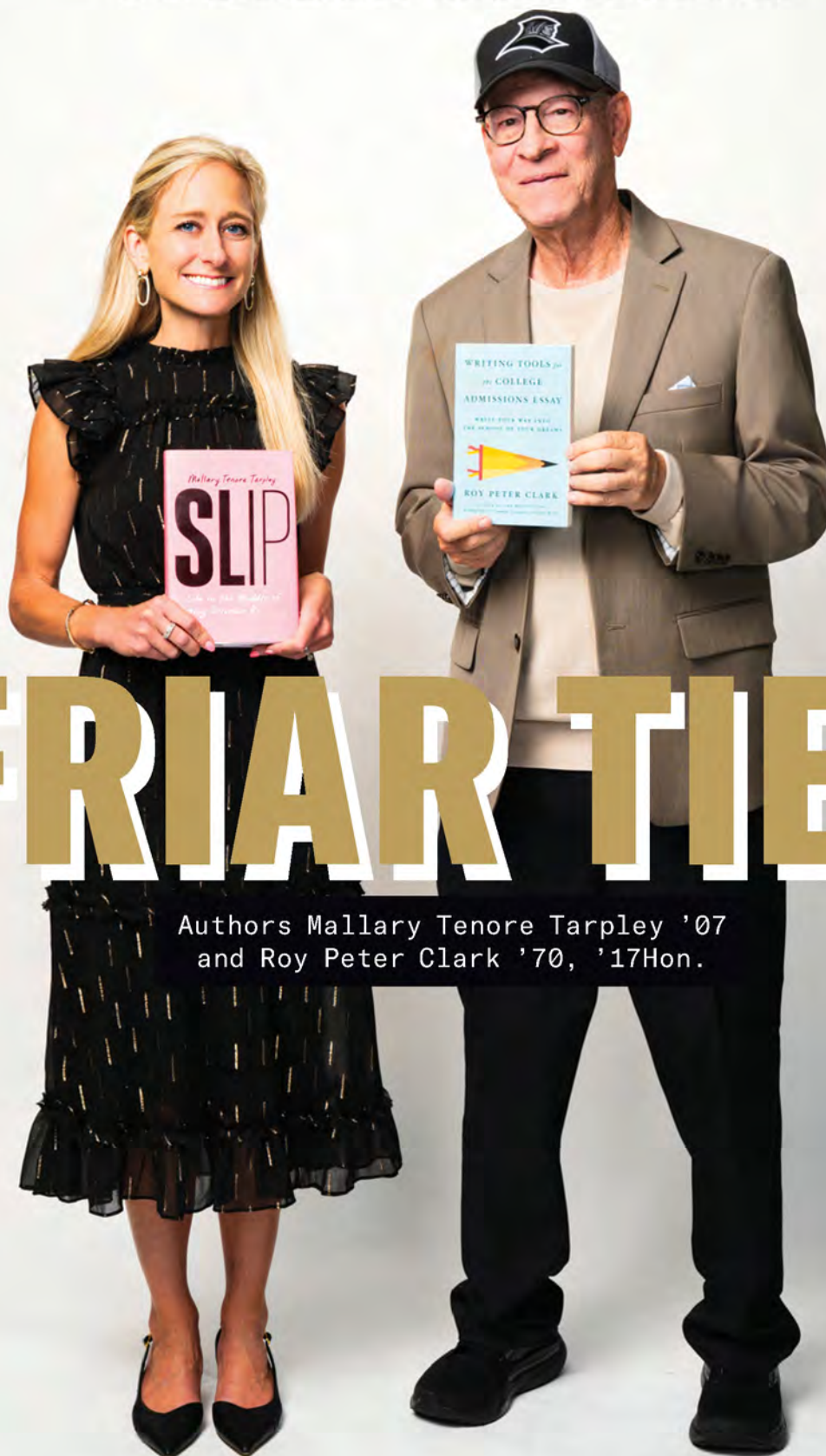


FALL 2025

PROVIDENCE

COLLEGE MAGAZINE



FRIAR TIES

Authors Mallery Tenore Tarpley '07
and Roy Peter Clark '70, '17Hon.



PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MAGAZINE

FALL 2025

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IN THIS ISSUE:

8 SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Sprinter **Elena Cabral '26** receives prestigious
Goldwater scholarship.

38 DONOVAN HONORED

Friar star **Billy Donovan '87** joins Naismith
Basketball Hall of Fame.

42 CONNECTIONS

Kathleen McGinley '82 is president of the
National Alumni Association.

44 CLASS NOTES

Job changes, alumni authors, weddings,
births, and more.

56 THE LAST WORD

Rev. James Quigley, O.P. '60 reflects on
60 years as a priest.

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54

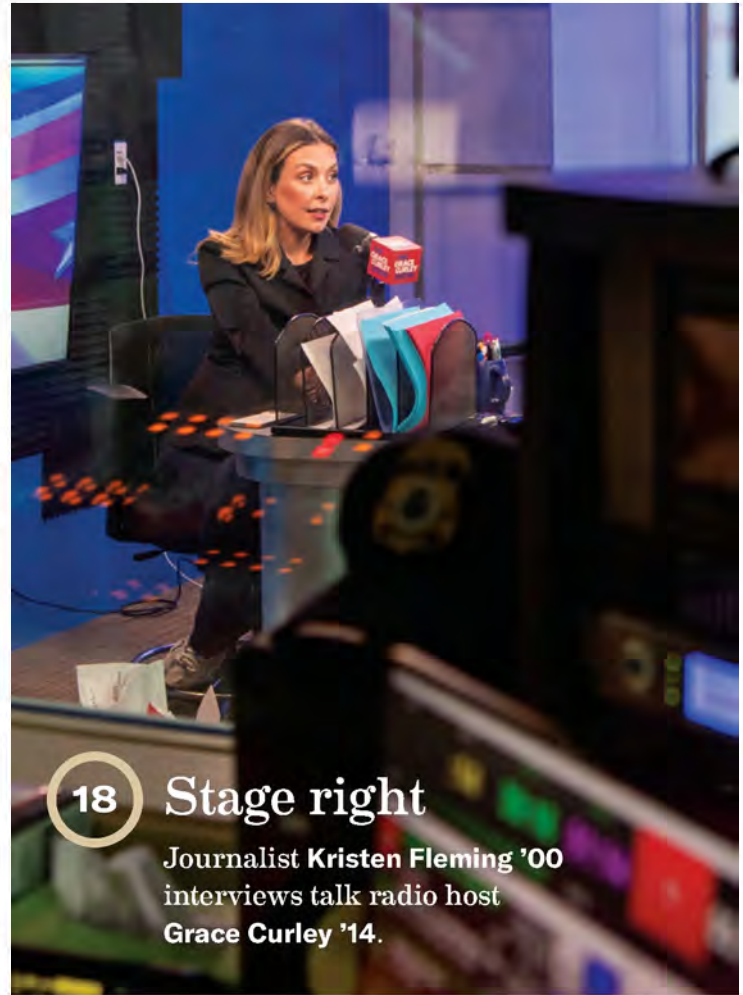
Farewell Judge Caprio

Providence Municipal Court Judge **Frank Caprio '58, '08Hon.** died three months after presenting the keynote
address at commencement.



12 Friar ties

Authors Roy Peter Clark '70, '17Hon. and Mallery Tenore Tarpley '07.



18 Stage right

Journalist Kristen Fleming '00 interviews talk radio host Grace Curley '14.



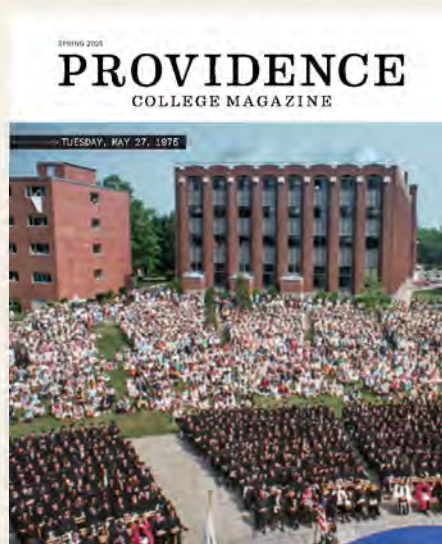
30 Crowd-sourced relic

Rev. Gregory Santy, O.P. with the monstrance created from alumni jewelry donations.



32 Another Coach Pitino

Richard Pitino '05 enters the BIG EAST fray as Xavier men's basketball coach.



→ As a successful high school baseball player (all-state in Rhode Island), my most important reason for attending college was to further my baseball career. I had little preparation for the academic side of college and when told I had to select a major, I thought they meant a music key. (I had studied classical piano for six years.) Since I enjoyed biology in high school, I entered that on the form. Little did I know that at PC, biology was a pre-med major that included three labs a week, one of them a four-hour chemistry lab.

As a young, intimidated, newly arrived freshman, I decided to press on. I survived the first semester but when baseball season rolled around in February, the labs took a major hit. At the end of the spring semester, I decided that chem was a lost cause and began to wonder how I would handle a failing grade in that important subject. I was quite worried.

Just before school ended, I got a message that Dr. Francis "Pat" MacKay wanted to see me in his office. Fearing the worst, I knocked

on the door and identified myself. He was sitting at his desk with his back to me. Without ever turning around, he said, "Mr. Trodden, I have one question for you. Do you ever intend to take chemistry at this college again?" I said, "No sir, I have no intention of ever taking chemistry here again." He said, "You just got a D. You are dismissed," and I said, "Yes, sir. Thank you, sir," and left. I'm guessing I was the happiest former chemistry student on campus that afternoon.

After graduating, I received a two-year graduate assistantship to study education at the University of Bridgeport, followed by 28 years in the U.S. Air Force, including two tours in Vietnam. For 17 years I worked in secondary education as a teacher, guidance director, and Catholic high school principal.

I sometimes wonder what my future would have held had it not been for the wonderful gift I received from Dr. MacKay that afternoon 66 years ago.

— **Michael Trodden '62**
San Antonio, Texas

→ I was delighted to receive the most recent edition of Providence College Magazine and couldn't help but smile when I saw the photo of the 1975 Commencement Exercises at the Wall Memorial Grotto — affectionately known to many of us as "Grotto Beach."

I was present on that bright and warm day to celebrate the graduation of many close friends

"EVEN 50 YEARS LATER, I REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH MANY CLASSMATES FROM BOTH THE 1974 AND 1975 GRADUATING CLASSES."

from the Class of 1975. This issue quickly became one of my favorites, especially because of the feature article dated May 27, 1975. The photos brought back a flood of cherished memories.

Even 50 years later, I remain in close contact with many classmates from both the 1974 and 1975 graduating classes. I also serve as the administrator of a Facebook group titled Friars Friends 1974 and 1975, where we share stories, celebrate life events, and, of course, rejoice in Friar basketball victories.

— **Charlie Bernier '74**
Dresher, Pennsylvania

→ Dick Riley is my uncle. So wonderful to see a picture of him giving the '75 commencement address at the school that he, all of his brothers, and many of his nephews, great nephews, and great nieces loved.

— **Frederic A. Riley '78**
Alexandria, Virginia

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BLACK & WHITE

BUZZZ



Mix It Up

In addition to her job as a graduate assistant with the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership, **Sophia Gaines '24, '25G** worked a shift every Friday in McPhail's, the student pub in Slavin Center. She made "Sophia's Social Hour" famous for its drink themes, including "beer flights before you take a flight" for spring break, and azaleas, the signature cocktail of the Masters Tournament. Gaines mixed mocktails, too, like a lemonade spritz. The elementary and special education major completed a master's degree in special education and now teaches third and fourth grade at her alma mater, Mother Caroline Academy in Boston. —>

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN JAMES MUIR

A papal encounter for the second time



“
Father Damian
might just be
the pope
whisperer.
”



IN SEPTEMBER 2014, while studying with the PC in Rome Program, Joseph Day '15 attended a papal audience in St. Peter's Square with his classmates and exchanged the white skull cap known as a zucchetto with Pope Francis (photo, below left). Now an ordained priest known as **Rev. Damian Day, O.P. '15**, Father Damian reenacted the exchange with **Pope Leo XIV** while accompanying a group of Providence College alumni on a Friar Explorations trip to Italy in June 2025 (photo, top left). The pope smiled warmly, accepted the cap, and tried it on for a moment, thrilling the Friars assembled for his weekly papal audience. Said Jennifer MacCallum O'Meara '93: “Father Damian might just be the pope whisperer.”

Never too late

DURING REUNION WEEKEND, Phillips Memorial Library received a record album, “Beethoven: Piano Music (Complete) Vol. II,” that was 50 years overdue. A note signed “W.L., Class of '75” read: **“Better late than never!”** The library agreed, posting on social media: “Have an overdue library item you’ve been avoiding returning? No worries — we’ve seen worse! Fortunately for W.L., we stopped charging late fees back in the 90s. So go ahead — bring those long-lost items back. We’re just happy to welcome them (and you) home!”

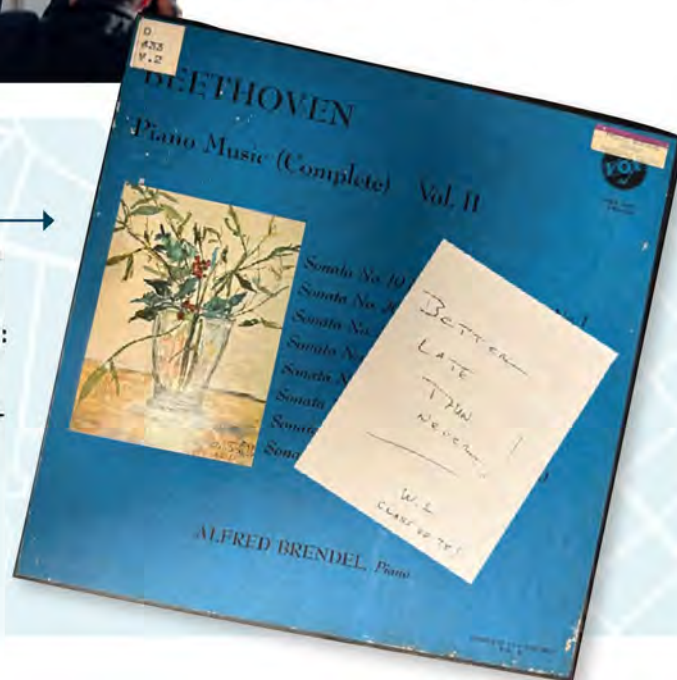


PHOTO: LEO: KEVIN SAWYER '24, '25G FRANCIS: CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE ALBUM: PHILLIPS MEMORIAL LIBRARY



JOHN VASAPOLLI '74 IS NOT THE POPE

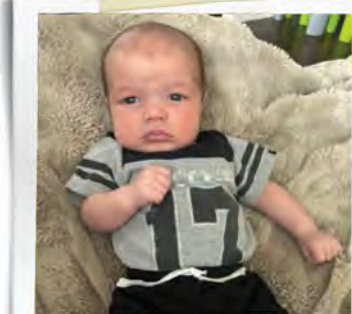


THE CHOICE OF Villanova alumnus and Chicago native Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost to be the first American-born pope, Leo XIV, surprised many — especially the colleagues and classmates of **John J. Vasapolli '74**, who noticed their unmistakable resemblance. Vasapolli, town counsel in Saugus, Massachusetts, was deluged with messages about his likeness to Pope Leo, and some have taken to calling him “Pope John.” “I feel honored and blessed to think that family, friends, clients, and my cherished PC classmates have told me I resemble the most holy and respected person on this earth,” Vasapolli said.

One onesie



CHEYENNE STEINHER



MARK LANGAN



MASON LANDRY



CARTER SMEDBERG



GABRIELLA CAVALLARO

FIVE WOMEN FROM THE CLASS OF 2012 have celebrated the births of each of their 11 children by photographing them wearing the same Providence College onesie, which they mail to one another in a care package that includes a diary. The tradition began in 2016 when **Mary Beth Sutton Steinherr '12** gave birth to **Cheyenne**. She passed the onesie on to **Shannon Bodell Cavallaro '12** for **Gabriella** in 2017. **Emilee Flaherty Landry '12** photographed **Mason** in the onesie in 2019, as did **Kaitlin Gillard Smedberg '12** with **Carter** in 2021. The most recent newborn to wear traveling onesie was **Mark Langan**, son of **Jennifer DiPirro Langan '12**, in June 2025.



Thomas Smith, Ph.D.,
at the Fall Faculty
Dinner in September
2025.



Thomas Smith, Ph.D. is PC's new provost

Thomas W. Smith, Ph.D., an accomplished teacher and scholar who has been in academic leadership positions at top Catholic universities for more than 20 years, is the college's new provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Smith, who joined PC on July 1, 2025, previously was dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at The Catholic University of America. Prior to that, he was at Villanova University, where he taught political science, was founding dean of the

Department of Humanities, and directed the University Honors Program. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.

The deans of PC's four schools — Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Social Work, and Nursing and Health Sciences — report to the provost, who leads the Office of Academic Affairs. Smith was appointed by College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G at the conclusion of a national search that drew nearly 90 applicants.

Five alumni join Board of Trustees

Five alumni have joined the college's Board of Trustees. **Maura Hurley Chapey '86** and **Christopher M. Reilly '95** became members effective July 1, 2025. Added to the board in September were **John M. Denson Jr. '89**, **Paul R. Galletto '78**, and **Kathryn Bisegna Martz '84**. Galletto, an emeritus trustee, served previously from 2010-2019.



Class of 2029 arrives on campus

The 1,188 students in the Class of 2029 come from 34 states, the District of Columbia, and 14 countries — Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. There are 677 women and 511 men.

Ten percent are first-generation college students. Sixteen percent are students of color. There are 106 students in the Honors Program, 100 student-athletes, and 216 students with a parent who graduated from PC. The most popular majors are finance, marketing, management, nursing, health sciences, biology, psychology, and political science.

Twelve students will join the class in January after starting their education abroad through the college's new partnership with Verto Education. The students take a full semester of courses in London, Seville, or Florence with students from Verto's 70 partner institutions.

PC also welcomed 85 transfer students this fall, the largest number in recent history.

PHOTOS: PROVOST: ASHLEY MCCABE; CLASS OF 2029: JESSE LAMBERT; OPPOSITE PAGE: PETER GOLDBERG

→ Eight students tops in Class of 2025

Eight students in the Class of 2025 finished at the top of the class with perfect 4.0 GPAs, the equivalent of an A in every class through eight semesters. Read about the students and their future plans as they appear from left to right, below.

- **Samuel Seda '25**, from Providence, Rhode Island, majored in theology and humanities. Studying theology at University of Notre Dame.

- **Angelika Kartsagoulis '25**, from Needham, Massachusetts, majored in biology. Working as an internal medical assistant at Atrius Health before medical or PA school.

- **Audrey Koch '25**, from Iowa City, Iowa, majored in psychology; played women's basketball. Attending University of Iowa to study speech-language pathology.

- **Hannah Johnson '25**, from Readfield, Maine, majored in health policy and management, played women's hockey. Attending Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Boston University.

- **Kate McDonald '25**, from Milton, Massachusetts, majored in management. Will enroll in Georgetown University MBA program, fall 2027.

- **Christina Charie '25**, from Cranston, Rhode Island, majored in political science, women's and gender studies, and economics. Attending Watson School of Public Affairs, Brown University.

- **Claire Cordonnier '25**, from Needham, Massachusetts, majored in art and art history. A transfer student, she will complete her degree in fall 2025.

- **Casey Burgess '25**, from Peterborough, New Hampshire, majored in philosophy and humanities. Studying for the priesthood at Pontifical North American College in Rome.





Sprinter Elena Cabral '26 is Goldwater recipient

Elena Cabral '26, a sprinter on the women's track team, was at a meet in Raleigh, North Carolina, in March 2025 when she learned she had been awarded a Goldwater Scholarship, the most prestigious undergraduate scholarship in the United States in engineering, mathematics, and the natural sciences.

The biology major and honors student from Somerset, Massachusetts, plans to attend a research-based graduate program in molecular biology after graduation. She is the fourth PC student in five years to receive a Goldwater.

"Elena is proactive in her learning, tenacious when attempting to solve a challenging problem, and thinks like a scientist," said Kathleen Cornely, Ph.D., the Robert H. Walsh '39 Endowed Professor in Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Goldwater campus representative.

Cabral is a research assistant to Kristi Miller, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology.

Her weekdays begin with classes at 8:30 a.m. Between morning classes and afternoons in the lab, she trains on the Ray Treacy Track or in the Concannon Fitness Center. After lab hours, she works on assignments for her other courses.

"I've learned time management and life skills," Cabral said. "I am definitely busy but I am grateful to be able to do all the things I love."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN JAMES MUIR





“OUR STUDENTS’
SUCCESS REFLECTS
THEIR ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE,
SERVICE, AND
DEDICATION TO
MEDICINE.”

— MORGAN RAYNER

→ Future physicians accepted at Brown

Connor Enestvedt '26 and Braeden Shields '26 have been selected by Brown University’s Early Identification Program, which offers high-achieving students in Rhode Island early provisional acceptance to the Warren Alpert Medical School.

The program is open to graduates of Rhode Island high schools who attend PC, Rhode Island College, and the University of Rhode Island. Students notify their college’s premedical advisor of their interest before the start of their junior year. Colleges may nominate up to four students for consideration. The MD Admissions Committee at Brown makes the final selections based on a student’s academic performance, motivation, commitment to community service, and life experiences that enrich the understanding of medicine.

Enestvedt, from Cumberland, Rhode Island, a graduate of Cumberland High School, is a biology major. Shields, from Barrington, Rhode Island, a graduate of Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, is majoring in biology and in health policy and management.

“Through the Early Identification Program, Brown affirms its commitment to Rhode Island’s future healthcare leaders, and our students’ success reflects their academic excellence, service, and dedication to medicine,” said Morgan Rayner, health professions advisor at PC.

Morgan Krusan '23, from North Smithfield, Rhode Island, a biology major with a minor in women’s and gender studies, was the last PC student accepted to Brown through the program. She is in her third year of medical school.



Top teaching honor goes to Gizem Zencirci



Gizem Zencirci, Ph.D. received the 2025 Joseph R. Accinno Faculty Teaching Award, the highest honor awarded for teaching at PC. A member of the faculty since 2013, she is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science and director of the Middle East Studies Program.

Topics discussed in her courses sometimes make students uncomfortable, Zencirci said, but it's important to understand that people experience the world through different ethnic, social, economic, linguistic, and religious lenses.

"We do not grow as human beings unless we figure out how to learn from — and sit with — situations, encounters, and dialogues that are at their core uncomfortable," Zencirci said.

She has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Adrian Chastain Weimer named faculty scholar



Adrian Chastain Weimer, Ph.D. was named the 2025 Outstanding Faculty Scholar, an award that recognizes a tenured faculty member who demonstrates the highest standards in research, scholarship, and contributions to an academic field.

A professor in the Department of History and Classics since 2011, Weimer is internationally recognized as one of the leading scholars in early American political and religious history.

Her second book, *A Constitutional Culture: New England and the Struggle Against Arbitrary Rule in the Restorative Empire* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023), received the prestigious John Winthrop Prize.

She has a Ph.D. in American religious history from Harvard University and teaches both undergraduates and graduate students.

Faculty retirements

(As of June 30, 2025)

BRUCE GRAVER, PH.D.

Professor of English

Teaching at PC since 1985

Will continue as professor emeritus

DANIEL HORNE, PH.D.

Professor of marketing

Associate dean, School of Business

Teaching at PC since 1994

THOMAS KING, PH.D.

Assistant professor of management

Teaching at PC since 1992

KATHERINE KRAZ, PH.D.

Associate professor of social work

Teaching at PC since 2006

REV. THOMAS MCCREESH, O.P.

Associate professor of theology

Teaching at PC since 2005

GIACOMO STRIULI, PH.D.

Professor of Italian

Teaching at PC since 1985

Will continue as professor emeritus



PHOTOS: JUSTIN JAVES VUIR

FACULTY FOCUS



A woman with long brown hair, glasses, and a pink cardigan over a colorful patterned top is sitting on two stacked wooden crates. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing black pants and black shoes with white laces. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

→ **ADELAIDE E. CLARK**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

EDUCATION: Ph.D., analytical chemistry, Baylor University; bachelor's degree in chemistry with a concentration in education, Emory & Henry College.

BEGAN TEACHING AT PC: Fall 2022

EXPERTISE: Environmental analytical chemistry with a focus on semi-volatile organic compounds in atmospheric particulate matter as it relates to human health and air quality

NEWSWORTHY: Clark is one of two Provost Faculty Fellows for the 2025-2026 academic year. While at PC, she has secured nearly \$350,000 in external funding, part of which was used to establish FriAir Net, the Friar Air Monitoring Network. Three monitoring sites in the state will help her understand patterns in pollution across distances and time.

CURRENT PROJECTS: Clark and her students are finishing up a project investigating flame retardants and plasticizers in wildfire smoke in the Pacific Northwest. Additionally, using FriAir Net, they are investigating levels of flame retardants and plasticizers in atmospheric particulate matter across Rhode Island.

QUOTABLE: "I'm often asked why I chose to study air. I wanted to do something in chemistry that made a difference in the world, which led me to environmental work. You can decide not to drink the water somewhere, you can choose not to eat fish from a contaminated lake, but you can't escape the air you breathe. Only by understanding what is in the air can we take steps to make it better for the next generations."

ORIGINALLY FROM: Cincinnati, Ohio (but grew up in Tennessee, Florida, Michigan, and Virginia)

HOBBIES: Baking, visiting Disney, reading, various craft projects, listening to Taylor Swift

— CAROLYN CRONIN



PERFECT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB CROSLIN

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE FALL 2025

BINDING

Mallary Tenore Tarpley '07

and

Roy Peter Clark '70, '17Hon.

have new books out this fall. We asked them to write about each other's work and their two-decade Friar bond.



Mallary on Roy

BY MALLARY TENORE TARPLEY '07

I first came across Roy Peter Clark's work during my junior year at Providence College, while doing an online search of fellow Friars who worked in journalism. Wanting to become a journalist myself, I reached out to Roy to share my interest in the field and to see if he'd be willing to offer career advice. I didn't know if I'd ever hear back, but I figured it was worth a try.

To my surprise, Roy responded right away. Soon after, we met at a writer's conference and shared stories about our time at PC — including our experiences working for The Cowl student newspaper and all the hours we spent reading the same texts by Homer, Chaucer, and Shakespeare. During that meeting, I sensed that Roy would be a helpful resource, but I didn't know he would become so much more: a one-of-a-kind mentor, a dear family friend, and the godfather of my first-born child.

Now, 20 years after that fateful meeting, Roy has just published his 21st book, *Writing Tools for the College Admissions Essay*, and I've just published my first book, *SLIP*, which explores my lived experience with anorexia nervosa alongside a social and medical history of eating disorders. Roy is 20 books ahead of me, and he graduated 37 years ahead of me — gaps that our shared interests have bridged. His success as an author, and the career he's carved out for himself, have always inspired me to aspire for something similar. And as my mentor, he has shown me the way.

Not long after I first met Roy at the writer's conference, he helped me get my first big break in journalism: a presti-

gious fellowship at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he has spent most of his career. The fellowship turned into my first job, as a reporter and copy editor for Poynter's website. During those early years in Florida, Roy and his wife, Karen, became my family away from home. They invited me to join them for local musical performances, book festivals, and dinners at Applebee's. Every Sunday, the three of us met for Mass at St. Paul's Catholic Church, where I maintained my faith as a recent college graduate.

Their familial support gave my father — who still lived in my childhood home in Massachusetts — peace of mind. He appreciated knowing that although I was far from home, I wasn't alone. Over time, Roy got to know my father and would later be among the first to meet my boyfriend, Troy, who I went on to marry. When Troy and I had our first child, we both knew we wanted Roy and Karen to be her godparents.

As my adult life unfolded, Roy took me out for weekly lunches at Pizza Hut. A basket of breadsticks between us, we'd talk about family and work, engaging in conversations that were both silly and serious, informal and instructive. At times, I'd find myself scribbling down Roy's words of wisdom on table napkins. Among them: To become a better writer, you have to do three things: read, write, and talk about reading and writing. Together, we did all three.

Over the years, I committed his myriad writing tips to memory, including: build your work around a key question,





“To become a better writer,
Roy said, you have to do three things:
read, write, and talk about reading
and writing. Together, we did all three.”

recruit your own writing support group, capture concrete details that appeal to the senses, and limit criticism in early drafts. These tips have no doubt strengthened my writing, but they’ve also proven helpful in life — by teaching me to be inquisitive, seek out community, be more attuned to the world around me, and quiet my inner critic.

The latter lesson proved especially helpful after I published a story about how journalists could use Twitter (now X) as a reporting and storytelling tool. The story got a lot of positive attention, but it also drew criticism from a couple of readers who noticed that when describing the caret symbol (^), I incorrectly spelled it “carrot.”

As a young journalist, I felt mortified. I confided in Roy who, true to form, turned the mistake into a learning opportunity. With my permission, he wrote a story about how easy it is to misuse homonyms and how writers can avoid doing so. He then gifted me a decorative carrot as a comical reminder that mistakes happen. (Eighteen years later, I still have it in my desk drawer).

I think of that carrot whenever I make a mistake, or whenever I feel like my writing doesn’t measure up. That feeling arose a few years ago, after I got a string of rejections when trying to find a publisher for my memoir. “I don’t know if this book is ever going to see the light of day,” I said to Roy during what felt like a dark time. He told me it would, assuring me he believed in the book. When I eventually did get a book deal, from a Simon & Schuster imprint, Roy was one of the very first people I contacted.

Although Roy and I haven’t worked in the same place for well over a decade, we’ve continued to stay in close touch — not just as colleagues but as comrades. We’ve done what the best writers and friends do: lift each other up and help each other out.

I try lifting him up by introducing his work to the next generation of journalists at the University of Texas at Austin, where I’m now a journalism professor. I share Roy’s writing tips with students so often that anyone who has ever taken a class with me is sure to be familiar with his many books and teachings. Sometimes I also invite Roy to be a guest speaker so that students can get to know him better, just as I first got to know him when I was their same age.

During one of his recent class visits, Roy told my students that he was working on a new book about college admissions essays and was looking for examples to include. Eight of the students sent him their college essays, and Roy decided to include each one. When I told the students that their essays were going to be published, their reactions of surprise and delight reminded me of the way I felt when Roy responded to that fateful note I sent him all those years ago during my junior year.

I alluded to this in the acknowledgments section of my own book, where I thank Roy for always helping me to pursue my passion for writing. “You’ve taught me so much of what I know as a writer,” I wrote, “and your mentorship helped me get where I am today.”

For that, I will always be grateful. ¶¶

Roy on Mallery

BY ROY PETER CLARK '70, '17HON.



→ “In the years after Mallery’s graduation from PC, her journey became attached to my own.”

I know there are many ways in which alumni can help new graduates succeed in life and in their careers, but I will testify that this is not a one-way street. I would not be the teacher, writer, and friend that I think I am without the energy and resilience and sense of family shared with me by Mallery Tenore Tarpley.

I graduated from PC in 1970, Mallery in 2007. She often describes me as her mentor, a title that makes me feel both honored and unworthy, as the learning over two decades now has been reciprocal.

It is a lovely coincidence that Mallery and I have books coming out in the same season. Hers, titled *SLIP*, is a painful but hopeful personal history of living with an eating disorder, blended with the testimony of experts she has interviewed. I predict it will open eyes and save many lives in the years to come.

Mine is titled *Writing Tools for the College Admissions Essay*, a detailed guide for students who need to write the personal essay to get into schools like Providence, Notre Dame, and Brown.

(Oh, it just occurred to me that Pope Leo may have written such an essay to get into Villanova. Wonder if I can get my hands on it!)

I met Mal at a National Writers Conference in Hartford, Connecticut. She was a junior at PC, an editor for *The Cowl*, and knew my work as a writing coach for students, journalists, editors, and other public writers.

She was scheduled to become editor-in-chief her senior year and wanted to build a relationship between two Friars



that might help her launch a career as a professional journalist. Both of us remember our conversation in a hotel lobby with fully garbed firefighters clearing ballrooms to inspect smoke coming from an elevator shaft.

I am the father of three daughters and coached a girls' soccer team for 10 years, and nothing about Mallery's demeanor seemed unusual to me. She was friendly with bright eyes and a receptive smile. In her questions, and in her vision for a college newspaper, she showed all the high standards that would impress Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P. '80, then president of the college.

Little did I know that I was in the presence of a young woman who, at the age of 11, had suffered the death of her mother from cancer, a loss that would send her into the depths of an eating disorder that one nurse would describe as the worst she had ever seen, and that would require months of hospitalization.

Imagine a young Catholic girl who worried that the unleavened bread of the Communion host had too many calories; who scrubbed kitchen counters to make sure no calories were hiding there; who held her breath when she passed a bakery, frightened of calories floating in the air.



Mallory Tenore Tarpley '07, far right, with author and poet Gloria Muñoz at Tombolo Books in St. Petersburg, Florida, in August 2025. She was introduced by Roy Peter Clark '70, '17Hon. (Photo: Chaz Dykes)

These are the kinds of heartbreaking stories revealed in *SLIP*. Through personal narrative and research, Mallary leads readers to the constructive, if controversial, conclusion that it is possible for those suffering from eating disorders to find a “middle ground” between disease and full recovery.

In her writing and in her daily life, Mallary rejects the American cultural attitudes about body image and eating, especially any binary thinking that there are only two ways to eat, one that is healthy, and one that leads to illness. She argues powerfully that there is a Middle Way. The standard view of anorexia is that you are either sick or you are cured. But in the history of disease, there are often treatments that are not cures. You can work your way to a healthier way, knowing that if you slip, you can try again.

In the years after Mallary's graduation from PC, her journey became attached to my own. I helped her get a summer internship at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Florida, the school for journalists where I have worked since 1977. She was hired as a reporter for Poynter's website, and worked her way up to become the managing editor. The Clarks got to know the Tenore family, we attended Mallary's wedding to Troy Tarpley, and my wife, Karen, and I became the proud godparents of their first child, Madelyn.

When it came to mentoring in the digital age, it would be Mallary who mentored me. She and her young colleagues at Poynter lifted me above the limitations of my analogic world view and showed me how my influence could be spread through websites and social media. Before I knew it, I had 15,000 followers on Twitter. I wrote a book about how to write short in the digital age. And while I was helping her, she was lobbying her PC contacts to offer me an honorary degree in 2017. I had a piano brought to the stage in the Dunkin' Donuts Center and got to play a Beatles song during my commencement speech. (My biggest gig ever!)

Three years ago, Mallary earned an MFA in non-fiction narrative from Goucher College. At a still young age, she has donned the mantle, not only of author, but of writing teacher, one of the most skillful and influential at the University of Texas at Austin. Eight of her writing students at UT volunteered to help me with my recent book, sharing the admissions essays that helped them get into the college of their choice.

One of the pleasures of being an old teacher is viewing the arc of a student's career, the way that my great PC teachers (Fortin, Delasanta, Barbour, Grace, Thompson, Cunningham) got to view mine. ❧



PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER GOLDBERG



Stage right

THEATRE MAJOR **GRACE CURLEY '14** LANDS A STARRING ROLE IN TALK RADIO

BY KIRSTEN FLEMING '00

Grace Curley '14 didn't set out to be an opinionated talk radio host. But a hot take on cold beer took her from girl Friday to media star.

Curley's accidental ascent began shortly after she graduated from Providence College with a theatre degree. She was waiting tables on Martha's Vineyard when her mother, Jean, learned that conservative talk show host and Boston Herald newspaper columnist Howie Carr was looking for an administrative assistant at his new company, the Howie Carr Radio Network.

Jean urged her to apply, and Curley landed an interview with Carr's wife, Kathy, who was upfront about the position. It was a standard office job, not a glamorous on-air or editorial position. She'd be handling mail, answering phones, and pitching in wherever needed.

But Curley didn't care. She was eager, showing up 15 minutes before the interview, a fact she later learned weighed heavily in her favor. —————>



Grace Curley '14 in student performances; far left, *Curtains* (2013); left, *The Good Doctor* (2013); above, *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (2011).

"It's not the most interesting thing, but nowadays, it's a big deal," Curley said of her early arrival. "I was just excited about starting somewhere."

Plus, the Carr brand was extremely popular in the Curley household in Milton, Massachusetts.

"My mother listened to Howie all the time. She'd pick us up from school and ask if we could take an extra lap around the neighborhood so she could listen to the Chump Line," Curley said, referencing a segment that features voicemails from listeners.

A young Curley even called her future boss once during a segment about animals to report that a seagull had nicked a hot dog from her poor sister as the family enjoyed a beach day.

The assistant gig didn't last long. Curley found a way onto the air in 2015 thanks to an office conversation about Budweiser's decision to ditch the Clydesdales and focus on a younger demographic. Curley chimed in, noting that no one was drinking "Bud Heavy" anymore, so the new focus wasn't a stretch.

Carr's interest was piqued. He asked Curley if she wanted to talk about it on the air.

"He saw an opportunity to have a younger voice bringing a different perspective," Curley said.

Her sudsy point of view sparked a new role at Carr's growing network. He added her to his lineup to discuss pop culture, like Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner's split and "anything to do with Tom Brady. We just set up this dynamic. I guess I could speak to a younger generation. And it was funny. I started getting my own segments."

Carr's audience was charmed by his chemistry with Curley, as well as her youthful enthusiasm and sharp wit. Eventually, Carr and his wife wanted to try her out as a solo act with a standalone show that would lead into his weekday afternoon program on WRKO 680 in Boston. In 2021, Curley launched *The Grace Curley Show*, covering culture, politics, and current events. After the initial nerves wore off, she honed her bold but breezy and approachable style.

"When they let me have my own show, I was falling into the trap of trying to sound like the smartest person in the room, but I very quickly realized that wasn't why people were tuning in," Curley said. "They could get an encyclopedic rundown of a topic anywhere. They're coming to me because I have an angle on it. It's like I'm calling my sister to fill her in on some drama. That's the way I like to talk to my audience."

Her down-to-earth delivery resonated with listeners who tuned in to hear her yap for hours a day, as well as to interview right-leaning political commentators such as former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer, David Harsanyi, Miranda Devine, and Karol Markowicz.

But the chatty Curley's secret sauce is comedy, including politician impersonations, dramatic readings of court transcripts with Carr, and self-deprecating mockery of her habit of butchering big words and sayings.

"I'm certainly guilty of that," Curley said. "It doesn't matter how brilliant someone is if people aren't having a good time. People want to laugh. They want to be entertained."

Curley's command of the microphone shouldn't have surprised anyone who knew her. She is vivacious and clever.

I first heard about her a few years ago when Ryan Buckley '66, the father of my college roommate, recommended that I check out her show. Curley, married and the mother of two, also contributes articles to *The Spectator* magazine and the *Boston Herald* newspaper. As fellow Friars with big mouths, we developed an online friendship. I've been a guest on her show, and in March, Curley came to my office in the *New York Post* newsroom for a tour and a visit that lasted close to four hours.

Lest we forget, she's a performer — one who had roles in nearly every theatre production during her four years at PC, where she studied under professor John Garrity '73, whom she calls a formative figure in her life.

In the Curley household, the gift of gab was both abundant and compulsory.

"I have three siblings and we all love to talk. And my parents love to talk. They are both charismatic and can tell a great story. So, in our home growing up, that was what I remember the most: telling stories and doing impressions of people. And that's why my mother encouraged me to get into theatre," Curley said.

She recalled her foray into acting as a sixth grader. She watched her classmates try out for their school play, *Oliver*,



**"IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW BRILLIANT
SOMEONE IS IF PEOPLE AREN'T HAVING
A GOOD TIME ... THEY WANT
TO BE ENTERTAINED."**

and returned home impersonating a student who auditioned with an English accent. Her mother suggested she try out by simply doing an impression of her classmate. Curley did, landing the role of Oliver, and thought, "Maybe my mom was right about this."

Ten years later, her mother's instincts proved correct again when she nudged her daughter to apply to work with Carr. But what transpired seemed almost preordained for the loquacious Friar.

"I know it sounds corny, but I love talking. I get to do that for a few hours a day and I get to call that work," Curley said. "And that is pretty crazy. That will never get old to me." ■■

Kirsten Fleming '00 is a features columnist who writes about pop culture, sports, and politics for The New York Post.

BEYOND LIMITS

THE CAMPAIGN FOR PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

GREAT STRIDES

BY MICHAEL HAGAN '15, '19G

Ronald Stride '62, '25Hon. with scholarship recipients, from left, Kareem Bain '28, Jelissa Jonas '27, Ronan McGouran '25, Kelsey Ruiz '18, Linda Ineus '22, and Anastasia Hussett '24.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER GOLDBERG

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE FALL 2025

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
THANK RONALD STRIDE '62
FOR HIS GENEROSITY**



BEYOND LIMITS

THE CAMPAIGN FOR PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Kelsey Ruiz '18 left her apartment in Brooklyn, New York, at 5 a.m. on Sunday, May 18, 2025, to board an Amtrak train to Providence. She walked from the Providence train station to the Amica Mutual Pavilion in time to see Ronald Stride '62 receive an honorary doctor of business administration degree at the Providence College commencement ceremony.

"Ron and his wife provided me with a scholarship that covered an entire semester of tuition just two weeks before I graduated from PC," said Ruiz. "I was incredibly lucky. I knew I wanted to be there for his special day."

Stride and his wife, Janet, are among the college's most generous benefactors, beginning decades ago with donations through the annual fund, now known as The Fund for Providence College. They are members of the Harkins Society, having included the college in their estate plans. Their planned gift of \$10 million helped launch *Beyond Limits*, the college's \$300 million fundraising campaign. In addition, an incoming student is selected each year to receive the Ronald and Janet Stride Family Scholarship, which covers the full cost of tuition, room, board, and fees at PC for four years. Preference is given to graduates of Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in Brooklyn, New York, Ron Stride's alma mater.

Ruiz was awarded the first Stride scholarship as she completed her senior year. Since then, there have been five additional recipients — Linda Ineus '22, Anastasia Hussett '24, Ronan McGouran '25, Jelissa Jonas '27, and Kareem Bain '28. They attended commencement and joined



Ron Stride '62, '25Hon. and Linda Ineus '22 during lunch in the Ruane Center for the Humanities.

Ron Stride for lunch in the Ruane Center for the Humanities the day before.

Stride retired as senior vice president and managing partner-Asia for Booz Allen Hamilton, a management consulting firm specializing in financial services. During most of his career, he and Janet lived in Singapore, where they continue to maintain a home.

Steve Duryea '82, senior philanthropic officer in the Office of Institutional Advancement, explained during the lunch that the Strides established the scholarship fund "to give students a pathway and a home like Ron found here at PC."

"No one in my family had ever gone to college," Stride told the scholars. "My father was an engineer on a train. I wanted to experience the world beyond Brooklyn."

That aspiration, which eventually led him to Thailand, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and Singapore, brought him first to PC. He lived in St. Joseph Hall at a time when the college's strict rules about conduct and dress "made us all the more mischievous." He made lifelong friends, three of whom joined him at the lunch — "fellow inmates, chosen brothers" Peter Paffrath '62 of San Mateo, California;

“THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP IS MEASURED IN YOUR ACHIEVEMENT.” — RON STRIDE, '62, '25HON

Leo “Jimmy” Roy '62 of Frenchville, Maine; and Joe Zielinski '62 of Stratham, New Hampshire.

The men were eager to learn what traditions persisted from their undergraduate years. And they were pleased to hear that seniors and alumni still frequent the Bradley Cafe on Admiral Street.

“When we were students, Providence College was all men — really all boys,” Paffrath said.

All the Stride scholars except Ruiz, who went to Dominican Academy, are graduates of Bishop Loughlin, which was founded in 1851 as the first Catholic high school in Brooklyn. It continues to serve the immigrant and working class communities of the eastern boroughs of New York City. Administered by the De La Salle Christian Brothers, it boasts a 99% graduation rate and a 97% college matriculation rate.

“The students who attend Loughlin today are not the Irish, Italian, German, and Polish immigrants of yesteryear, but the immigrants of Brooklyn and Queens today,” according to the school’s website. They also represent religions other than Catholicism.

“I am so proud of you all,” Stride told the scholarship recipients. “There is a self-selecting aspect to this — you each had the courage and sense of adventure to leave home and to come here.”

The scholars are accomplished. McGouran, who graduated the day after the lunch with degrees in art history and economics, also received an award for excellence in art history. Jonas, a finance major, interned at a Boston investment firm and is on the board of the PC chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants. Bain, a student in the pre-engineering program, was a research intern at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University and is assistant media coordinator for PC men’s basketball.

Ineus, who was president of Campus Ministry at PC, is a research project manager at Hasbro Children’s Hospital

in Providence, where her team published a study on the anti-inflammatory drug Rinvoq. As she considers a future in medicine, she shadows doctors on patient visits.

Hussett, who studied political science, now works as an elementary school teacher in Brooklyn and hopes to attend law school. She had previously met Stride over video calls.

“Even through the screen, his kindness and sincerity came through,” Hussett said. “He took the time to really see us, listen, and tell us how proud he was. That meant a lot to me as a student trying to navigate college and make my family proud. Those conversations stuck with me and reminded me that I wasn’t doing this alone. Someone was rooting for me every step of the way.”

Ruiz, a clinical mental health counselor in Brooklyn, could not attend the lunch but was happy to travel from New York the morning of commencement. Last Christmas, she had reached out to PC’s financial aid office to learn more about the family that provided the surprise scholarship that covered the cost of her final semester.

“I was feeling the holiday spirit, reflecting on the ways the gift had allowed me to live more freely and explore my career, and wanting to express my gratitude,” Ruiz said. “I learned that Ron was being honored by PC in the spring, and I knew, if PC could help me attend, I wanted to be there with the other incredible Stride scholars.”

Stride is “a genuinely considerate person who has dedicated his life to lifting up others,” Ruiz said. “He is down to earth, easy to talk to, and shows interest in what you have to say. He clearly sees the value in students he has supported and I have immense gratitude for his generosity.”

The scholarship recipients impressed Stride as well.

“The return on investment for this scholarship is measured in your achievements,” Stride told them. “Seeing and learning about what each of you has done is a great gift.” ■■

BEYOND LIMITS

THE CAMPAIGN FOR PROVIDENCE COLLEGE



PHOTO BY ASHLEY MCCABE

The steeple of St. Dominic Chapel
in November 2021.



A BEACON FOR 25 YEARS

ST. DOMINIC CHAPEL MARKS ANNIVERSARY

St. Dominic Chapel, which will mark its 25th anniversary with a Mass and reception in February 2026, was built and sustained with donations, beginning with a \$3 million lead gift from philanthropist Charlotte Gragnani. *The Beyond Limits* campaign honors the chapel's anniversary by highlighting key funding priorities, including Campus Ministry, Father Philip A. Smith Fellowships for Study and Service Abroad, the Claverie Fellows Program, and more.



BEYOND LIMITS

THE CAMPAIGN FOR PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

BY REV. JORDAN ZAJAC, O.P. '04

Some years ago, it was decided the spotlights that illuminate St. Dominic Chapel should be turned off during the overnight hours. Not long after, the college heard from officials at T.F. Green Airport, requesting they be turned back on. Pilots relied upon the chapel as a checkpoint, they explained, helping guide them to a safe landing.

St. Dom's has been a beacon guiding many souls over the past 25 years. And it has helped lead me in particularly unique ways.

I didn't miss a single 8:30 Civ lecture the fall of my first year. All credit for that goes to the chapel. My dorm room in Aquinas overlooked St. Dom's, which at the time was still under construction. The work that began painfully early each morning proved a highly effective alarm clock.

Junior year I was again living in Aquinas, this time as an RA. Sitting at my desk reading Shakespeare or Aquinas or Bill Simmons' articles about the Red Sox, I would look away from the text and stare out onto St. Dom's, turning thoughts over in my mind and admiring the chapel's quiet strength. I can remember the look of snow gently gathering upon the copper roof — a tranquil backdrop for late-night conversations with my good friend Nathan Everding '03, who lived one floor above me.

Many years later, it was Holy Orders that called me to St. Dominic Chapel. I had already returned to campus as a deacon to serve as an assistant chaplain for the 2019–2020 academic year. When COVID shut the world down that spring, I was prevented from returning to Washington,

St. Dominic Chapel under construction in 2000.



D.C., to be ordained to the priesthood with my Dominican classmates. But it meant the doors of St. Dom's were opened for an impromptu Mass of Ordination, celebrated by Most Rev. Robert C. Evans, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Providence. On May 23, 2020, I became the first Dominican priest ever ordained on the Providence College campus.

That day St. Dominic Chapel was transformed into the Upper Room for me. It was at the Last Supper that Christ entrusted to His Apostles the sacrament of His Most Holy Body and Blood, conferring upon them the priestly duty to celebrate the mystery of the Eucharist. It was at St. Dom's that Christ made me His priest, bestowing upon me the same power and responsibility.

As part of the ordination Mass, the candidate prostrates himself face down before the altar. It is a posture of profound humility. Of total submission. Of death. And therefore of complete conformity to Christ (Gal 2:20). After the congregation has prayed for the candidate, he rises again for the prayer of ordination, which ontologically changes him into an *alter Christus* — “another Christ,” one who acts in the person of Christ.

PHOTO: PC ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, PAGE 29, STEW MILNE

There are many spots on campus that I love. But none holds greater significance for me than the spot in front of the altar at St. Dom's. Often, I go by the chapel to sit and reflect. I consider all that God has done for me, in His providence; all that He is doing through me, as His priest; and all the ways I fall short, due to my own human weakness and folly ("We hold this treasure in earthen vessels," St. Paul remarks in 2 Cor 4:7). I serve my Savior, but I will always stand in need of a Savior myself. Returning to St. Dom's helps remind me of that humbling reality.

My five short years of priestly life have been filled with so many joys that I tell my students often: If I had a hundred lifetimes, I would choose to be a priest for every single one of them (if He willed). But I have also experienced great personal and spiritual trials — days where I just want to leave the cross behind, rather than take it up. Those are the days that teach me the true meaning of a vow. The meaning of unconditional love.

"AS PART OF THE ORDINATION MASS, THE CANDIDATE PROSTRATES HIMSELF FACE DOWN BEFORE THE ALTAR. IT IS A POSTURE OF PROFOUND HUMILITY."

For these reasons, what I have come to love most about being a priest is celebrating wedding Masses, especially at St. Dom's. To stand there with a bride and groom whom God first brought together here at PC, to welcome them back, and to receive the vows they make to God and one another, as they stand in the same exact spot where I laid down my life for Christ — there is simply nothing better. Standing there, I know better than they do just how much the Lord calls those whom He loves to sacrifice, to keep laying down their lives. I know that authentic love means you keep showing up, no matter what, and keep doing what love requires. And I know that whenever one does what he knows to be the Master's will, a power will be given him equal to the duty.

St. Dominic Chapel has schooled me in these truths. Over the past 25 years it has become the spiritual heart of campus, possessing an ability to take all that is ordinary about the college experience and fill it with grace. Grace that lasts a lifetime. Grace meant to guide us to our true and lasting home. ■

Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04 is an assistant professor of English and alumni chaplain.



Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04 at his ordination.

BEYOND LIMITS

THE CAMPAIGN FOR PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

'OLD GOLD AND PRECIOUS STONES'



The monstrance stands 4.5 feet tall and weighs 17 pounds.

PHOTO BY ANGEL TUCKER

Seventy-five years ago, alumni and friends of the college were asked to donate “old gold and precious stones” to create a monstrance, a vessel to hold the consecrated host during Eucharistic adoration and benediction at the new War Memorial Grotto.

Those attending the Grotto dedication on May 9, 1948, read this message in the program: “Nearly every family has tucked away old jewelry, watches, rings, and trinkets. The old gold can be melted and the jewels reset. Just as the tiny grains of wheat symbolize our unity in the Body of Christ, so, too, these disparate valuables can symbolize our charity and devotion as they are fused into a fitting dwelling place for the Eucharistic King.”

The call was answered. One year later, in May 1949, the new monstrance — “made possible by the generous contribution of old rings, watches, and trinkets by friends of Providence College,” The Cowl said — was presented to the college chaplain, Rev. Charles McKenna, O.P. It stood 45.5 inches tall, weighed 17 pounds, and was valued at \$10,000 — \$135,000 in today’s dollars.

The Grotto, which served as the site for outdoor Masses and commencements for 50 years, was disassembled and

redesigned in 1999 when construction began for St. Dominic Chapel. But the monstrance was not lost — it is stored in the chapel and still used for special occasions, especially for off-campus retreats, said College Chaplain Rev. Teller, O.P.

Michelle Chiles, head of PC Archives and Special Collections, discovered references to the jewelry campaign while gathering information for the 25th anniversary of the chapel. While familiar with the monstrance, Father Simon was unaware that it had been crowd-sourced with donations from alumni and friends.

“At a time when we’re accustomed to ordering prefabricated goods online without ever handling cash, much less providing the raw materials, this beautiful monstrance stands as a tangible testimony to the dedication of the Providence College community,” said associate chaplain Rev. Gregory Santy, O.P. “It’s a visible and enduring reminder that none of the buildings or monuments enjoyed daily by students, faculty, and staff would exist without the generosity of Friars across the generations.” ❧

— VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G

HIGH NOTES

The Fund for Providence College boosted by Leadership Council



SMITH

The Fund for Providence College Leadership Council is a network of dedicated volunteers who champion the power of giving back. The council is led by **Thomas F. Smith III '85**, chair, and **Kerry A. Kates King '90**, vice chair.

Smith, who retired after a career with Nestlé companies, resides in Alexandria, Virginia, with his wife, Jennifer Alcares Smith '85. King, who lives in Cohasset, Massachusetts, is a managing director at Bank of America Corporation. Her son, Sean King '21, is vice president of the Greater Boston Area Alumni Club.



KING

"Through their deep engagement with PC, both Tom and Kerry demonstrate the leadership and commitment that embody the spirit of *Beyond Limits*," said Amy Laprey, senior director of annual giving.



CALDEIRA

The new leadership council will build on the foundation provided by previous chairs, including **Stephen J. Caldeira '81**, who led The Fund for Providence College from 2022-2025. Caldeira continues to offer guidance as immediate past chair.

Committee members and volunteers, including parents and alumni, will champion The Fund for Providence College through leadership giving, peer-to-peer outreach, and donor engagement. Their efforts are crucial to supporting scholarships, academic programs, student life, and other opportunities at the college.

Learn more: prov.ly/ffpc-council



LINDO



BROWN-JONES

All welcome to join Friars of Color Alumni Network

The Friars of Color Alumni Network is an initiative designed to strengthen connections among alumni of color and allies through meaningful communication, community-building, and volunteer opportunities. All alumni are invited to join.

The Friars of Color Alumni Committee is co-chaired by **Naomi Brown-Jones '11** and **Christopher Lindo '06** who are also members of the National Alumni Council. The committee connects and supports alumni of color and allies by planning events in partnership with the National Alumni Council and the Office of Alumni Relations. Volunteers help organize programs during signature weekends, such as Homecoming and Reunion, and promote other engagement opportunities throughout the year.



MASON

Alumni council supports Posse students

When **George D. Mason '84** heard about the college's partnership with the Posse Foundation during a National Alumni Council meeting, he issued a challenge for Friars Give, PC's annual day of giving, in April 2025: What if each alumni council member made a donation, in an amount of his or her choosing, to support a Posse student?

The result: More than \$30,000 in contributions for Posse support and 100 percent participation by council members on the day.

"Posse is a great program that hit a note with me," Mason said. "I thought, 'This is a wonderful program that will give a first-generation college student the opportunity that PC gave me.'"

The Posse Foundation recruits promising high school students and prepares them to apply to 64 member colleges. PC is partnered with the Posse chapter in New Orleans. The first cohort of 11 Posse students enrolled in classes in the Fall 2025 semester with full-tuition scholarships.

Mason is deputy administrator of the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court and served three terms on the National Alumni Council. 🏠



PROVIDENCE COLLEGE FALL 2025

RICHARD PITINO '05 HAS ENTERED THE CHAT



New Xavier coach will face
the Friars — and his dad

BY BRENDAN MCGAIR '03



As he prepares for his first season as basketball coach at Xavier University, Richard Pitino '05 is getting accustomed to facets of running a BIG EAST program — such as the text message group chat featuring the league's head coaches.

It includes Providence's Kim English, UConn's Dan Hurley, Georgetown's Ed Cooley, and of course, his father, Rick Pitino, the former PC coach now at St. John's.

Whenever Dan Leibovitz, BIG EAST senior associate commissioner, messages the group, "it's a surreal moment," Richard Pitino said.

"To see Ed Cooley say, 'Thanks,' and Dan Hurley say, 'OK,' and then my dad says, 'Thanks, Dan' ... Oh my God, my dad is in the group chat that I'm part of. To see his name pop up as one of the 11 coaches, that's still a little bit weird," Pitino said.

Pitino was named head coach at Xavier on March 25, 2025, after guiding the University of New Mexico to a conference title, a 27-8 overall record, and being honored as Mountain West Coach of the Year. As cameras flashed at his introductory press conference in Cincinnati, he was struck by how familiar it all seemed. It reminded him of his days as an assistant for Friar men's basketball during his junior and senior years at PC.

"Oh my God, I'm back at Providence College right now," Pitino thought. "It's all come full circle, being at Xavier."

BIG EAST fans can't help but feel that all is right in the college basketball universe. A storyline involving the son of a Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame coach squaring off against his father and against his alma mater in a conference already rife with rivalries is almost too good to be true.

But beneath the hoopla lies the story of how Richard Pitino was determined to forge his own path in basketball without relying on the doors that could potentially open with the name "Pitino." He was only 4 years old in 1987 when his father led

the Friars to the NCAA Final Four before becoming coach for the New York Knicks, University of Kentucky, Boston Celtics, and University of Louisville.

Richard Pitino, who attended high school and played basketball at St. Sebastian School in Needham, Massachusetts, while his father coached the Celtics, chose to attend PC knowing that he would not be able to continue playing basketball there.

"I knew I wasn't going to play at the highest level ... maybe Division II or Division III," Pitino said. "Providence College pulled at the heartstrings, for sure. It just felt right, and a lot of that had to do with the amazing memories that my family has of Providence. That certainly impacted my decision to go there."

During his first two years at PC, where he majored in history, Pitino commuted to St. Andrew's School in Barrington, Rhode Island, to serve as a volunteer coach for the basketball program. He arranged his class schedule so that he could make the 20-minute drive from campus to the prep school for early-morning workouts. Then he would return to Providence, attend class, and hustle back to St. Andrew's to complete his apprenticeship responsibilities.

In taking those steps, he made it clear that he fully intended to enter the family business.

St. Andrew's head coach Mike Hart counts Pitino's father as a close friend. At some point, Rick Pitino let Hart know that Richard was heading to PC and was interested in coaching.

"Work him hard. Have him do all the grunt work," Rick Pitino told Hart.

Pitino's willingness to perform all the menial tasks — washing uniforms, sweeping the court, breaking down film — earned him high marks at St. Andrew's, which won 50 games during his two years on the staff.



Richard Pitino '05, left, as an assistant coach under Billy Donovan '87 at the University of Florida in the 2011 NCAA Tournament.

"I did a little bit of everything. No job was too big or too small," said Pitino. "With those volunteer spots, what you put into it is what you get out of it."

"From Day 1, I knew he had talent. Even with his last name, he had a work ethic to make it at the level he sought to reach," said Hart. "He comes in as an 18-year-old college kid, and I have 18-year-old seniors who he played against the previous year at St. Sebastian's. The St. Andrew's players loved him and instantly respected him."

Midway through Pitino's time in college, he touched base with Tim Welsh, PC's men's basketball coach from 1998-2008 and now an analyst for ESPN and NBC. Welsh suggested Pitino join the Providence staff in the role of a graduate assistant, even though he was still an undergrad.

"It was an opportunity for me to jumpstart my career even more," recalled Pitino. He was on the staff when PC reached the NCAA Tournament in 2004. The following year, he was there when Ryan Gomes '05 became the program's all-time leading scorer.

"I learned a lot and was part of a great program, but it also helped me skip that step of having to go to grad school somewhere else to get the experience. It was really beneficial," said Pitino. "I was fortunate that Coach Welsh allowed me to be a part of it."

For Welsh, the decision was obvious.

"Richard was very close with Ryan Gomes and very good with working him out," said Welsh. "Basketball-wise, he was mature beyond his years. When you grow up in a household around one of the greatest coaches of all time, as long as you pay attention, you're going to have that passion. He did and still does. I'm so happy for his success."

After PC, Pitino was finding his way, making stops as an assistant coach at the College of Charleston, Northeastern University, and Duquesne University. Then came a master class in the art of coaching courtesy of sitting on the same bench as his father at the University of Louisville, which at the time competed in the BIG EAST.

"That stint made me much more prepared than I thought I would ever be," said Pitino, who was at Louisville from 2007-2009.

Still, he yearned for more. He went to the University of Florida to absorb lessons from head coach Billy Donovan '87, a key member of his father's Final Four team who had coached the Gators to back-to-back NCAA titles in 2006 and 2007.

"That was as impactful a decision as I have ever made in my life," said Pitino. "I thought it would take me out of my comfort zone and that's exactly what it did. If I hadn't made that decision, I'm not sure I'd be sitting here today at this



Coach Richard Pitino '05 with the men's team at Xavier University in the summer of 2025.

level professionally. If I hadn't left Louisville to branch out and work elsewhere, I wouldn't have been as competent or confident going into the head coaching jobs that I've been fortunate to have."

After a brief stint back at Louisville, Pitino became a head coach for the first time at Florida International University in 2012, succeeding Isaiah Thomas. After just a year there, he was hired by the University of Minnesota, where he spent eight seasons before going to New Mexico in 2021.

The 2025-2026 college basketball season will mark his 14th as a head coach. His career has run the typical emotional gamut. He was named the 2017 Big Ten Coach of the Year at Minnesota and reached the NCAA Tournament four times. He's been pursued for jobs, yet he's also been asked to leave. All the while, he remembers the advice of his father.

"One thing about my dad is that he's always had an unwavering confidence throughout storms," Pitino said. "To him, confidence means more than anything. It's so very important. He's always had an unbelievable belief in what he does. I've seen it and tried to model my approach based on what he's done."

He remembers his father being apprehensive of his plan to follow him into basketball.

"It's a profession that's going to take you to a lot of places. You have to be mentally tough because you're going to experience a lot of highs and lows," Richard Pitino said.

A coaching career can be difficult on a family. Pitino and his wife, Jill, are the parents of three children, who in short order went from living in New Mexico to Ohio. Even in a cutthroat industry, Pitino makes every effort to be present in

PHOTO: XAVIER UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS



the lives of his kids. It ranks up there with game-planning for the next opponent on the schedule.

"Our generation of coaches is different from my dad's generation. If there's one thing that my generation values, it's being more present and making time to pick your kids up from school or drop them off," said Pitino.

Pitino's debut with Xavier at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence is scheduled for February 24, 2026. He is no stranger to being the visiting coach there. In 2017, he brought Minnesota to Providence and came away with an 86-74 win.

"I was wondering if the fans were going to be nice to me because I'm an alum," said Pitino. "They weren't very nice to

me when I got there, but fortunately, we got the win, which is certainly all that I cared about."

It will be another return-to-sender moment for someone who appreciates that his alma mater set him on an accelerated path to coaching.

"I love Providence College. It molded me. It shaped me. It's a place that's very near and dear to my heart," Pitino said. "I know people have come to identify me with my dad and maybe a little bit with Billy Donovan, but my couple of years working for the basketball team at Providence College and working for Coach Hart at St. Andrew's shaped me more than anything." ❧

“ ”
I love Providence College.
It's very near and dear to my heart.
— RICHARD PITINO '05



FRIARTOWN



Billy Donovan '87 accepts congratulations from Maurice Cheeks, left, and Rick Pitino.

DONOVAN JOINS HALL OF FAME

Billy Donovan '87, whose three-point shooting led Providence College to the NCAA Final Four in 1987, is officially a member of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

During a ceremony on September 6, 2025, at Symphony Hall in Springfield, Massachusetts, Donovan thanked the professionals who had faith in him and thanked his family, including his wife, Christine D'Auria Donovan '86, for their support. Joining Donovan on the stage were Rick Pitino, who coached him during his final two years at PC, and Maurice Cheeks, part of Donovan's first coaching staff at Marshall University.

"Faith and belief have been incredibly powerful in my life,"

Donovan said. "Not faith and belief in myself, but the faith and belief that others have had in me when there was really no sign and no evidence to have faith.

"I am incredibly indebted to Coach Pitino. I had the opportunity to play for Coach and I had the opportunity to work for him. He taught me how to work, he taught me what it was to compete, and he taught me about what really went into winning. The one thing I'm going to say about Coach is: Where he found me as a sophomore in college is not where he left me. He took me to places that I never, ever could have dreamed of, and it was his belief, faith, and confidence in me that I will always be indebted to. So, Coach, thank you."

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF NAISMITH BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME



Billy Donovan '87, center, and Coach Rick Pitino, left, celebrate winning the NCAA Southeast Regional Championship to advance to the Final Four in 1987.

“ ”

Where he found me as a sophomore in college
is not where he left me.

— BILLY DONOVAN '87 ON COACH RICK PITINO

Donovan has spent the last 10 seasons in the NBA. He coached the Oklahoma City Thunder for five seasons and is entering his sixth season with the Chicago Bulls. As head coach at the University of Florida from 1996-2015, he compiled a 467-186 record and .715 winning percentage with four trips to the Final Four. Florida went to the NCAA Tournament 14 times in 19 seasons and won back-to-back national championships in 2006 and 2007.

Twenty representatives from PC attended the ceremony, including College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G; Rev. Thomas More Garrett, O.P., executive vice president for mission and chief operating officer; and Steven Napolillo '98, vice president and athletic director.

Friars in the Naismith Hall of Fame include Lenny Wilkens '60, '91Hon., John Thompson '64, Doris Sable Burke '87, '92G, '05Hon., and coaches Dave Gavitt '89Hon. and Pitino. ❧



Billy Donovan '87 models his Hall of Fame jacket.

PHOTO: 1987, PC ATHLETICS



Ryan Gomes '05 leads a practice session.

RYAN GOMES '05 RETURNS TO FRIARTOWN

Friar great Ryan Gomes '05 joined the men's basketball program as an assistant coach in June 2025.

One of the top players ever to compete for the Friars, Gomes played in the NBA for eight seasons and worked in coaching and player development for nine years, most recently as player development coach for the Portland Trail Blazers.

"After a long and prosperous career in the NBA, he is the perfect addition to help our student-athletes understand what it takes to have success here at Providence and beyond," said men's basketball coach Kim English. "What stood out about Ryan as we went through this process was the profound impact he has made on so many throughout his career."

Gomes is the Friars' all-time leading scorer. Over four seasons, he scored 2,138 points, averaging 18.4 points per game and shooting better than 50 percent from the field with 1,028 rebounds. He is one of only two players in PC history to score at least 2,000 points and register 1,000 or more rebounds.

Gomes was selected by the Boston Celtics in the second round of the NBA Draft in 2005 and also played for the Minnesota Timberwolves, Los Angeles Clippers, and Oklahoma City Thunder. He began his coaching career in 2016.

Gomes is a native of Waterbury, Connecticut. He and his wife, Danielle, are the parents of two daughters, Ryelle and Skyler. 🏀

PHOTO: PC ATHLETICS

FRIARTOWN NOTES



Kimberley May '25, third from left, in the NCAA Track Championships.

Friar women compete in NCAA Championships

In her final competition as a member of the women's track team, Kimberley May '25, from Auckland, New Zealand, finished sixth in the nation at the NCAA Championships in June 2025 in Eugene, Oregon. She ran the 1,500-meter finals in a time of 4:10.79.

Also competing for the Friars, Alex Millard '25G, from Kent, England, ran the 5,000-meter finals with a finish of 15:37.22 for 10th place. Millard received the BIG EAST Sport Excellence Award for 2024-2025, recognizing academic and athletic achievement and community service.

Maeve O'Neill '27, from Cork, Ireland, competed in the 800-meter semifinals and finished 13th with a time of 2:03.43. Shannon Flockhart '24, '25G, from Longstanton, England, ran the 1,500-meter semifinals and placed 20th.

May represented New Zealand in July at the FISU World University Games in Germany and finished third in the 1,500-meters with a time of 4:20.39. Earlier in the month, she set a personal best time of 4:04.40 in the 1,500 meters in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy, finishing first and elevating her to second in New Zealand's all-time rankings.

PHOTO: NATE BARRETT

Men's hockey ranked second in preseason poll

The men's hockey team was picked to finish second in the 2025-2026 Hockey East preseason coaches' poll. The team received three first-place votes. Boston University was selected to finish first.

PC returns five of its top six scorers from last season, led by junior forward Hudson Malinoski, who scored 11 goals and added 12 assists in 2024-2025. This year's roster includes 12 newcomers, including Roger McQueen, who was selected 10th overall by the Anaheim Ducks in the 2025 NHL Draft, and Chicago Blackhawks fourth-round selection Julius Sumpf.

Coach Nate Leaman is beginning his 15th season leading the Friars. His teams have posted 13 consecutive winning seasons and have qualified for seven NCAA tournaments, highlighted by the 2015 national championship.

Last year's team finished 21-11-5 overall and was ranked #10 in the country going into the NCAA tournament, where the Friars were eliminated by Denver in the first round. PC opens Hockey East play on Friday, October 31, with a home game against the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

Golf programs begin historic season

Providence College has officially launched its varsity golf programs, marking a major milestone in Friar athletics. The men's team returns to competition after a 23-year hiatus, while the women's team begins its inaugural season.

Both teams are now competing in the BIG EAST Conference, offering student-athletes new opportunities at the highest collegiate level.

The men's program, led by head coach Louis Parente, builds on a legacy that includes 1990 and 1993 BIG EAST titles and eight NCAA appearances. The women's team, under the direction of Douglas Smith '88, is focused on establishing a strong foundation in its inaugural season.

The launch follows extensive planning, including facility development and recruitment. A state-of-the-art golf simulation practice facility has been installed in the lower level of the Peterson Recreation Center.



Kathleen McGinley '82 works the Friar 5K table at Homecoming 2024.



'EVERYONE IS WELCOME BACK'

KATHLEEN MCGINLEY '82 IS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G

Before Kathleen McGinley '82 became president of the National Alumni Council, her friend Bob Ferreira '83 gave her a black and white photograph from the 1980s. In the picture, McGinley is on the telephone, calling alumni to ask for donations to the college.

Volunteering has always been important to McGinley, and Providence College has always been close to her heart. "I love this place," McGinley

said. "I think volunteering connects you to your community and helps make a difference."

McGinley grew up in West Warwick, Rhode Island, the daughter of a Friar, Charles F. McGinley '50. Her family cheered Ernie DiGregorio '73 en route to the NCAA Final Four. At PC, she was accepted to join Friars Club her first year. She studied marketing and served on the Board of Governors

social committee, the pastoral council, and the residence hall council, and was in the marketing club. She was an orientation counselor and during her junior and senior years, worked as an aide at the Rhode Island State House.

"My favorite activity was giving tours for Friars Club," McGinley said. "I loved it when I met a student who said, 'You influenced me on your tour, and thank you, I'm so happy I came to



Kathleen McGinley during a PC phone-a-thon in the 1980s.

Providence College.”

As graduation drew near, McGinley went to Phillips Memorial Library to look up a list of the 100 best employers in the country. She was drawn to Hallmark, a family-owned, privately held company based in Kansas City, Missouri, in the “social expression” business.

“It was very creative, a feel-good business, all about people, moments and memories,” McGinley said. “I had to hustle. I had a friend with a connection. When I met with him, he told me, ‘If you approach sales this way, you’re going to be very successful.’ I got the job as a field representative, one of the few women hired. PC prepared me big time.”

After 12 years with Hallmark, McGinley went into business for herself in 1994 with a startup, Kate’s Hallmark, a 4,500-square-foot retail store in Lunenburg, Massachusetts. It was not a franchise but operated under an agreement with Hallmark. In addition to selling greeting cards and gifts, the store offered fashion items, a full candy department, and a post office.

It was challenging starting a business from the ground up, but McGinley won a National Retail Customer Excellence Award for being among the top 2 percent of stores in the country. As her children grew older and became more involved in activities, she realized she

was missing too much. In 2006, she sold the store to a retailer with a six-store chain.

“You grow or you go,” McGinley said. “Everything’s timing. God gave me the vision to do something else.”

McGinley went into healthcare sales. Today she is back in West Warwick, working as a sales and marketing representative for Care New England, a division of Kent Hospital, providing home medical equipment — sleep apnea machines, oxygen, hospital beds — that make it possible for people to remain in their homes despite illnesses.

“I help people every day sustain their lives,” McGinley said. “The equipment keeps them home with their families and friends.”

McGinley served on her PC Reunion Committee in 2022 and was nominated to serve on the National Alumni Coun-

cil. In 2024, she was asked to run for executive vice president and won. The executive vice president automatically becomes president. Her term will run through June 30, 2026. She especially enjoys meeting other alumni in her role and participating in events — even running the Friar 5K to benefit the National Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

“Everyone has an attachment to Providence College,” McGinley said. “The stickiness, I call it. The spark. It’s more than a place. It hits all the ideals. It’s important to remember that everyone is welcome back, to be a part of a regional club event, a game watch, to engage in their community, to share the Friar experience. I want to get people together sharing good times and supporting each other, because we really are all a community.”

She remembers the professors who made a difference.

“At PC, I got a phenomenal liberal arts education with a business degree,” McGinley said. “It taught me how to write, communicate, and speak. PC taught me to keep going, learning, understanding, gathering information, and absorbing.”

Joseph A. Gemma, MBA ’75, ’77G, now an assistant professor of management and assistant dean, was a new teacher when McGinley took his class.

“He taught business communication — oral, written, the basics,” McGinley said. “He covered so many categories. He had an incredible energy, a desire to teach. He was always ‘on.’ It made such an impression on me — the energy and the passion in explaining the various components of communication. It was a phenomenal foundation.”

McGinley also remembers Principles of Marketing with Helen Caldwell, Ph.D., assistant professor of marketing, who retired in 2022 after more than 30 years of teaching.

“They were influencers,” McGinley said. “Their classes inspired me.” ■



Kathleen McGinley ’82 with alumni council executive vice president Richey Kless ’74, ’78G, ’82SCE.

CLASS NOTES

— SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

'63

Raymond L. Flynn '63, '84Hon., '93Hon. of South Boston, Massachusetts, is the subject of a book, *The Battle for Boston: How Mayor Ray Flynn and Community Organizers Fought Racism and Downtown Power Brokers*. Flynn was mayor of Boston from 1984-1993 and is the former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. The book, written by community activist Don Gillis and published by Fordham University Press, focuses on the values that drove Flynn to run for mayor and how his commitment to economic justice drove his approach to politics at home and abroad.

'69

John Schumann '69 of Corrales, New Mexico, was elected to the board of directors of The Rock at Noonday, a faith-based hub of services for Albuquerque's homeless. The Rock provides more than 600 meals a day, offers counseling programs, provides laundry and shower services, and operates a post office, food bank, and clothes closet. It is in the process of building a day shelter for homeless women and their children. John is a proud alumni co-ambassador for the Class of 1969 and is a community leader in a number of nonprofit endeavors in New Mexico's mid-Rio Grande Valley.

'71 (Reunion: June 5-7, 2026)

Alan Lynch '71 of Marion, Massachusetts, retired in June 2025 after 53 years of teaching in the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Boston and the Diocese of Fall River. In appreciation, Fall River Bishop Edgar da Cunha presented him the Al Makkay Sr. Award during the 28th annual Foundation to Advance Catholic Education Summer Gala on Cape Cod in August 2025. The award recognizes outstanding contributions by a teacher or staff member in the Catholic schools of Cape Cod.

'78

Don Slovenkai '78 of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, finished second in his age group at the USA Track and Field Mountain Running National Championships held in June 2025 at Mount Sunapee. The 8.2-mile route included a 3,400-foot elevation ascent and descent. Slovenkai has competed in more than 100 mountain races in the USATF New England circuit, including more than 30 Mount Washington Road Races. Don began running in 1974 while at PC, inspired by Irish runners Mick O'Shea '77, '89G and Olympian John Treacy '78, '80G.

'79

Mary Pat Larkin Caputo '79 of Madison, Connecticut, was awarded director emeritus status upon her retirement as director of marketing and publications from Southern Connecticut State University.

'84

James L. O'Connor '84 of Princeton, Massachusetts, is a partner to the business and litigation practice groups at Seder & Chandler. He is an experienced attorney whose practice spans complex civil litigation, appellate, bankruptcy, and business law matters. Prior to joining Seder & Chandler, he served as a partner at Nickless, Phillips & O'Connor in Fitchburg and previously as tax counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, handling complex tax and bankruptcy matters. Before his law career, O'Connor was a commercial loan officer and assistant vice president at Shawmut Bank N.A. and BayBank Middlesex.

'85

Gene Carlino, J.D. '85 of Lincoln, Rhode Island, a partner in Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O'Gara LLC, was named to the 2025 Rhode Island Super Lawyers list, a peer-reviewed rating platform that recognizes exceptional



Richard and Madeleine Grace with Fall River Bishop Edgar da Cunha.

Grace receives diocesan award

Richard Grace, Ph.D. '62, '17Hon., emeritus professor of history at PC, and his wife, Madeleine, received the Luminary Award from the Diocese of Fall River in recognition of their dedication, generosity, and service to the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in Fall River and to the diocesan community.

The award was presented during the annual Lumen Christi Cathedral Gala held in June 2025 at White's of Westport in Massachusetts. The event raised more than \$350,000 to support restoration of the cathedral, which was built in the 1850s.

The Graces met while singing in the chapel choir and married in the cathedral in 1977. Madeleine Grace has been the cathedral's organist for more than 40 years and is the choir director. Richard Grace sings in the choir and also wrote a history of the cathedral. Their daughters, Marianne Grace Aguilar '02 and Elizabeth Grace Heath '09, have been longtime choir members, and Elizabeth serves as cantor.

attorneys in each state. Carlino was recognized for excellence in estate and probate law. He is a past president of the Rhode Island National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estates Counsel. He has a J.D. from Boston University School of Law and an LL.M. from New York University School of Law. He is licensed to practice in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Florida, and before the U.S. Tax Court, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the U.S. District Court for Rhode Island and the South District of Florida.

'87

Charlie O'Connell '87 of San Francisco was appointed chief financial officer at Parkview Financial, an alternative investments firm specializing in commercial real estate credit in the United States. He oversees financial strategy, capital management, and long-term planning as part of the firm's leadership team. He has more than 15 years of experience as a CFO for real estate investment and management companies. He studied political science at PC.

'88

Karen Bradbury '88 of Lincoln, Rhode Island, program administrator for the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources since 2022, was appointed to fill an open seat on the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission by Governor Dan McKee. Her nomination was confirmed by the state Senate. Bradbury has 20 years of experience working in state and federal government, including 14 years with U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. She studied political science at Providence College and has a master's degree in labor and industrial relations from the University of Rhode Island.

'92

Jason Perreault '92 of Redondo Beach, California, began working as executive manager of the Los Angeles House of Ruth in January 2025. The domestic violence and homeless family shelter is located in Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles.

'93

Kevin C. Leahy '93 of Durham, Connecticut, founding partner and CEO of Connecticut Wealth Management, LLC, was named to the

Kevin Phelan honored by Catholic Charities Boston

Kevin Phelan '66, '15Hon., emeritus trustee of Providence College and chair of Colliers Boston, was honored by Catholic Charities Boston at its annual gala at the Fairmount Copley Plaza in Boston in May 2025. The event raised more than \$1.5 million.

Phelan was presented the John and Virginia Kaneb Justice and Compassion Award, which honors an individual who embodies the values of charity, compassion, and service to those in need. Catholic Charities Boston President and CEO Kelley Tuthill praised Phelan for his support and "for being a connector in a world that too often feels very divided."

Phelan's daughter, Carrie Leto, who attended with her sister and three of Phelan's nine grandchildren, said her father is at his desk at Collier's by 6 a.m. each day. When he gets involved in a cause, "he jumps in with both feet and is the first to get his hands dirty."

Phelan thanked all those who guided him throughout his life. He also thanked Cardinal Séan O'Malley for allowing him to serve on the Archdiocese of Boston Finance Committee and newly appointed Boston Archbishop Richard Henning '25Hon., former bishop of Providence and a former member of PC's Board of Trustees.



2025 Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors list. The list honors top wealth advisors across the country who exemplify a commitment to excellence, integrity, and putting clients first.

Trish Connolly Tomlinson '93 is director of the Perrot Memorial Library in Old Greenwich, Connecticut. Tomlinson has been a library leader in Massachusetts and Connecticut for more than 20 years, with her most recent post as director of the Plainville Public Library in Connecticut. She has an MLIS degree from Rutgers University. She has relocated to the Greenwich area with her family.

'96 (Reunion: June 5-7, 2026)

Lisa Tvenstrup '96G of Johnston, Rhode Island, a teacher at Ponaganset High School in Glocester, received the 2026 Teaching Excellence Award from the National Education Association Rhode Island. The award recognizes her outstanding contributions to teaching and unwavering advocacy for public education. A teacher at Ponaganset for 40 years, Tvenstrup has inspired generations of students through history and social studies courses, including East Asian History, World Cultures, Psychol-

ogy, Sociology, and Genocide. She will travel to Washington, D.C., in February 2026 to be recognized at the NEA Foundation's Salute to Excellence in Education Gala.

'00

Danielle Sasson Thomas, Ed.D. '00 of Tallahassee, Florida, joined Sunrise Consulting Group as a government affairs consultant specializing in education.

'01 (Reunion: June 5-7, 2026)

Michael DeCastro '01 of Lausanne, Switzerland, celebrated his 10th anniversary of working for the International Olympic Committee and was promoted to senior manager for Olympic Games Operations, dedicated to the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles. He now has worked on five Olympics from Rio 2016 to Paris 2024. He also had the honor of running the Olympic torch relay during the Beijing 2022 Winter Games. He will next work at the Milano Cortina 2026 Games, which will take place at sites across Lombardy and northeast Italy in February.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

CLASS NOTES

✦ SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

Rocco DiRico '01 of Reading, Massachusetts, was promoted to associate vice president of government and community relations at Tufts University. Government and Community Relations is the university's primary liaison for local businesses, community partners, and government officials.

Erron Maxey '01 of Covington, Georgia, was inducted into the Trinity United Hall of Fame Class of 2025 during a ceremony at the United Pro Invitational in May 2025. After playing basketball for the Friars, Maxey competed internationally in Europe, Asia, Australia, and South America. From 2016-2018, he played for GIE Maile Matrix in the Universal Basketball Association. He is a branch manager for Wells Fargo in Oconee, Georgia.

'03

Alyssa Neubecker Marton '03, '08G of Barrington, Rhode Island, is director of finance at The Wolf School in Rumford, an independent school for complex learners. She previ-

ously worked for six years as director of operations at Brown RISD Hillel, where she oversaw finance, human resources, building and security management, and logistics.

'05

Eric Traugott '05 of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, was a partner at ParkLexington Advisors, a data and analytics firm that was acquired in July 2025 by Wilshire Advisors LLC. Eric joined Wilshire as a managing director and continues to provide data and analytics to mutual fund companies, allowing them to lower their service provider expenses.

'06 (Reunion: June 5-7, 2026)

Maximilian Bennett '06 of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, received the 2025 William C. O'Malley Prosecutor of the Year Award from the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, recognizing his outstanding achievement and commitment to public service. Bennett, a veteran of the Hampden County District Attorney's Office since 2009, is chief

of homicide and chief trial counsel. He oversees prosecution of the most serious and complex cases and is frequently called to crime scenes to collaborate with law enforcement at the earliest stages of homicide investigations. He has played a pivotal role in securing convictions in several high-profile cases. In accepting the award, he thanked his wife, Elizabeth Rubin Bennett '07, for her support.

'09

Andrew Guyton '09 of Stratham, New Hampshire, has been recognized as a President's Council Club qualifier by Guardian Life Insurance Company of America. It is the company's highest annual honor, awarded to financial professionals who exemplify exceptional service and commitment to their clients. Andrew was also named to the Forbes 2025 Best-in-State list of Top Financial Security Professionals in New Hampshire. Through Forge Financial, which Guyton founded in 2022, he helps

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

National Alumni Council 2025-2026

President: Kathleen McGinley '82

Executive Vice President: Richy Kless '74, '78G, '82SCE

Immediate Past President: Brian McManus '90

Vice President-Engagement: Katie Ferris '13

Vice President-Operations: Luis Nouel '05

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Edward Iannuccilli, M.D. '61 (1950-1961)

Donald Sauvigne '68 (1962-1969)

Christine Mahoney Hughes '75 (1970-1976)

Mal Davis '81 (1977-1982)

Sean Holley '84 (1983-1987)

John Freeman '89 (1988-1991)

Dwayne Sheppard '93 (1992-1996)

Bri Flynn Kimble '02 (1998-2002)

Christopher Lindo '06 (2003-2006)

John Ryan (JR) Cummings '09 (2007-2012)

Saadia Ahmad '14 (2013-2017)

Sara Jean Francois '19 (2018-2024)

John Wolf '13G (Graduate programs)

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Naomi Brown-Jones '11

Brian Gay '11

Joe Giovengo '98

Becky Jackson Curran '06

Kathryn Lamontagne '01, '03G

Mark Lyman '81

Jennifer MacCallum O'Meara '93

Deb Mazrimas '96

Bridget Reilly '20

MT Soltis '00

Michelle Trieu '14

Jim Vallee '88

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES

Katherine Hypolite-MacMannis '08, communications manager, School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Robert Reilly '86, assistant professor of practice in finance

Perla Castillo Calderon '20, '22G, Center at Moore Hall director

Mary Kate Donaghey '26, Student Alumni Association president

Sarah Firetto '03, alumni relations director

Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04, alumni association chaplain



Rev. Nicodemus Thomas, O.P. '18 kneels before Archbishop Anthony Fisher, O.P. and promises respect and obedience during his ordination.

Rev. Nicodemus Thomas, O.P. '18 is ordained a Dominican priest

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G

Rev. Nicodemus Thomas, O.P. '18, the newest Dominican priest from Providence College, was ordained by Archbishop Anthony Fisher, O.P. of Australia on June 5, 2025, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The Ordination Mass concluded the Dominican Provincial Assembly, which drew more than 250 Dominicans from around the country. The great number of friars attending showcased the fraternal life of the Dominican Order — fitting, because it was that fraternity that attracted Father Nicodemus to the Dominicans.

Known as Nate Thomas while at PC, Father Nicodemus is serving his first assignment as parochial vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish in Charlottesville, Virginia. The parish serves the University of Virginia and the surrounding region. Six Dominican

priests are in residence there, including Rev. Damian Day, O.P. '15, who is pursuing a doctorate in ancient history and was a classmate of Father Nicodemus at PC and in the seminary.

Father Nicodemus said the idea of the priesthood was in the back of his mind when he began classes at PC and grew stronger through his experiences with the Dominicans. He was attracted by the way the friars prayed and their wisdom in the classroom.

"These are guys who really understood the truths of the faith," Father Nicodemus said. "Their work together had an impact. Jesuits can be lone wolves; Dominicans do their work as a team."

During his first year at PC, Father Nicodemus watched as Father Damian applied to and entered the Dominican Order. As a junior, he attended a vocation weekend at the Dominican House of Studies in D.C., then spent the spring

"I LOOK FORWARD TO PREACHING AND TEACHING THE FAITH WHEREVER I'M SENT."

— REV. NICODEMUS THOMAS, O.P. '18

semester abroad with the PC in Rome Program. While in Europe, he prayed at the tombs of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Dominic.

Father Nicodemus lived in an apartment in Cunningham Hall during his senior year with two friends who later joined him at the Dominican House of Studies — Daniel Arteaga '19, now Brother Raphael Arteaga, O.P., and Sean Tobin '20, now Brother Jeremiah Tobin, O.P.

"Just to say a word about the fraternal life at the House of Studies — there were some really good brothers who I studied with, some really great men with whom I had seven years," Father Nicodemus said. "There were men who were there before me who are now priests and men who will be priests after me. You form great friendships."

Among the six men ordained with Father Nicodemus was Rev. Gregory Santy, O.P., now assigned to PC as an assistant chaplain.

Father Nicodemus's religious name honors St. Nicodemus, a Pharisee who heard Jesus preach in John 3:1-16. Jesus worked secretly in his heart, and at the end of Jesus's life, after most of his friends had abandoned him, Nicodemus came to him to bury him.

"I hope that the Lord will continue to work in my heart like St. Nicodemus," Father Nicodemus said.

"In the Dominican order and life, I have fallen in love with preaching," Father Nicodemus added. "I love preaching. And whatever that means, in whatever capacity that's going to be, I look forward to preaching and teaching the faith wherever I'm sent."

CLASS NOTES

— SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

clients build financial confidence through comprehensive planning strategies that integrate protection, wealth accumulation, and overall financial coordination.

'11 (Reunion: June 5-7, 2026)

Steven Maalouf '11 of Westerly, Rhode Island, an attorney with Casner & Edwards in Boston, was recognized by Best Lawyers in America 2026 in the area of family law. He has experience representing clients in all aspects of domestic relations, including divorce, guardianships, child support, alimony, custody, modification actions, paternity, restraining orders, domestic violence, and parental alienation. He also assists clients with issues relating to the Department of Children and Families. He has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America as a "One to Watch" and by Massachusetts Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star." He is a graduate of Suffolk University Law School.

Carmine Perrotti, Ph.D. '11 of Providence, an assistant professor of public and community services studies at PC, received the Early Career Award from the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement. The award honors individuals who make exemplary contributions through research on service-learning and community engagement, and whose work advances understanding and practice across multiple sectors. Perrotti was specifically recognized for his scholarship and leadership of the Neighborly Engagement Research Lab. He received the award during the association's annual conference held in Durban, South Africa, in August 2025. He began teaching at PC in 2023 and was recently named faculty director of the Feinstein Institute for Public Service.

'12

Chiara Deltito-Sharrott '12 of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, is executive director of the Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools, a Providence-based nonprofit charged with increasing opportunities and access to quality education for students throughout the

state. Her goal is to advocate for better public policies while offering charter schools support to grow and develop. She began her work as a PC senior when she volunteered in an after-school program at a charter school as part of her public and community service studies major. She has worked in the Providence public schools and in the Rhode Island Department of Education and managed her own consulting firm, CDS Education Consulting.

'14

Billy Burdier '14, '21G of Providence has been appointed principal of St. Patrick Academy in Providence, an accredited, college preparatory high school established in 2009 by the Most Rev. James Ruggieri '90, now bishop of Portland, Maine. The announcement was made by Rev. Joseph Brice '13, pastor of St. Patrick Church. Burdier was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to the United States at age 7; he is the school's first principal to speak both English and Spanish. He majored in philosophy at PC and studied for the priesthood at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. In addition to serving the liturgy with Pope Francis, he was capo of institutional and media relations at the Pontifical North American College, coordinating with networks such as EWTN, Catholic News Agency, Univision, and Telemundo. Burdier opted for a vocation to married life. He is a licensed practical nurse and has a master's degree in education from PC.

Samantha Rodriguez Frimpong '14 was promoted to national senior director of iMentor and **Kwaku Frimpong '14** accepted a new global marketing role at Meta, leading them to a cross country move from Chicago to Los Angeles.

'16 (Reunion: June 5-7, 2026)

Sean Palmer '16 of Toulouse, France, received a double doctorate in philosophy from a joint cooperation between St. Patrick's Pontifical University in Maynooth, Ireland, and the Institut Catholique de Toulouse, where he works as a professor of philosophy in a foreign language.

'17

Robert Degre '17 of Cranston, Rhode Island, marked his fifth anniversary with ADAC, an educational consulting firm based in Ogunquit, Maine. A portion of his work, and his personal passion, involves supporting the ADAC Advocacy Foundation. The nonprofit is dedicated to increasing access for private school students to federally funded special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. To date, Robby and his team have recovered \$100 million in federal funding that is now being used to provide special education services to private school students with disabilities all around the country, including in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Florida, Indiana, Illinois, and California.

William "Bill" Dumais III '17 of Washington, D.C., was appointed associate director of government relations at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. He will lead federal advocacy efforts on behalf of the USCCB's public policy priorities in the areas of international justice and peace and communications while also supporting initiatives related to pro-life activities.

Matt Merchant '17 completed his residency in emergency medicine at Corewell Health Lakeland and moved to South Bend, Indiana, with his wife, Lauren, and daughter, Charlotte, to begin his career as an attending physician in the Memorial Hospital Emergency Department.

'20

Christopher Casswell '20 of St. Johns, Florida, spoke at the dedication of a monument to President Theodore Roosevelt at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6249 Suffolk County WWII and Military History Museum in Rocky Point, Long Island, New York. The black marble monument includes a portion of a speech on citizenship — known as the "Man in the Arena" speech — that Roosevelt gave in Paris in 1910. Casswell, a member of the ROTC Patriot Battalion at PC, was a captain in the U.S. Army, serving as an active

air defense artillery officer in the Middle East, including Bahrain and Kuwait.

Francis Figueroa '20, '22G of Narragansett, Rhode Island, graduated with a juris doctor degree from Boston University School of Law in May 2025 and joined Ropes & Gray law firm in Boston.

'21 (Reunion: June 5-7, 2026)

Malik Washington '21 of New Haven, Connecticut, began studies at Yale Law School this fall as a member of the Class of 2028. During his time at PC, he was senior class president and Pre-Law Society president and was a student worker in Concannon Fitness Center. He graduated magna cum laude, the first in his family to complete a college degree. After graduation, he worked as a legislative correspondent in the U.S. Senate, handling issues related to appropriations, telecommunications, transportation, and economic development. He was accepted into the Law Fellows Program of the University of California, Los Angeles, which guided him through the law school admission process. He credits Paul Herron, Ph.D., political science professor and pre-law advisor at PC, for inspiring him to consider law school, and thanks professor Matt Guardino, Ph.D., Rev. John Allard, O.P., and Rev. Thomas More Garrett, O.P., for their support and encouragement.

'22

Angela Figueroa '22 of Narragansett, Rhode Island, entered the University of Connecticut School of Medicine as a member of the Class of 2029.

'23

Peter DiBiasi '23 of Bedford, New York, a content associate at NBC Sports, earned a Sports Emmy for his work and contributions to the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics in the category of Outstanding Live Special – Championship Event. Peter credits theatre professor David Cabral and English professor and department chair Margaret Reid with helping him create an individualized studies major in communication media at PC. He is the son of Peter DiBiasi '85.

Andres Heredia '23 of Washington, D.C., is the government relations and public policy senior assistant for the Association of American Universities. He formerly worked on Capitol Hill.

Matthew Salomons '23 of North Easton, Massachusetts, who works for the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council, helped lead a delegation of college Knights to Rome for the Jubilee Pilgrimage for Young People. Matthew and his team enjoyed VIP seating for Pope Leo XIV's general audience at St. Peter's Square, supported the U.S. bishops with their pilgrim gathering at St. Paul's Outside the Walls, celebrated Mass at the Clementine Chapel with Rev. Jon Kalisch, O.P., and joined Rev. Patrick Briscoe, O.P., former PC associate chaplain, and the friars of the Godspain-ing Catholic Podcast in a tour of San Clemente

Basilica. Matthew and his team also had the opportunity to venerate the remains of many saints, including Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Catherine of Siena.

'24

Kassidy Howarth '24, '25G of North Dartmouth, Massachusetts, won the 2025 Nancy Murray Award of the Rhode Island Game Changer Challenge — a \$3,000 prize presented during the Rhode Island Council on Problem Gambling Conference in May 2025. Howarth learned about the challenge during an MBA course with Patrick Kelly, Ph.D., the Ruane Endowed Professor of Accountancy at PC who researches problem gambling. A poster she created was judged to be the best of the competition. Kelly also was recognized at the conference for his research and contributions to the field.



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TINY TRANSPLANT TITANS

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G

Steve Squillante '12 and Shannon Rose Squillante '12 were honored by the Boston Celtics as “Heroes Among Us” for their work to support pediatric transplant patients and their families through their nonprofit, Tiny Transplant Titans.

The Squillantes, who live in Weymouth, Massachusetts, founded the organization after their son, Stephen, was born in October 2021 with biliary atresia, a liver disease that required a lifesaving transplant. In August 2023, when Stephen was 22 months old, Shannon donated a portion of her liver and became his living donor.

Stephen, now 4, is doing well despite a diagnosis of post-transplant cancer, which he beat after six months of treatment through the Jimmy Fund of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

People who are tested for organ donation are told that it will be the most comprehensive health screening of their lives. When Steve and Shannon were tested, Steve was diagnosed with lymphoma. He continues to be monitored but has not needed treatment.

Tiny Transplant Titans, which is funded through individual donations and fundraisers, such as a golf tournament and a team in the Falmouth Road Race, has raised more than \$120,000 since 2023 to provide care packages, anniversary gifts, and holiday shopping cards to children and families awaiting organ transplants.

More than 200 care packages — containing a toy, blanket, and other comfort items — have been given to families of children awaiting transplants. Gifts to celebrate one-year trans-



The Squillantes honored by the Boston Celtics in January 2025.

plant anniversaries have been provided to more than 20 families. Most of all, the nonprofit strives to make others aware that more than 100,000 people await lifesaving organ transplants, including 1,900 children under age 18.

“We have had many hospital stays and know how difficult they can be,” the Squillantes say on their website, tinytransplanttitans.com. “We have felt the weight and emotion of going through the transplant process and waiting for your child to receive a life-saving gift. We know that a transplant is not a cure and it is a lifelong journey with bumps along the way.”

On the night in January 2025 that the Squillantes were honored by the Celtics, a bonus was the opportunity to watch Friar great Devin Carter play for the Sacramento Kings. 🏀

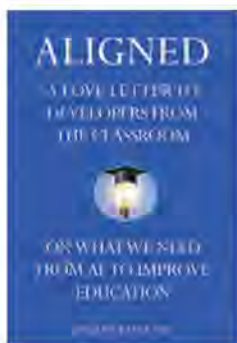
“We have felt the weight and emotion of going through the transplant process and waiting for your child to receive a life-saving gift.”

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SQUILLANTE FAMILY



ALUMNI AUTHORS

SUBMISSIONS: prov.fy/alumni-notes



Greg Banks '92 of Medford, Massachusetts, wrote *Aligned: A Love Letter to Developers on What We Need from AI to Improve Education*, which provides

actionable guidance for programmers, business leaders, and investors looking to design impactful tools for the classroom. Drawing on his 20 years of classroom experience and expertise in education research, Banks offers insightful models of how classrooms function and identifies key opportunities for transformative innovation. The book showcases more than 20 examples of products that could be developed today, illustrating their potential to create positive change and inspiring readers to envision even greater possibilities.



Steve Gladis, Ph.D. '68 of Fairfax, Virginia, wrote a fourth novel, *The Brides of War: A Vietnam War Novel*, the

story of how women were changed by the controversial war. It follows four fictional women from Mary Washington College, an all-women's school located near the U.S. Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Virginia, and how their lives intersect in friendship, love, and loss. Gladis has also written more than 25 books on leadership. He is a professor at George Mason University, CEO of Steve Gladis Leadership Partners, and a Marine veteran of Vietnam.



Kimberly Anthony Hirsch '05 of Pelham, New Hampshire, wrote *The Worry Journey*, a children's story about a little girl chosen for her school's

spelling bee. It is the third book in her Journey Series, along with *Journey to the Bright Side* and *The Jamboree Journey*. Hirsch taught elementary school in Nevada before becoming a mom and author. *Our Best Friend Karma* was her first book.



Mansion Beach is the latest novel by **Meg Mitchell Moore** '94 of Newburyport, Massachusetts. The story, inspired by the American classic *The Great*

Gatsby, follows a young woman and the lives of her wealthy neighbors on Block Island. Nantucket novelist Elin Hilderbrand gave away five copies of Moore's book and shared it as a favorite on her podcast, *Books, Beach & Beyond* — a recommendation reported by *People* magazine. It is Moore's ninth book.

Jaclyn Schede Piatak, Ph.D. '05 of Charlotte, North Carolina, wrote *Volunteer Management: A Strategic Approach*, a book that encourages a more strategic and volunteer-centered approach to volunteer management — one that benefits volunteers, organizations, and the communities they serve. The book,



coauthored with Jessica Sowa, won two best book awards in 2025 from the Academy of Management's Public and Non-profit Division and the Network of Schools

of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. Piatak is a professor in the master of public administration program at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. At PC, she enjoyed being a DJ and the music director for WDOM. She has a master of public policy degree from Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. in public administration from American University.



Peter J. Roman '79 of Jensen Beach, Florida, wrote and published *Do You Want To Be Wealthier, Healthier and Happier? How to Unlock the Great WHH*

Continuum. Roman writes that the world has placed a misdirected premium on the pursuit of abundance at the expense of well-being and joy. He shares 52 best practices to maximize wealth, health, and happiness. He believes new graduates who implement them will be on track to save more than \$1 million while maintaining their health and spiritual happiness. "The choice to seek truth and spirituality is yours to make," he says.

FRIAR WEDDINGS

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

Katherine DeNucci '18 and Colin Keating '19 married on August 23, 2025, at the Popponesset Inn in Mashpee, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod, surrounded by Friar friends. They reside in Hoboken, New Jersey.

Dan Breen '13 and Allison Madlinger '16 of Hoboken, New Jersey, married on June 28, 2025, in Sea Girt. The wedding was attended by Friars of many class years who enjoyed the couple's signature cocktail, The Friar. They met on a dating app where both had proudly displayed "Providence College" on their profile pages. Dan reached out to Allie with the message: "First things first, let's go Friars!" Their first date was at Mulligan's Pub in Hoboken, where they reminisced about their college experiences, discovered mutual friends, and knew that a second date was inevitable.

Courtney Gardner '18 and Griffin McShane '18 met in a Development of Western Civilization seminar in 2015 and married almost 10 years later, on June 21, 2025, at Marian-made Farm in Wiscasset, Maine. They live in Brooklyn, New York.

Katelyn Turano '18 and Michael Curtis of Middletown, Rhode Island, married on June 20, 2025, at the Church of Jesus Saviour in Newport. Rev. John Vidmar, O.P., associate professor of history, officiated.

Kathleen Stankiewicz '03, '05G married **William Dalton** on May 17, 2025, in Vienna, Virginia. Her best friends from the Class of 2004 and PACT Class of 2005 were by her side. The couple resides in Leesburg, Virginia.

Carina Alessandro '21 and Daniel Clark '20 met at PC in 2019 and became friends. After graduation, they began dating long distance while Carina lived in Pittsburgh and Daniel finished dental school in Buffalo, New York. A day after his dental school graduation and two years into dating, Daniel proposed, and Carina accepted. On June 14, 2025, they married in St. Dominic Chapel surrounded by good friends, including almost 30 fellow Friars. Celebrating the wedding Mass were Rev. Michael Weibley O.P., Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04, Rev. Peter Gautsch, O.P., Rev. Joseph Guido, O.P., and Brother Raphael Arteaga, O.P. '19. The couple resides in Merrimack, New Hampshire, where Daniel is a dentist and Carina is a nurse.

Erica Duncan '23, '24G and Noah Halliwell married on May 25, 2025, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Seekonk, Massachusetts. They reside in North Dighton.

Katie Daly '16 and Lou Magarelli '16 married on March 22, 2025, at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine in St. Augustine, Florida, with more than 35 Friars attending. They reside in New York City.

Jake Bamford '20 and Annie Berning '18 married in St. Dominic Chapel on October 26, 2024. Rev. Peter Martyr Yungwirth, O.P. celebrated the Mass and more than 40 alumni attended. The couple met as orientation leaders in 2017. They reside in New York City, where Jake is a bond trader and Annie is a NICU nurse.

Richard Pace III '18 and Alexandra Kartounis '18 married on September 7, 2024, at Larchmont Yacht Club in Larchmont, New York. More than 20 Friars helped celebrate their Greek wedding. They reside in Stamford, Connecticut.



Monique Plourde '01 and Brendan LeFebvre '01 married on November 12, 2024, in a traditional Polynesian ceremony on the island of Bora Bora. They reside in Reading, Massachusetts.

Caroline Killeen '17 and Anthony Ravosa '17 married on August 24, 2024, in Bay Shore, New York. The celebration was filled with love and happiness, with more than 20 Friars in attendance. They reside in South Windsor, Connecticut.

Tim Rigdon '20 and Ella Sheehan '20 of Burlington, Massachusetts, married on September 14, 2024, joined by many fellow Friars.

Jason DeNicola '15, '16G and Maeve Cosgrove, who graduated with a nursing degree from Boston College in 2016, married on May 24, 2024, at the Aldrich Mansion in Warwick, Rhode Island. Many Friars attended. The couple resides in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

Cassandra Caggiano '18 and Nicholas Iadeluca '18, '19G married at St. Dominic Chapel on January 20, 2024, with a three-day celebration in May 2024 at Villa la Massa in Florence, Italy. Both have Italian roots and Cassandra studied in Florence during her junior year at PC. Many Friars attended, including Christopher Iadeluca '21, who introduced the couple and served as best man. The couple marked their one-year wedding anniversary at their home on Long Island.

Little FRIARS

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes



Derek Tremblay '08, '09G and his wife, **Tessa**, of Goshen, New Hampshire, welcomed their sixth child on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025. **Benedict** is the younger sibling of Jubilee, Andre, Timothy, Joseph, and Maria. Derek has served in Catholic education for more than 15 years and completed his 10th year as headmaster at Mount Royal Academy in Sunapee.

Thomas Planek '17, '18G and Clare Rochford Planek '18 of Hoboken, New Jersey, welcomed their son, **Daniel Thomas**, on March 10, 2025. Little Daniel looks forward to celebrating the Friars on future birthdays.



Joseph MacKoul '16 and Jennifer Lynch MacKoul '16 of Westwood, Massachusetts, welcomed their first child, **Jack Matthew MacKoul**, on January 28, 2025. Jack is the great grandson of the late Robert Cancilla '59.

Ryann Dorian Florence (Nolan) Dougherty '12 and her husband, **Eric Michael Dougherty**, of New York City welcomed their son, **Reed Arthur John Dougherty**, on September 10, 2024. Reed was born into a big Friar family. His grandparents are Laurel Ann Dixon-Nolan '80 and John Philip Nolan '80. Reed's Pop was captain of the 1980 basketball team. Reed's great aunt was the late Deborah Ann Dixon '77.



Jennifer Lynn '13 and Ryan Walsh '13 of Newtown, Connecticut, welcomed their second child, **Brendan Edward**, on April 11, 2024. Brendan joins brother Conor, 4. Both are Friar fans in the making and hope to make a trip to Providence in the coming year.

Laura Smith Williams '16 and T. Connor Williams '16 welcomed their first child, a son named **Kit**, on August 29, 2024. They live in Syracuse, New York.



Thomas Abbood '14 and his wife, **Danielle**, of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, welcomed **Henry Samuel Abbood** on February 14, 2025, in time to watch the men's basketball team take on Villanova — Henry's first Friars win! Henry will attend games in the new season.



Kelley (Garland) Shepherd '16, '19G and Kevin Shepherd '20G of Warwick, Rhode Island, welcomed a daughter, **Caroline**, in February 2025. Kelley works in the Student Success Center at PC.

Katie (Meloro) Bundy '14 and her husband, **Peter**, welcomed **Nora Elizabeth Bundy** on November 25, 2024. Nora is sweet, funny, and a force of nature! Katie and Pete feel incredibly blessed. They live in Southbury, Connecticut.



Joe Flynn '15, '17G and his wife, **Tory**, welcomed a baby girl, **Margaret Rose Flynn**, on June 8, 2024. They reside in Wallingford, Connecticut.



Max Widmer '12 and Aleah George Widmer '14 welcomed a son, **Lucas Ryan Widmer**, on June 3, 2025. They live in New York City.

Alula Betty and Argo Michael, girl and boy twins, were born on January 12, 2024, to **Jonathan Constantine '05** and his wife, **Chelsea**, of Warwick, Rhode Island. They are pictured at their



first Friars men's basketball game. Mike Constantine '79 is the proud grandfather.



IN MEMORIAM

FRANK CAPRIO '58, '08Hon.

Providence Municipal Court Judge

Frank Caprio '58, '08Hon. died on August 20, 2025, just three months after he received a standing ovation in the Amica Mutual Pavilion for his commencement address to the Providence College Class of 2025. He was 88.

Judge Caprio had been battling pancreatic cancer since his diagnosis in December 2023. "It has taken much of my strength, but it can't take my faith, it can't take my heart, and it can't take my message," he told the graduates.

Judge Caprio's court, which heard parking and traffic violations, gained global fame through the television show *Caught in Providence*, which was broadcast from his courtroom on public access television beginning in 1992 and nationally syndicated beginning in 2016. His compassion toward the people who came before him earned him the nickname "the nicest judge in the world," four Emmy nominations, and 26 million social media followers.

During his commencement address,



Frank Caprio '58, '08Hon. addresses graduates at PC's commencement. Below left, he acknowledges a standing ovation.

Judge Caprio said he was modeling the behavior taught by his parents, both Italian immigrants, and what he learned at Providence College. Each graduate received a copy of his book, *Compassion in the Court*. He told graduates that as they climb the ladder of success, they must "leave the ladder down for others to follow."

The funeral Mass in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul was celebrated by Most Rev. Richard G. Henning '25Hon., archbishop of Boston and former bishop of Providence. Archbishop Henning received an honorary doctor of sacred theology degree at PC's commencement, where he shared the stage

with Judge Caprio.

Also on the altar were Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04, associate professor of English and alumni chaplain; Rev. James Quigley, O.P. '60, associate alumni chaplain; and Rev. Gregory Santy, O.P., associate college chaplain. Six students were altar servers at the request of the Caprio family: Pete Bratschi '27, Joe Campione '28, Nathan Faria '26, Michael Infussi '28, Clyde Lambert '28, and Matt Redmond '28.

Friars Club members provided an honor guard at Judge Caprio's wake in the Rhode Island Convention Center.

Watch Judge Caprio's commencement address: prov.ly/judge-caprio

PHOTOS: PETER GOLDBERG

DEATHS

Joseph A. Capineri, Esq. '51	Gerard A. Lachance '61	William A. Kolosky '68	Robert P. Gentile '78G
Abram Boni '52	William V. Mulvey '61	Dennis R. Lord '68	James V. DuBois '79
A. Francis DiMeglio '52	George E. Oulundsen '61	Deacon Paul A. Ullucci '68, '03G	Jayne Holly Green '79
Guy A. Geffroy, M.D. '52	David P. Barchi '62, '98G	David A. Costa, Ed.D. '69	Cynthia Ann Hoffman Berlinger '80
John C. Magnone '52	Joseph P. Hart '62	Romeo Moretti '69	Richard T. Krupski '81
Theodore Regas '52	Jeffrey W. Jordan '62	Phillip E. Steiner '69	Meredith Rudine DeBritto '82SCE
Harold J. Dolan '54	Bruce E. Marsh '62	David E. Sullivan, Esq. '69	Michael J. Quirk '82
Jerome A. Lacobelle, J.D. '54	Albert J. Morrone '62	Robert Thomas Walsh '69	Merilee J. Hanley '83
Lawrence E. Jones '55	Ronald C. Tarlaian, Ph.D. '62	Craig E. Callen '70	Kenneth J. Smith '83
Chester T. Nuttall '55	John J. Conroy '63	James M. Davis '70	Susan Robertson Heavren '84
Edward A. Stevens '55	John D. DeFoe '63	William J. Hoffman '70	Gaylene Ward Clayton '85
Joseph A. Buckley, Ph.D. '56	Joseph R. DeGiulio '63	Rev. Louis T. Natalizia '70	Maria Papazian Badger '87
Gerald E. Carignan '56	George J. Lacouture '63, '74G	Dennis W. Poulin '70	Patricia A. Fernald '87SCE
Paul J. Fournier '56	Daniel J. McCullough '63	Edward J. Stepka, DMD '70	Thomas J. Schreck '87
Philip P. Leonardi '56	Charles T. Verde '63	Robert B. Weisenmiller, Ph.D. '70	Lisa Brown-Miller '88
Sheldon R. Scoliard, J.D. '56	Ronald A. Villanova, J.D. '63	John C. McKeon '71	Jeffrey R. Caporizzo '92
Rev. Lawrence E. Toole '56	Arthur A. Coia '64	Dorothy Ann (Sister Gabriel) Picot '71G	Gerald M. Chisholm '92
John M. Curran '57	Richard J. Heckmann '64	Paul F. Tacy '71	Patricia Philbin-Lawrence '93
Robert F. Boardway '58	James M. O'Hearne '64	Paul E. Benfield '72	William D. McCarthy '95G
Frank Caprio '58, '08Hon.	David W. St. John '64	Peter Devanney '72	Meghan J. Whiteside '97
Leonard A. DeFusco, M.D. '58	Albert W. Beaton '65, '75G	Joseph P. LaFauci '72	Jeannette M. Brown '04SCE
Charles H. Hewitt '58	Paul R. Dionne, Esq. '65	Donald R. LeBlanc '72G	Eric G. Lundberg '05
James T. Killilea '58	James F. McAleer, Esq. '65	John E. McVeigh '72G	Rachel McNamara Sirianni '05
Robert A. Mannarelli '58	Walter A. Pangborn, Ph.D. '65	Gary I. Tapner '73	Martha Ellen McCahill Sprague '06
Robert A. Poniatowski '58	Colonel Michael F. Reavey, USAF '65	Paul J. Fox '74	Rory B. Lowe '08SCE
Dominic B. Schioppo, M.D. '58	Stephen Brian Andrews, Ph.D. '66	Robert T. Magill '74SCE	Christopher R. Magnarelli '08
Joseph R. O'Brien '59	Gilbert M. Connly '66	Joseph M. Puzas '74	Katherine Scurlock Jenkins '09
William H. O'Brien '59	Michael R. Dowling '66	Dominick J. Ruggerio '74	Jason M. Lafferty '11G
John D. Aimone '60	Raymond L. Gagne '66	Michael S. Bajger '75	Yvette D. Manning '14G
David W. Carroll, Esq. '60	Kevin R. King '66	Stephen J. Darcy '75	Constance Mae Harvey Ball '17
Philip F. Duffy '60	Thomas C. McCormack, M.D. '66	Thomas V. Hemingway '75	Janet M. Jaquinto '20SCE
Joseph M. Narcizo '60	William V. Mulvey '66	Michael J. Norton '75G	Elizabeth Adamjan '23
John Pelletier '60	John E. Carpenter '67	Richard J. O'Connor, J.D., LLM '75	Andrea Adamo, <i>data and gift processor</i>
Frederick F. Russo, Ph.D. '60	William M. McMullen, J.D. '67	Richard Whalen '76SCE	Dennis C. Barclay, <i>Zamboni driver</i>
Gustave J. Scannapieco '60	Philip A. Saccoccia, M.D. '67	Leonore Chalek '77G	John T. Hogan, Ph.D., <i>director of counseling center</i>
Joseph H. Soulak '60	John J. Sullivan '67	Sister Theresa Croteau, S.J. '77G	Francis M. Kemegue, Ph.D., <i>visiting professor of economics</i>
William J. Ballard '61	Roy D. Toulon, Esq. '67	Patricia H. Hallenbeck '77G	Gregory S. Long, <i>public safety sergeant</i>
Conrad G. Bibeault '61	James V. Caianiello '68	Nancy Colabella Murray '77	Richard J. Murphy, Ph.D., <i>professor of English</i> ¶¶
Richard A. Hopkins '61	Edward P. Dunphy, Esq. '68	Sister Rosina Bechard '78G	



THE LAST WORD

60 YEARS A PRIEST

BY REV. JAMES QUIGLEY, O.P. '60

"I must be God's favorite!" I say that to people sometimes, even though I am not serious. The point I hope to make is that I have had an incredibly blessed, happy, expansive, and surprising life as a Catholic Dominican priest. This year, I celebrated 60 years of ordination. For that I am so grateful and humbled. There is nothing that I am or have done to deserve the graces God has given me through priesthood.

Notwithstanding my limits, faults, sins, and failures, God has guided, shaped, healed, and used me as a priest for his purposes. Priesthood has taught me how to love — love God, love saints like Mary, Joseph, and Dominic, and love my family, friends, and the people I have served. Priesthood has organically connected me to the living Lord Jesus Christ. It has empowered me to live in an intimate, affective friendship with him. This especially comes through the Eucharist. As a senior priest, I calculate that I have celebrated holy Eucharist, offered the holy sacrifice of Mass, some 26,000 times in cathedrals, parish



Father Quigley in 1970.

churches, hospitals, prisons, mission chapels, college halls, and seminaries.

Priesthood has placed me in the lives of so many people — young, old, sick, healthy, poor, educated, immigrants, successful, friendly or not so. A good number of them have become my close friends. They have showed me how to be human, sacrificing, accepting, generous. As I said, they have taught me how to love.

My learning to be a priest of course began at home. Parents and family showed me by their example that life did not center on the self. The more

you gave of yourself the more you became a happy, fulfilled person. The gospel formed who they were and they gave me that gospel.

I started as a priest in a very smelly city, Chimbote, on the Peruvian coast. It was the industrial center for fish meal fertilizer. Latino culture, language, customs, popular religiosity, extreme poverty, and injustice changed my understanding of priesthood. A priest is anointed by the Holy Spirit to give himself as Christ to his people and to address all their needs as much as possible. The Peruvian women and men the Dominican community ministered to often lived in brutal poverty. We worked in schools, hospitals, parishes, and prisons, on streets, and in *barriadas* or slums. We offered sacraments, preached, cared for youth, families, the sick, and the destitute, and tried to comfort the mourning. I came to see God's grace in these good people, how precious they were to God. I learned to do whatever they needed a "gringo" pastor to do and thrived on their example,

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acceptance, support, and friendship. They taught me that a priest serves, cares, and gives his heart to anyone in need. My respect and deep love for my Latino sisters and brothers, migrant farm workers, university professors, students, professionals, *abuelas* and *abuelos*, has continued though all my priesthood. *En mi corazon me he vuelto parte latino.* (In my heart, I have become part Latino.)

As a Dominican priest, I live and see everything through a Thomistic theological vision, then try to share that through preaching. That is what being a Dominican priest has meant to me. I have exercised that call in a variety of ways. I have taught theology at a Catholic teachers college in Peru, at Providence College, at Jesuit and Dominican universities in Rome, and the Maryknoll School of Theology. Thinking about, reflecting on, writing about, and teaching the mysteries of Catholic faith has enlivened my intellectual understanding and deepened my faith. My students were always encouraging and questioning and put up with me patiently. They were great young people to be with and I did not mind being “an easy marker.” Over the years, I have witnessed many of their weddings and baptized their babies. I am now an honorary grandfather to those grown up children. I have also loved preaching the Word of God in English and in Spanish and Italian but try never to use the subjunctive! It can be very intimidating to speak the gospel and I have always been very nervous and depended totally on the

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God’s work,
not mine.
That took time
to learn.”

Holy Spirit. Who am I to dare offer God’s message?

Over many years, I have shared in the joys and happiness of individuals, couples, families, and communities. I have also been with them when their hearts were broken. At those times I would want to “fix,” to heal, to make things better. But often I could not help and felt so inadequate as a priest. Good people were suffering and I could not take their pain away. Priesthood mediates the divine, so in all my pastoral experiences, it had to be God’s work, not mine. That took time to learn.

In my middle age, I was invited to be the Father Carl J. Peter Chair of Homiletics and a priestly formation advisor at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. I stayed there 10 years and loved it. It is a seminary to train future American priests. I think it has put me into contact as a mentor with more than 600 priests now ministering in the United States. In helping form priests, I grew in my own vocation. A priest lives in the heart of God and serves his Catholic believing community. It is always about them



and not about the priest. You do have to learn to empty yourself, your pride, your entitlement. Those seminarians and the faculty at the North American College and so many other holy, pastoral priests showed me the way and still do.

I now near the end of my time as a Dominican priest and happily still assist wonderful parish communities and Providence College alumni. At some point, I will come to the end of a very blessed life and hopefully move into unending, joyful life with the living Lord Jesus Christ. That’s of course why I became a priest to begin with. I have so much to be grateful for. As the Dominican spiritual teacher Meister Eckhart said, “When the only word left is thanks, it is enough.” No wonder I think I might be God’s favorite. ☦

Rev. James Quigley, O.P. ’60 was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1965. He continues to serve Providence College as associate alumni chaplain.

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Elena Cabral '26, a sprinter on the track team, received the Goldwater scholarship for excellence in the natural sciences. Page 8.