

A HEARTFELT LEGACY

SUPPORTING VILLANOVA'S PROMISE THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

By Carly Keeny

In the late 1950s and 1960s, students pursued their studies against a national backdrop of change. Rock-n-roll became the soundtrack of a new generation. Technology sent humans into space. Marginalized groups fought for equal rights. Political leaders inspired new versions of the American dream. The counterculture pushed for peace. Television made everyone a witness to history.

On campus, Villanova experienced its own growth and change. Just a few years after officially becoming a university in 1953, campus construction boomed with the openings of Dougherty, Sullivan, Sheehan, Garey, Falvey, and Good Counsel Halls. Students qualified for new degree programs in nursing and law. Enrollment soared above 7,000. On the heels of its 50th anniversary, the College of Engineering expanded its degree offerings to the master's level in each department.

At the same time, seven very different engineering students embarked on their own journeys of growth and change. For each, the experience they had as Villanova Engineers has remained indelible, making lasting impacts on their professional and personal lives. As members of the 1842 Heritage Society, each honors his/her experience with a planned gift to the College or University.

Gift and estate planning with Villanova provides a special peace of mind in settling one's affairs with the knowledge that the gift will make an important, lasting, and



Margaret and Robert Merkert, Sr. EE '59 on their wedding day at Villanova, and again at Villanova on their 50th anniversary

tangible impact on the experience of future students.

Bequests

As one of the earliest residents of Sullivan Hall, **Robert Merkert, Sr. EE '59**, President of RM Industries, Inc., fondly recalls the connections he made. "I loved the classmates I had; we were all very close. Many of us lived on the third floor of Sullivan, which mostly housed engineers. I also had many 'day-hop' friends. Two of my closest friends at Villanova, Dave Roop EE '59 and Bill Valitski EE '59, were also groomsmen in my wedding," he says. "Many of us return to campus every five years at reunion time."

As a student, Merkert immersed himself in engineering-specific activities, serving as editor of *The Villanova Engineer* and president of what is now known as the Villanova chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, among

others. "I attended Villanova early on in the days of computers and transistors. At the time, we were more focused on power engineering," says Merkert.

"Professor Joseph Hicks helped us get into transistors and computer electronics, drawing on his experience in industry. He also shared business insight that was important for us after college." Merkert's gratitude for Professor Hicks' influence lives on in the Professor Joseph J. Hicks University Scholarship that he and wife Margaret endowed in 1996.

The Merkerts also have included the College in their will. "We can't take it with us. In thinking of what the school has done for us, we want to help future generations," he says. "We hope the funds directed from our will can be used to either increase the amount of funding for the recipient of our scholarship or allow the College to identify additional students who may benefit...those who have good grades but who may not be



able to attend Villanova without additional financial assistance.”

“We should all consider giving back to Villanova because we have received so much. Without the strong education, Catholic upbringing, and ethics and morals training, we may not have done as well as we did,” he says.

Nance Katherine Dicciani ChE '69 echoes these sentiments. In addition to serving as a member of the University’s Board of Trustees, she serves as a Director



Nance Dicciani ChE '69

of Halliburton, Praxair, and Rockwood Specialties, and is an Operating Partner of Advent International. “Villanova gave me the academic foundation and personal confidence to follow my dreams and succeed in many new and challenging professional situations,” she says.

Dicciani built that confidence as a chemical engineering student under the tutelage of Dr. Robert White (or “Doc White” as he is affectionately known to his former students), then-Chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering. “Doc White was really tough on all his students, me included. For four years, he constantly challenged us to be better, and he turned us into capable, confident engineers, ready to take any career path we chose. He dared us to take on the difficult assignments and to excel,” she says.

Dicciani has also named the College as a beneficiary in her will. “My years at Villanova were instrumental in my subsequent career success. I want to help other young people have the same opportunities I had, so I have made a bequest in my will, which will enhance both the value of my estate and the value to Villanova. This type of gift does not require me to part with my assets during my lifetime, so they can be available for unforeseen needs,” she says. “Villanova mirrors my desire to ensure for future generations that this world has the leaders it needs to meet the challenges ahead.”

Henry Seager EE '66



The College had a similar formative impact on **Henry Seager EE '66**, who graduated at the top of his engineering class. “There is no way I could have done what I have without Villanova,” he says.

He credits his education with providing many options for employment. He ultimately committed to PPL Resources in Allentown, Pa., where he spent his entire 34-year career in engineering and supervisory positions with a focus on process control real-time computer systems. Along the way, he earned his P.E., a master’s in Electrical Engineering, and an MBA.

Upon retiring at the age of 56, Seager had achieved financial independence, and with no children or immediate family members who would require his support, he considered how to distribute his resources in the future. “I knew I wanted to help the next generation through education, and Villanova is the best place to do it. It’s how I got my start.”

Rather than making an outright gift, Seager decided to leave his entire estate to the College of Engineering upon his passing. “My estate will endow the Henry P. Seager '66 Endowed Scholarship for Electrical Engineering. If it helps just one person make a significant difference in the world, then it will be a success,” he says.

Seager may also begin funding his endowment in his lifetime.

Charitable Gift Annuity

From the minute he set foot on campus, Villanova has been making a big impression on—and for—**Nicholas Calio ME '65**, Chairman of Rebling Plastics. “I was so excited the first day of my freshman year. I just couldn’t believe I was attending Villanova University,” he says. “The prestige and reputation of the University has also provided the opening to several business opportunities over the years.”

Calio cites the faculty as important contributors to his success. “The professors



Nicholas Calio ME '65

were caring and wanted you to succeed; they were always available to provide additional help,” he says. “Throughout my career, I have relied on the engineering training and discipline I received in solving day-to-day issues.”

Calio and his wife Roselynn have set up a charitable gift annuity to benefit the College. “It provides several benefits, including a tax



deductible charitable contribution; reduction of capital gains taxes (as we used appreciated stock to fund the gift); an income stream for life, part of which is tax-free; and estate tax benefits,” he explains. “Our hope is that this gift will continue the legacy of Villanova and assist the College of Engineering as it strives to achieve its mission.”

Life Insurance

For **John Janitz ME '65**, Chairman and Co-Founding Partner of Evergreen Capital Partners, college highlights include not only fond student memories—but also marriage to wife Alfreda after sophomore year. “My education at the College of Engineering taught me both the basics within the engineering curriculum and provided a process to understand and decipher business and markets. That capability has served me well in my professional life.”

“I was significantly influenced by the faculty, not only for their engineering expertise, but also for their insight into industry and business. Several professors afforded me the opportunity to work (for pay) on development projects for industry. It was a great learning experience and gave me an introductory look at how engineering and business really fit together,” he says.

Janitz received the J. Stanley Morehouse Memorial Award from the Engineering Alumni Society in 1996.

“It is always nice to give back, so when I became President, COO, and Board Member of Textron Inc. in 1999, Alfreda and I decided to designate the College as the beneficiary of my Board life insurance policy. It was a way to recognize what the University did for me at an early age.”

Janitz hopes the gift will support someone who cannot afford the cost of a Villanova education. “There is satisfaction that comes from giving back and working with an organization that will do the right thing with the funds.”

John Janitz ME '65

Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust

Phil DiVita EE '63, design engineer and inventor, continues as Director and Officer of DA-TECH Corporation, the company he co-founded 36 years ago. As an undergraduate, he commuted to class between responsibilities at two jobs. He also met Lucille, his wife of nearly 50 years, as a freshman. A determined person, these experiences matured him and drove his motivation to succeed.



Phil DiVita EE '63

In 1967, while working at a local division of Magnavox, DiVita met **Lawrence Resinski EE '58**. Several surprising common bonds sparked a lasting friendship: both were baptized at the same church in south Philadelphia, learned from the Sisters of St. Joseph, attended catholic boys’ high schools in Philadelphia, and commuted as



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INTERESTED IN JOINING THE 1842 HERITAGE SOCIETY?

Villanova undergraduates. In 1975 they opened DA-TECH, a manufacturing and engineering company in Ivyland, Pa., which employs more than 200 people.

A few years later, the Rev. John Farrell, OSA, who handled University development at the time, asked DiVita and Resinski to help engage local Philadelphia-area alumni. Their work inspired them to establish University scholarship funds together, and eventually a charitable remainder annuity trust to benefit Villanova.

Armand Cote CE '61 (standing, second from left)



“We wanted to give back. We both felt that if you become a success, you should contribute to those who want to learn or those who may not be as fortunate as you. It makes you feel good, and the University is respectful with alumni and of their gifts,” he says.

Living Trust

“Opportunities were made available and doors were opened to me as a result of my four years at Villanova and my degree in engineering,” says **Armand Cote CE '61**.

The military draft was on in his senior year, and an invitation for civil engineering students to visit with the Navy Civil Engineering Corps set the foundation for Cote's career. He joined the Corps after graduation and was commissioned out of Officer Candidates School in Rhode Island in 1962. Leveraging skills in construction and group management, Cote served in Cuba during the Missile Crisis, the Dominican Republic, and two tours in the Vietnam War.

Cote ultimately settled in Hawaii in 1967 as a project manager for a construction company. He founded AAC & Associates in 1990, which has left its mark on dozens of commercial projects on Oahu, as well as the Hawaii Convention Center. “It all started with Catholic education and discipline at home,” he says.

The fruits of his career will benefit a future student. “I have accrued some wealth, so I wanted to provide somebody else the opportunity of an education,” he says. Cote has established a living trust, which will benefit both the College and Assets School, a Hawaii school for dyslexic and gifted children. The funds will establish a scholarship for civil engineering students.

1842 Heritage Society

The 1842 Heritage Society is comprised of alumni, parents, and friends who support the University through estate gifts, life-income gifts, or the transfer of assets. Donors of all income levels have expressed their wishes for the future of Villanova through their participation in the 1842 Heritage Society. We invite you to become a part of this tradition. Membership is voluntary and without obligation.

As a member of the 1842 Heritage Society you will receive special benefits, including recognition in Villanova University publications, invitations to special events, personal communications from the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, and a distinctive membership pin to identify your generosity to others.

For more information, visit www.Villanova.edu/plannedgiving

To learn more about the benefits of planned giving and which options may be right for you, contact Scott Janney, Executive Director of Planned Giving, at **800-486-5244** or plannedgiving@villanova.edu, or Cynthia Rutenbar, Director of Development for the College of Engineering, at **610-519-6973** or Cynthia.Rutenbar@villanova.edu.

Gift and estate planning with Villanova University can provide peace of mind and the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting your alma mater. A planned gift may also help you increase income, reduce taxes, avoid capital gains tax, or pass assets to family at a reduced tax cost.

SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR GIVING OPTIONS INCLUDE:

Bequests

A bequest through a will or living trust is a gift anyone can make while retaining control of his/her assets. You can name the University as a direct beneficiary of specific assets, a portion of your estate, or your residual estate. Bequests are fully deductible for federal estate tax purposes.

Life Insurance

If you no longer need a life insurance policy you own, you can name the University as owner and beneficiary and claim an income tax deduction. You can also name the University as the beneficiary of a term policy.

Charitable Gift Annuity

If you irrevocably transfer cash or securities to the University, you or up to two annuitants receive fixed payments for life. You receive an immediate income



tax deduction for a portion of the gift, and you can choose to defer your annuity payment. The remaining principal is put to use by the University after the lifetime of your income beneficiaries. Your payments are backed by the full assets of the University.

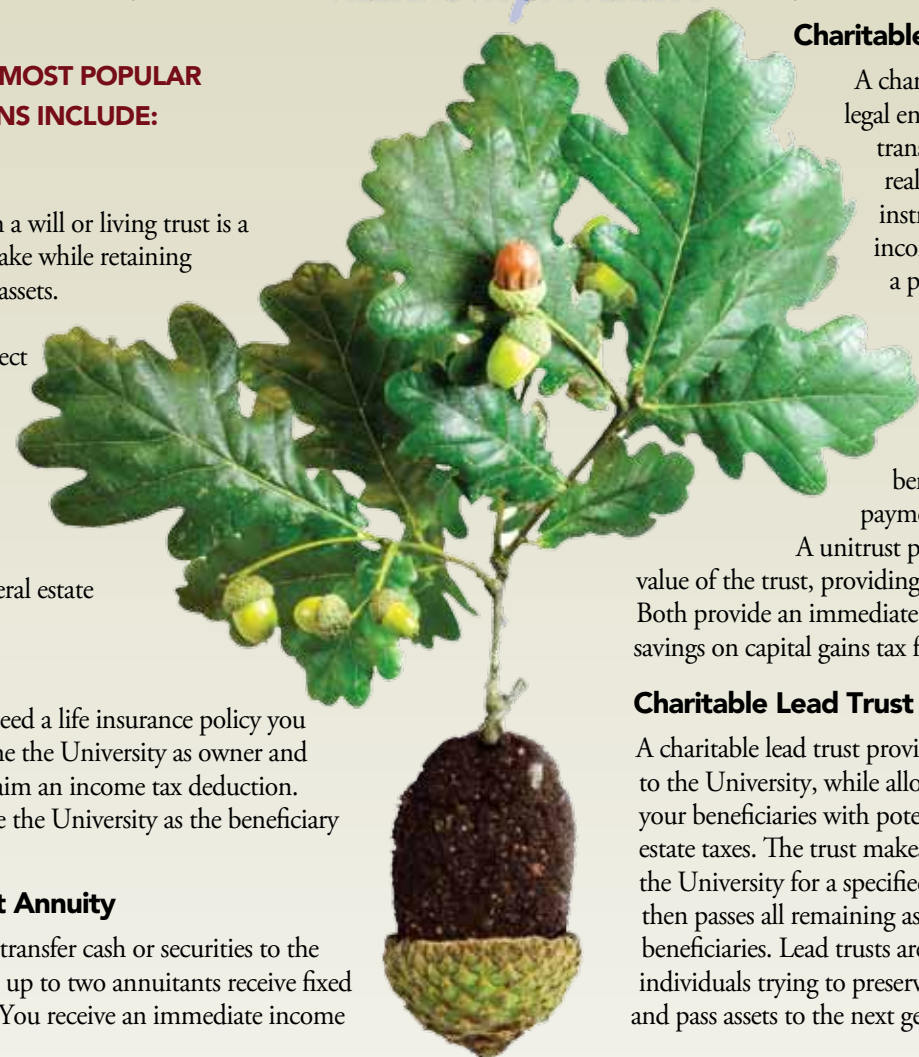
Charitable Remainder Trust

A charitable remainder trust is a legal entity funded by irrevocably transferring cash, securities, or real estate to a trustee with instructions to pay one or more income beneficiaries for life or a period of years. At the end of the trust, the remainder is transferred to the University. An annuity trust pays a fixed dollar amount to the income beneficiaries, ensuring the payment amount never changes.

A unitrust pays a fixed percentage of the value of the trust, providing a hedge against inflation. Both provide an immediate income tax deduction and savings on capital gains tax for gifts of appreciated assets.

Charitable Lead Trust

A charitable lead trust provides immediate support to the University, while allowing you to pass assets to your beneficiaries with potentially lowered gift and estate taxes. The trust makes an annual payment to the University for a specified number of years and then passes all remaining assets to your designated beneficiaries. Lead trusts are good options for individuals trying to preserve the value of their estate and pass assets to the next generation.



For a full list of options, visit www.Villanova.edu/plannedgiving. To find out which option makes the most sense for you, contact Scott Janney, Executive Director of Planned Giving, at 800-486-5244 or plannedgiving@villanova.edu, or Cynthia Rutenbar, Director of Development for the College of Engineering, at 610-519-6973 or Cynthia.Rutenbar@villanova.edu.