patient room without bestowing some words of encouragement.

Regardless of what each CT reading revealed, this doctor desired to care for my mom just as much as she desired to cure her. As a young teenager, I observed what first started off as a formal patient-doctor relationship unfold into a friendship.

Since her passing, I have been able to better understand hospital dynamics and work further towards my goal of medical school. Last summer, I volunteered in an ER as a sepsis coordinator for a qualitative assurance study and this summer, I worked as a clinical information manager in the ER. As much as I feel called to this profession, I

know it is not an easy route, both mentally and financially. Despite working multiple jobs at school and over the summer, the fear of finding the means to afford an undergraduate degree as well as medical school is daunting. I cannot begin to articulate my gratitude for your generosity in providing me with this scholarship.



Villanova's Minority Association of Prehealth students touring the Philadelphia College of Medicine

Everyday since receiving this scholarship I have been reminded of the tremendous power that comes when you care for your neighbor. You don't only help one person's life but you change the future.

Being a doctor is more than just having an extensive understanding of the physiology of the human body; it's about recognizing the privilege of being able to radically help the most vulnerable.

Student Spotlight: Mike Hirsch '21 - Club Baseball

Throughout my whole life, one of my greatest passions was baseball. Whether it was watching my younger brother play and coach him, play myself, or just watch the Yankees on TV, I've always had an immense passion for baseball and sports in general. So, when I first got to school for band camp, I was a little bummed at the idea that I might not play any competitive baseball at school. Luckily, at the first activities fair, **I discovered that Villanova had a club baseball team, and I was thrilled at the possibility of continuing my playing career at a semi-competitive level.**



Mike Hirsch with his Villanova Club Baseball Teammates Last Season

I had never played on, even though I had only known everybody for a month or two at this point. Being on an actual baseball team again reinforced the values of loyalty and good work ethic to me, since club baseball is an organization where you get out as much as you put in. So, I try to dedicate as much time and effort to it as possible, so that I can not only get better, but also have a larger role on the team.

Even though our club baseball team is not a D1 sports team, there is still a fairly big time and sacrifice that has to be made. We practice at least 2-3 times per week, and more often than not our games on weekends can take up an entire day. Sometimes we have to drive ourselves up to 2 ½ hours away to play doubleheaders on weekends. This massive time commitment, in addition to being in the band and working

for the Intramurals Department, has taught me very valuable time management skills.

All the time commitment aside, **I have absolutely loved my time on the club baseball team at Villanova. It has allowed me to continue one of my greatest life passions at school and form amazing friendships in the process.** For both

of these I am incredibly grateful, and now as a Blue White Scholar I can focus more of my time towards baseball since I don't have to worry as much about working to help pay for school. Even over the summer, baseball remains one of my favorite activities.



Club Baseball gives Mike an opportunity to play the sport he loves while learning life lessons

Once I tried out, made the team, and started playing in the games, the camaraderie and bonds formed between all the teammates were the same as any other team



Mike Pitching for the Villanova Club Team

Student Spotlight: Ryleigh McCue '21– Thank You Villanova!

When I first got into Villanova I was thrilled and could not wait for my next four years on campus. However, I was also extremely nervous. I went to high school just down the road from Villanova and there are usually a handful of students from every graduating class that choose to go there. Somehow though, I ended up being the only one in my graduating class to pick Villanova. I was terrified that I was going into a new



Last day of orientation, with my new friends at Campus Corner. 4 years ago I never would have imagined this group would turn into

environment without any friends (or at least any people I sort of knew) and worried that I would have a hard time. That all changed on my first ever day at Villanova. **Freshman participate in an orientation weekend before classes start where they are sorted into groups of about 20 people. Luckily for me my two very best friends in the world happened to be in that group.**

As soon as I met them in Group #34, Francesca and Jenna were my best friends at school. We stayed up pretty frequently until 4 am in the Stanford lounge just so we could spend time with each other. We decided to be roommates the next year and it has stayed that way for the remainder of college. Francesca switched her major to Nursing sophomore year, and after that we've been together basically 24/7 for the past 3 years with having the exact same schedule

and then living together.

These girls have also been there for me for some of my toughest moments since beginning at Villanova. Sophomore year my grandma (who has lived with me since I was 3

years old) passed away. I went home to spend time with my family and they delivered a home-cooked meal for my family and I. It was so hard having to say goodbye to them last spring and have our junior year cut short, but we made the best of our situation and faceted as often as we could. We celebrated birthdays via zoom parties and planned "family game nights" where we would play games online together.

I am so thankful to Villanova for putting Francesca and Jenna in my life. I can honestly say that my life is better because of them. They've been with me since day one of Villanova and I know they will be with me for the rest of my life, always in my corner when I need them. Becoming a part of the Nova Nation and the Blue White family is a very special gift! Thanks to all of you who donate to BWSF.



Send-off party for Jenna before she left to study abroad in London.

Student Spotlight: Kevin Lu '21– Practicing Medicine in Rural America

Coming to Villanova at the beginning of college was a large adjustment for a variety of factors. Yes, the newfound independence that is typically associated with moving away from home was a large part of the transition. However, moving away from my rural hometown to a college right outside of Philadelphia required acclimation as well.

Compared to rural Illinois, there are undeniably more luxuries and opportunities of all sorts offered on the Main Line. Nevertheless, there is something incredibly charming about living in a small town. Small towns are incredibly conducive to building a strong sense of community among all of its residents. Members of the community know each other well, and there is a genuine sense of belonging that can be hard to find in the city. I graduated from a high school of less than 300 total students, making it easy to get to know all of my classmates. Even though Villanova isn't a large university, its student population is larger than my hometown.

One of the greatest hardships currently facing rural communities across the country is the disparity in healthcare faced by rural residents. This disparity in healthcare can be attributed to a number of factors including



Graduating from Nova this spring was a huge milestone on my way to becoming a doctor

geographical, socioeconomic, and educational differences. Without the means to access proper healthcare, rural Americans disproportionately experience poorer physical health and mental health - both contributing to a lower quality of life. Higher prevalence of avoidable chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, in combination with reduced access to quality healthcare, result in lower life expectancies and more preventable deaths. A contributing factor to this growing issue is the lack of physicians in rural areas of the country. This is a deficiency that I aim to address in my future work in the medical field.

As an aspiring physician, I intend to serve a marginalized rural population, similar to the one in which I was raised. Specifically, **I aim to be a culturally, linguistically, and socially competent physician that can work with rural minority populations to provide the best medical care possible.**

As I reflect on my time at Villanova, I feel grateful for the academic preparation and sense of direction that it has provided my future. The connections I have made here are a big reason for my successes up until this point. I am excited to begin medical school in the fall and to take the next step towards becoming a physician.



I will be attending SIU School of Medicine in fall of 2021!



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You're Invited to Blue White's
ROAD RALLY
A Scavenger Hunt by Car
Sunday, October 24th, 2021

Start Address: Valley Forge National Memorial Arch
420 Gulph Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

11 AM Check-in & Car Placement
11:30 - 12:30 PM Scavenger Hunt
12:30 - 2 PM Lunch & Prizes

Cost: \$50 per car
Includes Lunch

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