Twenty-seven students, alumni, and Dominicans journeyed for 11 days from Spain to southern France in the footsteps of Saint Dominic.
MEET AT BRAD’S
At the Bradley Café on Admiral Street, Brad’s Brew is still $2 a draft.

RECORD FUNDRAISING
PC raised $50.8 million in gifts in the fiscal year, the largest amount in college history.

FACULTY FOCUS
Learn about the top professors in teaching and research.

CLASS NOTES
Weddings, births, alumni authors, and more.

THE LAST WORD
Rev. James F. Quigley, O.P. ’60 on aging.

ON THE COVER:
College Chaplain Rev. Justin Bolger, O.P. photographed in Spain by Marigje Kusters.

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PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MAGAZINE
DIVISION OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
1 CUNNINGHAM SQUARE
PROVIDENCE, RI 02918-0001

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PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MAGAZINE is published twice yearly by the Division of Marketing and Communications for alumni, parents, and friends of the college.

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PROVIDENCE COLLEGE FALL 2023

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Because of you, this year Providence College ...

→ Welcomed the largest class in PC history
→ Celebrated the inaugural nursing and health sciences majors
→ Introduced a new dean of Arts and Sciences and 35 new faculty
→ Is ready to cheer on Friar student-athletes

Your support of The Fund for Providence College makes all this and more possible.

Make your gift today. [givetopc.org](http://givetopc.org)

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE FALL 2023
Four roommates from the Class of 1989 became lifelong friends. They gave birth to daughters within a year of one another and raised their daughters to be close friends, too. To their surprise and delight, all four daughters followed in their footsteps to Providence College.

“Our moms were roommates and best friends all four years of college and have remained very close ever since,” explained Catherine Moran ’23. “We daughters have grown up together since we were babies. We’ve been super close friends our whole lives. We consider each other to be cousins and refer to each other’s parents as our aunts and uncles.”

Shown above during their school days, from left, are Mary Moran Smith ’89 (who married Michael Smith ’89), Stephanie Paiva Ferguson ’89 (who married John Ferguson ’89), Kathleen Santos ’89, and Jane Mador Moran ’89.

To inspire students to pursue careers in music, Bob Donnelly ’68, a lawyer in the entertainment industry, donated 35 gold record plaques to Providence College for display in the Smith Center for the Arts. The plaques represent top-selling records by artists such as Aerosmith, Foreigner, John Legend, Mötley Crüe, Ted Nugent, and Sting. During his more than 40-year career, Donnelly has represented artists, managers, record companies, music publishers, producers, studios, concert promoters, venues, and media and technology companies. A lawyer with Fox Rothschild LLP in New York City, he also lectures on entertainment law. He likes to distribute desk plaques to his colleagues with the message: “Become an entertainment lawyer. Touch paper touched by superstars.”

On the road at last
Rhode Island drivers were able to collect their pre-ordered, Friar-branded license plates during a special event in the Schneider Arena lobby in August. Women’s basketball head coach Erin Batth was on hand along with mascots Friar Dom and Huxley. More than 400 orders were received for the plates. The cost is $40, with half of the proceeds going to the state of Rhode Island and half to emergency student support at PC. To order a plate, contact the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles.

Mothers & Daughters

Mothers (standing) and daughters (seated), from left, are Mary Moran Smith ’89 and Meghan Smith ’23, Stephanie Paiva Ferguson ’89 and Grace Ferguson ’22, Kathleen Santos ’89 and Hannah Delano ’22, and Jane Mador Moran ’89 and Catherine Moran ’23.

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Tastes like victory
Union Station Brewery in Providence introduced Friartown Ale in January 2023 to celebrate its 30th anniversary. “Brewed by fans for fans, Friartown is an old-school West Coast IPA brimming with American hops for that classic citrus, piney, herbal character,” according to the menu description. “Crisp, clean, and dry with subtle caramelized malt flavor.” Union Station Brewery opened in 1993 on the site of the former Union Station railroad depot. In addition to serving pub fare, it brews beer on site and sells it in singles and four-packs to go. Friartown Ale also is available at Amica Mutual Pavilion during Friars games and at Rhode Island liquor stores.

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**New trustees join board**

Three new members have joined the PC Board of Trustees:

- **Kenneth Canestrari ’84** has been senior executive vice president and group president of The TJX Companies since 2014 and has worked in senior roles within the company since 1997. He earned degrees in English and accounting at PC. He and his wife, Cindy, have two sons.

- **Michael Tucker ’93** is founder and managing partner of Orvieto Partners, a hedge fund management firm in Boston. He studied finance at PC and has an MBA from Boston College. He is married to Denise Bienenstein Tucker ’95 and they have three children.

- **Mark Voll ’77** remembers his uncle, Very Rev. Urban Voll, O.P. ’45, ’97 Hon., with equal parts fondness and admiration. "He was a great person and a brilliant scholar of theology and philosophy," said Voll, a member of the PC Board of Trustees.

Father Voll, who taught at PC and other colleges for more than 40 years, died in 2021. To honor his legacy and impact, Voll and his wife, Raymonde, established the Rev. Urban Voll O.P. ‘97 Endowed Scholarship Fund. Concurrently, Voll created a digital tribute and archive of Father Voll’s scholarly works at urbanvoll.com.

“I wanted to share his gift, especially so students who are awarded the scholarship can learn about my uncle’s life,” Voll said. Read more: providence.edu/father-voll

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**Introducing the Class of 2027**

The 1,200 members of the Class of 2027 — the largest in college history — include the first students to study nursing and health sciences. Students come from 30 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 13 countries — Argentina, Bermuda, Canada, Ecuador, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, and the Bahamas. There are 680 women and 547 men.

Fifteen percent are first-generation college students. There are 199 students in the Honors Program and 109 student-athletes. Sixteen percent of the students have not decided on a major, but among those who have, the most popular are finance, marketing, biology, management, psychology, nursing, and health sciences.

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**Student awarded master's Fulbright**

**Biology major Samantha Gabree ’23** will spend the next two years in the Netherlands, studying for a master’s degree in life science and technology at Delft University of Technology, after receiving a prestigious Fulbright partnership award for graduate education — the first Fulbright graduate award offered to a Providence College student.

"In addition to pursuing advanced knowledge in biology, I want to become a top-notch science communicator," said Gabree, who is from Farmington, Connecticut. "I want to further biotech progress by blazing better communication channels among scientists, policy makers, and the public."

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**Physics major wins Goldwater**

**Katie Kudla ’24**, an applied physics major from Tarrytown, New York, is one of only 413 students, from 5,000 applicants nationwide, to receive the Goldwater Scholarship, the most prestigious undergraduate scholarship in the United States in engineering, mathematics, and the natural sciences. She will use the $7,500 award from the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation toward her education or for future research.

She is the third Providence College student in the past four years to receive the Goldwater award. Kudla also is a member of PC’s Dance Company.

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**Grad student has DC fellowship**

**Michael McNamara ’24G**, a student in PC’s graduate history program, completed a four-week summer institute on the U.S. Constitution in Washington, D.C., as the Rhode Island recipient of the prestigious James Madison Graduate Fellowship.

The program is designed to help high school history, government, and civics teachers teach the U.S. Constitution. It includes an award of up to $13,800 toward completion of a master’s degree. McNamara is a history teacher at Ponaganset High School in Glocester, Rhode Island. He is the third graduate history student from PC to be selected for the fellowship since 2018.
Meet at Brad’s

The men’s basketball team is playing an away game tonight. In the evening’s darkness, seniors trickle across campus toward Admiral Street, to the single-story building with the green and white sign weathered to a slight patina from years of exposure. At the door, a man checks IDs. Older patrons glance at the time and finish their drinks, ready to surrender the establishment to the younger crowd.

Each generation of Providence College students has had its favorite watering hole: Louie’s Tavern, Club Eagles, Clubbies, the Rathskeller, to name a few. Where those places have faded to memory, the Bradley Café at 571 Admiral Street, better known as Brad’s, endures, anchoring the campus neighborhood as it has for more than 85 years. Popular with residents and students, a place where college mingles with community, Brad’s really is a place where everybody knows your name — and where Brad’s Brew is still $2 a draft.

“People come back after years, even decades, and say, ‘Wow, this place is exactly the same,’” said Craig Viens, who has owned Brad’s since 2015 with his wife, Amy, and friend Gary Cicillini. “That was more than 50 years ago. I can’t believe how little it’s changed.”

The horseshoe-shaped bar, recently refinished, divides Brad’s into sections. Up front, around high-top tables and chairs, older folks watch news, sports, and Jeopardy, fill out Keno slips, and chat with the bartender. Young alumni can point out the signed photo of the 2019 NCAA Champion men’s hockey team, on the wall across from the bar, and recall what it was like to be on campus that night. Students gather in the larger area in the back, feeding dollars into the digital jukebox to queue up favorite songs. By tipoff on game nights, the students are nearly shoulder to shoulder. When the bartender switches the bar’s speaker system to the broadcast, the space is filled with arena sounds.

The Bradley Café was established in 1937 by Daniel Colanduolo and his wife, Rose Verrucchio Colanduolo. A sports fan, Daniel sponsored athletics teams in the city — the Bradley A.C. in baseball, the Bradley A.A. in football, and the Bradley Redjackets in basketball. When he died in 1930, Rose continued to operate the bar with her daughter, Ann, and sons-in-law Winston “Winnie” Copp, until she retired in 1978. Winnie and Ann remained the proprietors of Brad’s until their retirement and move to Florida.

The Feeney family took over ownership of Brad’s in 1995. James “Jimbo” Feeney, who died in 2010, and his wife, Christine, along with Jimbo’s brother, Brian, and his wife, Susan, kept Brad’s a vital neighborhood institution. They hired family and friends to tend bar. They rallied patrons and neighbors to support Toys for Tots campaigns and hosted a Christmas party for neighborhood families complete with a visit from Santa Claus on a fire truck. Each St. Patrick’s Day, Sue, who also was a registered nurse, would personally prepare corned beef for sandwiches.

“If you knew the Feeneys, you were like family. To Sue, everyone in these four walls was family,” Cicillini said.

Cicillini and Viens became denizens of the bar under the Feeneys’ ownership. The two met at Stuffies, a now-defunct bar in North Providence. They frequented Stuffies on the same nights — “which makes sense, given that we were each there about six nights a week,” Viens said.

When Stuffies closed, the pair chose to relocate to Brad’s and befriended the Feeneys “almost instantaneously.” Brian was like a dad to me,” said Cicillini. “To both of us,” Viens added. “The whole Feeney family will always be part of the Bradley Café.”

After Sue Feeney died of cancer in 2015 at age 56, Brian sold the bar to Craig, Amy, and Gary, who were determined to preserve what the Coppys and Feeneys had created. The Feeney family remains close to the current owners and clients, and since Sue’s death, have
hosted fundraisers for cancer causes at the bar. When Brian Feeney died unexpectedly two years ago, his obituary mentioned Brad’s: “He effortlessly made anyone who walked through the door feel a part of his family. With his gentle giant demeanor, his accepting, compassionate, and loving nature was felt by all who he encountered. He had the ability to change how the room felt simply by being a part of it.”

The current owners have overseen some painting and redecorating at Brad’s, but they are careful not to change too much. The bathrooms, for instance, will never be painted because of the decades’ worth of PC student autographs on the bare wood. “There are some things you just can’t touch,” Cicillini said.

In a recent refresh of the bar décor, they hung several new pieces of Friars gear and memorabilia on the walls and labeled the spacious backside of the horseshoe bar “the Friars’ Den.”

“Game days are big for us. If it’s an away game, the seniors are here. If it’s a home game, they’re here as soon as it’s over. As much as PC students love us, we love PC,” said Viens. “Brad’s is Friartown.”

And Friars do love Brad’s. Around campus, the #MeetAtBrads hoodie is a wardrobe staple (the term “#MeetAtBrads” was first used on Twitter by broadcaster Doris Burke ’87, ’92G, ’05Hon.).

Mike Tagliaferro ’13, Brendan Nelson ’13, Tim Reid ’13, and Matt Spurling ’13 visit the bar annually to host “A Very Bradley’s Christmas.” It’s been held on a Saturday in December every year since 2014. The tradition began when Tagliaferro returned from service with the U.S. Army in South Korea.

“We were trying to figure out the best way and the best place to get friends together I hadn’t seen in more than a year. We thought, ‘What better place than Brad’s?’” Tagliaferro said.

As Nelson is fond of saying, “Every day is Bradurday.”

Along with classmates from the Class of 2013, attendees through the years have included Rev. Iriarte Andujar, O.P., PC’s associate dean of admission, and the late Sgt. Major Gary Fortunato ’00SCE, Tagliaferro’s instructor in PC’s ROTC Patriot Battalion.

Each year, the organizers design a commemorative T-shirt in a different color. “Brad’s is woven into the fabric of the PC community. You walk through the door and you feel at home, you feel like you’re in college again,” said Tagliaferro.

Amy Viens, who tends bar in addition to co-owning and managing the establishment, loves that she’s always among friends and family while she works. She describes the current ownership as in it for the long haul.

She said, “We love this bar. We love this neighborhood. Why would we ever want to sell a place like this?”

Students can purchase Brad’s merchandise. These “MeetAtBrads” hoodies sell out quickly.
She speaks for the bees

BY KAITLYN BRESNAHAN ’25
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN JAMES MUIR

Campus in the summer is a strange experience. During the semester, you get used to a baseline level of energy that goes unnoticed in everyday life. Sometimes, like when there is a basketball game downtown or during a long weekend, campus gets quiet, but it’s nothing compared to the summer. Being here during the summer feels like a peek behind the curtain: You see all the construction projects that begin the day after graduation, and the professors are much more laid back without classes to teach and exams to grade. Especially working in an ecology lab, I see professors in the field doing what they are passionate about, rather than being stuck in a classroom.

Dr. Rachael Bonoan, assistant professor of biology, is no exception. This summer, she showed up to research in overalls with her hair in braids, looking like a student ready for a field trip. With every bee we caught, she exclaimed, “It’s so cute!” and her enthusiasm and passion were contagious. As a beekeeper, I know most about honeybees, but this summer I learned so much more about all our native pollinators in a way that didn’t even feel like learning. One aspect of my research focused on plant-pollinator interactions in the campus’s stormwater retention gardens, which we call bioswales. I sat among the beautiful blazing star, purple wood sage, foxglove, and tall blue indigo flowers, and noted which pollinators visited which flowers. I was often seen walking around campus with a net to catch whatever bees I could find, reminding me of when my siblings and I would catch fireflies in mason jars.

Because our pollinators are so important, and because learning about all of this makes me so excited, I hardly noticed all the skills I gained—not only practical skills for a pollinator lab, but for all kinds of research. Quick thinking and problem solving are necessary when working with live animals, especially ones as fast and tricky as insects with a stinger. (Let me add that most native bees rarely sting: The majority are solitary and live in individual holes in the ground without food stores or brood to protect and are therefore not aggressive.) Outreach is a huge part of our work because our native pollinators face challenges and need protection and help, so communication is another skill that my summer work helped me to develop.

I also learned how to conduct my own research project, which is unique to Dr. Bonoan’s lab. Each student has their own project to investigate. I worked with local beekeepers to examine the effects that drone comb removal for Varroa mite management has on honeybee hives. While Dr. B helped us to lay out plans and gather and analyze data, we were responsible for our protocols and our project goals. Having Dr. B to help me when I needed it boosted my confidence and allowed me to explore without the fear of messing up. The support from her, from other biology faculty, and from my other professors exemplifies PC: Friars help each other in the pursuit of veritas.

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The opportunities offered by PC are building the foundation I need for a successful educational experience, for my future studies toward a Ph.D., and for a life filled with the childlike joy of watching bees on flowers.

“I SEE PROFESSORS IN THE FIELD DOING WHAT THEY ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT”
George Coleman, access services assistant at Phillips Memorial Library, has been greeting patrons at the circulation desk and helping them check out books for 35 years. In March 2023, the library celebrated Coleman’s work anniversary, creating a scrapbook to mark his career, which began in spring 1988. He is the library’s longest-serving employee.

In March 2023, the library celebrated Coleman’s work anniversary, creating a scrapbook to mark his career, which began in spring 1988. He is the library’s longest-serving employee.

“People here are patient and caring. That’s PC’s bedrock.”

When he came to work at Providence College, students checked books out by feeding their plastic library card with raised numbers into an imprinted machine to mark a paper catalog card. The patron took the book, and the library retained the imprinted card.

Today, students carry PC IDs with scannable bar codes that allow them to borrow books without any paper cards. The card catalog no longer exists. Instead, a digital catalog includes the combined resources of eight area colleges and universities. Add online periodicals and ebooks and the collection is exponentially larger than when Coleman started his career.

While excited by advances in library technology, Coleman prefers the tactile quality of books and library stacks to screens and online databases. He drives a 1996 Toyota Camry he is “trying to nurse to immortality” and does not own a television, preferring to listen to baseball on the radio. “George’s attention to detail and understanding of the importance of communication greatly assist the library in maintaining excellence and consistency of service during all hours of operation,” said Mark Caprio, library director. “His wry sense of humor, breadth of knowledge, and great appetite for history keep us on our toes.”

There’s something else that hasn’t changed.

“I am immensely grateful for the great many alumni, parents, and friends alike — to continue striving toward the full realization of Providence College’s vast potential. We are grateful beyond words,” Father Sicard said.

The generosity of supporters allowed the college to add $12.5 million to its endowment, which now stands at $321 million, and to direct an additional $10.5 million to financial aid and scholarships.

The record-setting total included $7.4 million in gifts to PC Athletics, also the most in history, including four seven-figure gifts and newly endowed funds to support student-athletes.

While multiple six- and seven-figure gifts were received by PC during the year, more than 8,000 donors — 72% of the total — made gifts of less than $500.

“I am grateful to my advancement colleagues and our campus partners — too many to count — for their hard work and dedication in helping us achieve our ambitious goals,” said Gregory T. Waldron, senior vice president for institutional advancement. “We are fortunate to be part of a college community where shared commitment and selfless collaboration can yield such remarkable results.

“Most importantly, we are grateful to our generous donors, whose faith in Providence College provides the inspiration that fuels the daily pursuit of our shared objectives,” Waldron said. “Their commitment fosters the institution’s progress toward achieving its high aspirations while making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students, each and every day.”

Photograph by Justin James Muir

George Coleman is a constant

Photograph by Justin James Muir

By Michael Hagan '15, '19G

George Coleman  is a constant

In a changing library,

George Coleman is a constant

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George Coleman  is a constant

In a changing library,
The facility that will be home to Providence College’s new School of Nursing and Health Sciences will be named in honor of Bernard Georges “Ben” Mondor ’04Hon., the Rhode Island industrialist and philanthropist best known for building the Pawtucket Red Sox into a model minor league baseball franchise by creating an unparalleled fan experience that brought the community together.

Mr. Mondor’s love for the Rhode Island community was the hallmark of his leadership during his ownership tenure, which ran from 1977 until his death at age 85 in 2010.

In memory of her late husband Ben, Madeleine Mondor has made a $10 million lead gift to the college to support the initiative. The facility, scheduled to be completed in January 2025, will be known as the Ben Mondor Center for Nursing and Health Sciences.

“I am grateful to Madeleine for supporting Providence College and placing her trust in us,” said College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. ’78, ’82G. “She has told me many times that she aims to be a good steward of the gifts God has provided, a lovely sentiment that reflects her deep and abiding Catholic faith.

Providence College will extend this stewardship by providing nurses with a strong Catholic educational foundation and the skills they require to address the medical and spiritual needs of patients at their most trying times,” Father Sicard continued. “Our new school will educate healers, not simply technicians, and have strong ties to the Rhode Island community.”

The Mondors’ relationship with Providence College began with their friendship with College President Rev. Philip A. Smith, O.P. ’63, who served from 1994-2005. Mr. Mondor and Father Smith bonded over their faith, Canadian upbringing, and their commitment to providing opportunity for Rhode Islanders.

Mr. Mondor acquired a bankrupt Rhode Island Red Sox team in 1977 and transformed it into one of the most successful franchises in professional baseball. Under his leadership, McCoy Stadium was extensively renovated, and the Pawtucket Red Sox went from drawing 70,000 fans in 1977 to more than 600,000 fans in six consecutive seasons, from 2004-2009.

In recognition of Mr. Mondor’s record of community service and his contributions to baseball, PC awarded him an honorary doctor of business administration degree in 2004.

Establishment of a School of Nursing and Health Sciences was a goal set by Father Sicard in his inaugural address as president in October 2021. In addition to addressing the nationwide shortage of nurses and health care providers, the new school fits perfectly with the college’s Catholic and Dominican mission because of its focus on the care of others, respect for the dignity of every person, and the importance of service to God and neighbor, Father Sicard said.

While the new facility is being built, students are studying in temporary labs and classrooms constructed in the Feinstein Academic Center, formerly Stephen Hall.

“The new school for nursing and health sciences is being constructed on the former site of Fennell Hall. It will be named in honor of Ben Mondor ’04Hon., pictured below at commencement in 2004.

Below: Madeleine and Ben Mondor ’04Hon., pictured at their home on Warwick Neck in Rhode Island in 2004.

Right: PC’s first nursing and health sciences students gather on the first day of classes in August 2023.

“It will be a fitting tribute to Mr. Mondor, who had an incredible and inspiring impact on Rhode Island and its people throughout his life.”

— GREGORY T. WALDRON
Mendoza receives Accinno Award

Saïd Mendoza, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, received the Joseph R. Accinno Faculty Teaching Award for 2022-2023. The honor is presented annually to the faculty member “who best exhibits excellence in teaching, passion and enthusiasm for learning, and genuine concern for students’ academic and personal growth.”

Mendoza, who has a Ph.D. from New York University, joined the PC faculty in 2014. In addition to teaching, he mentors student researchers in his Social Perception and Attitudes Lab, which investigates psychological questions related to issues of group-based stereotyping and discrimination. Results of the research, often co-written by students, have been published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at conferences.

Mendoza also serves as faculty-in-residence for the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and received the college’s Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Vision Award in 2021. As a Riccobono Academic Resilience Scholar, he is an advocate for raising mental health awareness and reducing its stigma.

Levy named Faculty Scholar

Ian Christopher Levy, Ph.D., professor of theology, received the Outstanding Faculty Scholar Award for 2022-2023. The award is presented to a faculty member who demonstrates the highest standards in research, scholarship, and contributions to an academic field.

Levy, who holds a Ph.D. from Marquette University, joined the PC faculty in 2010. His research focus is medieval biblical exegesis, the sacraments, and ecclesiology, with a particular interest in tracing the roles of authority, tradition, and conscience in the determination of Catholic doctrine. His 2018 book, Introducing Medieval Biblical Interpretation: The Sense of Scripture in Premodern Biblical Exegesis, won an award from the journal Christianity Today.

Levy received a PC Summer Scholar Grant in 2022 to aid in the completion of his new book, Freedom of Conscience and Religious Liberty in the Late Middle Ages, which examines how theologians developed sophisticated and nuanced arguments in defense of religious liberty and freedom of conscience that could not be infringed upon by secular or ecclesiastical authorities.

Four alumni join faculty

Among the 35 full-time, tenure-track faculty members hired to teach for the 2023-2024 academic year are four alumni:

- Molly C. Diesslin, Ph.D. ’12 is an assistant professor of social work, while her husband, Carmine Perrotti, Ph.D. ’11, is an assistant professor of public and community service studies. They are graduates of the University of Minnesota.
- Ryan J. Post, Ph.D. ’14, a graduate of Cornell University, is an assistant professor of psychology teaching in the neuroscience program.
- Jillian D. Waugh, R.N., MSN ’04, is an assistant clinical professor of nursing.

PC NEWS

Faculty retirements

As of July 1, 2023

MICHAEL L. HAYES, PH.D.  
Assistant professor of social work  
Teaching at PC since 1999

KEITH W. MORTON, PH.D.  
Professor of public and community service studies  
Teaching at PC since 1985  
Will continue as professor emeritus

Ileana Soto Reyes, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology

EDUCATION: Ph.D. biology and anatomy, University of Puerto Rico; bachelor’s degree in general sciences, University of Puerto Rico

BEGAN TEACHING AT PC: Fall 2022

EXPERTISE: Neuroscience, the study of the nervous system; neurodegenerative diseases and neurodevelopmental disorders caused by genetic mutations

NEWSWORTHY: Soto Reyes received a National Institutes of Health R15 Research Enhancement Award to study a mutation associated with Niemann-Pick Type C Disease, a rare genetic disorder that inhibits transportation of cholesterol and other lipids in cells, resulting in fatal accumulation of fats in the brain and other tissues of the body.

CURRENT PROJECTS: Soto Reyes and her students are studying a genetic mutation that causes brain overgrowth and is associated with autism and certain cancers. The specific gene, PTEN, is in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls balance and coordination, but Soto Reyes is investigating its connections to the brain’s frontal cortex, which controls social function.

QUOTABLE: “If you want to understand human behavior, I can show you parts of the brain that have to do with compassion and anger. If you want to treat chemical imbalances that lead to depression, that’s neuroscience. If we understand our brains and how they affect our behavior, we can be more tolerant and caring.”

ORIGINALLY FROM: Bayamón, Puerto Rico

HOBBIES: Developed a love of hiking on a post-doctoral fellowship in Bar Harbor, Maine; is interested in learning more about theology.

— MICHAEL HAGAN ’15, ’19G

FACULTY FOCUS

Developed a love of hiking on a post-doctoral fellowship in Bar Harbor, Maine; is interested in learning more about theology.

— MICHAEL HAGAN ’15, ’19G
A PILGRIMAGE IS A JOURNEY from one home toward a home of a different kind. The pilgrim is called to a place of personal or shared significance. The Red Sox fan journeys to Fenway Park, the hiker treks the Appalachian Trail, a family visits its ancestral land. The believer sojourns toward God.

In a first-of-its-kind experience at Providence College, 19 students and young alumni (including two seminarians), accompanied by four Dominican priests, three Dominican sisters, and a faculty member, traveled in the footsteps of Saint Dominic through Spain and France on an 11-day pilgrimage in May and June. Sponsored by Campus Ministry and open to all members of the college community, the pilgrimage brought the travelers to Dominic’s birthplace and other locations significant to his life.

In 1216, Dominic de Guzman (1170-1221) founded the Order of Preachers, the religious order which established and administers PC. Today there are more than 5,500 Dominican friars around the world.

“'The pilgrimage is a way to better know and love Saint Dominic through an immersion into his origin story,” said College Chaplain Rev. Justin Bolger, O.P. “There are many joys and graces to receive in any pilgrimage, but the hope is that walking in the footsteps of Saint Dominic inspires a greater love of him and our beloved Dominican school.”

The sun shone as the pilgrims left campus by bus for Boston Logan International Airport and an ambitious, arduous journey. After an overnight flight across six time zones, they arrived in Madrid for a passport check at mid-day with no plans for rest until after a late dinner that night in their hotel. Transported by bus throughout the pilgrimage, they still logged an average of 16,000 steps daily on foot. They slept in religious houses and modest hotels, and they prayed the Divine Office several times a day using an app on their smart phones.
In Segovia, 60 miles north of Madrid, the Friar pilgrims emerged from their bus into the shadow of an ancient Roman aqueduct. Built in the first century A.D., it brought water from mountain springs 11 miles away to the city until 1973. Segovia is the location of a cave where Dominic prayed from mountain springs 11 miles away to the city until 1973. An aqueduct. Built in the first century A.D., it brought water emerged from their bus into the shadow of an ancient Roman aqueduct. Built in the first century A.D., it brought water

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In his homily, Father Dominic explained that Christian pilgrimage originated as a penitential practice. While the Friar pilgrims may not be called to penances as grueling as Dominic’s (“Though it worked for him, he is a saint, after all,” Father Dominic said), the early mornings, many miles on foot, and other challenges ahead were opportunities to embrace a penitent spirit.

After Mass and reflection came a walking tour of the old city and its cathedral, an impromptu stop for chocolate-dipped churros that a patron promised “will change your lives,” and finally, dinner and sleep after more than 24 hours of travel.

Caleruega and Palencia, Spain

The next day, the pilgrims were invited to Caleruega, the home of Dominic’s birth. The Friar pilgrims, following custom, awoke to the sound of the bell at dawn, arose in their gowns, heard Mass, and walked through the narrow streets of the town. In Caleruega, a sculpture of Dominic in penance before the crucified Christ behind the altar.

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Through patches of light rain, the pilgrims walked and sang as Father Justin, a member of the musical group known as the Hillbilly Thomists, played a small guitar. They sang folk spirituals like Down to the River to Pray, casting a distinctly American sound over the Castilian countryside.

**Lourdes, France**

The pilgrims traveled next to Lourdes, France, stopping for a few hours in the seaside city of San Sebastián in northeastern Spain's Basque region. On the other side of the Pyrenees Mountains, they arrived in Lourdes in time for the nightly candlelit procession through the grounds below the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. The procession honors and prays for the intercession of Mary, mother of Jesus, who is said to have appeared 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old girl living in poverty in Lourdes, in 1858.

At the front of the procession is a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes in white and pale blue and holding a rosary of pearls, as she was described by Soubirous, who was canonized in 1933. Following behind are thousands of faithful from all parts of the world, some of the six million pilgrims who visit Lourdes each year seeking healing. From the basilica steps, dozens of volunteers pray the rosary in numerous languages, alternating tongues between each prayer. At the conclusion of each decade of the rosary, the pilgrims lift their candles and sing a verse and refrain of Immaculate Mary.

“Walking and praying and singing with thousands of pilgrims from all over the world, I thought — heaven must feel something like this,” said Liz Varous ’25, an accounting and theology major from Commack, New York. “So many different people joined together in prayer and praise.”

As the procession made its way toward the façade of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary (beneath the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception), the pilgrims recognized a familiar scene in the relief above the doorway: Dominic receiving the rosary from Mary, the same episode depicted in the War Memorial Grotto on campus. Warmly illuminated under a clear night sky, the vision called to mind the O Lumen prayer to Dominic: the pilgrims prayed throughout the journey:

> O light of the church, teacher of truth,  
> Rose of patience, ivory of chastity,  
> You freely poured forth the waters of wisdom,  
> Preacher of grace, unite us with the blessed.

“I thought — HEAVEN must feel something like this …” — LIZ VAROUS ’25

**Toulouse and Sorèze, France**

In Toulouse, today the fourth largest city in France, Dominic founded the first house of friars. The house was a gift from Peter Selia, son of a wealthy merchant. Selia offered Dominic his house and then his whole life, joining the nascent order and leaving his riches behind.

The pilgrims celebrated Mass in Toulouse above the relics of Thomas Aquinas in the Church of the Jacobins, a nickname given to the Dominican friars in medieval France, where their first house in Paris was in the Rue Saint Jacques. On the eve of the French Revolution, the radical
Jacobin faction got its name because its early meetings were held in rented space in a Dominican priory. Not long after, the revolutionary government suppressed that priory along with all monasteries and vowed religious life in France.

During communion, Gregory, a philosophy major and seminarian for the Diocese of Manchester, sang Pange Lingua Gloriosi and Adoro te Devote, eucharistic hymns composed by Aquinas.

“Singing Aquinas’ words beside his relics and before the Eucharist was moving beyond description. And though they’re only his earthly remains, I felt the pressure — he was right there,” Gregory said.

As they explored the villages and countryside of southern France where Dominic established his order and fought the Albigensian heresy (which held that matter was evil and only spirit was good), the pilgrims were guided by Rev. Renaud Silly, O.P., a Dominican friar of the Province of Toulouse and scholar of scripture and the history of the Dominican Order in France.
They visited the grave of Henri-Dominique Lacordaire, the 19th century Dominican who reestablished the order in France after its dissolution in the revolution. Father Renaud described Lacordaire’s navigation of tensions between his political liberalism and Catholic faith. Lacordaire saw Christian virtues of faith, hope, and charity as compatible with the revolutionary values of liberty, fraternity, and equality. Religious life was not merely compatible with liberal ideals; it could be an expression of them, because only the free man or woman could meaningfully and voluntarily profess religious vows.

Prouilhe and Fanjeaux, France

Father Renaud led the pilgrims to Prouilhe, where they met Dominican sisters at the first monastery founded by Dominic for Dominican nuns, and Fanjeaux, where they celebrated Mass in a chapel in the house where Dominic lived as a parish priest. They walked from Prouilhe through hills covered with fields of grain and wildflowers, praying the rosary as they went, and gaining elevation until they reached Fanjeaux. It was over these hills that Dominic experienced a vision of a ball of flame descending in the night sky and hovering over Prouilhe below.

As they climbed, a vision of their own unfolded. Days before, a nun in Caleruega had told the pilgrims, “When you see the vast expanse of the country, call to mind the great expanse of Dominic’s love, the boundlessness of God’s love. Never close your eyes to this.”

Walking in Dominic’s footsteps and standing where he stood, the pilgrims took in what Dominic’s eyes saw. They prayed that by sharing this vision, their spiritual vision might be renewed and deepened — the hope of the pilgrimage from the beginning.

On the Solemnity of the Assumption in August 1217, Dominic gathered his small cadre of friars in Prouilhe to announce a decision that would change their lives, the church, and the world. At Dominic’s command and over the friars’ protests, the young community would disperse abroad. They would be university students and teachers, parish priests, and missionaries of mercy. They would establish new houses and grow their ranks. Centuries later, in 1917, they would found Providence College.

"You will no longer abide in the sanctuary of Prouilhe. The world henceforth is your home … Go, therefore, into the world and teach all nations," Dominic told his brothers.

"My prayer is that each pilgrim, inspired by Saint Dominic, embraces and shares his charism at Providence College." — Sister Matthew Marie Cummings, O.P., Clinical Professor of Education
A TURNING POINT IN the history of Providence College came in 1965: upon the retirement of the venerable and highly respected president, Rev Vincent Dore, O.P. ’23. The Province of St. Joseph had elected a new provincial, Rev Louis Every, O.P. Every was not an academic; he had recently returned from mission work in Pakistan. But he was very much interested in the college, and in line with what was happening in Rome at the time of the Second Vatican Council, he sought a kind of aggiornamento, or modernizing, was happening in Rome at the time of the Second Vatican Council. Introducing himself as one of a medieval order speaking from the pulpit of a Reformation church he wore his Dominican habit instead of traditional vestments. Among his first appointments, Father Haas named Paul van K. Thomson to fill a new office, vice president for academic administration. Thomson was an Episcopal priest who converted to Catholicism after he joined the PC faculty in 1958. In 1966, when he decided to accept a position at Newton College of the Sacred Heart, near Boston, College President Rev Robert J. Slavin, O.P. ’28, asked him to name his price for remaining at PC. The price was permission to establish a humanities honors program. Thomson stayed and the first honors class was recruited from among the entering freshmen in the fall of 1967.

William Haas was a talented leader and an excellent and persuasive speaker. His command of language, timing, and nuance inevitably captivated his audiences from the lectern as well as the pulpit. When a last-minute cancellation left the college without a commencement speaker in 1966, Father Haas delivered what many faculty agreed was the best commencement address they had ever heard. He was also a gifted painter and sculptor. His plaque depicting the life of Saint Paul hangs in the Ruane Center for the Humanities. He was also possessed of sensitive political skills. In some ways Haas was Lincoln-esque in dealing with difficult situations.

This was an era of frequent student protests at American universities, including Providence College. One springtime students decided to march on the president’s office with non-negotiable demands. (“Non-negotiable” inevitably accompanied student demands in the Sixties.) As students jammed the presidential complex, Haas pointed out there were too many for all to hear. Why not go to the lower-level auditorium so that all could join in. The students agreed, the president won the first round. Father Haas climbed to the stage, looked at the demands and said, “Is this all?” He could think of a lot more that was wrong. He proceeded to detail his hopes for progress at Providence College. When he finished, the non-negotiators gave him a standing ovation and left the hall. It was some time before they realized they’d been had, and it was too embarrassing to renew the protest. Besides, exams were approaching, and the summer break was near.

Father Haas always spoke with an awareness of his audience and an understanding of time and place. He accepted an invitation to deliver the baccalaureate address to the Brown University graduating class of 1967. At the First Baptist Church he wore his Dominican habit instead of traditional academic attire to dramatize the occasion of a Catholic priest of a medieval order speaking from the pulpits of a Reformation church. There he reflected on the ecumenical hopes of the Second Vatican Council. Introducing himself as one dressed in a friar’s garb, stained with blood of fellow Christians and Jews at the hands of the Inquisition, he spoke in the spirit of a long-delayed reconciliation after centuries of vicious hostilities. He made it a deeply moving event.

Among the first tasks of the new administration was to organize a centralized faculty structure. In the preceding era, with few lay faculty, department chairs hired new faculty and there was no central personnel file. Thomson called on all faculty to submit credentials and discovered that in a couple of cases degree claims were questionable. What followed was establishment of a Committee on Rank and Tenure, a formal process for granting tenure and promotions, and standards for new hires as the lay faculty grew.

The faculty was generally welcoming and cooperative with the Haas-Thomson administration but showed independence. In 1965 a college chapter of the American Association of University Professors was formed, though the administration had counseled delay. On the evening of November 9, 1965, the lights went out. It was the great blackout of the northeastern United States. With classes abruptly ended, a small group of faculty retreated to the cafeteria, which had emergency lighting. With coffee and a yen to influence the direction of the new administration, they hatched a plan to form a chapter of the AAUP.
should continue as it was, preserving "a healthy all-male atmosphere." The next year saw a continuing drop in enrollment and a steep budget deficit. Prudence dictated reconsideration, and in the 1969-1970 session, the Senate adopted a resolution to admit women, and the administration approved. Women were enrolled in the freshman class in 1971 and quickly displayed their scholarly expertise. Among the greatest achievements of the Haas administration was the revision of the college curriculum. The curriculum demanded so many required courses that there was little opportunity for elective choices, and in most majors six courses per semester were needed to meet all requirements. These included 18 credits in theology, 18 in philosophy, and more required courses in history, English, and a foreign language. When Father Dore was dean of students in the 1950s, the "big board" in his office contained a card slot for every course offered. There were so many requirements and so many multiple sections that Father Dore solved any problems with a quick reference to the board. Sometimes the solution was accompanied by the phrase, "For your elective you will take ..."

The study committee, which included students and faculty, was led by Thomson and English Professor Rene Fortin, an award-winning teacher and respected scholar who served as director of the college honors program. Also serving on the committee was Rodney Deluasanta, an equal- ly gifted teacher and prolific scholar, and Rev Thomas R. Peterson, O.P. '51, dean of students. They interviewed members of every department, tested ideas, and solicited suggestions. The result was a proposal for a completely new core curriculum, with a sharp reduction in requirements and much innovation.

The centerpiece was a four-semester, 20-credit course, the Development of Western Civilization. This was an adaptation of a kind of "great books" course in the college honors program. A key difference was that books were to be studied in historical and cultural context. The course combined studies in history, literature, philosophy, religion, art, and music. Classes were to meet five hours per week and be team-taught by members of the relevant departments. The proposal became the focus of intense debate. The education and business departments, with heavy requirements for majors, feared the new core would cut into their credits. Many Dominicans, especially but not exclusively in philosophy and theology, were firmly opposed because it would reduce the number of credits in those departments to a total of 12 and stray from the Thomistic character of their courses. The history department divided evenly, pro and con; and the English department strongly favored the proposal.

The 1969-1970 session of the Faculty Senate passed the new core curriculum by an overwhelming vote. The legislation was signed and strongly applauded by Father Haas. The architects were inspired by Cardinal John Henry Newman's The Idea of a University. They understood that, beyond specialized knowledge, an understanding of the interplay of history and culture was essential to the development of the mind and serious pursuit of excellence in one's education. The Development of Western Civilization Program became the centerpiece of Providence College education.

The period from 1968-1971 was a tumultuous time for the college and the country. The college was confronted with repeated episodes of protest against the Vietnam war. There was some feeling on campus that the government's military policy should not be questioned in war time, and the issue was much debated. By a vote of the Faculty Senate and with the approval of the president, the college joined the nationwide Moratorium in October 1969, when classes were suspended for "teach-ins" and antwar speeches on the lawn in front of Aquinas Hall. The climax of anti-Vietnam protests came in response to the shooting of student protesters at Kent State University in May 1970. During a special evening session, with the president in attendance signing bills as they were passed, the Senate voted to join the national academic strike protesting the war. There was only one dissenting vote. Several tense days followed, and given the disruption, the administration announced that final exams would be optional.

In 1971, after six years of intense and transformative activity, Father Haas resigned the presidency and was succeeded by Father Peterson. Father Haas remained at the college, joining a team to teach in the first year of the Civ program. He left during the 1972-1973 academic year for post-doctoral studies at Boston University. During that year he appealed to the Vatican for laicization, was approved, and subsequently married Pauline Burke, who had been his secretary. Rev. Charles Duffy, O.P., his seminary classmate, officiated. Moving to Massachusetts, he became president of North Adams State College. He later returned to Rhode Island to live in Newport and teach philosophy at Bryant University and Salve Regina University.

Thomson remained as vice president and continued to lead the university in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1980, when the Vatican opened a path to ordination for Episcopal priests who had converted to Catholicism, Thomson was deemed qualified, and, still the vice president, became a Catholic priest with a wife and seven children. A moment of arresting drama occurred when Father Thomson was assisting at St. Mary's Church in Newport. Father Thomson presided at the Eucharist, Pauline Haas was the Eucharistic minister, and she offered communion to layman Bill Haas. Real life is often stranger than fiction.

The Haas-Thomson years were important for Providence College. The objective was to build a reputation for excellence among American colleges that would draw honor and attract students. The effort was dedicated to fulfilling the traditional mission of the Order and the college. With a healthy working relationship between administration and faculty, the project succeeded. Faculty volunteered much time and energy to the work of reform. Devoted to their teaching and scholarship, they also displayed a deep sense of commitment to the college as an institution. That spirit was captured one day by Rene Fortin when he described the college as "this sacred place." For years, Providence College ran on the steam generated during that period.
Erin Batth and Kim English, the new head coaches for women’s and men’s basketball, are preparing for the start of the season. As basketball excitement builds in Friartown, we asked them to share some of their favorite things.
You are one of two things in life ...
Humble or about to be.

Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Jesus is my hero because he is the son of God and my savior. I can always count on him. Apart from him, I can do nothing. He is my firm foundation, and he has a sense of humor. The joy of the Lord is my strength.

The Golden Rule.

Jordan 1 Lows, because you can wear them with anything. You can dress them up or down.

Star Wars is the ultimate battle between good and evil. I love the creativity and imagination written in the movie.

I love different types of music! I don’t really have a favorite.

Anything chocolate. I love candy!

Jesus is my hero because of Calvary, because of his great sacrifice, because of salvation, because of grace.

The Talent Code by Daniel Coyle is a book I reread often. The book highlights some of the essential characteristics for success in some of the world’s greatest hotbeds for success.

Travis Scott x Air Jordan Low OG SP Black Phantoms. I wear a lot of all black and these sneakers present a way to include my style.

My favorite T-shirt. Muhammad Ali is the greatest champion of all time.

A quote that is relevant for every situation in life.

The Audi S8. A great automobile and a great partnership with a PC sponsor.

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Burke joins Hockey Hall of Fame

Hockey executive Brian Burke ’77 will be inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in December 2023. Burke was general manager of the 2010 U.S. Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team that won a silver medal in Vancouver and general manager of the Anaheim Ducks when they won the Stanley Cup in 2007.

He began his career as a hockey executive with the Vancouver Canucks in 1987 and held management roles with the Hartford Whalers, Toronto Maple Leafs, Calgary Flames, Pittsburgh Penguins, and the NHL. He was director of player personnel for the 2014 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team and held management roles with the Men’s National Team.

Burke played in 112 games with the Friars from 1973-1977 and was team captain his senior year. After a year in the AHL, he entered Harvard Law School, graduated with a law degree in 1981, and became an NHL player agent.

Today, he serves as the first-ever executive director of the Professional Women’s Hockey Players Association. He is the author of Burke’s Law: A Life in Hockey, and founder of the You Can Play Project, created in honor of his late son Brendan, which works to promote respect and inclusion for all people in sports.

Burke steps down after 32 seasons at Bryant

Mary Burke ’87 stepped down as head coach of the Bryant University women’s basketball team in March 2023. In her 32 seasons with the Bulldogs, beginning in 1991, she recorded more than 400 wins, made four NCAA Division II tournament appearances, and led Bryant into Division I in 2006.

Burke was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame and the Providence College Athletics Hall of Fame in 2004.

As a Friar, she graduated second on the all-time scoring list with 1,672 points and led the 1986-1987 team to the BIG EAST Tournament championship and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament. She received the 1987 ECAC Award of Valor, presented to the student-athlete “whose courage, motivation, and relentless determination serve as an inspiration to all.”

Kostacopoulos retires as Navy coach

Paul Kostacopoulos ’87 announced his retirement from coaching in May 2023 after 18 seasons guiding the Navy baseball program and 34 years as a NCAA Division I head coach, including at the University of Maine and Providence College.

He led teams to six NCAA tournament appearances, including Navy in 2011 and 2016, Maine in 1997, and Providence in 1992 and 1996. His Friars captured the BIG EAST championship in 1992 and the regular season title in 1996. He is one of 92 NCAA baseball coaches to reach the 1,000-win plateau. His 523-373-5 record represents the second most wins in Navy program history.

A member of the Providence College Athletics Hall of Fame, Kostacopoulos played 139 games for the Friars over four seasons. He was team captain and defensive player of the year as a senior. After graduation, he was named an assistant coach and became the youngest Division I head coach in the country in 1990. After the 1996 season, he left to become head coach of Maine.

Kostacopoulos will remain in an administrative role with Navy athletics. His wife, Joan Powers Kostacopoulos ’86, ’97G, played women’s basketball for the Friars.

Fleet-footed Friars catch up

When cross country and track head coach Ray Treacy ’82 was in Ireland in July to visit his brother, John Treacy ’78, ’80G, John invited Friar runners to visit, too.

Pictured at John’s home in Rathcoole, County Dublin, are front row, from left, Geraldine Nolan ’92; Ray Treacy ’82; Roisin Quinn Jones ’05, ’07G; and Frank Conway ’90. In the back row, from left, are Richard O’Flynn ’85, ’89G, John Treacy ’78, ’80G; Paul Moloney ’83; Brendan Quinn ’83; Mark Keller ’86; Richard Mulligan ’85; and Richard Jones ’86, ’07G.
As the first Black president of the National Alumni Association, Earnest “Earl” Smith Jr. ’92 hopes to use his platform to open new doors and encourage all Friars, especially Friars of color, to keep the spirit of community alive after crossing the commencement stage.

Hosting regional events, coordinating service activities, and fostering community ties are just a few functions of the NAA—an increasingly diverse organization that offers year-round opportunities to connect and engage with the college. Smith began his one-year term as president on July 1, 2023.

Born and raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey, the youngest of five siblings, Smith is a “proud product of public schools” who learned his formative values at home. His mother was an educator and teacher’s aide who encouraged strong academics. His father was a mechanical engineer who instilled a love of sports, introducing him to baseball and supporting his athletic pursuits. Both parents passed down their Southern Baptist faith, which Smith cites as “foundational” in his early years.

In high school, he spent days in the classroom and evenings on the baseball diamond.

In the fall of 1987, opportunity came knocking. With the teachers union on strike and classes suspended, Smith’s high school coach gathered his players for a weekend prospect camp. On Saturday, the team ran throwing and catching drills. On Sunday, they scrimmaged, watched by college coaches and NCAA Division I recruiters.

“I knew that I wanted to go to college, and I wanted to earn my spot on a Division I baseball team,” Smith said.

He only needed one at-bat to make it a reality.

When he stepped up to the plate, he noticed his father on the sidelines, talking to a man in a black and white jacket labelled with a “P.” Smith remembers everything about the play that followed, from the break of the pitch to the crack of the bat. After sending a line drive deep into the outfield, rounding the bases, and finally coming home, he was called over by his father and asked to shake the man’s hand.

Paul “Kosty” Kostacopoulos ’87 was Smith’s introduction to PC. Then an assistant coach for the Friars, Kostacopoulos retired this year after more than 17 years as head of the Navy baseball program. He had been talking to Smith’s father about life as a student-athlete and how a small school in Rhode Island could offer both high-level athletic programs and a top-notch education. He mentioned the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Program, created to help students of color ease the cost of tuition. His first exchange with Kostacopoulos cemented Smith’s decision to apply.

“I didn’t find Providence College. Providence College came and found me.”

Smith arrived at PC wanting to explore the humanities and capitalize on his strengths.

“I guess I’ve always had the gift of gab,” he said, laughing. “My first-grade teacher said that as long as I could talk, I could energize the world. So I wanted to do something with that.”

Fascinated with the hot-button political discourse of the 1970s and ’80s, and following in the footsteps of his mother, he chose to major in political science and millennial studies.

Earl Smith ’92, a right fielder and designated hitter, led the Friars in outfield assists as a junior and was co-captain as a senior.

Earl Smith ‘92, a right fielder and designated hitter, led the Friars in outfield assists as a junior and was co-captain as a senior.
friends and faculty connections were meaningful and abundant. Political science professors Richard Alsfeld, Ph.D. ’61, Mark Hyde, Ph.D., and Neil Romains, Ph.D., were instrumental in his academic journey. He looked forward to Monday meetings with Robert Hamlin, Ed.D. ’56, head of the MLK Scholarship Program, whom he considered a mentor and “second dad.” He worked closely with administrators like Wilrose Commission, dean of minority student affairs, and faculty members like sociology professor Eric Hirsch, Ph.D., to help create inroads for students of color. At a time of increasing diversity and racial dialogue on campus, Smith was an active voice in the conversation. He joined the African American Society; Students Organized Against Racism, and the Board of Minority Student Affairs, where he oversaw the effort to change the group’s name from “minority” to “multicultural.” As a student leader, he organized cultural awareness meetings and advocated for better representation of the Black experience in the core curriculum.

“Our main message was, ‘Teach to your audience.’ We had so many students of color who just wanted classes to reflect our history and tell our story—to make some room for us,” he said.

Smith’s involvement laid the framework for inclusive causes at PC, a legacy that endures today.

And of course, there was baseball. Hendrickson Field was the stage for some of Smith’s finest undergraduate memories, and he remains close friends with teammates today.

“They were some of my best supporters,” Smith recalled. “They came to my meetings in Moore and ’64 Hall, they supported my political and social activities on campus. We still text all the time.”

In 1992, he was named team co-captain alongside Don Martome ’93, and with Friar legends like Lou Merlone ’93 and Jim Foster ’93, he capped his Division I career with a championship title, defeating Connecticut in the 1992 BIG EAST men’s baseball tournament.

His senior year ended on a high note in more ways than one, with Earl befriending his future wife, Noreen Kelly ’93. After introducing himself in an Aquinas Hall elevator and bonding over Rev. Bernard Langton, O.P.’s general ethics class, Smith asked her to see Boomerang, starring Eddie Murphy, the following summer. He married in 1996. Noreen has taught early childhood education for more than 30 years. After graduation, Smith returned to New Jersey to begin his career as a legal analyst in the finance and banking industry. He went to work immediately, helping plan affinity programs for alumni of color at signature events like Reunion and Homecoming. He was elected vice president in 2022 and assumed the presidency from Jennifer MacCallum O’Meara ’93 this year.

He looks forward to meeting members of the alumni network—some 58,000 strong—at events and invites them to visit their alma mater whenever they get the chance. Even from his home in Livingston, New Jersey, Smith remained connected to PC. In 2017, classmate Kate (Hennesy) Kennedy ’93 invited him to be a class representative. He went on to work immediately, helping plan affinity programs for alumni of color at signature events like Reunion and Homecoming. He was elected vice president in 2022 and assumed the presidency from Jennifer MacCallum O’Meara ’93 this year.

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“We’re at our best when we let people of all groups know that you have a home here...”
The Connecticut Press, a company owned by
Mary Day, Servant of God, is the official
artistic and figurative artist. His portrait of
Sculptors, founded by Mark Rothko and Mil-
exhibited his paintings at the Prince Street
of hundreds of young players over the course
of nearly three decades in the commercial
real estate and industrial space. Lewis brings
commercial lending at BankNewport. He is re-
rector of the Massachusetts League of Com-
pany dedicated to bone health and expand-
therapy immune-oncology company. He is the
founder of MSW Consulting, Inc., a strategic
counseling group focused on the pharmaceu-
tical and biotech industries. He previously
was president, CEO, and board member of Radius Health, a specialty biopharmaceutical
compny dedicated to bone health and expand-
gas for patients. He holds an MBA from PC.
were, from left, Rev. Magr.

Five alumni received honorary degrees during commencement in May 2023. The keynote speaker was actor and activist Hill Harper, shown at far left next to College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. ’78, ’80E. Honored were, from left, Rev. Magr.

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the Education Testing Service. Horne studied at the University of Rhode Island and is a former basketball player for the Friars, scoring 1,133 points in his career. He has taught mathematics at the University of South Carolina. She is a member of the National Education Association and was named Outstanding Math Teacher of the Year in 2012. She previously was assistant principal at Beechwood Middle School effective July 1, 2019. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a degree in business, concentrating in management. Honorees were recognized at the annual Women of Influence conference in Lake Tahoe, California, in July 2013.

Leah Goldham Sarzotopoulos ’07 of Lexington, South Carolina, was appointed principal of Beechwood Middle School effective July 1, 2013. She previously was assistant principal of Carolina Springs Middle School. She began her teaching career at White Knoll Middle School in 2007 and was named its Teacher of the Year in 2011. She also was named the South Carolina Middle Level Assistant Principal of the Year for the South Carolina Middle Level Administrators Association in 2010. A marketing major at PC, she received a master’s degree in curriculum and distance learning from Columbia University and is a member of the National Education Association. She is the national spokesperson for the Retail Energy Supply Association, the trade association for all forms of retail energy supply. McBride previously was general counsel for the National Retail Federation, a national trade association that represents businesses that deliver competitively priced energy, fuel, and related products to over 10 million residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the United States. She advises clients on the regulation, licensing, and enforcement of adult use and medical cannabis in the state. McBride has more than 20 years of experience in the state’s attorney general’s office under three attorneys general. She began her career as a judicial clerk to Judge Maureen McGuire Goldberg ’72, ’90H. She is a graduate of Roger Williams University School of Law.

Shepard Law was an associate in 2001 and has more than 20 years of experience in the state’s attorney general’s office under three attorneys general. She began her career as a judicial clerk to Judge Maureen McGuire Goldberg ’72, ’90H. She is a graduate of Roger Williams University School of Law.

To nominate a classmate, visit alumni.providence.edu/naa/naa-awards/

Michael Shepard ’91, ’01, ’04 was named executive vice president, managing partner at Shepherd O’Donnell. O’Donnell joined the firm in 2002 as a senior manager of environmental, social, and governance at Big Y Foods Inc. by the company’s board of directors. A third-generation member of the family that founded the company, D’Amour began her career at Big Y in 2010 as a part-time service associate.

Maggie D’Amour ’08 of Northampton, Massachusetts, was appointed to the newly created role of corporate and strategic affairs manager, business banking for First Republic Bank in Manhattan. She advises clients on the regulation, licensing, and enforcement of adult use and medical cannabis in the state. McBride has more than 20 years of experience in the state’s attorney general’s office under three attorneys general. She began her career as a judicial clerk to Judge Maureen McGuire Goldberg ’72, ’90H. She is a graduate of Roger Williams University School of Law.

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Alex Alex Harvey '08 of Washington, D.C., is counsel in the Washington office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC. Alex counsels and represents airlines, airports, and related travel industry members on matters before the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration, Customs and Border Protection, and Department of State. He has extensive experience in the start-up of both domestic and foreign airlines from Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia. Alex guides the airlines through regulatory processes to obtain economic authority from the DOT, technical approvals from the FAA, and approvals from the DHS, and its components, as well as addressing issues under international bilateral agreements and aviation and treaties. He received a law degree from George Washington University School of Law and studied English at PC.

Layla Odenyongo '10 of Cranston, Rhode Island, was appointed to the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission by Governor Dan McKee in May 2021 with a master of science in Nutrition and Dietetics degree from University of Rhode Island. Layla, also known as Ar- tney Odenyongo '08, formerly worked as a corporate counsel, managing compliance and governance matters, and as an appellate attorney, representing military veterans who were wrong- fully denied disability benefits.

Don Meuse '150 of Cranston, Rhode Island, who has an MBA from PC, was a Jeopardy contestant in June 2013, answering 21 questions correctly and getting only one wrong in the first two rounds of the game. He wagered no money in final Jeopardy and finished in second place with $2,000 in prize money. Meuse is a graduate of Brown University and a lecturer in public affairs at Princeton University, commuting one day a week to teach. His wife, Kristen Marriott Meuse '08, is a partner at PC's National Alumni Association, and they have two children.

Taylor Rosenbauer '14 of Olney, Maryland, joined the company in 2016 and worked in leasing and capital deployment. He previously was a real estate broker at Colliers and an account services representative at ESPN. He also was past president of PC's Chicago alumni club. He and his wife, Alexa, have a 3-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old son.

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Vanessa Michael '22 of Roxbury, Massa- chusetts, graduated with a master's degree in social work from the Boston College School of Social Work and accepted a position at MelroseWakefield Hospital as a clinical social worker in the inpatient psychiatric unit. At BC, her focus was clinical work with a con- centration in mental health. She also earned a certificate in Black Leadership.

Scott W. Dore '89 of Bainbridge Island, Washington, has represented and advised military veterans who were wrongfully denied disability benefits.

Caroline Lima '18 of Shrewsbury, Massa- chusetts, joined Three Real Estate Specialists as a team member. She was awarded a CEDX (Commitment to Excellence) designation by the National Association of Realtors, which recognizes industry professionals who demon- strate commitment to their clients, profession, and community. She also is a Home With Diversity Certified. She continues to work full time in corporate finance for HSBC Bank.

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Michele Foss '79 of Washington, D.C., graduated in May 2021 with a master of science degree in mathematics from Clemson University. He accepted a position with the U.S. Census Bureau and has resided in D.C. since the fall of 2021.

Roge Vidal '90W of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, was elected deputy vice president pro tempore of the Rhode Island Senate for the 2023-2024 session. He represents District 31 in Woonsocket and Cumberland. Vidal was elected to the Senate in a special election in 2018 and previously served in the House of Representatives since 1993. He is a social worker for the Woonsocket School Depart- ment. Pica earned a master of theological studies degree from PC and also has a bach-elor's degree from the University of Rhode Island and a master of social work degree from Rhode Island College.

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Julia Allan ’14 of North Branford, Connecticut, wrote Everything I Got: 30 Lessons on What You Give, What You Get, and How You Create the Best Sports. She is a teacher who runs a mental skills consulting business, Allain Mental Performance LLC, and works with prep school, collegiate, and internationally competitive athletes, including USA Hockey’s National Team Development Program. She studied psychology at PC and earned a master’s degree in sports psychology from McGill University. Her book combines her psychology at PC and earned a master’s degree in sports psychology from McGill University. Her book combines her experience as an athlete, coach, coach’s educator, assisting seniors and disabled clients in navigating the Medicare system. His book demonstrates the tolerance of children even in the most challenging circumstances.

In March 2023, Stackpole Press published Unsung Patriots: African Americans in America’s Wars, the third history book by Eugene DeFriest Bétit ’66 of Winchester, Virginia. Krikus called the book “a story with importance not only for military history, but for all of American history.” Its eight chapters are written chronologically and follow Black people’s contributions to U.S. wars and the resilience, fortitude, and martial prowess they displayed despite the racism they experienced. Bétit served for 20 years in the U.S. Army as a military intelligence analyst and linguist and received a doctorate from Georgetown University. He has written books about the Civil War and African American history, served as docent at Belle Grove Plantation, and volunteered at Cedar Creek National Battlefield Park.


Meg Mitchell Moore ’04 of Newburyport, Massachusetts, wrote her eighth novel, Summer Stage, published in June 2023 by William Morrow. “My favorite beach readings are written by Meg Mitchell Moore, and Summer Stage is her brand new smash hit,” said Nantucket author Elin Hilderbrand.

Martha Reynolds ’80 of West Warwick, Rhode Island, is the author of 11 published novels, including I Wish I Had a River (2002) and Villa del Sol (2017). USA TODAY bestselling author Jon Land of Providence called I Wish I Had a River a “magical journey through life, love, and loss,” and said, “This is literary writing of the highest order, on par with Elizabeth Gilbert, Alice Hoffman, and even the great Joan Didion.” The book takes place in Portugal, Galicia, Italy, and France, during a year spent processing grief and finding peace. Villa del Sol was awarded the Prix in Literary Fiction from the Independent Publishers of New England in 2018. It is set primarily in Lugano, on the Swiss-Italian border.

Joan Fagan Smith ’07 of Milton, Massachusetts, wrote her second book, The Other Side of Infinity (Faith & Friends, April 2023), a young adult novel in which a teen uses her gift of foreknowledge to help Lifeguard save a drowning man, only to discover her actions have put his life at risk. Her first novel, The Half-Orphan’s Handbook, was published in 2021. In addition to being a writer, she is a dance instructor and a former associate dean of creative writing. In 2021, she was Writer-in-Residence at the Milton Public Library. She studied English and social science at PC.

Ed Bray III ’03 and Christy Haggerty Bray ’95 of Dublin, California, have launched a series of children’s books featuring a tumbleweed named Tripp who is on a quest to visit all 63 national parks. Their first two books, Tripp the Tumbleweed’s Origin Story: Let’s Get Ready to Tumble! and Tripp is Alive and Well in Death Valley National Park, were written in collaboration with children in the Dublin Unified School District, including Christy’s dream of being a children’s book author. They hope that Tripp’s adventures will inspire children across the country. Learn more at trippthetumbleweed.com and follow Tripp on Instagram: @tripp_the_tumbleweed.

Travel with Tripp the Tumbleweed
FRIAR PROVINCIAL COLLEGE reside in Cranston with their 1-year-old, current and former PC staff attended. They live in Boston. Providence, Rhode Island. They live in Providence.

Sarah Fivet '03, director of alumni relations at Providence College, married Patrick Tierney on April 22, 2023, at St. Patrick's Church in Cranston, Rhode Island.

Patrick Tierney on April 22, 2023, at St. Patrick's Church in Cranston, Rhode Island. They live in Boston.

Nanci A. Lalonde '08 and John M. Lucey '08 were married on May 5, 2023, in Providence, Rhode Island.

Evelyn diSilvestro '16 and Michael Bullard '16 were married on July 19, 2023, at the Church of St. Peter in Providence, Rhode Island.

Lionelha Macomber '17 and Peter DiCenso '17 graduated in 2017 from Saint Mary's College, Indiana.

Alumni attending. They reside in Warwick, Rhode Island, and are expecting their first Friar in October 2023.


Noelle Bosak '87 and Scott Ganeles '17 married on August 4, 2023, in Newport, Rhode Island, surrounded by Friars, including the entire wedding party. They reside in Newport, Rhode Island.

Liz Cotrupi Pfunder '08. Many alumni and friends and Ultimate Frisbee teammates welcomed a daughter, Eleanor Jean, named after two great-grandmothers, in February 2022. Eleanor will be a big sister later this year.

Brittany Ferrante '19 and Christian Ferrante '19 were married on September 24, 2022, in Chicago, surrounded by Friars, including the entire wedding party. They reside in Chicago.
BY REV. JAMES F. QUIGLEY, O.P. ’60

I’m growing old, not getting old. I like to think that way, as “getting old” seems passive. It sounds as though it happens without your permission. “Growing old” is active, a choice, a deliberate movement forward to completion and fulfillment. I’ve been a Dominican priest for almost 60 years. I am grateful to God for the chance to minister, to preach the gospel to so many people, so many of us in different ages, education, and cultures, to women and men of different people and different languages, poor and not so poor. “Divine providence” has taken good abilities, interests, mental attention, physical strength, religious faith, spirituality. For many of us, the daily calendar is no longer filled. Time is available. How to use that time? A brother Dominican, Father Joseph Guido, O.P., wrote an essay, Winter’s Grace, (Providence College Magazine, Winter 2011) in which he says: “The old develop the mind of winter and see deeply what most see only superficially. They may even see what Gerard Manley Hopkins called the ‘inscape,’ the distinctive nature of things, and so have the privilege of seeing as God sees and of seeing God in all things.” There have never been so many elderly people, so many of us in history. What is our mission? What can we do to help humanize life for those who are younger? Pope Francis tells us: “We elderly often have a special sensitivity for care, for reflection, and for affection. We are, or we can become, teachers of tenderness.” He calls for a “revolution of tenderness.”

Msgr. Bill Lyons, my colleague on the seminary faculty of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, in his last days suffered from cancer. Seminarians frequently visited him, first in his room and then in hospice. One said to me, “You can tell him anything.” Bill, a priest in winter, was a father figure, a wisdom figure. Aging women and men can tenderly teach, support, encourage, and guide younger women and men. They ought not to be seen as a threat, or to simply be discarded, seen as a burden. We are a gift, or can be, for a family, for a community, for a college, for society, for Church. To be “old” is a privilege. Pope Francis himself an elder, has established in the Catholic world a day honoring the elderly and grandparents. It is celebrated on the last Sunday of July. On that day appreciation, honor, respect, and prayer are to be offered for the aged. I am sure that many of us have fond memories of our parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, older teachers, neighbors, and hopefully some priests in the winter of life. They have been key in the development of the Church’s faith life. Many of us first heard the story of Jesus Christ from them. We saw them at sacramental events like family weddings, baptisms, funerals. They taught us how to pray. We listened to them tell us about God, about moral living, about heaven, and what comes after this life. We learned from them how to love — to love God, parents, family, others. They taught us to care for the sick, the needy, those suffering for whatever reason. It’s not easy to forget what those “elder” persons showed us about life. Pope Francis writes: “A long life — so the Bible teaches us — is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance.”

Aging women and men have a particular vocation and ability to mentor the young. Having lived and learned over the years what is really worthwhile, they can share their experience. It may not always be appreciated, but they — we — can’t give up. Again the words of Pope Francis: “The special sensibility that those of us who are elderly have for ————

PHOTO PAGE 54: JUSTIN JAMES MUIR. PHOTOS PAGES 55-57: COURTESY OF PC ARCHIVES.

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE FALL 2023
taught me that death is separation but not the end. I pass through death to life, another life, eternal life. Jesus has told us: “I have come that you may have life, abundance of life” (John 10:10). “I am the resurrection and the life. He or she who believes in me will never die” (John 11:25). So, in the winter of my priesthood, I wait “for the resurrection of the dead and the life to come.” All of us elderly wait with hope. And all of us elderly can be so grateful. I suggest that every once in awhile each of us make a mental list of the blessings we have been given: family, friends, education, health, healthcare, the gift of Catholic faith, the Church, our country, Providence College. The list can go on and on. One such gift might be aging. While each of us may have our own way of doing that, “growing old” can be a very special time in life. Why not make the most of it? Why not say thank you?

Rev. James F. Quigley, O.P. ’60, associate alumni chaplain since 2016, has been affiliated with the college as a teacher, administrator, and chaplain for more than 35 years. He was ordained in 1965, joined the faculty as a special lecturer in religious studies in 1969, and became associate professor of theology in 1988. He was PC’s executive vice president from 1988-1993. From 2005-2011 and from 2013-2016, he served as the Father Carl J. Peter Chair of Homiletics at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, the largest American Catholic seminary in the world.

the concerns, thoughts, and the affections that make us human should once again become the vocation of many. It would be a sign of our love for the younger generations. This would be our contribution to the revolution of tenderness, a spiritual and non-violent revolution ... “The tenderness of parents, grandparents, and the elderly show us God’s tenderness.

This is an upbeat view of aging. We know, though, that some elderly must carry the cross of sickness, weakness, suffering, immobility, and at times, aloneness. They are truly blessed if a family member, a friend, cares for them, comforts them, assists them. These sisters and brothers are called to carry the cross with Christ. I have no words to explain the mystery of suffering but believe God is present to them in their pain and limitations. I believe these elderly will see at some time the fulfillment of life, wholeness, completeness, and happiness. As we read in St. Paul’s “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, what lies in store for those who love God” (1 Cor 2:9). It’s good to pray for these brother and sister alums in their need.

So a few suggestions for us elderly. One is that we ought not isolate ourselves. Don’t turn into yourself, shutting others out. If you do, you might become odd. Be social, reach out to others, to family, friends, colleagues. A second suggestion is to forgive. Don’t hold onto slights, hurts, or grudges. In our lifetime, we may have experienced rejection. We may have been ignored, unappreciated, or insulted. To hold on to that hurt can poison life and our last days. Pray to want to forgive, pray for God’s help and grace to actually forgive, pray for the one who caused the hurt. Then, drop by drop, forgiveness can enter your soul and you will be free to move to your “end.”

In our winter years most of us will be reshaped in our bodies, minds, attitudes, hopes, and values. We can become more contemplative, spiritual. “Winter grace,” for each of us and all of us, can be a time to pray. There are many ways to pray — listening to God, paying attention to God, saying your prayers, using other people’s prayers, meditating. We can pray alone or with others; our prayers may be informal or liturgical, as in celebrating Mass and Eucharist. We can pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or say that Dominican prayer, the rosary. We can pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or say that Dominican prayer, the rosary. We can pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or say that Dominican prayer, the rosary. We can pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or say that Dominican prayer, the rosary. We can pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or say that Dominican prayer, the rosary. We can pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or say that Dominican prayer, the rosary. We can pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or say that Dominican prayer, the rosary. We can pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or say that Dominican prayer, the rosary.