LIKE IT’S ALWAYS BEEN THERE

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FALL 2022

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Raised off Hope
For Rhode Island District Court Judge Melissa DuRose’90, hope is more than a feeling or the motto on the state flag. It’s home.

Nursing at PC
PC will enroll students in the fall of 2023 for new majors in nursing and health sciences, fulfilling a goal set by College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. ’78, ’82G at his inauguration.

Trust in Providence
Rev. James Mary Ritch, O.P. ’08 (left, above) and Rev. Damian Marie Day, O.P. ’14 were ordained in May by Archbishop J. Augustine DiNoia, O.P. ’05.

The Tale of a Map
The D-Day map of Lt. Cmdr. Joseph P. Vaghi ’42 (shown with his granddaughter, Elizabeth Vaghi ’10) now is part of the Library of Congress.
Brilliant Friars
Thank you for sharing the inspiring feature stories on the quartet of brilliant Friars who are doing such important work to advance healthcare equity, access, representation, safety, technology, and innovation.

Half of the members of my family are healthcare workers, and I know that the pandemic has been excruciatingly difficult on everyone in the field.

We should all be endlessly grateful to the healthcare workers, educators, and first responders who take care of us and keep our society functioning during these very challenging times.

— Tim Shea ’87

A Missed Shot
Guys, I love the Spring 2022 edition, but how in heaven’s sake did you omit, on Page 39, the 1964-65 team, when our Friars went 24-2 (fewest losses among our historic teams) and were an NCAA Elite Eight team led by the legendary Jimmy Walker? As I recall, PC’s final ranking that season was fourth nationally. You need some older alumni to oversee your draft edition — just a thought. Keep up the good work you do.

— John Fiesseler ’72

Thank you for sharing the inspiring feature stories on the quartet of brilliant Friars who are doing such important work to advance healthcare equity, access, representation, safety, technology, and innovation.

Taylor Swift loves the Friars, too. After her 2008 song “You Belong With Me” became the anthem of the student section during men’s basketball games at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center last season, Swift responded by sending boxes of merchandise to the Department of Athletics. Among the items were Class of ’22 shirts and patches, accompanied by a note: “Hi Friars! What an amazing 2022 season! Congratulations to you all on your incredible and inspiring success. Sending you all hugs! Love, Taylor.” The shirts were modeled at the season ticket holder dinner in June by, from left, Nate Watson ’21, Justin Minaya, and Al Durham.
Rhode Island drivers can show their PC pride and support students in financial need with a Friar license plate. The plates, with options for five or six numbers or letters, are officially in production and expected to be available for pickup at the Cranston Division of Motor Vehicles in early 2023. A portion of each plate fee supports emergency student need at PC.

For information on how to get your plate, visit prov.ly/pc-plates.

Holding a sample is Rev. James Cuddy, O.P. ’98, vice president for mission and ministry.

A fourth public basketball court in Providence became a work of art thanks to a collaboration among PC Galleries, Providence Parks, and the My HomeCourt nonprofit, founded by PC alumni and staff. Davis Park on Raymond Street, within walking distance of campus, now features a bold design by Providence artist Lois Harada. Created with input from local youth and community groups, the court mural includes large text, bright colors, and the words “Let’s Play” in languages spoken in the Valley, Smith Hill, and Elmhurst neighborhoods. The new court was unveiled in September with a ribbon cutting, lay-up drills with former PC basketball players, and a live performance by a brass band. Previous My HomeCourt art projects transformed basketball courts at Cranston Street Park in 2020, Harriet & Sayles Park in 2019, and Fargnoli Park in 2018.

PC’s new brand identity comes to life in a 30-second TV spot that will air during Friar men’s basketball and hockey games. Titled “Seek,” it features a student, Mariela Flores ’23; a professor, Jennifer Illuzzi, Ph.D.; a Dominican friar, Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. ’04, and coaches Ed Cooley and Nate Leaman, each exemplifying PC as a place for those who seek answers, seek purpose, seek excellence, and seek truth. Coordinated print and digital pieces geared to prospective students were created by the Division of Marketing and Communications with the Office of Admission. Pictured, from left, Flores, Father Zajac, Leaman, and Illuzzi.

DRIVE WITH FRIAR PRIDE IN RHODE ISLAND

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LIGHTS, CAMERA...

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4TH GENERATION FRIARS

Are you a fourth-generation Friar? Let us know! prov.ly/alumninotes

→ KYLE FITZPATRICK ’26 of Narragansett, R.I., traces her Friar lineage to her great-grandfather, James J. Dillon ’33, ’35G; her grandfather, Gerald F. Dillon ’64, ’74G; and her uncle, Ryan S. Dillon ’85. (Ryan is the brother of Kylie’s mother, Kelly.)

→ GRACE LEONARD ’26 of Cumberland, R.I., is the daughter of John Leonard ’84, the granddaughter of Arthur Leonard ’63, and the great-granddaughter of Daniel McKinnon ’40. (Arthur married Daniel’s daughter, Kathleen).

→ BRIAN ANTHONY ’72, ’76G of Derry, N.H., is the daughter of Shannon Sweeney Anthony ’93, granddaughter of J. Leonard Sweeney Jr. ’65, and great-granddaughter of J. Leonard Sweeney ’31. Bridget’s father, Steven Anthony ’94, also is a Friar.

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Nursing at PC

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING ’21G
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANGEL TUCKER

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE ADDS NEW SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

For the first time in its 106-year-history, Providence College will offer a nursing major.

The Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education granted formal approval to the college on Sept. 12, 2022, for a new bachelor of science in nursing program. It is the first bachelor’s in nursing program approved by the state in a decade.

The program is part of PC’s new School of Nursing and Health Sciences, which was established in the spring of 2022 by vote of the Faculty Senate and the PC Board of Trustees. It is the college’s fifth school, joining the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, School of Professional Studies, and School of Continuing Education. In addition to the nursing major, the school will offer a new bachelor’s degree in health sciences and the college’s existing major, health policy and management.

The college will begin enrolling students for the new programs in the fall of 2023. High school seniors applying for admission to the Class of 2027 are able to choose the new majors on the Common Application.

Establishment of a nursing program was a goal set by College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. ’78, ’82G in his inaugural address on Oct. 1, 2021. Becoming president during a global pandemic, Father Sicard understood firsthand the importance of healthcare and the opportunity for PC to play an even greater role in forming professionals to address future challenges.

"Programs like nursing and health sciences, which focus on the care of others, respect for the dignity of every person, and the importance of service to God and neighbor, flow naturally from and support the Catholic and Dominican mission of Providence College,” Father Sicard said.

Father Sicard said both nursing and health sciences are a natural fit with the college’s commitment to the liberal arts. Both require the study of science and the mastery of competencies in critical thinking.
Both are springboards to careers in the healthcare industry, a field that has seen a surge in interest and demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Providence College’s impact on society in ways that honor the institution’s mission and heritage,” said Christopher K. Reilly ’84, chair of the Board of Trustees. “They will create exciting opportunities for our students, guided by our faculty, to prepare for lives of meaningful service in assistance to our neighbors and our communities.”

Planning for the new school began a year ago with the hiring of Kyle J. McInnis, Sc.D., as senior advisor to the provost for strategy and planning. McInnis previously was provost at Johnson & Wales University and led the establishment of a new School of Health Sciences, with a nursing program, at Merrimack College.

Father Sicard and McInnis began a series of informal discussions with hospital administrators, nursing professionals, alumni in healthcare, and faculty. They were assisted in their outreach by Robert Ferreira ’83, assistant vice president for special projects and strategic initiatives, and Steven J. Maurano ’78, associate vice president for public affairs, government and community relations.

“The response from the Rhode Island medical and healthcare community and throughout the region was incredibly positive, creating the opportunity for PC nursing and health sciences students to learn at some of the best healthcare facilities in the world,” McInnis said.

The contract conducted with Huron Consulting Group for a feasibility study that included a market analysis, financial model, and evaluation of staffing and facility needs. In April, the study, along with an initial application and letters of support from eight hospital presidents in Rhode Island, was submitted to the state for consideration.

McInnis will serve as inaugural dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Katherine Hypolite-MacMannis ’08, strategic planning manager, will create a strategic communications plan for the new school and coordinate its diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

“A PC nursing degree will be distinctive because of a mission-focused approach that is aligned with our Catholic and Dominican identity,” McInnis said. “We will offer transformative learning experiences aimed at caring for the whole human being, to ensure that students gain competencies that address physical, mental, and spiritual health for all people entrusted to their care.”

The nursing curriculum is being developed in consultation with Brother Ignatius Perkins, O.F., Brother Perkins, a registered nurse with a doctorate in gerontological nursing and higher education administration, is professor emeritus and former chair of the Spalding University School of Nursing in Louisville, Ky. He will serve as director of the new Department of Nursing while the college undertakes a nationwide search for the post.

“The nursing curriculum will prepare students to successfully complete the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), a nationwide examination for the licensing of nurses in the United States,” said Brother Perkins. “Like all other newly established nursing degree programs, the PC nursing program will be evaluated for accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education once it graduates its first class in 2025.”

Nursing students will be able to explore such areas of study as medical humanities, may take dual language courses, and could participate in community and global health experiences locally and abroad. Like other PC students, they will study for two years in the Development of Western Civilization Program. Their supervised clinical experiences will take place in hospitals, community health centers, mental health facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and healthcare agencies.

Students who choose to major in health sciences will follow an interdisciplinary curriculum that includes internships and capstone experiences in healthcare settings. The degree is customizable and could lead to careers in occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, epidemiology, and public health, or as physician assistants.

The School of Arts and Sciences will continue to prepare students for medical careers through its existing pre-medical and pre-dental programs.

The architectural firm SLAM, which designed the Ruane Center for the Humanities, the Science Complex addition, and other PC projects, will design a new building for the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. It is expected to be located on the present site of Fennell Hall and will open in 2025. In the meantime, a temporary academic space is being built on the fourth floor of the Feinstein Academic Center (formerly Stephen Hall) with anatomy and physiology laboratories, a state-of-the-art patient simulation center, tutoring and study space, faculty offices, and additional resources to support student success. It is expected to open in February 2023 for visits by prospective students and families.

From the college’s earliest days, its graduates have pursued careers in medicine, dentistry, and research. Today, many Catholic institutions within the region and across the country — Salve Regina, Boston College, Fairfield, Merrimack, Sacred Heart, Saint Anselm, and Villanova among them — offer bachelor’s degrees in nursing. Each year, the Office of Admission has fielded requests from students inquiring about a nursing major at PC.

For the first year of the nursing program, enrollment will be limited to 50 students. Fifty health science majors will be added as well, increasing the size of the Class of 2027 by 100 students. In the future, enrollment will be capped at 75 students per year for each program, or 150 total, making PC’s a modest-sized program compared with competitor institutions. The focus will remain on selectivity and academic excellence, driving the college’s national reputation, McInnis said.

“This is an unprecedented opportunity now available at PC,” Father Sicard said. “A new school in nursing and health sciences will complement our Catholic and Dominican identity. It is an ideal time for PC to provide a new generation of healers to support the health professions at a time of great need and for generations to come.”

“PC nursing degree will be distinctive because of a mission-focused approach that is aligned with our Catholic and Dominican identity.” — KYLE J. MCINNIS

KATHERINE HYPOLITE-MACMANNIS ’08 WILL CREATE A STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PLAN FOR THE NEW SCHOOL AND COORDINATE ITS DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION EFFORTS.
Three alumni, prior provincial join trustees

Four new members joined the PC Board of Trustees effective July 1, 2022:

DUANE M. BOULIGNY ’94, ’11Hon. is managing director of the leveraged finance group at Wells Fargo Securities, based in San Francisco. He served as a trustee from 2011-2020 and was awarded an honorary doctor of business administration degree in 2022.

JAMES M. CHRICO JR. ’80 is the former president, chief executive officer, and director of the global telecommunications company Avaya. In 2019, a gift from Chirico and his wife, Bridget, established PC’s Chirico Career Center. Chirico played soccer at PC.

MEGHAN (CONROY) LYON ’80 is a philanthropic advisor in New York City and the former director of major gifts at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. She has been chair of PC’s National Board of Overseers and an alumni volunteer in New York and New Jersey.

VERY REV. DARIEN MICHAEL PIERRE, O.P. was elected prior provincial of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph in June, replacing Very Rev Kenneth R. Letoile, O.P. ’70, who had served since 2014. As prior provincial, Father Pierre chairs the Corporation of Providence College and is a trustee.

Dorr collaboration wins award

Two alumni — Erik Chaput, Ph.D. ’03, ’05G and Russell J. DeSimone ’75 — and the Phillips Memorial Library’s Digital Projects department were honored by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities with the Public Humanities Scholar Award in September. The award recognizes outstanding public humanities work in teaching and scholarship that advances the civic and cultural life of Rhode Island. The collaborators were recognized for their Dorr Rebellion Project website, launched in 2011, which established an online educational resource about the Dorr Rebellion (1841-1842), an event that led to the rewriting of the Rhode Island state constitution.

Chaput, who teaches in PC’s School of Continuing Education, has a doctorate in early American history from Syracuse University and is the author of The People’s Martyr: Thomas Wilson Dorr and His 1842 Rhode Island Rebellion (University Press of Kansas, 2013). DeSimone, an author and historian, has published many works on the Dorr Rebellion and formerly worked in the defense industry and was an adjunct professor in the library at the University of Rhode Island.

The Dorr Rebellion was an attempt by Thomas Wilson Dorr to bring voting rights to all men of Rhode Island in 1842. The state was using its 1663 colonial charter as a constitution, which meant men had to own land to be able to vote. The rebellion established a parallel government alongside the existing chartered government and wrote a new constitution for Rhode Island. Although the rebellion was crushed militarily, it forced the rewriting of the state constitution to expand voting rights.

The collection includes primary sources, scholarship, bibliographies, a documentary, interviews, and lesson plans for Grades 9-12 that were designed to interact with the website and make use of its letters and gallery pages. Project partners were the John Hay Library at Brown University, the Rhode Island Historical Society, and the Rhode Island School of Design Museum. Grant funding was provided by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, Rhode Island Foundation, and Heritage Harbor Foundation.

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2026

The Class of 2026, at 1,160 members strong, is the largest in college history. It includes students from 34 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and 17 countries. The 622 women and 538 men include 211 students with a parent who graduated from PC and 121 students whose parents never attended college. There are 174 students in the Honors Program and 99 student-athletes.

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING ’21G / PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN JAMES MUIR

Chad Carnegie

C had Carnegie is the new associate vice president and chief of public safety at Providence College. He came to PC in April 2022 from Georgetown University, where he worked for the college police department for 11 years as a lieutenant, patrol sergeant, and patrol officer. Under his leadership, PC’s Office of Public Safety will seek accreditation for the first time this fall from the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

Carnegie wants to raise awareness of services the Office of Public Safety provides beyond security and enforcement — drug and alcohol awareness, crime prevention tips, how to reach out if you’re a student in trouble. During the First Day in Friartown advising days in June, Carnegie and his officers welcomed new students and their parents at the resource fair, offering free gear displayed on a tablecloth bearing the office’s insignia.

“THERE IS A REASON PROVIDENCE WAS CALLING ME.”

PC NEWS

are not sworn police officers. They collaborate with Providence police on security and neighborhood issues and are trained to respond to mental health crises and sexual assaults. They also receive diversity and anti-bias training throughout the year.

In August, Public Safety offered an information session to remind off-campus students about the importance of locking doors when they leave their apartments and not walking alone late at night — “so they know we care about them,” Carnegie said.

The Friar Nite Ride off-campus shuttle service was expanded and the Eaton Street gate now is staffed, he said. At the suggestion of Lt. David Marshall, the Office of Public Safety served free pizza to students, faculty, and staff on the Slavin Center lawn in May. Carnegie grew up in Bradenton, Fla. He has a bachelor’s degree in public administration from Barry University and a master of professional studies degree in emergency and disaster management from Georgetown, which included study in Qatar.

Carnegie enjoys cooking, travel, playing softball, and watching baseball and football. His favorite teams are the Tampa Bay Rays and the San Francisco 49ers, though he has Buccaneers season tickets. He doesn’t like winter weather.

Carnegie came to Rhode Island seeking a challenge. “I did pray on it,” he said. “There is a reason Providence was calling me.”

During the First Day in Friartown advising days in June, Carnegie and his officers welcomed new students and their parents at the resource fair, offering free gear displayed on a tablecloth bearing the office’s insignia. "I talked with parents to ease their fears," Carnegie said. "I told them I'm starting now just like your child is, but I'm not new to college life."

In fact, Carnegie has spent half his 22-year professional career working with college students and half as a police officer in Palmetto, Fla. Unlike at Georgetown, PC officers

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“I WAS LONGING FOR A COMMUNITY TO SHARE THE SPACE WITH ME.”

When you first enter Moore Hall all your senses awaken. Your ear finds the music playing from the speaker and you cannot help but mumble the words under your breath. In the air is the scent of food; it smells so much like mami’s cooking, you wonder where they’ve ordered from today. The cool air from the AC makes your skin perk up and you welcome the cool touch after walking all the way from Smith. Your eyes scan the entry way; you watch as people laugh, others type furiously on their laptops, and some read. This is Moore Hall, music, food, laughter, smiles, coolness, and everything in between.

When I was a first-year student I aimed to find a space that felt like home. I tried the library, Ruane, and even Accinno. While these spaces offered me rooms to study in, chalk boards to write on, and silence that is sometimes difficult to find on Providence College’s lively campus, I still found myself longing for something more. I was longing for a community to share the space with me. It wasn’t until late on a random Tuesday night when a friend asked me to join her for a Civ study session that I found what I was looking for. I had classes in Moore and knew that there was free coffee in the kitchenette and snacks if I was hungry, but it took entering Moore late at night, and sitting in the study room with two couches, a big whiteboard, and too many people, for me to see Moore as more than just another brick building.

I will not lie to you; Moore Hall is not the best place to study. You sit on the couches in the study room, and you are compelled to crack a joke at your friend who cannot remember who Herodotus was. You sit on those couches and find the white board marker to write your name so whoever walks in after you knows “Mariela was here.” You sit on those couches and complain about a boring class, or a boring day, or a boring minute; you talk and talk with your friends, until hours have gone by, and you are ready for bed, Civ notebook untouched. You go there with only the best intentions, ready to memorize all of Plato’s Republic, but you get lost in the belly laughter, lost in the ache of a smile; you fall into the comfort of a teal couch and your best friends gathered around you. Moore Hall is not the best space to study in, but Moore Hall is the space so many of us look for. It is a space where you do not have to hold your tongue. A space where people pronounce your name right. A space where you are never alone, because someone on that teal couch is missing home and mami’s cooking just as much as you are.

I am a senior as I write this, and it is these moments that I choose to hold onto. I go to Moore for coffee, for a laugh, for rest in between classes, or simply to be around familiar faces. That is Moore Hall, a space that feels like home.

Mariela Flores ’23, from Central Falls, R.I., is an English and creative writing major with a minor in women’s and gender studies. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. She works as a resident assistant, writes and edits for The Cowl portfolio section, is a mentor in the Peer Mentor and Friar Foundations programs, and is a member of SHEPARD. Mariela is working on her portfolio for graduate school and hopes to study for an MFA in creative writing.

Maybe you knew it as Antoninus Hall, home to the business, economics, and psychology departments. In 1988 it became Cornelius C. Moore Hall (in recognition of a gift from a Newport lawyer who collected 18th century American silver) and for the next 25 years housed the Development of Western Civilization Program. In 2017, The Center at Moore Hall was reimagined as a space for art, culture, and fellowship. Mariela Flores ’23 tells why …

Moore is more

BY MARIELA FLORES ’23
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN JAMES MUIR
Magnificent in any season, Calabria Plaza on the Slavin Center lawn has become a popular backdrop for photographs since its completion in 2017. At its center stands a 33-foot, stainless-steel flame representing the college’s motto, veritas, or truth, based on the college and Dominican insignias. The plaza was a gift from Joseph Calabria ’65 and his wife, Sugar, who also selected its symbolic elements. Engraved along the plaza’s black granite wall are the names of Dominican saints, the words to the college’s alma mater, and the Dominican and college seals. The flame was designed by Stephen Forneris ’90 and modified by sculptor Brian Hanlon. Illuminated at dusk, it is a beacon for passersby, and seems always to have been part of the college landscape.
Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 1-3, brought 3,500 students, alumni, families, and friends to campus for events that included a Friars of Color panel, a Friar Fest with food trucks on Slavin lawn, Masses in English and Spanish, and brunch with the Hillbilly Thomists. The remnants of Hurricane Ian couldn’t stop runners from completing the annual Friar 5K to benefit the National Alumni Scholarship Fund. And to top it off, entertainer Khalid headlined Late Night Madness, the traditional start of the men’s and women’s basketball seasons, at the AMP — Amica Mutual Pavilion, formerly the Dunkin’ Donuts Center.
When the Center for Global Education and the Development of Western Civilization Program sent out a call for proposals for faculty interested in participating in a new Civ in London program, my colleague, Dr. Stephanie Boeninger (associate professor of English) and I immediately set to work drafting a course. We proposed focusing on war from historical and literary perspectives, using race, class, and gender as lenses to examine ancient Greek warfare, World War I, the Mau Mau Rebellion in Kenya, and the Troubles in Northern Ireland. We were ecstatic when we were selected to lead the inaugural program, with 13 students, from January to May 2022.

Each week we offered a one-hour lecture/discussion session and a three-hour seminar. One week we assigned several essays on women and warfare in ancient Greece and the play “Lysistrata” by Aristophanes. After discussing the play, we took the students to the British Museum, a five-minute walk from our center in Bloomsbury, and directed them to specific exhibits featuring artifacts from ancient Greece. We asked them to look for evidence of the variety of women’s roles during the wars. It was a wonderful and fully integrated unit, where the literary readings and the art and artifacts reinforced and illustrated the historical analysis.

Several times during the semester, we met at a museum or an art gallery for our seminar. We visited Westminster Abbey, the Imperial War Museum, and the National Army Museum, and we lined up an art historian to lead a tour of World War I art at the Tate Britain. A weekend trip to Belfast and Derry in Northern Ireland included visits to significant historic sites and guided tours led by people who experienced and lived through difficult times there. We also traveled for a week to Greece.

While we loved the educational opportunities, we also appreciated the benefits the students derived from living and learning in London. They took advantage of the cultural and culinary opportunities, they got to know the city well, and they seized upon the chance to travel widely (and inexpensively) using London as their base. They discovered that historical experiences we studied continue to have an impact on English and European culture. Somehow, history is more imminent and interconnected, perhaps because the European experience of war has been so qualitatively different from that of the United States.

We believe their experiences in our classroom and in London will contribute to a lifelong love of learning and travel. In keeping with PC’s mission, it was a truly transformative experience for all involved and we are grateful to Providence College and the DWC Program.

Civ in London will continue in Spring 2023 with faculty directors Elizabeth Bridgham, Ph.D., and Robert E. Stretter, Ph.D., both associate professors of English.
Arati Kale, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Finance

Education: Ph.D., finance, University of Texas at Arlington; master's degree, finance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; master's degree, management, University of Mumbai, bachelor's degree, accounting, University of Mumbai

Began Teaching at PC: January 2021

Expertise: Investment banking, behavioral finance, market efficiency, risk management, structured derivatives, macro-market portfolios

Newsworthy: An article by Arati Kale and co-researchers was published in 2021 in the Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance. “Is Beauty Skin Deep?” investigated the connection between the attractiveness of mutual fund managers and mutual fund flows. Using machine learning algorithms and controlling for other variables, the research found that “attractive” mutual fund managers received higher fund flows. The attractiveness bias was most common within the retail industry and did not necessarily indicate higher fund performance. A second article by Kale, about the connection between CEO’s names and class-action lawsuits, is in the review stage prior to publication.

Quotable: “The investment world is made up of emotional people who attempt to make rational decisions. Behavioral finance studies this dichotomy. People are incredibly interesting, and I love to study whether their emotions play a role in their decisions and to what extent.”

Originally From: Mumbai, India

Hobbies: Swimming, salsa dancing, painting, reading Marvel Comics, watching football

Joan Branham, Ph.D., professor of art history and interim dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, undertook a research trip to Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris in July 2022 to examine the restoration work underway after the catastrophic fire of 2019.

Her visit was authorized by Rebatir Notre-Dame de Paris, the public institution responsible for the conservation and restoration of the cathedral. Branham suited up in protective gear, required for entry into the space largely polluted by lead toxins from the roof that completely melted in the fire. At a height of 150 feet, she surveyed the ceiling vaulting system that collapsed and examined up close the south transept rose window, which is miraculously intact.

Branham is a well-known scholar of sacred spaces of Judaism and Christianity. Her current research topic is “Notre Dame: Sacred Space Preserved and Transformed.”

Faculty retirements (As of July 1, 2022)
- Douglas W. Blum, Ph.D.
  Professor of political science
  Teaching at PC since 1990
- Helen Caldwell, Ph.D.
  Assistant professor of marketing
  Teaching at PC since 1981
- Susan Grossman, DSW
  Associate professor of social work
  Teaching at PC since 2010
- Janet Letourneau, MBA
  Practitioner faculty in marketing
  Teaching at PC since 2012
- Paul O’Malley, Ph.D., ’60
  Assistant professor of history
  Teaching at PC since 1983
- Valerie Peterson, M.S.
  Practitioner faculty in accountancy
  Teaching at PC since 2004
- James Tattersall, Ph.D.
  Professor of mathematics and computer science
  Teaching at PC since 1968

Photos: Ariane Mercier de Beauvoir

Joan Branham, Ph.D., examines the south transept rose window that survived the 2019 fire at Notre Dame Cathedral. Rose windows, a hallmark of Gothic architecture, comprise hundreds of panes of stained glass arranged around a central image to construct an emotive prayer. This rose window contains New Testament stories. Rescue work on the cathedral employs interior scaffolding to reach a gaping hole in the ceiling where the spire fell, left. Exterior supports can be seen below left.
IT’S A LONG WAY from the Bourne or Sagamore bridge to Cape Cod National Seashore, where 40 miles of federally protected beaches, woods, and ponds, covering 43,600 acres, run from Chatham in the south to Province-town in the north. Driving along the two-lane highway to the Outer Cape, visitors can feel they’re headed nowhere. In a sense, they are. Cape Cod is “a grand place to be alone and undisturbed,” playwright Eugene O’Neill wrote in 1919. In the 19th century, Henry David Thoreau described it as “a sort of neutral ground, a most advantageous point from which to contemplate this world.” This quote greets visitors to the Salt Pond Visitor Center in East-ham, where guests can see artifacts dating back centuries. If they’re lucky enough, they will encounter William “Bill” Burke ’84, cultural resources program manager for Cape Cod National Seashore — in other words, the park’s historian.

Burke has worked for the National Park Service since college and at the national seashore since 1988. He oversees the process by which historical artifacts and data become historical narrative ready for consumption by visitors eager to learn the natural and human history of Cape Cod. Thanks to his work, loose flotsam tells the stories of shipwrecks, scrimshaw (carved whale bone) the stories of the whalers who chiseled it, and dune shacks the stories of families who waited anxiously for sailors to return from sea over the Cape’s long maritime history.

Burke is about average height, but his distinctive park ranger Stetson hat adds several inches to his stature. His neutral-toned uniform conveys authority — not in terms of giving orders (though he will not hesitate to enforce park protocol), but rather in commanding knowledge. His demeanor is inviting, and he smiles naturally when he speaks.
booming beach towns like Atlantic City, N.J., and Ocean City, Md. The Cape Cod National Seashore began as an experiment — a gamble many residents were reluctant to take. Standing atop an ocean bluff overlooking the sea 61 years later, one can hardly imagine doubting the project. Today, more than 4 million people visit Cape Cod each year, often battling summer traffic that is the stuff of legend, to reach this beautiful nowhere.

Much has changed over Burke’s decades here. The scope of his historical project has grown substantially — by about 10,000 years. This is due to increased focus on Native American history. Cape Cod was home to indigenous Americans for millennia before the arrival of European settlers in the early 17th century. The National Park Service has only begun to prioritize native voices and experiences in recent decades.

Cape Cod National Seashore is changing physically as rising seas threaten a land mass that sits only an average of 20 feet above sea level.

“Climate change is the biggest threat to the integrity of the national seashore. There are parts of the beach here that erode 20 feet each year or more. We probably lose about five acres of upland each year,” Burke said.

Even as its seashore erodes, Cape Cod has never been a more popular destination — despite a noteworthy increase in shark sightings and attacks in recent years. In 1972, 11 years...
Bill Burke '84 keeps a Providence College diploma, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act into law. The number of gray and harbor seals in the waters off Cape Cod increased dramatically in the decades following, and with them, their most feared predator—the great white shark.

Conservationists hail the return of great whites as a sign of environmental healing. Beachgoers are reminded by shark warning flags on beaches, and by each sighting, that when they wade into the ocean, they are visitors in the habitat of other creatures—some more fearsome than others. They visit nonetheless. “It’s a nationwide phenomenon that people are more into the outdoors now. Cape Cod became even more of a place of sanctuary and refuge because of the pandemic,” Burke said.

Burke was hired as a supervisory ranger at Cape Cod after completing a master’s degree in colonial history and archaeology at The College of William and Mary. In the five years preceding, he lived and worked for the National Park Service in 13 different places—including two summers at the national seashore.

“Because of my childhood memories, this was my dream park,” Burke said. “Now, I have sand in my shoes.”

Realizing his expression is lost on the uninitiated, Burke explained, “When people move to Cape Cod, they get sand in their shoes. They catch the bug and want to remain by the ocean. I’ll go inland to the mountains, and they’re beautiful, but I always miss the ocean after about a week.”

Burke’s father nurtured a love of history and the seashore in his children. A factory worker, he took his family to Yarmouth on Cape Cod each summer when the plant shut down over the 4th of July holiday. The family also regularly visited historical sites, including the Boston Freedom Trail, John Adams National Historical Park, and battlefields from the American Revolution and Civil War.

“It all comes down to my dad. History was part of our relationship,” Burke said.

Burke’s first job with the National Park Service was a summer position at Saratoga National Historical Park after his sophomore year at Providence College. In 1982, he packed his father’s car and departed from home in Holyoke, Mass., his accommodations uncertain. He stayed at Skidmore College for about two weeks before moving from couch to couch in several homes.

“It was only in hindsight that I realized how generous and trusting my father was in letting me borrow his car for the summer,” Burke said. “He really made that job possible.”

In Saratoga, Burke spent most of his time as a reenactor wearing sweat-soaked 18th century military uniforms in the summer heat.

“The public loves it, but you’re drenched by the end of the day,” Burke said. “Still, I’d take those problems over some of the headaches classroom teachers face.”

Reluctance to become a teacher nearly derailed Burke’s study of history. An Eagle Scout, he loved the outdoors and felt the classroom would be confining. Intent on transferring, he was admitted to forestry schools. But forestry would mean giving up history; he ultimately declined those opportunities.

“History was my first passion. I decided to stick with it but was determined to find work outside of the classroom engaging the public with history where it happened,” Burke said.

Staying the course at PC, Burke graduated summa cum laude and was awarded the Father Reilly History Award for academic excellence. He recalls-learning from iconic faculty, including Richard Grace, Ph.D.’64, ’74Hon. and the late Donna McCaffrey ’79G, ’89Ph.D., ’96G: He studied for a semester at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, and he tutored students in the Development of Western Civilization Program.

After graduating, Burke worked at a number of historical sites, including Independence Hall in Philadelphia and Morristown National Historical Park in New Jersey, where George Washington and the Continental Army camped for the winter of 1779–80. In Morristown, he met his wife, Stasia, who was interning there. They married in 1988.

Burke counts himself blessed to live and work within a national and historical treasure. He and Stasia raised their three daughters at Cape Cod. The family enjoys the small-town atmosphere and natural beauty of their home in Harwich. One might say the whole family has sand in their shoes.

The National Park Service has become a family business for Burke. Two of Bill and Stasia’s daughters work at national parks in seasonal positions. The third recently began graduate school in athletic counseling. She, too, takes after her father, who is an avid runner and coaches high school tennis.

Burke stresses that the career of his dreams began by taking initiative in college.

“I advise every college student to use your summers to get a head start,” he said.

He also encourages students to recognize the value in studying history. “It’s about more than doing well in Jeopardy or trivia.

“History doesn’t have to be a direct track to teaching or law school, noble as those pursuits are. Employers across industries want analytical ability, clear writing, and the capacity to research complex topics—things in which history students are trained,” Burke said.

As a National Park Service historian, Burke experiences history as something alive and sensory, and this is how he hopes to represent it to guests.

“My goal is to present history as a fun and meaningful topic, not as drudgery and memorization.”

In short, he makes sure visitors leave Cape Cod National Seashore with history in their heads and sand in their shoes.
FOR JUDGE MELISSA DUBOSE ’90, hope is more than a feeling or the motto on the Rhode Island flag. It’s home.

DuBose grew up a short walk from Hope Street in Mount Hope, a working-class neighborhood on the east side of Providence. Today, she is an associate judge on the Rhode Island District Court, which she calls “the people’s court.” It handles “a little bit of everything.” It is where people hear charges levied against them, where small claims are settled, and where civil domestic cases are heard.

“It’s a court that meets people where they are at low points in their lives,” DuBose said.

In addition to hearing cases, DuBose works diligently to achieve just processes and outcomes for all court users. (She prefers “court users” to terms like “defendant” and “plaintiff.”) She sits on the court’s Committee for Racial and Ethnic Fairness, which was born out of the tumultuous and tragic summer of 2020 to identify systemic racism in judicial institutions and processes. One focus has been fines and fees that convicted people continue to carry, sometimes long after they have completed their sentences. In collaboration with the Center for Health and Justice Transformation, the committee has eliminated more than a million dollars in such fees, freeing many from the judicial system for the first time in years or even decades.

DuBose did not plan to become a jurist. After graduating from Providence College with a degree in political science, she became a teacher in Providence Public Schools. She was teaching history and civics at a public charter school when tragedy shook her community.

“A student I adored, a member of my student council, a kid who was always a bright spot in my day and loved by the community, in April of his senior year, committed a horrible murder of another student in an act of gang violence,” DuBose said.

Her students had so many questions. Why would he do it? What would happen to him? How would the case be handled in the courts? DuBose felt helpless because she had no answers.

Her student ultimately took responsibility for the crime and served seven and a half years. DuBose exchanged letters with him during his sentence.

“I realized I needed to be an advocate for youth like my students in a way that extended beyond what I could do as a teacher,” DuBose said.

For the next four years, she taught at Central High School in Providence while taking evening courses at Roger Williams University School of Law. After her graduation in 2004, she joined the Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office as a special assistant attorney. She prosecuted juveniles—a difficult role to explain to her students.
Her father was a two-tour Vietnam veteran who suffered from PTSD. Her mother worked at the Phillips Memorial Library at PC while continuing her education. Sometimes, DuBose felt their struggles. On special days when they sold treats at school, she could never buy them. School field trips were out of the question, too. But in other ways, specifically in family and community, DuBose felt richly blessed. Most of her extended family lived nearby — and still do today.

“When you’re poor but you live in a community with family and support, you don’t realize that you’re poor,” DuBose said.

“And that’s how it was growing up in Mount Hope in the 1970s.”

DuBose’s family and neighbors always made occasions special. She cannot recall a disappointing birthday or Christmas, and some of her favorite memories are of neighborhood Easter egg hunts. She was surrounded by gifted storytellers and developed a penchant for storytelling herself. Her two sons poke fun at her for repeating herself.

“My boys accuse me of repeating stories,” DuBose said. “I tell them they will one day; too. Repetition keeps family tradition alive.”

Growing up in Providence, DuBose was always aware of Providence College — the Rochambeau Library on Hope Street, about a quarter mile from her childhood home.

“The library was our second home. It was a magical spot where we could go whenever we wanted. All the librarians knew us. The relationship between a kid and a librarian is special. Kids have a little more control than they do with a parent or teacher. They can advocate for themselves and feed their own learning. For a naturally curious kid like me, the library was just the place to be.”

At home, she shared a bedroom with her three sisters. At the library, she found space of her own.

“It offered all these nooks and crannies and hiding spots to read in. My favorite spot was the Russian room with its big oak table and Russian books and periodicals,” she said.

She sits on the board of the Rhode Island Foundation and alumni association. She continues to reside in Providence, just north of Mount Hope in the Summit neighborhood. She sits on the board of the Rhode Island Foundation and remains a faithful patron of the Rochambeau library. Her family and neighbors frequently gather for barbecues. DuBose family barbecues are a big deal. Everyone comes out. It’s great connecting with new generations of cousins,” she said.

For her whole life, DuBose has been surrounded by the word “hope.” To her, hope is always coupled with responsibility.

“Hope is having the confidence that you can make things happen,” she said.

DuBose’s greatest hope as a judge, and one for which she takes great responsibility, is for a judiciary that is universally trusted — and worthy of that trust.

“The library and the courts are both public institutions. As a kid, the Rochambeau library was somewhere I could go and feel safe and valued. I trust the people working there. I want court users to be able feel the same way about the judiciary,” she said.
Since its founding, Providence College has inspired young men to join the Dominican Order of Preachers. On May 15, 2022, Rev. Damian Marie Day, O.P. ’15 and Rev. James Mary Ritch, O.P. ’08 were among 10 priests ordained by Archbishop J. Augustine Di Noia, O.P. ’65 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. At our invitation, they wrote these reflections.

By Rev. Damian Marie Day, O.P. ’15

Why did I become a Dominican priest? A sarcastic joke, a late-night talk, and good friends will help me explain.

My first interaction with a Dominican was not what I expected. As a wide-eyed first-year student, I politely introduced myself to Father James Cuddy — then college chaplain — and rather smugly told him the view of St. Dominic Chapel from my room in McDermott was very nice. Without missing a beat, he shot back, “It looks even better on the inside. You should try stepping in sometime.”

That down-to-earth sense of humor comes from being well-grounded in the truth. The joy I saw in the Dominicans on campus came from knowing who God is and who they were. That means seeing through to the goodness of God and his love for us, while not ignoring all the brokenness of this world. Grasping the truth of God’s love gave them the joy — and sense of humor — that drew me to the Dominican Order.

A few days after my ordination to the priesthood, I was back at PC walking around campus. In front of St. Dominic Chapel, I ran into Father Nicanor Austriaco. “Well, Father Nic,” I said, “a lot has happened since the last time we sat here and talked.”

It was about 10 years earlier. Like many first-year students, I was having something of an existential crisis about the direction of my life. I had plans for my future — marriage, kids, graduate school — but something had begun to intrude on these well-laid plans. It was unsettling and, quite frankly, rather terrifying: a gnawing suspicion that God might actually want me to be a Dominican priest.

I sat in the chapel wrestling with this new desire and my old plans late one night. Finally, I said to myself, “Alright, I’d better just talk to a priest about this.” Immediately, Father Nic bustled in, knelt down in prayer for a moment, and then walked out. Short of a vision of angels, I’m not sure how much clearer God could have been with me. So I scurried out after Father Nic. We sat on a bench and talked for an hour or two.

Father Nic didn’t clear up all of my confusion or decide my future for me. But he did renew my trust in God’s providence. And that was what I needed. I was so focused on myself that I’d lost sight of God’s goodness. In a society that struggles so much with hope, we all need a reminder of God’s goodness and grace. Renewing that trust in his providence helped free me for the truly awesome plan he has for me.

Shortly after my recent chat with Father Nic outside St. Dominic Chapel, I was inside the chapel celebrating Mass for a small group of PC friends. They were all married couples with kids, including one of my roommates and his wife, who was days away from giving birth to their first child. We’d spent hours in this chapel as students. Some had been married here. Reflecting on our time at PC and our lives since then, I realized how much our PC friendships had shaped us.

We had good times together for sure, but my PC friends are more than “drinking buddies” or “fair-weather friends.” “Their friendship — their example, their encouragement, their conversations — made me a more virtuous person. I am the man I am today. I am a Dominican priest today, in large part because of my friends. PC gave me those kinds of friendships. I hope to share with the world the joy, that trust in God’s providence, and that friendship that led me to the Dominican Order.

At the beginning of my priestly ministry, I look back with gratitude to my time at PC. I’m grateful for the knowledge and desire for wisdom that my professors instilled. I’m grateful to the Dominican priests — whom I now call my brothers — who drew me closer to God. I’m grateful to my brothers who have enriched and shaped my life. Most of all, I’m grateful to God for his providence — and for Providence College.

Father Damian, formerly Joseph Day ’15 from Rehoboth, Mass., studied history at Providence College and was co-valedictorian of his class. Following a summer assisting with priestly ministry at St. Louis Bertrand, the Dominican parish in Louisville, Ky., he returned to the Dominican House of Studies this fall to complete a licentiate in sacred theology.
When I first visited Providence College, I knew that it was different from other colleges. I was at peace there and I wasn’t sure why. It was like a home away from home. On my first visit, I knew the place would change my life. I now give thanks to God and to my parents for sending me to this Catholic and Dominican college.

However, I would not have agreed with any of this during my first two years at PC. Growth wasn’t easy. God helped me to change my “no” to God into my first priestly assignment in June ministering as a hospital chaplain, primarily at Memorial Sloan Kettering Care Center in New York City. The same sacraments that I care about my friendship with Christ, and the sacraments were some of my most transformative moments at PC. I took ownership of my faith by going to confession to start anew, which brought peace and more grace into my life. I prayed as a layman. The gift of priestly ministry comes from the church and been burdened by deep wounds for decades, to anoint hospital patients who are in agony, to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the parishes where I prayed as a layman. The gift of priestly ministry comes from God, who, in turn, wants the sacraments to be given generously to His people.

I think that very few Catholics realize the significance of the sacraments. For me, it took time, catechesis, and God’s grace to see the sacraments as means of direct contact with God. When I celebrate the Mass and give absolution, I know that Jesus washes away all the sins of a dying patient. Faith replaces our eyes with God’s eyes in moments like these.

Seventeen years ago, a Dominican friar and I walked past McVinney Hall on the way to Albertus Magnus. I asked him if I could be a Dominican priest one day too. He said, “We’ll see.” Those years have flown by, and I am thankful to God for this gift to serve as a priest of Jesus Christ. 

Father James, from Mahopac, N.Y., majored in biology at PC and worked as a research assistant and lab manager for Rev. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P. ’20G. He received a master’s degree in neuroscience from the University of Massachusetts Medical School before entering the Dominican Order. He is a hospital chaplain in New York City.

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE FALL 2022

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The largest group of men’s basketball players and coaches in program history gathered in Alumni Hall on July 28 for the Friar Legacy Coaches Roundtable, a fundraiser celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Friends of Friar Basketball. ESPN analyst Doris Burke ’87, ’92G, ’05Hon. hosted a panel discussion with four head coaches — Rick Pitino (1985-1987), Rick Barnes (1988-1994), Pete Gillen (1994-1998), and Tim Welsh (1998-2008) — along with one of the most iconic players in program history, Billy Donovan ’87, now coach of the Chicago Bulls, and Ed Cooley, head coach of the Friars since 2011. Barnes, who was recovering from COVID-19, joined the session via Zoom from Tennessee, where he coaches the University of Tennessee Volunteers.

In the audience were 20 assistant coaches, 45 student managers, and 115 players, including Dickey Simpkins ’94, Otis Thorpe ’84, Eric Murdock ’91, Austin Croshere ’97, God Shammgod ’15SCE, Jamel Thomas ’99, John Linehan ’02, and Bryce Cotton ’14.

“I don't need to introduce legends, and that's who we have here today,” Burke said. The panelists sat in a semi-circle on a stage in Mullaney Gym, each holding a microphone to share stories and recall memories that crossed generations. As Burke said, it was like gathering around the family dinner table. For close to 90 minutes, the conversation was flowing, the vibe was top-notch, and the audience hung on every word.

Pitino, now coaching at Iona, said he doesn’t get teary-eyed when thinking about his years with Kentucky, Louisville, or Boston University, or with the Boston Celtics and the New York Knicks, “but I always get misty-eyed thinking about 1987,” when the Friars unexpectedly reached the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament.

“It just didn't make any sense,” Pitino said. “It was magical. I've been to seven Final Fours and Providence was always the best.”

Gillen, who guided the ’97 Friars to the Elite Eight, said the college is “a special place.”

“It’s a family atmosphere. Basketball is really important at Providence College and in the city of Providence,” Gillen said.

The roundtable was organized by Harold Starks ’86, a former basketball player who is PC’s coordinator of student-athlete mentoring and alumni athletic events. In 2012, Starks founded the Friends of Friar Basketball with Dominic Coletta ’78 to connect former players to the college and the community. Each year, the group holds a fundraising golf tournament and volunteers for charitable organizations. It also was the impetus behind My HomeCourt, a nonprofit that transforms neighborhood basketball courts in Providence into colorful works of art in partnership with PC Galleries.

Usually the group’s annual reunion occurs during a summer barbecue hosted by Cooley and his wife, Nurys. This year, because of the 10th anniversary and because gatherings previously had been impossible due to the pandemic, the group planned a Boston Harbor cruise instead. The incredible response from former coaches and players led Steve Napolillo ’98, the new athletics director, to suggest the roundtable.

“Harold to have the patience to make all this happen, that was magical right there,” Cooley said. “Just an incredible conversation. I sat there in awe. I’m grateful to be part of something so special.”
THE SENSATIONAL COLLEGE BASKETBALL CAREER OF THE LATE JIMMY WALKER ’67 will be recognized this month with his induction into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame. The ceremony takes place on Sunday, Nov. 20, at the College Basketball Experience in Kansas City, Mo.

Mr. Walker is the fifth Friar to be enshrined. Lenny Wilkens ’60, ’91Hon. (player), Dave Gavitt ’89Hon. (contributor), and John Thompson Jr. ’64 (coach) were part of the inaugural class of 2006. Ernie DiGregorio ’73 was inducted in 2019.

Mr. Walker, who grew up in Roxbury, Mass., played for the Friars from 1964-1967. In those years, freshmen were not permitted to play on the varsity squad and there was no three-point line. In three seasons, Mr. Walker scored 2,045 points, a record that endured until Ryan Gomes ’05 in 2005. Mr. Walker now is third on the college’s all-time scoring list.

In his senior year, Mr. Walker averaged 30.4 points per game, the highest in the nation. His average remains the single-season record for the college. He set a Friar single-game scoring record of 50 points in a 91-86 victory over Boston College at Madison Square Garden in 1965, which tied Oscar Robertson’s scoring record there.

Mr. Walker led the Friars to the NCAA Tournament (Elite Eight) in 1965 and in 1966, and to the NIT in 1967. He was the first and only player from a New England school to be picked number one in the NBA draft, selected by the Detroit Pistons to be their point guard. He played nine seasons for the Pistons, Houston Rockets, and Kansas City Kings, averaging 16.7 points per game, and was a two-time All-Star in 1970 and 1972.

Mr. Walker died of lung cancer in 2007 at age 63. He is the father of Jalen Rose, sports analyst and former NBA player, who helped PC celebrate Late Night Madness in 2014.
Navigating NIL

FRIAR FAMILY COLLECTIVE WILL HELP STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH ENDORSEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BY BRENDAN MCGAIR ’03

The Friar Family Collective officially launched in September as a way to match Providence College student-athletes with opportunities to receive financial compensation under the NCAA’s new Name, Image, and Likeness policy.

The collective, a for-profit organization endorsed by PC, is led by CEO Michael Ferranti, president and CEO of Coast to Coast Promotional Products in Cranston. The collective will accept contributions from individuals and businesses with the goal of providing student-athletes with compensation, guidance, and exposure in building their personal brands.

The NCAA enacted its Name, Image, and Likeness policy, known as NIL, in July 2021 in response to a U.S. Supreme Court decision. The court unanimously ruled in favor of a group of college athletes in California who challenged the NCAA’s policy that they were amateurs and could not be compensated for their play or from endorsements. The court agreed with the athletes’ argument that the colleges were profiting from their names and likenesses but not compensating them, a violation of anti-trust laws.

The NCAA’s policy permits student-athletes to make compensation under the NCAA’s new policy. Roughly 14 months after NIL became part of the lexicon, PC now boasts its own collective, a boots-on-the-ground operation prepared to handle financial challenges while helping student-athletes make positive contributions to businesses and the local community.

“The best interests of Providence and its student-athletes are central to the Friar Family Collective and its members,” said Steve Napodile ‘98, PC vice president and athletic director. “I look forward to the Friar Family Collective giving our student-athletes an opportunity to maximize their Name, Image, and Likeness in this new college landscape.”

Ferranti’s company, Coast to Coast, has served as the official products company for PC athletics for the past decade, and Ferranti is the father of an alumnus, Stacey Ferranti ’08. College officials were familiar with his business approach and his work ethic.

“They knew they could trust us because we’re going to do the right thing in every way,” Ferranti said. Ferranti hired four individuals with firsthand knowledge of the college because each worked in PC athletics previously.

The group, which will work under a separate arm of Coast to Coast, includes Alex Vescera ’15G, collective president; Mike Higgins ’07, ’09G, collective vice president; Brian Catinella ’13, ’15G, collective general manager; and Susan Wagner, collective director of operations. Wagner is the mother of Samantha Wagner ’16.

“They were easy hires. I knew their character and work ethic,” Ferranti said. “We have such a passion for Providence College and the student-athletes. We’re very excited to be able to interact and work with them.”

Having the college’s endorsement means the collective has permission to use Friar trademarks and logos.

“Not all collectives are endorsed by the colleges they claim to be associated with,” Catinella said. “That’s why we thought we were a natural fit given our history and understanding of how the athletics department works and its vision. As a team, we want to make sure we’re acting the way Providence College wants to be represented to the public.”

Through its website, friarfamilynil.com, the collective is offering a subscription service so that fans may give monthly contributions. In return, Friar followers will be privy to exclusive gear and autograph items. For the right price, contributions made by businesses to the collective can translate into exclusive appearances and interactions with the student-athletes. Because the collective is for-profit, donations are not tax deductible.

“We’re looking at it as a multi-revenue stream to benefit the student-athletes, with the Friar Family Collective going out to seek opportunities on their behalf,” Vescera said.

The Friar Family Collective has partnered with Opendorse to streamline communication, compensation, and compliance for student-athletes and the collective. Opendorse is an NIL marketplace and technology company that has teamed with more than 25 collectives nationwide. The Friar Family Collective will use its technology as its day-to-day operating system for NIL activity tracking, student-athlete compensation, and compliance disclosures.

Opendorse also will provide Providence student-athletes with NIL education and tax preparation tools through the partnership. PC athletics began working with Opendorse a year ago. Student-athletes have been able to build profiles through AdvantEdge, a platform branded for PC. In August, basketball player Jared Bynum announced his NIL partnership with 110 Grill, an allergy-free restaurant in Providence.

Brendan McGair is a freelance writer from Cranston, R.I.
You're placing some renewed emphasis on engaging young fans. What is the thinking behind that?

My father took me to my first PC game when I was 8 so I know from experience that Providence College can make connections with fans at a young age and they will stay with us. You will always see young people at our games and that is really special. Hopefully they will want to come to PC as students, become season ticket holders, and carry on the tradition of community support.

You had a great student fan experience as a junior, with an Elite Eight Friar basketball team. What kind of impact did that have on you?

That was one of the most amazing things I experienced, and I was reminded of it last year watching our students have such a great time night in and night out at the Dunk. Like me, they will remember that forever and that’s critical because it gets our graduates excited about being alums. Hopefully they will want to give back so we can continue this great tradition.

What are some of your near-term goals?

This is a challenging time in college athletics, with considerations like Name, Image, and Likeness, conference realignment, and a shifting media landscape. From a broad perspective, we need to position ourselves to handle things the right way, with integrity and a focus on the student-athletes, so that our programs continue to be successful. The list is long, but I am excited to tackle it. I believe that it’s important to fear complacency, make sure you’re working to compete at the highest level, and have a hunger that drives you every day.

What are your fondest hopes as you look to the future?

Most of all, I’m committed to working with our coaches to holistically impact the lives of our student-athletes. That means competing for BIG EAST and Hockey East championships, in part by working to raise funds for scholarships and infrastructure to compete at the highest levels. It also means providing support in areas like mental health and nutrition, all so that they leave PC feeling good about themselves, feeling good about having been a Friar, and prepared to make a difference in the world.

No less an authority than Bob Driscoll himself called you the perfect successor as he finished his 21-year tenure, and he should know because you worked side-by-side for so long. What do you take from that relationship as you begin in this role?

The first thing I noticed about Bob, even before I started working at PC, was his energy and vision, which are unbelievable. He made me want to be part of the team helping PC achieve its goals, and he has been a great mentor and partner ever since. It has been an incredible journey and I’m grateful.

What were the first few weeks like in the new job?

I met with as many people as I could, both internal to PC and external, including fellow athletic directors. With the ADs, we talked about what they experienced in starting jobs, what to look for, and what to ask others. It is a different view from this chair because now it’s more about making decisions than giving advice to someone who has the final say, but I felt well-prepared and grateful to everyone who took time to help me acclimate.

There are two ways to arrive in the position like this, through the ranks or from outside. Do you think there are advantages to the path you followed?

I do because I was able to hit the ground running. I love the familiarity of walking around the campus and hearing from people throughout the Friar community about their passion for our program. They know me and they know that I will listen. I always say that PC is like Coca-Cola. You may not know what the formula is, but it creates a place that is special, and I feel like I can tap into that because I have lived it for so long.

What message did you share with the athletics colleagues who work with you every day?

My platform is based on the idea that we should approach every day with purpose and passion. It does not matter if you’re a coach, an administrator, or a student-athlete, you should have a purpose and apply the passion needed to achieve it. If we do that, we will have an impact on each other and we will achieve our goals. I believe we are going to be really successful here.
At just 23 years old, Joseph P. Vaghi Jr. ’42 was the youngest of four beachmasters to land at Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. His challenge was to lead a company of men, vehicles, and supplies from their landing craft in shallow water across 300-400 yards of sand to the dune line while being fired upon by German artillery and machine guns.

In the breast pocket of his waterproof overalls was his guide—a meticulously illustrated, full-color, two-sided map that detailed the beach and the topography of the Normandy coast, including tidal charts and water depths, sand dunes, hedges, houses, cemeteries, and villages.

Despite burns from an explosion, Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi survived the invasion, and so did the map. It spent three days with him on the beach and 20 more days in Normandy, until he returned to the United States to train officers in amphibious warfare. For years, Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi stored the map in a filing cabinet in his basement in Kensington, Md., while working as an architect and raising four sons with his wife, Agnes.

When he moved to a retirement home in 2004, he entrusted the map to his son, Joseph P. Vaghi III ’78, who stored it in a bank safe deposit box.

“He told me, ‘You know, Joe, the map is the most important thing in my life next to Agnes and you boys. I’ll give it to you because I know you’ll do the best thing,’” Joe Vaghi III recalled.

After Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi’s death in 2012 at age 92, his sons considered the map’s future and how to best preserve it. In May 2022, at the recommendation of a family friend, they arrived at an answer. They donated it to the Library of Congress, where Robert Morris, the library’s cartographic acquisitions specialist, called it “a miracle of map-making” in a story published on the front page of The Washington Post on July 5.

“We have a lot of maps related to wars, obviously. War is a great map-making business,” Morris told the newspaper. “But to my knowledge we have none that we can document went on to D-Day. That’s what makes this a particularly special piece.”

Like most who took part in the D-Day invasion, which saw the loss of an estimated 2,500 American soldiers, Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi was quiet about the experience. His sons had little idea of his participation until the country prepared to mark the 50th anniversary in 1994. Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi was invited to accompany President Bill Clinton to Normandy on the ship Queen Elizabeth II as the U.S. Navy representative to the official D-Day commemoration.

That opened the floodgates. He was interviewed for “The War,” the Ken Burns documentary. National Geographic wrote about him and the map in a cover story, “Untold Stories of D-Day.” He was asked to be a consultant for the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans. He received the Legion of Honor Chevalier award from the French government.

When a National Geographic photographer borrowed the map in 2002, Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi took a pencil and wrote on it in case it never came back to him: “D-Day. Landed 0730 June 6, 1944. Used this chart during stay on the beach. Joseph P. Vaghi Beachmaster Easy Red Beach.”

Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi grew up in a family of six sons and three daughters in Bethel, Conn., and came to PC on a football scholarship. He lived on the fourth floor of Aquinas Hall and worked in the first-floor cafeteria.
His father, also Joseph Peter Vaghi, was a seventh-generation cabinet maker from Italy who started a business in Berlin. He became friendly with the Dominican fathers at PC through his son’s connections and provided the woodworking for much of the science complex and for the oratory in Harkins Hall. Two other sons also attended Providence, Carlo Vaghi ’51 and Alfred Vaghi ’51.

The Vaghi connection to PC continued into the next two generations. Mark Vaghi ’73, a cousin of Joe Vaghi III and nephew of Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi, is an alumnus, along with Joe Vaghi III’s daughter, Elizabeth Vaghi ’10, and Mark’s son, John Vaghi ’10. (Joe Vaghi III left his own mark on Friar history when basketball coach Dave Gavitt ’54Hon. asked him to be the first student to wear the uniform and that was keep going,” Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi said. “It’s owned by the American people now,” Joe Vaghi III said."

“Talking religion, it was a living religion,” he said. Also relied upon his military training, especially when encountering enemy fire upon landing. Aircraft had been expected to take down the German artillery before the invasion, but because of bad weather, targets were missed. “I saw people fall, yelling for help,” Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi said. “If not for the training we had... You can’t overdo training. It’s sort of a buffer between reality and the capacity of your mind to absorb what’s going on.”

Ultimately, “There was only one thing to do, and that was keep going,” Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi said.

He saw the oldest man in his company killed in an explosion on the beach but also met a fellow Friar, Edward P. Gallaghy ’32, who asked, “Joe, what the hell are you doing here?” The late Mr. Gallaghy became Rhode Island lieutenant governor and chief judge of the Rhode Island Family Court.

In the spring of 1944, Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi volunteered to serve in the Pacific with a battalion that invaded Okinawa. This time around, he said he was “scared stuff,” remembering Normandy, but there was no opposition from the Japanese. He was honorably discharged in 1947 and served in the naval reserves until 1959. For his heroics on Omaha Beach, he was awarded the Bronze Star. He studied architecture at The Catholic University of America under the GI bill.

In addition to the map, the Vaghi family gave the Library of Congress Lt. Cmdr. Vaghi’s log book with personal information about his men, letters, and photographs. The Joseph Peter Vaghi collection, part of the Veterans History Project, was digitized and available to all researchers online—including the map that never left his side.

“Providence College was the last school I visited during my college search. I toured PC at the suggestion of my mom—and instantly fell in love. It is said to be that I’ve been a Friar Fanatic ever since.”

“For me, #ForeverAFriar and #FriarFamily are more than just great marketing slogans. They encapsulate the essence of the Providence College experience.”

What is the power of the alumni network? My first job after graduate school was thanks to the PC alumni network. I embarked on my marketing career at DeVine & Pearson Communications, led by Hugh Devine ’59 and Tom Devine ’71. Being a Friar helped open many doors in my life.

If you could return to take one class, what would it be? I would have enjoyed participating in the Civ in London program. What an incredible opportunity to engage in coursework with fellow Friars and faculty members while visiting historical venues discussed in ENG. Learning really comes alive when you’re able to participate firsthand.

Where was the best place you lived on campus? I was lucky to live on campus for all four years. My favorite was DiTraglia Hall— I had the same community to engage in coursework with fellow Friars and faculty members while visiting historical venues discussed in DWC. Learning really comes alive when you’re able to participate firsthand.

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"For me, #ForeverAFriar and #FriarFamily are more than just great marketing slogans. They encapsulate the essence of the Providence College experience."
Fort Knox tower honors Fortunato
When SG'T. MAJ. GARY P. FORTUNATO '00SCE died unexpectedly in April 2020, the loss was felt beyond Providence College, where he was an instructor in the Patriot Battalion ROTC Program for more than 20 years.

Sgt. Maj. Fortunato also spent five weeks every summer at Fort Knox, Ky., overseeing the Confidence Course at Advanced Camp, the five-week training camp that cadets attend before their senior year of college. Many consider the 64-foot rappel tower to be the most challenging part of camp and remember Sgt. Maj. Fortunato's encouragement helping them master it.

In June, the Army dedicated the Fort Knox rappel tower in his memory. The SGM Gary Fortunato Memorial Rappel Tower at Training Area Facility 5847 was dedicated in a ceremony attended by Sgt. Maj. Fortunato's wife, Carol, and daughter, Justin. "It was here where he encouraged, coached and boosted the confidence and morale of all cadets that trained at the tower and mastered the confidence course," a plaque reads. "SGM Fortunato trained over 30,000 future Army officers here from 2014-2019."

Sgt. Maj. Fortunato, a New Jersey native, was drafted into the Army in 1987. He saw duty in Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Desert Shield, retiring in 1997 with more than a dozen awards and citations. For another 23 years, he served as a military science instructor at Patriot Battalion at PC. He was inducted into the Army ROTC Hall of Fame in 2002.
Gladys Ganiel, Ph.D. ’09, a professor and researcher at Queen’s University-Belfast, has been elected to the Royal Irish Academy, Ireland’s leading body of experts in the sciences and humanities.

Academy members are chosen because they have attained the highest distinction in their unique contributions to education and research. Ganiel was selected for her international reputation and the originality and quality of her work on religion and peacebuilding and on contemporary religious practices.

“It is such an honor to be elected to the Royal Irish Academy, with its long tradition of public engagement informed by world-class research in the humanities and sciences,” Ganiel said. “I am grateful for the opportunity to work with other academy members to promote research-led public debate across the island.”

Ganiel also has begun work on a new, funded three-year project on the role of religion in societies emerging from COVID-19, working with partners in Montreal, Bremen, and Warsaw.

McKee Reaves Wood ’40 of Canton, Mass., was recognized as the Tahno Independent School District Secondary Teacher of the Year. He also serves on the El Paso County Historical Commission and the City of Socorro Community Initiative. He credits his approach to teaching and preserving history to PC art professors William Independent School District and Dr. Jodi Bronham, Ph.D.

Daniel gave to the Royal Irish Academy

Robert Crooke ’89 of Bridgewater, Conn., published his fifth novel, Letting the House Down (Uncollected Press, 2020), which Kirkus Reviews called a solemn but moving novel of ruptured family ties, “a poignant meditation on loss.” Uncollected Press is a small literary press based in Portland, Ore.

Ava Dussault ’22 of Sutton, Mass., graduated in May with degrees in elementary education and psychology, published her first children’s book, Renee Finds Her Calm: Mindfulness Tools to Focus and Be Present (Bower, December 2020). Ava and her mother, Lisa Casillo, created a children’s yoga and mindfulness company, 2MindfulGirls, with online resources for parents, educators, and yoga teachers. They also operate a children’s yoga studio in Worcester.

Alison Espeh, MFA ’07, associate professor of creative writing at Providence College, is the author of the novel Notes on Your Sudden Disappearance, published by Henry Holt and Co. in May 2022. It was named an Indie Next pick for June 2022, a Best Book of 2022 by NPR, a Must Read by USA Today, an Amazon Editor’s Choice, and a Most Anticipated Book of May by The Millions.

Ronald Linari, Ed.D ’65, of Southington, Conn., was elected to the Royal Irish Academy.”
Friends from the Class of 1993 joined in Branford, Conn. years of dating, with many classmates have been inseparable ever since. They were joined by America’s parents, Susan Agerola Talbot ’83 and Gary Talbot ’82, along with many other Friars and family. America is an annual giving officer at Brown University and Ben is logistics manager at My Brother’s Keeper in Dartmouth, Mass. They reside in Providence.

Meghan Reidy ’14 and Patrick Leyden ’14 married on July 16, 2022, in Pelham, N.Y. Providence College was represented by Rev. Al Mansullo ’04, who officiated with Bishop John Keenan of Paisley, Scotland, Mark befriended Bishop Keenan when he studied abroad at the University of Glasgow during his junior year. The couple resides in East Greenwich.

Justin Gaglione ’14 and Viviana (Falco) Gaglione ’14 married on May 28, 2022, in Agiana, Italy, along the Amalfi coast. Classmates who joined them included Thomas Abbood ’14, Matthew McKee ’14, Kevin Castellano ’14, Brian Yost ’14, and Chris Merlo ’14.

Amanda Talbot ’15 and Benjamin Williams ’18 married on May 29, 2022, in Narragansett, R.I. They reside in Hope Valley.

Joanna M. Scimeca ’11, ’13G married Andrew J. Bradley on Nov. 13, 2021, at Georgetown Preparatory School in North Bethesda, Md., where Joanna has been a science teacher since 2015. Andrew is a physician in Washington, D.C. They live in Vienna, Va.

David Pinnexsault ’14 and Valerie Chase ’14 of Providence married on July 3, 2022, at the Publick House in Sturbridge, Mass., with about 25 Friars in attendance. They were public and community service studies majors at PC.

Chris Flaherty ’14 and Jennifer Celli ’14, ’16G married on Cape Cod in September 2021. The Mass was at Holy Trinity Church in West Harwich, followed by a reception at The Lighthouse Inn in West Dennis. Many Friars attended, including graduates from the Class of 2014, Class of 1987, and Class of 1969. The Flahertys recently purchased their first home in Braintree and welcomed their first baby, a daughter, on Oct. 16, 2022. Chris is the associate director of alumni relations at PC.

Aidan Patrick Joseph was born on May 2, 2022, at 8:29 p.m., weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces, and measuring 21 inches. His parents, Sarah Firetto ’03 and Patrick Tiemey of Cranston, R.I., are thrilled with their little Friar! Sarah is director of alumni relations at PC.

Jessie Ngo ’13 and Sabrina (Raulerson) Ng ’13 are happy to announce the arrival of their son, Isaiah John Ngo, born on July 9, 2022. He weighed 7 pounds, 0 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

Ben Rimmland ’13 and his wife, Karry, of Grafton, Mass., welcomed their first daughter, Stevie, on June 2, 2022.
Basketball superstar John Francis Egan ‘61

Johnny Egan ‘61, who with Lenny Wilkins ’60 was one of Providence College’s first basketball superstars, leading the Friars to their first NIT Championship in 1961, died on July 21, 2022, in Houston. He was 83.

Mr. Egan helped the Friars to their first-ever win over a nationally ranked opponent, beating Villanova 90-83 at the Palestra in four overtimes. That ignited a streak of 20 wins in 26 games that made PC a postseason regular. Mr. Egan averaged 18.8 points per game in the NIT championship season of 1960-1961 and scored 1,434 points in three years of varsity play.

He was selected by the Detroit Pistons in the second round of the NBA Draft. He played for 11 seasons, from 1962-1973, with six teams — the Pistons, New York Knicks, Baltimore Bullets, Los Angeles Lakers, Cleveland Cavaliers, and San Diego/Houston Rockets. He coached the Rockets from 1973-1976.

At 6 feet, 11 inches tall, he was the shortest player in the NBA for most of his career. But he could dunk from a standing start, and he invented a shot dubbed the alley-oop, now called a teardrop or a floater. Into his 80s he kept in shape with fingertip pushups, yoga, basketball, and golf.

He is survived by a daughter, a son, and five grandchildren.
I was about 4 years old. Outside of hurrying under the dining room table when the siren blared, I remember only my father and how important he looked in his impressive warden helmet.

Years later, I played CYO basketball, barely well enough to make the team. When I reached high school, I had to weigh the merits of sitting on the bench next to Joe Mullaney at every game with donning that white Civil Service jacket and enjoying all the prestige which still fits. Why not take it out and try it on!

THE LAST WORD

BY BRIAN MAHER ’68, ’18HON.

Being called to serve is not an option … it is a mandate.

In these instances, I would later realize, “service” always had a self-interest at the end. In failing to recognize my father’s generosity toward the safety of our community, I saw instead a shiny helmet. Likewise, the time I spent as manager of basketball teams boosted my own ego more than it helped the coach and players. I was on the fast track toward self-absorption with such thinking when suddenly I hit a crossroads: The Friars Club.

When asked to join the club late in my sophomore year, I had to weigh the merits of sitting on the bench next to Joe Mulaney at every game with donning that white jacket and enjoying all the prestige which went along with it. I chose the latter, again for the wrong reasons, but during my two years in the club the scales were removed from my eyes. The surgeon was the club moderator, Father Walter J. Heath, O.P., a uniquely dynamic preacher who needed neither pulpit nor dais to make his points, as he was as effective in returning calm to an all-too-festive dorm room as he was in illuminating a parable in the Aquinus Hall chapel. To me, however, he was most revealing when he spoke to us at the monthly Friars Club meetings. While his descriptors differed each time, the message was always succinctly the same: We are all called to serve. Initially, I took that to mean working for the club at basketball games, alumni weekends, or prospective student tours, but, as his soliloquies continued, I realized his words were more than once, “but if you never wear it, what good is it? And what is that saying to the giver?” St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us, “I would rather feel compassion than know the meaning of it. I would hope to act with compassion without thinking of personal gain.” We have only to look around us to see an ever growing list of perils which confront our youth, our communities, our Church. I suggest there is a place where each of us can help in these circles.

Perhaps there is a blue shirt somewhere in a closet or a drawer which still fits. Why not take it out and try it on!

Brian Maher ’68, ’18HON., a proud member of the Class of 1968, is the father of two alumni — Timothy Providence Maher ’97 and Kate Grace (Maher) Darrell ’06 — and the grandfather of five. Since 2009, his weekly email, “It’s Tuesday …,” has kept more than 400 alumni and friends of the college updated on the prayer needs of classmates. He also writes a weekly column for his parish bulletin. Maher, who resides in West Islip, N.Y., with his wife, Barbara, retired in 2016 after 37 years at Farmingdale State College. He can be reached at bmaher.431@gmail.com.