

A US COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

JOSEPH ZINNO

MAY 3, 2023



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY & FULBRIGHT FINLAND FOUNDATION

|

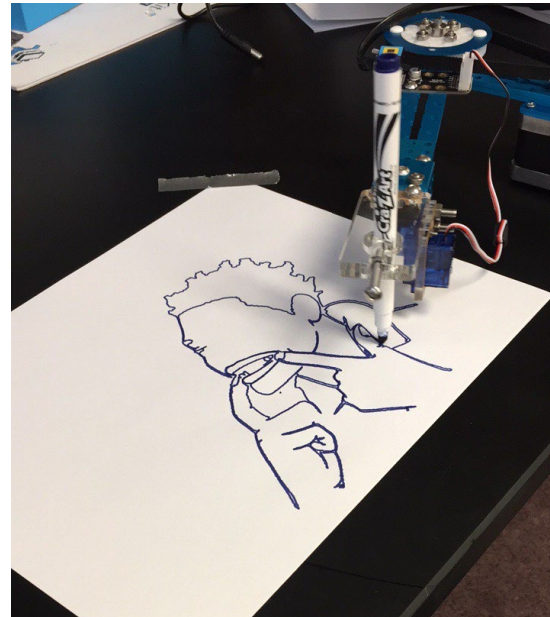
LOOK AHEAD

1. Path to Villanova
2. Villanova Experience
3. [Villanova's] Fulbright Application Process
4. Finland Experience
5. Being a Lifelong Villanovan

I. PATH TO VILLANOVA

BACKGROUND

- Steubenville, Ohio
- Engineering as a means to an end goal of entrepreneurship.
- Odds and ends businesses/jobs growing up.



MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS

- Academic Program
 - Major
 - Minor programs and additional opportunities
 - Abroad options
- Campus Size
- Financial Considerations
- Alumni Relations
 - Reputation/Prestige
- Athletics



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering



IBE

Integrated Business and Engineering
Honors Program

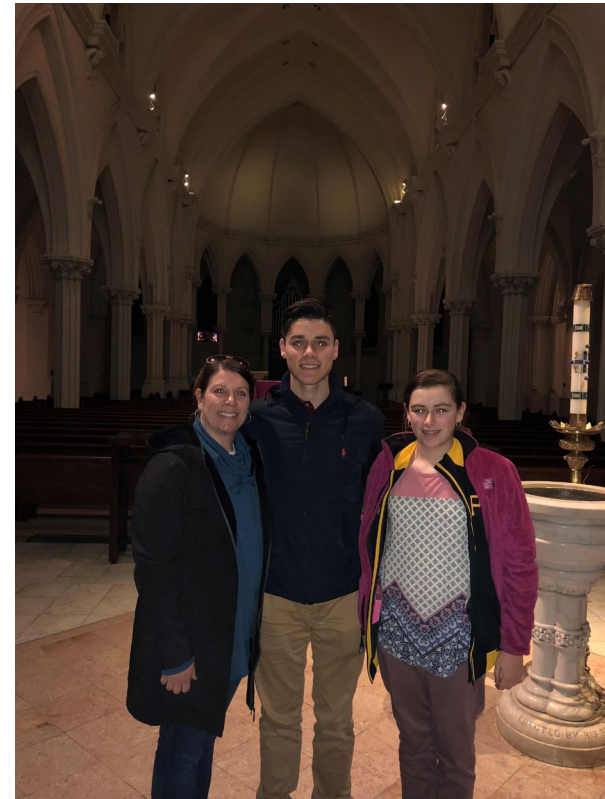
APPLICATIONS

- Components
 - The Common App
 - Standardized Tests
 - Supplemental Materials
- 20+ Applications
 - Reach, Target, and Safety
- **“When in doubt, apply”**

The screenshot shows the 'College Search' tab in the Common App interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Dashboard, My Colleges, Common App, College Search (selected), and Financial Aid Resources. The main content area is titled 'College Search' and includes a search input field labeled 'College or City Name'. Below the input field, there is a note: 'Separate multiple search terms with a comma, e.g.: Washington, Boston'. A 'More filters' button is visible. To the right of the search area is a 'Application Requirements' button. Below the search area, it shows '911 results' and a 'Sort by: College Name' dropdown. A list of colleges is displayed, each with a plus icon, the college name, location, and a three-dot menu icon. The colleges listed are: Aberystwyth University (Aberystwyth, Ceredigion - GBR), Adelphi University (Garden City, NY - USA), Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA - USA), Alaska Pacific University (Anchorage, AK - USA), and Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. On the right side of the interface, there is an 'Instructions and Help' section with a link icon. It contains two sections: 'How do I search for a college?' and 'How do I find colleges that are a good fit for me?'. Both sections provide brief instructions and a 'Read more' link.

DECISION PROCESS

- Wait
 - Different rounds and decision periods
- Visit
- Evaluate
- Eliminate



DECISION

Mail LTE 4:20 PM 43% discover.villanova.edu

Grea Today

Congratulations!

The Committee on Admission is pleased to inform you of your Early Action admission as a student to the Civil Engineering major of the College of Engineering for the Class of 2022. Let me personally extend to you a warm welcome to Villanova University.

Your admission through our Early Action program is an accomplishment of which you can be proud, especially this year as the Office of University Admission experienced the largest Early Action pool of applicants in our University's storied history. Early Action admission is only awarded to candidates like you with exceptional academic credentials and exemplary involvement outside of the classroom.

What sets Villanova apart is our Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition, which is the cornerstone of our academic community in which you will learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others. Villanova prepares students to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them.

Dear Joseph,

I am pleased to offer you an opportunity!

You may be interested in the information as follows:

Parents' 2016 Information Packet

Based on your application, you are a Dean's Scholar.

Please confirm your admission choice by 5:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 1, 2018.


[Yes, I will accept.](#)
[No, I have declined.](#)

Once we receive your admission choice, we will send you an admission packet. Should you have any questions, please contact the Office of University Admission at (610) 855-2222.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Chen
Dean of Admission
Office of Undergraduate Admission
northeastern.edu

Shortly, you will be receiving an admission packet by mail. I encourage you to review those materials which highlight the distinctive benefits of a Villanova education and detail what steps you need to take in order to become a member of our community. Most importantly, your non-refundable \$700 admission deposit must be submitted online through your Applicant Status Page or postmarked no later than May 1, 2018. Also, it is understood that you will maintain satisfactory grades throughout your senior year and that you will complete all requirements for graduation. Your final high school transcript must be forwarded to the Office of University Admission no later than July 1, 2018.

Once again, congratulations on your admission to Villanova. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,


2. VILLANOVA EXPERIENCE

ACADEMICS

- Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering
 - Minors in Engineering Entrepreneurship and Mathematics
 - 5th Year Master's Track
- 0 AP or Transfer Credits*
- Villanova Engineering Service Learning (VESL)
- Veritas Publication
- Teaching Assistant



RESEARCH ARTICLE | MATHEMATICS & OPERATIONS

Small Group Optimization: Creating Balanced Environments for Villanova Buddies

Joseph Zinno

Villanova Buddies is a student organization at Villanova University with a mission of inclusion of individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities. A focus of Villanova Buddies is creating Small Groups comprised of students and individuals with disabilities. Groups convene throughout the semester to create a space for friendship and social interaction. To create well-rounded spaces, the formation process of Small Groups aims to evenly distribute participants by gender and class year throughout all Small Group time slots. This is important to create diverse groups, as participating Buddies come from all different backgrounds. It is crucial that all feel comfortable, no matter their age, gender identity, or interests. This paper explores the formulation of a mathematical model using linear programming and how the results of this formulation translate into Small Groups. Multiple models are used to analyze the tradeoffs between satisfying student preferences and balancing the groups.

CAMPUS LIVING

- 4 Years on Campus
- Full Meal Plan
 - ~7am – 2am
- [not so] Good Study Habits



CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

- Villanova Best Buddies
- New Student Orientation Program
- Engineering Student Council
- Institution for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

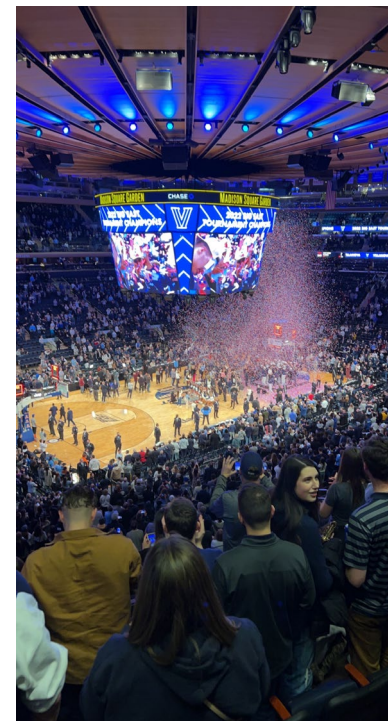


BASKETBALL



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY & FULBRIGHT FINLAND FOUNDATION

- ★ Villanova
- ★ Away Games (Drive)
- ★ Away Games (Fly)

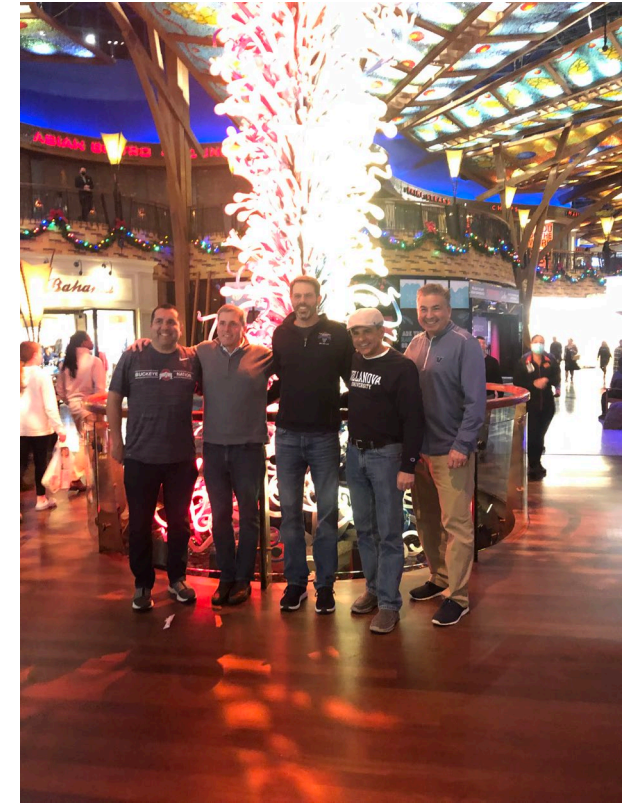


COMMUNITY

- Alumni Network
- Volunteering
 - On Campus
 - In the Local Community
- Upperclassmen Helping Underclassmen



A FAMILY AFFAIR



3. [VILLANOVA'S] FULBRIGHT APPLICATION PROCESS

WHY FULBRIGHT

19 Villanovans Win Prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Grants for 2022-23

VILLANOVA, Pa. – The U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board has announced the Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards for 2022-23, with 19 Villanova University students and alumni winning the prestigious awards. In addition to the 19 award recipients, 5 other Villanovans were selected as alternates and 25 earned recognition as semi-finalists.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program, offering students grants to conduct research, study and teach abroad. Villanova has been listed among the nation's top producers of Fulbright Students for more than a decade—a list highlighted annually in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. From 2016-21, 97 Villanovans received Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards.



VILLANOVA PROCESS

- More work at the beginning means [a little] less at the end.
- Deadlines early and often.

[←](#) Apr 7 **Event Details** [Edit](#)

Meeting with Kelsey Fenner (Fulbright)

Zoom

Wednesday, Apr 7, 2021
from 8:30 PM to 9 PM
from 1:30 PM to 2 PM (EDT)

8 PM

9 PM **Meeting with Kelsey Fenner (Fulbright) 1:30 PM (EDT) Zoom**

10 PM

WHY FINLAND – 3 MAJOR REASONS

1. Interdisciplinary Program Structure
2. Eligibility
 - English speaking
 - Competitiveness
3. Experience of a Prior Villanova Fulbrighter

Finland	Fulbright-Aalto University Graduate Award
Finland	Fulbright-University of Jyväskylä Graduate Award
Finland	Fulbright-Tampere University Graduate Award
Finland	Fulbright-LUT University Graduate Award
Taiwan	Master's Degree Program Award: National Cheng Kung University Award in Creative Industries Design
Netherlands	Fulbright/Delft University of Technology: Industrial Design Engineering Award
United Kingdom	Fulbright/University College London Entrepreneurship Award

4. FINLAND EXPERIENCE

MASTER'S OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN ENGINEERING AT LUT IN LAHTI

- Focus on consumer goods products.
- Heavy focus on project work sponsored by companies.
- Students come from engineering backgrounds, pure design backgrounds, among others.



FULBRIGHT FINLAND FOUNDATION



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY & FULBRIGHT FINLAND FOUNDATION

ACADEMIC DIFFERENCES

- Different motivations for taking courses and completing a degree.
- Much more responsibility on the students to learn.
- Potential driver of these differences is the much bigger deviation of outcomes in the US.



UNIVERSITY LIFE DIFFERENCES

- Campus by day, home by night.
- Limited lunch/food options.
- Afterparties for student events.
- Overalls



CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

- A new definition of “meeting for coffee”.
- Buying tickets to sporting events in Finland.
- Nuances apartment searching.



INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Exchange student community within LAB.
 - Pizza Fridays
- Dual enrollment bachelor's program at LUT.



5. BEING A LIFELONG VILLANOVAN

A GIVING CULTURE

- Even after paying \$100,000s for a degree, many alumni continue to donate and support Villanova for the rest of their life.
- 1842 Day is a 24 hour period of fundraising by Villanova every year.



Thank You, Nova Nation!

For 24 hours, we came together to show the world what it means to be a Villanovan. **THANK YOU** for supporting the people, places and programs that make our University truly exceptional.

Because of Villanovans like you, we reached our goal of 10,000 gifts and unlocked more than a dozen donor-sponsored challenges.

10,900+ Gifts

\$9.9M+ Raised

HOW I GIVE

- Young Alumni Circle
 - “The Young Alumni Circle offers undergraduates of the past 10 years a way to give back through incremental levels of support each fiscal year. Members help raise the bar for academics, athletics and student life, making the Villanova experience ever more valuable and meaningful.”

Young Alumni Circle Gift Levels

Fiscal Year 2022 (June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022)

Class Year	Annual Gift Amount
2021	\$100
2020	\$200
2019	\$300
2018	\$400
2012-2017	\$500

WHY I CARE

- I feel that Villanova provided me with tremendous opportunities.
- I am very passionate about the Villanova community, and I hope to give back as much as I can throughout my life.
- Villanova does a fantastic job about making students feel at home and making the connection between students and the University personal.



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?