

# BWSF NEWSLETTER

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Blue White Scholarship Foundation November December 2016

## Thanks to All of You Who Have Helped to Save Our Students

During the month of November we celebrate a wonderful tradition of eating turkey with our families and wishing everyone a "Happy Thanksgiving," but really there are not enough words to express the thanks our students and their parents feel for those BWSF friends and alumni who have helped them with their tuition. The amount of stress and anxiety they have upon their shoulders to try to pay for school is decreased a little, and sometimes a lot, by our financial help, but the sense of community and love they feel for their fellow Villanovans is immeasurable.



We Give Thanks to all of YOU who truly care about the students. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas!



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The Blue White Scholarship Foundation (BWSF) is a private 501(c)(3) organization that is composed of and operated by Villanova Alumni and friends. We are "Villanovans Helping Villanovans" Although the Scholarship Awards are sent directly to Villanova, BWSF is not affiliated with VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY ®. The following words are marks registered with the United States Federal Patent and Trademark Office for Villanova University: VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY ®, VILLANOVA ®, WILDCATS ™. The Villanova "V" is also a registered service mark that is copyright and trademarked by VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY ®. All other content is subject to copyright and may not be copied or reproduced. Copyright © 2016 All Rights Reserved.

## Executive Director's Message-Happy Veteran's Day-We Salute You!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of the students. After the University has done all that they can for these students and they do work study, but are still short, your dollars are there to save the day! **YOU— SAVE OUR STUDENTS!**

- Christmas Eve & Day please make sure you open the E-mail from BWSF. You will get to enjoy a beautiful video. Merry Christmas!
- For all of you who have used the Newsletter Envelopes to either give your Annual Contribution or to use them to make several donations throughout the year, thank you. It helps with steady cash flow through the year.
- Please send me an E-mail with your address for a second home if you are out of town for an extended period of time. Include which months you are at this location so I can try to get your Newsletter to you. Please send using the Subject Matter Heading: MAILING ADDRESS INFORMATION to [KateCellucci@BlueWhiteClub.com](mailto:KateCellucci@BlueWhiteClub.com)
- Most importantly, during the month of November “We Salute all of Our Veterans!” Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. Below are some pictures from the Commissioning of the U.S.S.



Major General Randy Marchi (Ret.) and George Turak, Vietnam Vet First Air Cavalry. Army & Navy Together!



ship into the fleet. This is the “Commissioning.” Part of this ceremony shown above, is the ship coming “to life” which includes all sailors lining up at attention along the ship’s railings.





**“Merry Christmas to All”  
and To ALL— “OPERATION SMILE”**

Thank you for all that you have done! For many of you, you have participated for the **16 years** that we have been awarding scholarships. For some of you, it's been the entire **43 years** since this independent alumni organization began fundraising efforts focused on student needs. And for others, you are brand new! But **you all have one thing in common— you have “Given” to this cause to do good!**

I have a small favor to ask all of you. I need to attract new donors and some younger ones since our group has been aging for 43 years! Here is a really easy way to get your children, grandchildren and friends involved even if they didn't attend Villanova. All everyone has to do is spread the word to choose Smile.Amazon to do their on-line shopping.

- You will see the same deals and merchandise as Amazon, but now making a purchase will “do good!” since Amazon will donate back a portion of the sale to charity.
- *I ask you to pass on the this message of “doing good.” Please spread the word on your own Facebook pages and E-mail with the following message;*
- *Dear \_\_\_\_\_, I really believe in helping students who have maxed out on their student loans so I donate money to the Blue White Scholarship Foundation. Would you help raise scholarship funds by— doing this quick gesture of good?*
  - 1.) Go to [www.Smile.Amazon.com](http://www.Smile.Amazon.com)
  - 2.) Designate Blue White Scholarship Foundation as your choice for a charity
  - 3.) Shop! Every time thereafter when you shop at Smile.Amazon
  - .5% will be donated back to BWSF. It's easy and those dollars add up! Thank you for “doing good!”



**Executive Director's  
“Giving Thanks” and  
Doing Good!**

I would be remiss with an older donor base if I did not mention that we are very appreciative of those of you who are able to make larger contributions. We encourage **GIFTS IN YOUR WILLS** and the following:

**DONATING IRA ASSETS** The IRS mandates that individuals 70 1/2 and older take required minimum distributions (RMD) from their IRA each year. Failure to do so is a 50% penalty!!!!!! By making a charitable contribution from your IRA in the full or partial amount, you can satisfy your RMD amount without reporting additional income, thereby lowering your tax bill and enjoy giving to BWSF.

**DONATING SECURITIES** Giving stock held a minimum of 1 year is savvier than giving cash. First, avoid paying any capital gains on the increase in value of the stock. Second, receive an income tax deduction for the full Fair Market Value of the stock at the time of the gift. The process is simple. Instructions and a one page form are on the web-site under **Ways to Get Involved** “Essential Documents”.

# Meet Our Scholars

These students are what drive the Blue White Mission year-in and year-out. We understand that not everyone can attend Blue White's events and it is hard to meet the scholars, so we are bringing them to you. This year, each Newsletter has featured our outstanding scholars, sharing their background and showing you how your contributions are assisting them. Our goal is to inspire you to share our mission with other alumni so we may continue to help these students and our future scholars.



## DAVID CASTELLI

**Hometown**  
Commack, NY

**Major**  
Mechanical Engineering

**Minor**  
Business

**Activities & Involvement:** Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity; Secretary, Engineering PEER Mentor; Club Ultimate Frisbee; Engineering Student Council; Football Equipment Manager

**Career Aspiration:** Engineering project leader for a Foreign Service agency

**Favorite Quote:** "The best way to predict your future is to create it." — Abraham Lincoln

*Being one of four children attending college, I knew there would be very little financial support that my parents could provide; it was simply impossible. The assistance from the Blue White Scholarship is helping to satisfy my unmet needs and in turn, positively advance my academic career."*

### Extraordinary Circumstances:

David's Father is recovering from a heart attack and his Mother is unemployed and has been the caretaker of her mother for ten years. David is one of three kids currently in college.



## FRANCESCA COCCHI

**Hometown**  
Ocean Township, NJ

**Major**  
English & Honors

**Minor**  
Humanities & Creative Writing

**Activities & Involvement:** Villanova Cheerleader; New Student Orientation Counselor; Parliamentarian, Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity; Writing Center Tutor

**Career Aspiration:** Editor or Journalist

**Favorite Quote:** "This is what separates artists from ordinary people: the belief, deep in our hearts, that if we build our castles well enough, somehow the ocean won't wash them away." — Anne Lamott

*"All of my family's loans for college are in my name, and I'm working as much as possible to alleviate the burden. Thanks to Blue White, our gap in financial need is substantially smaller."*

### Extraordinary Circumstances:

Francesca's father underwent 5 serious eye surgeries beginning in 2009. After struggling to work for several years, he eventually received permanent disability. ***Special Congratulations to Francesca for being voted 2016 Homecoming Queen !***

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## MARIE BOUFFARD

**Hometown**  
Colchester, VT

**Major**  
Communication

**Minor**  
Sustainability &  
Writing and Rhetoric

**Activities & Involvement:** Features Writer, *The Villanovan*; Pi Beta Phi Women's Fraternity; Villanova Intervarsity

**Career Aspirations:** Scientific and environmental journalist

**Favorite Quote:** "Courage doesn't always roar, sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day, saying 'I will try again tomorrow.'" — Mary Anne Radmacher

*"This scholarship is helping me to pursue my dream of becoming a journalist by helping me graduate with a communication degree from my dream school, Villanova. It is such a miracle for me to be here, studying what I love, and I am so incredibly grateful for all the help I've had to get here and I will spend the rest of my life giving back to the community."*

**Extraordinary Circumstances:** Marie had a brain injury leaving her in a coma her senior year of H.S. resulting in major medical bills.



## GREGORY BRANIGAN

**Hometown**  
Crofton, MD

**Major**  
Biochemistry & Spanish

**Minor**  
Biology & Chemistry

**Activities & Involvement:** President/Asst. Conductor, Villanova Pastoral Musicians; Chair/Drummer, Villanova Band Philanthropy; Blue Key Society; President, Sigma Delta Pi

**Career Aspirations:** Medical researcher/physician specializing in neuroscience/genetics

**Favorite Quote:** "Genius is the ability to put into effect what is on your mind." — F. Scott Fitzgerald

*"BWSF is helping me to afford my education and pursue a graduate career in medicine and bio-medical research without the fear of an immense financial burden."*

### Extraordinary Circumstances:

Greg, his uncle, grandparents and father have suffered from illnesses, and his mother had to take leave from work to care for the family.

**Special Congratulations go to Greg for being voted 2016 Homecoming King!**



# Student Spotlight: On Biomedicine

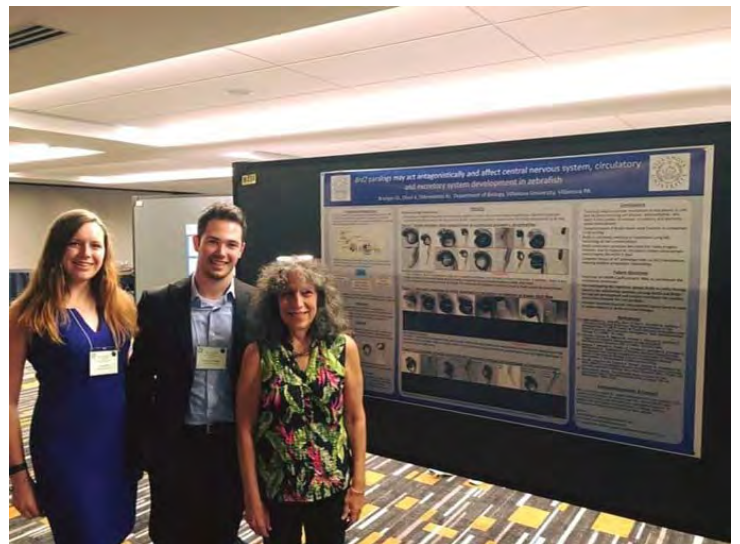
*Greg Branigan Received a Fellowship Travel Grant to present his research. Greg hopes to find a cure for neurodevelopmental diseases such as Alzheimer's Parkinson's and MS.*

I am currently studying biochemistry and molecular biology at Villanova. Following graduation in May, I hope to enter a MD/PHD program in the fall. I am interested in translational biomedical research, specifically neurogenesis disease and neurodevelopmental diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson, MS, and hydrocephalus. There is a new program that is funded by the NIH and it's a great opportunity for people who are into both the research and medicine. For me, it's an amazing continuation of this Villanova education where we are taught unitas, veritas, and caritas (truth, unity, and love). In medicine there is a great understanding of the community you need both within the medical practitioners and the families they work with. With research and academia we are looking for truth and that is both shared, as an undergrad biochemistry

major as well as what will be the medical curriculum. And finally, caritas love. You want people that really care about you, that will go the extra mile, and who are genuine to be these medical practitioners. For me, what I learned at Villanova is an amazing preparation for medical school that will really help me to excel in the field that I go into.

Thanks to support from the Department of Biology, the Villanova Undergraduate Research Fellowship Travel grant, and the Dennis M Cook Gregor Mendel Endowed Chair in Genetics Fellowships, I was able to attend the Society for Developmental Biology and International Society for Differentiation joint meeting in Bos-

ton, MA in August of 2016. At the conference I presented my work in developmental biology and neuroscience that I had completed throughout the summer. I study neurological development using zebrafish as a model organism for human development to ask questions at the biochemical and molecular level. At the conference I attended a variety of presentations focusing on developmental biology, novel model systems of development, epigenetics, differentiation, and current topics in stem cell research to name a few. Each night, I attended poster presentations and networked with other scientists from across the globe. A majority of other attending scientists were from leading institutions such as Harvard, Yale, and Cambridge University. On the penultimate night of the conference, I presented my work entitled "Brd2 paralogs may act antagonistically in the development of the central nervous, circulatory, and digestive systems." As first author on the poster and upcoming paper, I along with the other members of the lab represented Villanova at the international level. The conference was a tremendous success and we returned with a variety of new tools and techniques which will be incorporated into our research this semester. Throughout the fall and spring semesters this year I will be continuing my research in the DiBenedetto lab and will be completing an undergraduate thesis in biology as part of my Biochemistry major.

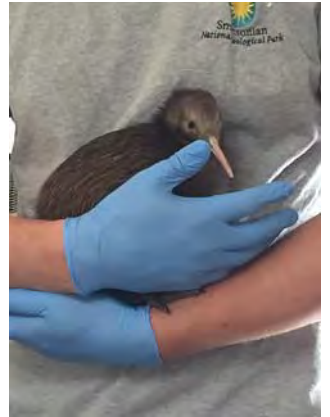


# Student Spotlight: On Journalism

*This past summer BWSF Scholar Marie Bouffard worked as a Residential Educator*

I am interested in journalism and science and teaching so I combined these skills and worked as a Residential Educator for FONZ (Friends for the National Zoo). Here is my story:

As a resident educator I served as camp-counselor for the overnight camp and also as a teacher. The kids ranged in age from going into fifth grade to going into tenth grade so we developed lesson plans for our classes that could be scaled for every age group. I created a lesson on sustainable food systems which looked at where our food comes from, how it's grown, how we use technology in the agriculture process, and how agriculture interacts and impacts the environment. In class we traced on maps where in the world our favorite foods come from and discussed the pros and cons of eating local, had insightful discussions on the role of technology has in growing our food, looked at the ways agriculture can harm our environment and the exciting ways farmers have developed to work with nature to grow food, and foraged for native edible plants. This class was directly inspired by my education in sustainability at Villanova and particularly a class on sustainable agriculture taught by Dr. Chara Armon which has had a huge impact on my studies.



The directors asked me to teach a class on science writing since that is what I am aiming to do with my education and because they'd never had anything of the sort before. At first I was hesitant as to how I would make a class on science writing fun for middle schoolers and high schoolers, (especially since there were very few ideas on the internet!) but it turned out extremely well! When kids first got their class assignments there was some groaning about hating writing but inevitably afterward they each admitted to me that it turned out to be their favorite class of the entire camp! I began the lesson by discussing the two different types of science writing, writing for scientific research journals vs. writing for a science magazine. The kids sorted characteristics on slips of paper into a Venn diagram (made of two hula-hoops) of each type of writing. We then played a game I made up where the kids split into teams where each had a role, scientist, journalist, and artist, where the artist had to draw the



“newly discovered organism” I had created based only on the descriptions they received from the ‘journalist’ who heard from the ‘scientist’, the only team member to actually see the organism.

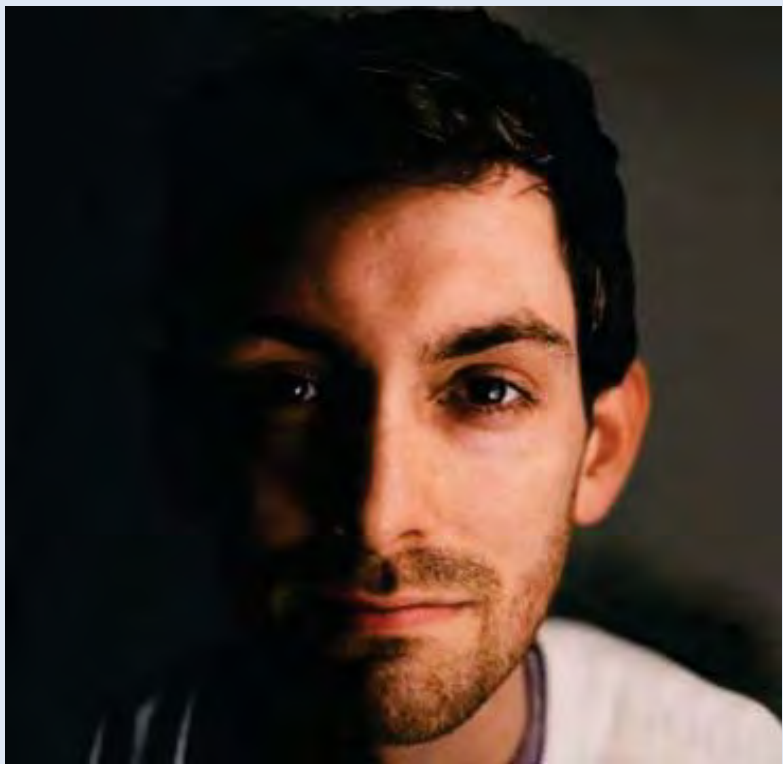
The camp was located at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, a satellite campus of the Smithsonian National Zoo located in Northern Virginia where some of the most endangered animals live for breeding and research purposes. SCBI is a magical place, gorgeous landscapes filled with research plots, fascinating people, and of course, endangered animals like kiwis, scimitar-horned oryx, cheetahs, przewalski's horses, red pandas, clouded leopards, and more. Living at SCBI we got to interact with the zookeepers, researchers, zoo veterinarians, and interns and learn about all the interesting research going on. I was so excited by all the resources at SCBI that I incorporated as much as I could into my lessons. During my sustainable food systems class I took the kids on a driving tour of campus to see some of the related research plots. Seeing research being done on forest biodiversity, invasive plant control, healthy grassland research, and an active apiary, definitely drove home the concepts of healthy and integrated ecosystems that we'd been discussing in class. Then, in my science writing class I taught the kids a lesson on ‘the art of the interview’ and then brought in a zoo vet who was happy to answer all their questions. It was super interesting for me to hear about his work and extremely exciting for the kids, many of them listed it as their favorite class of camp!





# Where Are They Now?

Whether entering their careers or areas of higher study, our students are some of the best representatives of Villanova University. Investing in Blue White Scholars is truly a wise investment. Just read their stories! We love hearing about job offers that have taken them to new places, unexpected opportunities to use their talents, and the hard work they continue to do.



**Karl Souler, Class of 2008**

2016 has been a busy year for 2008 graduate Karl Souler. In January, he started working as a software engineer for Curate, a start-up company that specializes in visual commerce and content marketing. In September, Karl was married to Angela Daubert at Old St. Augustine's Church in Philadelphia. Angela is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) at Gamut Early Intervention, an organization that focuses on helping children with developmental delays, and their families. Karl also has a photography business, Karl Souler Photography, which he started back in 2013.



**Nina Manipon, Class of 2002**

Nina Manipon is Naturopathic Doctor in Stamford, Connecticut. After graduated from Villanova in 2002, Nina continued her education at Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Arizona, where she focused on women's health as well as general medicine. This February, Nina opened a new Revitalize Wellness Center. "My practice is truly about focusing on the root causes of illness and resolving any underlying symptoms with the right diet, nutrition and reducing stress levels."



# Where Are They Now?

## Spotlight on Our Past Recipients



**Brian Murray, Class of 2008**

In 2008, Brian Murray graduated from Villanova Summa Cum Laude, with two Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degrees in Political Science and Philosophy. He continued on to Law School at University of Notre Dame for his Juris Doctor (J.D.) in Law, but later found his passion for teaching, so he went back to school at James E. Beasley School of Law at Temple University and got his L.L.M. in Legal Education. Now, he is a Fellow at the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.



**Dena Vallano, Class of 2003**

Since graduating from Villanova in 2003 with a Bachelor of Sciences in Biology, Dena Vallano continued her education and has had a successful career. After Villanova, she attended Cornell University, where she received her PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in 2009. In 2011, Dena started working at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), collaborating with the Department of Defense, Army, US Army Corps of Engineers, and EPA to develop new and innovative ways to conserve water and improve water quality in support of the Army's Net Zero water sustainability goals.

# Donor of The Month



**BLUE WHITE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION**

amazon.mile

Donate

1-800-498-0977

Why We Are Needed

Blue White Scholarship Foundation

IMPACT

\$2.3M+

282+

160K+

772X

SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARS

COMMUNITY

DONATION ROI

Notes from our scholars

"Thanks to you, there is no longer a gap in financial need for me to attend college."

— Francesca Cocchi, English, Honors, Humanities & Creative Writing

OUR DONORS INCLUDE

Google AIG MERCK aetna gsk

Fox Rothschild & Co Pfizer Wyeth CHUBB Wawa

ExxonMobil JPMORGAN CHASE & CO. PNC FOUNDATION Beneficial

The Coca-Cola Company Principal Merrill Lynch Bank of America Corporation

Blue White Scholarship Foundation

## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER ASIM AHMED

What does a multi-million game like Pokémon and the Blue White Scholarship Foundation have in common? They both have the genius Asim Ahmed working on our behalf! Asim has done extraordinary work in designing the new website for Blue White, and will be honored as the Donor of the Months of November and December.

A graduate of the Class of 2016, Asim received a bachelor's degree in Economics from Villanova University with a specialization in Business Economics and a minor in Psychology. He is currently in San Francisco, CA, working in Product Marketing at Niantic Inc., a Google spinoff and the company behind the global gaming phenomenon Pokémon GO. In addition, he has been a long time partnered content creator with YouTube, primarily focused on producing gaming-related content.

You may remember Asim from last year because he was a 2015 –2016 BWSF Scholarship Recipient. Last year was the first year we had for 3 months in the Fall and 3 months in the Spring 5 hours of "Give Back" time as a requirement for the scholarship. Because of the bonding created from this time spent together, many of the students became friends with the other scholars and the students realized what hard



work it takes to raise money. Asim realized that he could use his talents to help take BWSF to a more professional level. He has put his talent to work and I hope all of you will go to the new web-site, and if you like the new look, then send back an E-mail with the subject line GREAT JOB ASIM! "Like" our Facebook page, too. Both sites are tracked and we will using the statistics in our fund-raising efforts. Watch for more great news about Asim who is now proudly serving on the Board of Directors.

Check out the NEW WEB-SITE -design by Asim Ahmed  
Go to [www.BlueWhiteClub.org](http://www.BlueWhiteClub.org)



# Acts of Kindness

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Amanda and Gina De Marco—  
A family that is always “Giving Back”

## NOVEMBER : GINA DEMARCO

Meet the magic behind some incredible auction items. For three years now we have held a Fall Fundraiser and the Sinatra Night. The Auction is the critical part of raising money. The Board of Directors is asked to donate items, but most items are single donations and the tasks of creating baskets, pricing, and writing up the descriptions and transporting the auction items is left to the Executive Director. Volunteer Gina DeMarco has spearheaded this huge undertaking and we cannot thank her enough for weeks of hard work. The entire DeMarco family has helped in the past with check in decorating and general fund-raising efforts. Gina is the consummate caregiver. She attended Hahnemann University School of Allied Health to become a Physicians’ Assistant and went on to get her Master’s in Forensic Medicine. Her passion for taking care of the young and old is inspiring! Yes, she rescues animals, too!

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## DECEMBER: Aileen Cordaro

Aileen is one of those wonderful school teachers that is always bubbly. Like most teachers she works a second job in the summer and we met while she was waitressing. I asked her about doing some extra work for the non-profit and started to tell her about BWSF, but she replied that she knew exactly who the Blue White Club was because of her cousin Catherine Moretto. Aileen’s cousin was a BWSF 2014 –2015 Scholarship Recipient, who received help from BWSF in her senior year enabling her to make it through graduation. Aileen gladly worked as a volunteer to check in over 100 people in at the door for the Homecoming party. Thank you Aileen! Teachers rock!







• **Road Rally Madness**— Our Scholars catch it every Fall. This is one of the ways for BWSF scholars to bond together and to encourage them to introduce the Foundation to other students in financial need. Raising awareness to let students know that there is an organization that is there to help them if they have maxed out of their financial loans is now a goal the students

decided they wanted to pursue and the Board agrees. This Fall event consists of clues and questions that each group in a car must unveil or discover. One part of the trip included a stop at Duncan's Farm where all the students got to pick out a small pumpkin. To see video's that the students took singing songs and dancing or just some funny pictures, visit our Facebook Page.







Hey, which way did they go?  
The Race begins!





# Fall Fundraiser



(Above)  
The music  
was grand!

(Right)  
Brain  
Muscarella

Shows off his  
basketball  
spirit!



Chris Thoeny, John & Katie Kokol, Stephanie Haas, Alanna & Matt Huber just finished dinner.



(Right) Your  
Votes are in!  
You chose  
BWSF Home-  
coming King  
& Queen

Francesca  
Cocchi  
&  
Greg  
Branigan



(Left) Dave '69 & Gail Weber.  
Mary Jo Liberatone ( Bob miss-  
ing from picture '61) John  
Maguire '61 and Don McGinley  
'61 posing with Wil right before  
the auction.





# BWSF Homecoming Party



**Top: Matt Powers, Matt Hughes, Luke Hensley, Caitlin McGorry, Greg Branigan, David Kreiser, Rita Marino, (1st on Bottom Marie Bouffard), Francesca Cocchi, RYANNE DUFFY, Catherine Fuller, Dave Castelli, Annina Baker**



**Collen Knudsen & friend, Lily Maddad, Nkemka Obineche and Matt Hughes**



**Dr. Alfred and Marybeth Wolanin enjoyed the tailgate, football game and the Homecoming Party**



**Jeremy Plymette does a little Christmas shopping for his niece.**



**BlueWhite**  
Scholarship Foundation

P.O. Box 412 Villanova, PA 19085  
[www.BlueWhiteClub.org](http://www.BlueWhiteClub.org)

## NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

***Merry Christmas to YOU, and to All “OPERATION SMILE “ — A DO GOOD CAMPAIGN***

**Looking for an easy way to support our students that will make you smile?**

- 1.) From a web browser on your computer or your phone go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)
- 2.) Select Blue White Scholarship Foundation as your charity.
- 3.) Amazon will remember this selection every time you shop and will donate .5% back to BWSF at no extra charge to you.
- 4.) Remember to shop on [www.Smile.Amazon](http://www.Smile.Amazon) to “do good”! You will have the same selections as on Amazon but now your shopping will help a person in need! Please spread the word.

