

SPRING 2026

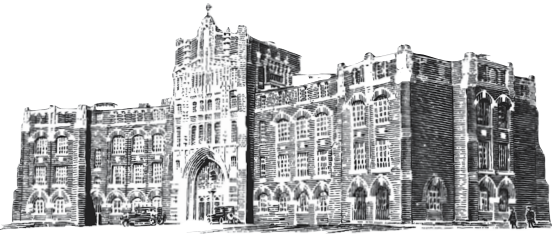
PROVIDENCE

COLLEGE MAGAZINE



CHEERS TO LOYAL FRIARS

Chuck Borkoski '71, '23Hon.
in his fan cave



PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MAGAZINE SPRING 2026

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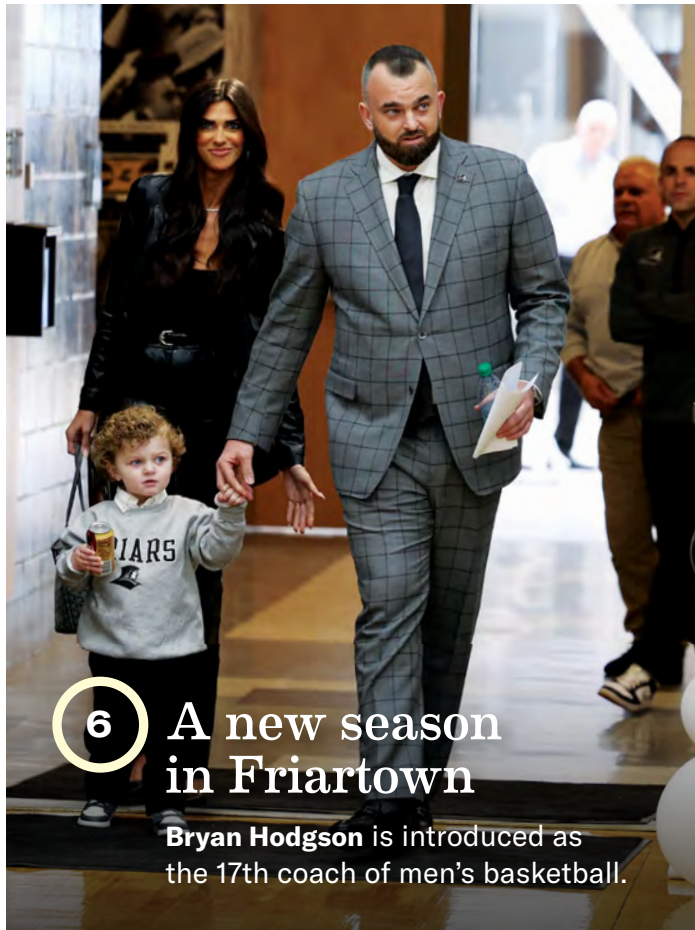
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BLACK & WHITE

Buzz



Special Edition

When Halle Beranek '24 and John Paul Brissette '25 married on September 19, 2025, in Green Bay, Wisconsin, guests read “The Brissette Gazette,” a special edition of The Cowl. Written and produced by the couple, it included stories about their relationship, notes about the wedding party, and stories by friends. Early in their relationship, a story by Beranek ran on The Cowl’s front page. A proud Brissette collected hundreds of copies and asked her to autograph one. Because they solved The Cowl’s crossword together each week, a puzzle was included in their wedding edition.

More weddings, Page 52. [→](#)



Friartown in Boston

J.J. FOLEY'S, the oldest Irish pub in Boston, is the official headquarters for Providence College alumni during the men's basketball season. Owned by the Foley family since 1909 and located at 117 Berkeley Street in the South End, the bar offers Friars Forever light lager on tap during game watches and has won acclaim for its pints of Guinness. In the photo above,

owner **Michael Foley '98**, left, and his son, **Mike Foley '24**, right, are shown with **Jeremy Duffy '93**, owner of Isle Brewers Guild, which manufactures Friars Forever and Hux hard seltzer to benefit The Fund for Providence College.



Starring at the AMP

FIVE MUSIC STUDENTS FROM PROVIDENCE COLLEGE sang backup vocals for the rock band Goose at its annual "Goosemas" holiday concert at the Amica Mutual Pavilion on December 13, 2025. "We got firsthand access to the behind-the-scenes production and were able to perform in front of a sold-out audience," said **Emilena Filippelli '28**. Also on stage were **Jade Bocciarelli '27**, **Kayla Kutes '26**, **Margaret Mello '27**, and **Maya Rezendes '28**. The connection was made by Krishan Oberoi, DMA, assistant professor of music.



GREETINGS FROM POPE LEO

STUDENTS TAKING PART in The Rome Semester, offered by the PC Humanities Program, not only met **Pope Leo XIV** but were given rosaries by him as well. The students take classes through the Pontifical Irish College, whose rector, Rev. Paul Finnerty, is a friend of Pope Leo. After joining the weekly papal audience in St. Peter's Square in November 2025, the students were invited to a personal meeting with Leo. Greeting him, from left, are Father Finnerty, **Charles Hergott '27**, **Kate Ruane '27** (partially hidden), and **Anna Deane '27**.





→ Former New England Patriots star Matthew Slater to speak at commencement

Matthew Slater, the former New England Patriots wide receiver and special teams player who established a foundation in his retirement to support the arts, culture, humanities, and recreation, will be the featured speaker at Providence College's 108th commencement exercises.

The undergraduate ceremony for the Class of 2026 will take place at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in downtown Providence on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 11 a.m.

Slater, a three-time Super Bowl champion, is considered one of the best special teams players in National Football League history. He was a 10-time Pro Bowl selection and a 13-year team captain. He retired in 2023 after 16 seasons with the Patriots and worked for a year as a special assistant on the coaching staff.

His legacy of leadership extends to his commitment to changing lives and strengthening communities. In 2020, Slater and his wife, Shahrzad Ehdavand Slater, M.D., founded the Slater Family Foundation. He has been recognized by the Patriots, the NFL, and other organizations for community service.

Slater and four other distinguished individuals will receive honorary degrees:

• **MaryBeth Canavan**, a philanthropist and advocate for medical ethics and rare disease research who supported scholarships, athletics, and academic initiatives at the college with her late husband, former college trustee M. Joseph Canavan '65.

• **Donna Cupelo '78**, an executive with Verizon New England for 23 years, who retired in 2021 as vice president of public policy—Central-New England regions. She will be the featured speaker at the commencement ceremony for graduate and continuing education students on May 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in Peterson Recreation Center.



Matthew Slater with College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G at the college's MLK Celebration in 2025.

• **Richard Gotham '86**, a business executive who has been president of the Boston Celtics since 2007, including during the NBA championship seasons of 2008 and 2024, and who served on the college's Board of Trustees from 2015–2024.

• **John F. Killian '77**, retired executive vice president and chief financial officer of Verizon Communications, who was a member of the college's Board of Trustees from 2004–2018 and served as chair from 2013–2018.

Watch the commencement livestream: commencement.providence.edu



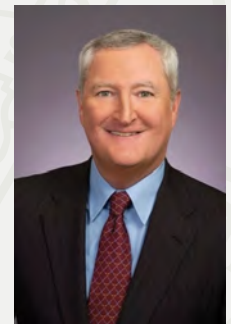
CANAVAN



CUPELO



GOTHAM



KILLIAN

SLATER PHOTO: NICK PACHECO. PHOTO ON PAGE 5: ALCYIA PESSOA.

A path forward for nurses

A partnership between PC's School of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions has created a path for nursing graduates to advance their careers. A direct admission agreement will allow graduates of PC's bachelor of science in nursing program to enroll in MGH's master of science in nursing program, preparing them to become nurse practitioners.

The program will be based at the MGH IHP's Boston campus and will offer clinical placements throughout the Mass General Brigham system and its affiliates, including acute care, community health, and long-term care settings with expansion into the Providence region. The first cohort of PC nursing graduates will be able to enter the program in the fall of 2027.

Students will be able to choose between part-time and full-time study, with most graduates expected to enroll part-time while working in the Mass General Brigham system. The agreement, which was finalized in the summer of 2025, includes substantial financial support, including a tuition discount for nurses employed at Mass General Brigham facilities and an additional annual tuition benefit for qualifying students.

\$1 million in investments



For the first time, funds managed by finance students reached \$1 million in value at the end of 2025.

The Student Managed Investment Fund, or SMIF, is a course taken by junior and senior finance majors taught by Paul Scanlon, MBA, director of the finance lab. The students gain hands-on experience investing funds on behalf of the college. The course began in 2011 with donations from alumni and friends of the college and reached \$825,000 in value at the end of 2025.

Huxley Capital, which began in 2024, manages the SMIF during the summer. Twelve students are selected to participate each year based on their academic records, faculty recommendations, and prior experience.

The Student-Led Asset Management Program, or SLAM, is a club launched in 2019 and structured like a Wall Street asset management firm with portfolio managers and analysts. Seniors mentor juniors and sophomores and help them conduct security analysis, create financial models, and pitch investment ideas. Its value reached \$175,000 at the end of 2025.

Support for Catholic schools

Providence College renewed its commitment to the Diocese of Providence through the FriarServe program with a donation of \$100,000 in September 2025.

FriarServe was established during the college's centennial year. Through the first eight years of the program, 1,078 students, faculty, and staff from PC have volunteered more than 6,000 service hours at Catholic elementary schools, providing tutoring, homework help, after-school clubs, gardening, and more. The beneficiaries this year were St. Augustine, Bishop McVinney, Blessed Sacrament, St. Pius V, and St. Rocco schools. The college also has donated a total of \$300,000 for elementary school scholarships through the program.



College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G on the steps of St. Pius V School.



Bryan Hodgson enters Mullaney Gym to be introduced as the new coach of men's basketball.

→ Introducing Coach Bryan Hodgson

In front of a raucous crowd of students, staff, faculty, alumni, and season-ticket holders in Alumni Hall on March 24, 2026, Providence College introduced a new leader for its men's basketball program and a new chapter for Friartown.

Bryan Hodgson, a rising star in the sport, demonstrated the attitude and approach of someone ready to embrace a great opportunity. Fresh off leading the South Florida Bulls to an NCAA Tournament appearance, the 38-year-old coach spoke with confidence about both the moment and the mission.

"I'm incredibly honored and excited," Hodgson said. "This is a program with a proud tradition, a passionate fan base, and a city that truly embraces its team."

The introduction marked the culmination of a search led by vice president and director of athletics Steven R.

Napolillo '98 following the departure of Kim English, who coached the Friars for three seasons. Napolillo emphasized the importance of the program's history and the prospects for its future.

"We are very excited to welcome Bryan Hodgson and his family," Napolillo said, describing the hire as the beginning of "a new journey" for Friar basketball.

Napolillo pointed to Hodgson's record of building and revitalizing programs, but also stressed the personal qualities required in a rapidly changing college basketball landscape. He cited Hodgson's energy, passion, and ability to connect with student-athletes as essential to competing at the highest level.

Hodgson made it clear that he embraces the challenge of achieving sustained success in the BIG EAST Conference. His remarks reflected a focus on establishing identity,

as opposed to rebuilding.

“We will be tough, disciplined, and relentless in our pursuit of excellence,” Hodgson said, outlining a leadership philosophy based on accountability and daily consistency.

At South Florida, Hodgson engineered a rapid turnaround, leading the Bulls to a 25-win season and an American Athletic Conference title in his first and only season there. He achieved similar success in his first head coaching job, at Arkansas State, from 2023–2025. A renowned recruiter, especially as a University of Alabama assistant coach, where he earned the nickname “the shark,” Hodgson also brings strengths in player development, roster construction, and an ability to be successful in the transfer portal era. He pledged that he and his staff would be “excellent stewards of every dollar that’s put into this program.”

Born in Olean, New York, to a 14-year-old mother, Hodgson was placed in foster care when he was a year old. At age 3, he was adopted by Larry and Rebecca Hodgson, who raised him as part of their family in Jamestown, New York.



Bryan Hodgson lands at T.F. Green Airport holding his son, Jett, and followed by his fiancée, Jordan.



Alumni Hall was filled with fans eager to hear from coach Bryan Hodgson. Among them, from left, were Friars Joe Hassett '77, Ernie DiGregorio '73, and Kevin Stacom '74.

“They saved my life,” Hodgson told NBC Sports’ John Fanta.

Throughout the event, Hodgson balanced ambition with appreciation. He spoke of the responsibility that comes with leading a program so closely tied to its alumni and supporters, and of his eagerness to build relationships across campus and throughout the Providence community as the 17th coach in Friar basketball history.

“Obviously, the rich tradition speaks for itself,” Hodgson said. “But we want to take that to new heights. We want Providence College basketball to be a household name across the college basketball landscape and to build something that can compete to win championships year in and year out.”



Bridget Anthony '22, '23G, left, and Susan Esper '91. (Photo: Peter Goldberg)

→ Q&A with Susan Esper '91, first woman to lead the Board of Trustees

Susan Svitila Esper '91, a partner at Deloitte, is the first woman to chair the Providence College Board of Trustees. She is the mother of Victoria Esper Laraia '19 and Olivia Esper '22, '23G, and the mother-in-law of Christian Laraia '19, '20G.

She was interviewed for the PC Podcast by Bridget Anthony '22, '23G, assistant director of digital and social media in the Division of Marketing and Communications.

The podcast was produced by Chris Judge '05, '07G, senior multimedia and live events producer.

Bridget Anthony: Tell us about your connection to PC and what it means to you.

Susan Esper: The first time I set foot on campus was fall of 1986. It was a beautiful day, and something clicked for me. There was a sense of community, a sense of belonging. It was really the first time I thought seriously, "Wow, I belong here." When I got accepted, I got a little bit of a scholarship and got invited to be in the Honors Program, which showed me that Providence saw something special in me.

My mom would tell the story that while I was on my tour, she went over to the Grotto and said a few Hail Marys. "Please send a sign and Susan

will go to Providence." So when the acceptance came with scholarship money and the invitation, she thought, "Thank you!"

When you think back on your time at PC, what stands out?

My accounting professors are a highlight. They were my first mentors, and they introduced me to what eventually became my career in business and accounting. I mentioned the Honors Program, Dr. Richard Grace and Dr. Rodney Delasanta. When I think about all the gifts that Providence gave me, the people, the lessons, the education, all of it is just so core to who I am.

Walk us through your career path after graduation.

Providence showed me the ability to challenge myself, to set goals, to push the bar high. When I interviewed at Deloitte, I felt that same sense of high expectations, excellence. If you follow your passion and you bring along a lot of great people on the journey, that's the recipe for success.

Are there role models or mentors who shaped how you lead today?

I was so blessed to have a mom who was ahead of her time in raising daughters to be independent, strong, resilient, courageous, fierce women. She was really the engine in the family that not only inspired us to get an education but also to choose a profession. In her day, she had only two choices. She would say to me, "I could be a nurse or a teacher."

My accounting professors — Ann Kelley, Trish Evangelista, Carol Hartley — were ahead of their time. They had all been in public accounting and they were teaching, juggling their families, and they showed us students what the opportunities were going to be. At Deloitte I've had countless mentors who provided me opportunities and were role models for how to pay success forward.

What does the trustee chair do day to day?

Day to day, my role is to build a very solid, trusting relationship with Father Sicard, the president. He and I talk a lot, but I'm an advisor, I'm

not management of the college. I talk with my trustees, I ask their opinions, I solicit their input, and I come back to Father Ken with the best thinking and the best advice that we can give him.

What has surprised you most about serving on the board?

I had been vice chair for six years; I had been on the board for 10 years. So, you know, I had a front row seat to the day-to-day operations. We had also successfully navigated through pretty difficult times, most notably the pandemic. So, there's nothing that really surprised me.

People sometimes call and are pretty serious and passionate about their opinions. I don't take that as criticism. I take it as, "Wow, you really care about this place that gave us, each of us, so much." We all have our PC story. We all have such a care for Friartown. For every person that reaches out, it's because it's so beloved, and that's the lens I always try to focus that feedback through.

You are the first woman to serve as chair. What does that mean to you?

It means a lot. I'm one of three girls. I have an older sister and a younger sister. When you are the first, it's an honor. And you can't be the last. You have to use that opportunity to open doors and show others what's possible. Throughout my career, I've been the first a lot of times, in many ways. Any time I was a first, I was super mindful of that. People were

watching, and I needed to make sure that I was doing the best I could with what I had and setting an example and opening the door and pulling other people forward.

Among the lay trustees, we are at 30 percent women, up from just shy of 20 percent a few years ago. When you have a range of perspectives, experiences, and skills, you are bringing the best thinking to the college. The range isn't just about gender or ethnicity. It's about geography. How do we get people from certain parts of the country? It's about generations, class years.

What has been one of the most rewarding moments of your service?

My family has a room named for my mom, who passed away after a very courageous battle with cancer. On the second floor of the Mondor Center for Nursing and Health Sciences is the Barbara Considine Svitila seminar room. It's an honor and testament to her 40-plus year career in nursing and the way that she lived, and what our nursing school is trying to do, which is treat the whole patient, and bring the most compassion and care to patients.

The interview has been edited for length. See the full version: prov.ly/susan-esper





Michelle Chiles, head of PC Archives and Special Collections, holds *Medical Flora of the United States*, published in 1830, part of the Rebecca Ramos Natural History Collection.

→ History and scholarship at your fingertips

You can access the PC Archives digital collection from home

Providence College Archives and Special Collections in Phillips Memorial Library contains a treasure trove of college history — rare books, films, photographs, documents, and memorabilia collected since the college’s founding and preserved for future generations.

Now, thanks to the ongoing efforts of library staff, much of the collection can be viewed by computer from anywhere in the world, including from your home.

Wondering about a moment in college history? The Cowl is a great source. It began publication on November 16, 1935, and has published each academic year since, save for two years in the 1940s during World War II. The library’s Digital Projects and Metadata Department began scanning back issues of *The Cowl* in the winter of 2009. The project is complete, with issues uploaded for viewing, searching, and saving through December 2025.

Can’t remember who spoke at your graduation? Commencement programs are available from 1923–2022. Misplaced your yearbook? You can view copies of *Veritas* from 1928–1979. The *Alembic* literary magazine is there, along with past versions of Providence College magazines and *The Spectrum*, a newspaper published from 1993–2009 for campus employees.

“Making the history of PC and our unique collections available is only

possible through the efforts of many skilled staff,” said Michelle Chiles, head of PC Archives and Special Collections. “From archivists who select and describe material, to student workers carefully scanning the items, to digital projects staff who manage platforms and ensure long-term preservation, this work is what makes this history available to anyone from anywhere.”

PC Archives also houses the papers of prominent politicians and organizations. They are available online through a collaboration between the Archives and Digital Projects teams.

Providence College Digital Collections contains the papers of John O. Pastore (1907–2000), the first Italian American in the country to be elected a governor and a United States senator. PC Archives digitized almost 100 rare films from the Pastore collection in October 2025 on the 80th anniversary of his inauguration as governor of Rhode Island. The films include a campaign commercial made by John F. Kennedy two years before Kennedy was elected president.

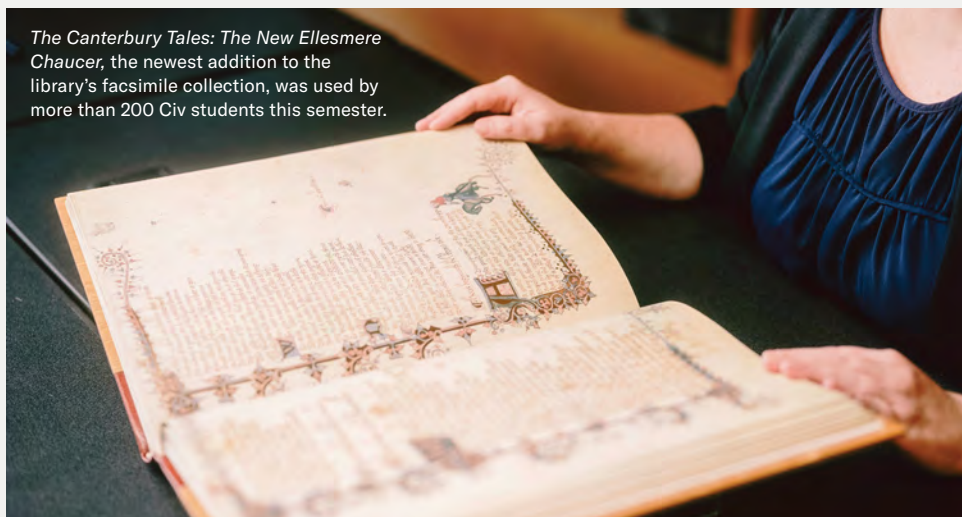
The papers of John E. Fogarty (1913–1967), including personal and legislative correspondence, speeches, legislative records, and photographs, are also included in Digital Collections. Fogarty took evening courses at PC for two years before becoming an apprentice bricklayer. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 26 years and is known for his support of public health legislation, including programs to protect those with intellectual disabilities.



A basketball signed by players from the NIT Championship teams of 1961 and 1963, donated in memory of Edward J. DiMuccio '40 by his family.



Michelle Chiles views slides of the student response to the Kent State University shootings in May 1970.



The Canterbury Tales: The New Ellesmere Chaucer, the newest addition to the library's facsimile collection, was used by more than 200 Civ students this semester.

The Digital Commons site, which includes scholarly papers by students and professors, conference presentations, and multimedia projects, celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2026. The first scholarly paper was uploaded to Digital Commons on January 9, 2006. That single upload has grown to 37,370 works of student and faculty scholarship, shared and downloaded more than 5.5 million times by readers around the world, amplifying PC voices around the world.

“This achievement reflects the incredible research and impact of the work being shared through Digital Commons, from faculty publications and student research to campus journals and special collections,” said Megan Lessard, head of digital projects and metadata. “It’s a testament to the dedication of our contributors and the value of open access to academic work.”



Search the library collections: pml.providence.edu/archives



Imaging live cells

Thanks to a \$350,000 grant from the National Institutes for Health, the college purchased a Nikon CSU-W1 spinning disk confocal microscope to support imaging capabilities and undergraduate research opportunities at the college and in the Rhode Island community.

Kristi Miller, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, began using the new microscope during the Fall 2025 semester. Miller and her students use high-resolution, live cell imaging to study how cells coordinate growth and division. Nine faculty members from biology, psychology, and chemistry, and biochemistry also use the microscope.

The microscope provides high-resolution, rapid-imaging capabilities for studying biological processes at the cellular and subcellular levels, essential for modern biomedical research. The microscope is believed to be the only shared spinning disk confocal in Rhode Island. Most grants awarded by the NIH for such purchases go to RI universities — doctoral institutions that represent the top tier of research universities in the country.



Kristi Miller, Ph.D., with the new spinning disk confocal microscope.

College receives \$1.1 million humanities grant



HAIN

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded Providence College a \$1.1 million grant to establish a Saint Dominic Fellows Program aimed at developing the next generation of intellectual and cultural leaders in the United States.

The three-year program, “Virtuous Citizens: Integrating Virtue and Leadership through the Saint Dominic Fellows Program at Providence College,” will launch in the Fall 2026 semester. It will be directed by **Raymond Hain, Ph.D.**, associate professor of philosophy and associate director of the Humanities Program.

“By offering students an integrated education in the riches of the Catholic and Dominican intellectual tradition and civic virtue, alongside mentoring and leadership

development, the program hopes to enhance PC’s campus culture and to make a durable and substantive contribution to the renewal of American civic culture,” Hain said.

Students will be drawn from leadership positions across campus and organized into class-year cohorts, beginning with eight sophomore students and growing to 32 students representing all four class years by Fall 2028. Fellows will study the humanities, the Catholic and Dominican intellectual tradition, and contemporary democratic culture. They will explore opportunities to cultivate civic and cardinal virtues and participate in off-campus experiences and on-campus mentoring to foster leadership.

The grant was announced in January 2026 as part of \$75.1 million awarded to 84 humanities programs around the country. The NEH supports research and study in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. ❏



FACULTY FOCUS

ADRIAN CHASTAIN WEIMER

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

EDUCATION : Ph.D., Harvard University, 2008; bachelor's degree, Wake Forest University, 1999, where she was a Reynolds Scholar.

BEGAN TEACHING AT PC : Fall 2011

EXPERTISE : Colonial America, Early Modern Atlantic World, Constitutionalism, Legal Access, Indigenous Diplomacy, Religious Toleration

NEWSWORTHY : Weimer's most recent book, *A Constitutional Culture: New England and the Struggle Against Arbitrary Rule in the Restoration Empire* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023), won the John Winthrop Prize. In 2025 she was awarded a long-term fellowship from the John Carter Brown Library in Providence for her research on Anglo-Indigenous diplomacy.

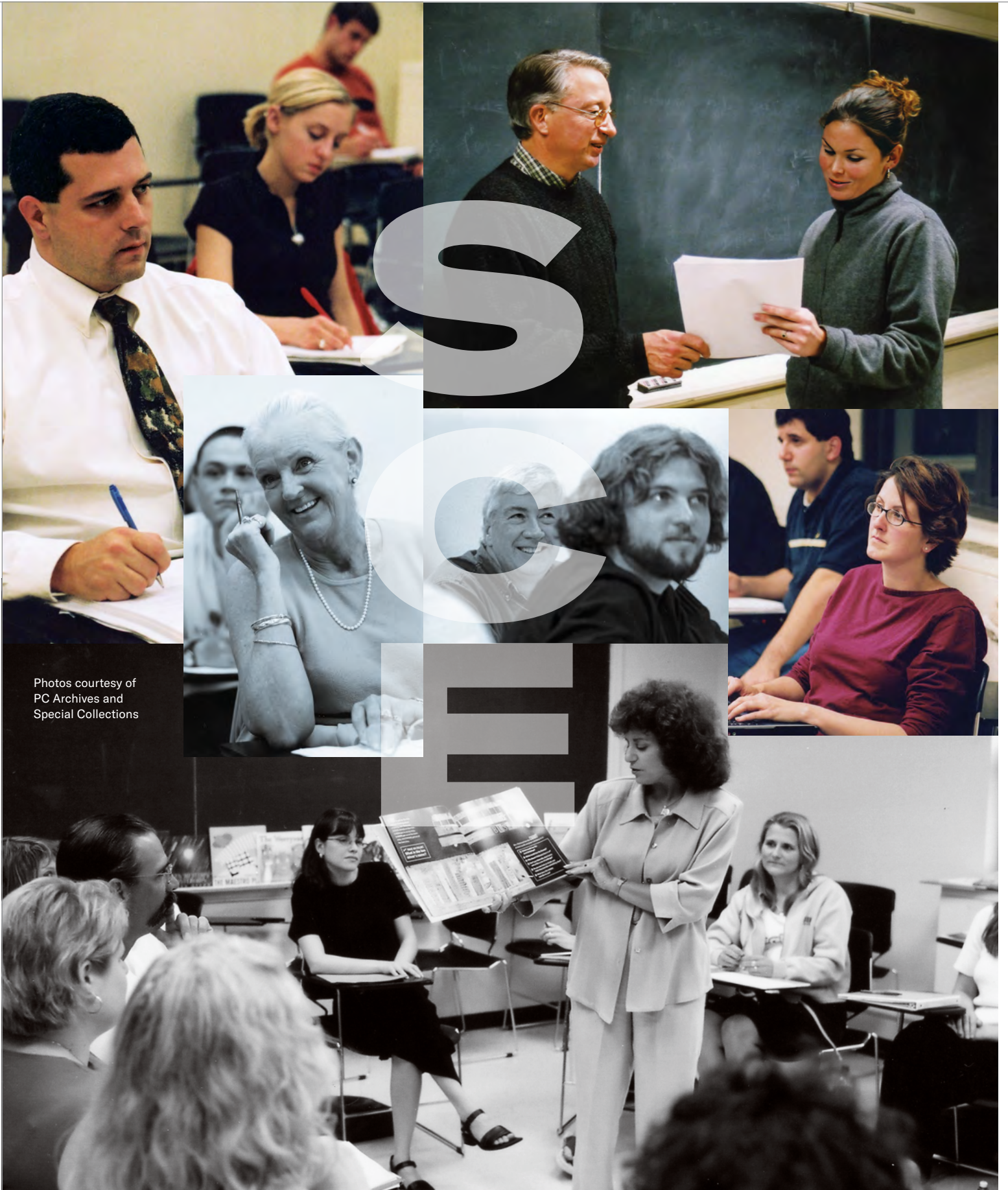
CURRENT PROJECTS : Weimer is finishing a documentary edition of *The Writings of Daniel Gookin*, a Puritan colonist with connections to Ireland and Virginia who advocated for Native American territorial and legal rights. She is also starting a major book project on the Pawtucket leader James Quannapohit, who negotiated alliances among Indigenous and European groups that brought his people through multiple 17th century wars.

QUOTABLE : "History is a field where we hold our conclusions lightly. Even in well-studied areas like early New England, fresh evidence and new insights might appear that turn an entire set of assumptions upside down. I love helping students find their own historical interpretations based on accurate reading of sources and appreciation for the full humanity of the people involved."

ORIGINALLY FROM : Tampa, Florida

HOBBIES : Hiking, reading memoirs, helping her teenage girls get ready for parties

— CAROLYN CRONIN



Photos courtesy of
PC Archives and
Special Collections



Farewell to the School of Continuing Education

A PROUD TRADITION WITH A HISTORY
AS OLD AS PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G

Michaela Deuse will make Providence College history when she crosses the stage in Peterson Recreation Center to accept a bachelor's degree in professional studies on May 14, 2026. She will be one of the last students to graduate from the School of Continuing Education.

The college announced in April 2023 that it would stop admitting students to the SCE. The decision followed a period of declining enrollment from a peak in the 1990s and the changing landscape of adult education. The college said it would instead focus on graduate courses and non-professional certificate programs and promised to support all SCE students through the completion of their degrees.

SCE's history is as long and as proud as the college's own. In October 1918, a year before Harkins Hall welcomed its first all-male class, Dominican priests began teaching courses to religious sisters in convents. That program evolved into a summer school known as the Sisters' College in 1925. The Sisters' College became the Extension School

in 1930, when lay students were admitted. The name changed to the School of Adult Education, the Extension Division, the Evening School, and finally, in 1971, to the SCE. An estimated 4,000 alumni have been awarded associate and bachelor's degrees in that time.

"There was never a typical SCE student," said Madeleine Metzler, associate dean in the School of Arts and Sciences, who joined the SCE as associate dean in 2006 and served three times as acting dean. "Some finished their degrees in their 80s because it was something they had always wanted to do. Some entered at 18, finding it reasonable and flexible. The majority were adults, late 20s to early 40s, who had some college, stopped, but valued education and always wanted to return. When life circumstances allowed, they were able to finish their degrees because it all came together. It all clicked."



Deuse was like that. She attended Rhode Island College for several years after high school while working full-time but did not complete a degree. Some years later, a friend suggested she attend an SCE information session, where she learned that PC would accept her RIC credits. She took her first course in 2015, took time out to marry in 2016 and give birth to a daughter in 2017, and when she learned PC would sunset the SCE, took two courses each semester to finish.

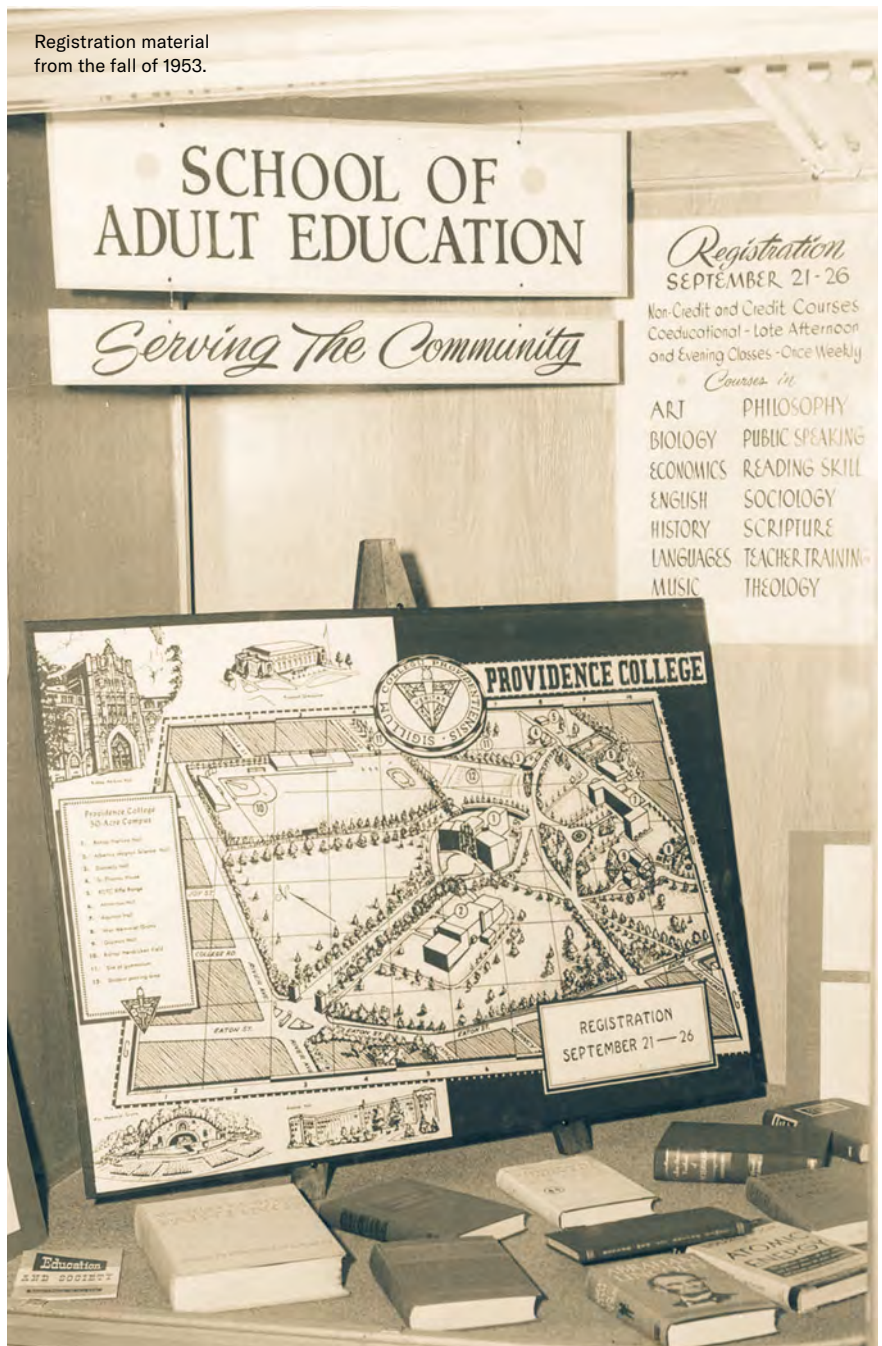
“I’m so excited,” said Deuse, an administrative manager for the Rhode Island Supreme Court, who also earned a legal studies certificate. “As sad as it is, I’m glad the college offered me the opportunity to finish on my own terms and on my own timetable.”

Marc Paulhus ’84SCE is among the most celebrated SCE graduates and the most vocal in his appreciation. In 1981, at age 19, while working full time as a bank teller, he enrolled in his first evening classes. Three years later, he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business management. In 2014, he became president of Citizens Bank Rhode Island. He now is based in Chicago, where he is a board member of Crossroads Equipment Lease and Finance.



“Continuing education was here even before the first undergraduates ever stepped foot on campus.”

— MADELEINE METZLER





Like my faith, like my ethnic background, Providence College is part of who I am.”

— MARC PAULHUS '84SCE



“Without SCE, I wouldn’t have a college degree,” Paulhus said. “I had to work and I needed tuition assistance, and without those, there’s no undergraduate degree, there’s no future. Providence is the foundation on which the entire career was built. Like my faith, like my ethnic background, Providence College is part of who I am.”

SCE students found academic and advising support from their first telephone call to the dean’s office through to graduation. They were taught by adjunct faculty from other institutions and working professionals who shared their expertise. PC professors often taught SCE courses as well. It was easy for students to build relationships because class sizes were small.

“Professors recognized and appreciated the dedication that SCE students brought to the classroom and their life experiences,” Metzler said. “The students appreciated each other. It was a community. Strong friendships were built after only a couple of semesters together.”

There were opportunities for SCE students to form their own identity. The Aquin Circle, begun in 1936, held parties

and hosted speakers. A one-page newsletter, Night School Notes, was published in 1951 with information about courses and social events. Eta Lambda, SCE’s chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda, the national honor society for continuing education students, was established in 1991.

There were notable firsts. SCE offered PC’s first online course to students in the fall of 1999. In 1973, a connection made by Rev. Francis Nealy, O.P., chaplain of the Providence Fire Department, established the first fire science degree program in Rhode Island. At the time, municipalities were offering financial incentives for public employees who earned education credits. At one point, both the public safety director for Providence and the director of the state fire academy had PC degrees, Metzler said. —>



“As sad as it is,
I’m glad the college offered
me the opportunity to finish
on my own terms and on my
own timetable.”

— MICHAELA DEUSE

“It was classic PC — a Dominican friar saw a need and made the connections, and something special happened,” Metzler said. “You had leaders trained in the Catholic and Dominican dynamic and the ripple effect of those values.”

Student-athletes who left college to pursue professional opportunities often returned to complete degrees through SCE. Among them are baseball player John MacDonald ’10SCE and basketball star God Shammgod ’15SCE. Veterans took advantage of benefits to take courses. So did PC employees and their families, who were able to complete associate and bachelor’s degrees for free, and to take prerequisite courses to prepare for graduate programs. The result, Metzler said, was “a wonderful staff member who feels a great connection to the college and grows intellectually and professionally as an employee.”

For many years, SCE benefited from being the only college in Rhode Island to offer continuing education courses. In addition to degree programs, it held enrichment classes on a variety of topics. In 1958, the school partnered with WJAR-TV for a class about the relatively new medium of television. The course, Philosophy of Communication, was taught by Rev. John Reid, O.P. and Betty Adams, host of Channel 10’s The World Around Us. In the 1980s, you could study Ornithology: Birds in Rhode Island, or Mills, Mansions, and Malls: A Social History of Rhode Island Architecture. You could earn associate degrees in liberal studies or paralegal studies, labor relations, and nursing home administration.



“Continuing education was here even before the first undergraduates ever stepped foot on campus,” Metzler said. “There was continuing education from the start of the college. It took wisdom and perspicacity to have anticipated the need for this.”

As the college entered the 21st century, though, it became harder to attract students, in part because there were so many options, including online courses and free state college classes in Rhode Island. Metzler was tasked with shepherding the remaining students through to degree completion. A few more will finish during the next couple of years, but for the most part, SCE’s work is done.

“It was a very different path than traditional college,” Deuse said. “You have more of an appreciation for it. I’ve loved every class. What kept me at PC was the experience on campus. I felt a sense of community. The class hours meant time away from my family, so it was important for me to do well. It was prestigious. It’s something I’ve accomplished for myself.” ❧

MOMENTS IN SCE HISTORY



OCTOBER 1918
Dominican faculty teach
religious sisters in convents



SEPTEMBER 1919
Providence College
officially opens



JUNE 1925
Summer Session for Religious
Teachers launches



AUGUST 1926
Eleven religious sisters are
first female PC graduates



AUGUST 1952
School of Adult Education established
(Later called the Extension Division,
then Evening School)



FALL 1999
SCE offers PC's first online courses



History of dates and names of
School of Continuing Education

1919	Extension School
August 1952	School of Adult Education
1965-66	Extension Division
1968-69	Evening School
1971	School of Continuing Education

1971
New name: School of Continuing Education

MAY 1973
Fire science degree introduced



JULY 2014
SCE adopts PC-aligned core
curriculum



'ANYONE CAN LEAVE A LEGACY'

HOW A RELATIONSHIP BEGUN FIVE DECADES AGO
BY **JOE BRUM '68** AND NURTURED BY **JOE HULBIG '96**
TURNED INTO A \$10 MILLION BEQUEST FROM
CHESTER NUTTALL '55,
AN UNASSUMING BUSINESSMAN
FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

BY JOHN CHATFIELD '19

Joseph P. Brum '68, '18Hon. knows everybody.

At least, that's the impression he makes with his incredible gift of recall. His stories span more than six decades of Providence College history, from his enrollment on a half-tuition scholarship to his employment as PC's first director of alumni affairs. He's seen the tenure of five college presidents, the first admitted class of coed students, and an endowment that's grown to more than \$380 million. He's helped secure some of the college's largest charitable gifts and stewarded efforts like the Providence 2000 capital campaign. And in that time, he's met thousands of Friar alumni and donors — in Rhode Island and across the country.

He's one of the college's first, and longest-serving, fundraisers. Hired in 1971, Brum was a self-described "one-armed paper hanger" whose alumni responsibilities spilled into development. Later, he worked with giving director William T. Nero '55, '77G to identify donors and solicit major gifts.

Fundraising looked different, then. On paper, it meant mingling with benefactors, recruiting volunteers, and traveling for events. Brum kept a stack of index cards on his desk to catalog alumni contacts, and each day, he'd pick a set to call personally. He'd organize phone-a-thons four nights a week in the function room of Schneider Arena, where he and his team of assistants and volunteers would make appeals to support the school. Brum supplied the pizza and beer.

"Back then, it was a lot of shaking hands and picking up the phone," Brum said. "It's how we raised our money."

But in practice, it was about getting to know people. It was hearing their stories and gauging their interest in the

future of the college. Putting names to faces was always part of the job. But for Brum, they were never just prospects — they were friendships in the making.

Chester T. "Chet" Nuttall '55 was one of those friends. They met in 1975 when Brum traveled with Nero and College President Rev. Thomas R. Peterson, O.P. '51, '85Hon. on a fundraising trip to South Florida. On the return trip to Providence, they stopped in North Carolina to meet alumni in the Chapel Hill area. Mr. Nuttall was there.

"He was a modest, quiet, unassuming guy," Brum said. "You'd never know just how successful he was."

Brum and Mr. Nuttall had much in common. Both came from low-income, blue-collar upbringings. They shared a hometown in Fall River, Massachusetts, and were alums of Durfee High School. And like so many followers of college athletics, they were ardent basketball fans.

They hit it off instantly. In the conversations that followed, Brum learned how Mr. Nuttall majored in accountancy before becoming a CPA. He worked for a textile manufacturing company in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, as a controller until 1966, when the plant closed. He stayed in the area for two years as a personal accountant and financial guide, then relocated to Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

Brum also came to learn of Mr. Nuttall's generosity — most of it conducted quietly, behind the scenes. As a controller and vice president for MG Global, Nuttall was the company's first administrator to implement a retirement plan with matching contributions for employees. He supported local causes like the United Way and charities that benefitted Catholic schools.

Brum asked which areas he might consider supporting at Providence College. Mr. Nuttall had a few in mind. →

→ “Chet understood that the college is more than brick and mortar.”

— JOE BRUM '68, '18HON.

One was athletics. A lifelong lover of sports and a devoted Friar fan, Mr. Nuttall followed every men's basketball game. A few times a year, Brum would reach out.

“I'd mail him a big envelope filled with media guides and athletic programs,” Brum said. “I knew he was a huge fan, so I had a few of them autographed by Lenny Wilkens '60, '80Hon. and Lou Lamoriello '63, '01Hon. It's how we stayed in touch.”

Faith was central to Mr. Nuttall's life and philanthropy. An admirer of the college's Dominican heritage and mission, he was particularly inspired by the Dominican priests who shaped his student experience. He had friendships with Rev. Edward Doyle, O.P. '34 and Rev. Herman Damien Schneider, O.P. '30, both of whom taught his classes.

But above all, Mr. Nuttall's motivation was helping students in need — his way of paying the gift of education forward. He pledged an initial \$50,000 to start a scholarship at PC for graduates of Durfee High School.

“Chet understood that the college is more than brick and mortar,” Brum said. “It was a place that changed his life, and he wanted to invest in its future — and students were the future.”

Brum stewarded Mr. Nuttall's charity as he had from the beginning: through personal conversation. He visited as often as he could, and they regularly stayed in touch by phone. He invited Mr. Nuttall to celebrate class reunions and events on campus, but Mr. Nuttall's health made travel difficult.

It never prevented his support from a distance, though. For his 50th class reunion in 2005, Mr. Nuttall issued



a matching challenge gift that funded renovations to the Aquinas Hall chapel, transforming it into the Center for Catholic and Dominican Studies. He also contributed to the fund that supported the construction of St. Dominic Chapel.

In recognition of his generosity, Brum offered Mr. Nuttall a named space on campus. “I said, ‘Chet, let me put your name on a plaque, or a stained-glass window or something,’” Brum recalled. Mr. Nuttall declined. He never sought credit for his giving.

After a long career spent building relationships and fostering alumni connections, Brum retired from full-time work in 2014. His contact cards, now digitized, passed to a new generation of fundraisers and gift officers — as did his relationship with Chet Nuttall.

Brum recommended Joe Hulbig '96 as his successor in prospect management. “I told them, ‘You've got to get Joe Hulbig involved with Chet. He'll be beside himself to meet a star hockey player.’”

Hulbig was a Friar hockey standout who played professionally for eight years. Drafted in the first round by the Edmonton Oilers in 1992, he played for the Boston Bruins before retiring at age 30. Following a brief stint in fundraising at St. Sebastian's School in Needham, Massachusetts, Hulbig returned to Providence College in 2007 as a major gifts officer. He is now a principal gifts officer.



→ “You could talk to Chet for hours and not realize the time had passed.” — JOE HULBIG '96

He likes the social aspect the most.

“I enjoy traveling and meeting people,” Hulbig said. “But what I really like is bringing people to the table and hearing their PC story. Joe Brum is the master at bringing people to the table.”

Entrusted with much of Brum’s portfolio, Hulbig found himself on the road. During a trip to North Carolina with PC athletics staff, he began his own acquaintance with Chet Nuttall. He leaned on mutual friends and Friar sports to break the ice. He would drive two and a half hours from Raleigh-Durham to Mr. Nuttall’s home in Wilkesboro, where conversation flowed.

“Even at his age, Chet was still the same smart, diligent CFO that Joe Brum knew for years,” Hulbig recalled. “He’d have CNBC on, watching the stock ticker. And you could talk to him for hours and not realize the time had passed.”

Hulbig also met Mr. Nuttall’s life partner and caretaker, Laura Jeraldine “Jerri” Greene, who became his main point of contact through the latter chapter of Chet’s life as his health worsened. Working closely with Greene, Hulbig helped ensure that Mr. Nuttall’s charitable giving matched his intentions.

“My job is to develop relationships,” Hulbig said. “We invite constituents to identify what means the most to them at PC, and help align their philanthropic interests with the priorities of the college. It’s a special feeling when a donor finds that match and sees the impact of their gift.”

As Mr. Nuttall neared retirement, Brum had worked with him to arrange an estate gift to the college. Back then, it was estimated at \$2 million. Hulbig knew that, through appreciation and earned interest over time, the amount had grown considerably. But the impact exceeded his expectations.

When Mr. Nuttall died on September 2, 2025, at age 90, he left a planned gift, now valued at \$10 million, to Providence College — a testament to the foundation laid by Brum and the continued friendship of Hulbig. It will benefit athletics, mission and ministry, and financial aid: all causes that meant the most to him.

Joe Brum turns 80 this year. And although he’s taking a well-earned step back from his service to the college, he’s still the same personable friend-maker he’s always been. In his line of work, names and faces still matter. They always have.

It’s that same personal touch that guides Hulbig’s philosophy as a gift officer. It’s an invitation, rooted in the idea that generosity doesn’t need to be loud or large to be meaningful.

“Any amount can make a lasting impact,” Hulbig says. “And anyone can leave a legacy.”



To learn more about including the college in your estate plan, contact the Office of Planned Giving at 401.865.2451 or email plannedgiving@providence.edu.

POSSE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G



Faith Demare '29, left, with Brandon Martinez, Ph.D., and Raihanna Williams '29.

The first cohort of students admitted through the college's partnership with the Posse Foundation is completing its first year on campus.

Posse is a national academic leadership program that matches high school scholars and leaders with colleges and universities that might otherwise overlook them. Providence College was matched with the Posse chapter in New Orleans. College representatives traveled there to select the first group of 11 students for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The program is competitive. More than 300 seniors in the New Orleans region were nominated for consideration. They underwent a rigorous assessment with group and individual interviews and team-building and problem-solving challenges. The PC team interviewed 25 students and chose 11 to receive admission offers with full-tuition scholarships.

The seven women and four men meet weekly with their faculty mentor, Brandon Martinez, Ph.D., associate

professor of sociology, and one-on-one with him every other week.

"We discuss life on campus and how to adjust to the college atmosphere," said Martinez, a Texas native familiar with the cultural differences between New England and the south. "We talk about things that are important in their daily lives, academics, and their career goal setting."

Posse was established with the idea that students who attend college far from home are more likely to succeed if they have a support network. They will

continue to meet with Martinez until they graduate. They have a mission to make an impact on PC, as well.

Faith Demare '29, who is studying economics and global studies, hopes to help strengthen the college's relationship with the neighboring community. She saw the importance of community when neighbors helped after her family's home was destroyed by Hurricane Ida. As a community outreach project through the National Honor Society, she established "On My Way," a free tutoring program for those who could not afford to pay.

The nearly 70 inches of snow that fell in Providence this winter was a rude introduction for the students from Louisiana. "I've never experienced anything so cold," said Dejah' Grimes '29, a social work major. "I thought, 'How do people live like this?' The snow was up to my chin."

But the February blizzard became a treasured memory when the students spontaneously gathered on the Ray Treacy Track and Field to make snow angels.

The college has accepted its next cohort of 10 Posse students from New Orleans to enroll this fall. A faculty mentor will be selected for them.

HIGH NOTES



Harold E. Vayo '51, editor of The Alembic.

A gift to show gratitude

To show their gratitude to a Dominican priest who made it possible for their father to finish college, the family of **Harold E. Vayo '51** made a \$500 gift to The Fund for Providence College.

Just before the start of Mr. Vayo's final semester at PC, his father lost his job. Vayo needed \$500 to complete his studies. He confided in **Rev. Charles H. McKenna, O.P. '26, '55Hon.,** a college chaplain who also taught history and served as a vice president.

According to a letter Mr. Vayo wrote his wife to be, Father McKenna advised him not to worry and promised to cover his expenses for the final semester. In exchange, Mr. Vayo pledged to assist Father McKenna on weekends until he graduated.

"My three brothers and I had been looking for a way to meaningfully honor our father's memory since his passing in 2021," wrote Paula Vayo Werne. "As part of the annual Friars Give campaign, we contributed to The Fund for Providence College for Emergency Student Support," for students who encounter unforeseen circumstances.

Read the blog:



\$5M gift to support student wellness

A \$5 million gift from an anonymous donor is making possible a new recovery and well-being initiative that integrates housing, programming, education, and community building. As part of the initiative, **PC Well Living/Learning Housing** will be introduced in the 2026-2027 academic year. Students may apply to join a residential environment that promotes healthy habits and holistic well-being. The program is designed for students who prefer a lifestyle with reduced substance use or abstinence from substances.

Residents of the PC Well Community will enjoy benefits to support their personal growth and well-being, including personalized wellness and resilience coaching; one-on-one mentoring with trained wellness partners who provide guidance, accountability, and support; and access to programs, workshops, and events designed around holistic well-being. These include stress-reduction strategies, fitness activities, nutrition education, spiritual reflection opportunities, and monthly community dinners.

In addition, the initiative will establish a recovery house adjacent to campus.

"This exciting initiative will expand our ability to support the whole student academically, spiritually, socially, and personally by creating environments where students can thrive in recovery and wellness," said Steven A. Sears, Ed.D., senior vice president for student affairs and dean of students.

Civ Without the Stress

The Office of Alumni Relations and Office of Mission and Ministry offered "Civ Without the Stress," an opportunity in the fall of 2025 to revisit the college's signature Development of Western Civilization Program without the requirement to write papers or take exams. The response exceeded expectations. More than 500 alumni registered for the online series and hundreds logged in each week to experience a return to conversation, curiosity, and community.

Framed around the timeless question, "What is the Good Life?," the four-week virtual series revisited Civ through history, theology, philosophy, and literature, pairing pre-recorded faculty lectures with live, seminar-style discussions. **Rev. Justin Brophy, O.P.,** assistant professor of political science and senior vice president of mission and ministry, was the moderator.

"It was a real privilege and a joy to accompany alumni on this journey through the rich intellectual tradition at the heart of the PC experience," Father Brophy said.

Response to the series showed how deeply alumni value opportunities for thoughtful, mission-driven engagement. There was no registration fee, but 214 participants donated more than \$11,000. Another installment is planned for the fall of 2026.

Watch the lectures and seminars:





PHOTOGRAPHY BY NAT REA



THE FRIARY

Chuck Borkoski '71 and his Friar-themed fan cave

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G

The Friary is the name Chuck Borkoski '71, '23Hon. gave the Friar-themed entertainment space on the lower level of his home in Chatham, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod.

The space reflects his love of Providence College, especially its athletics programs, the value he places on hospitality, and the knowledge he gleaned from nearly 50 years in the alcoholic beverage industry. Since the Friary opened in 2014, countless friends and guests, including PC alumni and parents, have enjoyed the fully stocked bar with two beer taps, a pool table, and home theatre. College President Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P. '80 blessed the space during a visit in 2019.

“The Friary reflects a lifelong love for Providence College and a genuine joy in bringing people together,” said Bob Ferreira '83, former assistant vice president for alumni relations and now assistant vice president for special projects in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. “Every visitor feels the Friar pride, tradition, and welcome that define the Borkoskis.” —>



The black and white tile floor, gleaming bar, gray walls, and white shelves and molding were selected in a labor of love by Borkoski's wife, Leslie, and daughter, Jenna Borkoski '12. Leslie Borkoski's familiarity with Friartown pre-dates her marriage to Chuck. Her father, Joseph Baggott '27, was a Friar, too.

"The house was under construction when we bought it in 2013," Borkoski said. "When Leslie saw the walk-out basement overlooking the pond, she said it would be a great place for a bar."

It took a couple of years to complete the look. Chuck and Jenna spent hours selecting photographs, posters, and memorabilia spanning decades of PC history and deciding where to display them. Once friends saw the space, they contributed items as gifts. Most feature Friar basketball, but a custom diorama from the 2015 NCAA men's ice hockey championship holds a team photo, the Borkoskis' game tickets, and a piece of the net caught by Jenna during the postgame celebration. Souvenirs from reunions and other PC gatherings are also on display.



Above: A basketball, cowboy hat, and framed press clippings commemorate the week in March 1971 when Chuck Borkoski '71, '23Hon. and friends dribbled basketballs from PC to Madison Square Garden in New York City for the National Invitational Tournament.

Left: On the floor at the Garden, from left, Chuck Borkoski '71, '23Hon., Gene Marchand '71, Bob Williamson '71, Kevin Hart '71, Kevin Murray '71, Bill Muldoon '71, Steve Cullinan '71, and radio personality King Arthur Knight, who provided progress reports for local listeners of WICE in Providence.

PHOTO LEFT: PC ARCHIVES



The white globe with the number 21 is a tribute to the 21 Club, the student bar Borkoski and Joe Bonaccorso '71 co-managed on campus.

Guests notice an unusual wall lamp consisting of a white globe with the number 21 stenciled in black. Jenna customized it to commemorate the sign that hung in the 21 Club, the student bar co-managed by Borkoski and Joe Bonaccorso '71. The first student drinking spot on campus, it opened in March 1970 in a former faculty dining room in Alumni Hall. Open from 6 p.m. to midnight, it gave students a place to meet professors and administrators in a congenial atmosphere over beer or wine. It was a precursor to the Rathskeller and the present-day McPhail's.

Borkoski's history is intertwined with college history. A glass display case holds the basketball he dribbled for 212 miles, from Alumni Hall in Providence to Madison Square Garden in New York City, from March 15–20, 1971. Borkoski, Bonaccorso, and 10 friends hatched the idea in the 21 Club the night the Friars defeated Saint Bonaventure to qualify for the National Invitational Tournament. They

arrived at the Garden just before the start of the Friars game against the University of Louisville, and thanks to a connection by Vin Cuddy, PC's sports information director, received an introduction, dribbled onto the floor, and did a layup line.

"There were about 17,000 people in the Garden and my recollection is we did get a standing ovation," Borkoski said.

Borkoski saw PC for the first time when he arrived as a first-year student, taking the ferry to Connecticut from his home in Water Mill, New York, a village in the Hamptons on Long Island. The college proved to be a good fit. He became a class officer, Student Congress representative, Friars Club member, and resident assistant in McVinney Hall, responsible for students on several floors, including basketball players Jim Larrañaga '71 and Marvin Barnes '74. —>

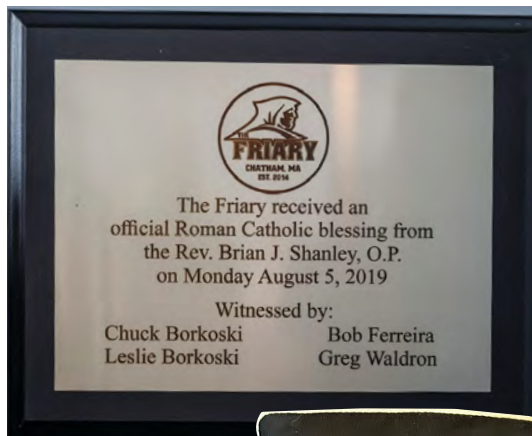


As a senior, Borkoski was the campus representative for Falstaff Brewing Company, manufacturer of Narragansett beer. After graduation, he drove the 'Gansett Brew Bus around New England to promote aluminum can recycling and other initiatives before being promoted to field representative in the sales and marketing department. It was the start of his 46-year "career in beer." In 1979, he accepted a position at McLaughlin & Moran, an Anheuser-Busch wholesale distributor based in Providence. He retired from the company in 2016 as vice president of marketing and portfolio development.

It's difficult to identify a more dedicated and steadfast Friar. Borkoski has been a season ticket holder for men's basketball since the Providence Civic Center opened in 1972. He has donated to the college every year since graduation and has chaired every class reunion, beginning with his first in 1976 and continuing with his 55th, to be held June 2026. He has served on the Providence President's Council and the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. Chuck and Leslie also served on the PC Parent's Council from 2008–2012.

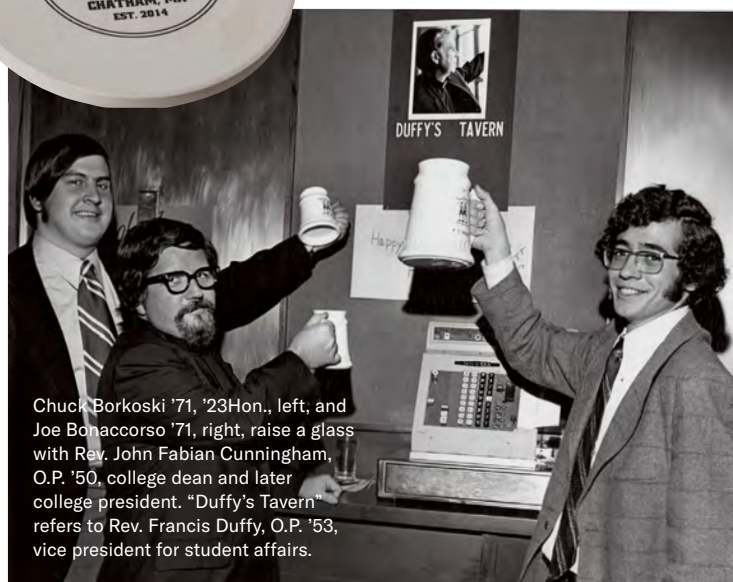
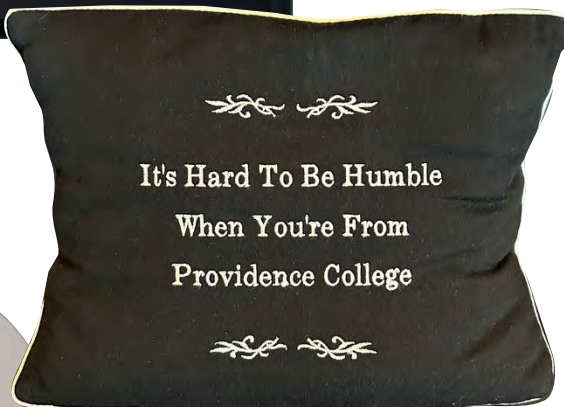
When Jenna was an undergraduate, the Borkoskis hosted welcome receptions for incoming students and their parents each summer at their Cape home. They established the Chuck '71 and Leslie Borkoski '12P Scholarship Fund for students with financial need and chaired A Night in Black and White, the college's fundraising celebration in Boston. Borkoski was chair of the PC Annual Fund, now the Fund for Providence College, and more recently, he assisted Jeremy Duffy '93, owner of Isle Brewers Guild, with the Friars Forever beer project to benefit The Fund for Providence College.

Former president of the National Alumni Association and the Providence (Mal Brown) Alumni Club, Borkoski received the NAA's Distinguished Service Award and the Providence club's Mal Brown Award, recognizing those who exemplify love for and loyalty to the college. At commencement in 2023, the college bestowed upon him its



College President Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P. '80 blessed The Friary during a visit in 2019.

Chuck Borkoski '71, '23Hon. had custom coasters made for The Friary. For more about the pillow, read The Last Word on Page 56.



Chuck Borkoski '71, '23Hon., left, and Joe Bonaccorso '71, right, raise a glass with Rev. John Fabian Cunningham, O.P. '50, college dean and later college president. "Duffy's Tavern" refers to Rev. Francis Duffy, O.P. '53, vice president for student affairs.

highest honor, an honorary doctor of commercial science degree.

"It's been my good fortune to have a great relationship with PC," Borkoski said. "The Friary is a way for me to show my affinity to the college and an outlet to display some things I've collected over the years. Providence has had a profound effect on my life." ❖

Chuck and Leslie Borkoski with their West Highland terrier, Breezy.



Tour The Friary in a video
by Chris Judge '05, '07G:





John Puleo '53 with his grandsons, Brian and Kevin, at a game in 2023. Granddaughter Kaitlyn has also attended. At right, his collection of ticket stubs.

FREQUENT FRIAR

JOHN PULEO '53 HAS BEEN A MEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON TICKET HOLDER FOR 67 YEARS

BY TOM PULEO

At the Amica Mutual Pavilion in downtown Providence, in one of college basketball's best atmospheres, John Puleo, DDS '53 doesn't wave a foam finger or spray beer in the student section.

That's not my father's style, not at age 94 anyway.

But if you're looking for the most loyal Providence College basketball fan around, check him out in Section 107, Row KK, near half court.

He's had PC men's basketball season tickets for 66 years, likely the longest run in school history, and maybe anywhere.

His tenure covers all 53 seasons at the Providence Civic Center — now "the AMP" — and 14 years before that at Alumni Hall on the Providence College campus: the entire Friars basketball story.

He sits with my mother, Rachel Puleo, 89, who has been right beside him for nearly every tipoff.

Their long run is coming to an end. This is their last season. They're not getting any younger, and it gets harder each year to make it to games.

It's time.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PULEO FAMILY

“It’s been a big part of our lives,” John Puleo said. “The Friars, I guess you could say, are like a part of the family.”

He grew up on Admiral Street, four blocks from PC, sneaking into games at Harkins Hall.

He remembers following the Friars to their next two homes — Mount Pleasant High School and, in 1955, the new on-campus Alumni Hall — capacity 2,620 — now called Mullaney Gymnasium.

He first bought season tickets in 1958, a year after dental school. He paid about \$20 for each seat for the whole season.

He watched Coach Joe Mullaney ’65Hon., ’98Hon. lead early Friar greats like Lenny Wilkens ’60, ’80Hon., a future Naismith Hall of Famer.

In 1972, he followed the Friars again, this time downtown, into the new 12,000-seat Providence Civic Center.

He’s been there ever since, in some of the best seats in the house, across the court from the PC bench, about a dozen rows back.

“You get a different feel for the game being so close,” Puleo said. “You really get a chance to see how good the players are.”

Through the years, he’s seen the Civic Center crowds grow louder — and more intense.

The early, friends-and-relatives crowds watched Coach Dave Gavitt ’89Hon. coach local boys Ernie DiGregorio ’73 and Marvin Barnes ’74 to the school’s first Final Four in 1973.

I was there, too, sitting with my parents and my brother, John Jr. — two East Greenwich kids witnessing Friar history.

PC was the first school in the Northeast to play a national schedule in a downtown arena — the prototype for the BIG EAST. All-Americans DiGregorio and Barnes took the show-time Friars to a national level that, back then, was enjoyed in New England only by Boston’s pro teams.

“Obviously very special,” Puleo said. “What can you say — a rare event when you have two players from Rhode Island at that high a level of play.” →



Next came the raucous, hockey-style crowds of the mid-1980s, when 34-year-old head coach Rick Pitino and starting point guard Billy Donovan '87 rode the new three-point shot to the school's second Final Four.

Those crowds are the fiercest any of us remember. There was a vengeance quality to the building. PC hadn't been good for years, and Pitino — young, brash, and Italian — touched off something visceral for the Friar faithful.

"There was a whole electricity in the air with Pitino," Puleo said.

The noise picked up again in the 2000s under Coach Ed Cooley's rah-rah hand. The renovated Civic Center had a new name: The Dunkin' Donuts Center – or The Dunk – and was ground zero for newly branded Friartown.

Two years after Cooley's bitter departure to Georgetown, coach Kim English still began the season with sold-out season tickets and a waiting list.

Today's Amica Pavilion is a mashup of previous eras — long-time, dedicated Friar fanatics, and the ardent student section singing along to Taylor Swift songs like European soccer rowdies. For visiting teams, the AMP is considered one of toughest places to play in the country.

Puleo could do without the ear-splitting music and zany promotions. But it's still the best ticket in town.

"One word: different," he said. "There's a Jumbotron and more fan involvement than the old days, when people were there primarily to watch games."

Looking back, Puleo remembers the Blizzard of '78 game, just a few days after the epic storm. Blue-blood North Carolina and Coach Dean Smith flew in as the city and T.F. Green State Airport were still digging out from three feet of snow.

The Sunday noontime show went on despite a downtown parking ban, and the Puleos managed to get there, parking in a family friend's driveway on Federal Hill.

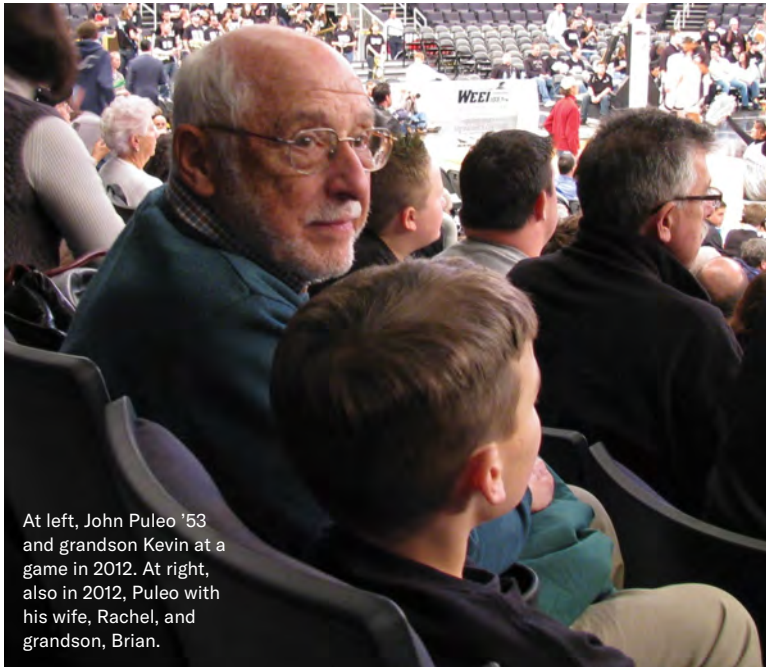
"Luckily, we were in walking distance," Puleo said.

Another standout was the 1987 Georgetown game when Pitino confronted mythic Hoyas Coach John Thompson '64 on the sideline at half court, signaling an end to the Friars' patsy days in the BIG EAST.



If you're looking for the most loyal Providence College basketball fan around, check him out in Section 107, Row KK, near half court.





At left, John Puleo '53 and grandson Kevin at a game in 2012. At right, also in 2012, Puleo with his wife, Rachel, and grandson, Brian.



More recently, Puleo remembers the Friars' 2022 win over Creighton for the school's first regular-season BIG EAST championship.

The greatest PC player he ever watched? Jimmy Walker '67 — the only player from a New England college ever taken No. 1 overall in the NBA draft.

"Between the legs, double pump, top of the key," Puleo recalled. "I had never seen anybody do that."

His all-time favorite PC game took place far from the Civic Center, at the 1973 East Regional Final in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Puleos were courtside as PC ran past No. 10 Maryland behind Ernie D.'s 30 points in 27 minutes — cutting down the nets in the heart of ACC country.

"Of all the games I've watched — that's the one I remember most," Puleo said. "They couldn't stop Ernie."

Through the years, Puleo has sat through his share of meaningless games in half-empty buildings on cold winter nights.

"The diehard fans still went," he said.

At a BIG EAST game in 2020, PC's then-senior associate athletic director Steve Napolillo '98 and the school graciously recognized him at halftime.

At the start of the 2025-2026 season, Napolillo lauded those who have supported the Friars over many years and sent my father a special thank you.

"We are grateful to fans like John Puleo, who has been a season ticket holder since 1958. He has experienced incredible moments over the years and he has stayed behind the team during difficult times."

Amid recent NCAA changes, Puleo tries to remain positive in the NIL era, with college players getting paid and revolving door rosters, but says something has been lost.

"It's not college athletics anymore, it's semi-pro. The bottom line fuels everything."

My parents hope their tickets — at \$2,500 for the pair — can remain in the family. I am the leading candidate, living in West Hartford, Connecticut, as an expatriate Frequent Friar.

They go to fewer games now. Parking can be a challenge. The 9 p.m. TV tipoffs are too late for them.

But for at least a few more games this season, they hope to be in their seats, reliable as the student pep band, timeless as a Friar fast break.

"We're always going to be fans," Puleo said. 🏀

Tom Puleo is a former staff writer at the Hartford Courant and a former journalism professor at Central Connecticut State University. He wrote this story for the Rhode Island edition of the Boston Globe for the start of the basketball season in October 2025.



The 2025-2026 team after winning the Hockey East regular season title by defeating the University of New Hampshire on February 28.

LEAMAN LEADS FRIARS TO TOP OF HOCKEY EAST

It was a memorable season for men's ice hockey. Head Coach Nate Leaman was named Hockey East Coach of the Year after leading one of the youngest teams in the country to its second regular season league title and its second straight NCAA Tournament. The Friars earned an at-large bid as the No. 2 seed in the Sioux Falls Regional, where their season ended in a 5-2 loss to Quinnipiac.

Providence finished the regular season 23-9-2 overall and 18-5-1 in Hockey East, earning the league's regular season title outright for the first time in program history (tying with Boston College in 2016). The Friars were especially strong after the calendar turned to 2026, posting a 14-2 record in conference play. That stretch included a nine-game winning streak that began with a 6-1 win over Maine at Schneider Arena on January 9.

The roster was one of the youngest in the country, with 11 first-year players and eight sophomores. Three newcomers — goaltender Jack Parsons, forward Roger McQueen, and defenseman Quinn Mantei — were named to the Pro Ambitions Hockey East All-Rookie Team. Parsons was a unanimous selection, finishing with a 12-3 record in league play along with a 1.88 goals-against average and a .927 save percentage. His performance included a 7-0-0 record in January. McQueen tied for second on the team in Hockey East scoring with 9 goals and 9 assists and was named the Pro Ambitions Rookie of the Year, while Mantei led the league in plus/minus at +23 and added two goals and seven assists. McQueen and Mantei, who grew up playing together in Saskatchewan, were part of the same outstanding recruiting class.

PHOTO: PC ATHLETICS



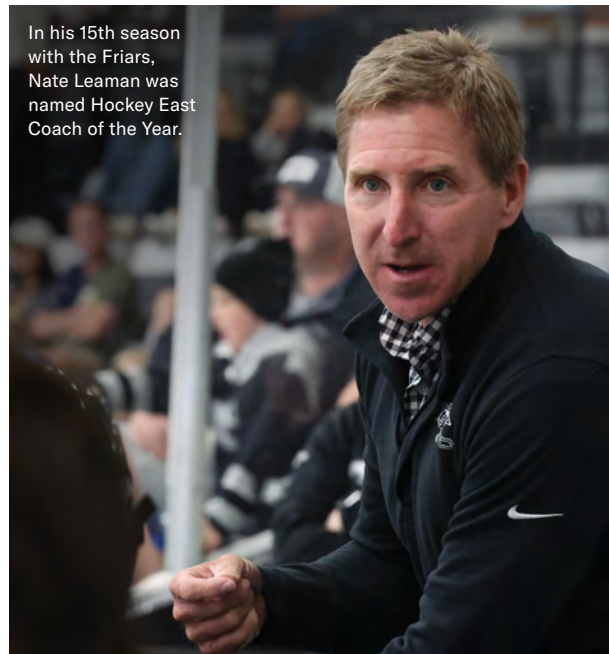
Logan Sawyer, John Mustard, and Graham Gamache celebrate a goal against Boston University on January 23.

Junior forward Tanner Adams and sophomore forward Logan Sawyer were named Hockey East Third-Team All-Stars. Adams led the Friars in conference scoring with 10 goals and 10 assists. Sawyer recorded five game-winning goals, the most in the league.

Leaman reached a milestone on February 20, earning his 300th victory at Providence College with a win over the University of Vermont. He is in his 15th season leading the program. Men's basketball coach Joe Mullaney '65Hon., '98Hon. and women's hockey coach Bob Deraney share the PC record for games won by a coach at 319.

In the Hockey East tournament, Providence entered as the No. 1 seed but was eliminated in the quarterfinals on March 14, falling 3-2 in overtime to Merrimack.

The 2025-26 season will be remembered for its regular season championship, late-season consistency, and the contributions of a young roster. ❧



In his 15th season with the Friars, Nate Leaman was named Hockey East Coach of the Year.

TOP PHOTO: BRIAN FOLEY. LEAMAN PHOTO: KEVIN REILLY '80.



FRIARTOWN



Ray Treacy '82 in a familiar pose on the track named for him in July 2021.

TREACY APPROACHES FINISH LINE

Ray Treacy '82, head coach of the Providence College cross country and track and field teams for more than 40 years, will retire on June 30, 2026. The pre-eminent figure in the program's storied history, Treacy is one of PC's most distinguished and decorated coaches. His retirement will mark the end of an era defined by excellence, loyalty, and deep pride in his alma mater.

Under Treacy's leadership, the women's cross-country program captured NCAA championships in 1995 and 2013, and Treacy was named National Coach of the Year on both occasions. The men's and women's squads earned consistent national recognition and regional crowns, including 10 NCAA individual championships, 15 national titles, 55 BIG EAST individual championships, and 145 conference titles. Treacy coached 11 Olympians. Under his tenure, 73 student-athletes combined for 223 All-America honors.

Among his many coaching titles, Treacy was named Northeast Women's Coach of the Year 11 times between 1999–2024. The award was named the Ray Treacy Award in 2016. In 2014, the college named the new track and field complex built on the site of Hendricken Field in his honor, ensuring that generations of Friars will train and compete in the shadow of his name.

Treacy's Providence story began as a student-athlete from County Waterford, Ireland. He established himself as one of the finest runners ever to wear the Friar singlet. He was a three-time Cross Country All American, two-time Cross Country New England Champion, and Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletics of America Champion. Hired as PC's coach in 1984, he began a transformational tenure, building a program that reflected the same discipline and competitive fire that he displayed as a competitive runner.

"Ray's legacy runs deep in Friartown," said College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G. "His athletes have long described him as a steady, trusted presence and he has earned a place among the most respected coaches in his sport. I am profoundly grateful for his dedication and service, and I wish him every happiness in retirement."

"Without a doubt, Ray Treacy is a legend," said Stephen R. Napolillo '98, vice president and director of athletics. "We are grateful for Ray's leadership, his unrivaled legacy of winning, and for all the mentoring he has provided to so many Friar student-athletes over the years. We will miss Ray as a friend, as a coach, and as an ambassador for Providence College." ❧

PHOTO: STEW MILNE



From left: Helen Bert, the first women's athletic director; the women's team in action in December 1974; Tom Palamara '77SCE coaching in 1975.



CARVING OUT A LEGACY

When Tom Palamara '77SCE arrived at Providence College in 1973, he expected to spend his time around hockey. What he did not expect was that, before long, he would be asked to build a women's hockey program from scratch.

Schneider Arena had just opened and opportunities in women's athletics were only beginning to take shape. Palamara was working at the rink sharpening skates, sweeping floors, and helping wherever he could when Helen Bert, the college's first women's athletic director, approached him with an idea that would change his life. She asked if he would start a women's hockey team.

Palamara was barely out of his teens and still a student himself, but Bert believed in the vision.

"Helen had a simple philosophy," Palamara said. "Whatever the men's teams had, the women's teams would have as well."

That set the foundation for what would become one of the earliest women's collegiate hockey programs in the country. The reality, however, was far from assured.

"We had nothing," Palamara said with a laugh. "No equipment, no ice time, no staff. I was 17 years old ordering gear for 20 players."

In those earliest days, recruiting could be unconventional. Palamara often found his first players in places like the Raymond Hall cafeteria or among students who had played intramural hockey. Some athletes had never worn hockey equipment before joining the team.

"We literally had to show them how to get dressed," he remembers. Using a hockey instruction book written by

Bobby Orr, Palamara walked players through the basics before moving on to skating, puck handling, and positioning. "It was a progression," he said. "But the players wanted the opportunity to compete, and they were committed to making it work."

That commitment helped the program grow quickly. Within a few seasons the team found its footing and began to win regularly. The experience also helped shape a tight community among the players, many of whom remain close decades later.

"They cared about the school, they cared about each other, and they cared about the team," Palamara said. "Those relationships were real. You cannot manufacture something like that."

Women's hockey today looks dramatically different from the sport Palamara helped launch. Participation has exploded at youth levels, collegiate programs thrive across the country, and the Professional Women's Hockey League is gaining fans all around North America. Team USA's thrilling march to Olympic gold in February further galvanized interest and support.

For Palamara, seeing the sport reach that stage is deeply rewarding.

"When we started, I was recruiting players any way and anywhere I could," he said. "Now there are entire leagues filled with talented young girls all across the country. The future of women's hockey is very bright and has never been stronger."

For an extended interview with Palamara, visit <https://prov.ly/womens-hockey>





Mike Raia '05, seated, was communications director for Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo from 2016–2019. At right is Raimondo's chief of staff, Brett Smiley, now mayor of Providence.

WORKING THE MEDIA

Mike Raia '05 helps PC professors tell their stories

BY CAROLYN CRONIN

Offer something new, unique, or provocative — ideally all three. That is just one piece of advice Mike Raia '05 provided during his annual visit to Providence College to coach faculty and staff members on how to engage with the media.

Professors, trained professionals in the classroom, are often called upon by local, regional, and national media to present their expertise on topics of the day. Reporters may call at any moment, looking for insight and commentary. Raia, who founded the Half Street

Group public relations agency in 2020, offers thoughtful, strategic, and practical information on how to craft a message when the cameras roll.

“Coming back to Providence College to do this work has been especially meaningful,” Raia said. “The college



“In today’s fast-moving media environment, expertise alone isn’t enough.” — MIKE RAIJA ’05

played a formative role in shaping how I think about communication, ethics, and public responsibility.”

A native of Maryland, Raia served in communications roles in his home state after graduating from PC with a bachelor’s degree in political science and earning a master’s degree in political communication from George Washington University. He returned to Rhode Island in 2012, hitting the ground running in public relations positions at Providence City Hall and as Governor Gina Raimondo’s senior communications and public relations advisor.

Raia began offering media training sessions to faculty and staff members at PC in 2023. Participants benefit from small roundtable discussions and follow-up one-on-one sessions on strategies, including interview prep, op-ed writing, marketing, and even suggestions for enhanced classroom engagement.

His enthusiastic yet conversational style has resulted in informative and helpful tips to engage with the media on all levels (local, national, international)

and platforms, including radio, television, podcast, print, and social media.

“The aim is to help faculty translate deep subject-matter expertise into clear, accessible, and engaging insights for a broad public audience,” Raia said. “In today’s fast-moving media environment, expertise alone isn’t enough — context, clarity, and relevance matter just as much. These sessions are designed to help faculty understand how journalists think, how audiences consume information, and how to confidently show up as authoritative but conversational voices on the issues they study every day.

“Ultimately, the work is about equipping faculty to help the public better understand the complexity of today’s world while also supporting them in building their own reputations as trusted experts in their fields,” Raia said.

Rana Hassan, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of media and communication studies, found Raia’s session informative.

“As an instructor, I strongly believe that engagement with industry professionals is one of the key pillars of success in any course,” Hassan said. “Mike addressed a

wide range of questions related to the public relations field, including client pitching processes, strategies for polishing images and managing reputations, and more.”

Hassan enjoyed the training session so much that she invited Raia to speak with her students in her Introduction to Mass Media classes.

“By sharing real-world insights into public relations strategy, crisis communication, media relations, and audience engagement, he bridged the gap between academic concepts and professional practice, giving students a glimpse into media practices,” Hassan said. “It was a great conversation as students were exposed to industry realities and career pathways.”

Patrick Kelly, Ph.D., professor of accountancy, whose research on sports betting and casinos is often quoted by the media, has participated in multiple sessions with Raia.

“Interacting with the media is different from presenting research at academic conferences, and there is much to learn about effectively —>



communicating with a broader audience,” Kelly said. “Mike is a tremendous resource when it comes to understanding the media landscape. He emphasizes the importance of being strategic — identifying your audience, clarifying your core message, and establishing credibility. These practices help build trust.”

Kelly also met with Raia separately to discuss his research and how it might be best communicated to a wider public audience.

Raia is a coach outside the classroom, too. He manages a youth baseball team and serves as vice president of the Little League in Barrington, Rhode Island, where he lives with his wife, Kristin Ellis Raia '05, and their two children. Mike and Kristin met at PC while working together on The Cowl. His agency is named after Half Street in Washington, D.C., located near the stadium of his

“Mike is a tremendous resource when it comes to understanding the media landscape.”

— PROFESSOR PATRICK KELLY

beloved Washington Nationals. It’s a spot where his fond memories are deeply rooted. The same can be said of Providence College.

“Being able to return and support faculty who are doing important, often complex work — and help amplify their voices beyond campus — feels like a full-circle moment and a way to give back to an institution that helped shape my career,” Raia said. 🍷



Mike Raia '05 leads a media strategy session for Providence College faculty and staff.

Tips from Mike Raia '05

1 Respect your audience. They’re smart, curious, and interested ... but they’re likely not experts. Most audiences don’t begin with the same assumptions, language, or context as you do. Starting where people are helps your message land in a way that’s understandable, relevant, and meaningful beyond your own field or organization.

2 Offer something new, unique, or provocative — ideally all three. Journalists are navigating crowded news cycles and limited attention. Clear insight that adds something fresh or challenges conventional thinking is far more likely to resonate and get traction.

3 Don’t dodge a reporter’s question, but don’t feel obligated to answer it strictly on their terms. Strong interviews are guided, not improvised. Be clear about your core messages, respond honestly, and don’t be afraid to repeat yourself.

4 Use anecdotes and stories to explain and contextualize complex ideas, issues, and data. Stories help audiences understand why an issue matters, not just how it works. If people need a calculator or another browser tab to follow your point, you’ve likely lost them.

5 Confidence and clarity build trust. Audiences are more likely to trust experts who speak plainly and with purpose. Confidence doesn’t come from having every answer — it comes from communicating with intention and integrity.

Mike Raia '05 founded Half Street Group in 2020. The agency has advised dozens of nonprofit, social impact, higher education, and corporate organizations throughout the mid-Atlantic and northeast.

CLASS NOTES

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'54

Eugene P. Coyle '54 of Oakland, California, published a proposal to halt runaway climate change in the online publication *Green Social Thought*. Coyle has a Ph.D. in economics from Boston College and taught advanced corporate finance in the MBA program at the University of Miami, Florida. For decades, he has had a consulting practice in economics, working on energy issues for low-income and environmental clients, labor unions, and federal and state governments. He has been invited to speak before the U.S. Congress, the full Brazilian House of Representatives in Brasilia, and many state legislatures. He addressed the Mexican Senate and spoke at a conference in Korea. Coyle has published on solar and geothermal energy in professional journals and in newspapers in the United States.

'70

William MacDonnell, DDS '70 of West Hartford, Connecticut, was elected vice president of the Hartford Medical Society. A retired dentist anesthesiologist, he is past president of the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists and the Connecticut State Dental Association.

'73

Judge Maureen McKenna Goldberg '73, '09 Hon. of Wakefield, Rhode Island, retired from the Rhode Island Supreme Court in March 2026 after serving more than three decades in the state's judiciary. In 2022, she presented the commencement address for the graduate programs and School of Continuing Education at Providence College, sharing her story of transferring to PC from Salve Regina University in 1971, when PC began accepting women as undergraduates. She studied education and worked as a teacher before enrolling at Suffolk Law School. Her judicial career spanned seven governors and three chief justices. She was only the third woman to sit on the state's high court. Prior to her appointment to the Rhode Island Superior Court in 1990, she began her career as a prosecutor in the attorney general's office,

followed by private practice with an emphasis on public service, representing the towns of South Kingstown and Westerly and the state Department of Environmental Management, and as special counsel to the Rhode Island State Police.

'74

Richard Malachowski '74, '81G of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, was recognized by the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists for his 50-year career in the textile industry. Malachowski was a textile chemist and director of research for 35 years at Cranston Print Works Co. in Cranston, Rhode Island, and Webster, Massachusetts, once the largest textile printing company in the United States. He led innovations in printing technologies, environmental compliance, and product development, helping transition

the company from copper roller to laser-engraved rotary screen printing, and traveled to China, Vietnam, Italy, and Germany to source materials and evaluate machinery. Since his retirement in 2009, he has taught at the University of Rhode Island in the Department of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design. He is the father of Gayle Malachowski McCulloch '05.

'75

Lisa Connolly Gilbride '75 of Topsham, Maine, was presented the New England Champion of Equality Award during the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament in Flushing Meadows, New York, in September 2025. The award honors women who have worked to make the sport of tennis more equal and inclusive. She was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

On the Vineyard

Six classmates from the Class of 1968 reunited during the summer of 2025 at the home of **Tom Cavanagh '68** in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, on Martha's Vineyard. The group, often joined by other classmates, checks in twice a month on Zoom and occasionally gathers in person.

Pictured, back row, from left, **Bob Donnelly '68** (Ossining, New York),

Buddy Dobbins '68 (Chicago), and **Tom Cavanagh '68** (West Roxbury, Massachusetts). Front row, from left, **Don Sauvigne '68** (Wilton, Connecticut), **Harry MacDonald '68** (Cumberland, Rhode Island), and **John Eagan '68** (Smithtown, New York).

"We and all of our classmates are a very proud and devoted PC group," Sauvigne said. Sauvigne is a member of the National Alumni Council and Eagan is a class representative.



CLASS NOTES

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celebrated with Billie Jean King and 15 other U.S. Tennis Association representatives. Gilbride helped establish the women's tennis program at PC and was the first woman to win the college's Athlete of the Year honor. She was inducted into the U.S. Tennis Association's New England Hall of Fame in 2023. Until her retirement in 2022, she was director of racquet sports at the Central Lincoln County YMCA in Damariscotta.

'77

Michael Nassaney '77 of South Haven, Michigan, professor emeritus of anthropology at Western Michigan University, received the Award of Merit from the Society of Historical Archaeology. The award recognizes significant contributions made to advancing scholarship in the field of historical archaeology.

'78

Lou Zammarelli '78 of Smithfield, Rhode Island, president of the North Providence-Smithfield Babe Ruth League, was inducted into the New England Babe Ruth Leagues Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Nashua, New Hampshire, in September 2025. Zammarelli began coaching Babe Ruth baseball 52 years ago while he was a student and baseball player at PC, and he has been president of the North Providence-Smithfield Babe Ruth League for 30 seasons. Coaching players ages 13–15 is special, Zammarelli said. "There's nothing like seeing a player you coached go on to play in high school, and in many cases, go on to play in college." Zammarelli added that he was fortunate to play under coach Alex Nahigian at PC and that most of what he has done as a coach over the years is based on what he learned from him.

'79

Marta Martinez '79, '19Hon. of Warwick, Rhode Island, was inducted into the Rhode Island Press Association Journalism Hall of Fame in May 2025. As the founder and executive director of Rhode Island Latino Arts, she has chronicled the stories of Latinos who

A Fribourg reunion

Seven alumni spent three days in Switzerland in September 2025 celebrating the 50th anniversary of their year abroad at the University of Fribourg through Providence-in-Europe, PC's original study abroad program.

They were joined by nine graduates of other colleges — Fairfield University, Miami University of Ohio, Newton College of the Sacred Heart, Rosary College of Chicago, the University of Rhode Island, and the University of Fribourg — who spent the 1975-1976 academic year with them.

Events included a dinner at the Cafe du Gothard, a farm-to-table luncheon at the Ferme du Biolley, and a full-day reenactment of the original guided tour offered upon their arrival in 1975. The tour included a private bus trip to Gruyere, a visit to the Maison Cailler chocolate museum, and a stop at the beautiful Abbatte d'Hauterive monastery.

Taking part were **Bob Burke '77, Jeannine Falino '78, Stephen Famiglietti '77, Marion Hague '77, Jonathan Kaplan '77, Paul Langhammer '77, and Michael Nassaney '77.** Also joining them was Langhammer's wife, Tricia Leddy, who attended the Fribourg program the same year through URI.

"Above all, the reunion was a gathering of friends who have stayed in touch for 50 years and who continue to have a strong bond due to their shared experience of spending a junior year abroad before it became de rigueur," said Hague, who lives in Warwick, Rhode Island, and had a 30-year career with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island.

"Consider: We had no internet and there were no cell phones," Hague said. "We had each other — a bunch of 20-somethings who were far away from home and who relied on friendships. And those friendships continue to this day."

Nassaney, of South Haven, Michigan, professor emeritus of anthropology at Western Michigan University, said the year in Fribourg changed his life.

"I had the opportunity to see the places, monuments, churches, and works of art that I had learned about in the classroom," Nassaney said. "I took classes in archaeology and worked on a dig at a Stone Age site in the summer of 1976. All of this took place with other students who I connected with for life. Providence-in-Europe was the best part of my studies at PC."

Providence-in-Europe was established in 1968 with 16 students and a resident director at the University of Fribourg.



The group reunited in Fribourg.

settled in Rhode Island. Her book, *Latino History in Rhode Island: Nuestras Raíces*, was published in 2014. She was awarded an honorary doctor of fine arts degree by the college and is a member of the PC Board of Trustees.

'80

Lauren Cook '80 of Philadelphia, who was an anthropology major at PC, is working for Dewberry Engineers as a senior archaeologist, environment and historic preservation specialist and support maritime archaeologist on FEMA-reimbursable disaster recovery projects in New Jersey.

'82

Ed Quinn '82 of New York City was awarded a New York Emmy in October 2025 for his videography work on a Newsday story, "For migrants, a year of struggle, fear, and hope." Quinn chronicled the efforts of a migrant family from Ecuador as they attempted to find a home and work in New York City. He is an independent photojournalist based in New York City.

'84

Lisa M. Wilson, Esq. '84 of Boston was selected as one of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's "Go To" Family Law Lawyers for 2025. Her firm, Wilson, Marino & Bonnevie, P.C. was also named one of the best women-led law firms of 2025.

'85

Michael McCaffrey '85 of Warwick, Rhode Island, was nominated by Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee for a judgeship on the Rhode Island District Court and confirmed by the state Senate. The position was previously filled by **Melissa DuBose '90**, now a judge of the U.S. District Court for Rhode Island. McCaffrey served in the Rhode Island Senate from 1995-2022, including as Senate majority leader. He has a law degree from Suffolk University.

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

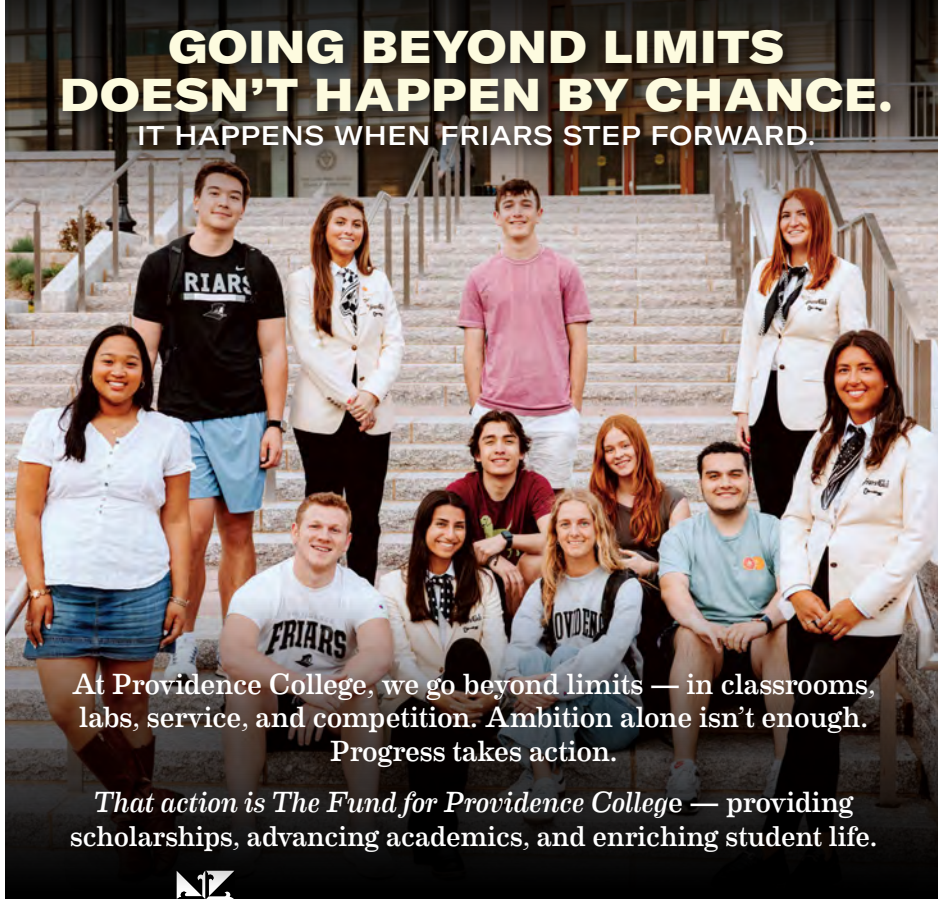
Elizabeth "Betsy" Beaulieu '86 of Mystic, Connecticut, returned to Rhode Island after a 30-year career in higher education, from adjunct professor to vice president, and is

now a philanthropy officer at The San Miguel School on Branch Avenue in Providence. Founded on the city's South Side in 1993, San Miguel, a tuition-free independent middle school for boys from diverse and challenging backgrounds, is rooted in the Lasallian values of faith, brotherhood, and community. The boys give tours and welcome visitors to morning assembly every morning. Betsy invites anyone who is interested to reach out to her to see this inspiring, innovative school firsthand.

'88

Lagina Bickham, DMD '88 of Providence, a graduate of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, was awarded a Fellowship in the American College of Dentists during the organization's annual meeting and convocation


in Washington, D.C., in October 2025. Only 2.4 percent of dentists in the United States and Canada are awarded ACD fellowships, which recognize dentists who have made significant contributions to the advancement of excellence, ethics, professionalism, and leadership. Bickham is a general dentist at Thundermist Health Center in Woonsocket and dental director at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls. She previously served for more than 20 years as dental director at Dimock Health Center in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and has held adjunct faculty positions at dental schools, dental hygiene schools, and dental assisting schools in New England. She is the lead dentist in the organization Cape Verdean Women United and has completed dental mission trips to all nine inhabited islands of Cape Verde.




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DOESN'T HAPPEN BY CHANCE.
IT HAPPENS WHEN FRIARS STEP FORWARD.**

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'89

Christine McCarthy '89 of Provincetown, Massachusetts, is chief executive officer of the Provincetown Art Association and Museum. Under her leadership for the past 25 years, the Provincetown Art Association and Museum has acquired the second-largest Edward Hopper collection in the world. She oversaw a major renovation and expansion of the museum, making it the first green art museum in the country. The museum is now

capable of hosting world-renowned exhibitions and holds more than 5,000 objects in its permanent collection. McCarthy was honored by Michele Obama for the museum's work bringing art to underserved youth populations on Cape Cod. She is an expert in Provincetown art history and a leader in the art museum world, having curated exhibitions across the United States, and always welcomes opportunities to engage with Friars who visit the museum.

Paul Olivier, FACHE '89 of Boardman, Ohio, has been elected president of the Board of Commissioners for Mill Creek MetroParks in Youngstown, established in 1891 as the first metro park in Ohio.

'90

Marie Pellegrino '90 of South Easton, Massachusetts, is the first woman to be president of BayCoast Bank in its 175-year-history. She previously was executive vice president and chief operating officer, overseeing the bank's operations and its subsidiaries, including BayCoast Mortgage, BayCoast Insurance, Plimoth Investment Advisors, and Priority Funding. She joined BayCoast in 2013 after serving as vice president and controller at Newport Federal Savings Bank and as accounting manager at People's Credit Union in Middletown, Rhode Island. She has an accountancy degree from PC and graduated from the Massachusetts Bankers School of Financial Studies.

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

Sean Hoeing '91 of Dover, New Hampshire, was named chief operating officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester in New Hampshire. Previously, he was diocesan director of operations and administration. Prior to joining the Diocese of Manchester, he was chief operating officer for Constellations Behavioral Services in Portsmouth. He also held senior leadership positions at Safran Aerospace Composites after founding and serving as president of his own training and testing company, Learning Tools, Inc., for 14 years.

'92

Robert Creamer '92 of Warwick, Rhode Island, a lieutenant colonel in the Rhode Island State Police, was appointed director of compliance for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence by Most Rev. Bruce A. Lewandowski, C.Ss.R., bishop of Providence, effective in January 2025. He is responsible for ensuring all diocesan entities and employees follow policies, procedures, and law. The compliance office oversees investigations, conducts background checks, facilitates cooperation with law en-



Retired Judge Francis J. Darigan '64, '14Hon., at left.

Mason sponsors Honor Flight

Thanks to the generosity of **George Mason '84** and his wife, Jeanne LaFazia, more than 130 veterans traveled to Washington, D.C., in September 2025 as part of Honor Flight Justice. They visited war memorials and Arlington National Cemetery and were accompanied throughout the day by volunteers who included college staff members and alumni.

Mason, deputy administrator of the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court, and LaFazia, chief judge of Rhode Island District Court, sponsored the flight in memory of her late father and to recognize the staff, mentors, and participants of the Rhode Island Veterans Treatment Court, which she founded for veterans in the criminal justice system.

The group also was escorted by PC's ROTC Patriot Battalion Color Guard.



Nancy Kelly '05SCE with veteran Edward Delsignore.

Friars on skis

If you spent any time at Loon Mountain in Lincoln, New Hampshire, during the ski season, perhaps you encountered three Friars — **Sam Dimik '18**, **Danielle Culgin '03**, and **Mike Beatty '99** (left to right in the photo) — who are professional ski patrollers there.

Whether they work full- or part-time, Beatty said, “It’s an incredible way to combine our love for learning, through medical certifications and continuing educational opportunities, with our passion for moving through the mountains in all types of terrain and weather conditions, all in the service of the people and community that winter outdoor pursuits unite.”



forcement, and provides education and training in policies and risk management. Creamer is a member of the FBI Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Task Force. As second-in-command of the state police, he oversaw more than 650 employees. He studied finance at PC and has master’s degrees from the University of Rhode Island and Bryant University.

Lesley Keays '92 of Lake Mary, Florida, is a columnist for The Sanford Herald, a vital source of news in Central Florida since 1908.

'94

Steven M. Christman '94 of Centrepont, New York, was elected to the board of directors at Marshall Dennehey, a civil defense litigation firm based in Philadelphia. A shareholder and managing attorney in the New York City office since 2023, Christman will serve a three-year term. He joined the Casualty Department in 2008 and focuses on a range of matters, including construction litigation, professional liability, premises, product liability, toxic tort, automobile claims, and trucking and transportation litigation. He is a graduate of the University of Dayton School of Law.

Sean Kehoe '94 of West Hartford, Connecticut, was nominated to serve as a judge on the

Connecticut Superior Court by Governor Ned Lamont. Kehoe is an associate attorney general and chief of the Government Administrative Division of the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General, an office he joined 24 years ago after earning a law degree from Quinnipiac University. He is one of 14 people nominated by Lamont to fill one of 20 vacancies on the court. The Connecticut General Assembly must confirm the nominations.

Michelle Balthazar Murphy '94 of Bronxville, New York, has been named head of fraud operations for CreditOne Bank, based in Las Vegas.

'95

Jim Mello '95 of Annville, Pennsylvania, has begun a new role as senior director of data and insights at Milton Hershey School in Hershey. He will lead efforts to strengthen the use of information and analytics to support continuous improvement, improve decision-making, and advance the school’s mission to nurture and educate children in social and financial need to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

'98

Jared B. Wilbur, CFE, CPP '98 of West Greenwich, Rhode Island, was promoted to senior vice president, enterprise risk and security, at The Washington Trust Company.

'99

Ellie Fantini Cullinan '99 of Wellesley, Massachusetts, was honored by the New England Real Estate Journal for her work in commercial real estate in Boston. She is a principal and executive vice president with Freudenheim Partners, focusing on tenant representation in the downtown Boston and Cambridge markets. She has more than 25 years of experience in commercial real estate.

'00

Christine Rose Barlow '00 of Warren, Rhode Island, was named executive director of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority. She previously served for 24 years with the U.S. Department of Education, most recently as assistant general counsel, leading a division of 17 attorneys to provide legal counsel on education grants and funding programs. She has a juris doctor from American University.

Howard Carney '00 of Charlton, Massachusetts, has transitioned to state government work following 22 consecutive years in the banking industry. He now works for the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance.

Joseph Valenzano '00 of Westfield, Indiana, will be provost of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, beginning in July 2026. He will serve as chief academic officer and will oversee Drake’s seven colleges and schools. Valenzano has been dean of the College of Communication at Butler University since 2023. He holds a master’s degree in communication from the University of Maine and a Ph.D. in public communication from Georgia State University.

'02

Jennifer ZuWalick Sullivan '02 of Northford, Connecticut, is director of the Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library in Stony Creek, Branford. Previously, she was assistant director/head of adult services at the Woodbridge Town Library. Jen majored in American Studies at PC and earned a master of library science degree from Southern Connecticut State University. Becoming director at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

CLASS NOTES

↳ SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

Willoughby is a homecoming for her: she grew up less than two miles from the library and was a frequent young patron. Jen has served as the Connecticut Library Association's Public Libraries Section chair since 2021 and coordinates the biennial state-wide Passports to Connecticut Libraries program (returning in April 2026, for you Nutmegger Friars).

Women of Distinction

Three Friars were recognized as Leading Women of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England. The award celebrates women who embody the Girl Scout mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

From left in photo, **Katherine Hypolite-MacMannis '08**, communications and event manager in the PC School of Nursing and Health Sciences; **Laura Jaworski '00**, executive director of House of Hope Community Development Corporation; and **Kilah Waters-Clinton '00**, director of equity and community engagement in the Rhode Island Office of Health and Human Services.



Kaitlyn Kenney Walsh '02 of Walpole, Massachusetts, is the new chief executive officer of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. The foundation, based in Boston, collaborates with public and private organizations to broaden health coverage and reduce barriers to care through grants, research, and policy initiatives. Kenney Walsh joined the foundation in 2013 and most recently was vice president of policy and research. She studied health policy and management at PC and has a Ph.D. in public and international affairs from Northeastern University. Walsh and her husband, Liam Walsh '02, have four children.

'03

Cristy Raposo Perry '03 of Cranston, Rhode Island, was promoted to deputy chief of communications at RIPTA, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, and joined the board of directors of the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island.

'05

Erin Dawicki '05 of Halifax, Massachusetts, was named a Presidential Leadership Scholar for 2026. She is one of 60 mid-career professionals selected to hone their leadership abilities through interactions with former presidents, administration officials, academics, and business and civic leaders in Washington, D.C. A clinician and entrepreneur dedicated to transforming early infectious-disease detection, she is the co-founder and CEO of LymeAlert, a venture-backed biotech startup that developed rapid home tick-testing kits and AI-powered vector-borne disease mapping. A practicing physician assistant with a background in orthopedic surgery and public-health innovation, she has held clinical and teaching roles at Boston Children's Hospital, Tufts University School of Medicine, and Plymouth Bay Orthopedic Associates.

'07

Bridget Flynn Anderson '07 of West Simsbury, Connecticut, was promoted to vice president of educational services at May Institute, a

leader in care for individuals with autism, developmental disabilities, brain injuries, and neurobehavioral disorders. In the role, she oversees three May schools in Randolph, Mansfield, and Wilmington. She joined May Institute in 2007 and was honored with an Exceptional Service Award in 2020. She is a board-certified behavior analyst and is licensed in school counseling by the state of Massachusetts.

'10

Kelli Burgess Klunder '10 of Park City, Utah, founded a nonprofit, Clark's Christmas Foundation, which supports families in need during the holiday season. It provided toys, essential clothing, sports equipment, and education materials, including books, to 175 children in Summit County in 2025, up from 141 the previous year. Ninety six percent of the money raised directly benefits recipients and only 4 percent is used for administrative costs.

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

Alex Castrichini '11 of Belmont, Massachusetts, will run the 2026 Boston Marathon to support Boston CASA, an organization that recruits, trains, and supports community volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates for children and youth separated from their families due to abuse or neglect. Castrichini majored in political science at PC with a minor in finance. He learned about CASA through his wife's family. Her aunt, a lawyer involved in the organization, died in 2012. The Susan J. Ganz Award is given in her honor each year.

Brian Gay '11 of Middletown, Connecticut, earned an executive master's degree in clinical quality, safety, and leadership from Georgetown University's School of Health in December 2025. Through the program, he developed competency in quality improvement, leadership, communication, professionalism, and knowledge of healthcare systems. A certified professional in healthcare quality (CPHQ), he is director of quality assurance at Whiting Forensic Hospital, a state-operated psychiatric facility in Middletown.

'13

Timothy J. McCaig '13 of Rumford, Rhode Island, was appointed executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Rhode Island and consultant for diocesan development by Most Rev. Bruce A. Lewandowski, C.Ss.R., bishop of the Diocese of Providence. The nonprofit Catholic Foundation of Rhode Island stewards endowed funds within the Catholic Church and is one of the largest such foundations in the country with \$159 million in assets under management. Prior to his appointment, McCaig was director of stewardship and development for the diocese for five years, including overseeing the annual Catholic Charity Appeal. He studied English and history at PC.

Timothy Ortolani '13 of Cranford, New Jersey, was promoted to partnership at Kaufman Dolowich, a national law firm headquartered on Long Island, New York. His practice focuses on maritime, employment, and commercial litigation, and professional liability. He represents clients in matters arising on vessels at ports and within marine terminals, and which frequently implicate the Jones Act and the Longshore and Harbor Worker's Compensation Act. He also regularly handles matters involving the contested liability of employers and non-profit organizations, general lease and business disputes, and various professionals' obligations. He is based in the Hackensack office and has a law degree from Seton Hall University.

'17

Bill Joyce '17 of Nanuet, New York, was appointed director of inventory dynamics and logistical analytics at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, where he leads inventory forecasting, analytics, and material planning strategy for the Metro-North Railroad and the Long Island Rail Road.

'20

Jeremiah Mary Tobin, O.P. '20 of Washington, D.C., was ordained a transitional deacon in the Dominican Province of St. Joseph during a ceremony in February 2026 in the Priory of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies. Originally from Trumbull, Connecticut, and known as Sean Tobin while a PC student, he majored in both clas-

sics and history. He entered the Order of Preachers at graduation.

'24

Kyle Spaltholz '24G of Bristol, Rhode Island, a seventh and eighth grade counselor at Portsmouth Middle School, received a national Milken Educator Award and a \$25,000 unrestricted cash prize in October 2025. A former English language arts teacher and instructional systems coach, Spaltholz earned a master's degree in school counseling from PC. He was surprised with the award, which recognizes outstanding teaching, during an assembly at his school attended by Jane Foley, Milken Educator Awards senior vice president, and Angélica Infante-Green, Rhode Island education commissioner. He will join other Milken Award winners at an all-expenses-paid educa-

tion forum in Washington, D.C., in June 2026.

'25

Kyle Campbell '25G of Providence used his master's degree in urban education from Providence College to create a business as an educator preparing to teach about the long and short-term impacts of the school-to-prison pipeline in Rhode Island.

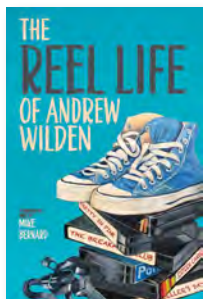
Angie Pierre '25 of Phillipsburg, New Jersey, is enrolled in a two-year post-baccalaureate classics course at Rutgers University. Pierre, a history and global studies double major who graduated magna cum laude from PC, is studying ancient Greek and Latin in preparation for a doctoral degree. She hopes to pursue a career in museum repatriation for an international organization such as UNESCO. 🏛️

WE'RE TAKING PC
BEYOND
LIMITS

SEE OUR
IMPACT

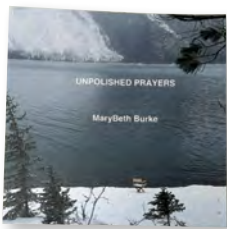


ALUMNI AUTHORS



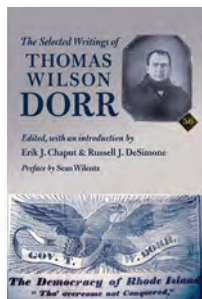
Mike Bernard '85 of West Yarmouth, Massachusetts, released his eighth novel through Library Tales Publishing. *The Reel Life of Andrew Wilden* is a coming-of-age tale about

love, belonging, and the courage to stop quoting other people's lives and start writing your own. Andrew Wilden has never known life outside the glow of a screen. Raised in his family's video store, he was educated through VHS tapes, matinees, and DVD menus. But when his mother disappears and his father collapses into illness, he must enter the real world. He relies on his love of movies to win friends, outwit bullies, and charm a girl. But what happens when the lines run out and the real and the reel no longer match? The book is brimming with 1980s nostalgia, humor, and heart.



Mary Elizabeth Hultquist Burke '77, '96G of Creston, Montana, wrote and self-published *Unpolished Prayers*, a

book of personal poetry. Drawing from her earlier life in Rhode Island along with her present-day life in Montana, her poetry is garnered from her life experiences. Every poem displays heartfelt emotion. Along with her poetry are personal photographs portraying her life's journey, both in Rhode Island and Montana. Mary Beth lives with her husband, Tom Burke '74, and their Labrador retrievers, Seamus and McGunn. She is a former educator and school counselor. *Unpolished Prayers*, copyright 2024, is her first book.



Erik J. Chaput, Ph.D. '03, '04G and Russell J. DeSimone '67

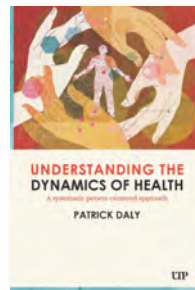
edited and published *The Selected Writings of Thomas Wilson Dorr* — the first time Dorr's letters have been

compiled into a single edition. Dorr was Rhode Island's foremost 19th century political reformer. His efforts to bring constitutional reform to Rhode Island brought the state to the brink of civil war in the spring of 1842. *The Selected Writings of Thomas Wilson Dorr* is available online from the Rhode Island Publications Society. In 2022, Chaput and DeSimone were recognized with a Rhode Island Humanities Council award for their efforts to create the Dorr Rebellion Project website in conjunction with Phillips Memorial Library. Chaput's book, *The People's Martyr: Thomas Wilson Dorr and His 1842 Rhode Island Rebellion* is now available in paperback from the University Press of Kansas.



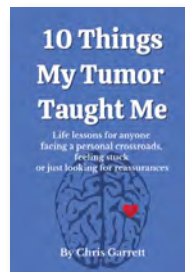
Emily Hall Cusimano '00 of Concord, Massachusetts, published her first children's book, *A Silent Sizzle*, in 2024. The touching

story captures the quiet ways we express our love amid the chaos of everyday life. Even in the busiest moments, a simple gesture can express a profound connection. The story follows the journey of a mother and child who find a special bond through the touch of a finger, sparking an imaginative electric shock that symbolizes their quiet connection. As the child grows, the unspoken bond remains strong, illustrating the enduring nature of love.



Patrick Daly, M.D. '69 of Providence wrote *Understanding the Dynamics of Health*, published in November 2025 by the University of Toronto Press. The book

presents a holistic approach to integrating the disciplines of health science and healthcare, based on the thought of Jesuit philosopher and theologian Bernard Lonergan. The book not only emphasizes the lived experience of the whole person but establishes a methodological approach for integrating the ever-expanding fields of health science and healthcare.

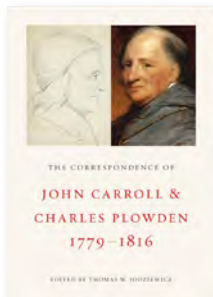


Chris Garrett '99 of Kingston, Massachusetts, published his second book, *Ten Things My Tumor Taught Me*, after a diagnosis, treatment, and recovery from a

rare, benign brain tumor. The experience changed his life and taught him about himself and the world around him. Maybe you are encountering a similar situation in your personal or professional life — job loss, relationship issues, a medical situation, the loss of a loved one. Or maybe your life is humming along just as you hoped. Wherever you might be, these 10 lessons might help you discover the perspective you need to keep moving forward.

Thomas W. Jodziewicz, Ph.D. '66 of Irving, Texas, who taught history for 42 years at the University of Dallas, wrote *The Correspondence of John Carroll and Charles Plowden, 1779–1816*,

published by Catholic University of America Press. The book offers an insider's look at Bishop Carroll's role as chief architect in establishing the Catholic church in the United States and Father



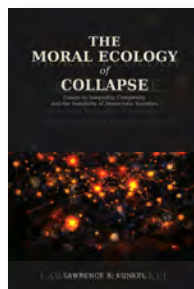
Plowden's participation in bringing about English Catholic emancipation. Both former Jesuits, the two encountered the upheavals precipitated by wars (the American

and French revolutions, the Napoleonic wars), the philosophical challenges of the Enlightenment and the Age of Reason, anti-Catholic sentiment and prejudices, and the wait for renewal of the Society of Jesus.



Wayne Johnson Jr. '95 of Austin, Texas, wrote and published *Tearing Down Strongholds: Discover Your Power!*, available on Amazon. The book unpacks familiar

passages of Scripture to reveal life-changing principles for daily living. Each chapter equips readers with techniques modeled from Jesus' teachings, offering a path to spiritual freedom and lasting transformation. Johnson also wrote *Habits for Jesus: Steps to a Powerful Spiritual Transformation*.

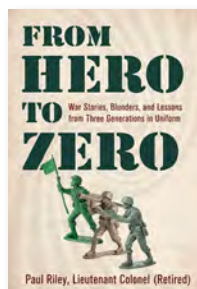


Lawrence Kunkel '78 of New York City wrote *The Moral Ecology of Collapse: Essays on Inequality, Complexity, and the Instability of Democratic Societies*. The book is

a sweeping, interdisciplinary exploration of the systems that govern modern life — economic, social, psychological, technological, and political. Drawing from

complexity science, game theory, chaos theory, and moral philosophy, Kunkel reveals how small disturbances in unequal, highly interconnected societies can lead to polarization, institutional decay, and democratic fragility. He offers a framework, Systems Humanism, for rebuilding the intellectual and ethical foundations of institutions, designing economies that promote flourishing, and restoring democratic resilience in a nonlinear world.

Ed McCormick '57 of Narragansett, Rhode Island, wrote *And They All Came Home*, a book about five members of his family who served with distinction and were recognized for bravery in World War II and Vietnam. The book was published in April 2026, in time for the celebration of our nation's 250th birthday. McCormick is part of a fourth-generation Friar family, beginning with his father, a member of the Class of 1925. Four of McCormick's children and two of his grandsons are also alumni. He plans to donate copies of his book to Phillips Memorial Library, ROTC Patriot Battalion, the Office of Alumni Relations, and the PC bookstore.

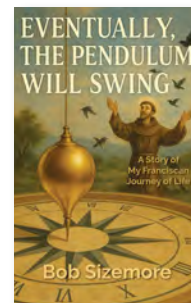


Paul Riley '02G of Clifton, Virginia, wrote *From Hero to Zero: War Stories, Blunders, and Lessons from Three Generations in Uniform*. The book shares stories from

three generations, three wars, and one family's tradition of going from hero to zero — sometimes in the same afternoon. From Vietnam to Desert Storm to Iraqi Freedom, the Riley family has served with honor, hilarity, and just enough spectacular failure to keep things interesting. A retired lieutenant colonel with a master's degree in history from PC, Riley delivers raw, irreverent war stories that reveal the truth about military service. He says: "This isn't your grandfather's sanitized war memoir — it's the unfiltered truth about combat, character, and the absurd reality of life in uniform. Because the Army will

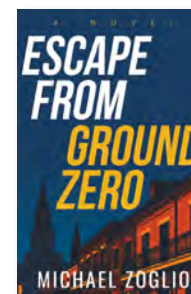
pin a medal on your chest one day and laugh at your mistake the next. That's just how it works."

Robert A. Sizemore '64 of Rocky Hill, Connecticut, wrote *Eventually, The Pendulum Will Swing: A Story of My*



Franciscan Journey of Life, published in 2025. An educator for 50 years who taught sociology at Quinnipiac University and Southern Connecticut University, Sizemore is a spiritual director,

therapist, and Third Order Franciscan. His latest book chronicles his Franciscan journey through life's triumphs, trials, and transformations, from a turbulent childhood to academic and spiritual pursuits and a reconciliation with the past. Rooted in perseverance, family, and divine providence, the book offers a moving portrait of how faith and resilience shape a meaningful life of service and love.



Michael Zoglio '67 of Bonita Springs, Florida, wrote *Escape From Ground Zero*, a novel that dives into the secret world of stolen art — how masterpieces are traf-

ficked, traded, and erased from history without a trace — with the backdrop of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Beginning with the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum robbery in 1990 and culminating in a hopeful vision of recovered art, the thriller blends history, suspense, and redemption. Zoglio is an entrepreneur and volunteer business coach who for 20 years was a private investigator specializing in missing persons cases. Proceeds from book sales benefit the nonprofit Undue Medical Debt, which helps families in need.

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

FRIAR WEDDINGS

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

Anna Widdison '20 married her college sweetheart, **Peter Morrison '20**, on September 20, 2025, at the Venezia Restaurant in Boston, surrounded by alumni, friends, and family. "We are so grateful that Providence College brought us together and we look forward to a lifetime of love with frequent visits to Friartown," she said. The couple lives in Boston.

Lily Hayman '19 and John Glynn '19 married at the Beauport Hotel in Gloucester, Massachusetts, on September 20, 2025, surrounded by family, friends, and alumni. The couple met while students and have continued to share a strong connection to the Friar community. Their wedding was a joyful celebration marked by deep friendships, lasting memories, and a shared love for PC. They reside in Medford, Massachusetts.

Matthew Mazzella '20 and Marie Sweeney '20 married on September 20, 2025, at the Church of Christ the King in New Vernon, New Jersey. They celebrated with more than 50 Friars, including Marie's parents, Paul Sweeney '89 and Michele

Nicole Andrews '20 and Justin Consoli '20 married on October 25, 2025, at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in Newport, Rhode Island. Several Friars attended the celebration, including Brian McManus '90, far right, former president of the National Alumni Association; members of the FOLD (Friars of the Last Decade) community; and Patrick Nigro '15, far left, saxophone player with Clockwork New England, the wedding band. The couple resides in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Magnier Sweeney '89; Marie's brother, Sean Sweeney '19; Matthew's brother, Peter Mazzella '22; and many other Friar family and friends. They reside in Morristown.

Jillian Mullaney '14, '16G and John Calhoun married on September 13, 2025, in the Lauralton Hall chapel in Milford, Connecticut. Friars attending included Jillian's teammates on the swimming and diving team and Rev. Maurice Maroney '62, who officiated. The couple resides in Boston.

Chris Yerxa '20 and Claire Lyons '20 married on August 31, 2025, at St. Ann's Church in Quincy, Massachusetts, with her uncle, Rev. Stephen Dominic Hayes, O.P., officiating. A reception was held at the Red Lion Inn in Cohasset. Chris is finishing his fourth year of medical school at

Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine while Claire works in Quincy as an allergy nurse practitioner. When both are home, they reside in Marshfield, Massachusetts, with their puppy, Seamus.

Brian O'Reilly '16 and Midori Kihara '16 married on August 24, 2025, at The Villa in East Bridgewater, Massachusetts, surrounded by 47 Friar alumni. Midori and Brian met during their first year at PC when Midori and her friends visited McDermott Hall, where Brian resided. But it wasn't until after graduation that they began dating, reconnecting when both joined a softball team made up mostly of Friar alumni. They live in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Laura Angley '17 and Austin Goltz '17, '18G married on June 21, 2025, at Wren's Roost Barn in Naples, New York. They reside in Cleveland.



Little FRIARS

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

Courtney Victoria Strauss '20 and Cole Richard Manning '20 married on July 11, 2025, in Newport, Rhode Island. The ceremony took place at The Church of Jesus Saviour with Rev. Dominic Verner, O.P., a beloved PC friar, officiating. A reception followed at the Newport Harbor Island Resort. The couple celebrated their joyful day surrounded by family, friends, and many fellow Friars. They reside in South Boston.

Christian Giacondino '18 and Alexis Lopez '18 married on June 14, 2025, in Newport, Rhode Island. They met during their sophomore year and reside in Boston.

Brendan O'Brien '18, '19G and Michala Harris '18 married on May 30, 2025, at St. Joseph's Church in Newport, Rhode Island, followed by a reception at Rosecliff Mansion. Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04 officiated and more than 50 Friar alumni attended. The couple met on campus in 2017 and resides in South Boston.

Kevin Foley '08 and Nicole Simms married on March 1, 2025, in Newport, Rhode Island. Kevin was supported by his best man, Jeremy Kirkpatrick '08, and groomsman, Ben Doherty '08. Other Friars in attendance were his father, Kevin Foley '77, and Carl Massaro '77, Adrian Wirt '09, Frank O'Brien '08, Colleen Shannon Loehr '07, Timothy Loehr '08, and Brad Chen '08. The couple resides in New York City.

Ethan Descoteaux '21 and Katherine Vennard '22 married on November 2, 2024, in St. Dominic Chapel, with many Friars in attendance. They met during a theatre, dance, and film production of "Bat Boy: The Musical," when both were members of the ensemble. They also appeared in "Something Rotten!" They reside in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

D.J. Anderson '16 and Lindsey Dunn '16 married on October 5, 2024, at the Warwick Country Club in Warwick, Rhode Island, with more than 30 Friars in attendance. They live in West Hartford, Connecticut.



Benjamin Douglas Jost was born on October 9, 2025, to **Zach Jost '16 and Katie (Sischo) Jost '16**. The family lives in Quincy, Massachusetts.

Michael Murphy '16 and Hannah Struever Murphy '16 of Charlestown, Massachusetts, welcomed a son, **Nolan Murphy**, on August 20, 2025. Nolan can't wait to be a Friar just like his parents!



Richie Pace '18 and Alexandra Kartsounis Pace '18 of Stamford, Connecticut, welcomed their son, **Leonidas Pace**, on August 7, 2025. Leo attended his Friars men's basketball game at Mohegan Sun on November 8 against Virginia Tech — a perfect way to celebrate his three-month birthday.

Marissa (Denice) Pernice '11 and Vincent Pernice '11 welcomed their third daughter, **Lucia**, on May 23, 2025. They live in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, with Sofia, 6, Giulia 4, and dog Frankie.



Benson Fechter '24 and Isabella Martino Fechter '24 welcomed a baby girl, **Kristina Anne Fechter**, on March 26, 2025. They live in Pittsburgh, where Kristina attended her first Friars men's basketball game in October. The couple married during the summer of 2023 and Isabella was pregnant with Kristina during the fall of 2024, her final semester on campus.

Veronika Abkariah McPartlon '15 and Casey McPartlon '14, '15G celebrated the birth of their daughter, **Sophia Rita McPartlon**, on May 1, 2025. They live in Half Moon, New York.



Michael Murray '14 and LeeAnn Esposito Murray '14 welcomed a son, **Mac Fitzgerald Murray**, on March 7, 2025. LeeAnn wants to see Mac play hockey one day at Schneider Arena and Michael hopes Mac plays basketball at the AMP. They married on December 31, 2021, and reside in Albany, New York.

DEATHS

John E. Dodge '51	Lucien L. Birkler '62	Peter T. Norwell '68	William J. Reindl '78
Russell A. Letendre '53	William L. Conlon '62	Kevin M. Tubridy '68	Cheryl Titus Brodeur '79
Peter F. Drury '54	Rev. Giles Richard Dimock, O.P. '62	Francis M. Brosnan '69	Dennis M. Cambra '79G
Thomas S. Gilligan '54	George G. Frigo '62	Francis J. Byrne '69	Sister Mary Catherine Conboy, OSF '79G
John E. Marandola '54	William J. Keegan '62	Chester M. Lozowski '69	Leo T. Donovan '79SCE
John J. Salesses, Ph.D. '54	Francis T. Ryan '62	John J. Winters, Ph.D. '69	Brian C. McGrath '79
James J. Feeney '55	Thomas K. Shahinian, M.D. '62	Robert A. Fallago '70	Rev. Peter M. Mongeon, KCHS '79
Michael R. Virgilio '55	James H. Tarmey '62	David J. Hoard '70	Kevin J. Naughton '79
Donald A. Carignan '56	James J. Tubridy '62	Donald B. McLeod '70	Thomas A. Glatthaar, J.D. '80
Gerald Phaneuf, M.D. '56	Richard F. Wheeler '62	Thomas A. Milinowicz '70	Paul J. McCabe '80
Santo J. Riccitelli, Ph.D. '56	Richard D. Kearns '63	Edward A. Tessier '70	Charles W. Tempinski '80G
Joseph E. Robertshaw, Ph.D. '56	Charles D. McPhillips '63	Roland Boisvert '71, '87G, '90G	James L. Welch '81
Francis G. Brennan '57	George H. Quinn '63	Gerald J. Fay, M.D. '71	Thomas W. Woodford '81
Robert Cresto '57	Vincent M. Boles '64	Michael C. Goddard '71	John F. Farley '82
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THE LAST WORD

'IT'S HARD TO BE HUMBLE WHEN YOU'RE FROM PROVIDENCE COLLEGE'

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



For more on the pillow and Chuck Borkoski '71, '23Hon., see Page 26.

Father Zajac, assistant professor of English and alumni chaplain, presented this homily during Senior Ring Weekend Mass for the Class of 2026.

There's an alum who took the lower level of his home and turned it into a PC-themed bar. His name is Chuck Borkoski. He's a member of the Class of 1971, and he calls his bar The Friary. Everything is customized in black and white and the Friar logo. He has 50 years of PC memorabilia and autographs adorning the walls.

And he always has two craft beers on draft. When I had the chance to visit his house, I thought I had died and gone to Friar heaven.

Between the bar on one side of the room, and the pool table on the other, there's this black leather couch. And on that couch is a pillow. And on that pillow, it reads: "It's hard to be humble when you're from Providence College." I got such a kick out of the pillow that Chuck's wife, Leslie, gave me one.

Now, there might be a little prob-

lem here between my new favorite pillow and the Gospel reading for today's Mass: "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted" (Lk 18:14).

There seems to be clear tension between the message of Christ and the words stitched onto my pillow. But they are actually two ways of saying the same exact thing. That's what I want to reflect on today, as we celebrate this special moment, this milestone, of your senior year.





THE LAST WORD

There's something I want you to be aware of. Because it's something you will experience over time.

When you first get to college, it feels like it's going to last forever. That's how deep, and rich, and full the feeling is to be here in Friartown. But, as you're realizing, your time in college is actually quite short. It's precious. It's limited. You are a student at PC for only four years. (Or five, if you do the 4+1 program). But you will be alumni of Providence College for 40 or 50 years, or more. For the rest of your life. For all eternity.

The longer it's been since your commencement, the less humble about PC you will become. It is a profound thing, what your memories of this place do to you over time. St. Augustine (it always goes back to Civ) has this great insight in the *Confessions*. He says people think memory is about the past. It's not. Memory is about the future. It shapes the future, it gives meaning to the future, and to the way you understand and recognize yourself.

What's he mean? Two things:

INSIGHT #1: Over time, the memories that truly last will not be the ones you expect. I went around senior year feeling this tremendous pressure to make the most of every single day, to make memories that would last forever. I've forgotten them all. Even when

looking back at old photos, I'm like, "There I am, but nothing from that night sticks out to me." Over time, your memory actually reveals to you what mattered most all along. The strongest, the most vivid memory I have from senior year is a moment that didn't even stick out at the time. It's a memory of my friends and me walking to McPhail's for a senior night. It's dark, it's cold, campus is full of snow. And we're joking, we're laughing. We're together and we're happy. That memory fills me with great warmth — more warmth now than then. Because it reveals to me what mattered most to me, who mattered most. Memory shapes the future.

INSIGHT #2: You'll never forget some of the dumbest things you did here. And that's actually a good thing.

On a Saturday afternoon last summer, while the campus was completely quiet, I was walking back from my office to the priory. As I came down the hill from Ruane toward Harkins, I watched this car pull up and park, and two people get out. They were looking around in awe. As I passed, I said hello, and we started talking. They explained that they had graduated from PC over 40 years ago and this was the very first time they had set foot on

campus since then. Since commencement. After graduation they settled on the West Coast and had just never been back. As we talked, and they told me about their memories of various classes and professors and everything else, the husband started getting emotional. "Father, I did so many stupid things on this campus. So many stupid things. The Lord has been so merciful to me. He's been so good to me. I can remember, and realize now, every single way He led me, despite myself. Being back here, all I can recognize is the mercy of God."

Many important moments I had on this campus, memories I thought I'd always treasure, have completely faded. What I can't forget are some of the choices I made in my weakest moments. And what I can recognize now as the supreme mercy and patience God showed me.

With time, and distance, and years, what the Lord gives you — through your memories — is perspective. The memories help you realize more than anything else that we are all like the tax collector in the Gospel. All he can say is, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner" (Lk 18:13). And the Lord is infinitely merciful. Remembering our deep need for mercy, and the great mercy Christ does show and has shown, makes you humble. And made humble, you are made proud. It's



PHOTOS: ZAJAC, RINGS: JUSTIN JAMES MUIR, CHAPEL DETAIL: NAT REA

hard to be humble when you're from Providence College, because with time you recognize His providential hand in everything in your life, especially your stupidest moments, your weakest moments.

God always takes our weakness and turns it into a sign, a manifestation, of His strength.

Your ring finger itself is a sign of this reality. Here's an "in-class activity." Stretch out your right arm and make a fist. Now, one by one, raise each finger as high as you can. Begin with the thumb. Pointer finger. Middle finger. Ring finger. Pinkie.

Did you notice that the ring finger is the hardest finger to lift on its own? At alumni weddings I preach about how the wedding ring

is placed on the weakest finger. Why? The ring is placed on the weakest finger to remind the bride and groom that it is in weakness that they must love each other the most.

Marriage is not about showing strength. It is about supporting each other in weakness.

It is about carrying one another when life gets heavy. The ring, and the ring finger, are a reminder: Love is strongest when it chooses to stay in weakness.

For all of you seniors here today, if that ring finger is a reminder of weakness, then your class ring is a reminder of the Lord's strength. The Lord crowns the weakest finger and makes it His own. He gives you this tangible reminder of His mercy and providential care. It's impossible to fully recognize it now. But you will.

Not so long from now, in years to come, you will be at an alumni event, sitting at the bar with Chuck and me, and you will be proclaiming to us the mercies of God. How His merciful love lasts forever (Ps 136:1). Your memories of PC will teach you that. And that's why it's hard to be humble: because our boast is in God (1 Cor 1:31).

Almighty Father, thank You — *Thank You* — for making us Friars. ❧

“
You'll never forget some of the dumbest things you did here. And that's actually a good thing.
”





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COLLEGE

1 Cunningham Square
Providence, Rhode Island 02918-0001

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Coach of the Year Nate Leaman leads Friars to the top of Hockey East

