



Winter 2025



Andrew Abrahams and friends tailgates before the Nova Basketball Game

Celebrating 53 Years of Service to Students 25 Years of "Bridge the Gap" Scholarships Take ACTION - The 2% Solution

If we can get people to leave 2% of their estate to the Blue White Scholarship Foundation we will be able to ensure scholarships for students in perpetuity.

Last year we launched our 2% Solution. I look forward to reaching out and speaking with you all about the 2% Solution, but for now I have a big ask. PLEASE (even if you cannot attend) support the 25th anniversary party by being a sponsor for \$500 to \$2,500.



Kathleen Cellucci
Executive Director's
Message

Our Big News for 2025 is an Addition to Our Program— Mini-Conference's.

Although Blue White Scholarship Foundation highlights the student recipients' of scholarships, we are much, much more than an institution handing out money. We run an entire scholarship program which includes money, mentoring, networking, socializing and we have now extended the program to include an Educational component. (See pages 17-18)

We are now including a mini-conference day on "Business Etiquette" and "Personal Finance Tips. We will feature part of the lessons in the next few newsletters.

P.S. Don't forget- We now offer annuities through a subsidiary of the Dechomai Foundation that manages over \$1.4 billion in unrestricted assets backing charitable gift annuity payments. Rate are 5-9%



To purchase individual tickets or to be a sponsor,
go to www.bluewhitescholarship.org

Sponsorships:

Texas Hold'em - \$500

- 2 Tickets (\$300 value)
- Signage at 1 poker table

Lucky Craps - \$1,500

- 6 tickets (\$900 value)
- Acknowledgement at welcome speech
- Name & Logo at Craps Table
- Name & Logo on website - 1 year

Royal Flush - \$2,500

- 10 tickets (\$1,500 value)
- All of the above plus:
- Reserved dining table
- Reserved Blackjack table
- Promotional items handed out at event (Company or individual to provide)

Saturday, April 26th

6pm-10pm

Presidential Caterers:

2910 Dekalb Pike, East Norristown,
PA 19401

25th anniversary

*\$3+ million in scholarships
to 400+ students*

Cocktail attire

R.S.V.P. by April 13th

\$150 per person



Get to know One of Our New Young Members of the 2024 Board of Directors

To ensure continuity of the operations of the Foundation we will be passing on more of the responsibilities to our past Scholars who know the feeling of anxiety regarding tuition payments. These graduated students want to “Pay it Forward” and help relieve the stress for others. In this issue we introduce these new young board members.

Andrew Camaj is a former BWSF scholarship recipient who graduated from the Villanova School of Business in 2019 with a double major in Finance & Business Analytics. As a former scholarship recipient he knows just how impactful this organization is and is eager to give back!



Andrew lives in the NYC metropolitan area and currently works as a strategy consultant at Deloitte Consulting with a focus in the Financial Services Industry where he supports large banks. When he isn't working, he loves to spend his time in the great outdoors. Andrew also has several hobbies including juicing fruits and vegetables, gardening and brewing homemade beer.



After graduating High School I found it difficult to find a summer job. Therefore, I decided to start detailing cars. I used the internet to research how to correct paint defects on cars by using a random orbital polisher. After practicing on my parents' cars I began to build up a clientele through word of mouth and social media. The price I charge varies greatly depending on the condition and size of the vehicle. Whenever I'm on break from school I do my best to find as much work as possible -Andrew in 2015. Ten years later Andrew is a strategy consultant for Deloitte Consulting



Andrew Camaj '19, (Above Left) received a Blue White Scholarship in both his junior and senior years. He still took out loans amounting to \$120,000 and worked his way through school by starting a car detailing business. Andrew's work ethic comes from his parents who were immigrants to the United States from Yugoslavia. He is an exceptionally hard worker and so it was no surprise that he secured an internship with KPMG in Finance and Accounting and then with Barclay's as a Finance Analyst. Upon graduation, Andrew was offered a full time position with Barclay's as a Finance Analyst. A couple years later, Andrew called Blue White and asked for help with an introduction. He wanted to get into consulting and an interview was arranged with another double winner of a Blue White scholarship, Vincent (Vinny) Chisari '02. Vinny has been a national advisor to the Foundation for 20 years. He interviewed Andrew, made some further introductions and voila!- Andrew entered the consulting business. Vinny Chisari (Above Right) has been managing Director of Deloitte Digital for the last 8 years in the "Big Apple". Thank you Vinny for your mentoring of Andrew. Way to "Pay It

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+ will establish a scholarship in your name or your beloved's name. 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 - \$100,000+ gift will also establish 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 he or she upon receipt of their scholarship.

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



Andrew Abrahams '25

Hometown

Parkville, MD

Major

Finance

School Activities: Wildcat Fund,-Assistant Director of Education & Tech Analyst, Villanova School of Business-Ambassador, MKL Day of Service- Vice President, Bollywood Dance Team-Manager, South Asian Multicultural Organization- Co-President

Career Aspirations: To be a stock picker and investor for Franklin Templeton, one of the world's largest asset managers with \$1.5 trillion in assets under management.

How the Blue Scholarship helped me: See below

Jobs I've worked to help pay for school:

- Paid internship at Franklin Templeton
- Planet Fitness-Personal Trainer
- Started own business cutting hair-Barber

Extraordinary Circumstances: After my father was diagnosed with cancer in high school, he was forced to stop working as lesions developed around his bones while he was extremely immuno-compromised. As a result, my mother worked two jobs to support our family as a nurse. However difficult our circumstances, our family's values of faith and work ethic resulted in us coming closer and working in unison to save enough money to ensure our education. This resulted in us sacrificing luxuries, each of my siblings and I working every semester in school, and picking up a trade skill like being a barber. As my mother works to send three children to receive the best education possible, my sibling and I try our very best to support her however we can. However, my mother's coworkers noticed a lump developing on her neck this year. Fortunately, the lump on her neck is dormant, however, we fear in the future that might change. As a result, my father has switched to a less physically demanding job and has reentered the workforce working while his lesions still prevent him from getting out of bed or going to the bathroom by himself. Despite these ailments, our family is blessed with the support of so many loved ones in our family and neighboring communities, including Blue White. Therefore, I am determined to excel in finance to give back tenfold for all the help given to me.



Gianna Altamura '25

Hometown

Bronx, NY

Major

Accounting

School Activities:

Blue Key– Tutor Guide Recruitment Committee,
Special Olympics– Volunteer Coordinator
Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority
VSB Peer Advisors and Tutor

Career Aspirations: I aspire to earn my master's degree in accounting and go on to take the CPA. I hope to work as an auditor at a well-established accounting firm and in time possibly transition to education. Above all, I hope to positively impact the lives of others throughout my career.

Favorite Quote:

"Everything happens for a reason"

How the Blue White Scholarship helped me:

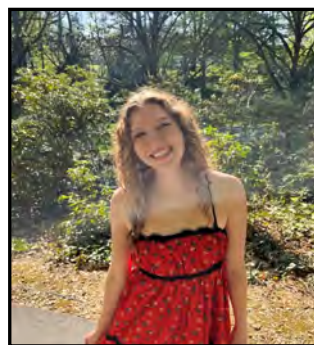
This scholarship has helped reduce financial hardship for me and my family.

Jobs I have Worked to help pay for school:

- Reach Tutors-HS, Math Tutor
- Smolin & Altamura Accounting Firm-Intern
- Internship with EY

Extraordinary Circumstances:

In May of 2018 my dad unexpectedly passed away of a heart attack. My mom is a single parent, who receives no other means of financial support to provide for myself and my younger sister, who is in high school. Additionally, my sister suffers from anxiety and depression. She has received treatment for several years, including weekly appointments with a psychologist and psychiatrist as well as in-patient hospitalization several times due to self-harm. Because of this, my mom has had to take much time off of work to take my sister to doctors' appointments and be present for visiting hours while my sister has been hospitalized. Both medical bills and my mom's time off of work have increased our financial need. This scholarship has tremendously help to pay for college tuition and reduce financial hardship for me and my family.



Ashley Reen '25

Hometown

South Dennis, MA

Major

Philosophy & Humanities

School Activities:

Faith and Learning Scholar
Alpha Phi Omega (Service Fraternity) - Chair
Humanities Ambassador

Career Aspirations: I would love to be a professor of philosophy at a Catholic college

Favorite Quote:

"What do you have that you did not receive?
-1 Cor 4:7

How the Blue White Scholarship helped me:

My family is middle class and trying to support three college tuitions, as my older sister recently graduated college and my younger sister is still in school. The Blue White Scholarship is greatly helping my family and I to afford my tuition while also decreasing the stress associated with meeting our unmet financial need

Jobs I have Worked to help pay for school:

- Internship at the Abigail Adams Institute
- Waitress
- Ice Cream Scooper
- McCullen Institute– Research Fellow
- Humanities Dept. at VU-Office Assistant

Extraordinary Circumstances: Both my mom and dad work full time to support my tuition, as well as my sister's, as she is currently a Sophomore at St. Joseph's University. My mom just returned to work in January 2024, as she had to stop working once she was diagnosed with stage four cancer before my Sophomore year started. After numerous treatments, medicines, and round of chemotherapy, my mom miraculously pulled through and my family has never stopped thanking God for the gift of her life. During this time especially, my grandfather helped financially with the house and my tuition, but more importantly, he was always with my family to support us emotionally.

SPOTLIGHT: Andrew Abrahams'25 *Bollywood Dancing*



My sisters and I get asked to dance for many Indian weddings. We love preparing for them and showing our love for dancing to everyone who attends. Here is a link to a wedding dance photos of me getting the crowd and groom ready! My sisters encouraged me to start dancing, so I owe it to them for being great role models!

You can see me on video by going to: <https://youtu.be/k2hlbsQkIUw?si=Yayl4IglOU7bmlgZ>

At 7, I joined an Indian dancing school focusing on Bharatanatyam, a South Indian classic art form. It was taught primarily to women like my sisters; however, I was one of three boys in a school of over 40 girls. I loved the art form; it was an expression of my culture and a great workout!

Around the same time, I started doing Bollywood fusion dancing, as shown in the pictures below!

The picture below is me dancing a wedding dance with my sisters. I am the one in the white shirt, the groom is in the black shirt with red pants.

Besides weddings and dance competitions, I have also danced for charity events like the one I helped host on Villanova's campus! Below is a photo of me dancing for a charity event sponsored by SAMOSA, Villanova's South Asian multicultural club, for which I was co-chair! I performed it throughout college as well! Fusion has more modern dance moves and can be seen in many Indian movies, as many of the soundtracks I have performed with come from popular Bollywood movies. Here is a video of me dancing for the Villanova Bollywood fusion dance team, Nova Nassa!



Above you will see a photo of me holding a trophy after Nova Nassa finished second at a competition last year!



How Are Blue White Scholars Chosen?



Ever wonder how students are chosen for a Blue White Scholarship? The answer is that students apply. They answer four questions, provide financial information and a resume and also provide two references. One reference is from a Professor and the other an Employer.

One of the four Questions asked on the application: ***How Are You Helping Pay for school?*** Below is the answer that Andrew Abraham gave.

In high school, my father was diagnosed with cancer and needed to cut his hair. My father was physically unable to leave his bed, so my mother purchased a \$25 set of clippers that I learned to use. After seeing my mother work extra hours to cover medical expenses, I wanted to save money on haircuts and started to cut my own hair and my sisters' hair.

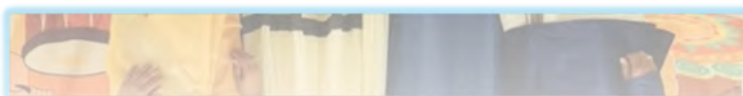
It was an amazing outlet that let me use my creativity to make people look their best, and save my whole family money with free haircuts. Fast forward to today, and I am the personal barber for over 35+ clients and have earned over \$9000 in revenue since high school. I cut hair weekly with all profit going to my parents to help send me to Villanova. When I was an intern at Franklin Templeton, I used my earnings

to pay for school expenses like books and a laptop which lessened the financial burden on my parents. I also am a Resident Assistant which covers 100% meals and room expenses. By being the first point of contact for any concern for 42 residents in my hall, I help create a positive impact for students while helping my parents pay my tuition. I also worked as a personal trainer and service desk member at planet fitness for roughly \$10 an hour. I worked with customers and helped them feel more comfortable in their skin while saving money on a free gym membership and dedicating my paycheck to my college savings and parents who have sacrificed everything for me to attain an amazing education.

Another Question asked on the application: ***What Are Your Career Aspirations?*** Here is Andrew's answer: As a 13-year-old, my love for Kraft's Mac & Cheese had no limits. I enjoyed the 2.05 Oz's of velvety golden goodness so much that I invested all \$500 of my life savings into Kraft Heinz stock in 7th grade. While most investors used complex algorithms and deep-rooted fundamentals to pick a lucrative stock, I followed my indomitable appetite instead. This particular investment marked the start of my investing career.

Thanks to the guidance of Villanova's generous professors and helpful upper-classmen, I secured my dream internship and received a return offer to be a stock-picking intern for Franklin Templeton, one of the world's largest asset managers with \$1.5 trillion in assets under management.

This opportunity is a blessing that brings me closer to achieving my career aspirations of becoming the best stock investor possible.



5 Things You Might Not Know About Andrew Abraham

1. Museums

I love going to new museums! Seeing historic pieces of art or even new contemporary pieces creates the best combination of fun and education. When I am at a museum, I am traveling between time zones trying to learn more about an artist or a period of history that I am unfamiliar with. The best thing about museums is that there are so many different types! Another thing that I love about museums is that they are very student-friendly and offer discounts and free admission to college students like me!



(Above) shows one of the most fascinating pieces of art I have ever seen. Artist: Dale Chihuly.

2. Cars

Even though I do not own a car, my love for them is still strong! I have always been interested in the mechanics and the aesthetics of cars since I was a kid. In my free time, I like to watch videos of car reviews and keep up to date with new developments in the car industry. One of my favorite resources for this is a YouTuber named Doug Demuro. If you are interested in cars and want to learn more, give his page a look. In this picture, you can see a cool customized car that I saw at a car show near me!

3. Leadership

There has never been a time since the 6th grade when I was either a VP or President of a society. Leadership has been a huge part of my character development, and I owe it to my amazing sisters who were great leaders themselves and helped me grow into a better leader. **This photo (Right) is at the Camden Aquarium. As am president of a club called SAMOSA, one of the largest multicultural clubs**



on campus. In the picture is the executive board on a staff bonding trip I arranged .



4. Godfather

I was born and raised in the Catholic tradition. In college, my roommate noticed me reading the Bible at night and asked me why I read it. I told him about my experience as a catholic and why my faith has been a source of my confidence, strength, and happy attitude. I gave my bible to him and some resources that have helped me learn about my faith. His interest in Catholicism grew rapidly as he learned more about the story of Jesus and started his journey to becoming a member of the Catholic church through Baptism. He asked me to be his Godfather/Witness for his Baptism which was a great honor. **(Left) Here is a photo after his ceremony!**

5. Dance

I love to dance for weddings and cultural event, as I was trained in Indian classical and fold dance growing up. See Andrew's Spotlight Article P.6

5 Things You Might Not Know About Gianna Altamura

1. Bronx to Upper East Side

I went to high school on the Upper East Side of NYC! Although I live in the Bronx, I commuted about one hour each way to high school for four years. It was one of the best experiences of my life!



2. Accounting in Ireland

Although I have had many wonderful family vacations, I have never been to Europe. But I will be going for the first time in May 2024 for Villanova's International Accounting Maymester (3 weeks) in Ireland



3. Performing Arts



I love the performing arts! Starting from the 4th grade though high school I have met some of the most amazing people through it. Some shows I have performed in include Godspell, Greece, Aladdin, Parade and many more



4. I love Ice Skating

I love ice skating! I have never taken lessons or played the sport competitively, but whenever I go with my friends that are always shocked when they see me do spins but then hear I am self-taught! I enjoy going during Christmas time, especially at Bryant Park

3. Roommates Forever

My roommate and I are one of the few random roommate success stories! When entering Villanova we completed the random roommate survey and have been best friends and roommates ever since!



5 Things You Might Not Know About Ashleigh Reen

1. Baseball Ban

I am a MASSIVE baseball fan. My team is the Boston Red Sox and growing up, my Dad and I would always root for them while we watched the game on the couch. Along with watching the game, we send articles to one another about different up-and-coming players. It's such a treat when we're able to catch a game in person at Fenway park!

2. I Love to Garden

I absolutely love to garden. My Mom and I have cultivated the same garden since I was a little girl.

We always try to do at least one different vegetable than the year before – this year it was ground cherries!



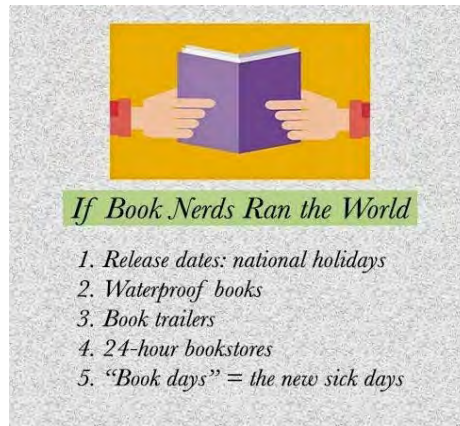
Picture (Below)

BW Scholar Ashleigh Reen and her sister at a Red Sox game trying to see who can eat the most cotton candy! Spoiler alert: her sister won by a landslide.



3. Book Nerd

I am a huge book nerd. When I was younger, it wasn't uncommon for my parents to be waking up as I was heading to bed because I stayed up way too late reading. Sometimes I just can't put down a book!



4. Board Game Enthusiast

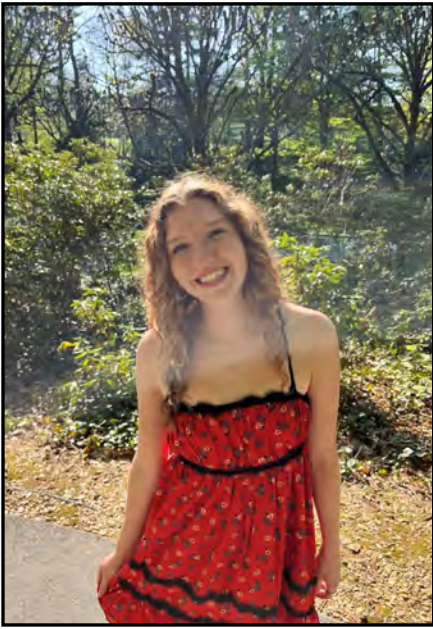
My family and I are huge board game people. Whenever we're all together, odds are there is a board game between us. My favorite board game is Parcheesi, but the running joke in my family is that they don't play to win, but to make me lose!



3. The Letter "S"

I have three pets: two cats and one dog. Funnily enough, all our pets' names start with the letter "S". The cats names are Star and Snuggles, whereas the dog's name is Sherlock. The naming scheme was completely unplanned!

SPOTLIGHT: Ashleigh Reen '25 *Alpha Phi Omega*



My role is to organize fun, team-building activities for the members outside of our service projects. Last semester, for example, we all went to Skyzone for an afternoon of bonding.

I truly enjoy being Fellowship Chair because it allows me to create events where everyone can get to know each other in a more relaxed setting and strengthen our community.

Some of my most memorable service activities have taken place at a local goat farm and the Philadelphia Zoo. Every year, we volunteer at the goat farm during their carnival for young children. We bring a large group of members, splitting into teams to run different activities. One year, my group was tasked with creating an obstacle course for the kids to race through. We set up three stations—jumping over large tree stumps, racing wheelbarrows, and spoon races. The winners were able to pick out a picture book as a prize, and of course, there were lollipops for everyone. I loved this experience because it was outdoors, we worked with kids, and I had a blast designing the course. Seeing the joy on the children's faces as they completed the obstacles, especially when their parents helped them jump from stump to stump, made it even more special. It was so fulfilling knowing we helped create a memorable day for the families attending the carnival.

Another highlight was volunteering at the Philadelphia Zoo just before Halloween, where we helped set up booths for the kids' trick-or-treating. We wore costumes we put together in our dorms or dressed in orange and



"Another highlight was volunteering at the Philadelphia Zoo just before Halloween, where we helped set up booths for the kids' trick-or-treating."

black to get into the Halloween spirit. It was adorable seeing the little ones in their costumes run up to our booths for candy. This event, like many others, reminded me of the true joy of volunteering—bringing smiles to others and creating special moments for everyone involved.

I'm so grateful to have found Alpha Phi



Omega and to be part of a community of like-minded individuals who share my passion for service. The service trips and activities I've been part of have undoubtedly been some of the most rewarding and memorable experiences of my time at Villanova!

During the second semester of my freshman year at Villanova, I joined Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity dedicated to supporting both the Villanova community and the greater Philadelphia area. I came across a flyer for the organization and immediately knew it was the perfect fit for me, as I wanted to connect with a larger group of people who shared my passion for service. My love for volunteering began in middle school, when my friends and I would dedicate one Sunday a month to helping run the brunch at our parish. After my first semester in Alpha Phi Omega, I was elected as one of two Recruitment Chairs. In this role, I was responsible for spreading the word about the club and introducing potential new members to the organization. I found great joy in this role because it allowed me to share my love for the club with others while helping it grow. As Recruitment Chair, I also had the opportunity to engage more deeply with other members of the fraternity and become more involved in its activities. Now, I serve as one of two Fellowship Chairs.

Why Donate to the Blue White Foundation



My name is Gianna Altamura, and I am writing to thank you for your kind contribution to the Blue White Scholarship Foundation. Your support was pivotal in giving me the opportunity to receive this award and I am extremely grateful for your generosity.

I want to share more about myself and how your donation is helping me continue my academic journey and pursue my passions at Villanova. I am a senior from Throggs Neck, NY, majoring in Accounting. I have a younger sister in high school, who looks forward to attending college soon. My mom has worked as a registered nurse for about thirty years. My sister and I are truly blessed to have a mother like her who has sacrificed so much to give us such full and extraordinary lives. The three of us are rather close and have supported one another through much hardship. In 2018 my father unexpectedly passed away from a heart attack. In addition to the emotional hardship this caused, my family and I also faced financial hardship as my mother was now a single parent supporting her two children. Around the same time my sister

began to greatly suffer from an illness. Unfortunately, in the last few years this has resulted in her undergoing in-patient hospitalization several times. My mother has had to take much time off of work to take her to doctors' appointments and visit her during these in-patient programs. This all has been a tremendous financial stress on my mom.

When deciding what college that I would go to, I heavily considered the financial toll it may take on my family. Regardless, my mother has always encouraged me to pursue my dreams as she never wanted me to feel limited by our financial situation. Because of my instant love for Villanova, we decided together that I would enroll, and we would figure out how to pay tuition one year at a time. Although my mother is thrilled that I get to experience college at Villanova, it is evident that it has taken a toll on her as tuition has been a major stressor. The last two years has been stressful as I have worked full-time over the summer and part-time during the school year to help in the ways I could. I was saddened that my amazing college experience at Villanova was coming at the cost of my family's financial stability. I began to consider transferring to another university because I did not want my family to endure this financial burden. When I discovered the Blue White Scholarship Foundation, I felt that it could be an opportunity to relieve some of this financial stress from my family. I can vividly recall instantly feeling at peace and somewhat relieved knowing that there are people who recognize the challenges my family and I have endured. I immediately called my mom to share the good news with her that I had found a scholarship that felt as if it was made for students like me.



When I received a letter from the Blue White Scholarship Foundation, I was quite honestly speechless and ecstatic. It was extremely validating to know that someone such as yourself listened to my story and donated. With this scholarship I will be able to continue my academic career at Villanova while participating in organizations I am passionate about such as Special Olympics, Blue Key, and VSB Peer Advisors. As a first-year student, I was a Mathematics major in the College of Arts and Sciences before transferring to the Villanova School of Business and majoring in accounting. Because I am an internal transfer I have less flexibility in my schedule, but this scholarship will give me more access to the opportunities available to me through VSB, allowing me to focus more on school rather than finances. This winter I plan to participate in Villanova's Spring Accounting Internship Program and gain real-world industry experience in New York City. After receiving my undergraduate from Villanova, I hope to pursue a master's degree in accounting and go on to take the CPA exam. Because of your generous donation I am able to continue pursuing my passions at Villanova and advancing in my academic and professional careers.

Your donation will allow me to focus more on my academics and extracurriculars by relieving much financial stress for me and my family. I cannot thank you enough for the support and kindness you have shown to me and my family. It means the world that someone like yourself heard my story and felt compelled to help. By donating to this extraordinary foundation, you are helping me attain the true value of the Villanova education.

Thank you again for your tremendous support and kindness. I wish you and your family all the best!- Gianna

SPOTLIGHT: Gianna Altamura *Kappa Kappa Gamma*



Kappa Kappa Gamma was founded in 1870 in Monmouth, Illinois by six women who wore the golden key to symbolize the beginning of their new fraternity for women. The six Founders left many letters, which provide the history of the fraternity on different accounts, some of which vary. The first social held by Kappa was at Lou Stevenson's house and was hosted by her mother, who surprised the founders with a Halloween party. The founders signed the charter of the fraternity in Mary Moore Stewart's parlor, which then became known as the birthplace of the sisterhood. Early meetings took place in a room within the Amateur des Belles Lettres literary society of which the women were active members. The strong female Founders of Kappa pushed the bounds of society as they formed a Greek-letter organization to match the one of the men at Monmouth College. These women continue to be an example of perseverance and resilience. At Villanova the Zeta Iota Chapter of

Kappa Kappa Gamma helps to support philanthropies such as Mental Health America and breast cancer awareness.

We host events on campus such as Hoops for Health, a basketball competition fundraiser for Mental Health America, Canvas Painting, a volunteer event where students paint canvases that are donated to Lankenau Hospital for breast cancer patients, and many more events. This chapter has not only given me amazing experiences, but also great friendships that I will cherish forever.



Gianna Altamura' As a tour guide at Villanova,.... I have a true love for the university, its campus, and all the resources it has to offer. I enjoy connecting with prospective students and relieving them of potential stressors or providing more insight into what college life is truly like. Although my tours are only about an hour, I do my best to incorporate as much academic and social information about the school, while including personal anecdotes .

Fun Facts!

- ◆ The brick pavers throughout campus are actually heated! This allows for a safer campus by melting snow and preventing unwanted falls or injuries.
- ◆ The flags hanging in the Connelly Center represent all the countries where Villanova students are from!



“Give Back Time”- 3,000 cookies were made by Kate and the students.

Six to eight cookies per box plus 2 chocolate pretzels and chocolate candies were added to make 1 box. Blue White Scholar students also assembled and labeled the boxes. We wish we could have mailed to everyone, but time and money are limited so cookies were mailed to those who gave \$150 and above. It was the students way to say “Merry Christmas” and “thank You” for you’re your generosity!





1

#1 Apple Blaster Fun– Nick Watson & Jarvis Li



2

#2. Corn maze- Donor, Phil Parker & son:



3

#3 -Baby Lizzy, Eponine* & Frank* Auddino –Board members *



4

#4 The Apple Blaster
Mother Load Target– The Stop Sign



5

“Give Back Time”– Students help the Fnd.
“Friends Time” – Students Socialize
(#5 Hannah Rongo wins \$100 dollars for
hitting the “Stop Sign” @ Apple Blaster



6

#6 Hay Ride–
Maggie Boyle & TJ Baylock

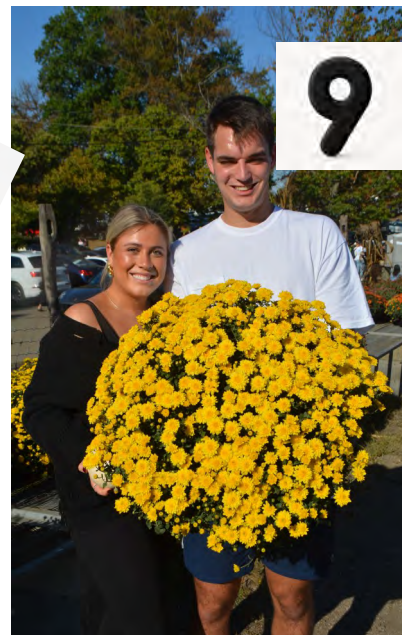


#7 -Gianna Altamura & Cara Krien



8

#8 Pumpkin picking -Sofia Nicastro



9

#9 Mike Ferry & his girlfriend

Mini-Business Etiquette Lessons for Scholars

Part of Blue White Scholarship Program now includes lessons on "Business Etiquette." Michelle Leonard a supernova networker and local realtor agreed to host a mini-day conference on business etiquette.

The ABCs of Business Etiquette

Professional business conduct boils down to **A**pppearance, **B**ehavior, and **C**ommunications. And while styles within professional environments may vary (think: investment banking vs. art gallery), the principles behind business etiquette are constant. Within these ABC's are ten rules for business and work etiquette — the building blocks for respectful and collaborative workplaces.

I. Appearance Etiquette

As some industry segments move away from traditional business attire to embrace a more relaxed, informal setting, equating informality with bad manners is becoming a faux pas.

Rather, professional etiquette maintains the appearance of ourselves and our surroundings.

Dress appropriately.

Who hasn't experienced the anxiety of wondering what to wear on the first day of a new job? Attire sends a visual cue and reveals how much you "belong." Happily, office dress codes have never been more tolerant, relaxed, and inclusive, so the potential for misstep here is much smaller than in years past. When in doubt, ask. Once you're in the office (or on video), you can take cues from your peers and supervisors to refine your wardrobe. The aim is to conform to the norm, but not in a way that suppresses your authentic identity. Attire that reflects cultural, religious, and gender identification should always be respected.

Always practice good hygiene

Keep your workspace organized.

Whether you're in the office or on video, professional etiquette is reflected by a neat and clean appearance, which demonstrates respect for yourself and your colleagues. This extends not just to your personal appearance, but the way you maintain your workspace. Be disciplined in keeping papers and other clutter to a minimum and limit the visibility of food and drink containers.

Before leaving your desk for the day, imagine that you unexpectedly won't return to the office tomorrow — in your absence, what image will your space project? In virtual environments, scan your background for debris before connecting your video. Consider scheduling 30 minutes on your calendar per week for a deeper clean.

Respect shared spaces.

One of the most common items in the employee kitchen? The sign that reads, "Please don't leave dishes in the sink." Those with good business etiquette are part of the solution, not the problem — they wash up promptly after eating. This isn't just about being polite (although that's reason enough), it's also about facilitating productivity as you apply this behavior to all shared spaces and items. Another basic rule of business etiquette? Put more paper in the copier and refill the paper towel dispenser. *The next 2 pages will discuss Work Environments. Let me know if you found these articles interesting.*

II. Behavior Etiquette

Business etiquette is essentially a code of conduct that equips employees to maintain collegial

Students were asked to create a 2 minute elevator speech about themselves. The big lesson was to make sure they included a unique selling point about themselves. To learn about affirmation, they wrote positive words down describing fellow scholars. They are holding these papers for this picture.



environments that promote trust and respect while reducing distractions and conflict. The list of behaviors that follow all amount to treating others as you wish to be treated.

Always arrive on time. What does it mean to be on time?

If you're always on time, you're punctual: you can be depended on to arrive when you say you will. If you pay your bills on time, you'll never get a late notice or fee. People who are never on time, however, are always late.

If there's one golden rule of business etiquette, it's punctuality. Arriving on time is a multi-tipped spear: it reflects a respect for others, shows that you're organized and in control of your workload, and demonstrates that you follow through on commitments. Be aware that some companies — and some countries — define punctuality differently, although it's rarely stated outright. Err on the side of arriving five minutes early until you deduce the accepted norm.

More lessons in next newsletter.....

The 10 Types of Work Environments

1. Hybrid work environment

Hybrid environments include a mix of in-office and remote work, allowing employees to split their time between a physical workplace and their home. This model strives to reap the benefits of both approaches, offering employees the freedom to manage their work-life balance while still providing opportunities for in-person collaboration.



2. Remote work environment

Remote work allows employees to do their jobs from somewhere other than a traditional office, whether it's their homes, co-working spaces or any place with an internet connection. By giving workers flexibility, autonomy and digital collaboration tools, this model caters to the increasing demand for work-life balance and enables companies to tap into a broader talent pool without geographical constraints. It's transformed both the way businesses operate and how people work.

3. Flexible work environment

Flexible work environments are all about adapting to individual employee needs, allowing them to adjust their schedules around personal commitments. About more than work-life balance, this approach prioritizes employee well-being, recognizing that productivity can be achieved outside the traditional 9-to-5 structure.

4. Realistic work environment

Realistic work environments are practical and hands-on settings that attempt to simulate real-world working conditions. Often used in fields like health care, engineering and other skilled trades, they're designed to give employees or trainees experiential learning opportunities that use tools, equipment and tasks that mirror those encountered in their respective industries. This is more practical from a skill-development standpoint, ensuring workers are well-prepared for the demands of their jobs.

5. Investigative work environment

Often used in science and academia, investigative work environments emphasize research, analysis and critical thinking. Employees spend much of their time gathering information and conducting experiments, then analyzing all the data they've acquired. This culture of continuous learning and discovery often appeals to those interested in uncovering new insights.

6. Artistic work environment

Artistic work environments are spaces where creativity thrives and new ideas flourish. Typically found in industries like design, entertainment and the arts, these workspaces are less structured, which allows for more flexibility and freedom in how employees work. They're ideal for people with a strong inclination toward

creativity, offering a canvas for imagination and experimentation.

7. Social work environment

These are settings where interaction and support are highly valued, particularly in education, health care and social services. They prioritize interpersonal communication and are devoted to providing care, guidance and assistance to individuals or communities in need. People who are empathetic and motivated to make positive impacts are especially drawn to these environments.

8. Collaborative work environment

Collaborative work environments prioritize teamwork and shared goals, creating a setting where employees can freely exchange ideas and resources. This approach encourages participation from all levels of the organization, utilizing a range of perspectives to solve problems and innovate. These environments require strong communication channels and a culture of trust, and they're ideal for projects that benefit from sharing knowledge and skills.

9. Enterprising work environment

Characterized by their dynamic and goal-oriented nature, enterprising work environments are often found in sales, marketing and leadership roles. They prioritize innovation and the drive to achieve and exceed targets, creating a more competitive and motivational atmosphere. Employees in these environments are typically more assertive, persuasive and keen on taking initiative.

10. Conventional work environment

Conventional work environments are organized and rule-based — more traditional settings that prioritize structure, accuracy and specific procedures and routines directing the work process. These workplaces are ideal for those who enjoy stability and detail-oriented assignments, providing a predictable and well-defined set of expectations.

Toxic and Positive Work Environments

Signs of a toxic work environment

- **Working in breaks**

When employees are expected to work during their scheduled breaks, it could signify a toxic work environment. A culture of overwork and a lack of respect for personal boundaries usually leads to stress and burnout.

- **Lack of communication and collaboration**

Silos and barriers that exist between individuals or teams can prevent effective interaction, leading to a deficiency that stifles innovation and problem-solving. It can also create a sense of isolation and misunderstanding, resulting in conflict.

- **Employees pitted against one another**

This usually happens when individual achievements are prioritized over teamwork — a cutthroat atmosphere where cooperation takes a backseat to rivalry. These environments can erode trust, increase stress levels and damage morale, negatively impacting individual well-being.

- **Ignoring employee personalities**

It's important to acknowledge and respect employees' personalities and differences. Ignoring people's unique qualities can create an unwelcoming environment and prevent team members from making unique contributions.

- **Underpaying employees**

Underpaying shows a disregard for the value of an individual's work and contributions, signaling a lack of respect and appreciation from management toward their employees.

- **Discrimination and harassment**

Discrimination and harassment are clear indications of a negative work environment. Unequal treatment, offensive conduct or unwanted advances can create a climate of fear and intimidation, which can have a severe impact on the mental and emotional well-being of victims.

- **Aggression and abuse**

Aggression and abuse — whether verbal, physical or psychological — are unmistakable signs of a toxic workplace. They almost always create an atmosphere of fear and discomfort, undermining safety and respect among employees.



How to create a positive work environment

- **Create a strategy with goals and expectations**

A clear strategy with well-defined goals and expectations provides direction and purpose to employees, leading to a

better understanding of their roles and how their contributions fit into the big picture.

- **Promote collaboration and teamwork**

Collaboration and teamwork improve work environments by utilizing the team's collective strengths, ideas and skills. This helps create a culture of shared success and open communication where employees feel valued and engaged.

- **Invest in well-being**

Investing in employee well-being supports their physical, mental and emotional health. Whether through health programs, flexible work arrangements or other people-first initiatives, these investments help individuals feel valued and supported.

- **Encourage flexibility**

Flexible workplaces cater to employees' diverse needs and life situations, improving work-life balance and the overall employee experience. And when people feel empowered to manage their professional and personal responsibilities, they're more loyal, productive workers.

- **Create a desirable physical environment**

A well-planned physical environment can reduce stress, stimulate creativity and encourage employees to perform their best.

- **Foster a positive-feedback culture**

Positive-feedback cultures regularly acknowledge and celebrate employees' accomplishments, efforts and progress. They boost morale and encourage personal and professional growth, leading to stronger relationships among team members.

- **Trust your employees**

Trusting your employees signals that you respect and have confidence in their abilities and judgment and eliminates the need for micromanagement. This means keeping communication channels open; encouraging collaboration; and building a strong, cohesive team dynamic.

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