



**Merry Christmas from all of us
Blue White Scholarship Foundation**



Holiday 2022



Excitement is truly in the air for our students . The Christmas C.H.E.E.R messages were started two years ago due to the COVID-19 shutdown. Now we couldn't make peppermint bark chocolate to send out to our current donors, but the students wanted to still give back to donors, so ta da the Christmas

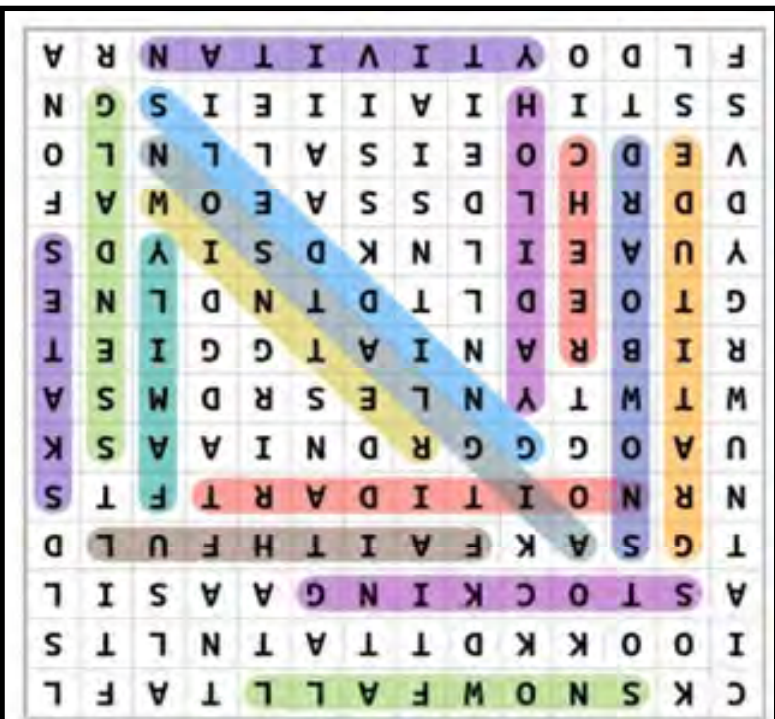
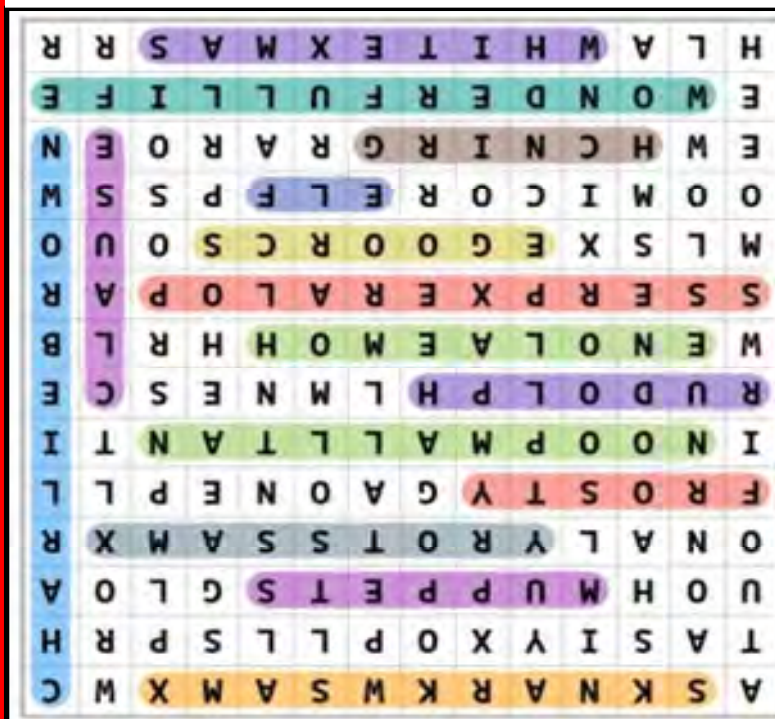
you will see the Christmas C.H.E.E.R. messages sent by email and those featured in this issue have a common theme- Christmas is a season of giving. Few students talk about their favorite present that they received growing up unless it is a trip with the family. In fact the main theme revolves around the importance of spending time with their family. In fact it is the most important factor in their lives. Students incorporate family into the most E-Exciting Part of Christmas and R-Remarkable Childhood Memories. Because there would be no Christmas without Jesus and Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birth and the beginning for all of us to be a part of his family it seems that these students have the right idea. Respect and cherish your family and give of yourself for them. Let us all be glad to have each other and rejoice that we are part of another family called the Blue White Club who has done so much good for students over the past 49 years. I hope you enjoy these messages of good cheer and glad tidings! God Bless you all.

Kate

P.S.-PLEASE-Ask your family to sign up BWSF & shop AmazonSmile. It will make a world of difference for us.

Movie Puzzle Answers Below

Cheer Puzzle Answers Below



Q: What is an endowment fund?

A: An endowment fund is a permanently restricted, self-sustaining source of funding. Endowment assets are invested. Each year, a portion of the fund's earnings are paid out to support the scholarship program. Earnings in excess of this distribution are used to build the fund's market value. In this way, an endowment fund can grow and provide support for its designated purpose in perpetuity. **When you establish an endowment fund, you create a permanent legacy granting scholarships in your name.**

Q: How much money does it take to fund an endowment?

A: There are two key types of gifts each with different participation levels:

Scholarship in Perpetuity - \$25,000+ will establish a named scholarship in your name or your beloved's name. This scholarship can be targeted for a particular major or school such as Engineering School or a particular major. Such as biology. The student will be chosen based on your scholarship-granting guidelines

Family Legacy Fund - A \$150,000+ gift will also establish a named endowment. A copy of your bio will be given every year to each student who receives this scholarship. Additionally, with a Family Legacy Fund, you and multiple generations of your family may participate in selecting each Scholarship, including reviewing Scholarship applications. Each succeeding generation in your family will be reminded of your generosity.

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

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



Our First Visitor

Last newsletter it was announced that the house in Berwyn would be open to any donor of the Blue White Scholarship Foundation. The phone rang and the only donor from Mississippi was on the other end. He asked, "Did you hear about Father Riley's passing?" I immediately asked if he would like to stay at the house if he came up for the funeral. He said yes and our adventure began. He has written a very sweet thank you, but what he doesn't include is that Don worked from the moment he woke up. First he assisted with the "Pay It Forward" ceremony on

Sunday. Monday we were one of the first people at the church around 3 pm and the very last to leave at 2 am from the Connelly Center where a reception was held after the funeral service. He had his dream come true in between these hours. The next day he couldn't get on a flight so Don volunteered to help around the house. He ended up helping an arborist take down a diseased tree. The two of them took down a 80 foot tree with only ropes and a saw. I held my breath, but Don knows his way around the outside because he runs a working farm. He graciously brought to us the most delicious dates on the planet. He had such a good time that he's planning a summer vacation here. Don wrote the note below and made a substantial donation:

"On September 24, 2022 I made a trip to Philadelphia, PA to pay my respects to my Villanova friend Father George Riley who passed on September 16.

Through the kindness and invitation of Kate and Joe I stayed at their home and was treated with great hospitality. Joe picked me up at the airport late on Saturday and after several days Kate and Joe took me very, very early in the morning to catch my return flight home. That was more than enough proof to let me know how special I was treated. We go through life and are fortunate to receive the goodness of friends and family. It is hard to understand this degree of kindness and friendship.

On Sunday the 25th, I was happy to assist and be a part of the "Pay it Forward" signing that took place at Valley Forge for seventeen Villanova students. Being there and assisting their ceremony gave me an inside view of the Blue and White Scholarship program and what it means to many of the students. I was able to visit along with their parents. It was very enjoyable to talk with students and their parents about their studies and future. The value of being a part of Villanova and the great alumni will nurture a lifelong love for the value of Villanova. We all are part of a world that can be consuming. Developing a foundation of values in life will help us steady the ship. As a Villanova graduate I have greatly benefited from my many experiences and connections over the years. Living and working in Mississippi has not stopped me from being proud of my Villanova roots. You will be surprised at the number of great Villanova connections I have made. One of my most special events was to make all THREE NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES(85, 16, & 18). In 2016 I got the opportunity to talk with former Coach Rollie Massimino before the North Carolina Final Four. While at the Father Riley visitation I was able to talk with Coach Jay Wright. What an honor to talk with two great men and Coaches. There are many Villanova connections, events, and friends. So many stories and events to be proud of. Going down the road of life I have continued to be honored and be a part of this University family. This is a lifelong part of my being a Villanovan. Villanovans Kate and Joe are great examples of making the best better by helping VU students with scholarships. Their leadership and work set an Augustinian example. I am honored, blessed, and feel very fortunate to "Pay it Forward" as a way of setting an example and saying Thank You Villanova.

Best regards, Don Kazery, Jr '71 —Jackson, Mississippi

Cheerful Trivia—flip the page for the answers!



1. Where did the tradition of placing a pickle ornament on the Christmas tree begin, and where would one expect to find this tradition still alive today?
2. 12 days of Christmas: can you name each of the twelve listed items?
3. When do the twelve days of Christmas officially begin, and what is the name of the holiday celebrated on Jan. 6th? What is its significance?
4. Which three gifts did the three kings bring to Christ on His birthday? Are the gifts symbolic?
5. How long can a Christmas tree last in water?
6. Where in the world is Christmas Island??? How did it receive its name?
7. When and where was the world treated to its first impression of Silent Night or, 'Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht'?
8. From which part of one's body does one lose the most heat in frigid weather?
9. From whence does the tradition of kissing under mistletoe originate?
10. What's the name of the actor that plays the main character in the movie Elf?

Will Ferrell

1. The pickle tradition is a German tradition. Surprised? (Germans have a taste for fermented foods - sauerkraut anyone?) The pickle represents good luck - on Christmas morning the first child to find the pickle will receive an extra gift. This tradition dates back to the 1880s when Woolworths began to import German glass Christmas ornaments.
2. One partridge in a pear tree, two turtle doves, three French hens, four colly birds, five golden rings, six geese a-laying, seven swans a-swimming, eight maids a-milking, nine ladies dancing, ten lords a-leaping, eleven pipers piping, twelve drummers drumming
3. Christmas officially begins on the 25th of December and proceeds until January 6th, known as Little Christmas, because that is the date the magi arrived in Bethlehem bearing gifts for Christ
4. Gold, frankincense, myrrh - in these times gifts of this nature symbolized both the wealth and prominence of the individual bearing the gift and also the importance of the gift's recipient. Gold symbolized the recognition of Christ's royal status while frankincense symbolized His divinity. Myrrh, suggestive of death and burial, symbolized His humanity.
5. These living decorations last up to five weeks.
6. You'll find Christmas Island, population circa 2100 people, about 1400 kilometers (870mi) northwest of Australia. The island was "Christened" Christmas Island by one Captain William Mynors of the British East India Company in 1643; it was first sighted in 1615 by Richard Rowe aboard his ship the Thomas on Christmas Eve.
7. Silent Night or Stille Nacht was first performed at the St. Nicholas parish church in the Austrian village of Oberndorf on Christmas Eve of 1818. Father Joseph Mohr, a Catholic priest, wrote the poem Stille Nacht just after the Napoleonic Wars in 1816. Franz Xavier Gruber, schoolmaster and organist composed the melody for the poem initially for the guitar as he feared the church's organ would fail on Christmas Eve due to water damage from seasonal floods. The now-famous melody caught the attention of Alexander I of Russia and Franz I of Austria before making its way to the Americas.
8. The head. The body loses 65% of its heat through radiation in cold weather, similar to heat leaving a wood stove, so it left uncovered the head quickly becomes cold. In order to avoid hypothermia in frigid weather be sure to wear a hat!
9. Mistletoe dates back thousands of years to its medicinal use by Celtic Druids in what was once called Gaul (now the British Isles - Ireland and Scotland). The Druids, or pagans, ascribed medicinal powers to mistletoe along with superstitious belief: the leafy green sprigs were thought to ward off nightmares. The Druids became especially fond of the sight of mistletoe as its blooms represented the conclusion of unfathomably difficult winters and the survival of the clan. Over a thousand variants of mistletoe span the world today.

Christmas 2022 WordSearch Puzzle



GLADNESS
HOLIDAY
TRADITION
NATIVITY
SLEDDING
SNOWBOARD
FAMILY
WINTER
GRATITUDE
FAITHFUL
NOSTALGIA
SNOWFALL
STOCKING
CHEER
SKATES



Christmas Movies



NATL LAMPOON
CLAUDE
POLAR EXPRESS
RUDOLPH
CHARLIE BROWN
ELF
WONDERFUL LIFE
SCROOGE
XMAS W KRANKS
GRINCH
XMAS STORY
HOME ALONE
MUPPETS
FROSTY
WHITE XMAS

Student SPOTLIGHT Michael Dominguez –

When I'm asked, "What are you studying at school?" and I answer with "Applied quantitative finance," there is usually one common response: "What the heck did you just say?" To not get too deep into it, I say something like, "It's a finance major with a bunch of math and stats courses," but it is way more than just that.



Applied Quantitative Finance (AQF) is an additional concentration placed on top of a normal finance major. Unlike most majors and minors at Villanova, you are required to apply to the concentration, and it is not guaranteed you will be accepted. According to the Villanova website, Quantitative Finance is an area where STEM meets finance and is a field that is heavily reliant on models and complex analysis. The curriculum includes higher-level courses in Math, Statistics, Analytics, and Computer Science. The description says the concentration focuses on the quantitative side of financial markets, but that's not what necessarily drew me to apply.

Since elementary school, mathematics has always been my thing, so when I had no idea what I wanted to study in school, I figured I'd like finance because numbers were involved. Revolutionary thinking, right? After taking a few business classes in the fall

of freshman year, I felt like I needed something more. Due to a combination of trying to say "yes" to new experiences and a want for something a little different, I applied to the AQF concentration. Though I was a little skeptical to begin with, the director, Steve Padovano, was very adamant that he was there as a 24/7 resource to get AQF students to where they wanted to be career wise. Now, most of my friends in the program were set on being a trader or landing an investment banking position from the start, and this program was going to be how they got there. However, in my case, I was more interested in the fact that I wouldn't just be taking finance courses. I've been taught that being involved in as many areas as possible can only do you well, especially in my situation, where I was clearly not set on a specific career. In addition to math, analytics was always something that interested me, and though I knew little about computer science, I was told millions of times that coding was going to be a necessary skill moving forward.



Returning to present day, so far, I've only taken two upper-level math courses pertaining to AQF, so I look forward to really diving into it this fall. My first AQF exclusive class will be "Programming for Adaptive Problem Solving." I'm especially looking forward to this class because I would like to build upon my basic knowledge of programming that I received from my "Programming for Beginners" course I took last semester. I'll be

abroad in the spring semester, so I'm not allowed to take any AQF specific classes then, but when I return for senior year, I'll be taking courses such as "Applied Machine Learning," "Econometrics," and "Derivatives."

Though I haven't taken many AQF classes yet, I've already reaped some benefits of being a member of the program. Steve Padovano has been an essential resource for me in the internship search process. Being that he worked on Wall Street for so long, Steve knows the ins and outs of the recruitment process and has trained his students to succeed in interviews and Superday's. I'm proud to say that I've accepted a Summer 2023 Fund Services internship with Morgan Stanley in their Times Square office, and I attribute my success to Steve and the AQF program.



I am incredibly grateful for my time in the AQF program, and now as a Blue White Scholar, I can continue to learn as much as possible to prepare me for what's to come. Though I don't know if Financial Markets is where I'll be for the long term, I look to leverage what I learn at Morgan Stanley in whatever I do afterwards, and BWSF has allowed me to keep pushing forward.

Dear Blue White family,

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and I hope you enjoy this joyous holiday season. My name is Michael Dominguez. I am a junior Finance and MIS major at Villanova, and I received a Blue White Scholarship. I hope this C.H.E.E.R. letter will encourage you to make more generous donations to the Blue and White foundation. Given the devastating impacts of the pandemic and the now very prevalent effects inflation has on families, more and more college students are in need of financial help through organizations like Blue White to continue their schooling. Blue White took a huge hit during 2020 as it was unable to hold two fundraisers. This year, we are looking to build off of last year in terms of progress and continue the spirit of giving. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas filled with cheer and joy for all!

C – CHRISTMAS TRADITION

My favorite Christmas tradition is cooking all of the family specialty dishes as a family. For Christmas day, my mom's whole side of the family goes over my grandma's house after mass. We're Croatian/Italian, so we have cook the traditional Italian dishes like parmigiana and lasagna, but my favorite is the roasted lamb and fuži, a Croatian pasta that we only make for special occasions. While we cook, stories are told about my family's past in Croatia, and it's always a great time to bond.

H – HYMN OR CHRISTMAS CAROL

My favorite Christmas song is "White Christmas." I'm not sure why, but I feel like the best Christmases always fell on a day when it snowed. I'll always remember waking up Christmas morning, looking out my window at the falling snow, and racing downstairs to see what was under the tree. Furthermore, I love the slow pace of the song, and it's very easy to sing along with.



E – EXCITING PART OF CHRISTMAS

For me, the most exciting part of Christmas took place on Christmas Eve every year. My cousins and I always rushed to eat dinner because that meant we were closer to seeing Santa and the toys he would bring us. Of course, Santa was actually just one of my uncles dressed in a Santa costume, but there was a time when we couldn't comprehend that, and even after we eventually put it together, it was just as exciting to get presents. So after dinner, we would race upstairs and find a way to pass the time, while we intently listened for the ring of a bell to notify us that he had arrived. I'd say this 30 minutes to an hour between dinner and the ringing of the bell was the most exciting part of Christmas because my cousins and I were always so eager to finally hear it. Once we finally hear the ring, we'd basically jump down the stair and race to the living room to see everything under the tree.

E – ENTERTAINING MOVIE

One of my favorite Christmas movies is "The Polar Express." I have vivid memories of watching it with my brother and our cousins every Christmas Eve when they aired it on TV. I feel like it's such a classic Christmas movie, and the main theme of the movie, "to believe," is such an important part of enjoying Christmas. There are also some classic scenes in the movie, especially the "hot chocolate" scene.



R – REMARKABLE CHILDHOOD MEMORY

One of my most memorable childhood Christmas memories happened when I was around 10 years old. My family and a couple of my friends' families drove to Pennsylvania to take a train ride similar to the one in "The Polar Express." On the drive there, the seatbelt that one of my friends was using wouldn't unlatch. Once we tried everything we could to unlatch it, we figured it was worth a try for him to climb out of the seatbelt, however, when he tried to, the seatbelt actually tightened, and now he was really stuck. It started to get painful, and we ended up having to call the police to cut him out. The whole thing was kind of scary at the moment, but now we look back on it and laugh.

Recipes: 'Hot Chocolate with a Caramel Twist' & 'Best Gingerbread Cookies'

Care for something warm, sweet and aromatic?

First you'll need:

- 2 cups chocolate milk (premade or homemade)
- 2 tablespoons caramel topping
- Chilled whipped cream (if desired)
- Pecans, chopped (if desired) For those who don't care for nuts: smashed candy cane bits

Hot Chocolate Directions

1. Stir milk and caramel in a 1 qt saucepan until well blended.
2. Heat over medium-high heat, stirring frequently until hot.
3. Pour into four mugs.
4. Garnish with whipped topping, nuts, candy



How about something yummy?

Usher in the holiday season with this quick and easy set of instructions for up to 72 gingerbread cookies!



First you'll need:

- 5 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking soda
- 1 cup margarine
- 1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup molasses
- 2 tablespoons vinegar

Cookie Directions

1. Combine first 3 ingredients in a bowl.
2. Cream margarine, add sugar then eggs one at a time.
3. Now add molasses and vinegar.
4. Mix in the flour.
5. Roll out then use cookie cutters.
6. Bake 10-12 minutes @ 350 degrees.
7. After they are baked you can decorate the way you like.



(recipes submitted to food.com by Lavender Lynn and 'MMLWJR')

Forty –nine years ago the original or predecessor to this Foundation was the Wildcat Club. This non-profit was funded by four men one of which was Father George Riley . It is with sorrow in my heart that I bring you news of his passing. Father George enjoyed many evenings of merriment at my parents home in Avalon, N.J. My Mom played the piano, everyone sang, everyone had a cocktail and my Father made his famous Italian homemade pasta, gravy, meatballs, chicken in olive oil and eggplant parmigiano. Then there was the lobster dinners. Father “Gorgeous” told many, many jokes! I had the honor of attending his funeral and wanted to share with you the following letter sent out by Father Peter Donohue, OSA President, on Sept. 16, 2022.



Dear Members of the Villanova Community,

It is with great sadness that I share that the Rev. George F. Riley, OSA, a well-known and beloved member of the Villanova community for the last 65 years, passed away peacefully this morning.

During his more than six decades at Villanova, Fr. Riley touched the hearts and minds of many of those around him, impacting the Villanova community as a whole by serving in a variety of University roles—including professor, counselor, advisor and fundraiser. After being ordained, he taught theology and ethics at Villanova, was the University’s liaison for the Peace Corps, and made a difference in the lives of countless students as their counselor and advisor in the dorms. He also served as the vocation director for the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova and was the secretary and archivist to the Provincial of the Order from 1969 to 1971.

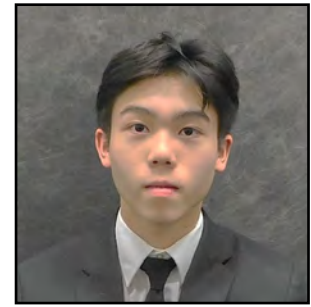
In 1972, Fr. Riley was named Vice President for University Relations, overseeing the Offices of Development, Public Relations, Alumni Affairs and Career Services. In this role, Fr. Riley was instrumental in the University's first two capital campaigns, Covenant I & II, raising more than \$83 million for Villanova, which helped to build two campus landmarks—the Connelly Center and the Pavilion. Essentially, he established a more formalized fundraising function at Villanova, which is why the space housing University Advancement now bears his name.

A native of Lawrence, Massachusetts, Fr. Riley attended Merrimack College for two years before coming to Villanova and graduating in 1958 with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. He then went to Augustinian College in Washington, DC, for theological studies and received a Master of Arts from Villanova University and the Catholic University of America, where he also earned a PhD in Education. He was ordained in 1962 and has been at the University ever since, serving seven different University presidents. Last fall, the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova’s fund to support the care of elderly and infirm friars was named in Fr. Riley’s honor, a fitting tribute for his numerous contributions to the Augustinian and Villanova community.

Fr. Riley served other communities as well, spending his weekends ministering to seven different parishes in South Jersey during the past 50 years, most recently at St. Brendan the Navigator in Avalon. He has also received numerous awards over the years, including the Commodore John Barry Award from the American Catholic Historical Society, the first President's Cup from the Villanova Alumni Association for outstanding service, and Man of the Year awards from the Hebrew Academy of Atlantic County, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Southern New Jersey, Italian American Press and State of New Jersey Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

I know I speak for the entire Villanova community in saying that Villanova is a better place for Fr. Riley being a part of it. His knowledge has brought wisdom, his humor has brought joy and his dedication has brought inspiration to so many of those around him. His legacy and lasting impact on Villanova are evident in the stories and recollections of the generations of Villanovans, who speak so fondly of Fr. Riley and recall the significant role he played in their lives.

Sincerely,
Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA



Andrew Choy
Hometown
 Brooklyn, NY
Major
 Nursing



Abby Donoghue '24
Hometown
 Buffalo, New York
Major
 Computer Engineering

School Activities:

- New Student Orientation Counselor
- Villanova Irish Dance Team, Captain
- Villanova Art Club
- Villanova Outdoors Club
- Villanova Intramural Soccer

Career Aspirations:

To be a Disney Imagineer, or work with Virtual Reality game design combining art with engineering.

Favorite Quote:

"Sometimes I'll start a sentence and I don't even know where it's going. I just hope I find it along the way— Michael Scott..."

How the Blue White Scholarship Helps Me:

Four years ago my older sister Aemile was diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis. Years of procedures and failed treatments created an insurmountable amount of stress and financial struggles. .

Work Experience:

This summer I had the pleasure of being an IS support technician for six flags Darien lake. I was able to learn so much on the job. I also waitressed at the Orchard Park Country Club. In the past I have been a summer camp counselor, a substitute teacher and even a private Irish Dance Instructor. Working 50 hours a week definitely takes a lot of perseverance, but it's so worth it to be able to help pay for my education!



Mike Dominguez '24
Hometown
 New Hyde Park New York
Major
 Applied Quantitative Finance

School Activities:

- Villanova Wildcat Fund—Analyst
- Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity
- Special Olympics— Volunteer
- Global Markets Workshop —Member
- Intramural Sports

Career Aspirations:

To work at Morgan Stanley

Favorite Quote:

"May you always remember to enjoy the road, especially when it's a hard one." Kobe Bryant

Jobs I have worked to help pay for school:

Summers I work as a camp counselor and a park attendant on weekdays. Sporadically, I'll deliver DoorDash on weeknights. On the weekends, my friends and I run a startup power washing/ wood staining business on Long Island. During the school year do Federal Work-Study opportunities.

Nova has given me all of the tools I need to succeed in the business world, so it is only right to repay the school and it's people for what they've given me. This would most definitely include donating to BWSF for students who are in my situation. I believe anyone who goes to V.U. has proven that they have the drive and work ethic to succeed, but some of us just don't have the financial means, and this can be detrimental in progressing through certain stages in life. I will make it a goal of mine to provide this same help.

School Activities:

- Unity Clinic, vaccine administrator
- M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Ambassador, Panelist
- NovaDance, B+ Hero

Career Aspirations

I want to work in the intensive care unit at NYU Langone Health. After obtaining a couple years of critical care experience, I would like to return to school to get my Doctor of Nurse Practice and become a certified nurse anesthetist.

Favorite quote: "Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it." – Confucius

How the Blue-White Scholarship is helping me:

The Blue and White Scholarship provides not only me but also my family with assistance and ease from the financial burdens of loans.

Jobs I've worked to help pay for school:

PT/FT employee for an environmental startup, PT employee at a juice bar, internship at CHOP, patient care technician at Bryn Mawr hospital.



Stephen Sloane '23

Hometown

Pottstown, PA

#

Major

Astronomy & Astrophysics

School Activities:

- Astronomical Society, Vice President
- Astrophysics Mentor Program, Student Mentor
- Villanova Indoor Rock Climbing

Career Aspiration:

A career in space technology.

Favorite Quote:

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." - Albert Einstein

How the Blue White Scholarship is helping

Moreover, as a first-generation college student, this scholarship gives me the assurance to dedicate more of my time towards enriching college activities.

Jobs I have worked to help pay for school:

As of summer 2022, I'm working as an Information Technology Consultant and Astrophysics Research Intern, both at Villanova University. I've also have worked as a Physics Research Intern, a Teaching and Lab Assistant and a Public Observatory Operator since my freshman year.

As a first-generation college student, this scholarship gives me the assurance to dedicate more of my time towards enriching college activities that will contribute to my personal development and long-term goals. .



Katherine Flanigan '23

Hometown

Erie, PA

Major

Nursing

School Activities:

- SNAP (Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania); *Executive Vice President*
- New Student Orientation; *Orientation Counselor*
- NOVA dance; *Team Captain*

Career Aspirations: After graduation, I hope to work as a NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) Nurse at a children's hospital. After a few years of caring for newborns who require critical care and teaching and supporting their parents, hope to continue my work as a travel NICU Nurse. In the future, I plan to give back to local and international communities by volunteering my nursing skills to care for those in need.

Favorite Quote: "Great moments are born from great opportunities" - Herb Brooks

How the Blue-White Scholarship is helping me:

The Blue White Scholarship gives me a sense of relief while I am still going through school and allows me to begin paying off loans. This is a huge stressor for me as I have accumulated quite a bit since starting at Villanova. I can now focus on finding a career that I love, as the financial burden has been lightened.

Jobs I've worked to help pay for school:

Throughout my senior year of high school, I worked 15 hours a week at Wegmans as a cashier. Since freshman year at Villanova I've maintained these hours, worked as a lifeguard and at home a nursing assistant. I've also worked at Fox Chase.

Spotlight- Andrew Choy '23– Making Friends at Villanova

College is an important experience for people/individuals to grow socially, academically, and personally. It is through the difficult challenges and enjoyable memories that an individual experiences with their community that promote their growth on their college journey. To me, the Villanova Community consists of the variety of people that I interact with to create a feeling of inclusion, safety, motivation, and growth while on my way to becoming a Nurse Practitioner. From the first time I toured Villanova during Early Action Candidates day, I could sense the importance of *Communitas*” from the ecstatic energy radiating from the mass of Blue Key members. However, it was up to me to form my own community when I stepped onto campus. Luckily, throughout my college career I have had the fortune of forming a diverse community as I transitioned from high school in Brooklyn, to college at Villanova.

One of the very first communities that I joined at Villanova was the Healthy Living Learning Community in Caughlin Hall. I wanted to join this learning community out of all the other options because I wanted to have the support of maintaining a healthy life and be surrounded by like-minded individuals. This community helped me maintain a healthy lifestyle while transitioning into my roles and responsibilities as a college student by teaching me how to make smart food choices and various exercises. Moreover, I met many of my closest friends in Caughlin Hall through the Healthy Living Learning Community, where we helped each other avoid getting too overwhelmed with our school work by enjoying fun times together.

I also met some of my closest friends through student organizations such as Korean Student Association (KSA) and Asian Student Association (ASA). Coming from the largest public high school in New York City, I wanted to immerse myself in a diverse community. KSA and ASA provided me with a



community who I would be able to culturally connect and relate with in order to help me form a new home. These clubs helped facilitate connections and friendships with fellow Asian students around campus. I would not have met many of my friends without joining these clubs. I have also connected with many upperclassmen through these clubs who have shared their knowledge and advice with me to guide me throughout college. Specifically, I have met upperclassmen who are fellow Nursing majors and were instrumental mentors throughout my freshmen year.

Another important part of my Villanova community has been my involvement with the Student Nursing Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP).

This organization has guided me along my young nursing career by introducing me to the professional world of healthcare. I have had the opportunity to meet many nursing healthcare professionals from various backgrounds. Learning about these different fields of nursing has been extremely rewarding in helping me decide what field of nursing I want to pursue.

My Villanova communities have not only helped me to have an incredible freshman year through self-improvement, but they have also allowed me to help and empower others as well. Having these communities has made my college experience incredibly enjoyable, and I want to make sure that other students have the same opportunities I did. Joining Special Olympics and Nova Dance has provided me with communities that share this same passion for giving back to people and, through the work and events held throughout the year, I came to recognize my potential to use my abilities and the resources at

my disposal to expand my Community beyond Villanova’s campus, and to support others, whether that be by participating in fundraisers or raising team morale by cheering on athletes with disabilities. As an Ambassador for the M. Louise Fitzpatrick School of Nursing I have the opportunity to help too.. When a prospective student shadows me in my nursing classes, or if I am giving a tour, I have the ability to highlight the best features of the Nursing School. Ultimately, the several communities that I formed at Nova have come together to create a new home, for me a *“Communitas.”*



Hello Blue and White family. I wanted to wish you all a very happy holiday! My name is Andrew Choy and I am a senior nursing major. The winter holiday season is my favorite time of the year and I wanted to share some Christmas C.H.E.E.R with you all! The holiday is also a season of giving, and I hope to encourage you to continue your generous donations to Blue White. Have an amazing holiday season. have lots of joy!

C: Christmas Traditions

When I was a little kid me and my cousins would get together at my cousins house the day before Christmas. Everyone would have their presents under the Christmas tree in the living room, where everyone could see all the gifts that were going to be received on Christmas day, but no one could touch the presents until the 25th! As such, we would all play games together all day, eat an amazing delicious dinner, and when the clock struck 12:00 am, we all gathered our presents and opened them all together!

H: Hymn or Carol

Christmas songs are all so joyful and festive that there are so many that I enjoy. One of my favorite Christmas songs is “Last Christmas” by Wham!. However, more specifically I like the version of the song sung by Mariah Carey. Whenever I think about Christmas this is one of the first songs that comes to my mind.

E: Exciting Part of Christmas

An exciting part of Christmas besides the abundance of gifts and presents, is getting my entire family together, and the food that my family serves during Christmas! Now a days I don't get to see all my distant relatives often because everyone is busy. However, when I was a kid me and my cousins saw each other often and were really close. During Christmas, I look forward to seeing all my relatives together again where I can catch up with everyone. Typically we do a potluck where everyone brings some food to share with each other. I love the variety of food that is at the dinner table at the end of the day.

E: Entertaining Movie

One of my favorite Christmas movies is “The Polar Express”. I remember watching this movie when I was a kid and it was such an amazing movie that has a good mix of thrill combined with a happy ending. I enjoyed the plot of the movie as well because it kept me engaged and entertained!

R: Remarkable Childhood Memories

Family time is a really important part of the holiday times to me because it is a period of time where people have some form of break from work or school. However, it was always so heartbreaking to me when I had to choose between my mom's side of the family or my dad's side of the family to celebrate Christmas. I love them both equally, and often I would celebrate Christmas day with one family, and the day before or after Christmas with the other. One Christmas I recall after getting home from celebrating with my mom's side of the family, my parents decided to spontaneously travel to my dad's side of the family's house so we could celebrate with them on Christmas as well! This is my favorite Christmas memory.



Student Spotlight Abby Donoghue— A Christmas Miracle

My family was in the kitchen when it happened. I felt like I was moving in slow-motion as I picked up the phone and dialed 911, watching my father perform chest compressions on my lifeless sister. December, 2018 is a time that I will never forget. No fifteen-year-old should have to watch their sibling be loaded into an ambulance, not knowing if they will survive. At the time I was a sophomore in high school, and I had no idea that four years later my family would still be fighting to save Aemile's life.

My older sister was eventually diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis, and on that horrible day in the kitchen had suffered a Pulmonary Embolism. Four years of treatments, tests, medications, specialists, and out of town appointments took a tremendous toll on my family and created an overwhelming financial burden. During high school my parents had to spend months away from home and eventually moved to Indiana, eight hours away from me, to care for my sister. Out of necessity I became independent very quickly, hopping between friends' homes while I balanced my schoolwork and extracurriculars.



My sister Aemile (left) and me.

NYC to be her caretakers following the first surgery, and will have to remain there over the next year or so. Becoming part of the Villanova community has been one of the best things that has happened to me. In my time here at Villanova, I have dedicated a lot of energy to giving back to our community and getting involved on campus. As an Orientation Counselor, I am excited to continue guiding incoming freshmen, and look forward to staying involved in the Irish Dance Team (where I'm a Captain), the Art Club, and several other organizations. Villanova is my home, and without this scholarship it would have been impossible for me to continue my journey here.



The Blue White Foundation was truly a blessing for my family. There is no stress like trying to figure out a way to make ends meet when it seems like nothing ever has an "easy" button. My education is one of the most important aspects of my life, and I was devastated at the thought of cutting my time here at Villanova short. A friend of mine had recommended this scholarship to me, and every day I am here on campus I think about how lucky I am to have this opportunity. Over the summer I have spent countless

hours a week working two jobs, trying to save up for school. While I gained invaluable first-hand experience through them, the stress of having to think about continuing to work tremendous hours throughout the school year was overwhelming..

Because of the extreme generosity I have received from the Blue White Foundation, I know one day I would love to help another Villanovan in need. Getting accepted into Villanova is an impressive feat in itself, and balancing schoolwork and extracurriculars takes perseverance and determination. As someone who has found themselves spread thin at times trying to maintain this balance, I would love to ease the financial burden of another student in need. Becoming a donor in the future is a huge goal of mine, I can only hope I will be able to alleviate another student's weight off their shoulders, as has been so graciously done for me.



Aemile and I before my rounds at my regional dance competition!

C: Christmas Tradition

Growing up my family had our very own special Christmas tradition. There was a pickle-shaped ornament that my sister and I would race to find every Christmas eve. My parents would hide it the night before, and the first sister to find got to open the very first present on Christmas morning! It has become a long standing competition, and 15 years later, my sister Aemile and I still race to find the hidden pickle!

H: Hymn or Carol

Though there are thousands of Christmas songs and carols, one in particular stands far above the rest for me. "I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" by John Rox is my most favorite holiday song. In elementary school we would sing it in our Christmas Chorus Concert every year, and I will never forget the silly motions and dances we would do along to the song. While it is a very silly song, it reminds me of some great memories with friends and family during the holiday season.

E: Exciting Part of Christmas

One of my favorite parts of the holiday season is getting to spend time with my family all together. Since I go to school in Philadelphia, I do not get to see my family very often, and usually during holidays or special occasions. Christmas is one of the few times during the year in which my extended family also comes to town to be together.

E: Entertaining Movie

The all time best Christmas movie (in my opinion) is *Elf*. My sister and I have always dreamed of trying Will Ferrell's famous spaghetti with maple syrup, and maybe this year is finally the year! If you love a heart-warming story of family bonding and lots of laughs, this is the movie for you!

R: Remarkable Childhood Memories

Growing up in ski country always made for a very fun Christmas morning. My sister and I would suit up and head straight outside as soon as we were done opening presents and spend the whole day sledding. Playing in the snow and making snow angels with my friends and family was one of the best memories I had growing up during the holidays. I even learned how to ski and ice skate at just 3 years old!

Picture on Left: My first day on the slopes in my favorite princess jacket.

Picture on Right: My Mom teaching me how to ice skate at just 3 years old!



My friend Grace and I on Christmas Eve last year!



Student SPOTLIGHT Stephen Sloane—What is a Black Star?



As a first generation college student accepted to one of the most prestigious and expensive universities in the country, I was overjoyed to enroll at Villanova University, but I was also intimidated when I began my freshman year in fall 2019, fueled in part by the nightmare stories I'd read of some students' enormous debt post-graduation—how was I going to afford my costly education?

Despite my fears, Villanova has provided me with amazing opportunities I didn't even know existed as a freshman. In a matter of 3 years, I've worked my way through college as an Observatory Attendant, a Teacher's Assistant, an Information Technology Consultant, and a two-time research intern with our Physics and Astrophysics departments.

Last year, I worked with my former professor Dr. Joey Neilsen on astrophysics research of the obscured emission state of a stellar-



black hole system called GRS 1915+105. Black holes are objects that are so dense that they warp the fabric of spacetime. They can form when stars as big as our Sun (or bigger) implode and collapse into extremely small areas. Stellar-black hole systems like the one I studied contain a black hole and an orbiting star that it

accretes matter off of. You can think of it like the black hole “eating” the star.

Through my research, I had the opportunity to strengthen my skills in computational astrophysics, building photoionization models to represent the suspected physical nature of our target black hole's strange, obscured emission period. Together, we built a model that strongly explained the system's behavior, and I presented my results at the Villanova Student Research Symposium in 2021. I was also selected to present at the 239th *American Astronomical Society* meeting, but it was unfortunately canceled due to COVID-19.

This research mentorship taught me about the importance of teamwork when facing great challenges. Many difficult areas of life can be benefitted by having a friend or colleague close by, so I'm overjoyed to become part of the Blue White Scholarship Foundation for its ideals of camaraderie, networking, and fellowship.

Now—how did I get this far? Although I helped fund a good portion of my education through extensive work experience, I was also fortunate to receive significant government aid

through FAFSA for most of my years at Villanova, filling in the gaps with student loans and assistance from my parents. To save myself more financial headache after graduation, I began to pay off my student loan interest while in school. This is helpful down the road, but it makes it more difficult for me to contribute to my tuition bills

each semester. These big loan payments, combined with a lower FAFSA grant and worsened financial stress on my family due to illness, made it increasingly difficult to pay for my education even *with* government aid. That's why this year I sought out the Blue White Scholarship, and I'm profoundly grateful

to have been chosen by its members as a recipient. This generous scholarship will help me fund my final year at Villanova and reduce the financial anxieties on me and my parents during a time of great need. With the help of this scholarship, I'm confident that I will be able to further my academic and career growth in unforeseen ways this year and continue doing the impossible.

I'm also an active member of the Villanova Astronomical Society. The club has fun stargazing and recreational events year-round. One of our coolest trips is to the Green Bank Observatory, the world's largest steerable radio telescope (basically a huge satellite dish)



Me in front of the telescope on our recent 2022 observatory trip.

based in the National Radio Quiet Zone of West Virginia. The U.S. heavily restricts radio transmissions in places like these to help facilitate scientific research. That means no cell phones, but it also means views of the night sky that are incomparable to anywhere else in the country. You can even make out the cloudy shape of the Milky Way on a clear night! The Observatory's powerful Green Bank Telescope tracks radio signals from beyond Earth. It's helped us make discoveries like detecting the compounds necessary for DNA near the center of our Galaxy. I have fond memories as a freshman of encountering this monolithic piece of scientific innovation deep in the night with other awestruck Villanovans.

Sending you Christmas C.H.E.E.R. !

Dear Blue White Family, I'm wishing you and all of your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year! My name is Stephen Sloane. I'm a senior Astronomy and Astrophysics major at Villanova University and recipient of the Blue White Scholarship, which has been funded year-to-year by generous donors like yourself. This holiday season, I hope you are inspired to give back to those in need and will consider donating to the Blue White Foundation! :

If my letter puts a smile on your face, please consider contributing to the Blue White Scholarship Foundation during this season of giving to help students like me ensure we can continue our educations and graduate without significant financial burden. Every single contribution goes a long way. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

C: Christmas Tradition

My favorite Christmas tradition is gathering wood that my family and I pile up during the year, then lighting a warm and cozy fire in our living room fireplace. After lighting the fire, we spend time all together looking at pictures from over the year and put on a Christmas film.



H: Hymn or Christmas Carol

My favorite Christmas song is the classic “Last Christmas” by *Wham!* Although the song’s theme is mostly romantic, it also talks about the importance of giving your heart to someone special. Each holiday season, it’s worth it for us to reflect a little bit on not only what we have spent our time on during the year, but on *who* we have spent that time with. One of the ways we show those we love that we appreciate them is by spending time with them. Oftentimes, we get the chance to do that on holidays like Christmas, but we should do it all year-round!

E: Exciting Part of Christmas

For me, the most exciting part of Christmas is being able to spend quality time with my extended family. The past couple of years with COVID-19 have made it a lot more difficult to do this especially as my grandmother gets older, so I treasure all the memories of family Christmas celebrations in the past and look forward to the possibility of enjoying Christmas with my extended family again soon.



E: Entertaining Movie

There are many to choose from, but one classic Christmas movie my family and I always enjoy is the *Polar Express*. I remember watching the movie for the first time as a child and being amazed with the lifelike animation. Besides its great visuals, music, and cast, the movie also teaches lessons about the power of adventure and belief.

R: Remarkable Childhood Memory

I will never forget using the holiday-decorated spaces of my home to play out different Christmas stories with my toys and action figures as a kid. For my toys, the Christmas tree in our living room was gigantic, and the Christmas toy train tracks we had were like those for a real train in my imagination. I especially loved to reenact different Christmas movies, or films I liked that I put in a Christmas context.



Student SPOTLIGHT Katherine Flanagan – *Why Nursing*

It is crazy to think back to the start of my time at Villanova. I really had no idea what I was getting myself into when it came to nursing and what I was going to do with the rest of my life was still a mystery to me. I definitely do not have it all figured out, but it has completely changed over time as I began to get involved with other organizations outside of my nursing classes. One way I have found my passion for caring for others is actually through the New Student Orientation Program. I have served as and Orientation Counselor and Steering Leader the past three years and it has been life changing. As silly as this may sound, the new students entering college for the first time might be going through the most vulnerable experience of their life. I think this is very similar to patients in a hospital. Most times people are very worried and scared about how things are going to turn out when they are in the hospital, similar to college freshmen. This perspective has allowed me to become a better nurse for my patients and focus on the concern of the person and less on the to-do list.

I know that sometimes being a nurse will not be easy, but I also know that my life experiences outside of the clinical setting have prepared me to be the best person for my patients. Something I strongly believe in is advocating for others when they

cannot advocate for themselves. This is the way I care for my patients, but I have practiced this for longer than I even realized. I cannot give enough credit to organizations such as Orientation for strengthening my voice and allowing me to practice this idea of advocating for others on a regular basis. One of the workshops I lead for the orientation staff this past year was called facilitating tough conversation with new students. So much of what I shared on this topic with staff came from my nursing knowledge and my experience in



***My Steering Group and me my junior year
(I'm in the middle first level)***

patient care.

This summer I had the wonderful opportunity to work as a Nurse Extern at Fox Chase Cancer Center. This experience exposed me to the world of oncology and the different routes I can take in my nursing career. Throughout the program I was able to shadow different areas in the hospital and learn from many different health



care professionals, not just nurses. This 8-week program made me a better leader and really prepared me for what my future career will be. I have a strong connection to the field of oncology and could see myself doing something in this specialty for a very long time. I am so thankful to have had this position this summer as it reminded me how much I love to serve others and honestly, I cannot wait to do just that for the rest of my life.

At this point, I think you can see my love for giving back and when it comes to the Blue White Scholarship Foundation this thought process will be no different. As someone who has worked their way through high school and college to pay for my education, I understand fully the toll this can take on a student. All I hope to do in the future is to lighten this burden on others by paying it forward. I cannot thank the donors enough for what they have been able to provide for me and I know I will be able to do the same for someone else and that makes me so happy. I also know that throughout my senior year I want to spend time working with Kate to brainstorm ways to get more people engaged in this wonderful



Hi Blue White Family,

This is Katherine Flanagan sending you a C.H.E.E.R. to wish you a very Merry Christmas season! Christmas has always been one of my favorite holidays and I hope you enjoy learning about some of my Christmas traditions and maybe it will inspire you to provide a generous donation back to the foundation.

C: Christmas Tradition

One of my family's favorite traditions has always been ice skating in the morning on Christmas Eve. One of our family friends has always rented out the local ice rink to whoever would like to skate. We have been doing this since I was very young and it's always a great way to head into Christmas Eve!



H: Hymn/Christmas Carol

My favorite hymn has to be Silent Night. As many churches do, my church's Christmas Eve mass always sings Silent Night after communion every year. It is beautiful when they turn off the lights and all you can see are the lights on the trees and candles on the altar. I also attend an Irish Catholic Church and every year there is someone who plays the bagpipes!



E: Exciting Part of Christmas

For me, the most exciting part of Christmas these past three years has been being able to go home. It is our longest break throughout the year, so it makes me so happy to know that I will have a long period of time to spend with family and friends.

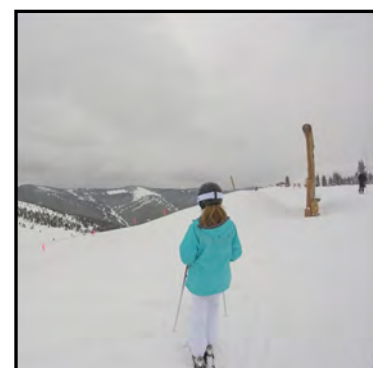
E: Entertaining Movie

My all-time favorite Christmas movie has to be Elf. My family and I end up watching it a handful of times every Christmas season. My friends and I have been able to take a trip up to NYC at the beginning of December every year as well and being there just reminds me of all the scenes in the movie.



R: Remarkable Childhood Memory

My freshman year of high school my grandparents surprised my brother and I with a ski trip to Vail, Colorado! This had to be one of the best Christmas gifts I had ever received. My whole family loves to ski, but my grandparents are especially good. They have good friends out in Vail that they are able to visit and stay with every winter. The trip was an amazing experience!





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Jesus is the reason for the season.
May your heart be filled with
good tidings of comfort & joy



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