



51 years of service

Fall 2024



**Don't' delay, Year end is coming soon
and we are counting on you so we can
continue \$150,000 in scholarship awards**



Executive Director's Message

Each Fall it is a whirlwind of activity for both the students and the foundation.

My apologies for getting this newsletter out so late to you and for not being in touch since the Spring including not pulling the Mother's Day Raffle. . My Father passed away and I just wasn't my bubbly self. It's hard to be enthusiastic when you are

sad, but I am back! I am thrilled to be able to tell you about such super young adults. To help and to see such fantastic results is so rewarding. These are young people who thrive when they have someone listen to their story and help them with a hand up NOT a hand out.

Blue White Scholars are different. I never feel like I am wasting my time raising money for them because they are so appreciative and make truly something of themselves.

When you read about Dan McQuestion's story detailed in

his "Thank you" note shown on the next page, and his Spot Light Article that showcases his work giving back to the community by taking a leadership position running the Special Olympics program, I think you will agree with me.

In this issue you will also read about a nursing student Kelly Keil who has dedicated herself to helping cancer patients , and a mechanical engineer, Gabe Leskusu. Who put himself through Villanova working several jobs, but the one that you will read about is his experience working as a fireman on page 14.

Also, featured is the announcement of our 15 students who received a Blue White Scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year.

Lastly, this issue is going out late in the Fall so this is the only announcement being made about our all Fall Raffle (Cyber Monday)-Page 19) and our Year End appeal. Please give so we can continue to support such great young people. And PLEASE consider leaving 2% of your estate to Blue White. Go Cats! Kate (610) 304- 3848 P.S. Everyone is invited to the Christmas Party Dec.14th



Every December I have a Christmas Party for the students including a "White Elephant" I included my Father in everything I did. He always liked giving the student's advice and singing in Italian



My name is Daniel McQuestion and I am writing to extend my gratitude and thank you for your contributions to the Blue White Scholarship Foundation. Your financial assistance has granted me and my family tremendous relief that I will explain further in this letter. First, I should introduce myself.

I am a rising senior from Malvern, PA. I am majoring in Applied Quantitative Finance with a minor in Mathematics. Applied Quantitative Finance is a relatively new concentration within the business school that is more focused on the quantitative side of things. Thus, our curriculum consists of multiple higher-level mathematics, statistics, and coding classes. Outside of classes, I am super involved at Villanova as I am involved in many clubs and activities. First, I am on the Special Olympics Committee at Villanova which runs Fall Festival every year. My specific role is the chair of the soccer venues. I always love Fall Fest weekend when all the athletes and volunteers show up and the entire campus is transformed into a magical place filled with smiles and dancing. I highly recommend coming to campus on November 3rd, 4th, and 5th to experience Fall Festival. I am also involved in another inclusion-based club

called LEVEL where we promote inclusion through activities and fundraisers on campus. I am involved in two business societies on campus: Villanova Wildcat Fund and Villanova Mergers & Acquisitions society. Both have taught

me so much and helped me land the internship that I am currently working in now. Finally, I am a founding father and ex-philanthropy chair of a new fraternity on campus: Delta Chi.

As I mentioned earlier, getting this award is a huge help and it is hard to express in words how grateful I am. I have been through a lot in the past four years and have learned a lot about myself in that time. Growing up, I was blessed to have loving and supportive parents and go to a public school in the nicer area of town. Being the youngest of three children, I knew I would have to save up a bunch of money to pay for college. **Ever since 8th grade, I have been working anywhere from 1-3 jobs at a time. I have worked as a caddie for seven years now and have worked many other jobs in high school including as a retail associate, a janitor, and a delivery driver.** In college, I continued to work to pay



From left to right: my sister, grand-mother, and mother after they came to visit me at college. My grand-mother is a big role model for me as I have learned a lot from her and strive to be as kind and sincere as she is when I am older.

for college.

Once 12th grade hit and my entire life got flipped upside down. In the fall, my parents separated, and the ugly (and expensive) divorce process began. Being the only other one at



My two sisters and father at Christmas this past year. The divorce added some turmoil to our family, but it is always nice when we find time to spend with each other.

home, I was forced to deal with the situation myself, fighting for my own well-being amid their yelling and screaming. I essentially had to catalyze my parents' separation to get relief from the hell I was living in.

The divorce process lasted over two years and cost my parents a fortune. On top of that, my father lost his job in 2020 due to the pandemic. His unemployment lasted nearly a year and now earns a fraction of what he used to earn. Both the divorce combined with my father's unemployment left us struggling to pay basic bills. **Entering my freshman year in the fall of 2020, I knew that the burden of paying for college had fallen entirely on myself. I still remember sitting in my room calculating how much debt I would have to take on over all four years just to graduate and seriously contemplating dropping out.** Luckily due to my hard work in high school, college, and generous support from people like you have put me in a great position to graduate in May. I am so incredibly thankful and blessed to be in this position and to have people like you care for me and look out for me to help me achieve my dreams. **The Blue White Scholarship means so much to me and I can't wait to follow in your footsteps and give back to others like me.**

Sincerely yours, Daniel McQuestion



Congratulations!!!

2024-2025 Scholars



Andrew Abraham '25
Finance (Repeat)



Gianna Altamura '25
Accounting (Repeat)



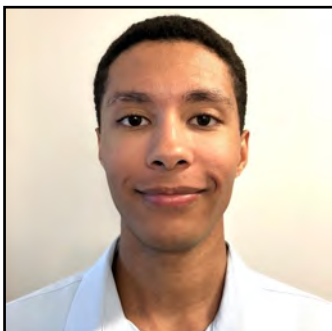
T.J. Baylock '26
Finance & Economics



Maggie Boyle '25
Statistics



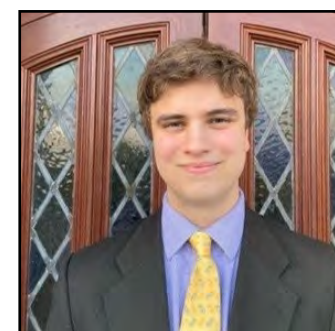
Aaron Cook '26
Management Information
Systems



Matt Dickerson '26
Electrical Engineering



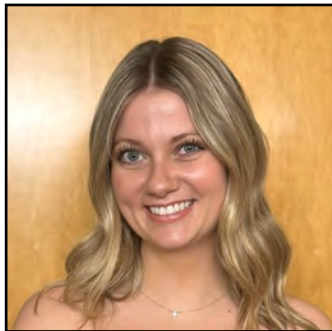
Michael Ferry '26
Electrical Engineering
(Repeat)



Nick Gross '25
Environmental Science
& Economics
(Repeat)



Jarvis Li '25
Finance



Cara Krien '25
Biology
(Repeat)



**Carlos Morales-
Portalatin '26**
Computer Science



Sofia Nicastro '25
Chemical Engineering
(Repeat)

Welcome Into



Ashley Reen '25
Philosophy & Humanities



Hannah Rongo '26
Nursing



Nicolas Watson '25
Accounting

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 Values:

Outstanding Work Ethic

Superior Academic Ability

A Commitment to Pay It Forward



Help spread the word!



Q: How do you create a legacy?

A. For families that wish to create a true legacy and keep future generations involved with the perpetual award of scholarships, we offer Naming Rights with legacy benefits. Your heirs remain involved with the applications for scholarships funded by your endowment. The amount of these annual scholarships is calculated based on the earnings attributable to your endowment gift.

Q: How much money does it take ? A: There are two key types of gifts

Scholarship in Perpetuity - \$25,000

A named scholarship in your name or your beloved's name will be established. This scholarship can be targeted for a particular major or school such as the Engineering School or a particular major such as Biology. The student will be chosen based on your guidelines

Family Legacy Fund - -\$150,000+ gift **A**
named scholarship with the above benefits plus full participation in the selection of the student by you and multiple generations of your family, who may participate in selecting each Scholarship, including reviewing Scholarship applications. Each succeeding generation in your family will be reminded of your generosity.

In addition you will be permanently remembered by each scholar by the presentation of your bio to the student . You will need to provide to BWSF the information you want passed on to the students,

Q: Do I need to fund my gift in one payment?

A: No. We can accept pledges for up to five years, or you can create a gift through a planned gift (will, trust, life insurance policy). You can even invite friends and family to donate to your fund.

NEXT STEPS

Consult your financial legal advisor.

**Legal Name: Blue White Scholarship Foundation
Federal Tax ID Number (EIN) 23-3095631**



Kelly Keil '24

Hometown
Cleveland, OH

Major
Nursing with Global
Health Minor

School Activities:

- Nursing Without Borders-Clinic Coordinator Villanova Chapter, Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP)
- NOVA dance-Awareness Committee
- Chi Omega Sorority-Social Chair

Career Aspirations: I am passionate about bone marrow transplant and hematology. My goal is to become a nurse practitioner in an oncology setting

Favorite Quote: "What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say" - Ralph Waldo Emerson

How the Blue-White Scholarship helped me: The Blue White Scholarship has allowed me to reduce the amount of student loans that I am taking out to continue my education at Villanova University. This has brought an immense amount of relief to my life, allowing me to turn my focus to school, rather than finances. The Blue White Scholarship has allowed me to devote my time and energy towards growing, both academically and as a person within the Villanova community. I am beyond excited to continue to explore my passions on campus, especially without the worry of how I will afford such opportunities.

Jobs I've worked to help pay for school:

- A Hostess at Fast Eddie's Kitchen and Bar
- Loan Originator Assistant at Nations Lending Corporation
- On Campus– Office Assistant
- Off Campus– 25 hours at Das Schnitzel House and 25 hours a week at University Seidman

Extraordinary Circumstances: Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, my father lost his job as a restaurant manager at Morton's The Steakhouse in 2020. My father's job loss has been compounded in the past few years by health issues that have generated unexpected medical expenses and significantly impacted my family's financial support towards my continued education. Two summers ago, my father was diagnosed with coronary artery disease and underwent cardiac arrest. This has placed much financial and emotional stress on my family, and my father continues to be medically compromised.



Gabe Leskusky '24

Hometown
Denver, PA

Major
Mechanical Engineering &
Aerospace Engineering

School Activities:

- Villanova Campus Ministry Liturgical Council –Council member & Liturgical Minister
- Community Outreach of VU-Volunteer
- Lower Merion Fire Dept– Firefighter
- Model United Nations
- Knights of Columbus, Third Degree Knight

Career Aspirations: To work in the defense industry– Vertical Lift or Rotary Mission Systems of Boeing or Lockheed Martin

Favorite Quote:

“And so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.” -J.R.R> Tolkein

How the Blue White Scholarship helped me:

The Blue White Scholarship will be exceptionally beneficial to me this school year, as it will allow me to worry less about working every available hour of the day to help pay for school and focus more on my studies. It will also help me years down the road by ensuring I have less debt to pay off.

Jobs I have Worked to help pay for school: I

- Waiter
- Bartender
- Groundskeeper
- Tutor
- Meter Inspector for Radnor Township Police Dept
- Firefighter

Extraordinary Circumstances:

Gabe was 100% responsible for his tuition.



Dan McQuestion '24

Hometown
West Norriton, PA

Major
Applied Quantitative
Finance

School Activities:

- Villanova Special Olympics Committee
- Villanova Wildcat Fund
- Villanova mergers and Acquisitions Society LEVEL
- Delta Chi Fraternity
- Rays of Sunshine
- Intramural Sports (basketball, volleyball, softball, soccer)

Career Aspirations: Investment Banking

Favorite Quote:

“Remember George, no man is a failure who has friends.” -Clarence the Angel from “It’s a Wonderful Life.”

How the Blue White Scholarship helped me:
The Blue White Scholarship is immensely helpful for me by helping to relieve a lot of the debt that I would have had to take on otherwise just to graduate from college.

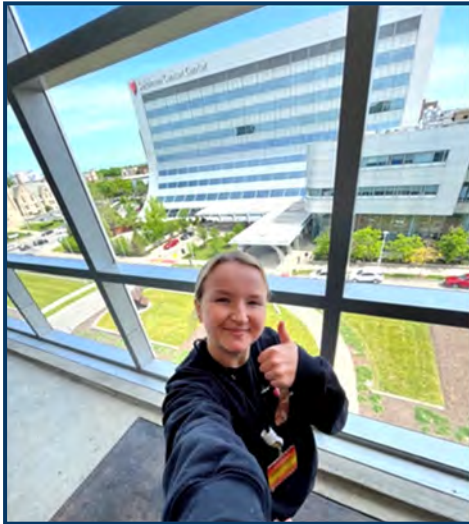
Jobs I have Worked to help pay for school:

- Caddie for 7 years at Chester Valley Golf Club
- Assistant Janitor at Great Valley School Districts
- Retail Associate at Macy’s
- Delivery Assistant for UPS
- DoorDash Driver
- M&A Intern for Stony Hill Advisors

Extraordinary Circumstances:

My parents got separated three and a half years ago and divorced two years later. This process was ugly and expensive. Additionally, my father was unemployed for nearly a year due to the pandemic and now makes a fraction of what he used to. Being the third and final child to attend college, I knew the cost of paying for school was entirely on me.

Student Spotlight– Kelly Keil '24 – *Her Dream Came True*



My name is Kelly Keil, and I was a senior Nursing major with a Global Health minor at Villanova! My freshmen year at Villanova, I was searching for ways to get involved on campus and feel like a part of the Villanova community. I stumbled upon the MATCH Research Program, a freshmen-only research experience that allows students to pursue undergraduate research in a field of their choice. I knew this was the perfect fit for me! I have always been intrigued by research in high school, and this would give me the chance to have a hands-on role in professional development seminars, proposal writing, research conferences, and more. The study that I applied for was entitled, “Combining High-Fidelity Simulation with a Standardized Family Member: An innovative Approach to Learning How to Manage Oncologic Emergencies”. I currently work at a cancer hospital and have always had a specific interest in this patient population, so I knew it was the perfect fit. I quickly applied for this competitive position and was elated when I got news that I had been offered the position!

On the team, I was able to meet with two Villanova professors weekly to discuss our plans. I began with data collection, transferring information from an online survey into a numbered code. From there, I moved onto reviewing past literature that we would later use in our published

manuscript. After my year was over, the team extended an invitation for me to work with them long term, beyond the hours required by the MATCH Research Program. I gladly accepted, and from there, we began crafting the manuscript that we would later publish. I was able to put my own thoughts and words into a document, which was really exciting for a nineteen-year-old! This project allowed me to strengthen my research skills and prepared me for a variety of classes within the nursing school. We published the study in June of 2022. Since then, I have been able to attend research conferences and present my work at the Villanova College of Nursing Research Symposium!

The end title of our project was “Pilot Testing of Virtually Delivered, Video-Recorded Simulation-Based Experiences in an Oncology Nursing Seminar”. The COVID-19 pandemic placed a major stress on nurse educators, begging the question, “How do we effectively prepare our nursing students?”. The purpose of our study was to determine the effect of a video-recorded simulation about emergencies in oncology on nursing student learning outcomes. We recorded fake scenarios using real actors in the nursing lab rooms. One scenario involved a patient having an allergic reaction, while the other involved a cancer patient experiencing hypercalcemia, or high calcium levels. We then made two versions of each scenario, one where the nurse performed perfectly, and one where the

nurse makes many errors in care. Students watched both videos and then debriefed the scenarios as a group via Zoom. We found that students overall enjoyed the recordings! While they obviously would prefer an in person, hands on role, this served as a great alternative during the pandemic!

While my research is completed, I am grateful for the connections I have made and experience I have gained. This project allowed me to solidify my interest in oncology and sparked my interest in one day becoming a nurse educator! I recently reconnected with a member of the research team and



learned of a new opportunity taking place. I will be joining a team of professors at Villanova who are collaborating with professors at the University of Galway in Ireland! We plan to explore self-care techniques in newly practicing nurses. This is a super exciting opportunity, and I am excited to get started! Keep an eye out for the publication.



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

5 Things You Might Not Know About Kelly Keil

1. I was a cheerleader for eight years!

In fourth grade, I decided to try out for my school's cheerleading team! I wasn't sure if I would enjoy it, but I ended up sticking with it all the way up to my junior year in high school. From cheering for the Knights to later cheering for the Bruins, I could always be found on the sidelines! My favorite part about being on the cheer team was stunting. I had always been the flyer, and enjoyed learning new positions and moves to try out on the sidelines. My favorite stunt was called cradle, in which I would go completely airborne before being caught by my teammates! I also enjoyed entering competitions with my team, where we won several awards over the years. To the right is a photo of me in high school, and below is me (far right) cheerleading in elementary school!



2. I love German food!

This past summer, I started working as a waitress at a German restaurant! I've always been the pickiest eater, so I never ate the German food that my family would cook at home. However, after working at the restaurant, I just *had* to try the whole menu so I could give recommendations to customers! To my surprise, I LOVED almost everything I tried. My favorite dish is Kase Schnitzel, which consists of chicken schnitzel smothered in provolone cheese and lemon sauce. I am also a major fan of our cheese strudel, cabbage and noodles, and potato pancakes! To the right is a photo of me at work.

3. I love to garden!

Flowers are one of my favorite things in the whole world! My neighbor always had the most astonishing garden of different flowers growing up. I loved stopping by her house to play in the garden. In high school, I was inspired to start my own garden! My



mom is a teacher, so she was off in the summers to help me further develop my garden. I love planting tulips and other flowers, as well as certain fruits and vegetables like cucumbers and tomatoes.

Having a garden allows me to spend time outside with my mom and gain new skills! At Villanova, I have been



Student Spotlight: Dan McQueston '24 on Special Olympics

When I first came to Villanova, I didn't know anyone. I was completely out of my comfort zone with no one to lean on. Like every freshman, it took a couple of months for me to find my footing and routine. Halfway through the year, I saw an advertisement to apply for Villanova Special Olympics Committee. I thought it sounded fun and sent in my application without thinking much of it. Two weeks later, to my surprise, I got the email saying I was selected to be on the volleyball committee. I had no idea what I just got myself into.

Now, as a senior, I am experiencing my final Fall Festival as a member of the Special Olympics Committee. Special Olympics is something I have been so grateful to be a part of and has taught me so much over the past four years. I remember going into that first Fall Fest as a member of committee having no idea what to expect as our freshman year was online due to COVID. My specific role that weekend was to run the Volleyball I Skills venue. I still remember how stressed I was going into that weekend. I wanted so badly to make it a good experience for the ~30 athletes that were participating at my venue.

That day started off a little rough. I remember running around trying to make the venue run smoothly and make sure everyone was enjoying themselves. Then, something came over me. I decided that if this was going to be a great venue, it started with me. I started smiling and dancing all over while making conversations left and right. This was a big deal for me as I was always a little more introverted and reserved. Of

course, everyone else followed suit. The volunteers, athletes, and even parents started dancing like no one was watching. For the rest of the day, everyone felt comfortable enough to be their true self. I managed to create an inclusive environment where everyone was smiling ear to ear. I felt empowered. I felt proud. I fell in love.

Many other committee members and volunteers had very deep 'whys' as to why they care so deeply about Special Olympics. Until that day, I didn't really have my why. However, I remember at the end of that day, I had two or three parents come up to me and tell me how their child didn't care about the competition or if they won or lost, all they cared about was hav-



ing fun and dancing with all the students. They thanked me for putting on a weekend that their child would remember forever. Fall Festival is the best weekend of the year for many of these athletes and I was able to make a real impact on someone's life. That meant the world to me.

The following year, I was on the powerlifting committee. Running



the powerlifting venue was a completely different, but super fun experience. Due to the nature of the sport, powerlifting is a super hype venue. The room radiates with energy. My favorite fall fest memory to this day is when an athlete completed a very impressive deadlift and the room exploded with jubilation. It was incredible.

I remember looking around and getting goosebumps because I played a part in making a real impact on all these different people. It truly makes me happy to see other people happy and if I can be that bright spot in someone's life, I won't hesitate to take that opportunity.

On top of that, Villanova Special Olympics Committee has given me some of my closest friends. The

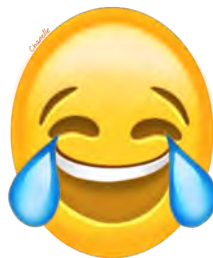
people I have met through committee include many friendships that will last a lifetime. Committee itself included me and made me feel comfortable to be myself. In a time where I was struggling to find my footing during my COVID freshman year, Committee brought me in like a younger brother and cared for me every step of the way.

Special Olympics Story Continued



SpO Committee taught me many things. It taught me the power of inclusion. It taught me true friendship. It taught me how to be a leader. It taught me the positive impact I can have on others. It taught me how to be confident in myself and my abilities.

It taught me to be passionate about something bigger than myself. And most of all, it taught me the power of a smile.



Update on Danny:
Danny is working as an
Investment Banking Analyst for
Wells Fargo Bank in Malvern, PA

A Few Chuckles to celebrate Fall & the holidays

Why did the scarecrow win an award?

- Because he was outstanding in his field!

What did one plate say to the other plate?

- Dinner is on me!

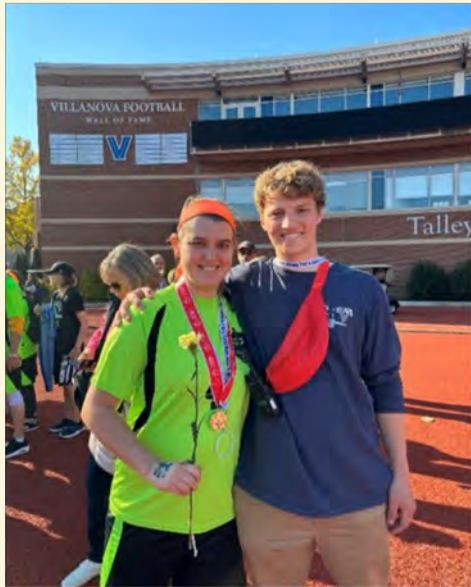
How do you organize a space party?

- You planet!



5 Things You Might Not Know About Dan McQueston

1. I'm the Chair for SpO



I was the chair of the soccer committee for the Villanova Special Olympics' Fall Festival this past November. This was particularly special for me as my cousin competed in the 5v5 soccer competition. Their team, the Chester Chargers, ended up winning gold and I felt very lucky to be there to support her.



2. I am Racing

I am currently training for the Philadelphia Love Run. This race is a half-mile race in March every year. While I did play soccer in high school, I have never

dedicated time to long-distance running so this race will be a new experience for me. I have enjoyed the training thus far.



3. NASA

My uncle just retired after working at NASA for over 40 years. While he did many jobs, he spent a lot of time working as site maintenance at the launch site in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Recently, I went to visit him, and my father and I took a day to explore the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral. I enjoyed learning about the space program.

4. I am learning guitar

One of my favorite activities which I am involved with at Villanova is Community Outreach of Villanova (COV). I lead a group of 6 students (some of which are pictured here) to St. Francis Inn in Kensington, where we provide assistance in serving meals to the community there.

5. I Love Philly Sports



Being born and raised outside of Philadelphia, I am a die-hard Philadelphia Sports fan. This is why it was especially cool to see and take a picture with famous running back Brian Westbrook during the weekend he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame



5 Things You Might Not Know About Gabe Leskusy

1. I 'm a history buff!



Ever since I was a kid, I've always been deeply interested in history, and I always jump at the chance to learn something new or experience a part of history. The picture here is me in front of a C47 Skytrain at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. I had just visited the museum of the 101st Airborne Division located on the base. While I especially am interested in military history, I also enjoy many other historical genres.

2. I am in the Knights of Columbus! (He's also a fireman. See page 14)

I have been a 3rd Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus since my freshman year of college. This year I was elected to the "Advocate" officer position, and have been in charge of coordinating my Council's service opportunities. This past semester we assisted the Sisters of Life with cleanup around their convent (pictured), cleaned the graves of Augustinian friars at Calvary Cemetery in West Conshohocken, and others. This upcoming semester we hope to help the Sisters of Life again, as well as writing letters to and visiting retired religious.

3. I work at my parish!

Villanova is not an especially affordable college to attend so like many other BWSF scholars, I work multiple jobs to help fund my way through. Since September of 2022, I have had the privilege of working at my local parish, St. John Vianney in Gladwyne as a part time sacristan. This is a perfect situation for me as I am a devout Catholic, and this job allows me to embrace this while also earning an additional income. Pictured is the Good Friday service at SJV, I am in the center holding the Cross.



4. I lead a volunteer group at Villanova

One of my favorite activities which I am involved with at Villanova is Community Outreach of Villanova (COV). I lead a group of 6 students (some of which are pictured here) to St. Francis Inn in Kensington, where we provide assistance in serving meals to the community there.



5. Bananas are my favorite fruit!

There's not a whole lot to say about this one. While I enjoy a variety of fruits – some other favorites include blackberries, blueberries, mango, and pineapple – bananas are always my go to fruit when I have a choice. I also enjoy cooking with them, whether it be pudding, bread, cake, or using them in tropical dishes. Obviously, I also am a huge fan of banana splits, and have



attached a picture here of one of the most delicious I've ever had.

Student Spotlight Gabe Leskusky '24 *Putting Fires Out at Age 16*



I grew up in Mt.

been to forget. Driving home from school one day, I saw my local volunteer fire company, Reamstown Fire Company, was in need of volunteers, and so the following Tuesday, during their training night, I drove down to see what they were all about. Little did I know that I would be making the best decision of my life.

Even from my first training night, I knew that the fire service was how I was meant to serve others. In it, I found a group of men who were dedicated to helping others, regardless of the cost, and who were extremely skilled in a variety of proficiencies, ranging from



structural firefighting, to wildland firefighting, to a plethora of technical rescue disciplines.

Having joined at the age of 16, I wasn't permitted by law to do a variety of things (including entering a burning structure) and so I focused on learning as much as I could about the skills and tools which firefighters employ. This resulted in two years of intense training and studying, taking classes at the Berks County Fire Academy, as well as spending hours at the firehouse doing in station training.

Sadly, my time at Reamstown had to come to an end, as I was graduating high

school and heading to Villanova to study Mechanical Engineering. Fortunately, the Lower Merion Fire Department has several volunteer stations near Villanova, and I jumped at the chance to join one and continue my training and service. In June of 2020, I joined the Bryn Mawr Fire Company and began my time as a firefighter in Lower Merion. I continued to train while at school, finishing my Firefighter 1 certification, and became certified in a number of rescue proficiencies, including Water, Ice, Vehicle, and Confined Space.

My time with the Lower Merion Fire Department has been filled with many ups and downs. Tragically, in July of 2021 we lost two firefighters in separate incidents. Firefighter Sean DeMuynek passed on July 5th, 2021; Firefighter Tom Royds passed on July 24th, 2021. These losses were very hard for the department as a whole, and their repercussions are still being felt to this day.

After 2 years with the Bryn Mawr Fire Company, I joined the Gladwyne Co. in May of 2022,. I save money by living at the firehouse. Rather amusingly, and perhaps to bring things full circle, Gladwyne also has a Tiller truck, just like the fire department from my childhood. The only difference is that now I am the one privileged enough to ride in it and wave to the kids watching us ride by.

I hope to be able to apply the knowledge and skills learned in my Mechanical Engineering curriculum to the fire service, whether that be in helping maintain the tools and equipment or designing a new device which can further help myself and other firefighters do our job safely and effectively.

Penn, PA, which is a neighborhood on the outskirts of Reading, PA. One of my fondest and most frequent memories from childhood was watching firetrucks go screaming down my street, as we lived just a few blocks away from the firehouse. My local fire company as a kid had a fairly unique firetruck for the area, known as a Tractor-Drawn Aerial (TDA), or "Tiller". This truck often caught my eye as a kid and had me frequently asking my parents to take me down to the firehouse to see the trucks. However, as I grew older, my interest in fire trucks gradually faded until to me they were no more than another car on the road.



I continued to have little interest in the fire department until years later, in high school, I found myself yearning to give of myself in a meaningful way. Having been raised Catholic, service to others was always a value instilled in me by my parents, and one which I was not

Is Your Home a Fire Hazard? Take Precautions

Tips by Gabe

1. Install and Maintain Smoke Alarms

You know the drill — make it a habit to change batteries twice a year when you turn your clocks.

2. Beware of Risks in the Kitchen

Most home fires start in the kitchen during cooking—usually on stovetops—not in the oven.

- Check for curtains, towels or even paper towel dispensers sitting too close to the burners.
- Don't toss water on a grease fire if you're caught without an extinguisher.
- If a fire starts in a pan — and many do — put a lid on it to suffocate the flames.

3. Use Home Heating Equipment Safely

Heating equipment, like space heaters are involved in 1 of every 6 home fires. (Usually between Dec-February)

- Make sure to keep heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable materials.
- Never plug more than one heating appliance into an outlet.
- Keep portable gas generators outside and away from windows to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Never leave fires (or candles) burning or heaters plugged in, while sleeping, in another room, or when you leave your home.

4. Maintain Your Appliances-Especially Dryers

Dryers are responsible for about 9 out of 10 appliance fires'

- Make it a habit to clean out the lint screen every time you use your dryer. It may be an annoyance but this simple action can save your life.
- Never allow clothes to fall back behind your washer or dryer. These can self combust & start a fire.



5. Inspect Outlets-Appliances & electrical cords

- Arrange appliances so each one has their own outlet , if possible
- This option may be a bit unsightly, but avoid running extension cords under rugs
- Make sure your lamps are using bulbs with wattage equal to or less than what the manufacturer recommends.
- When it comes to electronics, unplug them when they're not in use whenever possible or at least when you go on vacation.
- Lastly, keep in mind that items like television and computers need space from anything flammable because they can overload.

6. Don't Neglect Basements, Backyards and Other Storage Areas

Your garage, basement and yard present hazards as well— in fact they have the potential to be even more dangerous.

- Avoid cluttering debris or junk near your furnace or heater
- Old newspapers piled in damp, warm places can actually self-combust— they don't even have to be close to a heat source.
- If you have gasoline or other flammable liquids at home, keep them tightly sealed in metal containers and make sure they're far away from heat sources, including the gas charcoal grill you grill you love to use in the summer.
- The grill itself should be at least 10 feet from your home and place away from any overhead branches or structures.

10 Tips: The Ultimate Pet Parent's Guide

1. Don't overfeed your dog, it will significantly impact their health

More than 50% of dogs in America are obese and this number is on the rise. Overweight dogs are at increased risk of metabolic abnormalities, cardiovascular disease, joint diseases, a lowered immune system, and many other health problems.

2. Touch your dog's nose

Your dog's nose should feel wet. The level of moisture will vary between dogs and by time of year, but a healthy dog will have a cool and slightly wet nose because dogs secrete sweat through their nose to cool down.

3. Brush your Dog's teeth

Brushing your dog's teeth is often overlooked, but hugely important to their overall health and avoiding expensive dental treatments in the future. Make this a part of their normal routine and make sure to use a toothpaste made specifically for dogs.

4. Avoid toxic foods

Many human foods, such as chocolate, avocados, or onions, are toxic to dogs and can have serious ramifications to their health. Be especially careful with gum and candies, as many contain xylitol which is a sugar-like substance toxic to dogs

Pet Insurance is a great idea. To learn more go to Pawlicy Advisor The 10 tips in this article are excerpts from an article "39 Dog Care Tips: The Ultimate Pet Parents Guide by Aliyah Diamond

5. Slowing down a super eater

If your dog or puppy eats their meals very quickly they increase their risk of having stomach issues or upsets that may lead to vomiting. Slowing down your dog's eating is good for their digestive health and can be done easily. One option is to buy a puzzle feeder from a pet store or online. Alternatively, a cheap easy solution is just to put a large tennis ball in their bowl. Both the ball or puzzle toy will work similarly making your dog have to work around the inedible obstacle to eat their meal.

6. Hang out with them while they eat

Dogs are by nature pack animals and you're their pack. Stay near them when they eat and make this an ongoing communal act. Picky eaters might also show more interest in their food when they see you take an interest.

7. Regularly wash your dog's things

Germ, dirt, pollen, and more end up on your dog's bedding, soft toys, and blankets. Make sure you're washing these items weekly to keep them fresh and clean for your dog. If your dog suffers from seasonal allergies, this can be especially helpful in reducing their pollen exposure.

Winter Care Tips

8. Moisturize your dog's paws

Cold weather can cause your dog's paws to crack due to the dry air. Try moisturizing your dog's paws with pad moisturizer products topically to relieve the discomfort especially if they seem raw or painful after your pup has been outside.

9. Limit time outside

Dogs are susceptible to getting frostbite, especially in their paws, ears, and tails. Even dogs with thick fur coats should not be left outside for long periods of time in chilly weather. When you start to feel chilled, take your dog inside with you because they are probably feeling cold as well.

10. Beware of ice and winter salt

Both ice and winter salt on sidewalks can cause your dog's paw pads to develop cracks or burns. Wipe your dog's paws off after any venture outside and watch to make sure they don't try to eat salt off the ground or lick it off their paws. If this is causing your dog consistent discomfort, consider investing in a pair of dog booties to protect the sensitive skin on their feet. They also make pet safe salt for drive and walkways that you can use around your home. Pet safe salt is non-toxic to pets feet and

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's virtual pet blessing fundraiser. Below are some of top participants. Check out the tips on the adjoining page to keep your pets happy and healthy :)



Giving Thanks by Kelly & Gabe



I want to again thank you for your extreme generosity and utmost kindness through your work with the Blue White Scholarship Foundation. I am eager to one day give back to students like myself, just as you do! This scholarship is especially important to myself and my family due to recent extraordinary circumstances that we have been faced with. My father lost his job as a restaurant manager at Morton's The Steakhouse.

My father's job loss has been compounded this past year by health issues that have generated unexpected medical expenses and have significantly impacted my family's financial support towards my continued education. Two summers ago, my father was diagnosed with coronary artery disease and underwent cardiac arrest. A scary week was spent in the intensive care unit and has resulted in unforeseen medical expenses. This has placed much financial and emotional stress on my family, and my father continues to be out of a job due to his current physical state. Due to these circumstances, my family continues to struggle to support me financially, specifically with my education. Changes in my family's situation have ultimately placed the burden of financial responsibility for

college on myself. For this reason, I am beyond grateful for your help and support in this difficult time. Receiving the news that I had won the scholarship felt like a breath of fresh air.

Individuals like yourself have allowed me to turn my focus to school, rather than finances. I am now able to devote my time and energy towards growing, both academically and as a person within the Villanova community. I am beyond excited to continue to explore my passions on campus, especially without the worry of how I will afford such opportunities. Villanova has always been my dream school, and your continued support will allow me to continue to immerse myself in the community and truly explore all the opportunities that Villanova has to offer. I thank you again for your donation, and I cannot wait to meet you in person!

Blessings, -Kelly Keil

My name is Gabe Leskusky, and I am writing to thank you for your gracious donation to the Blue White Scholarship Foundation. I am proud to be a recipient of the scholarship this year and would like to personally thank you for your exceptional generosity.

I'd like to let you know a little bit about myself so you can know a little more personally who your donation is helping. As I mentioned earlier, my name is Gabriel Leskusky, I'm from Denver, PA, and I'm going into my Senior year as a Mechanical Engineering student at Villanova, with minors in aeronautical engineering and mathematics.

I will be the fourth Villanova graduate in my family, with my grandfather, uncle, and sister all having gone before me. I wish that I had gone to Villanova when it cost what it did for my grandfather, or even my uncle, but thanks to your



generous donation, I'm still able to attend. **My sister was fortunate in that Villanova was willing to give her copious financial aid, whereas the school has been far crueler towards me, refusing to give me any financial aid for my final two years after giving a fair amount my first two. Nevertheless, I have been diligently working over the summer, and with the Blue White Scholarship, I will be able to attend Villanova and focus on my studies, gradually leading to my graduation**

Outside of studying, I will be able to focus on my passion at college: volunteering. I am a proud member of the Lower Merion Fire Department, and Upper Darby Fire Departments, Villanova Habitat for Humanity, Villanova Community Outreach Volunteers, and Villanova Campus Ministry. **St.**

Francis of Assisi famously said that "it is in giving that we receive." These are words which I have tried to live by, and your donation to the Foundation leads me to believe that you may feel the same. **I'm privileged to work with a number of Franciscan friars at St. Francis Inn in Kensington, where I lead a group of students to weekly volunteer our time in helping those who are less fortunate.**



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HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND MERRY CHRISTMAS.

YOU



Don't Miss OUT !

Saturday December

14

Christmas Party & Caroling

6 pm – 10 pm

Berwyn

\$50 donation

Call Kate with your RSVP

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