FALL 2026

PROVIDENCE

COLLEGE MAGAZINE



Chaplains support student-athletes in games and in life

The Mission Field



PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MAGAZINE
FALL 2026

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Calabria Plaza on an autumn afternoon.

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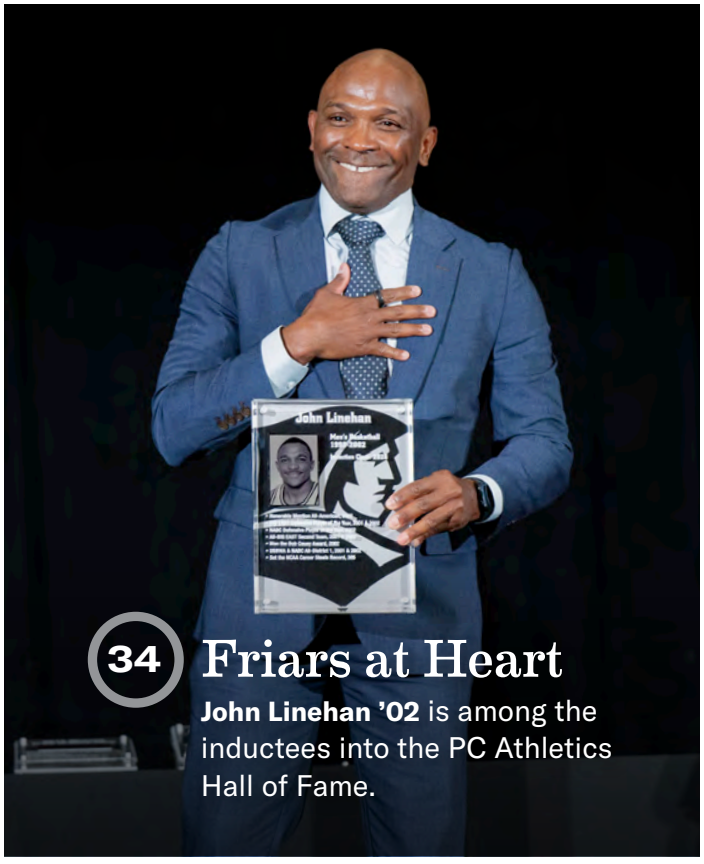
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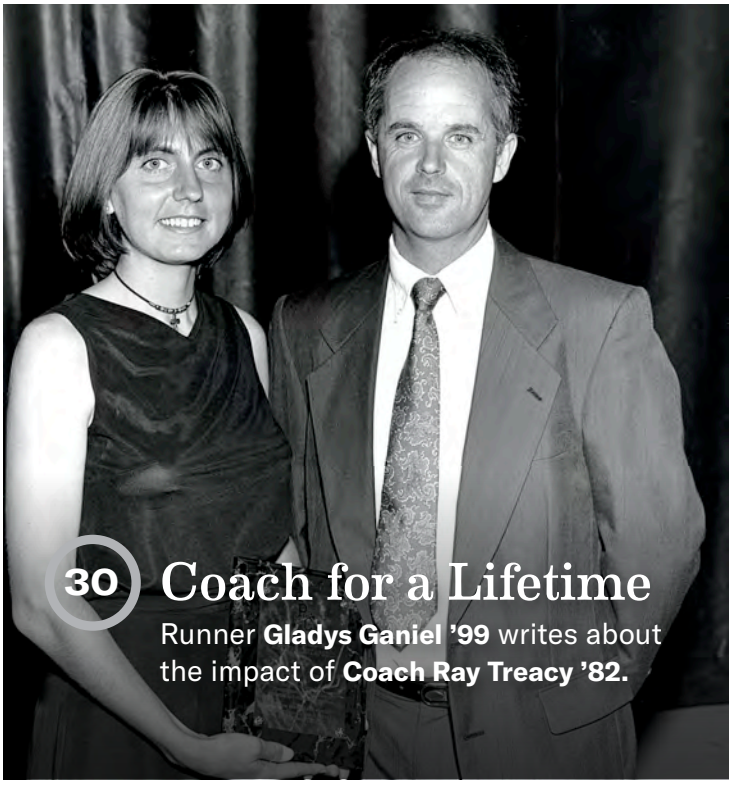
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Student-athletes trek 160 miles on the Camino de Santiago, the Way of St. James.



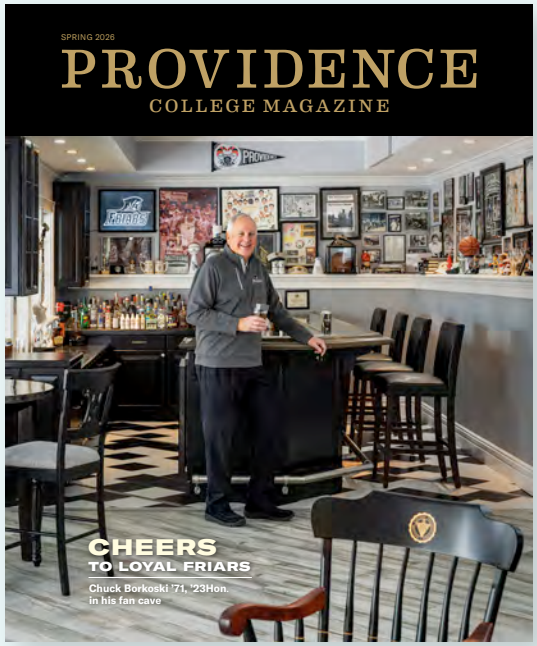
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John Linehan '02 is among the inductees into the PC Athletics Hall of Fame.



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Runner **Gladys Ganiel '99** writes about the impact of **Coach Ray Treacy '82.**



"THE EDITION FEELS LIKE A TOP-OF-THE-LINE PUBLICATION — THICK, GOOD PAPER, A GREAT COVER, AND LOADED WITH TIMELY ARTICLES."

→ Congrats on your recent issue. Relevant, engaging mix of articles to keep this old alumnus informed and prideful.

As a 36-year TIME, Inc. alumnus, I think I learned the importance of engaging editorial.

Continued success.

— Don Brown '63
Bridgehampton, New York

→ May I give a shout-out to you and your staff for putting together a compelling edition of Providence College Magazine.

The edition feels like a top-of-the-line publication — thick, good paper, a great cover, and loaded with timely articles. I thoroughly enjoyed the references to my ole good buddy, Joe Brum. He deserves his own edition.

Great job to all.

— Chuck Mullaney '64
Emeritus professor of legal studies
Western Connecticut State University
St. Petersburg, Florida
Fairport, New York



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Providence College is in the midst of its most ambitious fundraising endeavor — *Beyond Limits: The Campaign for Providence College.*

The campaign is designed to more fully support students by investing in four pillars – academics, student experience, financial access, and The Fund for Providence College.

This moment requires the unwavering support of our entire community. **Together, we'll bring PC beyond limits.**

BLACK & WHITE

BUZZ



Book Swing

Meg Mitchell Moore '94 spent the summer traveling in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire to promote her 10th novel, *Down with the Shipmans*. The book tells the story of three sisters who return to their childhood summer home on the New Hampshire coast, only to learn that their father intends to sell it. Moore, who lives in Newburyport, Massachusetts, has set all but one of her books in coastal New England. In June, she engaged with alumni via Zoom to discuss her previous book, *Mansion Beach*, set on Block Island and inspired by *The Great Gatsby*.

PHOTO BY SUSAN SANCOMB

Buzz

Back home in Newport



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS MASON

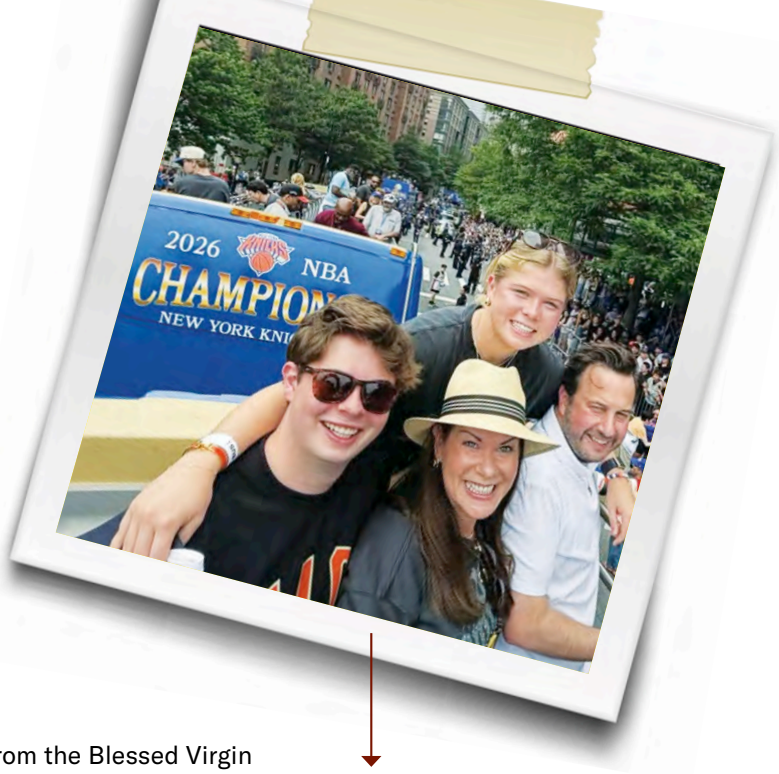
ALBUM COURTSEY OF GRAND STAND MEDIA

Deer Tick, featuring bassist **Christopher Dale Ryan '07**, returned to the Quad Stage at the Newport Folk Festival in Fort Adams State Park in July 2026. The band welcomed guest artists during the set, including Ben Vaughn and Taylor Goldsmith. The performance served as a showcase for Deer Tick's Rhode Island-inspired album, Coin-O-Matic, whose cover features a vintage photo of the Federal Hill shop used as the headquarters of crime boss Raymond Patriarca. Ryan, pictured backstage at Fort Adams, is touring with Deer Tick throughout the United States through November.



A rosary for Friars

Tradition holds that St. Dominic received the rosary from the Blessed Virgin Mary to pray for the conversion of sinners and to combat heresy. Now, Friars can meditate on the mysteries in the life of Christ with PC-branded rosaries. Two versions are available online and in the PC Bookstore. Crafted in Italy, they include a crucifix modeled on the one in St. Dominic Chapel and emblems of Harkins Hall, the War Memorial Grotto, and the Veritas flame. Visit providence.bncollege.com



Knicks in Five

"Knicks in Five" was the rallying cry as the New York Knicks faced the San Antonio Spurs in the 2026 NBA Finals and won their first championship in 53 years. It was a historic moment for the team and for New York City. Celebrating during the tickertape parade in June were Jamie Mathews '96, senior vice president in the Knicks front office (and former Friars men's basketball manager), pictured with his wife, Patty Hughes-Mathews '97; their son, Jack Mathews '27 (current Friars basketball manager); and their daughter, Emma.



Trumpeting success

Nick Cassarino '27, a member of the cross country and track and field teams, is an accomplished trumpet player. During the summer of 2026, he spent five weeks at the Eastern Festival of Music in Greensboro, North Carolina, a national educational program combining classical music performance and study. At PC, where he is an accountancy major and finance minor, he studies trumpet with William Longo, Ph.D., assistant professor of music, and plays in Symphonic Winds, directed by Eric Melley, DMA, associate professor of music. In 2025, Cassarino performed with the College Band Directors National Association Intercollegiate Band in Fort Worth, Texas. He is from Durham, Connecticut.

PHOTO: CASSARINO AND ROSARY: LINDSEY SWEENEY



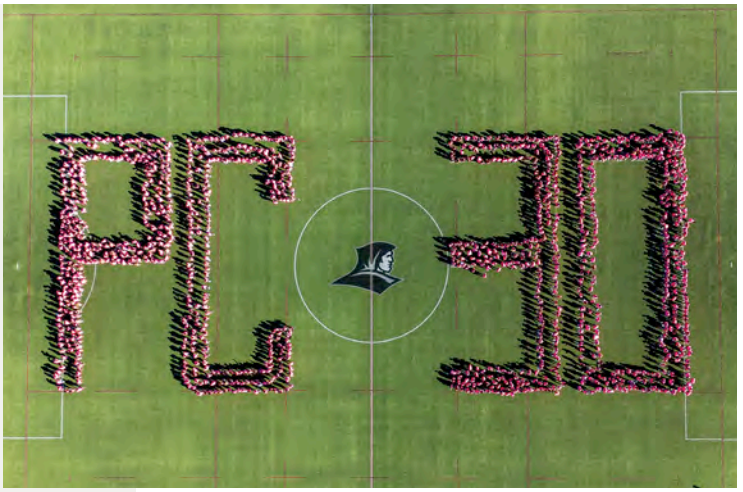
Ronald Dufresne, Ph.D., on the lawn of the Ryan Center for Business Studies.

Ronald Dufresne, Ph.D. named business dean

Ronald Dufresne, Ph.D. was appointed dean of the School of Business effective July 1, 2026. He replaces Sylvia Maxfield, Ph.D., business school dean since 2012, who continues as professor of finance.

Dufresne studied engineering management at the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated in the top 5 percent of his class. He holds a Ph.D. in organization studies from Boston College. He most recently was professor of management in the Haub School of Business at St. Joseph's University in Pennsylvania, where he also served as department chair, president of the Faculty Senate, senior leadership fellow, and president of the School of Business Council. He founded the undergraduate Leadership, Ethics, and Organizational Sustainability Program and co-developed the Dean's Leadership Program.

PC's AACSB-accredited School of Business offers undergraduate degree programs in accountancy, finance, management, and marketing, as well as an MBA program and master of science degrees in business analytics and in sports administration.



Class of 2030 arrives on campus

The 1,304 students in the Class of 2030 come from 31 states, the District of Columbia, and seven countries — Canada, Spain, Italy, Ireland, Denmark, Egypt, and Congo. There are 779 women and 525 men.

Nine percent are first-generation college students. About 16 percent are students of color. There are 99 students in the Honors Program, 105 student-athletes, and 256 students with a parent who graduated from PC. The most popular majors are finance, nursing, marketing, health sciences, and management.

The new students include 44 who were admitted through the Providence Opportunity Program, including students from Cristo Rey high schools across the country, the Posse Foundation serving greater New Orleans, and Martin Luther King Jr. scholars. The college meets the full demonstrated financial need of those students.

In addition, the college welcomed 250 new graduate students and 69 transfer students.

PHOTOS: DUFRESNE: LIZ F. KAY; CLASS OF 2030: CHRIS JUDGE '05, '07G. OPPOSITE PAGE: ASHLEY MCCABE

Four alumni join Board of Trustees

Four alumni have joined the college's Board of Trustees. **David Aldrich '79, Stephen Caldeira '81, Lisa Anne DelPriore Bonalle '85, and Frank Richard '70** became members effective July 1, 2026. Aldrich, a trustee emeritus, previously served from 2011–2020. Two alumni stepped down from the board due to term limits. Joseph Calabria '65 served from 2017–2026 and Andre Owens '85 served from 2006–2011 and from 2015–2026.



Eight students tops in the Class of 2026

Eight students in the Class of 2026 finished at the top of the class with perfect 4.0 GPAs, the equivalent of an A in every course through eight semesters. It's the second consecutive year that eight students shared the honor. Read about the students and their plans as they appear in the photo above from left to right.

• **Siena Brazier '26**, from Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, majored in chemistry and biology. Working as a medical assistant while applying to medical schools.

• **Benjamin Carso '26**, from Andover, Connecticut, majored in psychology and sociology. Working as a medical sales representative at Sagamore Sales and Marketing.

• **James Endyke '26**, from Needham, Massachusetts, majored in accountancy and business economics. Working as a tax associate at CBIZ Boston.

• **Kaitlyn Fuoco '26**, from Garden City, New York, majored in secondary education/English. Teaching high school English while pursuing New York state certification in teaching English and teaching English as a second language. Plans to earn a master's degree.

• **Clara Leland Johnson '26**, from Nashville, Tennessee, majored in social work and English literature. Working with WWOOF, World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms, before pursuing master's degree in social work.

• **Georgia Grace Peters '26**, from Pleasantville, New York, majored in history and political science. Working as a legal assistant at Hamel, Waxler, Allen & Collins before applying to law schools.

• **Michael Piersall '26**, from Webster, New York, majored in philosophy. Pursuing seminary studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome and studying theology at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, the Angelicum, the Dominican university in Rome.

• **Chase Quigley '26**, from Topsfield, Massachusetts, majored in political science and in public and community service studies. Pursuing a master's degree in higher education at PC.



Leart Jahaj '27 holds a device used to hold air samples collected from an accelerated solvent extractor.

Chemistry major wins Goldwater Scholarship

Leart Jahaj '27, a chemistry major from Worcester, Massachusetts, was one of 454 students in the country to be awarded a 2026 Goldwater Scholarship, the most prestigious undergraduate scholarship in the United States in engineering, mathematics, and natural sciences.

Jahaj, a member of the Honors Program and the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, works in the research laboratory of Adelaide Clark, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry. Clark studies particulate matter in the air using air samplers on the roof deck of the PC Science Complex, the Port of Providence, and Roger Williams University.

The Goldwater news highlighted a stellar junior year for Jahaj. He was accepted to join the NASA Student Airborne Research Program and spent eight weeks during the summer collecting air samples at the Johnson Space Center in Houston and analyzing them at San Diego State University. In addition, a research paper that he co-wrote with Clark's group was published in Omega, an academic journal of the American Chemical Society, in an issue dedicated to undergraduate research.

Jahaj, who was born in Albania and moved to the United States with his parents as a toddler, is the college's fifth Goldwater recipient since 2019. His goal is to one day earn a Ph.D. in chemistry, conduct research in environmental science, and work in industry.

PHOTOS: LINDSEY SWEENEY



"ENGLISH IS WHAT MAKES ME LOVE LIFE. YOU CAN READ HORROR STORIES OR BEAUTIFUL BIBLE VERSES, AND IT SPEAKS TO SOMETHING IN YOU."

— KATE BLACKWELL '26

English major awarded Fulbright to Taiwan

Kate Blackwell '26 is spending the academic year teaching English in Taiwan through the Fulbright Program, the flagship international exchange program of the U.S. government. An English creative writing major from Milford, Massachusetts, she was selected for the Fulbright following a rigorous application and review process during her senior year at PC.

Blackwell also was awarded a position with Teach For America. After her return from Taiwan, she will teach English to high school students in greater Providence during the 2027–2028 school year.

As a high school student, Blackwell spent a month in China, preparing lessons and teaching children at an elementary school in Weihai and at a middle school in Qingdao and touring in Beijing. She spent the spring semester of her junior year at PC in Bath, England, through the Advanced Studies in English program, where her roommate was from Taiwan.

Blackwell was a member of the Honors Program, the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, and Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society. She discovered an affinity for editing and publishing while working on the editorial staff of The Alembic, the college's literary journal. She said her dream job would be to work one day in a publishing house and earn a Ph.D., though she will also consider a teaching career.



New windows can be seen on the right side of Aquinas Hall. Older windows on the left side will be replaced in the summer of 2027.

Aquinas Makeover

Aquinas Hall, built in 1939 as the college's first residence hall and just the second building on campus, is in the midst of a major makeover.

From the exterior, the most visible changes are new windows on the building's southern wing (the side toward the War Memorial Grotto and St. Dominic Chapel). Inside, there are new walls and flooring in student rooms, new bathrooms, and an updated first-floor laundry. The lounge was refurbished and air-conditioned. Stained glass windows were cleaned in the Center for Catholic and Dominican Studies, once Aquinas Chapel. Behind the scenes, there were mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and technology improvements.

About 325 students live in Aquinas. During the summer of 2026, work was completed on the southern half of the building. The northern wing will be renovated during the summer of 2027.

Through the years, Aquinas housed all student activities, a student cafeteria, and Development of Western Civilization lectures.

"There is a lot of emotion attached to this building," said Mark Rapoza '90SCE, assistant vice president for capital projects and facilities planning. "Whether it be anticipation of Civ finals, the joy of weddings in Aquinas Chapel, or the grief and sadness of the lives lost in the 1977 fire, the building is iconic.

"Over the years, Aquinas Hall has become a major part of the fabric of Providence College. It was time to give this building some respect, and that is what we are aiming to do."

PHOTOS: LOUNGE: CHRIS JUDGE '05, '07G
ALL OTHERS: PETER GOLDBERG



Clockwise from top: Aquinas lounge; Ben Herzog ’30 in his room; a new seating area; Rachael Gerber ’30 and Madeline Milheiro ’30 in a hallway on Move-in Day; the first-floor kitchen.









Alex Orquiza, Ph.D. wins top teaching award



René Alexander Orquiza, Ph.D., associate professor of history, received the 2026 Joseph R. Accinno Faculty Teaching Award, the college's highest teaching honor. Recipients are chosen by a committee from nominations submitted by students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

A member of the faculty since 2015, Orquiza teaches a range of courses, including U.S. History and Food, and Redefining the United States at Home and Abroad. He also teaches in the Development of Western Civilization Program. Outside the classroom, he brings history to life for students in creative ways, including through a Pad Thai cooking demonstration and a performance of Mozart's Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Major with violinist Licia Carlson, Ph.D., professor of philosophy.

He has a Ph.D. in history from Johns Hopkins University.

Seann Mulcahy, Ph.D. named Faculty Scholar



Seann Mulcahy, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, was the named the 2026 Outstanding Faculty Scholar. The award recognizes a tenured faculty member who demonstrates the highest standards in research, scholarship, and contributions to his academic field.

Since joining the faculty in 2012, Mulcahy has received nearly $2 million in grants from such prestigious agencies as the National Institutes of Health, the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the American Chemical Society. He has co-authored more than 20 scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals, including The Journal of Organic Chemistry and Chemical Science, and has written a textbook, Organic Chemistry II, on LibreTexts, an open-access educational platform.

He has a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania.

Faculty retirements

(As of June 30, 2026)

DIANE DISANTO, ED.D.
Director, graduate school leadership program
Teaching at PC since 2017

LEO KAHANE, PH.D.
Professor of economics
Michael A. Ruane Distinguished Chair in Economics
Teaching at PC since 2010
Will continue as professor emeritus

CATHERINE KEATING, PH.D.
Assistant professor of special education
Teaching at PC since 1980

JOHN LAWLESS, PH.D.
Assistant professor of history and classics
Teaching at PC since 1991

JOANNE LOMAS-NEIRA, PH.D.
Assistant clinical professor of health sciences
Teaching at PC since 2024

PATRICIA NAILOR, ED.D.
Director, graduate school counseling program
Teaching at PC since 2017

CARMEN ROLON, ED.D.
Associate professor of secondary education and women's and gender studies
Teaching at PC since 2001

PHOTOS: LINDSEY SWEENEY. OPPOSITE: JUSTIN JAMES MUIR.



FACULTY FOCUS

JENNIFER LIVESLEY '10

ASSISTANT CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF NURSING

EDUCATION: Master of science in nursing, Boston College; bachelor of science in nursing, Simmons University; bachelor of science in health policy and management, Providence College

BEGAN TEACHING AT PC: Fall 2024

EXPERTISE: Psychiatric mental health nursing and acute care nursing with a specialization in neurology and neurosurgery

NEWSWORTHY: Livesley was awarded a Community Scholars Program grant through PC's Feinstein Institute for Public Service to educate first-year nursing students about homelessness in partnership with House of Hope, a Rhode Island nonprofit.

CURRENT PROJECTS: With Ian Lane, Ph.D., director of PC's Center for Nursing Education and Research, Livesley is working on a nursing workforce research study to evaluate the preparedness of nursing students to work as psychiatric mental health nurses. With her nursing colleagues, she is studying how mindfulness/wellness activities influenced the resilience of nursing students enrolled in the Fundamentals/Health Assessment course in the Fall 2025 semester.

QUOTABLE: "When I started working, I knew there was something different about the way I practiced nursing. PC taught me to evaluate situations deeply, to see patients holistically, and to respect the dignity of all individuals. The healthcare landscape today is complex, and patients increasingly require immediate, intensive medical intervention. It is important to have a bedside nurse who can think critically and attend to a patient's mind, body, and spirit. I was thrilled when PC announced it would open a nursing school because it aligns with the college's mission. We are educating a different kind of nurse at PC, and I am excited to be a part of it."

ORIGINALLY FROM: Johnston, Rhode Island

HOBBIES: Cooking, spending time with her two daughters

— CAROLYN CRONIN

BEYOND LIMITS

THE CAMPAIGN FOR PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

19,984

DONORS HAVE GIVEN THROUGH THE FUND FOR PROVIDENCE COLLEGE DURING THE CAMPAIGN

2,000

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF VISITORS TO PC'S PLANNED GIVING TOOLS AND RESOURCES WEBSITE

533

ALUMNI ENGAGED IN CIV WITHOUT THE STRESS WEBINAR SERIES

Alumni who planned gatherings this summer were invited to request special PC sunglasses to mark the occasion with their Friar pride! Within days, over 1,000 pairs of shades were claimed and later sent out to Friars across the world for their summer weddings, golf outings, girls' weekends, bachelor parties, backyard barbecues, and more. *Pictured: '90s alumni enjoying Saratoga.*



Connecting with PC

WHAT MOMENTUM

The nation's strongest colleges and universities are distinguished by alumni who stay connected, involved, and invested in their alma mater. As part of *Beyond Limits: The Campaign for Providence College,* PC has set an ambitious goal: engaging 70% of alumni.

We know Friar pride runs deep. The stories and statistics on these pages show how alumni are putting that pride into action. We're already at 64%. Can you help us reach 70%? Join your fellow Friars and help take Providence College beyond limits.

This May, Donald "Donny" Brown '86 embarked on a 12-day road trip from his home in Los Angeles to his alma mater in Providence to celebrate his 40th Reunion. By way of RV, Donny made stops across the country and documented his trip on Facebook while decked out in his PC best. On June 5, he arrived back in Friartown for an unforgettable Reunion Weekend.



Attending an Event

45,804

PINTS OF FRIARS FOREVER BEER SOLD

16,000+

DONORS TO FRIARS GIVE THUS FAR IN THE CAMPAIGN

17,103,869

DOLLARS RAISED ON FRIARS GIVE THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN

3,243

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS OVER LIFE OF CAMPAIGN

Katie Ferris '13 has served PC in numerous volunteer positions in the past decade — from president of the PC Club of New York to planning committee member for Providentia Society, and most recently, vice president for engagement for the National Alumni Council. The work, she says, "is a way for me to give back to the institution that provided me opportunities, introduced me to friends who turned into family, and helped shape me into the person who I am today." *Pictured: Katie with fiancé Pat Ferguson '15.*



Volunteering

ALUMNI ENGAGED EACH YEAR SINCE THE BEGINNING OF CAMPAIGN

FY22: 9,352
FY23: 16,484
FY24: 10,674
FY25: 8,782
FY26: 11,029

22,252

NEWLY ENGAGED ALUMS

LOOKS LIKE.

5,693

NEW MEMBERS JOINED THE LOYAL FRIARS SOCIETY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CAMPAIGN

2,288

ALUMNI INFORMATION UPDATES RECEIVED IN THE 2025 UPDATE YOUR INFO CAMPAIGN

WAYS TO HELP PC GO BEYOND LIMITS

- Update your information
- Attend an alumni event like Homecoming, Reunion, or one in your region
- Volunteer with PC
- Make a gift to The Fund for Providence College
- Submit a class note, prayer intention, or a business for Friars Shop Friars
- Join FriarHub Career Network
- Travel with PC

Tom Brady once said that to be successful "you don't have to be special, you just have to be what most people aren't: consistent." Members of the Loyal Friar Society prove that showing up year after year can become its own form of legacy. Inspired by the quarterback's quote, Peter McLaughlin '90 has supported Providence College for 31 years — a reminder that steadfast giving creates powerful impact.



Giving

28,000+

DONORS HAVE SUPPORTED THE BEYOND LIMITS CAMPAIGN WITH A GIFT

80%

OF DONORS HAVE SUPPORTED THE BEYOND LIMITS CAMPAIGN THROUGH THE FUND FOR PROVIDENCE COLLEGE.

Data as of 8/15/26

A $500,000 CHALLENGE TO SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURS

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G



Neve Palmeri '27 presents her idea for SmartSip, a straw to detect drugs added to drinks.

Four years after its founding, the Donald R. Ryan Incubator in the Arts and Sciences has a new name and a fundraising challenge. If $500,000 is donated to the Ryan Accelerator Activities Fund before December 1, 2026, the Ryan family will contribute an additional $500,000 to the fund, which supports programming and activities for students interested in entrepreneurship.

The Ryan incubator, now known as The Donald Ryan '69 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Accelerator, was established in 2022 with a $2 million donation from the Ryan family to encourage students from all academic disciplines to create and test ideas for new products, services, and organizations. It is directed by Kelly Ramirez Stone and supported by dedicated advisory boards of alumni and faculty members.

Mr. Ryan, a political science major at PC, embodied the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. He was chair and CEO of CareCore National LLC in Bluffton, South Carolina, a company he co-founded to provide benefit management services to healthcare providers. In 2011, when he died at age 64, it had more than 1,000 employees and contracts with 25 health plans representing more than 50 million insured patients. Prior to its founding, Mr. Ryan started several businesses where he saw opportunities to innovate in his field.

The Ryan Accelerator supports students by offering a robust menu of programs and services. Through the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fellowship, more than 30 students have secured internships aligned with their interests and received financial stipends. Each year in the Elevator Pitch Competition, students compete for $9,000 in prize money to support their ideas. Through the accelerator, they can also access grant funding for their ventures, secure consulting opportunities with startups, and receive alumni coaching.

"The Ryan Innovation and Entrepreneurship Accelerator advances the college's mission to promote interdisciplinary study and research, and hands-on, experiential learning experiences for our students," said College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G. "Thanks to the Ryan family, we now have an opportunity to raise another $1 million to support student creativity and scholarship."

Money raised through the Activities Fund Challenge will expand programming to include opportunities for students to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and learn more about how to create positive change within organizations. To donate, visit www.givetoPC.org, select "other" on the giving form, and add Ryan Accelerator Activities Fund.

The Ryan Accelerator is seeking alumni volunteers to support its expanding mission and work. Learn more: prov.ly/accelerator.

PHOTOS: THIS PAGE: ASHLEY MCCABE. OPPOSITE PAGE: LAUREN TKACS

HIGH NOTES

Interdisciplinary Alzheimer's research

A collaborative gift of $700,000 from current and past college trustees is supporting a new interdisciplinary research initiative by professors and students. The Cognitive Health and Aging Initiative will advance research into non-traditional therapies aimed at improving outcomes for people living with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.

Kyle C. McInnis, Sc.D., in his role as founding dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, organized the Steering Committee, a team of professors and students. It includes Thomas Guilmette, Ph.D., professor of psychology and of neuroscience and interim director of the neuroscience program; Christopher Bloom, Ph.D., professor of psychology; Khara James, Ph.D., assistant professor of health sciences; Deborah Levine, Ph.D., associate provost and associate professor of health sciences; and Caitlan Tighe, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology.

The initiative is evaluating non-pharmaceutical interventions that may ease behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia that place significant strain on families and often lead to the need for skilled nursing care, such as agitation, paranoia or suspicion, aggression, restlessness, and volatile mood. The goal is to improve the quality of life for patients and caregivers while advancing an underdeveloped area of study.

In addition, the Cognitive Health and Aging Initiative and the Department of Psychology worked together to create a booklet to guide caregivers, Everyday Steps for Living Well with Dementia.

"This is a shining example of how PC faculty across campus have come together to address a critical area in a way that exemplifies the college's mission to promote human dignity," McInnis said.

Among those supporting the initiative are current and past trustees Joseph Calabria '65, Kenneth Canestrari '84, Maureen Davenport Corcoran '79, Dennis Langwell '80, Christopher K. Reilly '84, '25Hon., and Michael A. Ruane '71, '13Hon. Support was also received from the Shah Family Foundation.

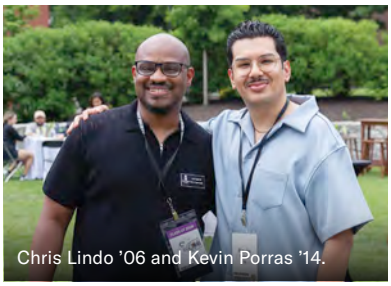
Grant supports 'Friars Flourish'

Providence College was awarded a $346,586 Institutional Impact Grant from the Educating Character Initiative, a project of the Program for Leadership and Character at Wake Forest University. The Educating Character Initiative is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.

The grant will support "Friars Flourish: Seek More — Know Your Story," a project directed by Rev. Justin Brophy, O.P., senior vice president for mission and ministry, and Allyse Gruslin, senior director of campus ministry.

Friars Flourish will establish a residential learning fellowship for first-year students beginning in the Fall 2027 semester. The fellowship will integrate mentorship, reflection, and community life to support students' intellectual, spiritual, civic, and professional formation.

Robert Miner, Ph.D., professor of philosophy, and Father Brophy, associate professor of political science, will serve as the faculty program directors.



Chris Lindo '06 and Kevin Porras '14.

Building the Friars of Color Network

From regional gatherings and campus traditions to learning opportunities and alumni celebrations, the Friars of Color Alumni Network continues to find ways for Friars to connect, reflect, and strengthen communities across generations.

Alumni gathered in New York City for the Providence Dinner Table, sharing personal and professional experiences, and in Washington, D.C., for an evening of networking and fellowship. In Providence, they joined a Friars of Color Game Watch before a men's basketball game. On campus, alumni attended the Decades of Black Fashion Show hosted by the Afro-American Society, joined the Friars of Color Kickback during Reunion Weekend, and attended a Welcome Back Party at Homecoming.

The Friars of Color Summer Learning Series began with a Juneteenth lunch lecture on campus. There were opportunities to visit the AAPI History Museum and plans for a Barrio street tour led by trustee Marta Martinez '79, '19Hon.

Friars of Color co-chairs are Chris Lindo '06 and Kevin Porras '14. All alumni are welcome to join by updating their contact information: prov.ly/update-info



Athletics chaplains, standing, from left, Rev. Isaac Morales, O.P., women's soccer; Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04, volleyball; Rev. John Vidmar, O.P., women's ice hockey. Seated, Sister Mary Cecilia Goodrum, O.P. '06G, tennis, and Rev. Humbert Kilanowski, O.P., cross country and track and field.

PHOTO BY LINDSEY SWEENEY

THE PLAYING FIELD Mission

BY MICHAEL HAGAN '15, '19G

Dominican chaplains help student-athletes navigate the challenges of DI sports

ON THE SIDELINE OF LENNON FIELD STANDS Rev. Dominic Verner, O.P., assistant professor of theology and athletics chaplain. A penalty against the visiting team has created an opportunity for the Friars field hockey team to score in a three-part combination play. One athlete inbounds the ball just outside the D-shaped shooting circle around the net. A second athlete traps the ball past the 16-yard perimeter, and a third takes a powerful shot on goal. It is one of field hockey's most tense and frequently decisive moments. At the first loud crack of stick against ball, Father Verner nervously grips the field hockey stick he brings to each game, given to him in gratitude by former team captain Lisa McNamara '23, '24G.

Father Verner is the chaplain for PC Athletics and one of 11 Dominicans ministering to student-athletes as a team chaplain. While he had never seen a field hockey game before joining the college, his four-year tenure as chaplain has taught him much, including the strategy behind critical penalty corner set-ups.



Rev. Dominic Verner, O.P., with his field hockey stick.

PHOTO: BRIAN FOLEY

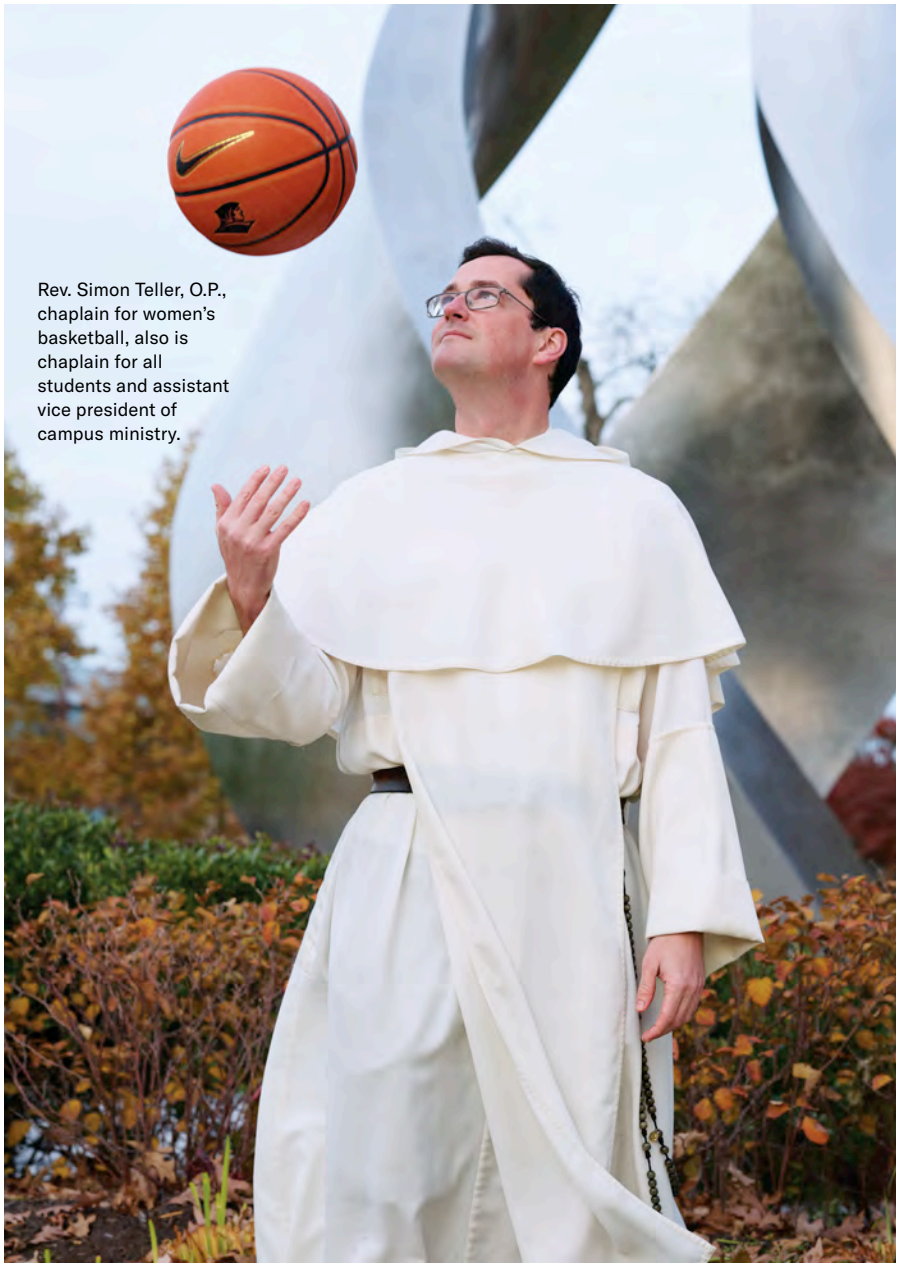
"When he hoops, we're there."

— ERIN BATTH, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

"I've learned enough to be just as frustrated as parents, players, and coaches sometimes," said Father Verner, who also is chaplain to men's basketball. "I had to learn the rules. I always want to know if justice is being done for our athletes or not."

Dominican friars in their distinctive white habits have long been a fixture at sporting events. Rev. Ambrose Howley, O.P. was the college's first athletics director; Rev. Aloysius Begley, O.P. '31 was the longest serving. Rev. Robert Morris, O.P. '46, '82Hon. maintained lifelong friendships with men's basketball players, Rev. Gino Bondi, O.P. '50 traveled with the men's hockey team, and Rev. David Folsey, O.P. '57 was a regular at men's soccer games. In more recent years, Rev. Mark Nowel, O.P. was the long-serving men's basketball chaplain. Rev. John Vidmar, O.P. is known to generations of student-athletes for his encouraging presence in the stands (as well as his History of Sport class).

Beginning in the 2017–2018 academic year, each varsity team was assigned a Dominican chaplain. The initiative was championed by Rev. Peter Martyr Yungwirth, O.P., the student chaplain at the time; Jill LaPoint, senior associate vice president, deputy athletic director, and senior woman administrator; and John Rock, senior associate director for health and wellness. They recognized the role that Dominicans could play in supporting the mental and spiritual well-being of the college's 300 student-athletes. The athletic chaplaincy program was adopted as part of the "You're Never Alone in Friartown" campaign by PC Athletics.



Rev. Simon Teller, O.P., chaplain for women's basketball, also is chaplain for all students and assistant vice president of campus ministry.

Chaplains now attend every home game, travel with the team when possible, and minister to the spiritual needs of student-athletes and coaching staff in ways that suit each sport, team, and coaching style. Depending on the sport, this can mean an encouraging presence in the stands or joining each team huddle.

PHOTO: KARIN DAILEY. OPPOSITE: LINDSEY SWEENEY



From left, Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04, volleyball; Rev. Thomas More Garrett, O.P., men's ice hockey; and Rev. Gregory Santy, O.P., softball.

Among the chaplains are administrators, like executive vice president and chief operations officer Rev. Thomas More Garrett, O.P.; longtime faculty members, like Father Vidmar, associate professor of history; newer faculty members, like assistant professor of English and associate alumni chaplain Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04; and representatives from Campus Ministry, including Sister Mary Cecilia Goodrum, O.P. '06G, campus minister, and Rev. Gregory Santy, O.P., associate student chaplain.

Not all chaplains are athletes or even sports fans from the start, but "it's like mission territory," Father Verner said. "You go, you learn, you figure it out, you see how you can serve, and you become their biggest fans. Everyone is 100 percent on board and excited to do it. It is a volunteering of time and service, which of course the Friars are eager to do."

"It is no token role."

— REV. JORDAN ZAJAC, O.P. '04
VOLLEYBALL AND GOLF CHAPLAIN

The chaplains are as involved as a coach wishes them to be. Women's basketball coach Erin Batth, who was drawn to Providence because of its holistic approach to the development of student-athletes, sees chaplain Rev. Simon Teller, O.P., who is also assistant vice president of campus ministry, as essential to her squad.



Rev. John Vidmar, O.P., also teaches history.


Rev. Gregory Santy, O.P., also is associate chaplain for students.

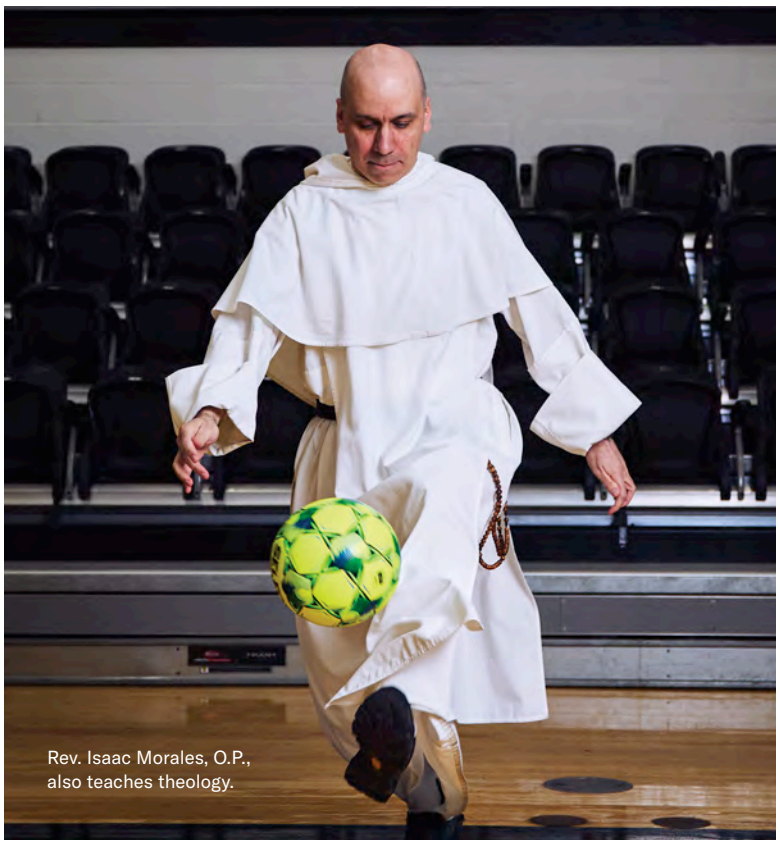
"He comes to our practices. He comes to team dinners. He's jumping off the bench during big moments at games," Batth said. "He's a whole slide in my presentation to prospective players."

Batth recalls with gratitude how Father Teller would visit during her first year as coach to check in after a tough loss. When Father Teller plays recreational basketball, players from the women's team go to cheer him on.

"When he hoops, we're there," Batth said.

In addition to finding a Dominican to serve as chaplain to each varsity team, Father Verner has expanded the program with three major initiatives: a speaker series, a student-athlete Bible study group, and an annual pilgrimage. He relies on outside donations for all programming.

Through the Faith and Sports Speaker Series, Father Verner invites guests to campus to speak about the integration of faith and athletics in their lives. Friar ice hockey alumnus Jon Barry '19 shared his witness with student-athletes in


Rev. Isaac Morales, O.P., also teaches theology.

PHOTOS: LINDSEY SWEENEY



Seven student-athletes received sacraments during the OCIA Mass in April 2026. With Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, C.Ss.R, from left, Richie Joseph '26 (lacrosse), Kayla Kutes '26 (ice hockey), Grady Satterfield '26 (track and cross country), Michael Spaziano '27 (lacrosse), Mégane Quirion '26 (ice hockey), and Luca Meola '27 (lacrosse). Not pictured: Lucia West '29 (track and cross country).

September 2025. In February 2026, the speaker series welcomed former NBA star and Butler University alumnus Gordon Hayward, who drew a crowd of hundreds of students to '64 Hall in Slavin Center.

"There are figures in the world of athletics who are witnessing to their faith and trying to make an offering of their talent to the glory of God," Father Verner said. "We wanted to bring them to our campus to provide an opportunity for them to share their message with our student-athletes and the entire student body."

Father Verner said the weekly Bible Study is a way to develop student-athletes in their spiritual lives and to give them an experience of Christian fellowship and friendship.

"It became evident to me in leading the study that student-athletes were hungry for the experience of sharing their faith with others. It's so refreshing to be able to talk about the challenges you face and what God is doing in your life," Father Verner said.

The Bible Study provides a way for student-athletes to meet players from other teams, and because of its open, welcoming nature, for Christians who are not Catholic to gather with their peers in a spiritual, reflective practice. Seven student-athletes who took part in the Bible Study were among the more than 70 students who received sacraments during the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults Mass in St. Dominic Chapel in April 2026.

One was Luca Meola '27, from Ossining, New York, a member of the lacrosse team. Meola began attending Mass with teammates during his first year at PC, especially enjoying homilies by the lacrosse chaplains at the time, Rev. Damian Day, O.P. '15 and Rev. Clement Dickie, O.P.

Meola joined the OCIA program during his junior year. Chaplains, campus ministers, and student peers prepared him to receive the sacrament of confirmation. His group met weekly, considering Christian teaching and practice "from the ground up, the what and the why of it all." Sister Mary Cecilia Goodrum facilitated. When the day of his confirmation came, Meola chose Sebastian — patron saint of athletes — as his confirmation name.

"I'm grateful for how the college creates ways for each student to approach the faith even when we're busy, even when we're just beginning to figure it all out. We're not pushed; we're invited. I got to answer the call for myself," Meola said.

In May 2026, Father Verner led 11 student-athletes on a pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago — the Way of Saint James — in northwestern Spain. (See reflection by Isabella Marcos '28, Page 26.) Their roughly 160-mile walk in summer heat led them to Santiago de Compostela and the basilica that houses the remains of the martyred apostle James. Father Verner had walked the Camino once before while he was discerning his entry into the Dominican Order. On this pilgrimage with student-athletes, he celebrated the 10th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

The student-athletes paid only for their flights, with other expenses covered by athletics chaplaincy benefactors. One such benefactor, John Barry, joined the pilgrimage, along with Erich Miller '20Hon., president of My Brother's Keeper. Barry is the father of two Friars, Jon Barry '19 and Hope Barry '25, '26G.

On their second day, the pilgrims arrived at the Cruz de Ferro, a wooden pole topped with an iron cross believed to date to the 11th century. Traditionally, pilgrims bring stones from their homeland to leave at the cross to represent burdens they carry to the Camino. Several student-athletes were emotional as they contributed to the great mountain of small stones.





Sister Mary Cecilia Goodrum, O.P. '06G is also a campus minister.

← Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04 also teaches English.

Rev. Humbert Kilanowski, O.P. also teaches mathematics. →



"It was a visible sign that none of us must carry our burdens alone. It was a moment of deep solidarity," Father Verner said. "We lived that solidarity throughout the journey, learning to trust in God's providence and to lean on him. We all wondered if we were up to the task at one point or other. But that's a holy moment, when you discover your need for God and realize his strength in you and in your brother and sister."

Sometimes, the athletics chaplains feel out of their depth — when the team suffers a devastating loss, players are frustrated with their mistakes, the referee makes a bad call. At those times, chaplains trust in what is known as the Dominican grace of preaching.

"In the ups and downs of games and team schedules, there's not always much time to think of what you're going to say," said Father Zajac, chaplain to the volleyball team and to the men's and women's golf teams. "We pray that the Lord will give us something meaningful to offer."

As a student, Father Zajac would wait outside the Amica Mutual Pavilion in downtown Providence to get a front-row seat in the student section for men's basketball games. He has prayed for student-athletes — "often desperately" — for 27 years.

"I thought that was as good as it gets. But to get to watch Friar athletes compete from the bench alongside their coaches and teammates — it's a joy and a privilege," Father Zajac said.

Father Zajac is an avid golfer but had little knowledge of volleyball. He worked to learn the sport and now watches it on television. At all matches, he is a constant presence on the sideline, in timeout huddles, and in locker room debriefs. Staff incorporate his messages into their coaching, and Father Zajac incorporates coaches' immediate and long-term priorities into his ministry.

Notes, team photos, memorabilia, and sports equipment from grateful student-athletes and coaches are a reminder of the role the athletics chaplains play in helping students navigate the rigors of NCAA Division I athletics. The field hockey stick that Father Verner carries is a sign of the blessings enjoyed by the chaplains, who, much as in religious life, have joined a mission-based community that shares its own joys, burdens, and victories.

"It is no token role," Father Zajac said.

PHOTOS: LINDSEY SWEENEY. ICE: NAT REA





PIGEON ON A LINE

BY REV. THOMAS MORE GARRETT, O.P.

My teammates in the box are probably calling me a pigeon by now. In over a minute of action, I have shown neither speed nor direction.

Pigeon is a pejorative term in this sport. No one here wants to be a pigeon. You probably work with a few pigeons. They are the people phoning it in and quitting quietly.

Pigeon isn't the worst of the feathered animals one could be called in this sport. The flamingo is inferior to a pigeon because a flamingo lifts its leg in front of a speeding biscuit. The elevation of the leg is the instinctive sign of a timid soul. If your son or daughter is a flamingo, have them take ballet.

In my sport, flamingos are likely to end up dusters. I've never been a flamingo, and most days I'm not a pigeon either, so I'm at little risk of being a duster. A duster might get invited to a celly, but a duster will be kept clear of the gong shows. And even after a celly, the duster is still a hoser.

If I stay in pigeon-mode for the remainder of my line time, I'm likely to get invited to a yard sale, where I'll have my bucket popped off and my pillows scattered.

Yikes! I just heard a clapper. I'm relieved when I look up and see that this game is still an egg. Our blueliners are top cheddar and the guy in the net is no sieve.

I'm not at my best today, but I can still manage an effective dangle. But with dangles, you must be careful. Otherwise, you'll end up in the sin bin.

What you want in this game is apple, biscuit, gino — in that sequence. But my wingers and I will be having no picnic on this shift. It's time for a line change.

GLOSSARY:

Apple: An assist; pass that leads to a goal
Blueliners: Defenders
Biscuit: Puck
Bucket: Helmet
Celly: Celebration following a goal
Clapper: Slapshot
Dangle: Skillful maneuver of puck around defender or goalie
Duster: Player who doesn't get much playing time
Egg: 0-0 score
Flamingo: Player who lifts one leg to get away from a shot
Gino: Goal
Gong Show: Chaotic, out-of-control game
Hoser: Loser, unskilled player
Pigeon: Player who can't create scoring opportunities and relies on other players to feed him pucks
Pillows: Leg pads
Sieve: Goal tender who lets up a lot of goals
Sin Bin: Penalty box
Top Cheddar: Shooting the puck into the top corner of the net
Wingers: Players who play in the forward position along outer sides of rink
Yard Sale: Player is hit so hard he leaves equipment behind on the ice



Rev. Dominic Verner, O.P. with student-athletes on the Camino. Right: Father Verner celebrates Mass at the Church of the Assumption in Rabanal del Camino, Spain. Above: The pilgrims line up in the Plaza Mayor de Astorga in Astorga, Spain, on the first morning of the pilgrimage.

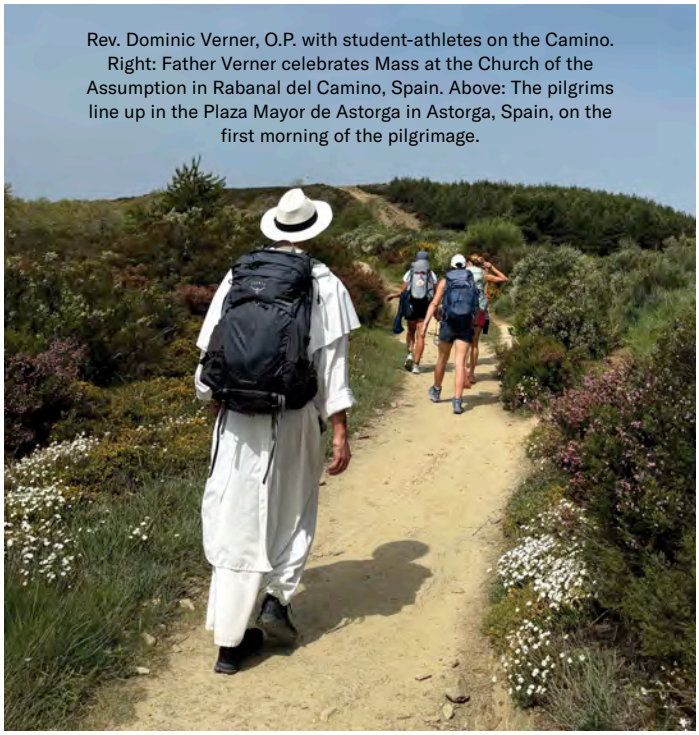




PHOTO TOP: REV. DOMINIC VERNER, O.P. LOWER LEFT: KAYLA KUTES '26 LOWER RIGHT: ERICH MILLER '20HON.

BUEN CAMINO

In May 2026, 11 student-athletes from four Division I teams completed a 160-mile pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Led by Rev. Dominic Verner, O.P., they traveled the ancient route to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, which houses the remains of the apostle St. James.

BY ISABELLA MARCOS '28

THE FIRST THING I NOTICED WHEN REACHING SANTIAGO wasn't the cathedral but the silence. Until that point, the Camino de Santiago had been loud, physically and mentally. From connecting with people all over the world, to feeling the aching pain in my legs and shoulders from the physical demand of the pilgrimage, there was no such thing as silence. Before I knew what was happening, tears were streaming down my face. When I looked around, I realized I wasn't the only one. Pilgrims embraced strangers and stood in silence, staring at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. I could hear conversations in languages I didn't recognize, but I didn't need to understand the words. Their faces said everything.

I had spent days believing I was walking toward Santiago. In that moment, I realized I had been walking toward a different version of myself.

One of the most beautiful aspects of the Camino is that everyone starts from a different place. Some pilgrims had walked for only six days, while others had spent nearly two months crossing Spain. No matter where we started or how far we had walked, the emotion was the same. My father, who was born in Asturias, Spain, walked El Camino Primitivo in 2013. When he returned, I could tell the experience had moved him. Ever since, I had wondered what it was about a long walk across Spain that could affect someone so deeply. When I was given the opportunity to walk it myself, I wanted to find out. Before I left, my dad spent hours sharing his Camino with me. He showed me more than 200 photographs, pointed out places I would soon see with my own eyes, and told stories from every stage of his journey. In many ways, it felt like I had already walked the Camino beside him long before I ever set foot in Spain.

What I didn't realize was that my own experience would be shaped not only by the trail itself, but by the people I would walk it with. I was fortunate to share the Camino with 10 student-athletes from women's ice hockey, swimming and diving, tennis, and track and cross country, along with three incredible mentors: athletics chaplain Rev. Dominic Verner, O.P.; Erich Miller '20Hon., and PC parent John Barry. What started as an individual →



Student-athletes kneel at La Cruz de Ferro, an iron cross where pilgrims leave photographs of loved ones, written messages, flags, and stones representing the burdens they are leaving behind.

> "I HAD WONDERED WHAT IT WAS ABOUT A LONG WALK ACROSS SPAIN THAT COULD AFFECT SOMEONE SO DEEPLY."
>
> — ISABELLA MARCOS '28

journey gradually became a deeply spiritual experience that brought our group together in ways I never expected. Although every day brought new physical and mental challenges, it was often the quiet moments in between that changed me the most.

It is impossible to understand how life-changing the Camino can be until you experience it firsthand. Through days spent walking through mountains and small towns with nothing but yellow arrows guiding the way, life became surprisingly simple. Wake up, walk, eat, pray, sleep, and do it all again the next day.

Some of the moments that left the biggest impact happened long before I ever saw the cathedral. One took place at La Cruz de Ferro. After hours of climbing, we reached the highest point of the Camino Francés. Standing 1,500 meters above sea level, La Cruz de Ferro is an iron cross surrounded by a mountain of stones, photographs of loved ones, handwritten messages, and flags representing countries from around the world. Pilgrims carry a stone from home and leave it at the base of the cross as a symbol of letting go. That morning our spirits were high — it was our first 20-mile day. The beginning was physically challenging, but still relaxing. When I arrived to place my stone, I felt an energy shift from our group. It was the first time we had a moment to stop walking and take it all in. Feeling the vulnerability from the people around me allowed me to feel I was in a safe space to express those emotions.

Leaving La Cruz de Ferro, exhaustion hit almost immediately. We still had 15 miles to go. As our group naturally spread out along the trail, I found myself walking beside Father Dominic for nearly the entire second half of the day. What began as casual conversation slowly turned into one of the most meaningful discussions I've ever had. I felt I could not only be myself but be honest. There was no pressure to have everything figured out or pretend I had all the answers. We talked about family, faith, purpose, school, and the uncertainty of what comes next. For the first time in a long time, I felt like I could say exactly what was on my mind without worrying about being judged.

Somewhere along those miles, I stopped thinking about how much my shoulders hurt or how tired my legs felt. The physical pain that had consumed my thoughts all morning slowly faded into the background. For a while, I forgot I was even walking. Of course, that feeling didn't last. The last three miles were spent complaining about how exhausted we were, laughing through sore feet and aching legs. Looking

PHOTO PAGE 28: REV. DOMINIC VERNER, O.P. PAGE 29: COURTESY OF FATHER VERNER



Rev. Dominic Verner, O.P. with Isabella Marcos '28, left, and Lauren Krise '29.

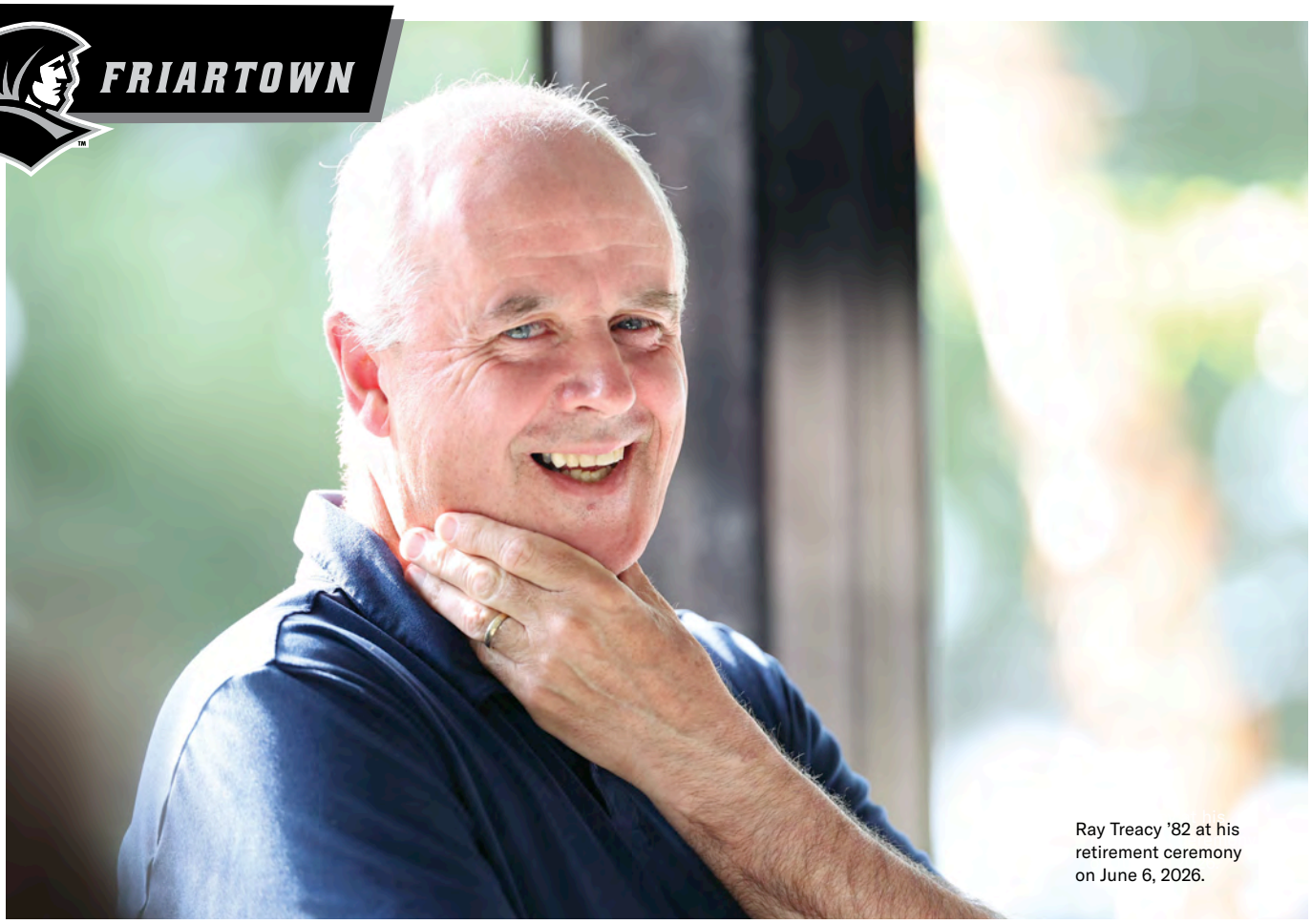
back, I think that's what made the Camino so special. The most meaningful moments weren't separate from the difficult ones. They happened because of them.

Days started blurring together after that, one town into the next, until suddenly we were almost halfway, and it was my birthday. I consider myself to be optimistic, but not when it comes to birthdays. I woke up excited, which is not how I would normally feel. The best gift was Elizabeth Glasspool '26 taking my bag on the walk so I could get some relief for my shoulders. The day was perfect, with a variety of scenic views ranging from mountains to farms. It was unfortunately a long day of walking, and I can't lie, it was painful, but someone was always there to make it easier. After arriving at our destination, Villafranca del Bierzo, we sat down for our group dinner. I had no idea Father Dominic had arranged anything, so when a cake came out, candles lit, I was completely caught off guard. In that moment, I felt truly happy; not just celebrated but loved by people I'd known for less than two weeks.

For our final walk, 13 miles, we walked as a group, no one split off. Excitement was all around and lingered until four miles were left. Polly Bogdan '27 asked me, "Do you think you are walking in the same steps as your dad?" I was speechless. It was an incredible moment and a chance to reflect about why I was there in the first place. It gave me motivation to not only finish but to do it with pride. At three miles left, we reached a beautifully decorated sign that said, "Santiago de Compostela." On the sign were shoes from other pilgrims, so Polly, Luci West '29, and I decided we should leave ours as well.

The final stretch, one mile left, brought us right in the center of Santiago. The streets were filled with Camino souvenirs and shops. There were sounds of bagpipes echoing and people talking, hugging, taking photos, calling loved ones. I sat on the ground, letting my bag fall beside me, legs finally still. The noise around me didn't disappear but it stopped mattering. I could feel the silence starting to settle in, the same one I would feel looking up at the cathedral minutes later. I hadn't come to Santiago looking for a building or a finish line. I'd come looking for that silence, for the kind of peace that only shows up once you stop moving long enough to let it.

Isabella Marcos '28, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a member of the swimming and diving team. She studies biology on a pre-med track and is minoring in Spanish.



Ray Treacy ’82 at his retirement ceremony on June 6, 2026.

RUNNING FOR RAY TREACY

GLADYS GANIEL ’99, A MEMBER OF THE 1995 CHAMPIONSHIP CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, ON PC’S LEGENDARY COACH

BY GLADYS GANIEL ’99

I still remember our team huddled together on a cold, windswept field in Ames, Iowa, in November 1995, waiting for the results of the national championship to be announced. Then came the exuberant joy of Ray and our assistant coach, Andy Ronan, who promptly rolled down a nearby hill when our victory was confirmed. Like carefree children, we followed. Even after a grueling race, we were too elated to mind climbing back up again. In the days before mobile phones, our next task was to find a phone booth so we could call friends back in Providence with the news.

It was a privilege to be part of what was then the greatest achievement of Ray’s coaching career. Since then, there have been so many honors and championships that I’m no longer sure it was his greatest. But it was the college’s first NCAA title, and that will always make it special.

That day captures something important about Ray. He celebrated his athletes’ success with genuine delight, but he never made it about himself.

Four years in collegiate athletics pass remarkably quickly. Success in distance running, however, rarely does.





Far left: Gladys Ganiel '99 and Ray Treacy '82 with the 1999 Walter Byers Award, an academic scholarship presented to the top female student-athlete in the United States. Left: Ganiel in the Harkins Hall rotunda. **Below:** The 1995 NCAA championship team, from left, Susane Murnane '97, Marie McMahon '95, Maria McCambridge '98, Moira Harrington '95, Meghan McCarthy '96, Sarah Dupre '99, Krissy Haacke '97, and Gladys Ganiel '99.



PHOTO PAGE 30: KEVIN REILLY '80. PAGE 31: TOP RIGHT: JUSTIN JAMES MUIR
LEFT AND BELOW RIGHT: PC ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Most athletes do not reach their peak until several years after university, and many women achieve their best performances well into their 30s.

For a collegiate coach, that creates an obvious temptation: maximize what each athlete can achieve during the four years they are in the program. I remember distance runners from other universities contesting three or even four races at the same meet. Ray would never have done that. At track meets we ran one distance race, or perhaps two middle-distance events. He understood that short-term success was never worth compromising an athlete's long-term development. Some of my teammates would go on to become Olympians, and Ray refused to sacrifice their future for an extra collegiate victory.

That approach required humility. It meant accepting that a coach's greatest achievements might not come until years after an athlete had graduated. It meant insisting that tired, sick or injured athletes rested, even when important races beckoned. It meant trusting that years of patient, consistent training would ultimately produce better athletes than endless demands for more.

Ray had been an outstanding athlete himself, representing Ireland at the World Cross Country Championships and winning a team silver medal there in 1979. One day in his office he told me that, when he competed, his greatest fear was not losing but failing to get the best out of himself on race day.

Those words stayed with me long after I graduated. Whenever I stood on a starting line, they reminded me that I could not control what anyone else did. My responsibility was simply to get the best out of myself. The result would take care of itself. ⟶



Ray Treacy '82 at the inaugural BIG EAST championship cross country tournament at Franklin Park, Boston, in 1979. PC defeated six schools to win the title.

Ray coached multiple All-Americans, national record holders, and Olympians. I wasn't one of the stars of our championship team, but that never affected the care he invested in me. Years after I graduated, he still answered emails asking for training advice. Nearly two decades later, that guidance helped me qualify to represent Ireland in the marathon at two European Championships.

Perhaps the best example of Ray's philosophy came at the end of each academic year. Before we headed home for the summer, he handed each of us two calendar pages with every day's training written carefully in his own hand. There were long runs, interval sessions, and recovery days. The word easy appeared regularly, underlined twice.

Those double lines have stayed with me.

Ray understood something that ambitious athletes often struggle to learn. Getting us to work harder was rarely the challenge. Most of us were already highly motivated. The greater challenge was teaching us patience: knowing when to hold back so that we could continue improving over months and years rather than burning ourselves out in pursuit of immediate success.

But Ray was never interested only in producing faster runners.

I remember telling him that I was writing my political science dissertation on religion and politics in Ireland. He asked if he could read it. Later I saw him and Andy passing the printed copy back and forth between them on a flight home from a meet. It mattered enormously to me that they took an interest in something entirely unrelated to athletics.

That same commitment shaped opportunities that changed my life. Ray and the wider Providence athletics department nominated me for the Walter Byers Scholarship, the NCAA's highest academic honor for student-athletes. Before my interview, they organized a mock interview panel so I would have the best possible chance of performing well.



Olympian Emily Sisson '14, who continues to be coached by Ray Treacy '82, trains on the Ray Treacy Track at Hendricken Field.



Ray Treacy '82 lifts the 2013 NCAA Cross Country Championship trophy — the college's second — with, from left, Erin Murphy '14, Grace Thek '14, Emily Sisson '14, Laura Nagel '14, and Catarina Rocha '17.

> **"He told me he loved his work so much that it never felt like work."**

Winning that scholarship transformed my future. Coming from a family for whom the cost of university education would have been prohibitive, I was able to pursue a master's degree in Ireland. That led to a doctoral scholarship and, eventually, to my current position as professor in the sociology of religion at Queen's University Belfast.

I also remember another conversation in Ray's office. He told me he loved his work so much that it never felt like work. At the time, I found that encouraging because it reflected his commitment to us as athletes. Looking back now, I realize he was also showing us something about vocation. It is possible to find work that is deeply fulfilling.

Today I can honestly say the same about my own career.

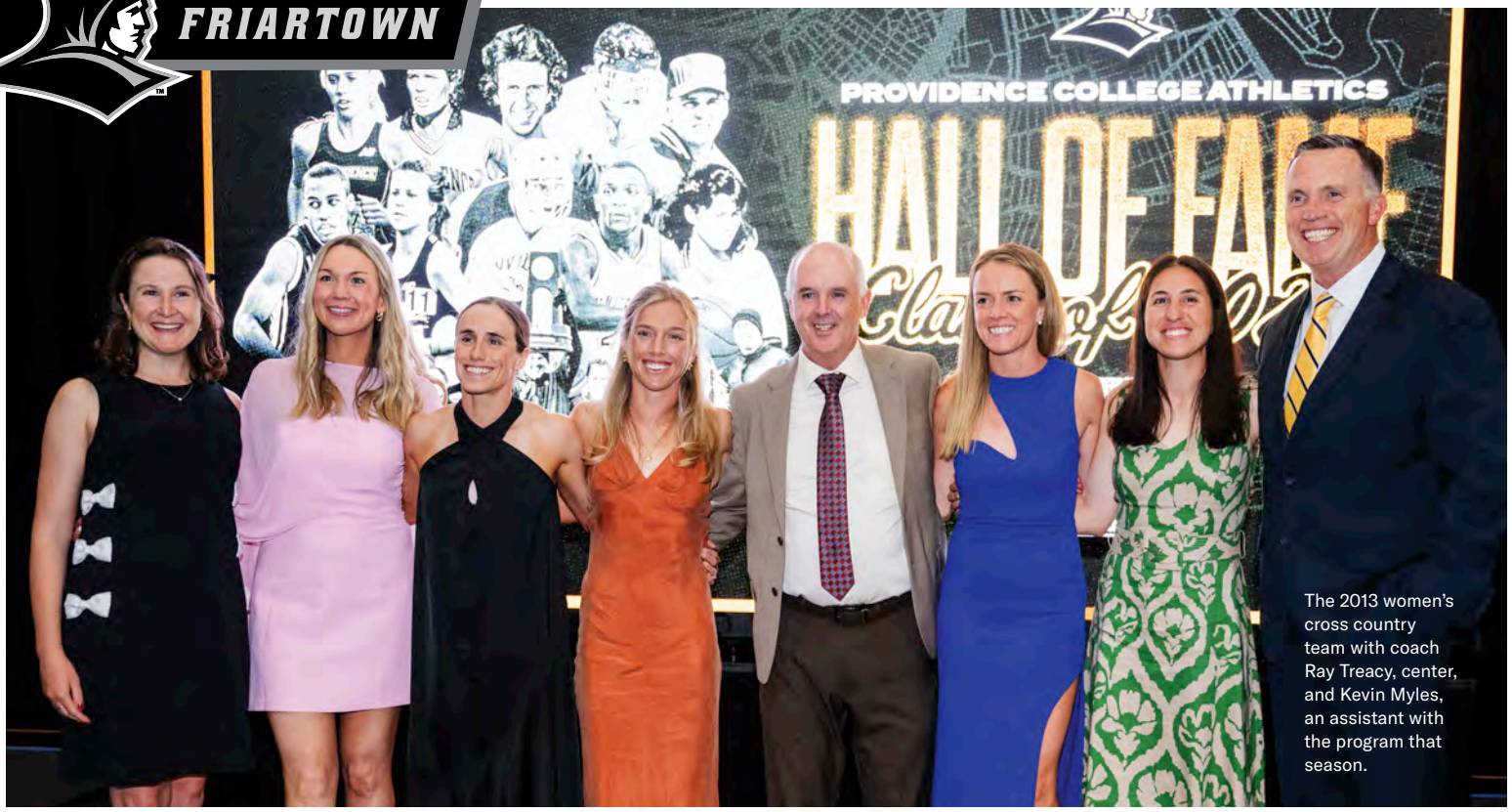
When I ran at Providence, there was no track on campus. I was delighted when the Ray Treacy Track and Field Complex opened in 2014. Ray appreciated the honor but seemed almost embarrassed by it. He joked that having a track named after him made him feel as though he ought to be retired — or dead.

That response seemed entirely in character.

For Ray, coaching was never about building his own legacy. It was about helping other people build theirs. Looking back over Ray's career, I realize that his greatest achievements cannot be measured only by national championships, All-Americans, or Olympians. They are found in the countless lives he shaped, often long after the final race had been run.

Editor's Note: Ray Treacy '82 retired on June 30, 2026, after more than 40 years as head coach of men's and women's cross country and track and field. His career included the college's first NCAA national championship, captured by women's cross country in 1995. Gladys Ganiel '99, a runner on that team, is now a professor in the sociology of religion at Queen's University Belfast.

PHOTO PAGE 32: TOP: PC ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS BELOW: STEW MILNE
PAGE 33: TIM O'DOWD



The 2013 women's cross country team with coach Ray Treacy, center, and Kevin Myles, an assistant with the program that season.

ALWAYS FRIARS

PC ATHLETICS INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS TO HALL OF FAME

STORY BY BRENDAN MCGAIR '03
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEY MCCABE

Nine student-athletes, a coach, and the 2013 NCAA championship women's cross country team were inducted into the Providence College Athletics Hall of Fame in a ceremony in the Ruane Friar Development Center on June 5, 2026, during Reunion Weekend.

Those honored represented a cornucopia of talent and achievement across eight sports. The ceremony was a reminder that a small school competing in some of the toughest conferences in the nation can make an impact on a national scale.

"They worked tirelessly as athletes and students to be the best they could be," said Steven Napolillo '98, vice president and director of athletics. "They will be part of Friar history and their legacies will live on and inspire all those who come to Providence College."

Lisa Brown-Miller '88, who died on May 2, 2025, was honored posthumously. A top scorer for the women's ice hockey team that won the 1985 ECAC title, she played for the U.S. Women's National Team from 1990–1998 and won a gold medal at the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, Japan. She won two Ivy League championships while head coach at Princeton University. She was previously inducted into the PC



Left: Bryce Cotton '14, center, during the panel discussion with, from left, Emily Sisson '14, Kerry Lyons '94, John Linehan '02, and Paul Kostacopoulos '87. Below left: Steven Napolillo, athletics director, with Peggy Gustafson, representing the late Lisa Brown-Miller '88.

Below right: College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G opens the ceremony.





Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008 and the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 2009.

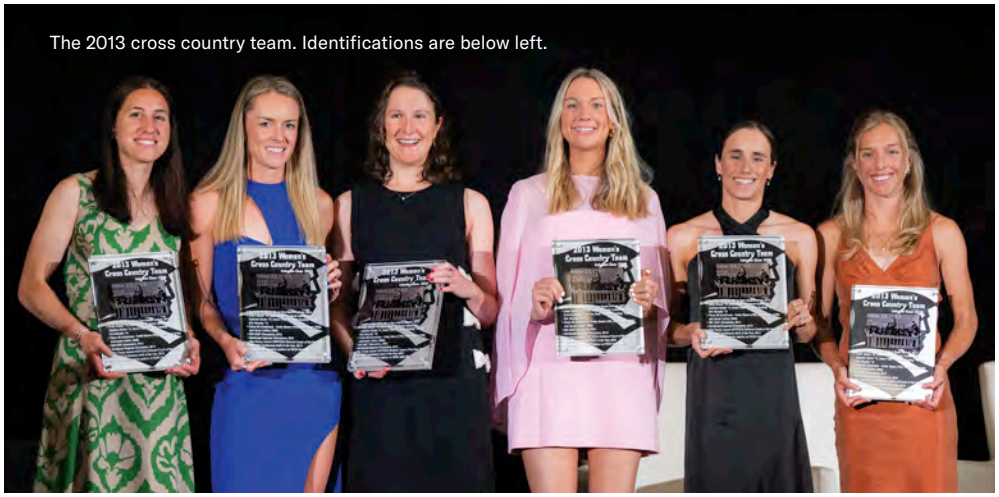
Bryce Cotton '14 led the men's basketball team to the BIG EAST Tournament championship in 2014 and was selected the tournament's most outstanding player. During his senior year he played every minute of every game, including overtime, and led the nation in minutes played. He won three Australian National Basketball League championships as a member of the Perth Wildcats from 2017–2025 and now plays for the Adelaide 36ers. He has won six league Most Valuable Player awards.

Gerry Deegan was a member of the cross country and track team for one year, from 1977–1978. He was the second male Friar to become an NCAA champion and the first to win the two-mile event at the NCAA Indoor Championships. He is from County Wexford, Ireland, where he ran with Coach Ray Treacy '82 and John Treacy '78, '80G.

Danette Doetzel '09, a transfer from Michigan State University, won three BIG EAST championships with the women's track team. She twice captured the 10,000-meter BIG EAST title and won the 3,000-meter indoor title. She became the sixth PC female track athlete to win an NCAA individual title and the first Friar to win an NCAA title in the 10,000. She is a running coach in Australia.

Paul Guay '90 guided the men's ice hockey team to the ECAC East Division regular-season title in 1983, the same year he set a record for goals scored. He was the first Friar hockey player to make the U.S. Olympic team, for the 1984 games in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. After two seasons with the Friars, he left to play for the Philadelphia Flyers and spent seven seasons in the NHL. He coached for Mount Saint Charles Academy in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and now is battalion chief for the Pawtucket Fire Department.

Paul Kostacopoulos '87 played baseball for four →


The 2013 cross country team. Identifications are below left.

years and coached for seven seasons, from 1990–1996, with NCAA appearances in 1992 and 1995. His teams captured the 1992 BIG EAST Tournament title and the 1995 BIG EAST regular-season crown. He coached for the U.S. Naval Academy team from 2006–2023 and now is athletics director at St. Mary's High School in Annapolis.

John Linehan '02, one of the greatest defenders to play for the men's basketball team, set the NCAA steals record that stood for 20 years until it was broken in 2022. He was named national defensive player of the year in 2002. When Kobe Bryant was asked during the 2001 NBA playoffs to name the toughest defender he ever faced, he named Linehan. He is an assistant coach at Brigham Young University.

Kerry Lyons '94 led the women's soccer team to the 1993 BIG EAST Championship and the program's first NCAA Tournament appearance. She remains the program's leader in career goals and in career points and scored a program-record 17 goals during the 1992 season. She is a licensed physical therapist in Massachusetts.

Emily Sisson '14 captained the 2013 national championship cross country team that also was inducted into the Hall of Fame. She was a two-time NCAA champion in the 5,000-meter run. During the 2015 BIG EAST Indoor Championship, she broke the record set by Kim Smith '05. Sisson finished 10th in the 10,000 meters at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 and 23rd in the marathon at the Paris Olympics in 2024.















Top of page: The 2013 women's cross country team, from left, Catarina Rocha '17, Laura Nagel '14, Sarah Collins '16, Erin Murphy '14, Grace Thek '14, Emily Sisson '14. Molly Keating '16 was unable to attend.

Clockwise from above left: Paul Kostacopoulos '87 (baseball), Bryce Cotton '14 (basketball), Kerry Lyons '94 (soccer), Emily Sisson '14 (cross country, track), Paul Guay '90 (ice hockey), John Linehan '02 (basketball), Paula Wagoner Conway '98 (field hockey).



The Hall of Fame Class of 2026. Not pictured: Gerry Deegan, Danielle Doetzel '09, and Molly Keating '16.

> **Their legacies will inspire all those who come to Providence College.**
>
> — STEVE NAPOLILLO, ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

She also set a new American marathon record in 2022.

Paula Wagoner Conway '98 guided the field hockey team to three BIG EAST Tournament appearances and to the championship game in 1996. She is the only Friar field hockey player to be named BIG EAST offensive player of the year and holds the program's single season record for assists. She has coached at Georgetown University, Kent State University, and Boston College.

The 2013 women's cross country team had one of the most successful seasons in Friar history, winning seven of eight races, defending the 2012 Northeast Regional title, and capturing the program's sixth BIG EAST title on the way to the NCAA national championship — the second in program history. Team members Sarah Collins '16, Molly Keating '16, Erin Murphy '14, Laura Nagel '14, Catarina Rocha '17, Emily Sisson '14, and Grace Thek '14 were coached by Ray Treacy.

The master of ceremonies was John Rooke, broadcast voice of the men's basketball team. College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G opened the ceremony with a prayer. Rooke introduced each inductee with a brief tribute video, followed by a recorded video message. At the end, Napolillo led a panel discussion with the inductees.

Cotton, who traveled from Australia with his wife and daughter to attend the ceremony, said he is most proud of "being at Providence for four years and seeing the growth individually with me, and also as a team."

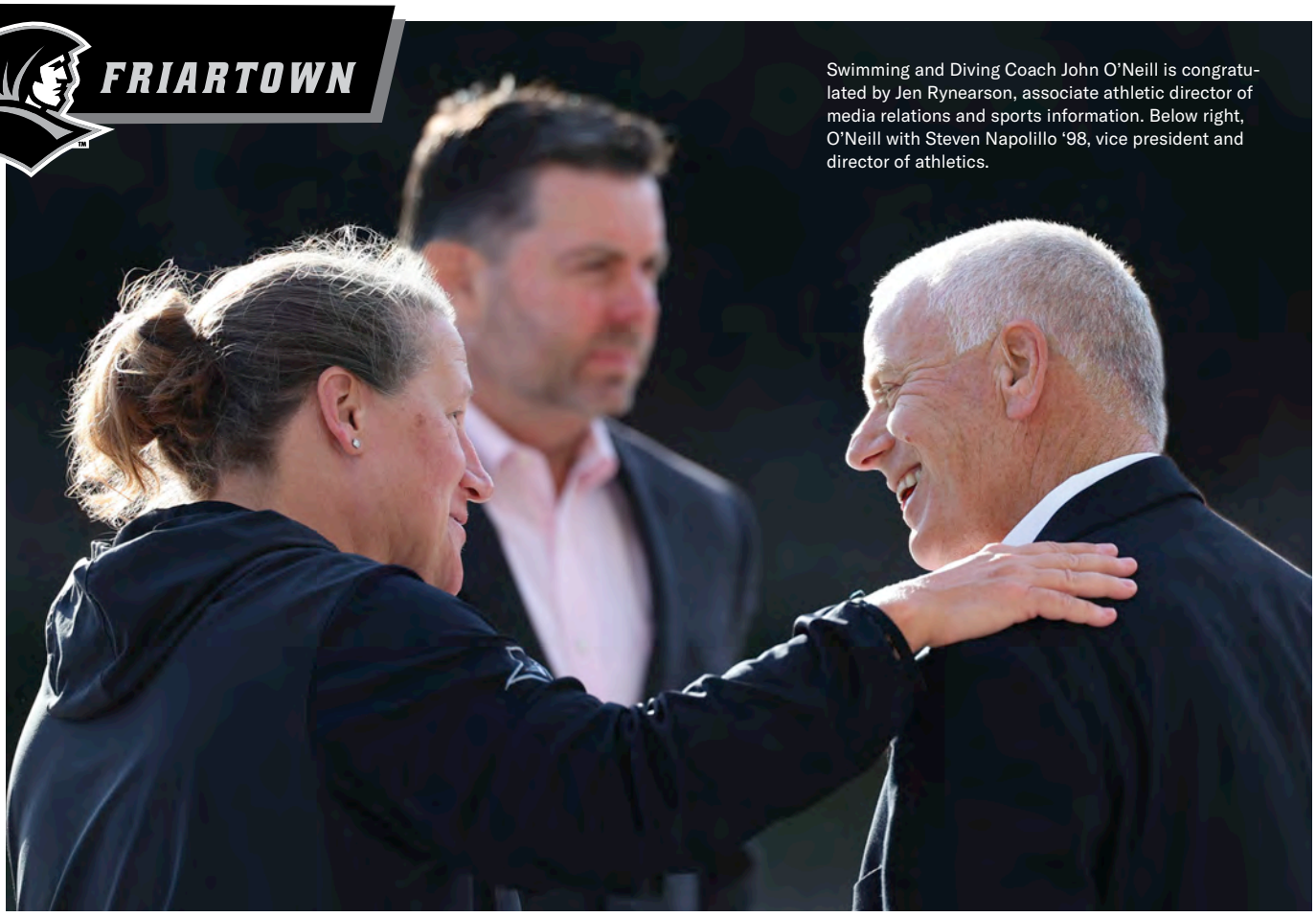
Sisson said it feels like yesterday that the women's cross country team won the national championship.

"It's a moment that will be cemented in our brains for the rest of our lives," Sisson said. "It still feels just as special as it did the day that it happened."

In his video message, Deegan said, "There has always been a place in my heart for Providence College. Once a Friar, always a Friar."

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

Scan to watch the ceremony.



Swimming and Diving Coach John O'Neill is congratulated by Jen Rynearson, associate athletic director of media relations and sports information. Below right, O'Neill with Steven Napolillo '98, vice president and director of athletics.

LAST LAP

COACH JOHN O'NEILL RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS

John O'Neill founded the college's swimming and diving program in 1984 and guided the team for a total of 36 seasons, earning Coach of the Year honors multiple times while mentoring generations of student-athletes and coaching numerous BIG EAST champions.

His retirement was celebrated on Saturday, September 12, 2026, beginning with the Swim Across America event at Roger Wheeler State Beach in Narragansett. In the evening, a cocktail hour and reception were held on campus in the Mondor Center for Nursing and Health Sciences. Alumni, former student-athletes, family, friends, and supporters of the program attended to wish O'Neill well.

In honor of his retirement, and thanks to the support of program alumni Michael J. Hurley '92 and Megan Anderson Hurley '92, the Cindy and John O'Neill Swimming and Diving Endowed Fund has been established to support the program's immediate needs.



PHOTOS: KEVIN REILLY '80

CURLEY, BURKE NAMED TO HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

Two Friars — Cindy Curley ’85 and Brian Burke ’77 — will be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2026 during a ceremony on November 9, 2026, at Brookfield Place in Toronto.

A pioneer in women’s ice hockey, Curley remains one of the top scorers in Friar program history and helped lead Providence to its ECAC championship titles in 1984 and 1985. She scored the winning goal in the 1984 ECAC championship game. Following her collegiate career, she represented the United States on the international stage at four Women’s World Championships, in 1987, 1990, 1992, and 1994. She helped elevate women’s ice hockey during a period of growth for the sport, both in the nation and in her home state of Massachusetts.


Cindy Curley ’85

She is a member of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame, the Massachusetts Hockey Hall of Fame, and the Providence College Hall of Fame.

Burke joins former Providence coach Lou Lamoriello ’63, ’01Hon. as Friars inducted in the Hall of Fame Builder Category, which recognizes pioneers, executives, coaches, and media members.

Burke, a native of Providence who grew up in Minnesota, appeared in 112 games with the Friars and was captain his senior year. Following graduation, he worked as a National Hockey League player agent before working in management roles for the Vancouver Canucks, Hartford Whalers, Toronto Maple Leafs, Calgary Flames, and Pittsburgh Penguins. He was with the Anaheim Ducks when they won the Stanley Cup in 2007.


Brian Burke ’77

Burke also was NHL executive vice president and director of hockey operations for six seasons and was the first-ever director of the Professional Women’s Hockey League Players Association. He was general manager of the 2010 U.S. Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team that won a silver medal in Vancouver, director of player personnel for the 2014 team, and held management roles with the U.S. Men’s National Teams.

He is a member of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame and the Providence College Hall of Fame.

HISTORIC SOFTBALL SEASON

The softball team claimed a share of the BIG EAST regular season title for the first time in program history in May 2026, earning the top seed in the BIG EAST Tournament in Chicago.

The title was shared with the University of Connecticut. It was clinched when the Friars defeated the Butler Bulldogs in Indianapolis behind a complete game performance from first-year pitcher Addyson Frye ’29.


Alyssa Twomey ’27

The Friars were defeated by Butler in the first round of the tournament and lost the elimination game to Creighton University. They finished the season with a record of 18-6 in the BIG EAST — the most conference wins ever — and 29–20 overall.


Kelsey Christensen

Alyssa Twomey ’27 (Warwick, Rhode Island) was named BIG EAST pitcher of the year, the first Friar to achieve that honor. Third-year head coach Kelsey Christensen and her assistants were named BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year, also the first time PC has won the award.

Twomey and Emily Jonte ’26 (Allen, Texas) were named to the BIG EAST First Team and four players were named to the BIG EAST Second Team. The six selections tied the record for most in program history.

LACROSSE REACHES BIG EAST FINAL

The lacrosse team played in the BIG EAST championship game in May 2026 in a contest hosted on campus on Chapey Field at Anderson Stadium. The Friars, the number two seed, fell to top-seeded Georgetown and finished the season with an 8–9 record.

Rhett Chambers ’27 (Larchmont, New York), Richie Joseph ’26 (Longmeadow, Massachusetts), and Ian Olenik ’26 (Windham, New Hampshire) were named to the All-BIG EAST First Team. Chambers also was named to the U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association Team of the Week in April.

It was the second time in program history that the Friars competed in the championship. In 2017, PC fell to Marquette University, also at Chapey Field.

MATT CURRAN'S 33 FOUNDATION

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G



Matt Curran '02, '04G with his wife, Audra, and their daughter, Cameron.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CURRAN FAMILY

Each year since 2010, **Matt Curran '02, '04G** has made life easier for someone with a spinal cord injury. His 33 Foundation has helped individuals, organizations, and families by raising funds to pay for adaptive vehicles, home remodels, college tuition, and more.

In 2001, while vacationing with his Friar ice hockey teammates in Florida, Curran fell 33 feet from a balcony onto concrete, breaking 28 bones and damaging his spine. He spent 12 weeks in a coma and several months at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta. He was paralyzed from the chest down and was told there was a 1-in-10-million chance he would walk again.

He was 21 years old.

Five months later, Curran walked out of the Shepherd Center using leg braces and crutches. He returned for his senior year at PC and graduated on time. Though he could not play hockey, the team, staff, and school welcomed him back. He lived with teammates and attended training sessions. He completed an MBA while working as a graduate assistant with PC Athletics and undergoing outpatient rehabilitation therapy.

"Statistics say one thing, but everybody is different. I was incredibly lucky," Curran said. "When you have a spinal cord injury, you're working as hard as you ever did in athletics, but nothing ever seems to improve. You think, maybe I should just stop pushing so hard. That's the dark place you just can't go."

"When I started rooting for the person across the hall from me as much as for myself, I could move my toe," Curran said.

Today, Curran lives in Norfolk, Massachusetts, with his wife, Audra, and their 10-year-old daughter, Cameron, who both help with the foundation along with a team of volunteers. He runs the corporate development function for NWN, a large technology services business, and works on his physical recovery every day.

Each month, Curran receives multiple calls for assistance. He chooses one individual each year to "move forward." The recipient must be driven, determined, and willing to share his or her story with donors at the 33 Foundation's annual fall event, which includes a golf tournament.

"People listening realize, 'That could be me, or my son or my daughter,'" said Curran. "This work has a special place in my heart."

Learn more: www.the33foundation.org

> "This work has a special place in my heart."
>
> — MATT CURRAN '02, '04G

CLASS NOTES

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

'46

Leo Doherty '46 of Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, who will celebrate his 104th birthday in October 2026, continues to enjoy retirement with his wife, Jane (Drawbaugh) Doherty, at the Normandy Farms senior living community. His sons, James (Oxford, Pennsylvania) and Edward (Croton-on-Hudson, New York) visit frequently. Leo recently gave his grandson, Ian, a copy of the Spring 2026 issue of Providence College Magazine, hoping to inspire him to become a Friar. Leo enrolled at PC as a member of the Class of 1944 but like many classmates took a two-year "sabbatical" to study abroad in Nazi Europe with General George S. Patton from 1944–1945. After the war, he completed his education and moved to Connecticut, then to Norristown, Pennsylvania. He was an accountant with various companies in the Philadelphia suburbs, eventually landing with the Philco division of the Ford Motor Company in Lansdale, where he met his first wife, Nancy. After her death in 1974, he married Jane. They have been together for 50 years.

'62 (Reunion: June 11-13, 2027)

Bill Walsh '62 of Cheshire, Connecticut, traveled to Washington, D.C., as part of the RI250 Honor Flight on May 2, 2026. The veterans visited war memorials and Arlington National Cemetery, accompanied by volunteers and guardians. Walsh, an ROTC graduate, was escorted by Deborah Falvo '96, '01G, human resource assistant for PC's ROTC Patriot Battalion.

'69

John A. DeMarco '69 of Brooklyn, New York, has been involved with suicide awareness since 2017 as veterans chair of the Villa Marie Council #6342, Knights of Columbus, in Galloway/Absecon, New Jersey. An ROTC graduate who served in Vietnam from 1970–1971, DeMarco assists the Veterans Administration with its #1 focus — suicide prevention. The Knights of Columbus program has placed

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Director Dan Foster '79 guides campus musical

Dan Foster '79, an actor, theatre producer and director in New York City, returned to campus during the Spring 2026 semester to direct students in the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Film production of the Stephen Sondheim musical Sunday in the Park with George.

Foster directed the show in 1987 as part of a summer theatre program at PC established by **John Garrity, MFA '73**, longtime associate professor of theatre. That performance featured **Peter Thomson '77**, now of Minneapolis, as George. Foster's wife, the Tony-nominated Broadway actress Liz Callaway, played Dot.

Thomson came to Providence to see the latest performance in the Angell Blackfriars Theatre and met with the newest student to portray George, **Luke MacDonald '27** of Sandwich, Massachusetts. Thomson is the son of **Rev. Paul van K. Thomson '86Hon.**, who directed the Honors Program at PC and helped establish the Development of Western Civilization Program.

Foster spent six weeks on campus preparing students for the production. As an actor, he made his Broadway debut in City of Angels and spent three years on All My Children. He has directed shows off-Broadway and was creative director of a professional theatre company in Westchester, New York, from 1999–2019.

In 2023, he was selected by The American Theatre Wing to serve as a member of the nominating committee for Broadway's annual Antoinette Perry Awards, known as the Tonys. He resides in Croton-on-Hudson.



Dan Foster '79 directs Avery Oliva '27 and Gabriel Joseph '28.

PHOTO: ANNE HARRIGAN

CLASS NOTES

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

A Poli Sci Reunion

Grace Petrarca, who worked as secretary in the Political Science Department for more than two decades, is 98 years old and "sharp as a tack, loving, funny, and amazing," according to **Maryellen Butke '83**, her exercise partner at McDermott Pool in Warwick, Rhode Island. Butke arranged for Petrarca to be reunited with four political science professors she had not seen since her retirement in 1993. **Robert Trudeau, Ph.D.** and **Mark Hyde, Ph.D.** connected with Petrarca in March 2026 at Apsara Asian Restaurant in South Providence. Two weeks later at the same location, **William Hudson, Ph.D., Douglas Blum, Ph.D.**, and Trudeau came by to catch up. Petrarca was delighted to see familiar faces and relive memories of her years at the college.



From left, Bob Trudeau, Doug Blum, Grace Petrarca and Bill Hudson.

more than 500 flags at schools, municipalities, and businesses, with banners showing the veterans crisis line number: 988, select 1, or text 838255. Seventeen veterans per day in the U.S. die by their own hand. The hope is to encourage veterans and military members to make a different choice, to show families who have lost a "silently fallen" member know that their loved one is not forgotten, and to inspire others to reach out to a veteran or service member in need. "We pray that this powerful visual might guide our hearts to work together to provide the care that those in the military and veterans deserve," DeMarco said. "Some wounds cannot be seen." The Knights of Columbus Council #6342 averages 10 flag installations a month from April to November.

William Vanasse '69 of Viera, Florida, a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, traveled on an Honor Flight from Melbourne, Florida, to Washington, D.C. on June 23, 2025, with his daughter, Danica Olson, as his guardian. They visited war memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. One of the flight sponsors was Space Coast Corvette Club, of which Bill is a member.

'73

Martin Doblmeier '73, '09Hon. of Alexandria, Virginia, produced a new documentary series, Christianity at a Crossroads, for Maryland Public Television. It will air on PBS stations this fall. The four-hour series explores changes in America's religious landscape. One episode features St. Joseph's Church in Greenwich Village, one of the oldest Catholic churches in New York City and served by the Dominican friars, including Rev. Jonah Teller, O.P., the brother of PC Chaplain Rev. Simon Teller, O.P. "It was an inspiring experience to film there," Doblmeier said. He is the founder of Journey Films, which has produced more than 30 films focused on religion, faith, and spirituality.

'77 (Reunion: June 11-13, 2027)

Kevin Bowling '77 of Grand Haven, Michigan, was honored as the first annual West Michigan Peace Builder by Mediation Services. He spent his career striving to make the judicial system fair and equitable and administered with integrity. Kevin served on the Mediation Services board of directors and retired from the Ottawa County court system after 44 years of service. He continues efforts to improve the courts at the state, national, and international levels, consulting on artificial intelligence and its impact on the judiciary. He serves as the chief administrative officer of the International Association for Court Administration.

'85

Mark Ockerbloom '85 of Medfield, Massachusetts, marked his final day as the nightside anchor at Boston 25 News in May 2026. Since joining the station in 2004, he covered the region's biggest stories, including the Boston Marathon bombing, the Aaron Hernandez murder trial, the Merrimack Valley gas explosions, and the capture of Whitey Bulger, along with Super Bowl, World Series, and Stanley Cup championships, NBA finals, and weather events like the Blizzard of 2026. He has won numerous journalism awards, including five Emmys and the New England Emmy's prestigious Silver Circle Award, recognizing significant contributions during 25 years or more in the television industry. Ockerbloom received his fifth Emmy in June 2026 for outstanding continuing coverage of the Karen Read murder trial.

’86

Steven Minicucci ’86 of Cranston, Rhode Island, administrative judge on the Rhode Island Workers’ Compensation Court, is president-elect of the National Association of Workers’ Compensation Judiciary. The association provides educational forums for workers’ compensation judiciary across the country on issues unique to that system of justice.

David Ring ’86 of Richmond, Virginia, was reappointed to the Federal Reserve of Richmond Advisory Board for a second term. He also was invited to join the Virginia Bankers Association and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce board. Ring was the featured speaker at the nCino Live technology conference, where he spoke on AI uses in banking. He and his wife, Anne D’Andrea Ring ’86, are the proud grandparents of future Friars Theodore David, 7, and Cecelia Jane, 1.

’87 (Reunion: June 11-13, 2027)

Joseph Miceli ’87 of Westerly, Rhode Island, was named the 2026 Citizen of the Year by the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce. He was selected based on his dedication, service, and community impact. Miceli is the proprietor of Miceli’s Furniture in downtown Westerly, a family business he joined after his PC graduation, and is a driving force for downtown revitalization. He is president of the United Theatre Education Center, supports the Westerly Public Library, serves on the board of the Westerly Land Trust, and is a member and supporter of the Westerly-Pawcatuck YMCA. He has served on the foundation board of the Westerly Hospital since 2018 and has been a corporator since the 2000s. He was honored at a dinner in June 2026 at Venice Restaurant.

’90

Brian McManus ’90 of Fairfield, Connecticut, is executive director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, Connecticut, Inc. The nonprofit organization provides support to lawyers, judges, and law students experiencing substance use disorders, mental health conditions, process addictions (including gambling and other addictions), stress, the effects of aging, and other challenges that may affect their ability to function. McManus served as president of PC’s National Alumni Association from 2024–2025.

Shawn Palmer ’90 of Colchester, Connecticut, publisher of the Daily Hampshire Gazette, Greenfield Recorder, and Athol Daily News in western Massachusetts, was named president and chief executive officer of Newspapers of New England in July 2026. The family-owned company has published local news in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont for more than 130 years. Palmer has more than three decades of leadership in New England news media, having previously worked in senior executive and publisher positions at Hearst

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National Alumni Council 2026-2027

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More about the National Alumni Association:
prov.ly/get-involved

CLASS NOTES

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

Lawyers of the Year

Monica Fanesi Nelson '05 of Providence, at left in photo, and **Nicole Andrescavage '13** of Foster, Rhode Island, were named Lawyers of the Year for 2025 by Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly. The award came as a result of their work in securing a unanimous verdict in favor of a country club in Rhode Island following a four-day trial in March 2025. The duo was honored by Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly at its Excellence in the Law event in June 2026. Monica and Nicole practice at Lewis Brisbois in Providence, a national full-service firm with a presence in key markets across the country and one of the strongest trial benches in the U.S.



Connecticut Media, The Day Publishing Company, and RJ Media Group.

'92 (Reunion: June 11-13, 2027)

Sean Kenny '92 of Greenville, North Carolina, was promoted to regional vice president of Trillium Health Resources, a local management entity–management care organization for mental health and substance use issues, and for individuals with developmental delays. It serves 46 counties in North Carolina.

'93

Maria Granaudo '93 of Wilmington, Delaware, is a shareholder in the Health Care Department in the Wilmington office of Marshall Dennehey. She joined the medical malpractice and long-term care liability practices with decades of experience representing health care providers and institutions in complex medical malpractice matters. Granaudo earned a J.D. from Widener University Delaware Law School and is a member of the Delaware State Bar Association. She is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and Delaware, before the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the District of Delaware, and before the U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit.

'94

Michael Lyons '94 of Easton, Massachusetts, was named president and CEO of Brockton Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice in Brockton. He has more than 15 years of experience leading home care agencies since receiving a master's degree in physical therapy from the University of Rhode Island. He formerly worked in senior leadership positions with Personal Touch Home Care and Northwell Health.

'95

Bridget Collins '95 of Littleton, Massachusetts, was appointed chief information officer at Progress Software. She will lead the company's global IT and security organization and report directly to the CEO. Collins was named a 2021 Boston CIO of the Year ORBIE Award winner, recognizing excellence in technology leadership. She holds an MBA in high technology management from Northeastern University.

'96

Mike Scafati '96 of Norwood, Massachusetts, directed the first-ever pilot production of the Huey Lewis and The News Broadway musical, The Heart of Rock and Roll Junior, at The Meadowbrook School in Weston, Massachusetts. Scafati hosted a Zoom conversation for his students with Huey Lewis to discuss theater, acting, music, and more. He also directed Lewis in a small vocal part that was included in the show in May 2026. Scafati is a teacher of film and broadcast media and theatre at Meadowbrook.

'98

Eric Cutler '98 of Warwick, Rhode Island, was promoted to director at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. He is celebrating 20 years with the company.

Kevin Podmore '98 of Worcester, Massachusetts, was named chief operating officer of Vac2Go, a leading provider of industrial vacuum truck rentals, sales, and servicing in the U.S. He has extensive leadership experience through previous roles at Frito-Lay/PepsiCo and United Site Services. The holder of an MBA in global management, Podmore began his career as a U.S. Army officer, commissioned through the PC Army ROTC program.

'99

Steven Ciesielski '99 of Norfolk, Massachusetts, launched The Oath Record, a nonpartisan public website that organizes selected U.S. Senate votes connected to constitutional responsibilities in a clear, searchable format. The project is designed to support civic understanding through accessible public-record information and emphasizes clarity rather than commentary. Learn more at: theoathrecord.com.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46



On a visit to Rome just weeks after his ordination, Rev. Daniel Arteaga, O.P. '19 was honored to meet Pope Leo.

PHOTO: SIMONE RISOLUTI/ VATICAN MEDIA

Rev. Raphael Arteaga '19 becomes a Dominican priest

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G

From the time he was a 9-year-old schoolboy at St. Cecilia School in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Daniel Arteaga '19 knew he had a priestly vocation. At PC, where he studied theology, was president of Campus Ministry, and spent a summer of service in the Solomon Islands with Archbishop Christopher Cardone, O.P. '80, '01Hon., he decided that vocation would be fulfilled with the Order of Preachers, the Dominicans.

On May 23, 2026, Rev. Raphael Mary Arteaga, O.P. '19 was ordained to the priesthood in St. Dominic Church in Washington, D.C., by Cardinal Robert McElroy, archbishop of Washington.

In the weeks following ordination, his biggest surprise was being addressed as "Father" by the friends and community members he had known for so long.

"Being called 'Father' is really shocking all the way around," Father Raphael said. "It reimagines who you are. You are called to be a father with all the privileges and responsibilities that entails. It reminds you of what ordination has done and what you represent. It's very humbling. It brings me to a place of gratitude for this immense gift that God has shared with me, one who is just as broken as anyone else."

His priestly name, Raphael, honors both his high school, St. Raphael in Pawtucket, and the archangel.

"Raphael is the archangel of healing," Father Raphael said. "It's a cool image for a priest. An angel is a messenger and a priest is, too — a messenger of Christ who brings true medicine for the soul, which is Christ himself."

HIS NAME, RAPHAEL, HONORS BOTH HIS HIGH SCHOOL, ST. RAPHAEL IN PAWTUCKET, AND THE ARCHANGEL.

Getting to know Dominican friars during his years at PC inspired Father Raphael. Many became his mentors, including Rev. Michael Weibley, O.P., then associate college chaplain and now pastor of Saints Philip and James Parish in Baltimore. Father Raphael asked Father Weibley to vest him — dress him in his stole and chasuble for the first time — during his ordination.

Thanks to his parents, who are natives of Colombia, Father Raphael speaks fluent Spanish. He instituted bilingual Masses as a PC student and offered his first Mass in Spanish at Misíon San Andrés in Silver Spring, Maryland, where he assisted during his diaconate year.

Following a trip to Rome, where he met Pope Leo XIV, and a summer at St. Gertrude Church in Cincinnati, Father Raphael has returned to the Dominican House of Studies in D.C. to complete his licentiate in sacred theology, an ecclesiastical degree between a master's and a doctorate. After that, he hopes to be assigned to ministry at a campus or in a parish. "I really do love working with people," he said.

CLASS NOTES

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes

National Alumni Association Awards

The National Alumni Association recognizes the achievements of distinguished alumni with the National Alumni Association Award. The recipients listed below received honors in 2025 and in 2026.

BISHOP HARKINS AWARD
Ronald Szejner, J.D. '70
Archbishop Christopher Cardone, O.P. '80, '01Hon.

EXEMPLARY CITIZENSHIP AWARD
David Gorman '91
Laura Jaworski '00
Kilah Walters-Clinton, '00, '04G

FAITHFUL FRIAR AWARD
Steve Duryea '82
William DeRosa '67

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Paul Coyne, DNP '08
Kenneth Dooley '59

REV. PHILIP A. SMITH, O.P. AWARD
Kelley Garland Shepherd '16, '19G
Amie Mbye '18

SERVICE TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD
Rev. James Quigley, O.P. '60
Debra Perry Ozug '79, '87G

SERVICE TO EDUCATION AWARD
Terza Lima-Neves, Ph.D. '00
Heather Washington Dos Santos, Ed.D. '98
Debra Mulligan, Ph.D. '97G

→ To nominate a classmate, visit **prov.ly/naa-nomination**

'00

Shannon Rafferty Sullivan '00 of Barrington, Rhode Island, became president and CEO of Connecticut Children's in Hartford in January 2026. Connecticut Children's is one of the only independent pediatric health care systems in the country. Sullivan had been president and COO of Women and Infants Hospital in Providence since 2020.

'03

Donna Sowa Allard '03 of Cumberland, Rhode Island, was inducted into the Hall of Fame of St. Raphael Academy, Pawtucket. The honor recognizes service and loyalty to the academy. The ceremony took place in April 2026 at Alpine Country Club in Cranston. Allard is the president of Sowa Financial Group Inc. in Lincoln.

Brendan McGair '03 of Cranston, Rhode Island, was named the 2026 Rhode Island Sports Writer of the Year by the National Sports Media Association. It's the sixth time he's won the award since joining the Woonsocket Call/Pawtucket Times in 2005. Additionally, McGair took home a first-place award in the Best Sports Story category in the 2026 editorial contest organized by the Rhode Island Press Association.

'04

Marianna McDonald Mitchem '04 of Denver, Colorado, joined Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in America, founded by Michael Bloomberg. Following her PC graduation, she worked for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives as an industry operations investigator, ensuring gun dealers and manufacturers were abiding by the law, including by properly conducting background checks prior to selling firearms. She spent nearly 21 years with the agency and retired as associate assistant director of field operations in May 2025. She was inspired to combat gun violence after the Columbine High School shooting, which occurred the day after she played Columbine in a high school soccer game.

'06

Rev. Keith Maczkiewicz, S.J., Ed.D. '06G of Worcester, Massachusetts, was promoted to vice president for mission and chief mission officer at The College of the Holy Cross. He will lead the Division of Mission and Ministry, report directly to the college president, and help shape the strategic direction of the college. Father Maczkiewicz received a master of education degree from PC through PACT, the Providence Alliance For Catholic Teachers program, and an executive doctor of higher education degree with a specialty in Catholic education from Boston College. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2018 and has held ministry positions at Fairfield University, Georgetown University, and the University of Scranton.

Rev. Emanuel Vasconcelos, OFM Conv. '06, '08G of Syracuse, New York, recently began a new role as chaplain of The Catholic Center at Syracuse University. Father Manny was previously based in Washington, D.C., as a vocation director for the Franciscan Friars Conventual of the Our Lady of the Angels Province. He invites any PC Friars who find themselves in the Syracuse area to stop by and pay him a visit.

'07 (Reunion: June 11-13, 2027)

Matthew Korn '07 of Lexington, South Carolina, joined the partnership at Pierson Ferdinand LLP, an international, full-service, tech-driven law firm. He is part of the firm's Employment, Labor, and Benefits and Litigation practice groups. He has a J.D. from Georgetown University and is admitted to practice in New York and South Carolina.

'08

Michael Bonnell '08 of Boxford, Massachusetts, began work in July 2026 as head of developer relations at Blitzy, Inc., an artificial intelligence company based in Cambridge that develops autonomous software development platforms for large enterprises. The company has raised $200 million in new funding and has reached a valuation of $1.4 billion.

Katie Mattaini '08 of Boxford, Massachusetts, was promoted to associate teaching professor, biology, at Tufts University. A chemistry major at PC, she has a Ph.D. in biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Kevin Moore '08 of Peabody, Massachusetts, is executive director for Essex County Habitat for Humanity in Danvers. His involvement with Habitat began when he was a student volunteer studying public and community service studies at PC. Over the past 18 years, he has served in leadership roles for Habitat in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Most recently, he was chief operating officer for Habitat for Humanity of Fairfield County, overseeing construction, family services, and ReStore operations. He urges those interested in getting involved with a local Habitat for Humanity to visit www.habitat.org

Last Laughs, a short film written and directed by **Michael Rekola '08**, with **Paul Coyne '08** as executive producer, made its international debut at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival. Rekola, who studied art history at PC and has a law degree from Roger Williams University, resides in Brooklyn, Connecticut. He founded Rekola Studios, which champions American independent cinema through investment, production, sales, public relations, and distribution.

Katie Barron Wilcox '08 of Alexandria, Virginia, was named section chief of the Family Services Division of the District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General. The division litigates all foster care cases on behalf of the district. She and her husband are the parents of three sons.

'09

Andrew Guyton '09 of Stratham, New Hampshire, was named a President's Council Club qualifier by the Guardian Life Insurance Company of America. It is one of Guardian's highest honors, awarded to the top 2% of financial professionals who exemplify outstanding service and client dedication. The founder of Forge Financial, Guyton works with clients on a wide range of issues, including financial protection and wealth accumulation strategies. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three children, James, Claire, and Owen.

'16

Cody Fino '16SCE, '21G of Coventry, Rhode Island, was recognized as a 2026 Providence Business News 40 Under Forty honoree for his leadership in workforce development and his efforts to build innovative employer partnerships that expand career pathways and strengthen Rhode Island's workforce.

John Onysko '16G of Cranston, Rhode Island, has been a history teacher at West Warwick High School for the past 24 years. He also works as a mobile disc jockey, "DJ O," available for weddings, corporate events, birthdays, and private parties. You can find him on Instagram at DJ.O.24. Onysko has a master's degree in history from PC with a concentration in modern European studies and has been a season ticket holder for men's basketball for the past 10 years.

'17 (Reunion: June 11-13, 2027)

Alex Fischbach '17 of Boston successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation, "Precision-Oriented Methods for Improving

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For Jobie

Catherine Ciampi '23, **Rosie Morford '23**, **Olivia Privatera '23**, and **Vanessa Privitera '29** participated in the Pan-Mass Challenge, a two-day bicycle ride from Boston to Cape Cod in August 2026, as part of "Team Jobie" to raise funds for The Jobie Project Fund at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. The fund was established by the family of **Jobie Hereford '23**, who died of brain cancer in August 2023. Money raised by the fund advances the understanding of high-grade pediatric brain tumors. Also participating in the ride were Jobie's parents, John Hereford and Andrea Dukakis Hereford, and Jobie's brother, Niko Hereford.



Measurement Accuracy in fMRI," and earned a doctorate in neuroscience from Northeastern University. In the final year of her doctoral training, she was awarded the Early-Career Rigor Champions Prize from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the Dean's Excellence Award in Leadership from Northeastern University, and a Dissertation Completion Fellowship. She will continue at Northeastern as a postdoctoral research fellow, focusing on forecasting individualized clinical outcomes using precision neuroimaging and machine learning.

'18

Kevin O'Neill '18 of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, is assistant director, strategy and alignment at Liberty Mutual in Boston. He is studying for an MBA at the Boston College Carroll School of Management.

'19

Kelley O'Donnell Decena '19 of East Providence, Rhode Island, a commercial real estate attorney with Partridge Snow & Hahn, a full-service law and litigation firm, was named to the "Ones to Watch-Rising Stars" 2026 list of the New England Real Estate Journal. The list highlights professionals making an impact within their firms and across the New England commercial real estate industry. Decena was recognized for her reputation as a trusted and skilled commercial real estate attorney, providing exceptional client service, and her role in guiding clients confidently and effectively through complex transitions. Decena focuses her practice on commercial real estate, nonprofit and tax exemption, and corporate finance. She studied psychology at PC, then earned a law degree from Suffolk University Law School. While attending law school, she worked with Barnstable County Superior Court Judge Mark Gildea.

João Serrano '19, '21G of Lisbon, Portugal, is director of Banco BPI, a leading financial institution in Portugal. Before stepping into his leadership role at Banco BPI, he held multiple strategic positions in the organization, including head of assisted channels and manager of platforms and marketing technology. He formerly worked at Deloitte and co-founded FuteTour, a platform focused on immersive soccer experiences in the country. He captained the soccer team at PC while majoring in business management and earning an MBA. He received All BIG EAST First Team recognition and was inducted into the Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society.

'25

Jacob Lebeuf '25, '26G of South Orange, New Jersey, is a Catholic missionary at Seton Hall University with FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. The organization is a resource for college students who wish to learn more about the faith and how to apply it to their everyday lives. Missionaries like Lebeuf are supported financially through donations from individuals and families. They receive training in fundraising and budgeting before beginning their ministries. Lebeuf earned a master's degree in business analytics from PC and worked as a graduate assistant in the Office of Information Technology.

'26

Brother Joseph Macioce, fsc '26G of Baltimore, Maryland, serves as the director of the Bramble Leadership Institute and teaches economics at Calvert Hall College High School in Towson. While studying for a master's degree in educational leadership at PC, he taught business classes at La Salle Academy and served as a board member of the San Miguel School.

FRIARS IN THE WILD

Frozen Four Friars

Four Friars from the Class of 1981 have made an annual road trip to the NCAA Men's Frozen Four Tournament for the past decade. Gathering this year in Las Vegas were, from left, Mike Sheridan '81 and his wife, Maureen Hession Sheridan '81, from San Francisco; their friend, John Coffield; and Peter Densiky '81 of Lewis Center, Ohio. Not pictured is Peter Fairbrother '81 of Acton, Massachusetts. The group hopes the Friars make the 2027 tournament, which will be held in Washington, D.C.



Celebrating 40



Members of the Class of 2008 gathered in Fort Lauderdale to celebrate their 40th birthdays. From left, Maggie Thorpe '08 (Somerset, Massachusetts); Lindsey Capece Cooper '08 (Milford, Connecticut); Melissa Goosmann Robidoux '08 (Cumberland, Rhode Island); Catherine Guarino '08 (Plantsville, Connecticut); Shannon Brown '08 (Longmeadow, Massachusetts); Kristin Souder Hall '08 (New Canaan, Connecticut); and Danielle Evanko Carrano '08 (Orange, Connecticut).

A 5th hole-in-one

Jerry O'Brien '63 recorded his fifth hole-in-one in March 2026 during a round at Stonebridge Country Club in Naples, Florida, using a 5-hybrid on the eighth hole. This one was special because it happened in the company of Friars. O'Brien, Dan Graziano '70, Peter Tybursky '70 (shown at right in photo), and Joe Morrissey '70 (left in photo) play together at Stonebridge almost every Wednesday and this is not the first time that skill and good luck combined during one of their rounds. Ten years ago, Graziano recorded an ace — witnessed by O'Brien, Tybursky, and Morrissey — using a 5-iron on the fifth hole. O'Brien lives in Avon, Connecticut and winters in Naples.

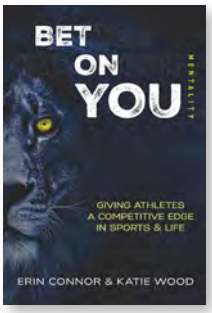


West for the 4th

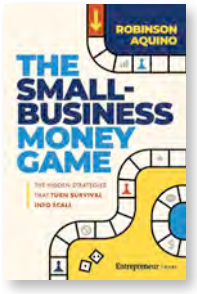
For the 15th year straight year, seven classmates from the Class of 2011 traveled to celebrate the Fourth of July together. In honor of the country's 250th anniversary, they headed west to explore Yellowstone National Park and Bozeman, Montana. From left are Jackie Brandes '11, '12G of Boston; Kim Schanz '11 of Hammonton, New Jersey; Kelli Milewski McSweeney '11 of West Boylston, Massachusetts; Cara Strobel '11 of Plymouth, Massachusetts; Jill MacKinnon '11 of Providence; Sarah Moran '11 of Denver, Colorado; and Lauren Bedard '11 of New York City.



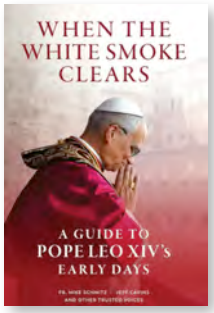
ALUMNI AUTHORS



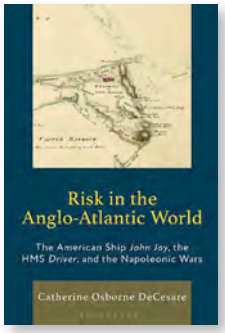
Katie Keefe Wood '04 of Canton, Massachusetts, and her sister, Erin Connor, co-wrote the *Bet on YOU* mentality journal. Coaches and athletes say success in sports is 90 percent mental, but few train their minds the way they train their bodies. The *Bet on YOU* journal is structured around the pillars of mental strength, confidence, and belief. Each daily entry helps athletes shift perspective, build confidence from the inside out, and develop unshakable belief in themselves. Wood, a bestselling author, was a walk-on player on the Friars women's basketball team who earned a full scholarship and served as a two-year captain. Connor is a certified mental performance coach. They combined their expertise to create a practical tool for competitors at every level. Through their Bet on YOU Mentality program, they have spoken to first-year athletes at PC and at schools and athletics programs nationwide. The book is available at www.betonyoumentality.com.



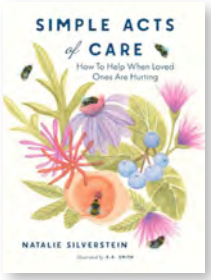
Robinson Aquino '15 of Boston wrote *The Small-Business Money Game*, a book that shows entrepreneurs how to stop guessing and start winning with their numbers. Through real-world case studies and his Breakpoint Framework, he helps business owners understand why growth ceilings occur and how to break through them using psychology, pricing, and proven decision frameworks.



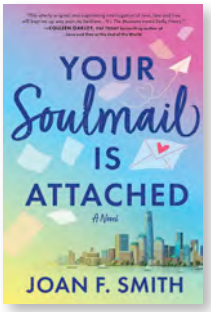
Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D. '77 of Flower Mound, Texas, is a contributing author of *When the White Smoke Clears: A Guide to Pope Leo XIV's Early Days*, published in June 2025 by Ascension Press. The book brings together an assembly of trusted voices in modern Catholic theology and evangelization to guide readers to Pope Leo's papacy. Authors include Rev. Mike Schmitz, host of the podcast The Bible in a Year, and Jeff Cavins, creator of The Great Adventure Bible Timeline. D'Ambrosio, known as "Dr. Italy," is a renowned theologian, speaker, and international TV and radio commentator.



Catherine DeCesare '85, '00G of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, an assistant professor of history at the University of Rhode Island, wrote *Risk in the Anglo-Atlantic World: The American Ship John Jay, the HMS Driver, and the Napoleonic Wars*. The book places the experiences of the American merchant ship John Jay, part of a fleet owned by Providence merchants Brown and Ives, within the context of the Napoleonic Wars. DeCesare previously worked as an archivist at the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University, where she organized, arranged, and described the family, business, and maritime records of the Brown and Ives family.

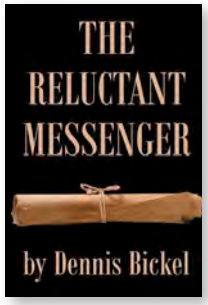


Natalie Pospolita Silverstein '91 of New York City will publish her third book, *Simple Acts of Care: How to Help When Loved Ones Are Hurting*, in December 2026. Drawing from her experience as a care partner to her husband who was diagnosed with a challenging disease nearly a decade ago, *Simple Acts of Care* offers a thoughtful, practical guide to anyone who wants to be truly helpful to a friend who is dealing with a difficult diagnosis or grieving a loss. Through heartfelt essays full of life lessons and insights, Silverstein shares gentle, actionable suggestions for shifting your perspective, language, and actions so your support feels steady, compassionate, and truly useful.

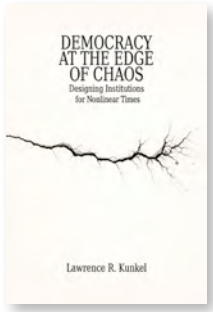


Your Soulmail is Attached, a novel by **Joan Fagan Smith '07** of Milton, Massachusetts, was published by HarperCollins in April 2026. The book explores what happens when everyone on earth receives the identity of their soulmate via email, and Olivia Adler,

working in a Manhattan newsroom, refuses to open hers. Smith is a dance teacher and former associate dean of creative writing at Southern New Hampshire University. She has an MFA from Emerson College. Her next book, *Again, Do Over, Repeat*, will be published by HarperCollins in April 2027. She is the co-host of The Darling Killers Podcast.



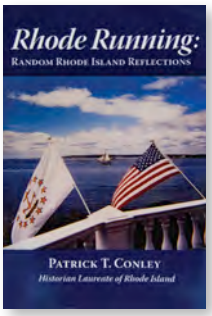
Dennis Bickel '76 of Oriental, North Carolina, wrote *The Reluctant Messenger*, the story of a young priest who receives a mysterious package containing missing parts of the lost gospel of Mary Magdalene. His assignment is to have the fragments authenticated by the Vatican Archives. Along the way, he encounters challenges from forces inside and outside the church seeking to stop him. Bickel has a master's degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. After a career in the airline industry, he became an agricultural teacher.



Lawrence Kunkel '78 of New York City wrote *Democracy at the Edge of Chaos: Designing Institutions for Nonlinear Times*, which explores how inequality, institutional decay, and nonlinear social forces are pushing democratic systems toward breakdown, and what can be done to restore stability. He is an author, economist, and systems thinker whose work examines democratic fragility, inequality, institutional breakdown, and the moral foundations of political economy.



Joann Maddox Johnson '94SCE of Cranston, Rhode Island, wrote *Encouragement in Action!* The book is a guide using A-to-Z action-based words that encourage Christians to put their faith in motion by loving their neighbors. It is a companion for those ready to live out their calling with intentionality, kindness, and grace.



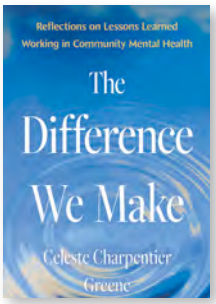
Patrick T. Conley, J.D., Ph.D. '59 of Bristol, Rhode Island, wrote *Rhode Running: Random Rhode Island Reflections*, the fifth anthology of his Rhode Island essays published by the Rhode Island Publications Society. It contains 50 illustrated essays and personal reflections, including a tribute to his wife, Gail, who was recently inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame; La Salle Academy, his alma mater; and celebrations of women, prominent Black leaders, and local sports legends. The volume is available through the Rhode Island Publications Society, www.RIPublications.org. Conley is historian laureate of Rhode Island and taught at PC from 1963–1993. This is his 34th book.



The Wisdom I Can't Teach, the debut poetry collection of **Paul Coyne '08**, received an award of merit from the Religious Communicators Council and second place for poetry in the Catholic Media Awards. The collection has also earned recognition from several national and international book award programs for its reflections on faith, family, life, and the wisdom passed from one generation to the next. The second installment in Coyne's planned trilogy, *Greatness Not Yet Born*, was published in March 2026. He resides in Pelham, New York.



Robert Crooke '69 of Bridgewater, Connecticut, published his seventh novel, *Across the Endless Night* (Unsolicited Press, 2026), which Kirkus Reviews called "a lyrical family saga ... penned in clean, clear-eyed prose ... that explores the risks and rewards of building a life around the ones you love." It continues the story of Richard Morris, the problematic hero of Crooke's *Letting the House Go*, a 2023 Eric Hoffer Book Award Category Finalist. Unsolicited Press is an independent literary publisher based in Portland, Oregon.



Celeste Charpentier Greene '79 of Cumberland, Rhode Island, published *The Difference We Make* in April 2026 after working in the field of community mental health for 38 years. Her memoir presents a behind-the-scenes look at how working with people with chronic and persistent mental illness, addiction, and other mental health concerns transformed her, the therapist. Using a storytelling format, she draws a picture of lessons learned from clients and colleagues. Each story helps the reader meet a real person with real issues, drawing the reader into the world of community mental health treatment that is relatable and endearing.

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FRIAR WEDDINGS

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Brianna Waldmann '21 and Sean Burke married on July 25, 2026, at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in Villanova, Pennsylvania, with Rev. Michael Weibley, O.P. officiating. They were surrounded by fellow Friars, including Jillian Ferrigno '21, maid of honor, and Grace Whitman '22, bridesmaid. Also attending were David Argento '21, Matthew Bendernagel '21, Corey McGinley '21, Ahmad Mims '21, and Philip Piscopo '21. The couple lives in Harleysville.

John Spellman '20 and Taylor Harris '20 of Boston married on June 12, 2026, in Newport, Rhode Island, with Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04, officiating. The couple met by chance atop Guzman hill a few months into their first year at PC, when making the climb meant conquering the hill itself because there were no stairs. They began dating shortly after and grew up together in Friartown over the course of four years, with late nights on campus, Civ, basketball games, walks past Harkins, and afternoons around Slavin. They moved to Boston after graduation to begin their careers. "We arrived at PC as two freshmen who had no idea what Providence had in store for them," John said. "We left four years later knowing we had found something much bigger than either of us expected."

Ashley Niven '07 and Bradford Pitcher '02 celebrated an unforgettable New Year's Eve wedding on December 31, 2025, at Colonial Hall at Rockafellas in Salem, Massachusetts. Although both attended PC, they somehow missed crossing paths on campus and instead met more than four years ago through a series of remarkable life events. Ashley's matron of honor was her former roommate, Jenna Gray Vittorioso '07, and many fellow Friars were on hand to share in the joy and celebration. The couple resides in Rowley, Massachusetts.

Zach Jewell '17 and Shannon McShea married at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on November 22, 2025. Fellow Friar Bill Dumais '17 attended the celebration along with the couple's friends and family. Zach and Shannon reside in Winston-Salem.

Angel DeCapua '20 and Andrew Burrage '20 married on October 18, 2025, at St. Michael's Church in West Long Branch, New Jersey. They celebrated alongside many Friars, friends, and family. They reside in White Plains, New York.

Caroline Serieka '15 and Jared Dabrieo married on August 16, 2025, at the Marriott Long Wharf in Boston. Four of Caroline's Friar roommates were bridesmaids. The couple lives in Woburn, Massachusetts.

Padraic Connors '20, '21G and Victoria Esposito '20 married on June 15, 2026, in Sorrento, Italy. Those attending included Padraic's parents, Sean Connors '88 and Maria Higgins Connors '88; his sister, Maeve Connors '24; and classmates and friends from the Classes of 1988 and 2020. The couple resides in New York City.



Everyone in the photo is a Friar.

LittleFRIARS

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumni-notes



Sarah O'Brien '15 and her partner, DJ Havener, of Lake Worth, Florida, welcomed their second daughter, **Leia Leanne**, on June 13, 2026. Leia has an older sister, Trinity. Sarah began her kindergarten teaching job in August and will raise her family in their new home in sunny Florida.

Adeline Osborn Spada was born in May 2026 to **Matthew Spada '04, '11G and Leslie Osborn Spada**. The family resides in Hingham, Massachusetts.



John Sleight '13 and Alyssa Napoli Sleight '13 of Chicago welcomed a daughter, **Emerson Rhode**, on January 13, 2026. The couple met at PC and married in St. Dominic Chapel in 2022, making Rhode a perfect and special middle name for their future Friar.

John Balliro '05, '07G and Katie Leonard Balliro '06 welcomed their second child, **Anora Jean Balliro**, on March 20, 2026. Anora joins big brother Francis Joseph, age 3. The family lives in Malden, Massachusetts.





Ryan Dowd '13 and Meredith Cook Dowd '13 of South Kingstown, Rhode Island, welcomed their son, **Carter Cook Dowd**, on March 14, 2026. They can't wait to bring Carter to his first Friars basketball game at the AMP.

Megan Ryan Lynch '12, '14G and her husband, Kyle J. Lynch, Esq., welcomed their second child, **Owen Thomas Lynch**, on January 15, 2026. They reside in Providence.





Kerry Smith Carroll '17 and Patrick Carroll of Charlestown, Massachusetts, welcomed their first child, a daughter named **Eleni**, on November 8, 2025. Kerry gave Eleni her first campus tour and is excited at the thought that she may one day be a Friar.

Lauren McNulty Keefe '15 and Brian Keefe of Austin, Texas, welcomed a daughter, **Bailey**, in September 2025. Bailey joins a Friar family that includes her mother, her grandfather Neil McNulty '85, her great uncle Douglas McNulty '91, and her cousin, Mina McNulty '29.





Cody Fino '16SCE, '21G and his wife, Ashley, welcomed a daughter, **Ayla Belle**, on August 16, 2025. They married on April 29, 2024, in Orlando, Florida. The family resides in Coventry, Rhode Island.

Elizabeth Tarbox Aherne '14 and Sean Aherne '14, '16G of Littleton, Massachusetts, welcomed their first child in July 2025. Their daughter has already attended Friars basketball and hockey games.

IN MEMORIAM



ARTHUR F. RYAN '63, '90HON., whose generosity helped make possible the renovation of Dore Hall as the Arthur F. and Patricia Ryan Center for Business Studies, died July 28, 2026, in Vero Beach, Florida.

In 1990, at age 47, Mr. Ryan became one of the youngest presidents in the history of Chase Manhattan Bank. In 1994, he was the first president and CEO of Prudential Insurance Company of America selected from outside the firm. Under his leadership, Prudential, the nation's largest insurer, became the publicy traded financial services giant Prudential Financial.

Mr. Ryan, a mathematics major at PC, served on the college's Board of Trustees from 1995–2011. He and Patricia supported the Smith Center for the Arts, where the Ryan Concert Hall carries their name, and endowed the Arthur F. Ryan Family Scholarship Fund.

His survivors include a son, Arthur W. Ryan '89.



REV. ROBERT J. RANDALL '06HON., who in 2002 endowed the college's first endowed chair, the Rev. Robert J. Randall Distinguished Professorship in Christian Culture, died on May 15, 2026, at age 99, four days shy of the 75th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

The Randall professorship continues to bring distinguished scholars to campus each year to teach in the Honors Program, present lectures, and participate in an annual conference.

Father Randall, a native of Newport, Rhode Island, was an artist and scholar who served at PC continuously from 1975–2004. He taught English, theology, and philosophy, including honors courses in the Development of Western Civilization Program. He was an associate professor of English and served as department chair.

An avid golfer, Father Randall was former club pro at Newport Country Club and an eight-time champion at Point Judith Country Club. He served at churches in Rhode Island and Florida.



PAUL F. O'MALLEY, PH.D. '60, who taught undergraduate and graduate history courses at PC for 60 years, from 1964–2024, and directed the graduate history program, died on June 7, 2026.

Dr. O'Malley graduated at the top of his pre-med class at PC, but after a brief stint in medical school at Albany Medical College, decided to study history instead. He received a master's degree in history from the University of Rhode Island in 1962 and began teaching at PC under Rev. Cornelius Foster, O.P. He earned a Ph.D. from Boston University.

Dr. O'Malley helped found the Development of Western Civilization Program. After retiring in 2022, he continued as an adjunct professor, teaching his final course on Irish history in the fall of 2024.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn O'Malley '86G, and sons, Patrick J. O'Malley '93 and Paul F. O'Malley Jr. '95.



MARIFRANCES MCGINN, J.D. '19HON., the first full-time general counsel in college history, the first female vice president, and the first woman to serve on the President's Cabinet, died August 26, 2026, at her home in Rumford, Rhode Island. Her funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Dominic Chapel on the college campus.

Mrs. McGinn retired from PC in 2019 after serving for more than 20 years. She provided legal and risk management advice, guidance, and services to the Board of Trustees, president, vice presidents, administrative officers, and faculty. She was awarded an honorary doctor of civil law degree by the college at commencement in 2019.

She is survived by her husband, Judge V. Paul McGinn, her son, daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughters.

Mrs. McGinn's family requested donations in her honor to The Fund for Providence College — Emergency Student Support: give.providence.edu.

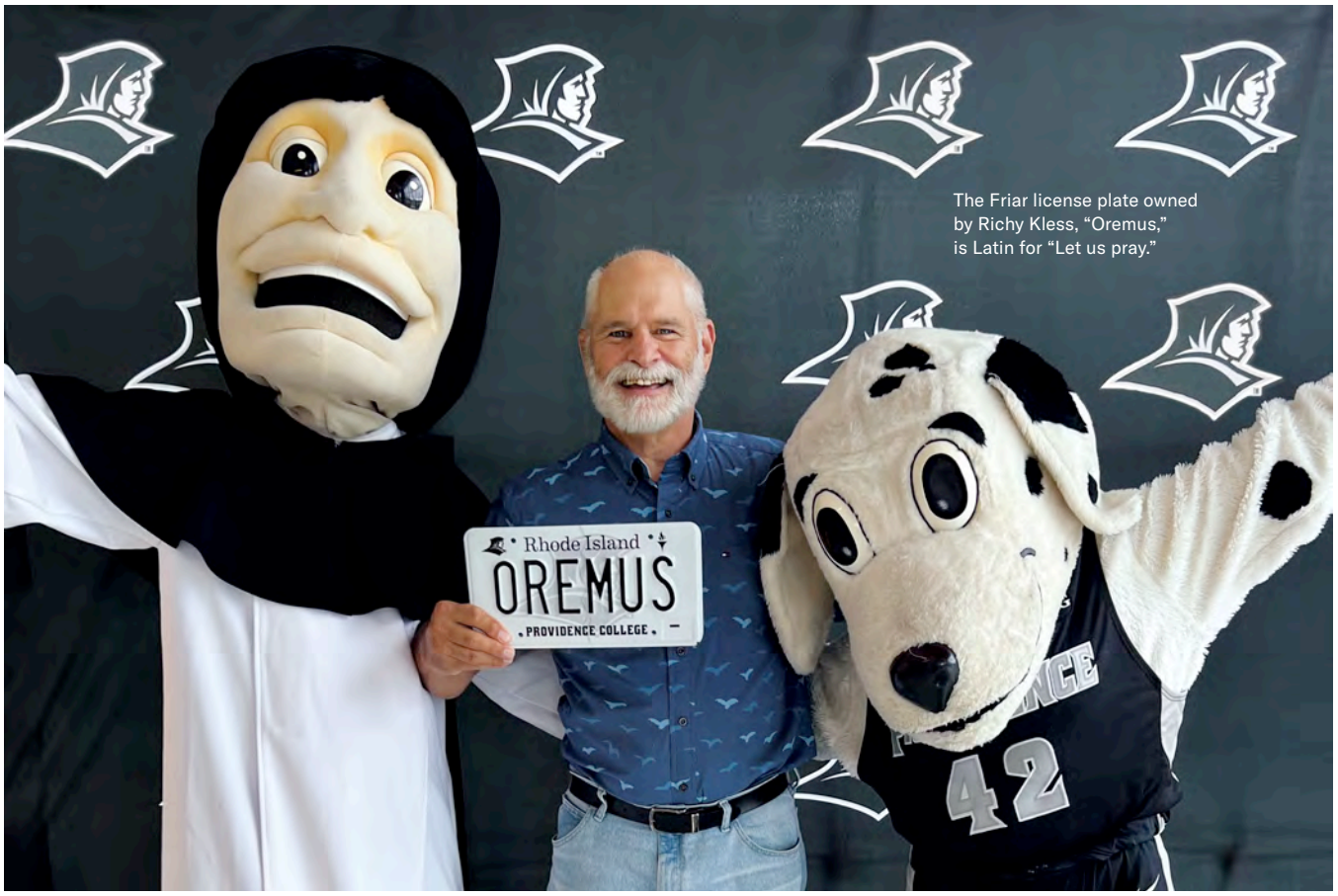
DEATHS

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Leonard I. Levin ’52
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Richard S. Chretien ’53
John Ricottilli ’54
David R. Reilly ’55, ’71G
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Patrick H. Decanio ’57
John P. McGowan ’57
Morton M. Soifer, M.D. ’57
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James H. Picard ’58
Richard J. Quatrano ’58
Aaron J. Bor, JAG ’59
Rev. Joseph Anthony Breen, O.P. ’59, ’78G
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Thomas C. Cummings ’59
John J. Dalone ’59
Joseph C. Martirano ’59
Anthony Piccirilli ’59
Joseph M. Cianciolo ’60
John Kevin Donohue ’60
Richard A. Elliott ’60
Paul F. O’Malley, Ph.D. ’60
William F. Powers ’60
Thomas R. Hartigan ’61
Harry J. Johnson ’61
Edward T. Turbert ’61
Charles E. Butler ’62
Walter E. Conn ’62
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Kenneth Daly ’65
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Brian G. Reddy ’86
John A. Cervione ’87
Ava Marie Albanese Scypinksi ’87
Kathi Dolan Clarkin ’89G
Timothy M. Pryor ’89
Janice M. Rosa ’89G
Paula E. Gremour ’91G
Charles D. Hince ’92, ’99Hon.
Paul E. Sullivan ’94
Anthony D. Bibik ’97
Maureen R. Flanagan ’98SCE
Janet A. McHugh ’98SCE
Matthew T. Kane ’02
Jennifer Soltoff Kennedy ’02
James C. Bellomo ’03
Elizabeth Cavanagh-Conte ’03G
Ellen Walls Keavy ’03G
Jared P. Ventetuolo ’10G
Alison C. Stone ’14
Kimberly A. Brauer Latham ’26SCE
William C. Forrest, *rink operator, Schneider Arena*
Jane L. McGuirk, *administrative coordinator, Chaplain’s Office*
Rev. Paul Conner, O.P., *theology professor*
John DiCicco, *ceramics professor*
Constance E. Lemoie, *computer programmer*
Mary Frances McGinn ’19Hon., *general counsel*
Thomas F. O’Brien, *public safety officer*
Rev. Robert J. Randall ’06Hon., *professor, administrator, benefactor*
Theresa Rivera, *Sodexo food services*
Susan Mastrofine Valenti, *Sodexo food services*

THE LAST WORD

GO FRIARS, *FORTITER!*

BY RICHY KLESS '74, '78G, '82SCE



The Friar license plate owned by Richy Kless, "Oremus," is Latin for "Let us pray."

PHOTO: BRIDGET ANTHONY '22, '23G

The original Friar, Saint Dominic, was many things: a priest, visionary, organizer, preacher, lifelong learner, and witness to the Gospel. In all things, he was known by the joy he brought others. That joy was not only seen and experienced by those who knew him. Friends and foes knew of it, too. That joyful spirit attracted and intrigued so many who sought to engage him, even if to argue and disagree. The emergence, history, and spirit of Providence College, I believe, truly harkens back to Dominic (no pun intended).

Having spent the better part of 50-plus years serving in a variety of capacities on our campus, I can't help but believe that when most Friar alums reflect on their years here, there is a touch of joy. Knowing and reflecting on that joy is a treat. That's not a Pollyanna view, as I know deeply of our share of disagreements, disappointments, tragedy, and triumphs.

Our alma mater is a wonderful place to be a student, but it is not a

perfect place. Providence College has its faults, amid the vicissitudes of decades of change and growth. It is, however, a campus where students experience enlightenment, direction, and joy while navigating the fits and starts of learning and growth during their years of study.

The joy isn't so much the knowledge we gained in classes from our professors and studies. There is that, but more important is the knowledge that we gained learning about ourselves; the good, bad, and trying experiences we all had in and out of the classroom.

One often hears alums say they wouldn't be accepted at Providence College today, given the higher admission standards and competition from brighter students. Likewise, many are amazed upon seeing the physical changes, growth, and upgrades at the campus, either through photos or a return visit. It truly is amazing how this sole Dominican Friars-run college, the only one of its kind in the country, has emerged and grown from a commuter, first-generation, locally serving college to a nationally known institution.

Change isn't easy. It's a struggle all people and institutions cope with, yet change shows there is movement, life! Hearing folks speak of changes pro and con, the one constant that hasn't changed, I'll say from experience, is the joy that the overwhelming majority of our students experience while here. The often follow-up question is, "... And what do you attribute that to?" I believe it flows from the presence of our Dominican friars and their spirit of Saint Dominic, their founder and model.

> "Speak of PC loudly and proudly. Let the alumni office know of your latest adventure. Encourage young people to visit and give PC a try."

If there is an Achilles heel at Providence College, it might be conflict avoidance. Kindness pervades the campus from our public safety officers, administrative assistants, cafeteria folks, faculty, and so on. Through my years of speaking with parents, I found they are the ones who most often comment on this atmosphere of kindness. Whether it was their engagement with students, staff, faculty, or administrators on matters trivial ("Where's the cafeteria? Bookstore?") or serious ("Where's the Health Center? Counseling Center? Dean's Office?") parents are touched and all the more comfortable having their sons and daughters in Friartown.

Dominic was a witness to the Gospel and love of life. It is said that Dominic would often exhort his early friars, while they were chanting hymns, with the Latin phrase *"fortiter"* — bravely! Such was his confidence in prayer and God's love. We, too, are witnesses. All of us can and should give witness to our alma mater and to St. Dominic's spirit. We may not be as saintly as he was, but we can contribute in many ways.

Speak of PC loudly and proudly. Let the alumni office know of your latest adventure. Encourage young people to visit and give PC a try. You'll offer them a chance to experience the joy we have come to know. Be a lifelong learner, support our many programs, check them out online. Come back and visit the beautiful campus; you'll be amazed at its transformation. Speak with students, faculty, and staff members. Check out the bookstore, order a car magnet or some PC clothing. Display it, wear it, and speak up about Providence College. We may not be perfect, but St. Dominic will smile upon us, believe it.

Go Friars, *Fortiter* — go bravely!

Richy Kless '74, '78G, '82SCE, president of the National Alumni Association, was a longtime administrator in the Office of Student Affairs, taught theology in the School of Continuing Education, and was advisor to The Cowl and Veritas, among other roles at PC.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Check out our 360-degree virtual tour and see what's new on campus.



Runner and accountancy major Nick Cassarino ’27 is an accomplished trumpet player.
Read more, page 5.