

CHANGING THE FACE OF WOMEN IN ENGINEERING



**APRIL M. BARKASI '96 CE,
'98 MSWREE, PE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER, CEDARVILLE ENGINEERING
GROUP, LLC**

A career-day presentation encouraging students with strong math and science skills to explore engineering resonated with April Barkasi '96 CE, '98 MSWREE in her junior year of high school. The influence of her late father, an engineer, also played a role in convincing Barkasi that engineering was in her future. Her mother's job with the University, and the quality of its engineering program, led her to Villanova.

After a false start in chemical engineering, Barkasi's interest in natural resources and the influence of infrastructure planning and design on the environment led her to change her major to civil engineering, which she says is the best decision she has ever made. She followed her bachelor's degree with a master's in water resources and environmental engineering, and then proceeded to work for a number of consulting firms, finding innovative sustainable development solutions for a variety of private and public sector clients. When she learned that her

current employer would be closing its doors, Barkasi put the wheels in motion to start her own company. She says, "I was prepared to launch my firm the same day my employer closed. The professional relationships I built over time enabled me to start with a small, but solid client base." In 2010, Barkasi launched Cedarville Engineering Group, LLC, an engineering technology company in Pottstown, Pa., that specializes in civil engineering, municipal and environmental services, government contracting, software development and 3-D reality modeling. Growth has been sure and steady. From a staff of three in 2013, the company has grown to 35 full-time employees and counting.

Recently, Barkasi has been publicly recognized for her accomplishments. In 2016, *Engineering News Record* named her one of the Top 25 Newsmakers of the Year, and in 2017, she received her local Chamber of Commerce's Business and Volunteer of the Year Award. She and her company also were featured in an article in the *Reading Eagle Business Weekly* where Barkasi attributed her success to recruiting great people and being open to their ideas. She says, "We bring in people who are smart and passionate, and we encourage them to identify and develop their passions and interests. That's helped to drive the company's success."



Annina Hogan



Sheena M. White

When asked what motivates her, Barkasi stresses the importance of community and a shared vision. “I have an extended family in the Cedarville team, the clients we serve, and the communities that we live and work in. Most importantly, we all share a goal of making a difference with the things we do on a daily basis. Because of the unique skills and agility we bring to our work, we can have an impact on the quality of life for people. That’s very exciting.”

Barkasi believes that passion has been key in her career. “I’ve seen more things happen through passion than through logic. By nature, I am very analytical person, but when I marry that with passion, it’s contagious!”

ANNINA HOGAN ’13 MSChE, PE, RA, LEED AP, PARTNER, REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS

As the youngest of nine children raised in Southwest Philadelphia by a single mom and even more so older brothers and sisters, Annina Hogan ’13 MSChE learned the meaning of hard work at an early age. She recalls, “Being the

baby in a big family gave me a really strong work ethic; I had to work for everything!” She applied that mindset at school and was fortunate to be accepted into a college-prep magnet school. She later graduated with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from UCLA and started working for Texaco in the oil industry. That job led to a position with Remington & Vernick Engineers, a full-service engineering consulting firm in New Jersey. Fully immersing herself in all of the specialized disciplines, within five years Hogan obtained her Professional Engineer’s license, became a Certified Municipal Engineer, pursued her architect license, and received her LEED® (Leadership in Energy Efficient Design) accreditation. In 2013, she decided to add a graduate degree to her impressive list of credentials and chose Villanova for a master’s in chemical engineering, while at the same time earning a certificate in sustainable engineering. January 1, 2017, Hogan achieved another career milestone—being named the first female partner of her firm.

Reflecting on her career, Hogan notes that that some of her most challenging work was also the most rewarding. She recalls a school construction project that required a level of project