

SPRING 2023

# PROVIDENCE

## COLLEGE MAGAZINE



*Farewell Fennell*





PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MAGAZINE  
SPRING 2023

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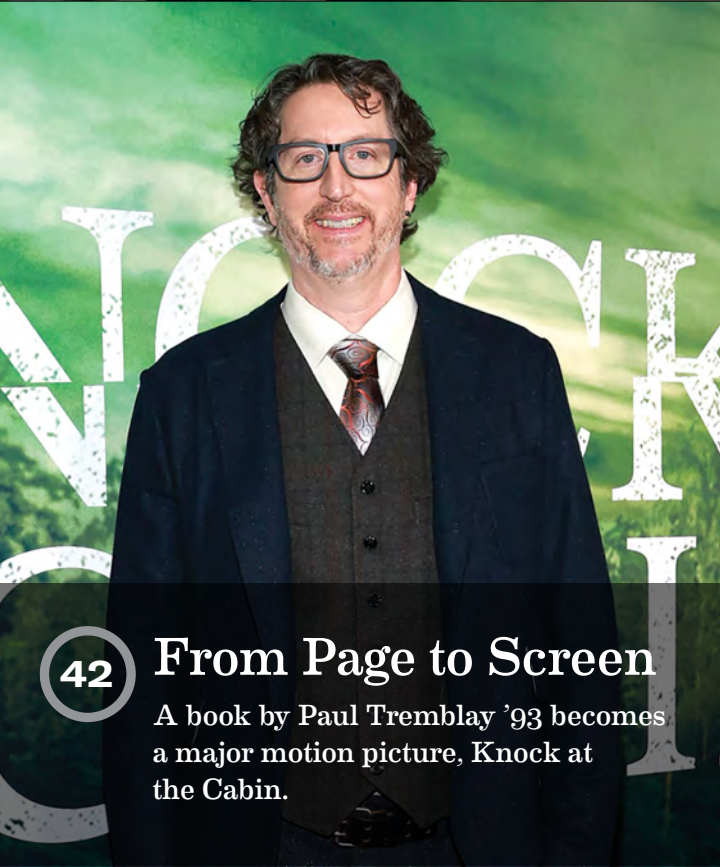
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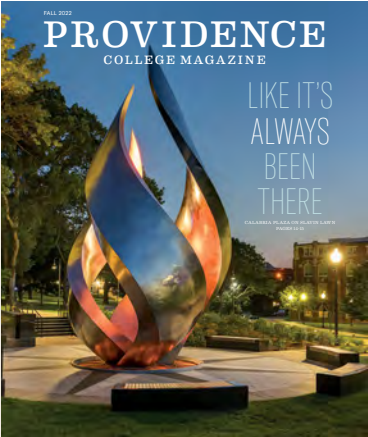
**I READ WITH GREAT INTEREST THE ARTICLE** by Brian Maher '68, '18Hon. about service and the Friars Club. I was a member of the Friars Club from 1959-1961. The club moderator was Father Herman Schneider, whom Schneider Arena was named after.

Brian brought back many memories of PC and beyond. A friend from the Boston area, Jim Carty '61, was the manager of the 1961 NIT Championship basketball team. I knew Father Walter Heath very well at PC. He grew up in the Union Square neighborhood of Somerville, Massachusetts. He graduated from Lehigh University, where he majored in metallurgy. He served in the Navy before becoming a Dominican. He taught some of my philosophy classes and was the moderator of the Greater Boston Club, in which I was active. When I attend reunions I always go to the Dominican Cemetery. Father Heath's grave is one I stop at to say a prayer.

In 1962, I was married at St. Mary's Church in Winchester, Massachusetts. I still call it "Winchester Cathedral." For a few years after our marriage, my wife and I attended midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at St. Mary's. We were surprised to see that Father Heath was the celebrant. He was very congenial and glad to see us. He explained that his sister and her family lived in Winchester. We saw him at Christmas Eve for a few years until we moved west of Boston.

— **Peter F. Wall '61**

**JUST WANTED TO SAY THANKS FOR THE RECENT COVERAGE** of Basketball Royalty. It was like a trip down memory lane for an old Friar fan. As a suggestion, how about a future article on the old Friar golf team. I think Pete McBride '70, a four-year member and team captain, was an



All-American in 1970. He was also inducted into the Friars Hall of Fame a few years later. Just a thought! Keep up the nice work!

— **Jack Kelly '70**

**THANK YOU FOR A GREAT ARTICLE** on Lt. Cmdr. Joe Vaghi Jr. '42. Joe Vaghi was a teammate of my dad, David J. Tubridy '46, who also attended PC on a football scholarship. They were both linemen and good friends. Dad mentioned Joe's name and his war exploits to us, his children (10!) over the years.

Years later, my sister, Pam Tubridy Baucom, worked as a producer for Ken Burns on his film "The War." In that capacity, she asked Dad for an intro to Joe Vaghi and any other World War II contemporaries that he knew. Pam's interview with Joe became the basis for his segment of "The War." We believe that it was the film's coverage of Joe's pivotal role in the Normandy invasion that prompted the French government to honor him with the Legion of Honor award — 70 years after the fact.

— **Jim Tubridy '71**

**CORRECTIONS:** A story on Page 32 in the Spring 2023 magazine incorrectly reported the ordination date of Dominicans Rev. Damian Day, O.P. '15 and Rev. James Mary Ritch, O.P. '08. It took place on May 21, 2022, not May 15.

A photo credit on Page 36 in the Spring 2023 magazine incorrectly made photographer Kevin Reilly '80 a member of the Class of 1982.



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**FOR ALL RHODE ISLAND**

Anchor and shield. Amber and blue. Rhode Island's new professional soccer team's crest was designed by **Myles Dumas '03**, design director at **NAIL**, a Providence-based creative agency. Rhode Island FC, based in Pawtucket, will compete in the United Soccer League beginning in 2024. Above, Dumas models branded team apparel with his wife, **Róisín McGettigan-Dumas '03, '07G**, and their 2-year-old son, Ruairí. The crest includes colors based on the Rhode Island flag and nods to Rhode Island's maritime and athletic history. "Pawtucket was a hotspot of American soccer a century ago. I wanted to create something that honored that," Dumas said. He says that the new team and fan experience will "blow people away." With art by Dumas, they'll do so in style. 🏆

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NAT REA





## A bold new home for School of Nursing and Health Sciences

**Providence College will begin construction** in the summer of 2023 on a new School of Nursing and Health Sciences on the site of Fennell Hall.

The five-story, 125,000-square-foot building will be the largest on campus. It was designed by SLAM of Glastonbury, Connecticut, the architectural firm that designed the Science Complex addition and the Ruane Center for the Humanities. It is scheduled for completion in January 2025.

The building will include a 7,000-square-foot suite that simulates a hospital floor for acute-care patients. Under the supervision of instructors, students will learn how to use medical equipment, perform diagnostic tests, and update records on digitally controlled manikins — full-body patient simulators designed to mimic human anatomy and physiology. The Clinical Simulation Suite will make it possible for 50 percent of a nursing student's required clinical experience to take place on campus.

The building also will feature a 100-seat auditorium-style classroom, student study and collaboration areas, maker space and research labs, a student advising and career center, faculty offices, an oratory chapel, a plaza and pavilion, and a dining facility. It will anchor the east part of campus along the Smith Center quad and is intended to be a collaborative academic center for the entire community.

College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G announced his goal to offer programs in nursing and health sciences during his inaugural address in October 2021. The bachelor's degree in nursing was approved by the state of Rhode Island in September

2022. The college will enroll its first 50 nursing majors and 50 health sciences majors this fall. New laboratories have been constructed in the Feinstein Academic Center to serve students until the new building is ready.

"This facility will set us apart among healthcare education programs," said Father Sicard. "It will be a powerful draw for the excellent students who aspire to be the skilled, compassionate healers the Providence College nursing and health sciences programs will produce." ❧



A view of the new school looking west toward Suites Hall, shown at far left. At the far right is Koffler Hall, now a residence hall.



**"IT WILL BE A POWERFUL DRAW FOR THE EXCELLENT STUDENTS WHO ASPIRE TO BE THE SKILLED, COMPASSIONATE HEALERS THE PROVIDENCE COLLEGE NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAMS WILL PRODUCE."** — COLLEGE PRESIDENT REV. KENNETH R. SICARD, O.P. '78, '82G



A view of the new building from the steps of the Smith Center for the Arts, with the Smith lawn straight ahead. In the distance are Howley Hall, left, and Sullivan Hall.





# Farewell Fennell

**Demolition will begin on Fennell Hall to make way for the new School of Nursing and Heath Sciences. We asked alumni to share their memories of Fennell, a quirky, offbeat outpost on the edge of campus, home to thousands of students through half a century.**

Fennell Hall was built in 1930 as the Barry Building, the residential quarters for nurses at Chapin Hospital, a city-owned hospital that treated patients with infectious diseases. In 1968, faced with a housing shortage, Providence College leased the building for \$1 a year. Eight students from Rhode Island Junior College shared the space with 100 PC students. When the college purchased the 25-acre hospital property in 1974, the building, called Chapin, became an official residence hall. It was male-only until the fall of 2013.

**Fennell was named in honor of Rev. Charles Vincent Fennell, O.P. '28,**



who died in 1974. Father Fennell was the college's first director of residence and executive vice president and treasurer under four PC presidents. He held a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and was The Cowl's moderator. Many of his nieces and nephews have attended PC. "He loved PC basketball, and he also had a weak heart," said great-niece Mary K. Talbot '85. "Toward the end of his life, his doctor advised him not to go to games or listen on the radio, so he would stay home and pray the rosary in his room in Harkins Hall while the team was at play."

SCRIPT: MR. FOTHERINGHAM. PHOTOS: SHRINE; MYLES FORGUE '24; FENNELL: NAT REA. OTHERS: PC ARCHIVES.



**"So sad to say goodbye to an iconic PC building! I met my husband on the steps of Fennell in 1999 ... Years later he proposed to me on the same steps."**

— DESIREE ADAMS APREKUMA '03 (AND ABIYE APREKUMA '00)



As resident hall director at Fennell, **Brother Francis Kevin O'Connell, O.P.** made sure students followed the rules and visitors left on time. He also was director of financial aid. In 1993, when Brother Kevin moved to Joseph Hall, he acquired his dalmatian, Friar Boy V. Moderator of Friars Club, Brother Kevin died in 2008.

Share your memories →



**Matt Weber '06**, a four-year resident of Fennell and resident assistant, helped build the mini shrine to Mary at the hall's entrance, adding the message, "Our Lady Queen of Fennell, Pray for Us." Weber said it was intended to be an inspiration and blessing to Fennell residents coming and going, like the "Play Like a Champion" sign at Notre Dame. The statue was blessed by **Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G**, then the director of residence life and now college president.

The network of tunnels that connected buildings on the hospital property began at Fennell, with entrance through the ground floor. For many years, **"haunted passageways"** tours were offered at Halloween from Fennell to Dore Hall. No actual ghost sightings were reported.



**Vincent Zandri '86**, an award-winning author of suspense and thriller novels, in his Fennell room in 1984. 📖





Erin Batth and Kim English (holding the hands of his daughters) are warmly welcomed to Friartown.

## MINDSET

### Introducing new basketball coaches Kim English and Erin Batth

**THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE AND SPONTANEOUS CHANTS OF “LET’S GO, FRIARS!”** echoed through Mullaney Gym in Alumni Hall on March 29, 2023, at a rally introducing the college’s new men’s basketball coach, Kim English, and the new women’s coach, Erin Batth.

English, head coach at George Mason University for the past two seasons, replaces Ed Cooley, who left PC for Georgetown. Batth, who was an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Michigan last season, replaces Jim Crowley, who returned to coach at St. Bonaventure University.

“We are welcoming two shining stars and two rising rockets to the Friar family,” said Steve Napolillo ’98, vice president and director of athletics. “They are going to rewrite history.”

It marks the first time that PC will have two head basketball coaches who have played professionally.

English, a native of Baltimore, was drafted by the Detroit Pistons in 2012 after a standout career at the University of Missouri and played in 41 games during the 2012-2013 season. Batth, a native of Marietta, Georgia, was the first player from Clemson University drafted into the WNBA, going to the Cleveland Rockers in 2001.

English and Batth also have extensive coaching experience. English was an assistant under former Friar head coach Rick Barnes at the University of Tennessee and also coached at the University of Tulsa and the University of Colorado Boulder.

Batth has 17 years of NCAA Division I experience, at North Carolina State, Liberty, Georgia State, Tennessee Tech, Towson, and Virginia Commonwealth. She also was director of operations at Virginia and executive assistant to the general manager of the Sacramento Kings and Sacramento Monarchs. 🏀



### Record applicants to PC

**THE COLLEGE RECEIVED 12,460 APPLICATIONS FROM** students wishing to join the Class of 2027, the highest number of applications in its history. The previous record of 11,470 was established four years ago by those applying to the Class of 2023.

More than 1,100 students applied to study nursing and health sciences, the new majors being offered through the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

### New major in neuroscience

The college has added a major in neuroscience, a burgeoning field of study and employment that considers the biological foundations of behavior. It is offered through the School of Arts and Sciences, with Victoria Templer, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, as program director.

The college previously offered a neuroscience certificate, the equivalent of a minor, but it was limited to 12 students in each class year. The major allows the program to increase enrollment and expand its course offerings. The certificate program will no longer be offered once the final students graduate in 2027.

### Cristo Rey scholarship

Through a new scholarship program, one senior from each Cristo Rey High School in the United States, chosen by the Office of Admission, will receive a \$22,000 annual scholarship to PC for four years. In addition, the college will meet 100 percent of the demonstrated financial need of each recipient after federal loans are applied.

The Cristo Rey Network, founded in Chicago in 1993, has grown to 38 college preparatory high schools in low-income, urban areas in 24 states. Students earn their Cristo Rey tuition through work study with corporate partners. Eleven students from Cristo Rey schools now attend PC.

### Top producer of Fulbrights



For the third time in four years, the college was recognized as a top producing institution by the Fulbright Program, the flagship international educational exchange program of the U.S. government.

Five students were selected to receive Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships for the 2022-2023 academic year, the most in any single year at the college. Evan Diliberto ’22 (Slovak Republic), Grace Maffucci ’22 (Mexico), Jesus Maldonado ’18, ’21G (Colombia), and Elisabeth Sudbey ’21 (South Korea) applied to the program through PC’s Center for Engaged Learning. Sara Conway ’21 (Taiwan) applied independently after graduation.

### Business school earns reaccreditation

AACSB International, the world’s largest and most prestigious organization fostering excellence in business education, approved reaccreditation of the School of Business in January 2023. Only 5% of the world’s business schools hold the distinction of AACSB accreditation. AACSB analyzed the business school’s mission, curriculum, and faculty teaching and scholarship, while also assessing its overall trajectory.

The business school also was ranked one of the top 50 undergraduate business schools in the United States by Poets&Quants for Undergraduates, reaching #37 on the 2023 list. The school has consistently ranked among the top schools on the list and first reached the top 50 in 2020.

### Student Success Center established

The Student Success Center, the college’s new hub for academic support services, programs to enhance multicultural student success, and first- and second-year student advising, opened in the fall of 2022 in renovated space on the second floor of Phillips Memorial Library. In addition, a new website was created to centralize information for students, faculty, and staff. 🌐





# STRIVE changing Admiral Street

Visitors to Providence College's campus can't help but notice signs of development along Admiral Street — literal signs. The name "Strive," simple white letters on a black background, adorns dozens of properties in the neighborhood and across the city.

The company's founder and CEO is **Joseph Colaluca '09, '15G**, a marketing major with an MBA from PC.

Colaluca was a senior when he purchased his first property at 441 Admiral Street, across from the fire station, for \$141,476, using money saved while working for his family's plumbing and heating supply business. He crossed the street between classes to work on renovations to the two-story, 3,200-square-foot building, returning to the classroom covered in paint and sawdust. The work took six months, and shortly after, Colaluca leased the three apartments to college students and young professionals. He still owns the property, now valued at an estimate of more than \$380,000. The apartments rent for between \$1,250 and \$1,650 per month.

"My family was not in the real estate business and I really didn't have much construction experience, but I knew I had the drive to get the job done with help from my father and grandfather," Colaluca said.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
PETER GOLDBERG

In his senior year, for an internet marketing course with Cemal Ekin, Ph.D., professor emeritus of marketing, students were assigned to build a website for a local company. Colaluca chose his father's business, Atlantic Plumbing and Heating in Coventry, and created a fully functional e-commerce site that took orders for parts and equipment from all over the

country. Ekin became an advisor and mentor, helping Colaluca discern his career path.

"I first knew Joe as a student in my Marketing on the Internet class, where he was always eager to learn more and always had a smile on his face," Ekin said. "When he started his real estate company, he wanted to discuss various ideas, company names,



Opposite page: Joseph Colaluca '09, '15G, founder and CEO of Strive Realty. Top: Colaluca, center, with general counsel John Longo, left, and

brand manager Kenneth McCarthy '23, on Admiral Street. Above: McCarthy, left, and Colaluca review plans for properties under renovation.

and strategic moves. I built his original website, took many photographs for different purposes, but most significantly, designed his first logo with a steep hill to symbolize what drives him even today: Always strive to be better. And he still strives for improvement."

After graduation, Colaluca earned a real estate license and worked for Coldwell Banker while developing a small portfolio. He worked for two other firms before founding Strive, a full-service real estate brokerage, in 2013. He added Strive Construction in 2015, the year he earned an MBA from PC.

Colaluca has roots in the neighborhood. His great-great-grandfather ran a bottling company where the Walgreens now stands at Admiral Street and Douglas Avenue. He grew up attending Friars games with his grandfather, Frank DePetrillo '59, a season ticket holder. After graduating from La Salle Academy, he enrolled at the University of Virginia as a soccer team walk-on. When Rhode Island tugged at his heart, he transferred to PC as a sophomore.

"As a student and young entrepreneur, Joe exhibited tremendous work ethic and ambition," said Mark DeFanti, Ph.D., associate professor of marketing, who still advises him. "In my Principles of Marketing class, Joe finished among the top 20 students nationwide in Chevrolet's Super Bowl ad competition. Since then he has worked tirelessly at building Strive into the formidable real estate company it is today."





STRIVE properties in the Admiral Street vicinity

“I’LL ALWAYS WORK TO IMPROVE THE AREA I LOVE.”

—JOSEPH COLALUCA ’09, ’15G

This past semester, Colaluca served as the business school’s real estate industry expert for PCBiz Basics, a six-week workshop series that introduces students to careers in real estate, investment and wealth management, and sports management. Among Strive’s 19 employees are Kenneth McCarthy ’23, a marketing major from Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, who has worked with Colaluca

in a variety of roles since September 2020 and now is brand director. Emma Mitchell ’23, a marketing major from Great Barrington, Massachusetts, works in leasing. Jolade Oshinkanlu ’25, a psychology major from Providence, is an office assistant. Caroline Franks ’22, a management major from Pelham, New York, was a Strive intern before joining the commercial real estate firm CBRE.

MAP: CHRIS JUDGE ’05, ’07G

Colaluca describes himself as a hands-on manager. He awakens most days at 4:30 a.m. to set up job sites. By 6:30 a.m., contractors are calling him as they start their days. His workdays don’t end until 9 p.m.

Strive boasts a portfolio of more than 300 units, most in multifamily homes, and rents to “a healthy mix” of undergraduates, graduate students, and young professionals. The company’s real estate offices are located in Strive Lofts, a converted mill with 56 rental units at 553 Atwells Avenue. But the primary area of focus is the neighborhood north of Admiral Street, where Strive owns 60 properties in about a one-mile radius.

At 383 Admiral Street, once the home of Club Eagles and Clubbies, Strive Kitchen + Bar offers three floors of dining, including a basement speakeasy. A vacant laundromat at 361 Admiral was converted to a first-floor coffee shop, Admiral Coffee Company, with one-bedroom and studio apartments upstairs. Strive also plans a new five-story apartment building at 663 Admiral, near River Avenue, with 48 one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments. Other properties throughout the neighborhood and the city are identifiable by the simple Strive sign.

To critics who say that redevelopment brings gentrification, displacing low-income residents, Colaluca said, “There is a need for the housing that we provide, too. My connection to this neighborhood runs deep — it’s where my family settled after emigrating from Italy. I’ll always work to improve the area I love.”

PHOTO: PETER GOLDBERG (EXTERIOR); ARTIST RENDERING: STRIVE



The company owned by Joseph Colaluca ’09, ’15G is renovating 383 Admiral Street, the former home of Club Eagles and Clubbies, into a restaurant. The building will have three floors of dining, including a basement speakeasy.





\$1M Wirtz gift supports field hockey program



W. ROCKWELL “ROCKY” WIRTZ is best known as the owner of the Chicago Blackhawks hockey team and co-owner of the United Center in Chicago, where the Friars played Kansas in the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA tournament in 2022.



But at PC, Wirtz is making a lasting impact on field hockey. His \$1 million gift to the program is the largest gift to women’s athletics in college history. His daughter, Hillary Wirtz ’01, played field hockey for the Friars while studying elementary and special education.

“I have such proud memories of watching Hillary and the team excel on and off the field,” Wirtz said. “The Wirtz family is pleased to be able to give back, to support the field hockey program, and to provide other student-athletes with the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.”

The Wirtz Family Fund for PC Field Hockey will support the team with travel and game costs, recruiting, professional development, supplies, summer tuition, and coaches’ salaries. The Wirtz Family Scholarship Fund, part of the college’s permanent endowment, will enhance the

scholarship allotment for the field hockey program in compliance with NCAA regulations.

It isn’t the first time Wirtz has supported PC athletics. In 2017, he made what was then the largest gift in history to field hockey, designated for player development.

After teaching for 10 years, Hillary Wirtz now is director of diversity and inclusion for her family’s company, Breakthru Beverage Group, based in Cicero, Illinois. She is charged with building a culture of inclusion and belonging where every employee can bring “their full, authentic selves to work.”

“It is in this spirit that I hope the donated funds can provide an opportunity for talented student-athletes to attend PC, compete at the highest level, and receive a quality education,” she said.

Hillary was a starting forward as a sophomore and played defense her final two years. She attributes her commitment to community service, hard work, perseverance, and teamwork to all that she learned as a student-athlete.

She remembers traveling to Northwestern University to play as a senior.

“During a long rain delay, the team came to my house for a home-cooked meal and quality time with my family,” she said. “It was so special to me to play on the field at Northwestern, where I grew up playing in field hockey clinics, games, and tournaments, always dreaming of one day playing at the collegiate level. To have my immediate and extended family all come to watch and support us was a dream come true. It’s a memory I will forever cherish.” ❧



Hillary Wirtz '01 is in the first row, hands folded between the letters “L” and “C” in this photo, taken during the team’s visit to her home near Chicago.

FACES OF PC



“I STRIVE FOR OUR FRIARS TO SEE ALL THAT IS GOOD.”

Steve Sears is on a mission.

BY JOE CARR '83 PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN JAMES MUIR

Dean of students and vice president of student affairs, **Steve Sears, Ed.D.** leads with enthusiasm, passion, and love — characteristics that help provide the energy he needs for a 24/7 calling that he says is far more rewarding than challenging.

“This isn’t a job, it’s a remarkable life,” he says.

Sears’ wide-ranging management portfolio comprises 135 staff members across 12 departments including residence life, public safety, community standards, personal counseling, student health, career education, student activities, and more.

“I am so grateful for our team,” he says. “As a group, we are passionate, focused, and committed to doing all

we can to educate, guide, and support our Friars in their determination of a meaningful life.”

An Air Force veteran and father of three (including a current PC student), Sears holds a doctorate in education from NOVA Southeastern University and an MBA from Salve Regina University. He came to PC in 1998 as associate director for housing and discipline, hired by College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G, who was then director of residence life.

“It is one of the best decisions I ever made,” Father Sicard said. “Steve has been a positive influence on a generation of PC students, reflecting the institution’s ideals every day through his actions and his example.”

Sears was named associate vice president and dean of students in 2010. One of the first things Father Sicard did when becoming president in 2020 was name Sears a vice president and add him to the President’s Cabinet, the college’s senior team.

“The opportunity to be a voice for our students as we work to determine the direction and trajectory of the college is one of the greatest gifts God has provided me,” Sears says.

Sears conceptualizes his team’s responsibilities to students on a timeline that begins with orientation and continues through graduation.

“We work to create experiences for growth, development, and dialogue, all in the search for truth,” he says. “If we are successful, students will flourish as self-aware, contemplative leaders prepared to pursue their path in life.”

“Dean Sears,” as students know him, is ever-present in the day-to-day life of the community, giving those students a window into his personality and his approach to life. They know he is likely to answer “solid,” when asked how he is doing. They know he will finish near the top of the Friar 5K during Homecoming every fall. And they know he embraces opportunities to witness his faith, notably in the inspiring email messages he sends them.

“I strive for our Friars to see all that is good,” he says. “Bringing out the good in people and sharing happiness is important to me. It is about working together to create a foundation based on shared values and relationships that will last a lifetime.” ❧





# The innkeeper's joy

BY LIZ DUFFY '23  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN JAMES MUIR

**The first story I heard about St. Dominic** tells of him remaining awake all night, speaking with the keeper of the inn he was visiting while traveling through Spain. Upon conversing with the man, St. Dominic learned that the innkeeper had stopped practicing the faith. By the end of that night, the innkeeper was convinced of the truth of the Gospel and had resolved to return to it. When I imagine how this night must have unfolded, I cannot help but wonder what St. Dominic's disposition toward this man must have been. I imagine him engaging the innkeeper with profound patience, kindness, understanding, and charity. I envision the two men sharing a pitcher of beer on the first floor of the inn, discussing questions that everyone asks, at one time or another: Who am I? What was I made for? What is happiness, and how do I attain it? I imagine, with the sun rising over the horizon, St. Dominic embracing the innkeeper with brotherly love, as the innkeeper cries with the particular joy that comes when one encounters true charity.

The mental image I have of this encounter is the result of a personal experience not unlike the innkeeper's. Before I arrived at Providence College, I was a staunch agnostic, firmly resistant to the Catholic faith. During my first theology class, a class I only enrolled in because it would eventually be required, I found myself asking question upon question. Knowing that the Dominican friars would be good resources for the answers, I began to meet with them regularly to have conversations about the faith. Their answers were always delivered with patience and kindness and demonstrated a respect for me and the questions I was asking. Their dispositions reopened my mind, softened my heart, inspired me to pursue theology, and prepared me to receive the gift of faith that God had been trying to give to me all along.

Like the innkeeper and many of my friends at PC, I was given the greatest gift I could receive because of the determination of St. Dominic: the gift of the truth communicated in love. It is the truth that shapes the minds and hearts of the students at Providence, an institution which exists only because St. Dominic committed himself to helping others know the deep,

**“BUT IMAGINE WHAT GOOD WE STAND TO PRESERVE IF VERITAS CONTINUES TO BE OUR MOTTO...”**

pervasive, and transformative joy that comes from rejoicing in the truth. I am deeply grateful to the friars I have come to know, who never once failed to guide me with the same patience, charity, and humility with which St. Dominic presumably treated the innkeeper. In a time when, for many, the truth has become seemingly slippery and elusive, reduced to relativized conclusions drawn from personal experiences, it is essential that PC continues to commit itself to sharing the truth with its students. The temptation to falter is strong, and the cultural resistance to the truth of the dignity of human life, and to the providence of God, is powerful. But imagine what good we stand to preserve if *veritas* continues to be our motto, not only in name, but in action: that particular joy of the innkeeper that so many students have the opportunity to experience, and the promise of an everlasting happiness that surpasses anything we can imagine. ■

*Liz Duffy '23, from East Greenwich, Rhode Island, majored in theology and humanities. She received a Father Philip A. Smith Fellowship for Service and Study Abroad to spend the summer of 2022 in Geneva with Dominicans for Justice and Peace, a delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Council. She is the daughter of Robert Duffy '82 and Sharon Stetkiewicz Duffy '82, and the sister of Meaghan Duffy Orrall '11 and John Duffy '20.*





## Margaret Watkins, Ph.D. named dean of Arts and Sciences



**MARGARET WATKINS, PH.D.**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Seattle Pacific University, a private Christian liberal arts university, will be the new dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Providence College beginning July 1, 2023.

Watkins will replace Sheila Adamus-Liotta, Ph.D., the school's first dean, who served from 2009 until leaving in 2022 to become provost of Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. Joan Branham, Ph.D., associate dean and a professor of art and art history, was interim dean after Adamus-Liotta's departure.

Watkins, who holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame and an undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary, specializes in early modern ethics and aesthetics and is an expert on the 18th

century Scottish philosopher David Hume. Her work includes studies of philosophy and literature, race and gender in early modern thought, and efforts to increase inclusivity and diversity in philosophical teaching-learning and scholarship.

"I am inspired by Providence's vision of a transformative and liberating Dominican education, rooted in the ideal of veritas, as well as the commitment to care for community and diversity that was so evident in all of my interactions during the interview process," Watkins said. "I am very much looking forward to joining the Friar community."

Prior to Seattle Pacific, Watkins served as a professor, honors program director, interim dean, and from 2019-2021, dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Saint Vincent College, a Benedictine institution in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. She has been at Seattle Pacific since 2021.



### Nursing chair appointed

Nancy L. Meedzan, DNP will chair the new Department of Nursing and will be a member of the college faculty beginning July 1, 2023. She has been dean of the Cummings School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts, since January 2019.

"I am honored and excited to be leading the new nursing program at Providence College and joining the Friar community," Meedzan said. "Rhode Island has a very special place in my heart, it is my home state, and I couldn't imagine a better way of returning home."

After graduating from Boston College in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in nursing, Meedzan began a nearly 20-year career as a registered nurse in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. She has a master's degree in nursing from Salem State University and a doctor of nursing practice degree from Regis College. Her academic career began in 2004 at Endicott.

### Professional Studies changes name

The School of Professional Studies has a new name — the School of Education and Social Work. The change, approved by the Faculty Senate in February 2023, reflects the move of the health policy and management major, formerly part of the School of Professional Studies, to the new School of Nursing and Health Sciences. The departments of elementary/special education, secondary education, and social work, as well as graduate programs remain in the School of Education and Social Work under Dean Yune Kim Tran, Ph.D.

### New directors for Honors Program

The new director of the Honors Program beginning July 1, 2023, will be Rev. Gabriel Pivarnik, O.P., associate professor of theology, assisted by Michael Mathes, Ph.D., assistant professor of economics. The roles were previously held by Steven Lynch, Ph.D., professor of English, and Suzanne J. Fournier, Ph.D. '77, associate professor of English. ❧



PHOTO: JUSTIN JAMES MUIR

## EDMUND DAIN, PH.D. PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

**EDUCATION:** Ph.D., philosophy; master's degree, analytic and continental philosophy after Kant; bachelor's degree, English literature and philosophy; all from Cardiff University

**BEGAN TEACHING AT PC:** September 2011

**EXPERTISE:** The philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein, ethics and meta-ethics, epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind and psychology; longstanding interest in ancient Greek thought and literature

**NEWSWORTHY:** Dain received the 2021-2022 Joseph R. Accinno Teaching Award, Providence College's highest honor for teaching excellence. Additionally, he edited an anthology, *Wittgenstein's Moral Thought* (Routledge, 2018), which includes 10 essays contributed by scholars from the United States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Finland, and Denmark. The essays explore the significance of Wittgenstein's moral thought, including his startling claim that there can be no ethical propositions.

**CURRENT PROJECTS:** Wittgenstein's methodology, "mindreading" (how we discern what others are thinking or feeling), the nature of logical impossibility

**QUOTABLE:** "In a sense, all of us already are philosophers. We just can't help taking a stand on philosophical questions. We're always going to run into ethical issues. We're always going to need to think about what kind of society we want to live in and who we should vote for and other things like this. **Philosophy is part of our everyday lives.**"

**ORIGINALLY FROM:** Fyfield, England

**HOBBIES:** Swimming, rowing, hiking, always open to a game of cricket

— MICHAEL HAGAN '15, '19G

# FACULTY SCHOLAR





KERRY WEBER '04 INTERVIEWED

# THE POPE

‘FRANCIS IS VERY OPEN ... AND NOT AFRAID,’  
SAYS EDITOR OF AMERICA MAGAZINE

BY MICHAEL HAGAN '15, '19G → PHOTOGRAPHY BY RON HESTER

Kerry Weber '04 at America magazine offices in New York City. On the wall are proofs of the issue under production.

## ON A RAINY TUESDAY IN

November, Kerry Weber '04 and four colleagues from America magazine stood in a room on the ground floor of Casa Santa Marta, the pope's residence in the Vatican. They were quietly conversing when Weber tapped her colleague on the arm to indicate, "He's here."

Without announcement or fanfare, Pope Francis entered, pushing a wheeled walker, with a seat and a basket underneath that held a cane with a crucifix wrapped at the top. Introductions were made, and the in-person interview with the pope began.

"Before Francis entered, I was very nervous," Weber said. "Once he was in the room, I didn't feel the nerves anymore. He put everyone at ease. At that point, I could focus on the job I came to do."

The assignment: to discuss with Pope Francis some of the major questions facing the Catholic Church, the United States, and humanity. Joining Weber, an executive editor at America, were her coworkers: Rev. Matt Malone, S.J., outgoing editor-in-chief; Rev. Sam Sawyer, S.J., incoming editor-in-chief; Gerard O'Connell, Vatican correspondent; and Gloria Purvis, podcast host.

America, a monthly publication of America Media, is a forum for discussion of religion, society, politics, and culture from a Catholic perspective. Continuously published since 1909, it is one of the oldest periodicals in the United States. Weber has worked for America since 2009, after graduating from Columbia University with a master's degree in journalism. After 12 years living in New York and New Jersey, she now works remotely from her home office in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, with occasional trips to America's office in midtown Manhattan.

Weber majored in English at PC and was a student in the Honors Program. She followed in the footsteps of her mother, Peggy Martin Weber '76 (her father, John, went to Marquette), and her siblings followed her — Matt Weber '06 is chief creative officer and senior adviser to the president at the University of Virginia, and Elizabeth Weber '10 lives in western Massachusetts with her husband (and former Civ classmate), Jeremiah Begley '10, and their four children.



Kerry's husband, Colm Lynch, who is from Ireland, is a director for Coach USA. They have three children, all of whom drew pictures for the pope. Their 6-year-old son requested that Weber ask the pope about his favorite animal.

In an essay for America about the trip, Weber described a hectic time preparing for the flight from Hartford, a last-minute stop on the way to the airport to buy poppy-colored heels, and an early-morning call to her mother the day of the interview when her nerves kept her from sleep.

The interview itself was calm. The pope spoke in his native Spanish. The America interviewers took turns asking questions through a translator. Weber posed two. She asked about the relationship between American Catholics and the U.S. bishops conference in light of a 2021 America Media survey in which only 20% of Catholics described the United States

## “He was there AS POPE — somebody being interviewed — but also A PASTOR...”

Conference of Catholic Bishops as “very trustworthy” on matters of faith and morals. And she asked about the church’s pastoral response to women who are pained because they are excluded from being ordained as Catholic priests.

In response to how the bishops conference can regain the trust of American Catholics, Pope Francis said, “Jesus created bishops. Jesus did not create bishops’ conferences ... The grace of Jesus Christ is in the relationship between the bishop and his people,” not the conference and the public.

“It was a very quotable answer,” Weber said. “And while it wasn’t necessarily surprising, it was a good reminder that the conference is made up of individual bishops, and it’s the individual bishop’s relationship to the people he serves that matters most.”

Weber also asked, “What would you say to a woman who is already serving in the life of the church, but who still feels called to be a priest?”

Francis responded, “It is a theological problem,” and gave a theological answer. He described two principles — the Petrine, proceeding from the apostle Peter, and the Marian, proceeding from Mary, the mother of Jesus — calling the Petrine principle that of ministry, and the Marian the principle “where the church sees a mirror of herself because she is a woman and a spouse.” While the

Marian principle is “more important,” the pope said, “we have not developed a theology of women that reflects this.”

Francis said that objection to the church’s teaching may be because “we have too often failed in our catechesis when explaining these things.” He affirmed the exclusively male priesthood, saying of women priests, “the Petrine principle has no place for that ... That a woman does not enter into the ministerial life is not a deprivation.”

Weber said she had hoped that Francis would focus less on describing the specific teaching and more on the person affected by it.

“I think he clearly explained teaching on the matter, but I wish he had addressed the pastoral dimension,” she said. “We need to talk about the pain that many feel in response to church teaching.”

Weber and her associates felt a palpable sense of authentic presence from the pope. While questions and answers were being translated, she had the opportunity to quietly observe him.

“He acted like he had nowhere else to be, even though he absolutely did. He chose to spend this time with us. And as he conversed with us, he continued choosing. There was no sense of rush or hurry from Pope Francis. He was there as pope — somebody being interviewed — but also a pastor,” she said.

“We went into the interview thinking we’d have an hour, but he gave us almost two. We were conscious of that fact that he could be whisked away at any moment, so we tried to get as many different questions in as possible.”

Weber works closely at America with Pope Francis’ confreres in the Society of Jesus — the Jesuits. Dominican friars are recognizable by their white habits; Jesuits wear the same standard Roman collar as diocesan priests or dress similarly to their lay colleagues. Both are known for their scholarship and teaching. Before she worked with the Jesuits, Weber studied with the Dominicans, at PC and at Blackfriars, Oxford, during her junior year abroad.

“I always appreciated the friars’ ability to preach. Their



On behalf of her 6-year-old son, Kerry Weber '04 asked Pope Francis to name his favorite animal. The pope joked that it was “a combination of all the animals,” making Weber laugh.



Pope Francis gave each interviewer a signed copy of his book, *Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future*.





Rev. James Martin, S.J., editor-at-large of America magazine, officiated at the wedding of Kerry Weber '04 and Colm Lynch in 2015.

One of Weber's closest associates and mentors at America is editor-at-large Rev. James Martin, S.J., a New York Times best-selling author and consultant to the Vatican's Secretariat for Communications, who officiated at her wedding in 2015. Father Martin is known in the church and in the media for his ministry to the LGBTQ community, which he has described as a process of "building a bridge," drawing both praise and criticism from voices in the church. He spoke at Providence College as part of its centennial celebration in 2016.

Weber's role at America has evolved since she was first hired as an assistant editor, a job that included reviewing, editing, and writing features for print and web and co-managing social media. She wrote about everyone from Flannery O'Connor (one of her favorite authors) to comedian Tracy Morgan and everything from Catholic education to the Winter Olympics.

In October 2013, Weber was awarded an Egan Journalism Fellowship from Catholic Relief Services to travel to Rwanda. She spent a week with three other fellows examining the reconciliation process in the two decades since the 1994 genocide.

"It was hard to hear the survivors' stories, but as hard as it was to hear, they actually lived it," Weber said. "I knew that in writing about their experience, I had a duty to share their story carefully, accurately, and compassionately."

She was particularly moved by reconciliation groups where victims' families sat side-by-side with perpetrators of the genocide and shared their stories.

"There was pain, but there was so much grace. I was very grateful to witness it," Weber said.

Weber's journalistic assignments are the realization of a lifelong aspiration to write. Her mother was a longtime writer for the Catholic Observer, the former newspaper of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts, until her retirement in 2016. Kerry grew up visiting the newsroom and hearing about her mother's work, and she worked for the Observer during her summer breaks in high school and college.

"I've basically been working in the Catholic press in one way or another since I was 16," she said.

Though Weber briefly worked as a staff reporter for the Greenwich Post in Connecticut, "I kept being drawn back to stories about faith. Not as many journalists seek to tell these stories," she said. By the time she joined America, "Catholic journalism was a choice — a vocation."

Weber's work in the Catholic press has been influenced by her studies at PC. She is grateful for how her years there shaped her, and now laughs at the memory that she almost didn't apply to her mother's alma mater because she was eager to forge her own path.

"You can imagine my frustration when I visited campus and had to admit that I really did like it," she said.

When Weber moved into the fourth floor of McVinney Hall in 2001, among her worries was the Development of Western Civilization Program and its academic demands. Today, she cites the classes as one of her most formative intellectual experiences.

"I still draw on Civ regularly in my work at America," she said.

Outside the classroom, she served in Campus Ministry and as an admission ambassador. Some of her favorite experiences were Habitat for Humanity spring break trips.

After graduating, she joined the Mercy Volunteer Corps and taught pre-vocational skills to Navajo children ages 14-21 at a non-profit special education school in St. Michael's, Arizona. Through the example of the Sisters of Mercy, she developed an abiding devotion to the virtue of mercy.

That devotion led to reflection and, ultimately, a book.

## "I've basically been working in the **CATHOLIC PRESS** in one way or another since I was 16."

In 2014, *Mercy in the City: How to Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Visit the Imprisoned, and Keep Your Day Job*, was published by Loyola Press. It narrated her personal effort, over the course of one Lenten season, to practice the seven corporal works of mercy derived from Jesus's teaching in the Gospel of Matthew.

Practicing mercy is "a process, akin to sweeping the floor. You have to do it regularly," Weber writes in *Mercy in the City*. "The Works of Mercy aren't things that can be completed the way one can finish playing a board game or painting a picture."

Weber sees Pope Francis as a model of mercy. She cites him in the epigraph for *Mercy in the City*: "The ministers of the church must be ministers of mercy above all."

"Pope Francis sees his role as pope as one where he is a pastor first, and so much of that comes from his Jesuit formation. He very much lives out the Jesuit motto of men and women for others," Weber said.

Reflecting on the interview, Weber said that as the pope spoke, it struck her "that his answers were part of an ongoing conversation" about the church and the Catholic faith.

That conversation is at the heart of Francis' papacy. He is better known for frank comments than precise dogmatics. He called a global synod, or meeting of bishops, on synodality, a principle and process he defines as "a style, a walk together, what the Lord expects from the church of the third millennium." Significantly, preparation for this forthcoming synod of bishops has involved direct input from laypeople through conversation at the diocesan and even parish level.



Kerry Weber '04 holds the January 2023 issue of America magazine, which features the interview with Pope Francis.

"Pope Francis is very open, and he's not afraid. He's willing to dwell in the messiness of the world. It's a very Jesuit approach. There's no point when life is not going to be messy, which is why faith, mercy, and pastoral care are so vital," Weber said.

At the Vatican, Weber felt her own story come full circle. In the Vatican Museums, she stood in front of Raphael's fresco "The School of Athens," a work she vividly remembered learning about in Civ.

"I saw it on a slide then," Weber said. "But seeing it in Rome on my way to interview the pope, I could see how all my experiences — at PC, in my career, and everything in between — were connected. And I felt so much gratitude for how they led me to where I was, not just into the home of Pope Francis, but into a deeper relationship with God." ■■





Nahyr Morales Lugo '24 worked with PC Archives and Special Collections to record the histories of Black alumni. Opposite page: Joe Small '74 proposed the project in 2022.

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NAT REA

# Library project records oral histories of Black alumni

**D**EAR FUTURE FRIARS IS an initiative of Phillips Memorial Library to capture oral and video histories from the Providence College community, beginning with the stories of Black alumni.

PC Archives and Special Collections received a \$2,500 grant from the Office of Institutional Diversity to launch the project in the Fall 2022 semester. Nahyr Morales Lugo '24, a political science major and sociology minor from Lawrence, Massachusetts, was hired as an undergraduate research assistant to conduct the interviews.

The project is part of a broader goal to capture stories from alumni, faculty, staff, and students, said Michelle Chiles, head of archives and special collections. When Chiles joined the library staff in late 2019, she hoped to begin an oral history project using the name Dear Future Friars to mark the 50th anniversary of women as undergraduates in 1971.

The pandemic made that impossible, but the idea of collecting oral histories was renewed in early 2022, when Joe Small '74 came to campus to accept PC's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Vision Award. Small, who became an actor, voiceover artist, and producer following a career in software publishing, proposed an oral history project with Black alumni. He was inspired by the memory of his classmate, friend, and campus leader Doug Sullivan '74, who died in 2016.



"Doug represented that bridge between the old all-male Providence College and the new coed Providence College. He personally made an effort to reach out and connect with the incoming coeds in 1971," Small said. "I knew that with every year that went by, we weren't capturing authentic voices, and more important, while people were still able to recall those rich memories."

To explain the project and find participants, Chiles set up an information table at the Alumni of Color panel at Homecoming in October. More than a dozen people signed up to participate.

Chiles and Morales Lugo developed questions to ask the alumni. The interviews began in November via Zoom and, when possible, in person in the library's John E. Fogarty Reading Room. Technical support was provided by Megan Lessard, the library's media support and outreach coordinator, who edited the interviews on iMovie and added them to the Archives Digital Collection for viewing by the public.

Morales Lugo, who was born in Ecuador, is amazed at how often experiences of Black alumni mirror those of students of color today.

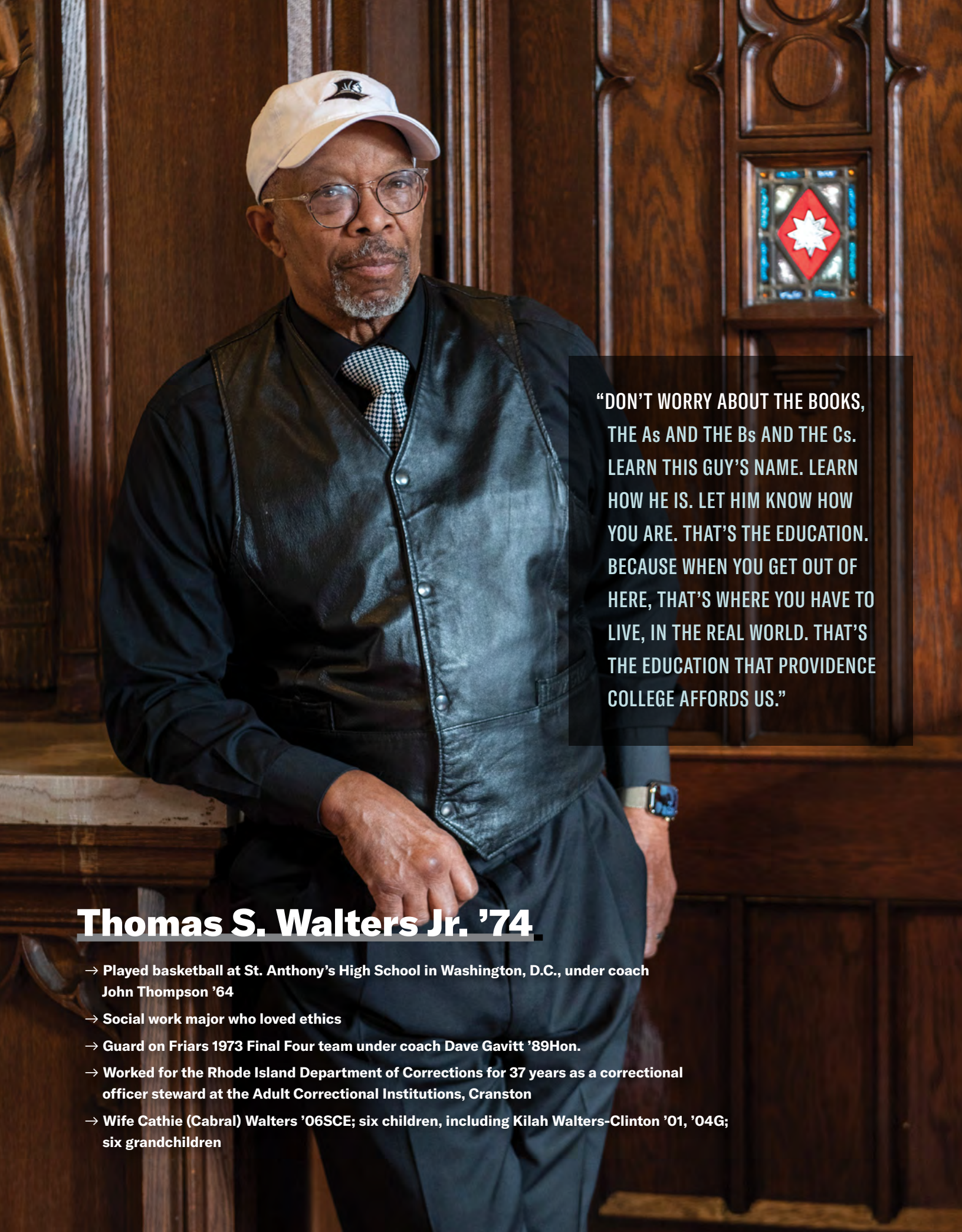
"I love to be a part of capturing these stories where people share the raw experiences they have had," she said. "It's important not just for future students, but for current and past students as well. This has been an amazing experience for me."

Read about four of the oral history participants on the following pages. —>



View the histories of Black alumni on the Phillips Memorial Library Archives Digital Collection: [prov.ly/dear-future-friars](https://prov.ly/dear-future-friars)





“DON’T WORRY ABOUT THE BOOKS, THE As AND THE Bs AND THE Cs. LEARN THIS GUY’S NAME. LEARN HOW HE IS. LET HIM KNOW HOW YOU ARE. THAT’S THE EDUCATION. BECAUSE WHEN YOU GET OUT OF HERE, THAT’S WHERE YOU HAVE TO LIVE, IN THE REAL WORLD. THAT’S THE EDUCATION THAT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE AFFORDS US.”

## Thomas S. Walters Jr. '74

- Played basketball at St. Anthony’s High School in Washington, D.C., under coach John Thompson '64
- Social work major who loved ethics
- Guard on Friars 1973 Final Four team under coach Dave Gavitt '89Hon.
- Worked for the Rhode Island Department of Corrections for 37 years as a correctional officer steward at the Adult Correctional Institutions, Cranston
- Wife Cathie (Cabral) Walters '06SCE; six children, including Kilah Walters-Clinton '01, '04G; six grandchildren

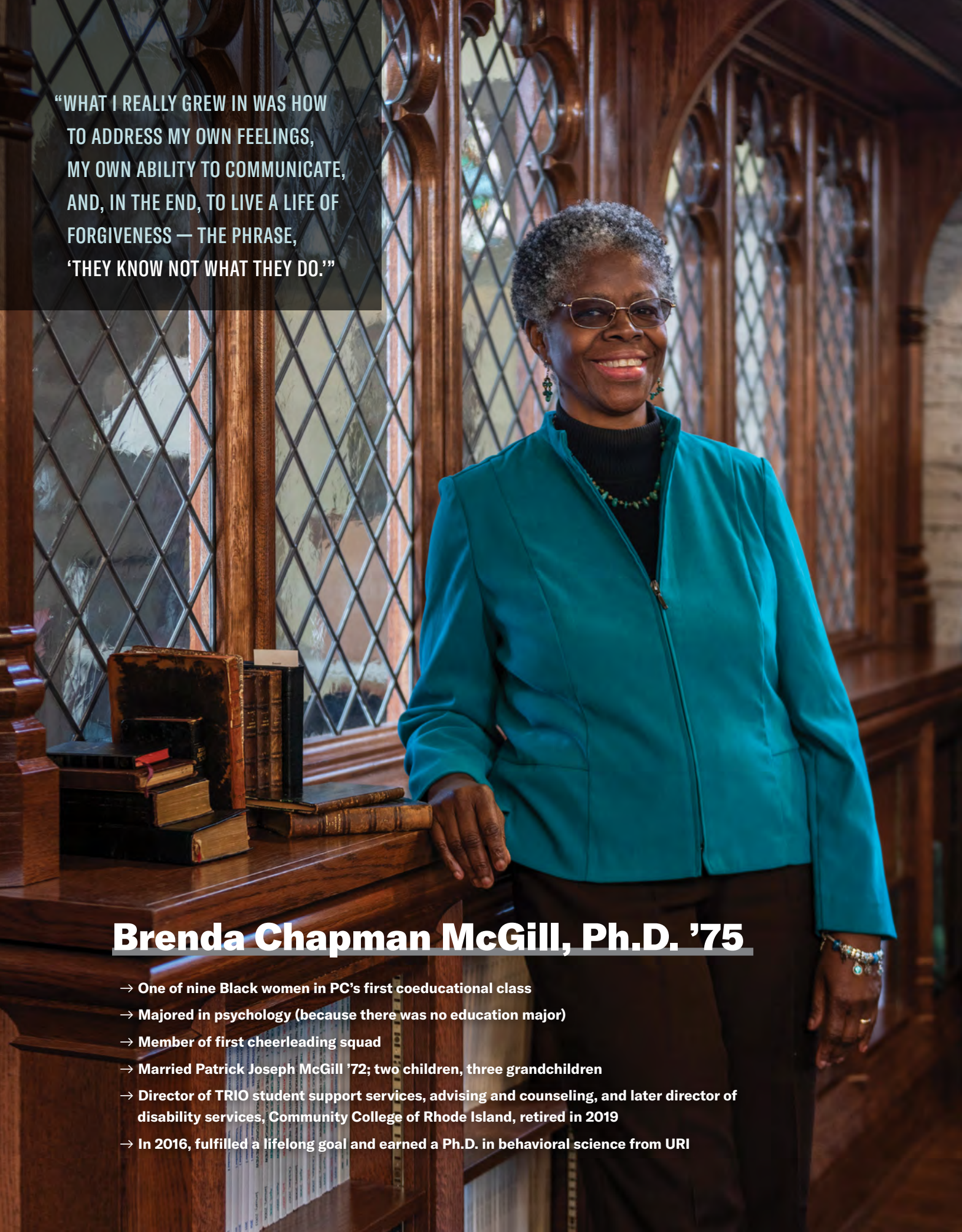


“THE MISSION THAT THE DOMINICAN FRIARS HAVE, I HAVE TAKEN AS MY OWN. I TRY TO HELP OTHERS. I TRY TO BE THE BEST PERSON THAT I CAN BE. I’VE TRIED TO TEACH MY DAUGHTER TO BE THE BEST PERSON THAT SHE CAN BE. SO MUCH IS PRESENTED TO YOU ON CAMPUS, AND YOU HAVE TO PICK AND CHOOSE WHAT YOU TAKE FROM IT.”

## Jennifer Maultsby '89

- Majored in finance
- Helped reestablish Board of Multicultural Student Affairs, became its president
- As litigation manager of toxic torts and environmental matters for Aetna Casualty and Surety, traveled country working with EPA to represent companies in environmental litigation
- Opened former Charli’s Cupcake Factory, West Haven, Connecticut
- Daughter Charli Calhoun '25 (pictured above) majors in English

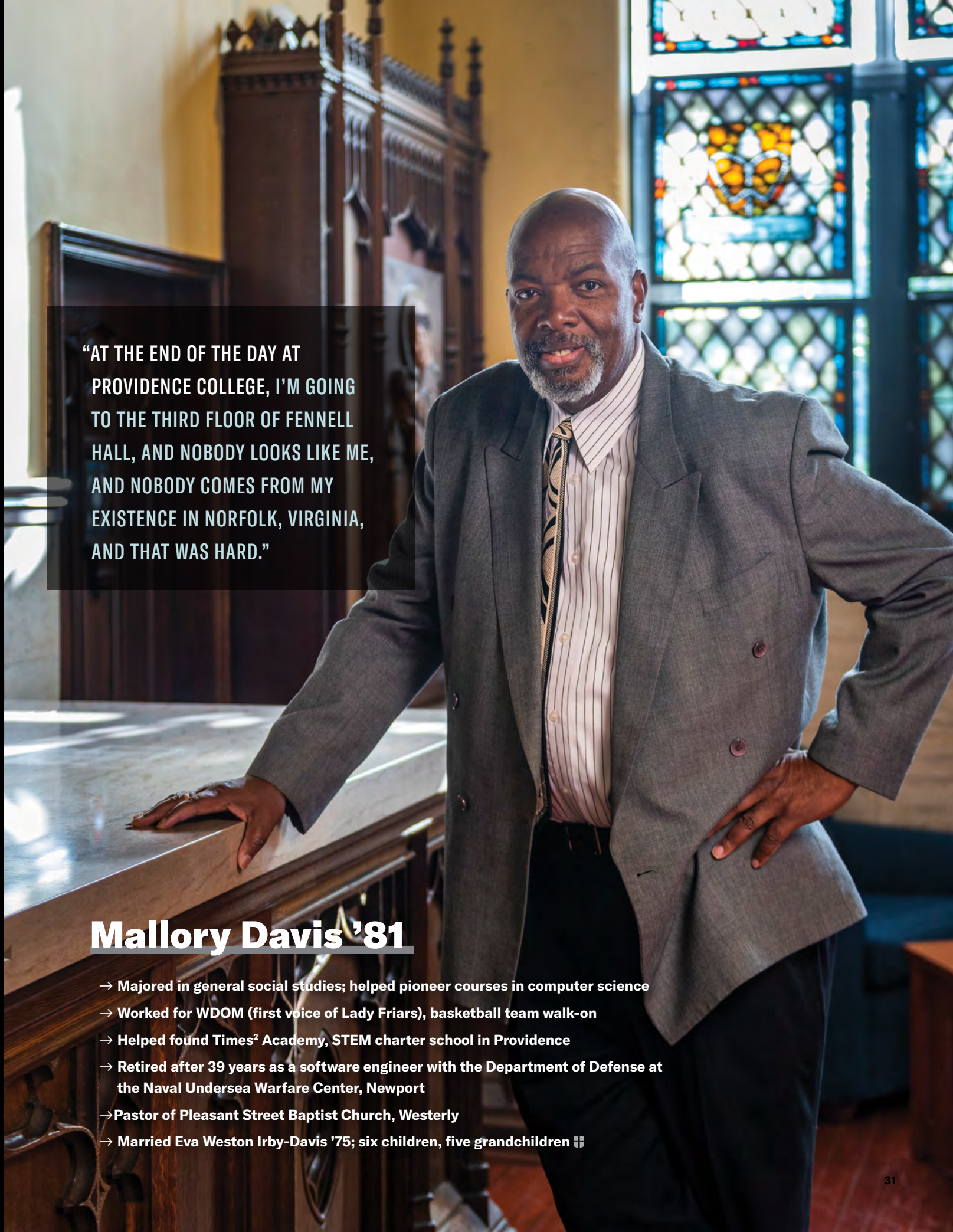


A portrait of Brenda Chapman McGill, an older Black woman with short grey hair and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a teal zip-up jacket over a black turtleneck and a green beaded necklace. She is standing in a room with large, ornate wooden windows featuring diamond-shaped leaded glass. A wooden ledge with several old books is in the foreground.

“WHAT I REALLY GREW IN WAS HOW  
TO ADDRESS MY OWN FEELINGS,  
MY OWN ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE,  
AND, IN THE END, TO LIVE A LIFE OF  
FORGIVENESS — THE PHRASE,  
‘THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.’”

## **Brenda Chapman McGill, Ph.D. '75**

- One of nine Black women in PC's first coeducational class
- Majored in psychology (because there was no education major)
- Member of first cheerleading squad
- Married Patrick Joseph McGill '72; two children, three grandchildren
- Director of TRIO student support services, advising and counseling, and later director of disability services, Community College of Rhode Island, retired in 2019
- In 2016, fulfilled a lifelong goal and earned a Ph.D. in behavioral science from URI

A portrait of Mallory Davis, a Black man with a grey beard and mustache, smiling. He is wearing a grey double-breasted suit jacket over a light-colored striped shirt and a patterned tie. He is standing in a room with large, ornate wooden windows featuring diamond-shaped leaded glass. A wooden ledge with several old books is in the foreground.

“AT THE END OF THE DAY AT  
PROVIDENCE COLLEGE, I'M GOING  
TO THE THIRD FLOOR OF FENNEL  
HALL, AND NOBODY LOOKS LIKE ME,  
AND NOBODY COMES FROM MY  
EXISTENCE IN NORFOLK, VIRGINIA,  
AND THAT WAS HARD.”

## **Mallory Davis '81**

- Majored in general social studies; helped pioneer courses in computer science
- Worked for WDOM (first voice of Lady Friars), basketball team walk-on
- Helped found Times<sup>2</sup> Academy, STEM charter school in Providence
- Retired after 39 years as a software engineer with the Department of Defense at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport
- Pastor of Pleasant Street Baptist Church, Westerly
- Married Eva Weston Irby-Davis '75; six children, five grandchildren





2024 WOMEN'S

NCAA

FINAL  
FOUR

CLEVELAND

# CALLING HER SHOT

Relentless determination, hard work,  
and the Friar family launched  
**Cayleigh Griffin '14**  
onto the sports broadcasting stage

BY BRENDAN McGAIR '03

In February 2023,  
Cayleigh Griffin  
'14 hosted the  
unveiling of the  
logo for the  
2024 Women's  
Final Four in  
Cleveland.

If you want to be successful in professional sports, you need drive, confidence, and a relentless work ethic.

This isn't just true of athletes. It's also reflected in pros on the sidelines, like Cayleigh Griffin '14, whose dedication has propelled her ascendant career in broadcasting through seven NBA seasons.

Griffin is the pre- and post-game host for the Cleveland Cavaliers and a feature reporter with Bally Sports Ohio, the television flagship of the NBA team. Her previous roles with the BIG EAST Conference, San Antonio Spurs, and Houston Rockets, along with the Houston Astros in Major League Baseball, have contributed to her respected status in a competitive field.

"Cayleigh is a rising star in the sports media landscape," said NBA analyst Doris Burke '87, '92G, '05Hon. "Her commitment to the work and her unflinching spirit in the face of a highly competitive industry has and will continue to serve her well. Cayleigh has an innate ability to connect with the athletes and teams she covers. I can't wait to watch her ongoing journey unfold."

Griffin reached out to Burke for advice while still a PC student and now considers the veteran sportscaster a confidant.

"She helped set me up for success to ultimately break into the NBA," said Griffin.

Griffin's dream of becoming a broadcaster began when she was 17, playing basketball at Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford, Connecticut. She was recruited by Division II colleges, but as much as she loved the game, wanted a different experience in college. She had visited PC often to play in tournaments and loved the campus, where her mother, Dorothy Tolan Griffin '83, played basketball for the Friars.

Griffin is proof that you don't need to study sports communication to become a successful broadcaster. She majored in humanities at PC, which gave her the freedom to

choose courses that would fall under a traditional communication major, especially English classes, and minored in film. She spent a semester of her junior year abroad in Sydney, Australia, taking communication courses and holding a full-time internship. She also gained experience through PCTV, serving on the Intramural Athletics Board, and working for recreation sports.

One of her favorite memories as a student — basketball star Bryce Cotton '14 holding a sign reading "2014 BIG EAST Tournament Champions" — is still the screensaver on her cell phone.



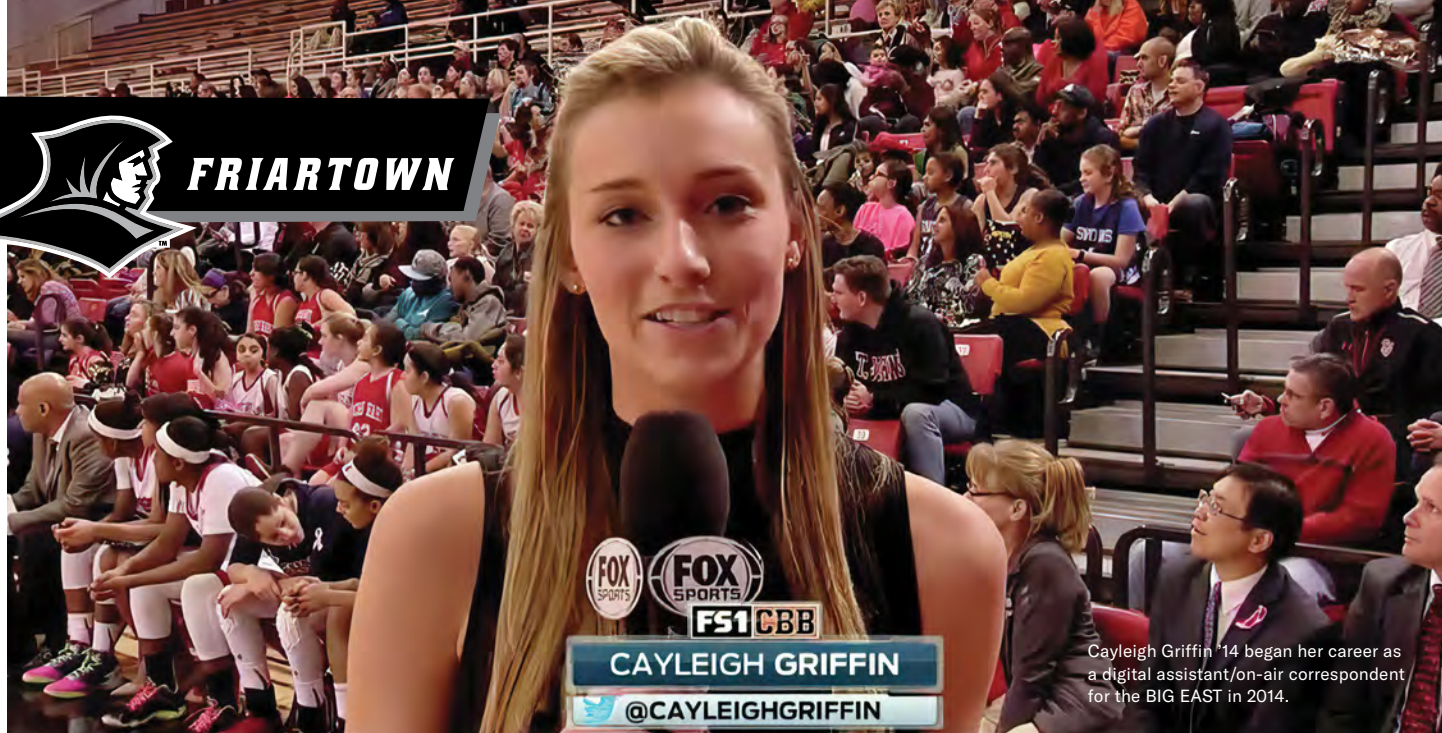
Far left:  
Cayleigh Griffin '14 with her mentor,  
Doris Burke '87, '92G, '05Hon.

Left:  
One of Griffin's favorite  
memories from her  
student days was  
Bryce Cotton '14  
leading the Friars  
to the BIG EAST  
Tournament  
championship.

As a novice broadcaster, Griffin learned that saying "yes" when an opportunity arose was just as important as polishing on-air delivery. She understood the value of soaking up as much experience as possible, whether securing internships as a student with NBC and FOX Sports or spending her weekends on Long Island calling high school basketball and volleyball games.

"I wanted to put myself in a position to be a qualified candidate when I graduated from PC," said Griffin. —>





Cayleigh Griffin '14 began her career as a digital assistant/on-air correspondent for the BIG EAST in 2014.

Griffin joined the BIG EAST as a digital assistant/on-air correspondent in October 2014, only months after graduation. Her role coincided with the conference's launch of a digital network. Such uncharted territory was perfect for Griffin — the chance to edit and shoot with the promise of more opportunities to come.

Griffin's time with the BIG EAST Digital Network coincided with that of John Fanta, now a college sports play-by-play broadcaster at FOX Sports. Fanta parlayed his time with the conference into becoming a respected commentator, host, and reporter across multiple media platforms and outlets. He saw Griffin's potential and believed it was only a matter of time before she struck it big.

"Cayleigh ushered in a new wave of BIG EAST basketball coverage and is the original correspondent in this great conference," Fanta said. "Her passion and drive really inspired me. Beyond the tremendous work Cayleigh has done in the field, she's an even better human being.

"When I think of Friartown, I think of people who are passionate and care for one another. Cayleigh Griffin embodies the spirit of Providence College. It's a pleasure to call her a colleague and friend, and I still believe she's only getting started. We will be watching her on our TVs for a long time because she's that good, does her homework, and genuinely cares about her work and the people around her," Fanta said.

After two years with the BIG EAST, and with guidance from

Burke, Griffin joined the San Antonio Spurs as a team/digital reporter. Then, right before the 2018 NBA Draft, the Spurs informed Griffin that her position had been eliminated.

"That was an eye-opening experience on how quickly things can change," said Griffin, who moved back to Stamford to consider her next opportunity.

By the start of the 2018-2019 season, Griffin was back with an NBA franchise, this time in Cleveland as a host/digital reporter at FOX Sports Ohio. Her varied experiences in broadcasting enabled her to fulfill a variety of roles, from live in-game segments to contributing to pre- and postgame shows. After one season with the Cavaliers, Griffin packed her bags — this time by her own choosing — and headed to Houston to work for AT&T SportsNet.

Griffin served as sideline reporter and pre- and post-game host for the Houston Rockets for three seasons. She traveled with the team for the first season, worked remotely in the Houston studios during the NBA bubble and COVID-19 season, and returned to travel for the third season. She also worked as a pre- and post-game host and fill-in field reporter for the Houston Astros during their championship season.

"Those three years were so instrumental to my growth in the industry, covering two professional sports teams in two professional sports leagues. I was privileged to cover some of the greatest athletes in their respective crafts," Griffin said.

Griffin chose to return to Cleveland in October 2022 to be



Cayleigh Griffin '14 interviews Christian Wood, left, now with the Dallas Mavericks, and Houston Rockets guard Kevin Porter Jr.

Far left: Field reporter Griffin speaks with Houston Astros catcher Martín Maldonado in July 2022.

Below: In March 2022, Griffin became the first woman to work as a color analyst for a Houston Rockets game.



the pre- and post-game host for the Cavaliers. She pursued the full-time hosting gig to round out her experience — an approach she'd recommend to any aspiring broadcaster.

"Versatility in the industry is so important, and I didn't want to be viewed as only a sideline reporter. I encourage those looking to break in to expand their horizons and not limit themselves to just one role," Griffin said.

The opportunity in Cleveland has opened other doors as well. She works as a host with Tipico Sportsbook and as an analyst calling games in college basketball and in the NBA's developmental G-League.

As for what's next, Griffin is hoping for a playoff run by the Cavaliers and is excited about new opportunities, while also planning her wedding in August 2023.

Griffin is now able to share words of wisdom with aspiring broadcasters.

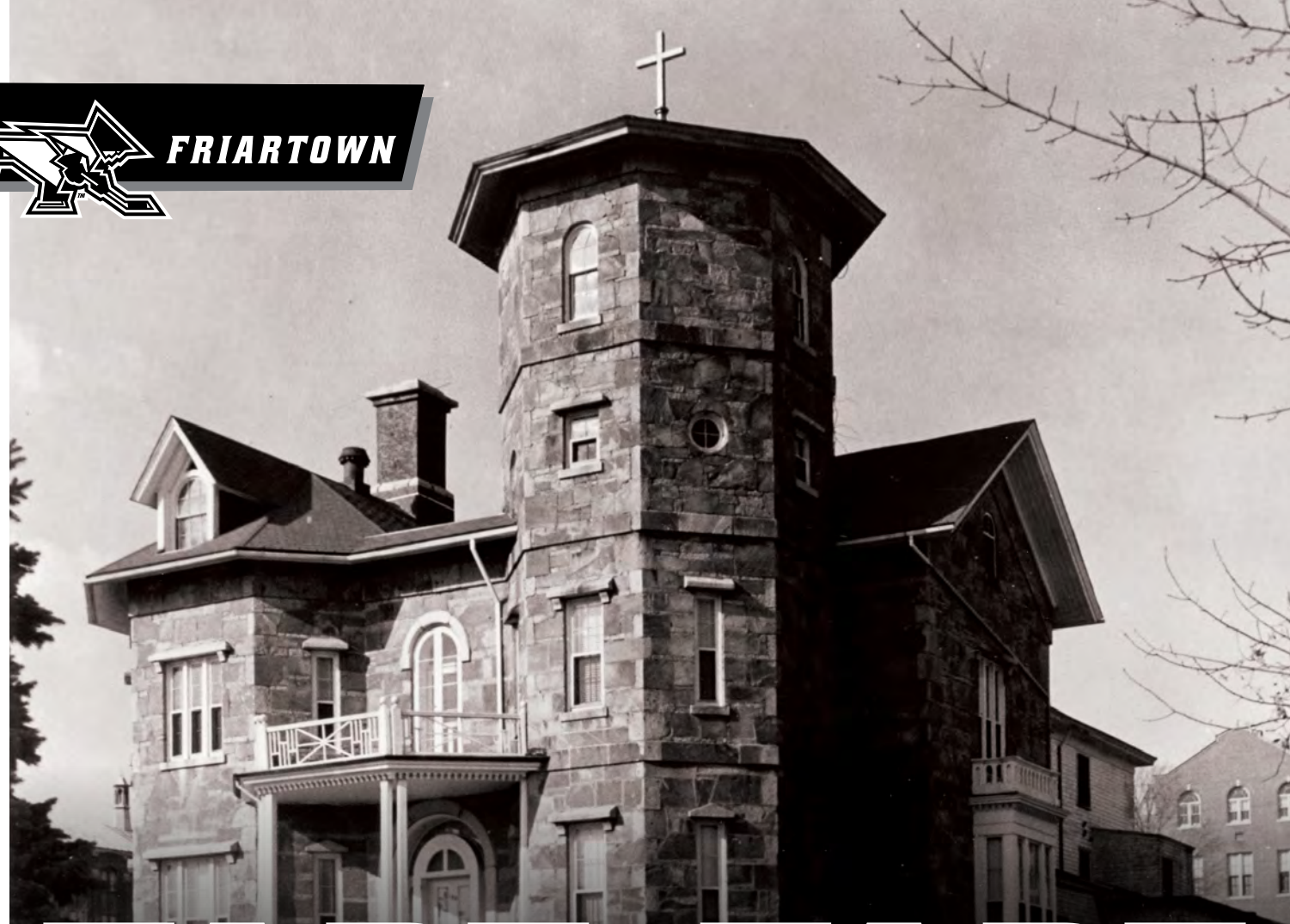
"No dream is too big. If you put in the work, they'll find you. Build genuine relationships. And when you're having a tough day, be sure to reflect on how far you've come. It's something I have to remind myself," she said. 🍀

Brendan McGair '03 is a freelance writer from Cranston, Rhode Island.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CAYLEIGH GRIFFIN '14





# TAPE TO TAPE

FROM CROSS PAINTING TO CROSS-CHECKING, THE BIRTH OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MEN'S ICE HOCKEY



RAYMOND C. FARRELL, B.S.  
Business Management  
422 Academy Ave.  
Providence, R. I.  
La Salle Academy 1951  
*Hockey 1, 2, 3, 4; Varsity Letter in Hockey 4; Boxing Club 1, 3, 4; Ship and Scales Club 3, 4, Secretary 3; Providence Club 1, 2, 3, 4*



Editor's Note: When Rhode Island Auditorium opened in 1926, Providence College suited up its first varsity hockey team. Lack of game and practice time, as well as funding, found the Friars frozen out after a single season. Twenty-five years later, Friar fortunes changed forever.

BY RAY FARRELL '55

I often wondered what brought us together that day: Was it fate or the daily prayers of Father Herman Schneider, O.P. and his undying wish to have a hockey team at Providence College?

It was early September 1951. My father had a roofing and sheet metal business on Smith Hill. He did all of Bishop Russell McVinney's diocesan roofing and sheet metal projects. My father and I were sent to a job at the House of the Good Shepherd in Providence, a school for wayward girls that was run by nuns. We worked on what is now PC's Dominic House.

When we finished the work at hand, one of the nuns asked, "Would it be possible to repaint the cross at the top of the building?"

My father assured the nuns it would be no problem. "I'll get my son to do it."

That cross was more than 30 feet up. My dad hooked me up with a safety belt, a rope, and a can of gold paint, and up I went. As I painted, I would look down at all the nuns praying for my safety. When I finished and returned to the veranda the nuns came over to thank me, but one nun in particular asked my name and whether I was still in school.

I told her that I had just graduated from La Salle Academy and was going to wait a year to enroll in the University of Rhode Island.

"Nonsense. You should go to PC," she said, pointing to the school, which was in view from where we stood.

I said they were already in session.

"You wait right here. I'll be back," she said.

She had a piece of paper in her hand when she returned. Written on that sheet was the name Father Charles Fennell. She said, "He is waiting for you in Harkins Hall."

I tried every excuse to get out of going.

"I'll be waiting for Father Fennell's call, so don't disappoint me," she said.

So, off I went.

I walked into Harkins Hall and was awestruck by its grand appearance. Father Fennell met me and asked if I had taken an entrance exam. I told him that I did at URI. He asked me if I wouldn't mind taking another quick set. No, I said, but is that going to delay my start?

"No, I'll work that out," he said. I filled out some papers and took the exam. He reviewed it, smiled, and said, "Let's go get you some books."

During that process he told me that I was going to take business administration management, taught by professor Gus Coté. My first class was the following morning. My head was spinning. I couldn't believe what was happening and so fast.

The next morning I was able to find the business administration building and attended my first class with Mr. Coté, who was a big sports fan. My next class was French with George Reilly (I believe a relative of David Reilly '55, my former hockey teammate at La Salle).

I had trouble locating the classroom. That's when I frantically walked into a class that I thought was Mr. Reilly's French class. Instead, it was a German language class. As I was asking other students if I was in the right place, I got a tap on my shoulder, and there stood Father Schneider, the teacher.

I told him I was looking for Reilly's French class. Kidding, he said, "Why not take both?"

"What's your name?" he asked.

"Ray Farrell," I said.

"Where did you go to school?"

"La Salle."

"Great hockey school. Did you play?"

"Yes."







“I wish we had a team here at the college.”

“You know, Father, there are enough hockey players from La Salle and other high schools actually attending PC that we could easily start a team.”

“Really? Meet me in the cafeteria at noon.”

At the meeting, I suggested that I would contact the students from La Salle and other schools to see if they had interest in starting a team. Most of the guys happily agreed. I told Father Schneider that there was plenty of interest, but what would the college do to support such a team? He had no idea but would look into the possibilities and get back to me.

I knew that there was a new amateur hockey league starting at the Rhode Island Auditorium and that we could get into it, if we acted quickly. I heard back from Father Schneider, and he told me the best he could do was to supply the jerseys.

I learned through conversations with some of the guys that the Rhode Island Reds were going to have new uniforms for the upcoming season and there might be a chance to get their old practice uniforms and some equipment. I went over to the Auditorium and met with their trainer, George Army (the father of fellow student Tom Army '55; grandfather of PC All American and former Friar coach Tim Army '85 and Boston College All American Bill Army; and great-grandfather of Derek Army '14).

I asked George Army if there was a way that he could donate any jerseys and equipment that were going to be discarded. He told me that I would have to talk to Lou Pieri, owner of the team. He suggested I go to the front office and ask for him, which I did.

Knock, knock.

“Who’s there?” asked Mr. Pieri.

“Ray Farrell.”

“I don’t know any Ray Farrell. What do you want?”

“I want you to help start a hockey team.”

“I already have a hockey team.”

“I know, but Providence College is trying to start a hockey program and I’m hoping you will donate your team’s old uniforms and some equipment to help us get started.”

“Come in.

“So, how much are you going to pay me for all this?”

“We don’t have any money. Again, I was hoping you would donate it. I am willing to donate the PC team’s time to scrape the ice between periods and after each of the Reds’ games. In return, we’d also like one or two hours of free ice time for our practice sessions. Is it a deal?”

“Yeah, I guess so. Go downstairs and see George.”

What a great man.



GEORGE ARMY PHOTO. LEFT: RHODE ISLAND HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

PHOTOS: PC ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

I backed up my father’s 1931 Model A Ford truck, and Mr. Army filled it with all the practice uniforms and pads, plus sticks and pucks. I returned to the PC campus with the loaded truck and headed for the house where Father Schneider and several of the priests lived. I blew the horn (if you know anything about Model A Fords, you know the “Aroo-gah” sound that it makes). It brought Father Schneider out to the porch, and I joyfully yelled out to him, “Father, WE HAVE A HOCKEY TEAM!”

I was able, after a number of tries, to convince my former La Salle hockey coach, Hall of Famer Lou Cimini ’44, to coach us. He knew most of us, of course, and was also a PC alum. He finally relented.

Our club team joined the Rhode Island Amateur Hockey Association and at our first game, quite a few priests and professors were in the stands among the cheering students, including Father Robert Slavin, the college president. It was so great being out on the ice and competing with friends Tom Army, Dave Reilly, Bob Petit ’53, Howie McGuinness ’52, and so many more.

It was a very successful season. We had quickly assembled a team that finished with an 8-2-2 record, tying for the regular season title. With Tom Army leading the league in scoring, it validated the depth of talent we had and promised more success at the varsity level.

With his pledge of unwavering support, there was no greater moment, I’m sure, for Father Schneider, the undisputed founding father of PC hockey. It must have been glorious for him to see that first puck dropped, and a team wearing jerseys with “Friars” emblazoned across the chest playing at the Rhode Island Auditorium. The success we enjoyed was the cherry on top.

It was his dream, his passion, his prayer that someday it would become a reality, and here it was.

The following season, with much of our club team serving as the nucleus, Providence College suited up a varsity team once again. It was 1952 and our first game was against cross-town rival Brown. Incredibly, just a short dozen years later, our Friars would play for a national title at the Final Four in Colorado Springs — and win it all at the Frozen Four in 2015.

It was Father Schneider’s dream come true ... and I was so proud to be there when it all started. ❄️

*Ray Farrell '55 of West Palm Beach, Florida, wrote this reflection for the Rhode Island Hockey Hall of Fame website at the invitation of its director and founder, Vin Cimini '69, cousin of Lou Cimini '44.*





# CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE



**Forward Bryce Hopkins '25** earned BIG EAST and Associated Press All-BIG EAST First Team honors after leading the men's basketball team in scoring, rebounding, and double-doubles. The Friars soared to a 21-8 record, including 15 straight home wins, before dropping their final four games. The #11 seed Friars lost to #6 seed Kentucky in the NCAA Tournament first round.



**Will Layden '24** (Farmington, Connecticut) won two BIG EAST individual titles, in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle, at the BIG EAST Swimming and Diving Championship. He is the first swimmer in PC program history to win multiple BIG EAST titles.



For the first time in program history, the men's track team won the IC4A/ECAC championship, finishing first of 42 teams. Friars scored four of the top five finishes in the 3,000 meters. **Pat Thygesen '24** (Brisbane, Australia), who finished first, won the Most Outstanding Men's Performance award.



The women's ice hockey team finished the season ranked #13 in the nation. The Friars compiled a 22-11-4 record and reached the finals of the Hockey East championship for the eighth time in program history, falling to the #1 seed, Northeastern University, 4-1.



The 1973 Final Four team was honored during halftime of the men's basketball game at Amica Mutual Pavilion in February 2023. **Ernie DiGregorio '73**, **Kevin Stacom '74**, **Nehru King '73**, and **Thomas Walters '74** were recognized, along with **Francis Costello '73**, **Rich Dunphy '76**, **Mark McAndrew '76, '84G**, and the late **Allan Baker '74**, represented by his wife, Laura.



The #7 seed men's hockey team fell to #1 seed and eventual champion Boston University in overtime, 2-1, in the Hockey East semifinals. The team's record on the season was 16-14-7, with 15 games decided in overtime. Here, **Bennett Schimek '26** (Mendota Heights, Minnesota) celebrates after scoring the lone goal against BU, his 11th goal of the season.

ALL OTHERS: PC ATHLETICS

1973 TEAM: KEVIN REILLY '80

BRYCE HOPKINS: RYAN TWOMEY '23

## BEYOND FRIARTOWN

**Emily Sisson '14** set a new American women's record of 2:18:29 in the Chicago Marathon in October 2022, shattering the previous record by 43 seconds. She finished second behind Ruth Chepngetich of Kenya, who was 14 seconds off the women's world record. In May 2022, Sisson set the U.S. women's half marathon record of 1:07:11 in Indianapolis. She is coached by **Ray Treacy '82**, PC's director of cross country and track.

**Julian Gressel '16**, a fullback/midfielder with the Vancouver Whitecaps FC in Major League Soccer, was called up to the U.S. Men's National Team in January 2023, two months after obtaining U.S. citizenship, and was credited with an assist in his debut. He was drafted by Atlanta United in 2017 and named Rookie of the Year. He also played for D.C. United.

**Kris Dunn '16** was signed to a multi-year deal by the Utah Jazz in March 2023. Over seven NBA seasons, he has averaged 8.3 points, 4.2 assists, 3.4 rebounds, and 1.5 steals in 129 starts with Minnesota, Chicago, Atlanta, Portland, and Utah. He was drafted in the first round, fifth overall, by the Timberwolves in 2016.

Major League Soccer team Louisville City FC signed defender **Ramzi Qawasmy '22** to a professional contract in February 2023 after a successful preseason trial. As a Friar, Qawasmy received United Soccer Coaches All-East Region First Team and All-Big East Conference Second Team honors. 🏆





## FROM PAGE TO SCREEN

NOVEL BY PAUL TREMBLAY '93  
INSPIRES M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN'S THRILLER  
KNOCK AT THE CABIN

BY STASIA WALMSLEY

### Paul Tremblay '93 had heard it before.

As an award-winning horror novelist whose writing once prompted Stephen King to tweet that it “scared the hell” out of him, Tremblay was honored that acclaimed director M. Night Shyamalan was interested in his novel *The Cabin at the End of the World*. But he didn't expect to see his story in theatres anytime soon.

A few of Tremblay's novels have been optioned — a process that gives a Hollywood production company exclusive rights to a story, which it attempts to develop into a film. Tremblay understands that finishing a movie takes dozens of coordinated efforts to fall perfectly into place. “It seems a minor miracle to me that anything gets made,” Tremblay said.

But to his surprise, that's exactly what happened.

Accompanied by his wife, Lisa Carroll-Tremblay '93, and their children, Cole, 22, and Emma, 18, Tremblay arrived at the Lincoln Center in New York City for the January premiere of *Knock at the Cabin*, a Universal Pictures film based on his 2018 novel and adapted by Shyamalan and screen-

writers Steve Desmond and Michael Sherman.

“It was very surreal, the whole red-carpet thing,” Tremblay said. “As a writer, most of the time you're in your own head. It's only collaborative towards the end when you're working with your editor and perhaps your agent. So, to see the whole Hollywood movie machinery at work, and to be able to experience it with my family, was an absolute joy.”

What did Tremblay think of the film?

“One hundred percent, from my point of view, the movie is beautifully composed and shot and directed, and the performances are amazing,” he said.

Like the novel, the movie is an apocalyptic thriller about a group of doomsdayers who descend on a family at their vacation cabin. Starring actors Dave Bautista, Rupert Grint, Jonathan Groff, and Nikki Amuka-Bird, the movie takes a lot from the book, according to Tremblay, but also has a “fairly drastic” change to the end.

“I prefer my ending, which better reflects my personal beliefs and intent

with the story,” he said. “But at the same time, I enjoyed the movie. I think it's really good.”

The divergent ending was not a surprise to Tremblay, who had a chance to talk to Shyamalan early in the filmmaking process. He also fielded questions from the screenwriters during script development and even was invited to visit the set in the woods outside Philadelphia for a day of filming in May 2021.

It was a “mind-spinning experience.”

“I walked in right before they were going to start shooting,” Tremblay said. “Ben [Aldridge] and Jonathan Groff are tied to chairs, and there's Bautista and the other actors. And *Night* came over and gave me a hug. And I was whisked off to watch what they were shooting on the monitor.”

Tremblay's journey to a big-budget movie soundstage, standing beside one of Hollywood's best-known directors, included his experience at Providence College in the early 1990s. He arrived on campus “awkward and not very confident,” he said. “I guess Providence

was where I sort of discovered myself.”

It wasn't until the second semester of his senior year that Tremblay found an interest in writing. Just before graduating as a mathematics and humanities double major, he took an English class to fulfill a missing curriculum requirement. The class was made up of mostly first-year students, but Tremblay connected instantly with the professor, Mark W. McLaughlin, Ph.D., over a mutual love of punk music.

Tremblay remembers writing an essay comparing stories by Joyce Carol Oates and T.C. Boyle to a Jane's Addiction song.

“I didn't know people wrote things like this. It really excited me,” he said.

Tremblay parlayed this early excitement with writing into a remarkable side hustle. After earning a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Vermont in 1995, he began a 27-year career as a math instructor at Saint Sebastian's School in Needham, Massachusetts, where he still teaches (he was on sabbatical this past year).



PHOTOS COURTESY PAUL TREMBLAY '93



At the *Knock at the Cabin* premiere at Lincoln Center, from left, Paul Tremblay '93 and Lisa Carroll-Tremblay '93 with their children Emma, 18, and Cole, 22.



He finds time to write in the evenings at his home in Stoughton, Massachusetts, and during free periods at school. He writes on a laptop from ideas and thoughts scribbled in notebooks.

“The school has been so supportive of my writing endeavors. They encourage lifelong learning. It’s not just words for them,” Tremblay said.

Providence College brought Paul and Lisa together. An English major, she remembers that he used to ask her, “Do you just read books and talk about them?” Lisa is senior director of marketing for Papa Gino’s & D’Angelo and hosts a podcast, TV is Awesome, with classmate Ken Cornwell ’93.

For the most part, as they were raising their family, life was ordinary, focused on the children’s interests and needs, with both parents coaching sports teams.

“Something that started out gradually for Paul, deciding to write stories in the late ’90s and then seeing where he is now, feels both like a long adventure and quick success,” Lisa said.



Paul Tremblay '93 on set with actors, from left, Abby Quinn, Jonathan Groff, Ben Aldridge, and Nikki Amuka-Bird.

“Horror has always felt honest to me ... And monsters are just cool.”

“Along the way there were bursts of excitement, like when a book came out or when Stephen King tweeted his appreciation, but mostly Paul has been seen as a math teacher. Our kids have grown up knowing Dad had two jobs: teaching and writing. There was a time when they were a little embarrassed that Dad wrote horror books ... I think that has all changed now.”

Tremblay’s breakthrough novel was *A Head Full of Ghosts* in 2015 — the book that scared Stephen King. It received the Bram Stoker Award from the Horror Writers Association for superior

achievement in a novel and the Massachusetts Book Award for Fiction. It was followed by *Disappearance at Devil’s Rock*, which received the British Fantasy Award for best horror novel in 2017.

His writing credits also include *Survivor Song*, crime novels *The Little Sleep* and *No Sleep till Wonderland*, and the short story collections *Growing Things and Other Stories* and *The Beast You Are* (due out in July). His essays and short fiction have appeared in the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, Entertainment Weekly online, and in several year’s-best anthologies.

“Horror has always felt honest to me. I think horror can get at art’s most difficult questions in interesting ways,” Tremblay said. “And monsters are just cool.”

Though he has never met Stephen King in person, they correspond by email.

“He’s been super supportive and a great ear to bend,” Tremblay said. “He did ask me to check his math in an SAT problem, which he put into the novel *The Institute*. So now, I consider myself his math tutor.”

Does Providence College show up in any of his books?

“Definitely,” Tremblay said. Specifically, in *The Pallbearers Club*, which came out in 2022, “there’s a big chunk of the book that takes place in Providence. It is essentially a very fictionalized autobiography, but it imagines a different path I might have taken if I had dropped out of Providence College when I was a junior to try to become a punk musician.” ❧

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

CLASS NOTES

SUBMISSIONS: [prov.ly/alumninotes](https://prov.ly/alumninotes)

**’70**  
**Geoffrey Gneuchs ’70** of New York, New York, delivered the inaugural lecture, “Diego Velazquez: Painter of Truth,” at Art Gallery 33 in New York City in January 2023. Gneuchs is a figurative and representational artist whose portrait of Servant of God Dorothy Day is in the permanent collection of the Archdiocese of New York and is the official image for her canonization cause. He served as her chaplain in the late 1970s and was the eulogist at her funeral.

**’71**  
**Jim Larrañaga ’71** of Miami, Florida, recorded his 300th career victory as a men’s basketball coach when Miami defeated Providence College in the Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off at Mohegan Sun in November 2022. Larrañaga has coached for 39 seasons, with previous stints at American International, Bowling Green, and George Mason.

Lamb McErlane partner **Vasilios J. “Bill” Kalogredis, Esq. ’71** of West Chester, Pennsylvania, spoke at Penn State Hershey Medical Center to OB-GYN residents about “Considerations in Understanding and Negotiating Employment Contracts.” He was also a guest speaker on the National Society of Certified Healthcare Business Consultants Edge Podcast on “Private Equity Pros and Cons in the Medical and Dental Space.” Bill is chairman of Lamb McErlane’s Health Law Department. He has been practicing health law for more than 45 years, representing physicians, dentists, group practices, other healthcare professionals, and healthcare-related entities.

**’74**  
**John Chan ’74, ’21Hon.** of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, owner of Chan’s Fine Oriental Dining, was awarded the History Maker Award from the Rhode Island Historical Society in November 2022. The award honors individuals who have made a significant impact on the state’s history through lives of service and devotion. Chan’s has offered food and live

performances by some of the biggest names in jazz and blues since 1977.

**’75**  
**Diane Bunk, Esq. ’75** has retired from the Bristol County (Massachusetts) District Attorney’s Office after serving as an assistant district attorney for more than 20 years. She is proud to be a graduate of the first PC coed class, a graduate of New England School of Law, and the first female corporation counsel for the city of Fall River. She lives in Fall River with her husband, Joseph Czerwonka, and will enjoy spending more time with her new grandson, Michael — thank you, Catherine (daughter) and Anthony (son-in-law). She will practice law on a part-time basis.

**’79**  
**Robert Madden, LCSW, J.D. ’79** of Deep River, Connecticut, was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut Chapter. He is a professor of social work and equitable community practice at the University of St. Joseph, where he also serves as director of the MSW Program. Madden, who began his career as a counselor at a shelter for runaways, is a licensed clinical social worker and attorney well known in New England for social work ethics and law. He has written three books, numerous book chapters, peer-reviewed articles, and encyclopedia entries on social work education, legal issues facing social workers, ethics, and family law. He holds a law degree



Father Holt in Humans of New York

**REV. WILLIAM HOLT, O.P. ’72**, became internet famous in October 2022 when he was featured in Humans of New York, a photojournalism project by Brandon Stanton that has produced two New York Times best-selling books.

Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter readers were captivated by Father Holt’s optimistic outlook. “From all sour faced saints, deliver me O’ Lord. I don’t want to be with a grouch, a crab, a crocodile in a moat,” he said.

Father Holt, a native of Jersey City, New Jersey, has been a Dominican priest for more than 40 years. He celebrates weekday Masses at St. Vincent Ferrer in New York City, home base of the Dominican Order of St. Joseph, which founded and administers PC.



from the University of Connecticut and a master’s degree from Columbia University School of Social Work.

**’80**  
**Charles Debevoise ’80** of Dover, Massachusetts, a banking, business, and real estate attorney with Davis Malm, was recognized as a 2022 Massachusetts Super Lawyer. He is a graduate of American University’s Washington School of Law.

**’82**  
**David Lafrennie ’82** of Ormond Beach, Florida, retired from the LPGA Tour after 13 years with the organization. He was vice president of sales. Prior to the LPGA, Lafrennie was a marketing executive with the National Basketball Association, The Hartford Financial Services, and LEGO. In March 2023, he participated in the PCBiz Basics series to present workshops to School of Business students interested in sports management. He is a native of Holyoke, Massachusetts.

**’83** (Reunion: June 9-11, 2023)  
**Paul J. O’Riordan ’83** of Paxton, Massachusetts, was appointed by the president of the Worcester County Bar Association to be co-chair of the Tax, Trusts & Estates Section. O’Riordan is a partner and a member of the executive committee of Seder & Chandler in Worcester, where he practices in the estate planning, estate administration, and business law areas.

**’84**  
**Michael F. Connolly, Esq. ’84** of Milton, Massachusetts, partner and co-chair of Rubin and Rudman’s Litigation Department and a member of the firm’s Executive Committee, was recognized as a Lawyer of the Year for Litigation-Securities, Boston, in The Best Lawyers in America 2023 Edition. Connolly is a member of PC’s President’s Council and Business Advisory Council. He serves on the board of the RFK Community Alliance (Perkins School), as a member of the corporate giving committee and a trustee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, and as a member of the board of directors of the Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps. After receiving a juris

doctor degree from Suffolk University, he was a law clerk and chief law clerk to the justices of the Massachusetts Superior Court.

**Joe Magennis ’84** of Cumberland, Rhode Island, is director of strategic implementation at Providence College, where he oversees initiatives related to the college’s new School of Nursing and Health Sciences and supports the execution of objectives in the PC200 strategic plan. He previously spent 10 years at Johnson & Wales University, most recently as director of enrollment planning and strategy, with experience in university marketing, IT, and digital services.

**John Sivilla ’84** of Peoria, Arizona, retired after 34 years as an executive in the food industry. He now coaches high school varsity football and varsity track at Dysart High School in El Mirage and is a substitute teacher.

**’85**  
**David Ballem ’85SCE** of Bentonville, Arkansas, retired on September 1, 2022, after 34 years with General Mills. His sales career, which began in California in 1988, eventually led to roles in Arizona, Idaho, and Minnesota before he relocated to Arkansas in 2011 to support the world’s largest retailer. His business travels included trips to Mumbai, India. David and his wife, Heather, are looking forward to travel and relaxation in their retirement years.

**’88** (Reunion: June 9-11, 2023)  
**Gregg Amore ’88** of East Providence, Rhode Island, was sworn in as Rhode Island secretary of state in January 2023. He was a longtime social studies teacher, coach, and athletic administrator at East Providence High School and represented the city in the General Assembly for 10 years. At PC, he studied history, played baseball, and later was a Friars assistant coach. He holds a master’s degree in public policy from New England College.

**’89**  
**Ann-Marie (Leafe) Bishop, LICSW ’89** of New Boston, New Hampshire, is assistant professor in the Sociology and Social Work Department at Saint Anselm College, where she teaches Introduction to Social Work and field seminar courses. She holds a master of social work degree from Salem State College. In addition to her work as an instructor, she is a

clinician at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester.

**’90**  
**Elena Yates Harootunian ’90SCE** of Cranston, Rhode Island, is senior vice president, director of human resources at BankNewport. She is responsible for all human resources functions for BankNewport and its mutual holding company, OceanPoint Financial Partners MHC, and affiliates. Prior to joining BankNewport in 2019, she was director of benefits at Talbots in Hingham, Massachusetts. She studied business administration at PC.

**’91**  
**Chris Watts ’91** of Trumbull, Connecticut, was named head coach of men’s basketball at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, New York, in March 2023. He had served as interim coach since October 2022. He previously was associate head coach at the University of Bridgeport and an assistant coach at Mercy. He led Notre-Dame Catholic High School to the 2018 Division I state championship and was named USA Today’s Connecticut Coach of the Year. Chris was a guard for the Friars and captain for the 1990-1991 season.

**’95**  
**Neal Pandozzi ’95** of North Providence, Rhode Island, joined Bowditch & Dewey as a partner in the Business and Finance Group, based in the Boston office. He was named Lawyer of the Year in the field of public finance law for Providence in Best Lawyers 2023. Neal has represented state and local governments, quasi-public corporations, nonprofit and for-profit corporations, investment banks, and commercial banks in financing transactions throughout New England. He is a member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers. He holds a master’s degree from Boston University and a law degree from Roger Williams University School of Law.

**’97**  
**Melissa Frieswick ’97** of Mendon, Massachusetts, joined UpHealth, a global digital health company, as chief growth officer. She is responsible for overseeing revenue, product, and product marketing. She has more than 25 years of healthcare experience in payer, consulting, and high growth startups, including as chief revenue officer at two companies, Total Brain and Maven, and as senior vice

president for global market sales and business development at Virgin Pulse. She studied mathematics and economics at PC.

**Mike Rylant ’97** of Coventry, Connecticut, is managing director, state and local taxes, for KPMG in Hartford. He has more than 20 years of experience in the tax industry, including 12 years as senior director for state and local taxes at Stanley Black & Decker. Mike also spent two years at United Technologies Corporation and eight years at EY. He has a master of laws degree in taxation from Boston University School of Law, a law degree from Suffolk University Law School, and a bachelor’s degree in political science from PC.

**’98** (Reunion: June 9-11, 2023)  
**Nicole (Deschenes) Carges ’98** of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, is executive assistant for strategy and planning at Providence College, where she supports the Office of Strategy and Planning and the new School of Nursing and Health Sciences. She previously worked for 15 years with Weichert Realtors, most recently as a broker associate and assistant office manager. She also served as a sales associate and coordinator of sales education.

**Brian Corrigan ’98** of Garden City, New York, a lawyer with Farrell Fritz in Uniondale, was selected for inclusion on the 2022 New York Metro Super Lawyers list. He works in estate and trust litigation and earned a juris doctor degree from Hofstra University School of Law.

**’99**  
**Robb Chambers ’99** of Berwyn, Pennsylvania, is interim head lacrosse coach at Widener University, where he has been assistant coach for several years. He was a four-year starter with more than 700 saves for the Friars and later worked as defensive and recruiting coordinator at PC. He also has coached at Sacred Heart University, Shipley School, and for the Philadelphia Freedom Lacrosse Club. He was a health policy and management major at PC.

**Tim Hannan ’99** of Denver, Colorado, joined the online education platform Coursera as chief marketing officer in October 2022. He has 15 years of leadership experience at top consumer and enterprise marketplaces, including as chief revenue officer and chief marketing officer at eHealth. He also was chief marketing officer at Ibotta, Inc., one of the nation’s


top shopping apps, and held leadership positions at Trip.com, Orbitz Worldwide, and Expedia. In addition to his finance degree from PC, he holds an MBA from London Business School.

**’00**  
**Joseph M. Valenzano III ’00** of Dayton, Ohio, is the new dean of the College of Communication at Butler University. He previously was professor and chair of the Department of Communication at the University of Dayton and basic course director at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the only person to have been selected twice, by two different institutions, to receive a Basic Course Program of Excellence award by the National Communication Association. He also received the Don Yoder Distinguished Faculty Award in 2022 from the National Communication Association. Velanzano studied psychology and political science at PC and holds a master’s degree in communication from the University of Maine and a Ph.D. in public communication from Georgia State University.

**’02**  
**Anthony Abdelahad ’02** of Boston, senior vice

president and general counsel at Ventry Associates, was named one of the top 100 lobbyists in the nation in 2022 by the National Institute for Lobbying & Ethics. The annual list is comprised of 100 lobbyists, PAC managers, and grassroots professionals nominated by their colleagues, congressional and legislative staff, and clients for outstanding work. Those selected saw significant legislative success in 2022, were innovative in their field or policy area, were held in high regard by their clients and peers, and gave to the community through charity or pro bono work. Anthony was recognized for his success in securing critical state funding for one of Massachusetts’s largest nonprofit youth organizations, passing legislation on topics ranging from vocational education to insurance industry modernization, and advancing policy work across the transportation, early education, health care, and energy sectors.

**Thomas Bezigian Jr. ’02** of Baldwinsville, New York, became the chairman of the Trust & Estate Practice Group at Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, a Syracuse, New York-based firm with 300 attorneys and offices in New York, New Jersey, Florida, Massachusetts, and Kan-




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– HASHIM HASSAN ’23, MUSIC & TECHNOLOGY MAJOR

Your gift to **The Fund for Providence College** helps students like Hashim pursue their dreams. Whether recognizing a reunion year or supporting an area of greatest need, your generosity is appreciated.



PROVIDENCE COLLEGE SPRING 2023

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sas. After graduating from PC with a degree in history (shoutout to history professor **Paul Quinlan, Ph.D.**), he earned a master's degree from SUNY Albany and considered becoming a college history professor. He opted to attend Syracuse University College of Law and pursue estate planning, in part to help history professors plan their financial futures. During law school, he taught international relations and critical thinking at the Yerevan State Linguistic University in the Republic of Armenia through a U.S. State Department Fellowship. He has been practicing law since 2008 and also keeps busy as the father of three children, ages 10-15.

**Leslie Heller '02** of Cranston, Rhode Island, received a certificate in interior design from Rhode Island School of Design in August 2022. You can see her work at [hellerathome.com](https://hellerathome.com). Previously, she worked for many years in the Division of Student Affairs at Providence College.

**'03** (Reunion: June 9-11, 2023)

**Paige Clausius-Parks '03** of Cumberland, Rhode Island, became the executive director of Rhode Island Kids Count in December 2022. She spent four years with the organization as senior policy analyst, responsible for policy analysis, advocacy, and project management in areas related to education and economic well-being. Paige previously worked with Books Are Wings, Youth in Action, the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, and Youth Pride, Inc. She co-chairs the Rhode Island Works Advisory Committee and leads the Rhode Island Alliance for College and Career Readiness and the Anti-Racist Education Policy Collaborative. She studied public and community service studies at PC and earned a master's degree in education administration from Harvard University.

**Ed Hadley '03** of Sharon, Massachusetts, was promoted to vice president of marketing at MineralTree, a provider of accounts payable automation solutions. MineralTree was acquired by Global Payments for \$500 million in September 2021, marking Ed's third successful exit at a SaaS-based business. He pre-

viously worked at Neolane (acquired by Adobe for \$600 million in June 2013) and Mendix (acquired by Siemens for \$730 million in August 2018).

**James Sullivan '03G** of Cumberland, Rhode Island, was promoted to lead director within CVS Health's Enterprise Procurement Department. He holds an MBA from PC.

**'04**

**Liz Catucci '04** of North Providence, Rhode Island, was named to 22 Who Made a Difference in '22 by the website GoLocalProv. She has been president and CEO of the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce since 2019. She also is president of PC's Alumni Club of Greater Providence and serves on the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island, Rhode Island Commerce, Stadium

Theater Foundation, United Way Community Advisory Board, and Bally's Advisory Council.

**Megan C. (Krol) Masters, Ph.D. '04** of Laurel, Maryland, published her first book, *Longitudinal Studies of Second Language Learning Outcomes: Quantitative Methods and Outcomes*, a how-to guide for choosing, using, and understanding quantitative longitudinal research and sampling methods in second and foreign language learning. She is director of academic technology experience in the University of Maryland College Park's Division of Information Technology and serves as associate faculty with the Second Language Acquisition program and as a lecturer within the College of Education's Human Development and Quantitative Methodology program. After studying Spanish and secondary education at

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## Supporting a fellow Friar

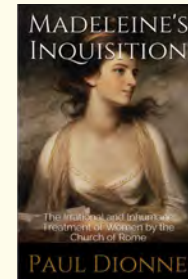
**JOHN MCALEAVEY '90** of New Providence, New Jersey, host of the QuadCast podcast, was honored at the 40th anniversary gala of the Cheshire Home of Florham Park, New Jersey, for his contributions to the spinal cord injury community.

On hand to celebrate with John and his Canine Companions service dog, YoKen, were his friends from the fourth floor of Raymond Hall, from left, **Jacques Lamarre '90**, **Bill Coates '90**, **Tom Whalen '89**, and **Mark Jessup '90**.

The Cheshire Home helps young adults with spinal cord injuries and neurological impairments regain independence.

John, who was a guest on the PC Podcast in 2020, calls his podcast "OT/PT for the soul." His nephew, Charles Sarlund '26, is attending PC.

# ALUMNI AUTHORS



**Brian Bowen '80** of Kailua, Hawaii, published the third edition of *The Diversity of Fishes* with Wiley-Blackwell. It is the most widely used fish textbook in the world. Bowen is a research professor at University of Hawaii and Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. A biology major at PC, he received a master's degree in marine science from Virginia Institute of Marine Science in 1986 and a Ph.D. in genetics from the University of Georgia in 1992.

**Paul Dionne '65** of Auburn, Maine, has written two books, *The Priestess and the Pope* and its sequel, *Madeleine's Inquisition*, novels about the leadership role of women in the early church and their subordination in the rise of Christianity. He studied history at PC and was a decorated Army lieutenant during Vietnam. After his discharge, he graduated from the University of Maine School of Law. He served as mayor of Lewiston from 1980-1984. He is married with two children and five grandchildren.

**John Lee Dumas '02**, the host of the award-winning podcast *Entrepreneurs on Fire*, wrote *The Common Path to Uncommon Success: A 17-Step Roadmap*

to *Financial Freedom and Fulfillment*. Published by Harper Collins, it was an instant bestseller, with more than 20,000 copies sold in the first week. Learn more at [UncommonSuccessBook.com](https://UncommonSuccessBook.com) and [EOFire.com](https://EOFire.com).

**John La Rocca '67** of Medusa, New York, wrote *Trout Remembered: Different Fish – Same Smile, A Fly Fisherman's Stories and Recollections*, with stories from his 70-plus years of fishing. The book was published by the Troy Book Makers in July 2022. It is available in local bookstores, online through the publisher, and from Amazon.

**Tim Shea '87** of Branford, Connecticut, wrote *Big Man: An Incredible Journey from Mississippi to Hollywood*, the story of Willie Harris. Born into a Black sharecropping family in Mississippi during the Jim Crow era, Mr. Harris became a leader of the Black Stuntmen's Association in Hollywood in the 1970s, waging a battle against racism that changed the film industry. Shea first heard Mr. Harris speak on NPR in 2016, and immediately knew he had an important life story that needed to be told, and that he was the person who was going to tell it. Mr. Harris

died in 2021, and Shea published *Big Man* in 2022. After graduating from PC with a degree in English, Shea spent four years as a newspaper reporter. He has worked at Yale University since 1993, including 20 years in academic book publishing at Yale University Press.

**Liam Sullivan '15** of Eastchester, New York, self-published a book of poetry, *The Nomad*, available on Amazon. Based on his learning experiences in the Development of Western Civilization Program, the book is a modern interpretation of concepts developed in early western civilization from the perspective of a wandering narrator and is primarily inspired by Dante's Divine Comedy. Sullivan studied business economics and sociology at PC. He is a mathematics tutor in Westchester and working toward a master's degree in math education from the University at Buffalo.

**Moses Mordecai Twersky '15G** of Providence wrote *Love Story in Greenwich Village: New York Iranian Adventure*, an intellectual fiction novel available at booksellers and on Amazon. He has a master's degree in history from PC.



PC, she earned a master of arts degree and a Ph.D. in second language acquisition from the University of Maryland, College Park. Through her work as a program manager-researcher at UMD’s Applied Research Lab for Intelligence and Security, and her current work overseeing the implementation and use of academic technologies, she has 18 years of experience working with complex, institutional data sources focused on analyses related to large-scale program evaluation, second language learning, and learning analytics. She is nationally recognized for her expertise in data visualization and data-informed storytelling, and for her unique ability to deliver insightful and impactful reporting to a wide variety of audiences and stakeholders. She serves as founder and CEO of ATEA Insights, a consulting company that works with clients to promote meaningful change through intentional research design, data analytics, and reporting.

## '05

**Lauren Jones '05** of Hyde Park, Massachusetts, was named secretary of labor and workforce development in January 2023 by Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healy and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. She has 18 years of experience in local and state government, nonprofits, and the private sector, most recently as executive vice president of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable. She led the business strategy unit under Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, served as the communications director for labor and workforce development under Gov. Deval Patrick, and was the policy and communications director for Lt. Gov. Tim Murray.

**Gisella Soriano '05** of Boston was selected a 40 Under 40 honoree for 2022 by the Boston Business Journal. She is senior manager for small business and corporate financing at the Boston Planning & Development Agency and is pursuing a graduate certificate in advanced management from the F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College.

## '06

**Jim Florio Jr. '06G** of Johnston, Rhode Island, was appointed chief operating officer at South County Psychiatry, which opened a new Weight

and Wellness Center in December 2022. He worked for Lifespan for 20 years, working his way up from financial analyst to vice president of adult psychiatry and behavioral health. He holds an MBA from PC.

**Felicia DePaola Hunt '06** of Colchester, Connecticut, was named partner at the law firm Hassett & George, P.C., where she focuses in family law.

**Yomayra Reyes '06, '16G** of Providence is vice president of the board of directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island, the first Latina to hold that position. She studied marketing and earned an MBA with a concentration in management from PC. She is a senior property and casualty product expert with Farmers Insurance Group, with more than 15 years of experience in the insurance industry. She has been a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters for 10 years and a board member since 2018.

**Michael Rollins '06G** of Providence is executive director of the East Side/Mt. Hope YMCA of Greater Providence. He earned an MBA from PC and has a bachelor’s degree in exercise science from Ball State University. He worked as strength and conditioning coach at PC from 2004-2006. He also is a professional musician and saxophonist.

After many years with Bank of America and Santander Bank, **Ned Thompson '06G** of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, has joined the start-up world working for a blockchain company, Tassat. It is the first company to use blockchain technology to process real-time B2B payments for U.S. banks. “It is very exciting to be part of a company bringing cutting-edge solutions to small and medium-sized U.S. banks so they can be competitive in the new digital economy,” he said.

## '07

After passing the Rhode Island Bar in 2021, **Tricia Frappier Forte '07** of Cranston is an associate attorney with Hackman & Phillips Elder Law RI LLC, practicing in elder law and estate planning.

After 16 years as music teacher and three years as music director at Ponaganset High School in North Scituate, Rhode Island, **Derek Sabantini '07** was named the 2021 Foster-Glo-

cester Teacher of the Year. As district teacher of the year, he was able to apply for 2022 Rhode Island State Teacher of the Year, and was one of four finalists for that award. He says that his experiences at Providence College shaped him into the teacher-leader he is today. He resides in North Attleboro, Massachusetts.

## '10

**Patrick Allen, Ph.D. '10, '13G** of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is assistant professor of English at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. He specializes in African American literatures, multiethnic American literatures, critical race studies, Black feminisms, medical and health humanities, and graphic medicine. He also is vice president of organizational matters for the Society for the Study of American Women Writers. He studied English at PC and earned a master’s degree in secondary education through the PACT Program. He holds a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University.

**Andy Donahue '10, '12G** of Rumford, Rhode Island, joined the Harvard College Dean of Students Office as assistant dean for student engagement. From May 2020 to January 2023, he was assistant director of student engagement and academic advising in the PC School of Business. He previously worked as assistant director of student engagement and leadership at Emerson College and as coordinator for student activities and orientation at Brown University. He and his wife, **Brittany (McHale) Donahue '11**, are the parents of a daughter, Caroline.

**Andrew Lynch '10** of Wakefield, Rhode Island, was promoted to partner at Barton Gilman, a law firm representing clients throughout the northeast. He was included in 2023 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in the areas of Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants and Workers Compensation Law – Employees. He also has been named to the Rhode Island Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for medical malpractice law. He is a graduate of Roger Williams University School of Law.

## '11

**Steven E. Maalouf '11** of South Boston, Massachusetts, was elevated to partner in the Family Law Group at Casner & Edwards. He represents clients in all aspects of domestic relations, including divorce, guardianships, child support, alimony, custody, modification

actions, paternity, restraining orders, domestic violence, parental alienation, complex financial issues, and business valuations. He also assists clients with issues relating to the Department of Children and Families. Previously, Maalouf served as a law clerk, researching and drafting decisions for the judges at the Norfolk Probate and Family Court. His practice also focuses on pro bono work and serves as the firm’s liaison to the Greater Boston Legal Services and the Victim Rights Law Center. Maalouf has also been listed as a Massachusetts Super Lawyer from 2019-2022 and in The Best Lawyers in America 2021-2023.

**Kathryn “Katy” Sullivan '11**, VMD, of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, has been appointed assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Clinical Skills — New Bolton Center. As an academic clinician, Dr. Sullivan practices equine ambulatory medicine while instructing veterinary students on clinical rotations and providing didactic lectures.

## '12

**Michael Bento '12G, '20G**, of Bristol, Rhode Island, was inducted into the Warren Athletic Hall of Fame in August 2022. He was recognized for his athletic achievements as a baseball and football player and for his work coaching baseball and softball. He was inducted into the Bristol Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017.

## Friars of the Last Decade

**'13** (Reunion: June 9-11, 2023)

**Eric Burtchell '13** of Watertown, Massachusetts, is associate athletic director for external relations and a major giving officer at Providence College. He has worked for a range of nonprofits, including the Boy Scouts of America, Bishop Feehan High School, The Rivers School, and most recently Mustard Seed Communities, where he was director of fundraising and donor engagement. He was captain of the swimming and diving team at PC.

## '14

**Taiwo Adefiyiju '14** of Providence became dean of students at the Community College of Rhode Island in December 2022. She previously was assistant dean of students and direc-

tor of cultural education at Providence College. She holds a master’s degree in higher education administration from Loyola University Chicago and is completing a doctorate in educational leadership at Johnson & Wales University.

**Grace Curley '14** of Milton, Massachusetts, is the executive producer of the Howie Carr radio show, which airs on WRKO in Boston and is syndicated in five states, and hosts The Grace Curley Show, which airs Monday through Friday from noon to 3 p.m. on nine stations in New England. A theatre major at PC, she was introduced to radio through her two-hour WDOM show about pop culture. She also writes a column for The Boston Herald on mainstream media and politics and is a contributing writer to The Spectator.

**Michelle King '14G** of Cumberland, Rhode Island, became principal of Mt. Hope High School in Bristol in December 2022 after serving as assistant principal since 2016. She previously was a science teacher and department chair at Lincoln High School. She has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Connecticut, a teaching certificate from Rhode Island College, and a master’s degree in education administration from PC.

## '15

**David Bradley '15G** of Warwick, Rhode Island, became a partner in 2022 in KSA Marketing, an advertising agency that he advised since 2019. In that time, KSA doubled year-over-year, expanded to a new office in Warwick, and was named a Best Place to Work by Providence Business News. He continues as managing director of business advisory firm Bbg, Inc. and is the author of two books, *Getting Digital Marketing Right* and *Digital Marketing MBA*. He holds an MBA from PC.

## '16

**Cody Fino '16SCE, '21G** of Cranston, Rhode Island, is executive director of workforce partnerships at the Community College of Rhode Island. He previously was director of industry partnerships, overseeing the operations of more than 25 workforce programs, and led the Division of Workforce Partnership’s growth in the areas of healthcare, defense, manufacturing, and maritime. He graduated from CCRI in 2013 and holds a bachelor’s degree in leadership development

and a master’s degree in higher education counseling from PC.

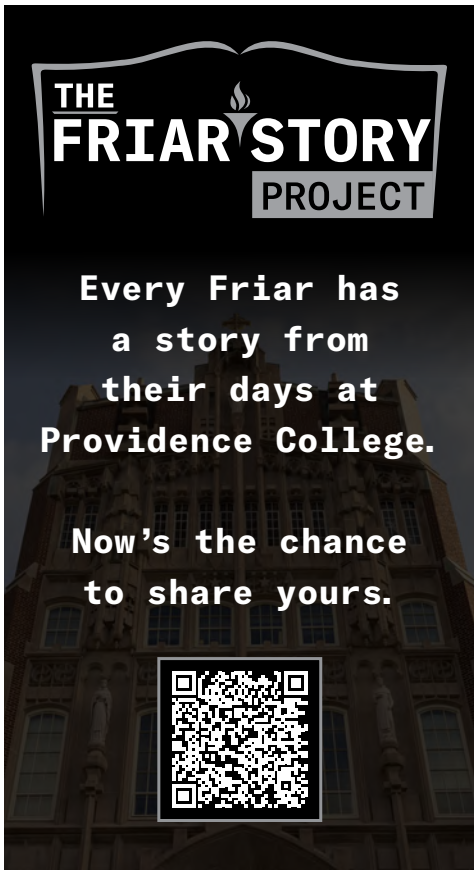
**Dominic Leonardo '16** of Riverside, Rhode Island, writes summaries of land use cases decided by the Rhode Island Superior and Rhode Island Supreme Court. His Land Use RI newsletter is available by subscription on LandUseRI.com. He also is a senior planner for the city of East Providence.

## '17

**John Hindley '17** of Arlington, Virginia, will return to Rhode Island to serve as a term law clerk for the Hon. William E. Smith of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. The one-year position begins in August 2023. Hindley is a 2020 graduate of The George Washington University Law School and an associate in the D.C. office of Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP.

**Nicholas Sailor '17** of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, is national director, diversity, equity, and inclusion for Boys & Girls Clubs of America, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. He started the position in January 2023 after two years as senior director of diversity, equity, and inclu-

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**Alyssa Napoli '13 and John Sleight '13** married in St. Dominic Chapel on September 24, 2022. The reception was held in Bristol. More than 30 alumni attended — and there was a surprise visit from their favorite friar, Friar Dom! They reside in Chicago.

# FRIAR WEDDINGS

**JohnPaul Bettinelli '20 and Katie Healy** married on November 26, 2022, at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Norwood, Massachusetts, with fellow Patriot Battalion Army ROTC alumni in attendance. They reside in Savannah, Georgia, where JohnPaul is stationed at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield as a pilot with the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

**John Crowley '17 and Caroline Callahan** married on November 26, 2022, in Newport, Rhode Island. Friars attending represented class years from 1983-2023, including John's mother, Lisa Macdermott Crowley '84.

**Kelley Garland '16, '19G and Kevin Shepherd '20G** married on November 12, 2022, in Newport, Rhode Island, with more than 20 Friars in attendance. They reside in Warwick. Kelley is the assistant director of academic advising and coordinator of first-year student success at PC.

**Kayla Misto '15 and Giovanni Illiano '14** married on October 8, 2022, at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Foster, Rhode Island. Kayla is the daughter of Karla Misto '15SCE, grant project coordinator and administrator at Providence College, and the great-niece of the late Sister Leona Misto, RSM, '79G, former vice president of Salve Regina University. Kayla is employed as a project manager for Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians and Giovanni is a manufacturing specialist at Amgen. They reside in Cranston.

**Katie Sischo '16 and Zach Jost '16** of Quincy, Massachusetts, married on September 24, 2022, in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. They began dating as sophomores and one of their first dates was Friar Ball in Peterson Recreation Center. Wedding guests included John Galvin '16, Maria (Costa) Galvin '16, Shannon Connolly '16, Kathryn Thifault '16, Michael Mulrey '16, Seth Pinches '16, John van Beaver '16, Kathleen Powell '16, Katherine (Trifero) O'Brien '16, Rebecca Jost '17, and Jillian Fanning '17.

**Christopher Gorgone '03 and Beth Moore** married September 17, 2022, in St. Michael's, Maryland. Among the Friars attending were Craig Hamblin '03, Andrew Gorgone '09, Jay Andreotes '02 and Stacey Andreotes '02, Tom Werner '03, James Keefe '06 and Hadley Pennington Keefe '09, Steven Allegrini '10, and Ryan Powers '11. The couple reside in New York City.

**Joseph Flynn '15, '17G married Victorya Pilbin** on September 9, 2022, at the Branford House in Groton, Connecticut. Friars attended from class years 1981, 1984, 2001, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. The couple reside in Wethersfield.

**Matt Giarrusso '15, '16G and Jennifer Pinto '15** married in St. Dominic Chapel on September 4, 2022, surrounded by more than 30 PC alumni. They reside in Providence.

**Alex Vescera '15G and Lauren Paiva '15, '17G** married on September 3, 2022, in Newport, Rhode Island, with many members of the Friar family in attendance. Lauren was a student-athlete on the softball team. She and Alex met while studying in the MBA program. They reside in Portsmouth.

**Catherine Scarcella '19 and Bradley Hickey '19** of Boston married on September 3, 2022, in New York with Rev. Peter Martyr Yungwirth, O.P., former PC chaplain, officiating. Among the wedding guests were Rev. James Cuddy, O.P. '98 and Rev. Dominic Verner, O.P.

**Scott Schere '11 married Eleiah Sexton** on August 22, 2022, at the Providence Public Library. Alumni attending included Meng Phou '11, Cameron Durant '11, Andrew Hayes '11, Michael Acciaro '11, Hung Nguyen '11, Justine Harrington '12, and Joseph Patino '12. Rev. John E. Allard, O.P., associate professor of theology, presented a scripture reading and a message at the ceremony. The couple reside in Hartford, Connecticut.

## TYING THE KNOT? [prov.ly/alumninotes](http://prov.ly/alumninotes)

**Caroline Carew '16 and Joe King '15** married in Kennebunkport, Maine, on August 13, 2022, surrounded by many Friars — even the saxophonist was an alumnus. They reside in Boston.

**John Balliro '05, '07G and Katie Leonard Balliro '06** married in St. Dominic Chapel on July 16, 2022, with more than 40 members of the Friar family celebrating with them, including John's three siblings. Even though John and Katie were at PC together, shared the same major, and lived in Aquinas Hall at the same time, they didn't meet until they were in their thirties. They are teachers and live in Malden, Massachusetts. John is a graduate of the PACT program.

**Liz Wasson '09 and Richard Watson** were married on July 16, 2022, in Killington, Vermont. Bridesmaids were Katie (McMicken) Smith '09, Kate (Scurlock) Jenkins '09, and Catherine (Morin) Lukasiak '09. McPhail's favorite Classic Trax was the reception band.



**Melissa (Crimmins) Bonner '13, '17G and Patrick Bonner '13** married on June 11, 2022, in Hingham, Massachusetts. Thanks to Patrick's brother and best man, Daniel Bonner '20, the wedding guests rode to and from the reception on the Friar athletics bus. The couple hired Academy Bus for their transportation, and Daniel, knowing Academy also ran the Friar bus, contacted the Department of Athletics to ask for permission to use it. Many alumni attended.

**Sean Flanagan '13 and Brianna Lutz '13** married on July 2, 2022, in Westbrook, Connecticut. They met and began dating as students at PC. A crew of their best friends from the Class of 2013 attended the wedding, many of them also PC couples, and there were four Friars in the wedding party. Sean and Brianna live in Stratford.

**Briana Reynolds '15 and Greg FitzMaurice '15** married on May 21, 2022, in Rockville Centre, New York. They reside in Centerport.

**John Lee Dumas '02 and Kate Lynn Erickson** married on April 23, 2022, in Puerto Rico, with many Friars attending, including Jeff White '02, Matt Meegan '02, Ryan Kellogg '02, Melanie

Dumas '96, Colin Woods '02, Tim Zabbo '02, Mike Dunn '02, and Kristie Zabbo '06G. They have been happily soaking in the Caribbean sun on the lovely island of Puerto Rico for seven years now, in the amazing community of Palmas Del Mar.



## Little FRIARS



← **Katelyn Turano '18 and Michael Curtis** of Middletown, Rhode Island, welcomed identical twin boys and future Friars, **Mason and Brooks**, on April 13, 2022.



**Caley Arzamarski '05 and John J. Shushereba** welcomed a daughter, **Charley Grace**, on October 21, 2021. She was baptized by **Rev. Anthony Federico '06**.



← **Matthew Gaynor '12 and Angela Gaynor '12** of Plymouth, Massachusetts, are excited to announce the arrival of their little friar, **Thomas Gabriel Gaynor**, born on December 1, 2022.



← **Paul Francisco '15 and Michelle (Desjardins) Francisco '17, '19G** of Haverhill, Massachusetts, welcomed their first child, **Isabella**, on October 19, 2022.



sion for Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston. Prior to that, he was director of training and education for diversity, equity, and inclusion with PC’s Office of Institutional Diversity. He played soccer as a student-athlete at PC.

'18 (Reunion: June 9-11, 2023)

**Mathis Mateus '18** of Boston, Massachusetts, a student at the New England College of Optometry, has been selected to receive the first Zenni Eye Care Access Scholarship. He entered NECO after earning a biology degree from PC. He is fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, skills he used in diagnosing and treating patients during his clinical externships at NECO, Tallman Eye Associates, DotHouse Health Center, and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Hospital. He was inspired by his interactions with patients at Tallman’s location in Lawrence, where the median income is the lowest of any municipality in the state and 42 percent of the population is Hispanic, and plans to work for Tallman after graduation to address the needs of underserved populations.

'19

**Brenna Smith '19** of West Hartford, Connecticut, is coordinator of marketing and external relations at Trinity College-Hartford, where she hosted an event with BIG EAST Commissioner Val Ackerman ’20 Hon. to mark the 50th anniversary of Title IX. A sociology and history major at PC, she is studying for an MBA at the University of Connecticut.

**Maggie Stalter '19** of Waterford, New York, joined The Martin Group, an integrated marketing communications agency headquartered in Buffalo, as project coordinator, working directly with Wegmans Food Markets. She

majored in marketing and finance at PC and formerly worked for the Capital Region’s Tri-City ValleyCats as guest relations manager and special events coordinator.

**Samantha Stringfellow '19G** of Cranston, Rhode Island, is principal of the Agnes E. Little Elementary School in Pawtucket. She began her career as a student-teacher in Pawtucket in 2014 and worked in that district as a second-grade English as a Second Language teacher and a kindergarten English Language Learner teacher. She most recently was assistant principal at Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School in South Providence. She has a master’s degree in education administration from PC and a master’s degree in TESOL from Rhode Island College.

'20

**Monet Eugene '20** of Boston, Massachusetts, is special assistant to the chief of housing for the city of Boston. She studied sociology at PC, with minors in women’s studies and business studies, and also has an MBA from Suffolk University.

**Cendhi Arias Henry '20G** of East Providence, Rhode Island, was named early childhood director at the Gordon School, a private school in East Providence for children in nursery through eighth grade. She joined the faculty in 2007 as a second grade teacher and has taken on multiple roles since, including as a cooperating teacher in Gordon’s teacher residency program, where she supported novice teachers, and as early childhood and lower school curriculum coordinator. In 2018, she was elected by her colleagues to be faculty representative on the school’s board of directors. A native of the Dominican Republic, she holds a bachelor’s degree in human development and family studies with a concentration in early childhood from the University of Rhode Island and a master of education degree in school leadership from PC. Cendhi

and her husband, Marlon, are the parents of two, Camila and Eliana.

**Lindsey Lopez '20, '21G** of Lincoln, Rhode Island, and **Sean Richardson '20** of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, are staff members at The Learning Community, a K-8 charter school in Central Falls. Lopez, who majored in marketing and earned her MBA through the Providence College School of Business, is the school’s communications coordinator. Richardson, who majored in sociology and public and community service studies, completed a master’s degree in higher education administration from Boston College in 2022. He serves as the school’s associate director of development.

'21

**Joleen Owusu-Sekyere '21**, of Lincoln, Rhode Island, served as a food security research intern with the Rhode Island Food Policy Council while studying for a master of public health degree at the Brown University School of Public Health. A biology and psychology double major at PC, she is pursuing a concentration in maternal and child health.

**Joseph Polisena Jr. '21G** of Johnston, Rhode Island, became mayor of Johnston in January 2023, following in the footsteps of his father, Joseph Polisena, who was in office for 16 years. A former member of the Johnston Town Council, he earned an MBA from PC. He also has a law degree from Roger Williams University and a bachelor’s degree from Rhode Island College.

'22

Two alumni from the Class of 2022 are studying for master’s degrees in public health at the Brown University School of Public Health, both with concentrations in health behavior. **Cecy Granados '22**, from Baltimore, Maryland, studied health policy and management and global studies at PC. **Azia Johnson '22**, from Providence, was a health policy and management major. 🏡

DEATHS

Salvatore Matarazzo Jr. '44  
Francis J. O'Donnell '49  
Alexander M. Calenda, M.D. '50  
Augustine Colella, M.D. '50  
Francis M. James, M.D. '51  
Ernest F. Reale '51  
Anthony R. Dolce '52  
Charles E. Hogan '52  
William M. Keenan '52  
Robert D. Murray Sr. '52  
Clarence J. Silvia '52  
Richard G. Bates '53  
John R. Dalton '53  
Robert R. Ford '53  
Norman Foxman '53  
John F. Goode Jr. '53  
Lewis A. Scoliard, Esq. '53  
Louis N. Valcarenghi '53  
Richard J. Cunningham '54  
Salvatore B. Matarazzo Jr. '54  
Victor H. Shaw Jr. '54  
Joseph E. Costello '55  
Ronald W. Dubois '55  
John F. Higgins '55  
Rene G. Mongeau '55  
Dr. Cornelius F. Sullivan '55  
Harold C. Walmsley '55  
Eugene A. Amaral '56  
Daniel F. Harrington '56  
Edward F. Lange '56  
Edward J. Monahan '56  
Raymond A. Pannone '56  
Ronald M. Sullivan, Esq. '56  
Edward J. Spargo '57  
James G. Hagan '58  
Joseph G. Hayes '58  
Eugene F. Heatherton '58  
Philip J. Reilly '58

John J. Tretton Jr. '58  
Raymond G. Blais '59  
Maurice A. Cagnon '59  
Normand J. Gelinas '59  
Maj. Edward B. McEvoy '59  
David H. Mitchelson '59  
Michael J. Faella Jr., M.D. '60  
Dr. Walter P. McGinn '60  
Roger H. Rousselle '60  
Edward J. Bailey, M.D. '61  
Russell L. Carter '61  
Frank H. Cavallaro '61  
Owen V. Cummings '61  
Russell F. Godin '61  
Robert F. Souza '61  
Joseph Herget '62  
Michael M. McAteer, Esq. '62  
James T. West '62  
John E. Anzivino '63  
John M. Lincourt '63  
Matthew G. Madden '63  
Robert H. Marinelli '63  
Joseph A. Moretti, M.D. '63  
Richard P. Pasela '63  
John W. Robinson '63  
John F. Machowski Jr. '64  
Charles R. Morrissey Sr. '64  
Daniel C. O'Connell '64  
Robert J. Paci, Esq. '64  
Francis R. Summers '64  
Daniel M. Walsh III '64  
C. William Gallagher '65  
Francis J. Hall '65  
Russell D. Mower '65  
Dr. Michael A. Ruggiero '65  
John W. McDonald '66  
Gerald F. Moran '66  
George J. Allard '67

Gerald B. Anderson '67  
James C. Auth Jr. '67  
Michael T. Byrnes '67  
Ronald H. Cote '67  
Raymond E. Lambert, Esq. '67  
Dennis E. Brewer '68  
Col. Gerald F. Dillon '68, '74G  
Michael T. Galloway '68  
Stephen M. Grimley '68  
David E. McVay '68  
John Munnelly '68  
Robert J. Taylor '68  
Joseph P. Wilson '68  
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Robert A. Kerwick '69  
Joseph T. McAleer '69  
Timothy J. McGee '69  
John C. Schultz '69  
Jean C. Soucy '69  
Mark G. Vardakis '69  
Robert E. Dean '70  
Michael S. Emidy '70  
James P. McIver '70  
Ralph F. Paglieri '70  
Raymond A. Rebeiro '71  
David E. Roach '71  
Joseph P. Tobin '71  
Robert R. Chasse '72  
Antoinette L. Costa '72SCE  
James F. Cronin '72  
Gerald J. Ramos '72  
Sister Dolores L. Andrade, FMM '73G  
Paul P. Colonero '73  
Patrick M. Rooney '73  
Anthony M. Schroeder '73  
John M. Langford '75G  
Andre J. Bilodeau '76G

Mark E. Foley '76  
Walter A. Loiselle '76SCE  
Theresa A. Reilly '76  
Richard A. Soltysiak '76  
Robert P. Farrell '77  
Frank S. Apicella '78  
Mary A. Carroll '78SCE  
Ann M. Crowley '79SCE  
Raymond J. Diette '79  
Mary Jane E. Flatley '79SCE  
Rev. Lois A. Bryant '80SCE  
Judy Folan Klein '80  
Eileen Huart '81G  
Ted M. Shay '81  
Sister Celia M. Sirois, OSU '81G  
Walter P. McGinn, DMD '82  
Rita Green Wallen '82  
Gerald P. Centore '83  
Edward A. Hanratty '88  
Anthony J. Manieri '88  
Howard C. Bedford '90Hon.  
Patrick J. Madigan '91  
Elena Matyas Noel '93  
Thomas C. Gasbarro '94  
Ellen Ricciardi '94G  
Laura Perrucci Browne '95  
Jeffrey C. Longo '95  
Helen C. Egerton '97G  
Rev. John E. Croy '03G  
Daniel A. Curran '03  
Francis E. Poulin '03  
Christy L. Angevine-Dube '04SCE  
Lex L. Bramwell '06  
Chelsea Holland Roy '06  
Michael R. Coppola '07G  
Melissa A. Goodman '11  
Maureen A. Whalen, assistant library director 🏡







# HOME COMING

## SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 1, 2023

Save the Date!





# A MODEL FOR CIVIL DIALOGUE

*Editor's Note: Holly Taylor Coolman, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology, wrote this reflection after participating in "With Mutual Respect: Discussions on Contemporary Challenges," a series instituted in the Fall 2022 semester by College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G. The essay was originally published in Our Sunday Visitor.*

BY HOLLY TAYLOR COOLMAN, PH.D.

WHEN THE SUPREME COURT handed down its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v. Wade*, it marked a crucial moment for the protection of unborn life. It also shifted the United States into a new moment in the public discourse. With abortion law returned to the jurisdiction of states, the possibility — and the necessity — of real conversation with fellow

citizens suddenly emerged.

Unfortunately, this is easier said than done. Real conversation has become a rarity. We have become more accustomed to slogans and insults hurled back and forth, often with no more nuance than the number of characters allowed by Twitter.

But this is a task we have to take up. In the most practical sense, our democratic, pluralistic situation demands it. None of us can simply coerce those who disagree with us. We have to make our case. In the

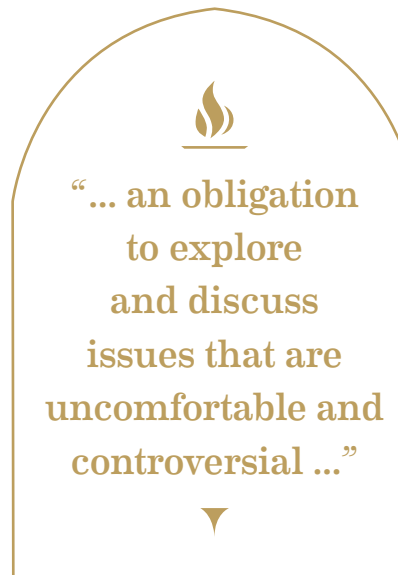
case of abortion law, it is especially important, in fact, that we work to arrive at laws that are well-reasoned and nuanced, and conversation is a powerful tool to reach that end.

For pro-lifers there are even more important motivations at hand. A pro-life position must always be grounded in a commitment to the fundamental dignity of every human being — including those who oppose us on this issue. Recognizing their dignity always includes recognizing and engaging their intellect. As a

teacher at a Catholic college, I am committed to the task, and I have also seen a particular challenge up close: We must make the pro-life case to our own young people, many of whom are unconvinced.

With all this in mind, I took part in a simple yet remarkable event at Providence College. At the prompting of President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G, a small group of us worked over several months to organize a public event. Two professors representing a pro-choice position and two professors representing a pro-life position — myself included — offered brief, careful presentations of our positions. We then offered short responses to one another's comments, and, finally, time was reserved for questions.

As I said, it was so simple that it might be hard to see exactly what was accomplished. My sense, though, is something important happened. The level of attention among the 500 or so attendees (including students, faculty, staff, administrators, and a number of



the college's trustees) was striking. All were completely attentive for 90 minutes — listening, absorbing, considering.

In particular, our students saw their teachers engage on a difficult and divisive issue without any of the animus or *ad hominem*s to which they are accustomed. They also heard a pro-life case presented with precision and conviction — and for some of them, this is a first. (One of our Campus Ministry staff reported that several students said the event moved their vague and unexamined pro-choice convictions toward a new openness to a pro-life position.) I myself left with a renewed conviction that, in this place dedicated to intellectual inquiry, we could address hard questions.

Providence College has a particular legacy in this matter. As our president put it, we are “grounded in the liberal arts and committed to *veritas*,” and we have “an obligation to explore and discuss issues that are uncomfortable and controversial, and to do so in a thoughtful and respectful manner.” In a place where we often study Thomas Aquinas, Father Sicard noted that “disputation of this type has been a hallmark of Dominican higher education since the 13th century.” An event like this, though, could no doubt inspire many kinds of initiatives in many places.

On this issue, there is so much more to do. For us, this was one small but important step. ■

*Holly Taylor Coolman has taught theology at PC since 2009. She*



*holds a Ph.D. from Duke University. She and her husband have five children and one grandchild.*





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