

SPRING 2024

PROVIDENCE

COLLEGE MAGAZINE



YOU'RE
NEVER
ALONE
IN
FRIARTOWN



PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MAGAZINE SPRING 2024

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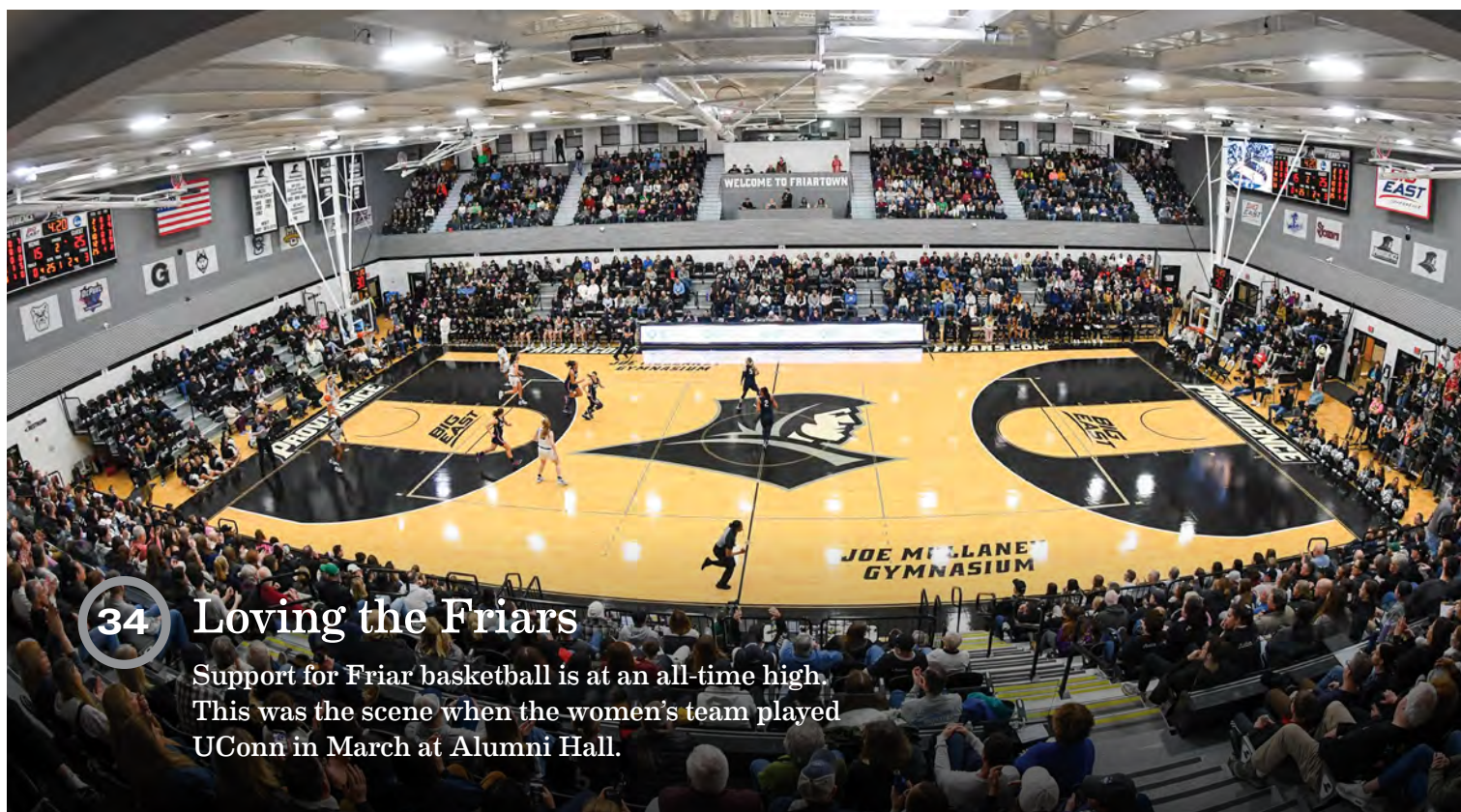
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ON THE COVER:

Students surround the stone insignia behind Harkins Hall by Justin James Muir.



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Loving the Friars

Support for Friar basketball is at an all-time high. This was the scene when the women's team played UConn in March at Alumni Hall.

PHOTO THIS PAGE: ERICA DENHOF (ICON SPORTSWIRE)



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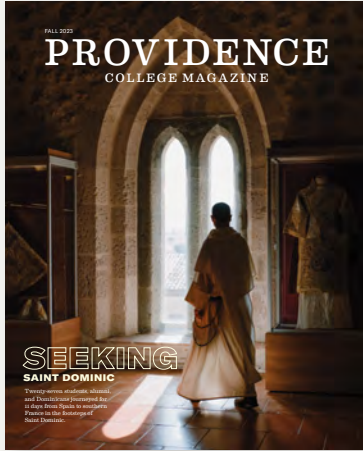
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Patrick J. Kennedy '91 helped Congress enact mental health parity — and opened up about his own mental health struggles.



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Coaches in the Chirico Career Center equip students like Jenna Cobb '24 to land roles at employers from Fenway Park to the White House.



→ I have just finished reading your fall 2023 magazine and wanted to reach out and say “thank you” for the best one I have ever read! I enjoyed “The Haas Years,” understanding for the first time why I had to get up at 8 every morning for Civ. I do know that it was the backbone of my education, as I went on to become a Catholic educator.

I was most moved by “Quig’s” “Growing Old” article! Remembering his lectures and having visited Rome and Pope Francis recently, I believe that the article captures what it is to be a Catholic at our age and his “winter years” advice is much appreciated.

I also enjoyed the new coaches and Brian Burke’s snapshot.

This magazine seemed created truly for our alumni community! Thanks, we will treasure our copy!

— **Carol Conaty Lehmann '76 and Thomas Lehmann '74**

→ Congrats on the recent issue. Loved the pieces on Brad’s and Father Haas, among others. Well done!

— **Raymond Lombra '67**
Professor of Economics, Emeritus
Penn State University

→ Thank you for the good work. This edition was just great. Really enjoyed every story. Well done.

— **Mike Lynch '81**

→ To Mario DiNunzio, Ph.D. '57, '22Hon.: I so enjoyed your article on Father Haas. I was the first directly elected alumni representative on the Corporation, and I came to know him briefly but well during my final student years and on the board. I admired him greatly, and you have captured so well his immense positive influence during turbulent times. He gave me a copy of his dissertation on Charles Peirce, which we then discussed. I consider the Dominicans to be too conservative in many ways, but he was not. He brought fresh air into the institution in many ways, but especially in supporting innovative and dedicated faculty. If there was anything missing from your article, it was recognition of your own contributions as part of this vanguard.

Best wishes to you and thanks for all your contributions over the years. I did not have you in class, but your contributions to this movement were clear.

— **Charlie Hadlock '67**



PROVIDENCE

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU

The Ben Mondor Center for Nursing and Health Sciences, opening in January 2025, will include six Anatomage Tables, which are the most technologically advanced anatomy visualization systems on the market. They contain a virtual library of human cadavers and serve as clinical diagnostic tools, allowing users to view an array of medical scans. Three tables already are in use in newly renovated learning spaces in the Feinstein Academic Center (formerly Stephen Hall). **Brett Romano Ely, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of health sciences, second from right, demonstrates the table to nursing students Olivia Borum '27, Katherine Jurczak '27, and Jillian Vichi '27.

BLACK & WHITE BUZZ

WATCHED BY SAINTS



The Campus Ministry Center on the lower level of St. Dominic Chapel is a place where students can see the friendly faces of peers, campus ministers, and chaplains (like **Rev. Damian Marie Day, O.P. '15**, assistant chaplain, playing ping pong with a student). Today they also see the faces of 17 saints — vowed religious, clergy, and laypeople — whose photographs are framed on the walls, including Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. The images are scaled to be life size, and since they are photographs, depict saints who lived in modern times. “Our role as chaplains and campus ministers is to help students become saints who might one day be featured on these walls too,” said Father Damian.



AND . . . ACTION!

The nursing and health sciences facilities in the **Feinstein Academic Center** were the setting for the filming of “How I Learned to Die,” a short film written and directed by **Manya Glassman '19**. The film is Glassman’s thesis for a graduate degree in film at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, where she was Spike Lee’s teaching assistant for four semesters. Glassman wrote and directed the film, which was inspired by her high school experience undergoing a cervical spinal fusion. She will complete her degree in May 2024.



STILL TICKING

Providence-based band Deer Tick, whose bassist is **Christopher Dale Ryan '07**, released its eighth studio album, *Emotional Contracts*, and spent five months on a national tour in 2023. Deer Tick's sound defies easy classification, blending folk and blues influences with rock. After years of performing locally, including at Lupo's in Providence (now The Strand), Deer Tick began touring nationally and at its busiest performed more than 200 shows a year. Ryan joined following his graduation from PC, where he studied music and had many opportunities to practice because "it seemed like every ensemble needed someone to play bass." The son of **Lynne Ryan, Ph.D.**, professor of education, and the late **Dale Ryan '64**, he lives in North Providence and remains "willing to play with anyone who needs a bassist."



Deer Tick, from left: Ian O'Neil, John McCauley, Christopher Dale Ryan '07, and Dennis Ryan.



FRIARTOWN'S CLOSET

Mary Gifford '26, a social science major from Wenham, Massachusetts, noticed how regularly her classmates traded and gave away clothing. She saw this neighborly practice as one that could be scaled to maximize selection, savings, and sustainability. Supported with grants from the Providentia Endowed Fund and the Donald Ryan Incubator for Entrepreneurship in the Arts and Sciences, Gifford launched Friartown's Closet, a consignment shop for students that opened in April 2024 in the Feinstein Academic Center. Gifford hopes Friartown's Closet will reduce clothing waste, especially with one-time use items, such as formal attire for dances and color-themed outfits for basketball games. Her entrepreneurship landed her a spot in this year's BIG EAST Startup Challenge.

PING-PONG: JUSTIN JAMES MUIR; MANYA GLASSMAN; JOAN BRANHAM, PH.D.; FRIARTOWN'S CLOSET: JUSTIN JAMES MUIR; DEER TICK: CJ HARVEY/CHROMATIC



Halloween 2023, from left, Donovan Jones '27, Demetri Stefos '27, James Mogaji, Brandon Reichert '27, Coleman Connors '27, and Spencer Dunne '27. Below: Hoda Kotb features PC on NBC's Today show.

Thoughtfulness of Raymond Hall students warms hearts across nation

A kind-hearted gesture by first-year men living on the fourth floor of Raymond Hall, assisted by their sophomore resident assistant, reverberated around the country in March.

The students decided to raise money so that their building's overnight security guard, James Mogaji, could visit his family in Nigeria for the first time in more than 11 years. Through a GoFundMe account, the students collected \$3,000 in just seven days.

A video captured Mogaji's reaction when the students presented him with the card and gift on March 6, 2024. He fell to his knees in surprise to a chorus of "We love you, James!"

"We take care of our own. That's

what we do at PC," Daniel Singh '26, a resident assistant from the Bronx, New York, told Mogaji in the video. "As long as I've been here, they've done that for me, we've done that for each other, so now we're doing it for you."

"He's just the kindest soul anyone has ever met in this building. He means so much to us," said Brandon Reichert '27, from Carver, Massachusetts, who helped organize the fundraiser. "It was amazing how fast everyone connected and we were able to put it together for him."

The video was viewed a million times on social media and caught the attention of Hoda Kotb, who high-



lighted it as a Morning Boost on NBC's Today show.

College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G said the gesture by the students "makes us all proud to call ourselves Friars."

The GoFundMe raised more than \$30,000. Mogaji told the students he hopes to visit his family in June.

READ MORE AND SEE THE VIDEO:



👍 Best in the Class of 2024

Three students share top honors in the Class of 2024 with perfect 4.0 averages: **Avery Budnik '24** (Mashpee, Massachusetts), an elementary/special education major; **Isabella Martino Fechter '24** (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), a Catholic studies major; and **Lauren Viveiros '24** (Wethersfield, Connecticut), a double major in finance and management.

Happiness expert to speak at commencement



BROOKS

Happiness expert **Arthur C. Brooks, Ph.D.**, co-author with Oprah Winfrey of *Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier*, will be the featured speaker at the 106th Commencement Exercises on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

The ceremony for graduate and continuing education students will be on Friday, May 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in Peterson Recreation Center on campus. The speaker will be



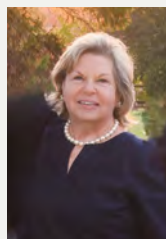
INGRAM

Wanda Ingram, Ed.D. '75, an academic advisor and undergraduate dean at PC for three decades and a member of the college's first undergraduate class to include women.

Brooks and Ingram will receive honorary degrees at the undergraduate ceremony along with **Troy Quinn, DMA '05**, a conductor of symphony orchestras in Florida, Kentucky, California, and Rhode Island; **Elizabeth Ruane, M.Ed.**, who with her husband, Michael A. Ruane '71, '13Hon., has been one of the college's most generous benefactors; and **Raymond Sickinger, Ph.D. '71**, professor emeritus of history and a longtime leader of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



QUINN



RUANE



SICKINGER



College brand strategy receives national award



The college won a top national award from CASE, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, for its brand initiative that presents PC as a place “For Those Who Seek.” The college was selected for a Gold Circle of Excellence Award for creative achievement in the institutional branding category. The brand was developed by the college's Division of Marketing and Communications.

Another applications record

Providence College received 12,518 applications, the most in its history, from high school students wishing to join the Class of 2028. The previous record was set by the Class of 2027. More than 1,400 students applied to study nursing and health sciences, two of the college's newest majors.

Business school top ranked

For the fifth straight year, the School of Business was ranked in the top 50 by Poets&Quants for Undergrads, reaching #37 in the 2024 ranking. The school was listed as #28 in the academic experience category among 91 ranked business schools. 🏆



QUOTABLE

Discussing her book, *Banking on Slavery: Financing Southern Expansion in the Antebellum United States*, at George Washington University:

“In the South, banks regularly accepted enslaved people as mortgage collateral for the securitization of existing short-term loans.”

— **Sharon Ann Murphy, Ph.D., professor of history**
GW Today

Discussing her book, *Parenting: The Complex and Beautiful Vocation of Raising Children*:

“In all the ins and outs of daily life — diapers and meltdowns, forgotten uniforms and screen-time battles — God is constantly seeking to draw both (parents) and their children more fully into the purposes of love.”

— **Holly Taylor Coolman, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology**
Church Blogmatics

Discussing a temporary community of 500 pallet houses as a solution to homelessness in Providence:

“A lot of people say, ‘We really care about homeless people and we really want to solve this problem statewide.’ The ‘but’ is always ‘this is the wrong place for it.’”

— **Eric Hirsch, Ph.D., professor of sociology**
WLNE-TV

On the importance of mass transit, smaller cars, more dense cities, and battery recycling:

“We’re at the beginning of an energy transition, and we want to ask what type of energy transition it should be, and how it should be organized. What makes it most just and most rapid.”

— **Thea Riofrancos, Ph.D., associate professor of political science**
The New Yorker

On her research into whether, with habitat loss and lawn chemicals, insect pollinators get a well-rounded diet:

“If they’re healthier, they’re going to be able to deal with (any) environmental stressor better.”

— **Rachael Bonoan, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology**
ecoRI News



JONATHAN JACKSON

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
OF FINANCE

DIRECTOR, MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
BUSINESS ANALYTICS PROGRAM

EDUCATION: Ph.D., operations management, Washington State University; bachelor's degree in material science and engineering, Washington State University

BEGAN TEACHING AT PC: Fall 2015

EXPERTISE: Supply chain management, inventory and capacity management, business analytics, and data visualization

NEWSWORTHY: Jackson is the inaugural director of the Master of Science in Business Analytics Program launched by the School of Business in 2021. Jackson and his students have engaged in consulting projects with corporations, including Citizens Financial Group and Citigroup, and local institutions, including PC Athletics and Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro, Massachusetts.

CURRENT PROJECTS: In partnership with colleagues from other business schools, Jackson is preparing to publish research into customer expectations of grocery delivery services and how these expectations differ from other app-based store-to-door services. This research will help companies navigate service and investment choices in a rapidly growing industry.


QUOTABLE: "When I teach data visualization, my pitch is simple. Business professionals must be able to design and deliver effective data-driven presentations. You can have the best analysis in the world, but it's going nowhere if you can't communicate it."

ORIGINALLY FROM: Auburn, Washington

HOBBIES: Hiking, mountain biking, and anything outdoors. Jackson also has become interested in simulated racing, video gaming that seeks to accurately simulate auto racing with real-world variables like fuel usage, traction, and wear and tear.

— MICHAEL HAGAN '15, '19G

FACULTY FOCUS



**LEADERS IN HIGHER
EDUCATION TALK ABOUT
THE IMPORTANCE OF
STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH.
PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
INVESTS IN IT.**

YOU'RE NEVER ALONE IN FRIARTOWN

BY MICHAEL HAGAN '15, '19G PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN JAMES MUIR



Providence College's commitment to the well-being of every student — mind, body, and soul — is evident in its investment in the Personal Counseling Center, which reopened in August 2022 in the lower level of Bedford Hall with 16 full- and part-time licensed counselors and advanced trainers.

The on-campus mental health clinic offers students confidential, professional assistance from licensed providers. Psychologists, clinical social workers, and mental health counselors — including specialists in substance use and addiction treatment, student-athlete mental health, and diversity-related concerns — provide 45-minute psychotherapy sessions on a regular or as-needed basis to students with or without a diagnosed mental health issue.

Because the center operates outside the health insurance system, there is no additional cost to students or their families, and no cap on the number of visits. A consulting psychiatrist is available multiple days a week to manage medication to complement therapy.

Rosemary Fernandes Mugan, Psy.D. '98, the center's executive director, said about 20% of the student body is served by the Personal Counseling Center in a given academic year, up from about 9% when she began working at the college almost two decades ago. The increase is due in part to the decrease in stigma associated with seeking help and aligns with national trends. The American Psychiatric Association said the rate of reported mental health challenges among college students increased by nearly 50% in the last decade.

Discussions about mental health services are now part of the college search process. Families of high school students receiving treatment at home want to know that they can continue while at college. Services for the college-age population are also vital because 50% of mental health conditions begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24, although they may not be diagnosed until years later, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. —————>

Any student can make an appointment at the Personal Counseling Center, and anyone at the college with concerns about a student can notify the CARE team — the Campus Assessment Response and Evaluation team — which includes representatives from the Personal Counseling Center, Office of Community Standards, Dean of Students, Chaplain's Office, Office of Public Safety, Student Health Center, and Student Success Center. The message "You're Never Alone in Friartown," which was first introduced by PC Athletics, has been embraced by the entire college community.

Until its expansion following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Personal Counseling Center shared space with the Student Health Center, now located in Davis Hall. (Alumni of certain years recall being directed to lower Bedford Hall with the instruction, "If it's your body that hurts, go right. Your mind, left.") The clinical suite is comfortable and welcoming, with a waiting room, private offices and consultation rooms, and a large common room for group sessions and staff meetings.

Students are greeted with a display of informational literature about mood disorders, eating disorders, relationships, substance use, gender and sexuality, sleep habits, and more. The waiting area features a photo collage of the staff's dogs, cats, and other pets (Mugan and her family's Bernese mountain dog, Finnegan, are training to be a pet therapy team) and there are relaxation items such as mindful coloring pages, activity sheets, and Play-Doh.

Students report feeling relieved or uplifted after even just one session, which has much to do with the posture of openness and non-judgement with which counselors receive them. While a first session is principally an exercise in triage, the cathartic feeling students report speaks to the power of listening. It is the beginning of a process of healing and growth, and the majority return for future appointments.

After the initial visit, each student is matched with a counselor based on personal needs and preferences, and meets consistently with the same person, developing trust and rapport.

"The relationship between student and therapist is the biggest predictor for successful treatment or a student meeting their goals for therapy success," Mugan said. "Our planning



The waiting area features relaxation items, below, and a photo collage of the staff's pets.





BECAUSE THE CENTER OPERATES OUTSIDE THE HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM, THERE IS NO CAP ON THE NUMBER OF VISITS.

for treatment is very individualized. I think it's why we're so effective in helping people get well."

Inspired by the care and guidance she received as an undergraduate, Mugan brings a profound sense of purpose to her role. The Personal Counseling Center was a vital resource in the support network that helped her adjust and excel as a first-generation college student and psychology major in the Honors Program.

Mugan grew up as an only child in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Her father was forced to leave work due to a debilitating inflammatory disease that left him bedridden, and her mother, a native of Madeira, left her job as a seamstress in a curtain factory to care for him. Mugan's acceptance to PC came with a financial aid package that, while substantial, would still drain



MICKI JOHNSON SEARIGHT, LICSW '93

CLINICAL COUNSELOR

She is trained in Accelerated Experiential Dynamic Psychotherapy, is a student of Buddhism, enjoys painting, and has been successful in selling her art.

the family's savings. Nevertheless, at her mother's insistence, Mugan called to say thank you.

Mugan spoke with Brother Kevin O'Connell, O.P., associate director of financial aid, telling him that she would work hard in her studies to be considered for more scholarship assistance in the future. Brother Kevin asked questions about her family circumstances. About a week later, Mugan received another letter from PC, this time saying she had been awarded a scholarship covering full tuition, room, and board for four years.

"This was the first time I experienced the heart of the mission of Providence College, and its commitment to educating first-generation students and students from underprivileged backgrounds," Mugan said. —————>



SUSAN E. ELLINGWOOD, LICSW ↙

**CLINICAL COUNSELOR/SUBSTANCE USE COUNSELOR,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES**

She was named Clinical Social Worker of the Year in 2019 by the Rhode Island National Association of Clinical Social Workers for her work in treating addictions.

Enthralled by college life and her academic studies, Mugan was still burdened by the fear that she would somehow “mess up this opportunity.” Peculiarities of higher education sometimes made her feel like an outsider (“Why were there so many people named Dean?” she remembers thinking.) She sought guidance from the Personal Counseling Center and began meeting regularly with counselor Ann Bellotti, LICSW, during her first year as a student.

Mugan also was supported by the college as her family circumstances changed. Her father died her senior year at about the same time her mother began showing signs of Alzheimer’s disease. Rev. Joseph Guido, O.P., now assistant professor of psychology and senior staff psychologist in the Personal Counseling Center, became her academic mentor. He encouraged her to take a year away from her studies after graduation, though she had been planning to study for a master’s degree in social work. Instead, she applied to doctoral programs in psychology.

When she graduated in 2006 with a doctor of psychology degree from the University of Hartford, she was hired by

“IN THESE CASES, IT’S OFTEN A STUDENT’S FIRST TIME SEEING ANYONE FOR THEIR MENTAL HEALTH, AND WE WANT TO MAKE IT A POSITIVE AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE.”

— SUSAN ELLINGWOOD

PC as a clinical counselor. She was named interim director in 2015, director in 2016, and executive director in 2023.

Mugan has overseen the center’s expansion, and with help from the staff, has continued to build partnerships across campus, taking part in orientation for new students and their parents, and meeting with first-generation and multicultural students. She and her staff have been invited to speak in classrooms and to provide training to employees.



PETER GRAY, LICSW ↗

CLINICAL COUNSELOR/SUBSTANCE USE COUNSELOR

Before becoming a clinical social worker, he was a chocolate maker and children's rock band artist.

The center plays an important role in supporting student safety. Susan Ellingwood, LICSW, clinical counselor and director of substance use services, is one of two clinicians with a specialization in substance use concerns, able to assist students who seek help for themselves or are referred by a friend or family member. PC's Office of Community Standards also refers students for assessment after behavioral, drug, and alcohol infractions.

"In these cases, it's often a student's first experience seeing anyone for their mental health, and we want to make it a positive and educational experience," Ellingwood said. "We want students to walk away confident that they can use harm-reduction skills and know how to stay safe in high drinking environments."

Through education and outreach, the college has seen the number of students transported to hospitals for alcohol intoxication decline since 2010. That decline has been offset by an

increase in students seeking help reducing their marijuana use, especially after Rhode Island and Massachusetts legalized the use of recreational cannabis for those over 21, Ellingwood said.

"There's a sense of invincibility around marijuana, similar to alcohol, that shouldn't exist at all," Ellingwood said. "It affects each person uniquely, and individuals find that it can significantly worsen their mood or anxiety. For many reasons, some students become dependent on marijuana, alcohol, or other substances, and we welcome the chance to work with them to support their personal goals of cutting back or abstaining."

The Personal Counseling Center also has seen an increase in anxiety, obsessive compulsive symptoms, and body image concerns among students — trends they believe the pandemic accelerated. Today's PC students were in high school during the shutdown. Isolation disrupted social-emotional development. The prevalence and pressures of social media also contribute to insecurity. —————>

“THAT’S THE BEAUTY OF WORKING AT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE. THERE ARE HELPERS EVERYWHERE.”

— ROSEMARY FERNANDES MUGAN '98

“The pandemic created separation, and where there’s separation, there will be fears related to re-acclimating,” Mugan said. “Our students endured two years of remote learning in high school against the backdrop of social and political crises. When they ask, ‘What’s next?’ they are faced with economic and climate uncertainty.”

A survey of the Class of 2020 showed that about 47% received services through the Personal Counseling Center at some point in their time at PC. Ellingwood said she believes the college is providing appropriate, maximum access to mental health support.

“Not everyone needs professional mental health services,” Ellingwood said. “A lot of students have strong support networks at home and at the college that positively impact mental health. There are so many ways our students feel held.”

Mugan would love to increase the part-time hours of the staff psychiatrist to full time, and to be able to accommodate every student request for a weekly appointment. Counselors now see about six students per day and have brief windows between appointments to coordinate care and outreach.

“We bear witness to things we may not be able to change for students, things that perhaps they are unable to change themselves,” Mugan said. “But we can help them navigate those situations and provide insight on ways to cope with them. We can help students contemplate things they might not other-



ROSEMARY FERNANDES MUGAN, PSY.D. '98 ↑

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STAFF PSYCHOLOGIST

Thanks to a program she created, 26 graduate students from area colleges and universities studying clinical psychology and social work have trained in the Personal Counseling Center.

wise consider and recognize possibilities they might not otherwise have opportunity to see. Counseling is an opportunity to discover.”

The reward is watching students cross the stage at commencement.

“We are so honored to work with students in times when they’re so vulnerable. We are privileged to work with so many campus partners equally committed to our students. That’s the beauty of working at Providence College. There are helpers everywhere,” Mugan said. ■■



INVESTING IN MENTAL HEALTH

A FUND FOR THE COUNSELING CENTER

The importance of student well-being inspired **Steve Duryea '82**, a senior philanthropic officer in PC's Office of Institutional Advancement, and his wife, **Benedicte**, to make a \$250,000 gift to the college to establish the **Alexandra '17 and Patrick '19 Endowed Counseling Fund**.

Proceeds from the fund made it possible in 2023 for the Personal Counseling Center to add a second clinical counselor/substance use counselor. Other donors are now able to designate gifts to the endowed fund when giving to the college.

TRAINING MENTAL HEALTH NURSES

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences was awarded a \$600,000 federal grant to establish a Center for Nursing Education and Research that would address a critical nursing shortage at psychiatric and mental healthcare facilities in Rhode Island.

The interdisciplinary Center for Nursing Education and Research would work in collaboration with acute care and psychiatric hospitals, community healthcare facilities, long-term care facilities, and local organizations in underserved communities. About 75-100 PC nurses in training would have clinical internships at the facilities to gain professional experience working with adults, children, and families.

The new center is one of several initiatives by the School of Nursing and Health Sciences to promote a holistic approach to nursing and healthcare. Students are introduced to mindfulness and resilience as part of their professional development. Within the curriculum, they explore the significance of self-care in nursing and are introduced to practices that contribute to their own well-being. The goal is to help them navigate stressful demands of the profession during their careers as healers.

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences opened in 2023. Its first cohort of nursing students will graduate in 2027. The Ben Mondor Center for Nursing and Health Sciences is under construction and will be completed in January 2025.

THE RISKS OF PROBLEM GAMBLING

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant awarded to **Patrick Kelly, Ph.D.**, professor of accountancy, PC students are learning about the risks associated with gambling.

Kelly, who also directs PC's Ethics in Business Education Program, received the grant from the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling. In April 2024, he led a program on campus for students to raise awareness of the symptoms of problem gambling, risk factors, and resource options. Other sessions are planned for faculty members and staff.

Students who seek assistance from PC's Personal Counseling Center are asked about their gambling experiences as part of the initial screening process. The center also offers treatment planning and counseling to address problem gambling. Care is coordinated through Rhode Island Problem Gambling Services, an additional resource for free and specialized care, including a 24-hour hotline.

Rhode Island legalized online gambling, including online slots and table games, for those over 21 in March 2024. Gambling, particularly sports betting and online gambling on mobile devices, can negatively affect academic performance, finances, and personal well-being.

RICCOBONO ACADEMIC RESILIENCE FELLOWS FOSTER STUDENT WELL-BEING

Chris Riccobono '00, founder of the popular apparel brand UNTUCKit, struggled with anxiety and depression following his graduation from Columbia Business School. The experience taught him the importance of resilience — the ability to perform well despite the stress of challenging life experiences.

Riccobono and his wife, **Amy Parillo '03**, established the donor-supported Riccobono Family Mental Health Fund at PC. Among its initiatives is the Riccobono Academic Resilience Faculty Fellowship, which encourages faculty members to incorporate mental well-being strategies and awareness into their courses.

Since 2019, the program has provided mini grants to 35 faculty members. In the past academic year, fellowships were awarded in economics, elementary and special education, health sciences, nursing, psychology, and social work. English professors **Elizabeth Bridgman, Ph.D.** and **Rob Stretter, Ph.D.** incorporated well-being awareness into their colloquium, *The Global City*, for sophomores studying the Development of Western Civilization.

THE LUCKY 1%

BY LISA MCNAMARA '23, '24G

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN JAMES MUIR

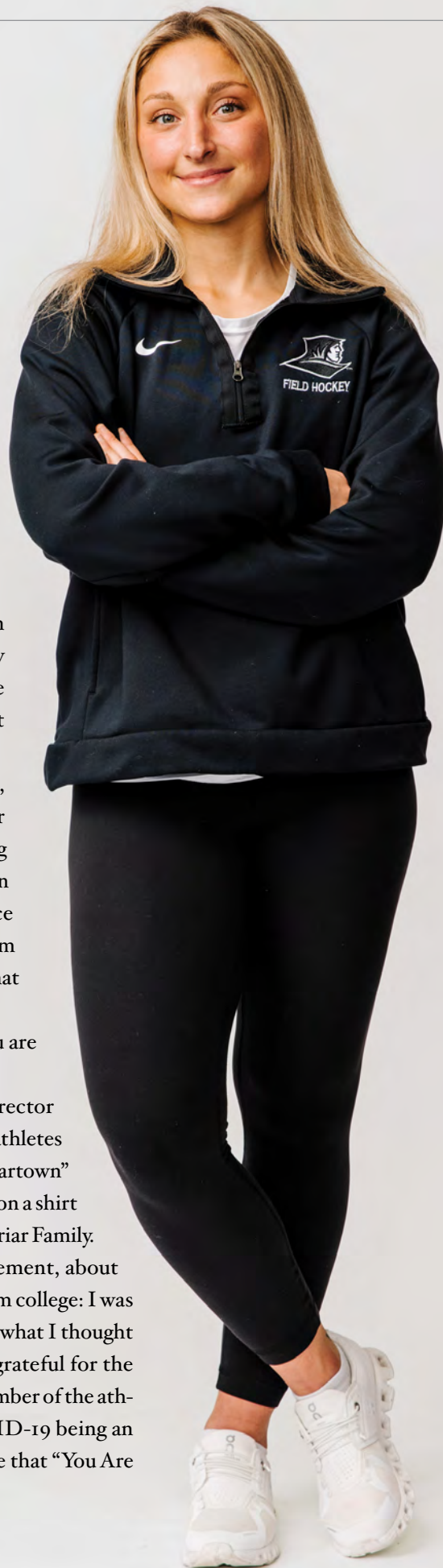
When I arrived at Providence College in the fall of 2019 as a member of the field hockey team, student-athletes were told, “You are the lucky 1%, the 1% who get to play their sport at the Division I level.”

Student-athletes are often reminded of this, and rightly so. We hear it from our coaches, our administrators, our strength and conditioning coaches, our parents, and others, because it is an honor and a privilege to represent Providence College. We put on the black and white uniform and give our all to the sport that we love and that has given us the opportunity to be here.

When I arrived at PC, I was also told, “You are never alone in Friartown.”

John Rock, our senior associate athletic director for health and wellness, gave all new student-athletes a gray, long-sleeve “You Are Never Alone in Friartown” shirt. He told us that it wasn’t just a statement on a shirt — it was our culture at Providence, it was the Friar Family.

To be honest, I thought that the first statement, about being the lucky 1%, would be my takeaway from college: I was lucky to be at PC, to play a sport, and to spend what I thought would be four years here. And I am forever grateful for the opportunity. But through my five years as a member of the athletics program (the one silver lining of COVID-19 being an extra year of eligibility), I have come to realize that “You Are



“THAT LACK OF PLAYING TIME
MOTIVATED ME TO RETURN FOR
MY JUNIOR YEAR RECOVERED,
HEALTHY, AND READY TO PERFORM
AT THE DIVISION I LEVEL.”

Never Alone in Friartown” is the reason I got through five years as a Division I student-athlete and, most importantly, is the reason I am a happy and confident young woman today.

Back to when I first arrived at PC. Throughout high school, where I played multiple sports, I struggled with body image and nutrition. Although it was kept somewhat under control, the demands of college athletics, with the necessity of fueling for performance, created tension within me that manifested into an eating disorder. There really is no way to describe how overwhelming my experience was. I cannot recall going more than 30 minutes without thinking about what I was eating or going to eat, whether I perceived it to be too much, all while understanding that I needed to eat to perform and experiencing extreme guilt when giving myself the necessary fuel. Eventually it became too much, and I reached out to John Rock, a resource from that kick-off meeting earlier in the year. Instantly, he began supporting me. He connected me with a nutritionist and with a clinical psychologist for student-athletes in the Personal Counseling Center, and talked with my athletic trainer and my coaches, who above everything care about us as human beings.

But recovery is not linear. I had resources in place, but COVID-19’s arrival in March 2020 certainly did not help. After a first-year season where I had playing time, in sophomore year, because of my illness, I rarely saw the field. That lack of playing time motivated me to return for my junior year recovered, healthy, and ready to perform at the Division I level. I worked relentlessly to rewire my brain and my thoughts around food and body image. This work didn’t just occur during sessions with my counselor and a nutritionist. Every day I had to commit to learning and doing what was best for me and my health. I wouldn’t have been able to do it without



Lisa McNamara '23,
'24G in a game against
UConn in September
2022.

support from our athletics department, Coach Diane Madl, and my teammates. From my junior season to my fifth-year season, I was honored to start every game, serve as team captain for two years, and give my all to my team, the sport, and the field hockey program.

It has been one of the greatest blessings and privileges of my life to be a member of Providence College field hockey. I know that the athletics department’s commitment to ensuring “You Are Never Alone in Friartown” — that all student-athletes develop as human beings successful and joyful in life beyond our sports — is what really made me “the lucky 1%.” ❧

Lisa McNamara '23, '24G, from Barre, Vermont, majored in global studies with minors in business and innovation and in Black studies. While completing an MBA degree, she worked as a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Athlete Development supporting the Friar Edge program, which helps student-athletes develop as learners, leaders, and citizens.



Jacqueline Kiernan MacKay
in the Counseling and Career
Placement Center in 1979.

FROM THE BEGINNING

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G

No one is prouder of the gains made by the Personal Counseling Center than Jacqueline Kiernan MacKay, now director of the college's Parent and Family Program.

In September 1973, MacKay, newly graduated with a master's degree in counseling psychology from Assumption University, joined PC's fledgling Counseling and Career Placement Center. Within four years she was the director, and seven months after that, drew on the relationships she established to face the college's greatest challenge — the Aquinas Hall fire that resulted in the deaths of 10 women.

PC began offering mental health counseling services in September 1966 at the request of Student Congress. An office in Harkins Hall was staffed by two psychologists who also taught in the psychology program when it launched the following year. But the office was not as successful as hoped. On November 9,

1967, half of *The Cowl's* front page was devoted to a story by Joseph Brum '68 (later PC's vice president for alumni and development) titled, "PC Counseling Center Not Meeting the Needs of Students."

"Most of the faculty and administration look upon the Counseling Center as a psychological novelty of little practical use and seldom refer students to it," Brum wrote. "Consequently the center has not been able to secure the complete respect and cooperation of the people it was created to serve."

Anxiety about the future was foremost in the minds of students. The college needed a central location from which to provide not only counseling services, but resources for career direction, academic success, and course selection, *The Cowl* said. Such a center, modeled on one at The College of the Holy Cross, could help lower the dropout rate — 100 students had left PC without completing a degree the previous year, Brum reported.

The Counseling and Career Placement Center that MacKay joined as full-time counselor was a response to those concerns, though academic advising was handled by the Dean's Office. The center also included a part-time counselor and a career placement director. College President Rev. Thomas R. Peterson, O.P. '51, '85 Hon. gave MacKay free rein.

"There was no identity for the center whatsoever," MacKay said. "I needed to create a sense of trust within the campus community so that faculty and staff would feel comfortable referring students there. I went to the faculty lounge in Harkins Hall every day just to build relationships. I reached out to Donna McCaffrey ('73G, '83Ph.D., '87G) in Residence Life and arranged to hold trainings with hall directors and resident assistants. I worked closely with the Chaplain's Office and the Dean's Office."

To identify places to refer students for services beyond what was available on campus, MacKay connected with facilities such as the Providence Center on Hope Street. It was all about building a strong foundation.

SHE DREW ON THE RELATIONSHIPS SHE ESTABLISHED TO FACE THE COLLEGE'S GREATEST CHALLENGE – THE AQUINAS HALL FIRE.

The relationships MacKay established were tested in the early morning hours of December 13, 1977, when she was awakened by a telephone call and asked to come to campus. There had been a fire during the night. Students had died. The words were so terrible that she hoped it was a nightmare.

“In those days there was no internet,” MacKay said. “There was little in literature about survivor’s guilt or how to deal with grief and loss.”

MacKay worked with Rev. John J. Reid, O.P., the college chaplain, and health professionals in the community. She partnered with Sally Thibodeau, Ph.D. ’66G, ’22Hon., assistant dean of undergraduate studies. She visited students and their families in hospitals and attended wakes and funerals. Even as she looked out for others, students looked out for her. A small group, including James Drinan ’78, Susan Martin-Phipps ’79, and Jane Hickey Silvestri ’78, provided support and even cooked meals for her.

Before students returned to campus in January 1978, MacKay arranged for J. Eugene Knott, Ph.D., a professor at the University of Rhode Island who ran a support group on grief and loss, to speak to resident assistants.

Even in those years, students sought help for a range of mental health issues, including depression and anxiety, despite the great stigma attached to seeking help at that time.

“On the national level, it wasn’t until the mid-1980s that services for students were viewed as integral to the college experience,” MacKay said. “It was no longer just about learning in the classroom, but also learning about the self, relationships, and the impact on learning of everything that takes place outside the classroom.”

The Counseling and Career Placement Center was renamed the Student Development Center in 1985. In 1988, it split into three separate entities dedicated to personal counseling, career education, and student services. John T. Hogan, Ph.D., a staff counselor since 1981, became director of personal counseling. He retired in 2013. MacKay became assistant vice president for student affairs and coordinator of summer orientation, where she developed an award-winning program in undeclared student advising with Francis Patrick MacKay, Ph.D. ’20Hon., chemistry professor and vice president for academic administration. They married in 1983.

“I’m especially thrilled with the growth of the Personal Counseling Center,” MacKay said. “So many families are grateful that our counseling services are so comprehensive. We don’t put limits on the number of sessions. We have counselors with experience and expertise in serving a broad range of needs. The college has made a real commitment to students and their well-being. We have stayed true to our mission. I’ve loved seeing it come full circle.” ❖



The staff in the 1980s included, from left, John Hogan, later director of personal counseling; Kathy Clarkin, career counselor; and Jacqueline Kiernan MacKay.

YOU'RE NEVER ALONE IN **FRIARTOWN**

BREAKING THE **SILENCE**

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM GRIMES

PATRICK J. KENNEDY '91 IS A LEADING ADVOCATE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION CARE

Patrick J. Kennedy '91 didn't have a typical student experience at Providence College.

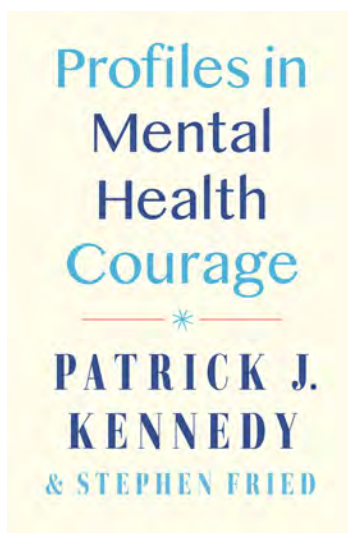
The son of Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy and the nephew of President John F. Kennedy, he struggled privately with addiction and bipolar disorder from his early teens. When he withdrew from Georgetown University after only a few weeks, his father's friend, Connecticut Senator Christopher J. Dodd '66, '83Hon., suggested he try Providence, which might be "a fresh start in a smaller fishbowl."

Kennedy majored in social science. Terrified that his mental health struggles would become public and embarrass his family, he lived alone in an apartment off campus. Getting out of bed for class was a challenge. Picking up his mail in Slavin Center sometimes caused total panic. He regularly saw a psychiatrist, Peter Kramer, M.D., who taught at Brown University and later became famous for his book, *Listening to Prozac*.

Some experiences were familiar, though, Kennedy said in a Zoom interview in January 2024.

"Western Civ," Kennedy said. "Being in the library listening to all the tapes all the time" because he couldn't take notes fast enough in lectures.

History professor Raymond Sickinger, Ph.D. '71 "was a terrific mentor for me, providing guidance through all my years at PC," Kennedy said. He mentioned other Friars with whom he remains in touch: Jim Vallee '88, Student Congress president and now a partner at Nixon Peabody LLP; Bill Daley '94,



managing director at Goldman Sachs; Chris Vitale '95, principal at Capital City Group.

At airports, "you always run into a few Friars," Kennedy said.

Despite his health challenges in college, Kennedy launched his political career while a student. He began with an internship at the Rhode Island State House, then ran for state representative at the start of his junior year for the district that includes PC. He served two terms before running for U.S. Congress in 1994. He represented Rhode Island's first congressional district in the House of Representatives for 16 years. His signature achievement came in 2008 — pas-

sage of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, which requires health insurance companies to provide coverage for mental illness and addiction treatment as they would other illnesses.

The Senate version of the parity bill, co-sponsored by Kennedy's father and backed by health insurance and pharmaceutical companies, did not mandate coverage for substance use disorders. The version Patrick co-sponsored in the House did. He and colleagues campaigned hard for their version and held field hearings around the country. In the end, addiction treatment was included in the final bill signed into law by President George W. Bush. It ended the discrimination that is at the heart of the stigma of brain disorders, Kennedy said.

Over the course of Kennedy's 16 years in Washington, he became more open about his struggles. He admitted in 2000 that he had been treated for depression and —————>

Patrick and Amy Kennedy with their children, from left, Harper, Marshall, Nell, Nora, and Owen.



in 2006 that he was addicted to painkillers. Even so, as he acknowledges in his book, *A Common Struggle: A Journey Through the Past and Future of Mental Health Illness and Addiction*, he didn't fully tackle his mental health and addiction issues until after leaving Congress in 2011, when he began the longest period of sobriety he had experienced since age 13.

"Our secrets are our most formidable adversaries," Kennedy wrote. "The older I get, the more I see secrecy as 'the enemy within,' which blocks recovery not only for individuals but for society itself."

Since leaving Congress, Kennedy has resided in Brigantine, New Jersey, with his wife, Amy, and their five children. He is one of the nation's leading voices on mental illness and addiction. He established the Kennedy Forum, a mental health leadership initiative created to enforce the parity act, strive for improved care, and build a nationwide community of mental health experts and advocates. He is the co-founder of One

Mind, a nonprofit that focuses on funding for international brain science research. He continues to work with Smart Approaches to Marijuana, an organization concerned that commercialization could create the next Big Tobacco and that the full effect of THC on the brain remains unknown.

In his new book, *Profiles in Mental Health Courage*, published in time for Mental Health Awareness Month in May 2024, he chronicles the stories of a dozen people who share their struggles with mental health and addiction, many for the first time.

In January, Kennedy announced that he would join Healthspieren LLC, a healthcare consultancy based in Washington, D.C., as a partner and lobbyist on issues related to mental health and addiction.

Most important, Kennedy has continued to advocate for honesty to reduce stigma. He remembers how relieved he was as a PC sophomore to be diagnosed with a benign tumor of the spinal cord because it was a health issue he could be open



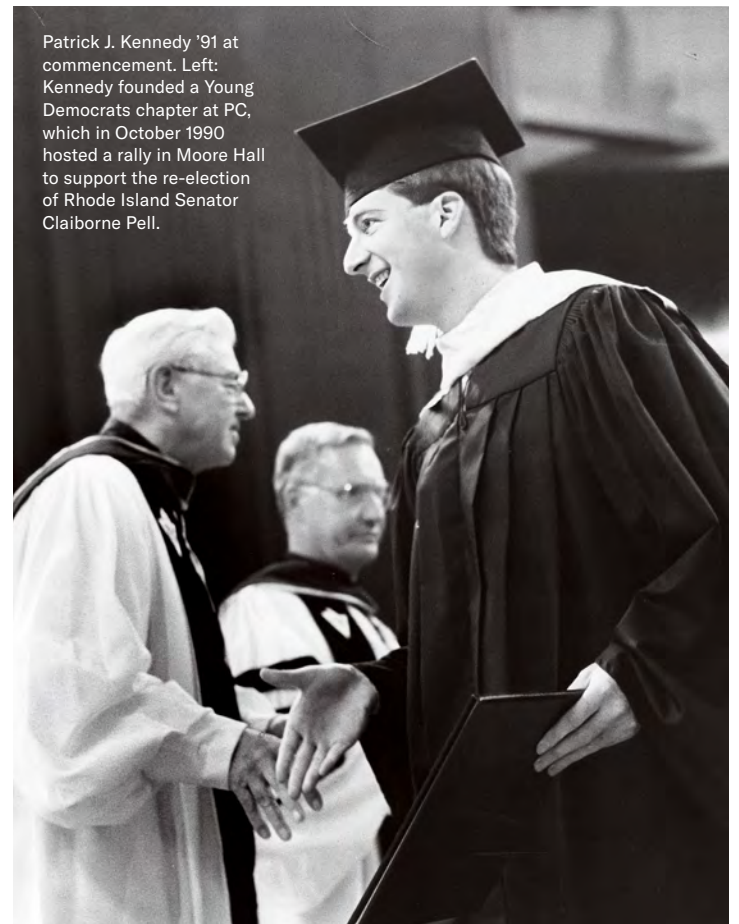
DESPITE HIS HEALTH CHALLENGES IN COLLEGE, KENNEDY LAUNCHED HIS POLITICAL CAREER WHILE A STUDENT.

about and that drew sympathy from others. He remembers the overwhelming support his family received when his older brother was diagnosed with bone cancer and contrasts it with the reaction when his mother admitted her battle with alcoholism.

What message would he offer PC students? Don't be ashamed to seek help, because help will make you stronger. Just look at the Green Berets.

Kennedy recalls a visit to the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where the Army trains its Special Forces. General Hugh Shelton told Kennedy that "Special Ops" had the best mental healthcare of any branch of the service. When Kennedy asked why, Bragg told him, "We don't look at mental healthcare as a safety net. We look at it as a force multiplier."

"Stigma is based on the sense that you are weak if you need mental healthcare," Kennedy said. "But what do the Green Berets rely on for their lives in the field of battle? They need to know they won't have intrusive thoughts or be ruminating about what happened last week. They can't be worried that their inability to channel their thoughts will impact their duty to be aware and manage their surroundings. They manage counterproductive thought patterns. They aren't the only



Patrick J. Kennedy '91 at commencement. Left: Kennedy founded a Young Democrats chapter at PC, which in October 1990 hosted a rally in Moore Hall to support the re-election of Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell.

ones. Corporations now have coaches to support their C-suite employees and make their executive workforce more productive.

"If you're able to self-modulate, manage stress, and have coping skills, it makes a better result," Kennedy said. "Students won't just ace Western Civ, they'll learn how to understand their own mental health, and at the end of the day, this is premium value." ■■

A photograph of a desk in an office or career center. In the foreground, a laptop is open on a black desk riser. The laptop lid is covered in various stickers, including one for 'PC 16', 'BMSA', and a '50th Anniversary' logo. To the right of the laptop, a smartphone is mounted on a black stand. On the desk in front of the laptop, there are two small white sticky notes with handwritten text. In the background, a corkboard is visible with several papers and a poster that reads 'Stumbling is not falling.' The overall scene is a professional workspace.

THE CAREER ADVANTAGE

Liz Lombard '18G, associate director for diversity, inclusion, and early engagement in the Chirico Career Center.



**THE CHIRICO CAREER
CENTER PREPARES
STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS
AFTER PC**

BY LIZ F. KAY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KARIN DAILEY AND JUSTIN JAMES MUIR

R

REGARDLESS OF WHAT

Providence College students want to do after graduation, the coaches at the Chirico Career Center are ready to help them explore professions and graduate schools, network with alumni, find internships, earn certifications, refine resumes and cover letters, practice for job interviews, and more.

In the last decade, the college has nearly doubled the number of career center staff to 12 to help students achieve post-graduate success, recognizing that it's a reason why students and families make the financial sacrifice to invest in a college education.

"The topic of college return on investment continues to dominate higher education conversations," said Eileen Wisnewski, the career center's executive director, who has worked at PC since 2011. "The resources, programs, and services offered by the Chirico Career Center are a critical component of how the college demonstrates a commitment to ensuring a return on a family's investment in a PC education."

Taking advantage of the opportunities pays off — literally. The data show that college students who use career services receive more job offers than those who don't. According to a nationwide survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, graduates in the Class of 2022 who used at least one service at their career centers received an average of 1.24 job offers compared to just one for those who didn't utilize them.

According to the college's Office of Institutional Research, 97% of graduates in PC's Class of 2023 were employed or attending graduate school within six months of graduation, with 88% working in their chosen fields.

The Chirico Career Center, located in Slavin Center, is named in recognition of a 2019 gift from Jim Chirico '80 and



AIDAN ARONE '23 ↑

THE BULFINCH GROUP, NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Aidan Arone '23 is a financial representative with The Bulfinch Group, a wealth management firm headquartered in Needham, Massachusetts. The offer of a full-time job came after he completed a paid summer internship in 2022 in the financial advisor – wealth manager internship program. A double major in finance and management at PC, Aidan forged a connection with Bulfinch in his sophomore year of college while working at a hockey supply store. His boss introduced him to Amy Lampert, founder of the WomensWorth nonprofit and a Bulfinch associate. Aidan worked remotely for Lampert for two years before interning with Bulfinch before his senior year. In February 2024, he came full circle, representing Bulfinch at the Chirico Career Center's Career Expo to recruit PC students as prospective interns and employees.

his wife, Bridget. Alumni support through the Friar alumni network is integral to the post-graduate success of PC students. Students and alumni can connect through an online networking platform. Another online platform provides a database of internships, jobs, and other opportunities

that alumni and students can search.

The opportunities aren't just virtual. Career center staff accompany students on four-day trips to learn more about professions and talk with alumni about their careers, including PC in Hollywood, which takes place in January,



“I WOULD WALK OUT ONTO THE FIELD AND THINK, ‘IS THIS EVEN REAL?’ ”

JENNA COBB '24 ↗

BOSTON RED SOX, BOSTON

An enthusiastic Boston Red Sox season ticket holder from Revere, Massachusetts, Jenna Cobb '24 realized a dream come true with a paid internship with the Red Sox during the summer of 2023. A double major in management and marketing, she networked ahead of time with

two Friars — BriAnne Newman '05 of Fenway Sports Management, her mentor in PC's Benjamin Family Social Media Fellows program, and Katherine Seibel Kelly '15, talent acquisition specialist with the Red Sox, who spoke on campus. As an intern with the Game Events and Services

team, Jenna worked every game and concert at Fenway Park from June to October.

“My office was in the basement next to the opposing team's dugout,” she said. “I would walk out onto the field and think, ‘Is this even real?’”

and PC in DC, which happens in May. There are also trips to Boston and New York City. Alumni host students for in-person job shadowing during school breaks and visit campus to participate in career panels.

At the career center's Career Expo, held each fall and spring, students can meet potential employers at the job and internship fair, consider education options at the graduate and professional school fair, learn more about volunteer service opportunities, and have a professional photograph taken for a LinkedIn profile.

The career center offers daily drop-in hours so students can receive feedback on resumes and cover letters, get answers to quick questions about jobs, internships, or fellowships, and help create or update a career plan. It provides Microsoft certification courses in Excel, Word, and PowerPoint. Students can reserve quiet rooms for virtual or telephone job and internship interviews. They chat informally with employers who come to campus to participate in "Snacks with Students." The center also hosts events

such as "The Masked Major," modeled on "The Masked Singer" game show, in which students ask alumni questions to try to figure out their undergraduate major.

There's a lot to be done. That's why "Don't Wait ... Slavin 108" is emblazoned on the center's T-shirts and why students meet career coaches right from the start, during the summer and fall orientation sessions as first-year students.

"The 'Don't Wait' message is directed toward all students — don't wait to have a coaching appointment or participate in one of our programs or events," Wisnewski said. "The sooner students step on the career development pathway, the easier it will be for them."

CONTINUES ON PAGE 32

SANTIAGO NAJARRO CANO '24 →

L'ORÉAL USA, NEW YORK CITY

Santiago Najarro Cano '24, a marketing major and theatre minor from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, turned to Liz Lombard '18G, associate director for diversity, inclusion, and early engagement in the Chirico Career Center, for advice about internships for the summer of 2023. Lombard mentioned a connection at L'Oréal USA. "She set the foundation and I had to execute," said Santi — including three interviews in a single day, one of them a case study with other candidates on Zoom. Santi was selected to be a brand engagement intern for Thayers, a L'Oréal facial toner brand, developing Instagram and TikTok content. As a summer project, he helped execute a Generation Z content incubator campaign for Thayers — and was rewarded with a full-time job as a marketing and management trainee in September 2024.



PHOTO: JUSTIN JAMES MUIR. OPPOSITE PAGE: KARIN DAILEY.


CONNOR FLYNN '25 ↗

MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

Connor Flynn '25, a double major in history and political science and president of the Class of 2025, volunteered with the U.S. Senate campaign of Massachusetts Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III while a student at Natick High School. An internship

with Governor Maura Healey at the State House in Boston after his sophomore year at PC seemed a natural step. The 10-week internship was unpaid, but a \$4,000 Veritas grant through the Chirico Career Center made it feasible. Connor worked in the Office of Constituent

Services, answering phone calls, letters, and email, and meeting constituents. "That is government at its best, helping people," said Connor. "I was most impressed that so many of the governor's staff were young people. It shows the faith she has in them and the future."

An increasingly important component of the college experience is a career-related internship. At PC, 94% of students in the Class of 2023 reported participating in at least one internship or career-related experience. Because some internships are unpaid, the college offers grants to make the experiences possible. For example, the Veritas Funded Internship Program offers \$4,000 stipends to qualifying students.

While some Friars visit the Career Center as first-year students, the coaches recognize that not everyone does.

“We believe that each person’s journey is individual and should be treated as such,” Wisnewski said. “A junior may visit the center for the first time and still need to go through some of the earlier steps. Our coaches are dedicated to meeting students where they are and assisting and encouraging them as they move through the process.”

Each of the college’s four schools — Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Social Work, and Nursing and Health Sciences — has a dedicated career coach who understands the requirements for the school’s majors, the expectations of industries, and the most common professions that students pursue.

Liz Lombard ’18G, who has worked at the career center in a variety of roles since 2013, serves in the newly created role of associate director for diversity, inclusion, and early engagement. She coordinates outreach to students who may be less likely to take advantage of services, such as students of color, students who are the first in their families to attend college, and students who are otherwise underrepresented on campus.

Lombard grew up in a Cabo Verdean family in Newport and was a first-generation college student herself.

“My work with first-generation students is extremely natural, because I can definitely relate,” she said.



PENELOPE TEJADA '26 ↑

THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Penelope Tejada '26 began college in September 2022 determined to explore career opportunities and experience hands-on learning. By the time the academic year ended, she had landed a paid summer internship on the White House campus. For 10 weeks, Penelope was an accounting intern in the Office of Administration, reporting to the chief financial officer, while assisting the Office of Travel and Events in managing the travel of the president and first lady. She attended the state arrival ceremony for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and worked on the South Lawn during the White House’s Independence Day celebration. The School of Business assisted with housing costs at American University. “They were the best 10 weeks of my life,” said Penelope, a finance major and economics minor from East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

PHOTOS: JUSTIN JAMES MUIR.

Lombard began her outreach by working with students in the Friar Foundations Program, a summer bridge program that helps first-year students with the transition to college. Now she is a regularly scheduled guest during Transitions, a pre-orientation program for multicultural students, and for Horizons, a mentoring program for first-year students of color. Lombard has also worked with clubs such as the college's chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants.

As an internship for her master's degree in higher education counseling, Lombard created a "Real Talk" series at PC for sophomores, juniors, and seniors to help them understand the resources available to them throughout campus. Staff from the Student Success Center presented about time management, study skills, and how to manage advising. Representatives from the Personal Counseling Center discussed mental and physical health.

Inspired by the success of Real Talk, Lombard worked with students to develop the first Thrive Summit, a day-long conference held in March to help students "thrive in life" after graduation. Students from all class years attended workshops on personal and professional development.

The goal is to get students to come to a one-on-one meeting with a career coach such as Lombard. Once they are in the room, the conversations are much more holistic.

"It's not just a resume and a cover letter. I'm trying to help them navigate," Lombard said.

She asks students who have not chosen a major about their passions and interests, why they chose PC, and where else they applied. Even if PC was not their first choice, she wants to help them make the most of the college.

The follow up is always key. Before students leave, she reviews their "homework" — tasks they need to complete before they return for another meeting, which she also schedules on the spot.

The reward is the relationships built with students, especially as they continue their careers as alumni.

"I get to celebrate their wins, and I work with them through their losses, too," Lombard said. 🧱

MYLES JOHNSON '24 ↓

BNY MELLON, NEW YORK CITY

Financial services corporation BNY Mellon selected Myles Johnson '24 for a paid summer internship in 2023 because of his range of academic interests. He is an economics major with minors in finance, political science, and Asian studies — including four semesters of Chinese. His experience thinking in new ways helped him grasp the vocabulary and methods of a corporate tax intern — and the results so impressed his supervisors that he was offered a full-time position after graduation. Myles, from Lawrence, New Jersey, found the internship through economics professor MaryJane Lenon, Ph.D., at the recommendation of Liz Lombard, the Chirico Career Center's associate director for diversity, inclusion, and early engagement. "BNY Mellon's values align with my personal values — courage to lead, strength in diversity, passion for excellence, and integrity," Myles said.





Friar Fanatics board student buses to travel to Amica Mutual Pavilion in November.

FRIAR FANATICS

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN JAMES MUIR

The most valuable sixth player for Providence College men's basketball isn't anyone who comes off the bench. It's the Friar fans who pack Amica Mutual Pavilion every game day. The vibrant and boisterous student section is a potent weapon. In the three seasons since resuming play before fans following the pandemic, the Friars have lost only 7 times at home while winning 45 games.

School buses carry students from campus to the AMP hours before gametime. The Friar Fanatics, a student group that establishes themes for each game, is on board, along with the Pep Band, Dance Team, and Cheerleaders — the official spirit squad. Since 2019, the sight of students on their feet singing Taylor Swift's "You Belong With Me" is common to anyone attending a home game or watching on



1. Phantom Friar
2. Blues Brothers
3. Dribbling to the Garden
4. Pep Band and Dance Team with Darlene Love '15Hon.
5. Friar Cheer Team

television. It's part of a long tradition of fandom that includes the Phantom Friar, the Blues Brothers, and the students who in 1971 dribbled a basketball to Madison Square Garden for the NIT.

Providence College sold out of men's basketball season tickets for the 2023-2024 season six months before the first game. Those who wished to be added to the wait list paid a \$100 fee. Demand for the 1,500 student season tickets was so high that students were required to enter a lottery for the first time this season. (After the Friars won the BIG EAST regular season title in 2022, student season tickets sold out in three weeks.) Students who purchased season tickets were required to claim game tickets during a five-day window before each game. Unclaimed tickets were made available for purchase by students 48 hours before game time.

The excitement generated by the new head basketball coaches, Kim English and Erin Batth, also spread to women's basketball. Students attended games in Mullaney Gym for free, but to encourage other fans to buy season tickets, PC Athletics offered each buyer a name plate on a reserved seat. The number of season tickets holders went from 60 to more than 300. On average, attendance at women's games doubled from 2022-2023 and tripled compared to 2021-2022. 🏀





FRIARTOWN



PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
MEN'S BASKETBALL

RUNNING POINT

RICK CORDELLA '99
FROM FRIAR WALK-ON TO
NETWORK TV PRESIDENT

WRITTEN BY BRENDAN MCGAIR '03
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEY MCCABE

In his role as president of NBC Sports, Rick Cordella '99 is a point guard. The ball always seems to be in his hands, and nothing is achieved without collaboration on the floor.

“Everyone comes from a different background and has different points of view, but we coalesce around one common goal. It’s no different if you’re on the basketball court or in a professional environment,” Cordella said. “We’re trying to put on the best 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris. We’re trying to do the best NFL Sunday Night Football production that we can. We’re trying to run the best sports business that we can for the company.”



Cordella visited campus in November 2023 to speak to students in the School of Business chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, the professional business fraternity. He offered anecdotes about the 1996-1997 men’s basketball team that was a jump shot away from the NCAA Final Four, and he detailed the steps that led to his career success. Wearing a blue sweater, gray pants, and a crisp white shirt, he stood as a shining example of perseverance and hard work — a person who found the right path and never strayed from it.

“For where I am in the professional world, I owe a lot to Providence College,” Cordella said.

A native of Foxboro, Massachusetts, Cordella captained the football, basketball, and baseball teams at Foxboro High School and was two-time team MVP in basketball, including his senior year, when the team won the league championship. When he came to PC to major in management and minor in computer science, he was a walk-on for the men’s team, joining the Friars without being recruited or awarded an athletic scholarship.



Rick Cordella '99 celebrates behind #33 Jamel Thomas after Thomas' game-tying three-point shot against Arizona with 30 seconds left in the Elite Eight of the 1997 NCAA Tournament. From left: Bobby Gonzalez, Kofi Pointer, head coach Pete Gillen, Tom Herrion, Alexis Sherard, Ndongo Ndiaye, and Austin Croshere. The Friars lost in overtime to Arizona, the eventual national champions.

“Being part of the team as a walk-on, there was a little humility of knowing your role and purpose. You’re running the same wind sprints as everyone else and working for the same goal of winning basketball games and advancing as far as possible in the NCAA Tournament,” Cordella said. “From where I am today, working in sports and having experience on the other side of the camera and seeing how athletes prepare for games, it gives me a perspective that’s unique in my industry.”

Four of Cordella’s teammates went to the NBA – Austin Croshere '97, Ruben Garces '97, Jamel Thomas '99, and God Shammgod '15SCE. It was an unforgettable squad that caught fire at the right time, during the NCAA Tournament’s March Madness, and is still held in esteem by fans more than 25 years after that magical run.

“All of the possessions at the end of the Arizona game are engrained in my memory,” said Cordella, reflecting on the Elite Eight contest that ended in an overtime loss against the team that eventually captured the tournament. “We had a great run.” →

Cordella had a rapport with Coach Pete Gillen. In the spring of 1998, when Gillen left for Virginia and was replaced by Tim Welsh, Cordella stepped away from the basketball program. With one year to go as an undergraduate, he could finally answer the question of how students filled their time between 3-7 p.m. each day. Previously, he was practicing or in the gym at Alumni Hall or gearing up for a game.

“Senior year was an opportunity to experience life as a student,” Cordella said. “I didn’t know what the next step was. You’re coming out of the athletics world not knowing what you want to be or what you want to do.”

He discovered that his education served him well.

“At PC, you know you’re going to get a great education. And when you arrive in the business world, you understand how things work,” Cordella said. “But PC helps you develop emotional intelligence and personal values, not just academic intelligence, and that is really important.”

Cordella went to work in computer programming as an applications and web developer. It was the late '90s and the dot-com industry was gathering steam. While pursuing an MBA at Boston College, he felt compelled to follow his passion for sports. He found an entry-level position with Rotoworld, a fantasy sports content website, initially working for free. In 2006, he was in the right spot at the right time when NBC Sports acquired the rights to Sunday Night Football, wanted to launch a fantasy game, and acquired Cordella’s company.

Suddenly Cordella was an NBC Universal employee making in-roads with people who noticed his take-charge demeanor. Eventually working in the digital media division, he was one of the point men for the network’s coverage of the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, and he helped spearhead NBC’s dive into sports streaming, which has enabled consumers to watch games on mobile devices. For his efforts, Cordella is a six-time Sports Emmy Award-winner and was named to Sports Business Journal’s “Forty Under Forty” list in 2012 and 2014.

“How you treat people plays into how you get from entry-level positions to the top. It’s always about relationships,” Cordella said.

Cordella was named president of NBC Sports in September 2023 after serving as president of programming. He oversees NBC Sports, NBC Olympics, Golf Channel, NBC Sports Digital, GolfNow, and SportsEngine, as well as rights deals and relationships with the NFL, PGA Tour, Premier League, NASCAR, WWE, Big Ten Conference, Notre Dame, and the IOC.

It’s a job that keeps him in constant motion — as does his family. Cordella and his wife, Jennifer, live in Westport, Connecticut, and are the parents of five children. 🏡



The Cordella family, clockwise from top: Rick Cordella '99, his wife, Jennifer, and their children, Rylie, Quinn, Nathan, Sydney, and Ava.



CARTER CROWNED

Basketball guard Devin Carter '25 was named BIG EAST Player of the Year after leading the league in scoring with more than 21 points per game. He is only the second Friar to receive the award since its establishment in 1980. Kris Dunn '16 shared the honor in 2015 and won it in 2016. Carter also was named to the All-BIG EAST First Team, the Associated Press All-BIG EAST team, and was an AP Honorable Mention All-American. The Friars finished with a 21-14 record, 10-10 in the BIG EAST, and fell to Boston College in the first round of the NIT.



ERNIE D'S BOOK

Star with a Broken Heart, a book by Ernie DiGregorio '73 that highlights his relationship with basketball coach Dave Gavitt '89 Hon. and teammate Marvin Barnes '74, is available for purchase through the Providence College bookstore (providence.bnccollege.com). Proceeds after expenses will provide financial support to PC students from Rhode Island, with

a preference for those from Providence or North Providence. DiGregorio, who led the Friars to the Final Four in 1973, was recognized as a BIG EAST Legend during the BIG EAST tournament in March at Madison Square Garden.



WATCH EMILY IN PARIS

Emily Sisson '15 qualified for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris by finishing with a marathon time of 2:22:42 at the U.S. trials in Orlando, Florida, in February. The Olympic marathon will run on August 11. Sisson, who is coached by Ray Treacy '82, PC's director of cross country and track, finished 10th in the 10,000 meters at the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2021.

AROUND FRIARTOWN

Rhode Island FC began its inaugural season in March with two Friars on its roster: midfielder **Kevin Vang '22** and defender **Nathan Messer '23**. The club is part of the United Soccer League.

Kathy Finn Hill '84 was honored as a BIG EAST Legend during the women's BIG EAST basketball tournament at Mohegan Sun Arena in March. She finished her career ranked first in all-time scoring with 1,942 points and is the only PC women's basketball player to be named BIG EAST Player of the Year.

Vicki Movsessian Lamoriello '94, a gold medalist with the U.S. Olympics women's ice hockey team in 1998, will be inducted into the Rhode Island Hockey Hall of Fame in August. She was one of the top all-time defenders during her 89 games with PC.

Kimberley May '25 finished third and earned bronze and **Shannon Flockhart '24** finished 10th in the mile finals at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Boston. Both earned All-America honors.

Will Layden '24 was named Most Outstanding Swimmer at the BIG EAST Swimming and Diving Championship in Indianapolis in March. He captured individual titles in both the men's 100-yard freestyle and the 50-yard freestyle and received All-BIG EAST recognition as a member of the 200-yard freestyle relay team.

Former women's basketball player **Jovana Nagic '19** will compete for her native Serbia in the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris.

The cheerleading team placed fifth in the nation at the UCA College Nationals in Orlando, Florida, in January. It was the second time in program history the Friars made it to the finals and the highest placement ever achieved. 🏆



JOHNNY'S JOG UNITING WEST HARTFORD

BY KIRSTEN FLEMING '00

When Johnny Moran was born with Wieacker Wolf Syndrome, a rare debilitating condition that affects the central and peripheral nervous systems, his parents, Laura Hughes Moran '00 and Dan Moran '00, found themselves in uncharted waters: caring for a child with special needs.

But they found unconditional support and compassion.

"Because of Johnny, we were tapped into this world of humanity that we had no idea existed," said Laura. That included medical teams and charities that helped to improve his quality of life.

Those vital organizations were front of mind in 2011 when the couple, with friends Dan and Kelly Clark, launched a St. Patrick's Day-themed 5K in West Hartford, Connecticut, and named it Johnny's Jog.

"Our goal was to pay it forward and make

it a benefit, but also bring the community together. And it's become a festival," said Laura, who shares four other children with Dan.

After more than a decade, Johnny's Jog has had thousands of participants and raised more than \$800,000 for local charities, including the Miracle League of Connecticut, The Molly Ann Tango Memorial Foundation, and Covenant Preparatory School, a tuition-free middle school. The race, with bagpipers and bands, has become a calendar highlight, drawing volunteers from the local schools and their athletic teams.

When Johnny died in 2016 at age 9, the event became a celebration of his enduring legacy.

Blessed with two pronounced dimples, a deep belly laugh, and twinkling eyes, he was an undeniable people magnet — not to

mention his superhuman resilience in the face of countless medical trials.

"He would go through a battle, and genuinely come out with a smile on his face. He was such a love," said Laura.

The proof? Many of Johnny's former nurses, caretakers, and their families return annually for the race as volunteers, vendors, or sponsors.

Johnny's health difficulties and death were "beyond a blow, and until you experience that, it's hard to know how that feels," Laura said. "But you start to see the value of life in many ways, and how he made other people feel. He drew people into our circle who are irreplaceable. Johnny really affected them."

Not to mention the beneficiaries of his namesake race.

"It's incredible to see the ripple effect of Johnny's life." ❧



From left, Michael Flanagan '67, Christine Flanagan Griffin '91, Christine's daughter, Georgia Griffin, and Kathleen Flanagan. Below, comfort bags for leukemia patients.



COURAGE, INTEGRITY, FAITH PROVIDING COMFORT TO LEUKEMIA PATIENTS

BY VICKI-ANN DOWNING '21G

Michael Healy Flanagan '01 was diagnosed with leukemia at the end of his sophomore year at Providence College. During a more than three-year struggle that included two bone marrow transplants, he lived with courage, integrity, and faith. In November 2001, two days after Rev. Mark Nowel, O.P. presented him with his diploma in his hospital room, he died at age 23.

Michael, an honors student and three-sport athlete in high school, always wanted to be a Friar. His parents, Michael Flanagan '67 and Kathleen Flanagan, and his sister and brother-in-law, Christine Flanagan Griffin '91 and Stephen Griffin '88, never forgot the support he received from PC — how history professor Richard Grace '62, '17Hon. tutored him, and how Chaplain Rev. Joseph Barranger, O.P. visited him in Boston and celebrated his funeral Mass.

The Flanagan family wanted to share with others the support and care they received during Michael's illness. In 2002, on the first anniversary of his death, they raised \$25,000 through a catered event and silent auction at their home in Barrington, Rhode Island, and established a foundation in his name.

Over the course of 22 years, with Christine as director of its 13-member board, the foundation has provided almost \$1 million to make patients with leukemia more comfortable.

At Tufts Medical Center, Miriam Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital, and Roger Williams Hospital, the foundation has renovated family rooms, purchased infusion chairs and massage tables, granted nursing scholarships, offered grants to families in need, supported Reiki training

for nurses, and provided computers for waiting areas. Each patient, upon admission, receives a signature canvas comfort bag containing a deck of cards, soft tissues, a warm fleece hat, lotion and lip balm, a soft toothbrush, a music card, a journal — items the family knows help to ease the ordeal of leukemia patients undergoing treatment.

Oncology social workers at each hospital discern the needs and work directly with Christine, who promptly brings requests to the board for consideration.

"The mission of the Michael H. Flanagan Foundation is to provide comfort," Christine said.

"Mike's legacy of courage, integrity, and faith has helped many while keeping his memory alive." ❧



CLASS NOTES

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumninotes

'54 (Reunion June 7-9)

Robert Perrino '54 of Scottsdale, Arizona, a deacon in the Episcopal church since 2003, remains active in ministry in Scottsdale. He is proud and thankful for his Dominican education, which he says has greatly influenced his life.

'63

Donald F. Brown '63 of Bridgehampton, New York, spoke to the International Business Club at PC about his 35 years with TIME, Inc. He held management positions in Hong Kong, Japan, Canada, and the United States for TIME and People magazines. In retirement, he founded International Magazine Publishing LLC, a consultancy. He has been an adjunct professor at Columbia University's graduate School of International and Public Affairs and at New York University and presents seminars for publishers.

'68

John T. Fallon, M.D., Ph.D. '68 of Greenville,

North Carolina, was included in Marquis Who's Who, a biographical resource that has chronicled the lives of accomplished individuals and innovators since 1899. He is a pathologist and educator who began his career at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1974 following his graduation from Albany Medical College. Specializing in cardiovascular diseases, he spent 20 years treating patients, then taught pathology courses at Harvard University, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and New York Medical College. In 2019, he joined East Carolina University as a professor and chair of pathology. In recognition of his career success, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Cardiovascular Pathology.

'69 (Reunion June 7-9)

John DeMarco '69 of Egg Harbor City, New Jersey, originally from Brooklyn, New York, is looking forward to seeing classmates at the Golden Friars reunion in June. He wonders where the years have gone. "My years at

Providence taught me a lot about good values and certain disciplines and to always trust in God. My relationships with my classmates and ROTC Pershing Rifle and Drill Team buddies are friendships that will never be forgotten. Some are not with us today but will always be remembered. My tour of duty for my country, serving in Vietnam as a 1st lieutenant in the U.S. Army, would not have been possible if not for the teaching, demands, and discipline taught by my ROTC military instructors and all my professors. I do miss my four years at PC and wish we could somehow go back in time."

'70

Nicholas DiGiovanni '70 of Newburyport, Massachusetts, an attorney with Morgan, Brown & Joy of Boston, was recognized in 2024 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, in the fields of employment law – management, and litigation – labor and employment. Best Lawyers is based on a peer-review survey and highlights the top 5 percent of practicing attorneys in the United States. Morgan, Brown & Joy is one of the largest management-side labor and employment law firms in New England, representing a range of Fortune 100 corporations, educational and health care institutions, and small businesses.

'78

Thomas J. Martin III '78 of North Providence, Rhode Island, coached the La Salle Academy girls tennis team to its 10th consecutive Rhode Island Division I Championship title in November 2023. Martin's teams have played in the finals for 13 consecutive years and won 12 times. The girls have not lost a match since September 2015 – that's 138 consecutive wins. "I've been blessed over the years with talented and dedicated players who excel in the classroom," Martin said. He joined the La Salle faculty in 1989 as a history-social studies teacher. He has coached the girls team since it entered the Rhode Island Interscholastic League in September 1987 and has been head coach of the boys team since the spring of



Father Ruggieri named bishop

REV. JAMES RUGGIERI '90, pastor of two Providence parishes and founder of St. Patrick Academy, has been named bishop of the Diocese of Portland, Maine, by Pope Francis. A Mass of ordination and installation will be celebrated on May 7, 2024, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland.

Father Ruggieri was honored in February 2024 with PC's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Vision Award. He has been

pastor of St. Patrick's Parish on Smith Hill since 2003 and became pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Elmwood in 2020. He is known for feeding the homeless from an old food truck.

He established St. Patrick Academy on Smith Hill as a Catholic preparatory high school with no set tuition, welcoming students who could not otherwise afford a Catholic education. The school enrolls a maximum of 100 students, 25 percent of them first-generation immigrants. PC's Class of 2027 includes six St. Patrick alumni.

Father Ruggieri majored in religious studies at PC and has a master's degree in theology from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. He was ordained in 1995.

2022. Martin retired as vice principal of student life at La Salle in June 2022 after 43 years in secondary education, the last 33 at La Salle.

'81

Richard Brundage '81 of New York City won Best Supporting Actor in a Feature Film at the International Filmmaker Festival of World Cinema in Milan, Italy. Brundage was honored for his work in "Flesh is Heir To," a 2020 psychological thriller written and directed by Dale Johnson. Brundage studied music and English at PC and has worked as a mathematics teacher, librarian, classical music engraver-editor, and semi-professional French horn player. He took his first acting class on a whim at age 39 at HB Studio in Manhattan and soon was acting full-time. He has played leading roles in several feature films, including "Creative Nonfiction" (written and directed by Lena Dunham), "You Are Alone," and "Fourhand," and has appeared onstage in New York and throughout the United States.

'83

Brian Patrick Kennedy '83 of Westerly, Rhode Island, was elected president of the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan organization serving the nation's state lawmakers and legislative staff, in August 2023. He has represented District 38, Hopkinton and Westerly, in the Rhode Island General Assembly since 1988. He is speaker pro tempore and the senior ranking member of the House of Representatives. A real estate broker and appraiser for Kennedy Realty Appraisal, he studied history and general social studies at PC and earned an MBA from Anna Maria College.

'84 (Reunion: June 7-9)

Michael Joyce '84 of Hingham, Massachusetts, joined CBRE as vice chairman, the highest rank for advisory and transaction professionals within the company. He is part of the urban leasing team based in downtown Boston and focuses on investor and occupier leasing. He previously was vice chair of Cushman & Wakefield's Boston leasing practice. Joyce is a trustee emeritus of Providence College and a member of the Boston Real Estate Board and the International Rett Syndrome Foundation.

'85

Adele Ritchie Berardi '85 of Bayville, New Jersey, retired after 37 years as an English

special education teacher at Southern Regional High School in Stafford Township. She also served as class advisor, cross country coach, and after-school instructor, and established the Atlantic City Rescue Mission Food Drive and the Vintage Hut for Clothing to assist students in need. Berardi chose her vocation in high school after hearing someone speak about working with adults with special needs. "I knew I wanted to go to Providence College for the special ed program, which was one of the best at the time. It was the only college I applied to. I just didn't want to do anything else," she said in an interview with The SandPaper newspaper. Berardi is the wife of **Robert Berardi '85** and the mother of **R.J. Berardi '19**.

Cindy Curley '85 of Stow, Massachusetts, was named to the board of directors of Clinton Savings Bank. She is president of American Club Management Corporation and a USA Hockey Hall of Fame inductee. She played on the women's ice hockey team at PC.

'86

Jeff Carter '86 of Washington, D.C., joined Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund as the president and CEO in April 2023. Jeff previously served for six years as executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Founded during the campaign to pass the Clean Water Act in 1972, Clean Water Action/Fund works to enhance and defend the nation's major water and toxics laws, strengthen environmental protections, and support candidates committed to those issues.

'88

Kate Behan, M.D. '88 of Philadelphia is the chief medical officer at Arcadia, a leading data analytics platform for healthcare. She has more than two decades of healthcare experience in both clinical and administrative leadership roles at academic, large health system, and payer organizations. A graduate of MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine, she is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, a fellow of the American College of Physicians, and a member of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society.

'89 (Reunion June 7-9)

John Denson Jr. '89 of Edgartown, Massachusetts, was named to the board of trustees at

Martha's Vineyard Hospital, which includes Windemere Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He is a senior client partner at Korn Ferry, a consulting firm, and has two decades of experience partnering with healthcare systems, academic medical centers, payer organizations, and other entities in recruiting and evaluating executive and clinical leadership teams. He is a member of PC's National Board of Overseers and chair of the advisory board for PC's School of Nursing and Health Sciences. He holds an MBA from the University of Connecticut.

Paul Olivier, FACHE '89 of Boardman, Ohio, was sworn in for a third consecutive term as a commissioner for Mill Creek MetroParks in Youngstown. Mill Creek spans more than 5,000 acres and is one of the largest urban parks in the country.

'90

Anthony Azar, Ed.D. '90G of Rehoboth, Massachusetts, retired after a 40-year career in education. He began as a teacher at Bishop McVinney School in Providence and concluded as school superintendent for the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District in Massachusetts. Azar is president and CEO of ACA Consulting, LLC. He has been a Friar fanatic since age 12, following in the footsteps of his father, Probate Judge Louis E. Azar, who studied in the pre-law program at PC. Azar and his wife, Dawn, are the parents of two children, Surrey and Donny.

Rev. Marcel Taillon '90, pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Narragansett, Rhode Island, was named interim director of vocations for the United States Archdiocese for the Military Services. His challenge is to address the shortage of Catholic military chaplains due to retirements. He has served in the Diocese of Providence for 17 years, including as chaplain for the Narragansett police and fire departments and the South Kingstown Police Department. He also is a program host on Relevant Radio. Father Taillon was ordained to the priesthood on September 1, 1994, following five years of formation at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he studied at both the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas and the University of St. John Lateran. He studied philosophy and humanities at PC.

Mike Tuffin '90 of Alexandria, Virginia, was appointed president and CEO of America's Health Insurance Plans, a national trade organization representing companies that provide healthcare coverage for millions of consumers and their families. He previously was senior vice president for external affairs for UnitedHealth Group. Tuffin has more than two decades of leadership experience in the healthcare sector, including with AHIP from 2003-2012 as executive vice president for public affairs. He holds an MBA from Vanderbilt University.

'92

Christine Plain King '92 of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, joined Wood River Health Center in Hope Valley as director of behavioral health. She worked for the past 10 years as executive director of the Interfaith Counseling Center in Providence, where she led the organization in growth and new programs. Her skills and development of community connections created a network of trauma healing services in Rhode Island. While trained as a counselor, she blended her knowledge of the field and practice with leadership and community development to form partnerships and referral paths for services for those in need. She studied psychology at PC and is a graduate of the Boston College Graduate School of Psychoanalysis.

'95

Brian Kearns '95 of Williston Park, New York, joined an international panel of business executives to present the annual Kearns Global Business Lecture at St. Bonaventure University. Kearns is CFO and a board director of B.H. Aircraft, a manufacturing company serving the aerospace and defense industries. He began his career with EY, where he spent 15 years in audit and consulting roles, including multiple international assignments in Europe and the Middle East. He also served in financial positions at Goldman Sachs and Pall Corporation. He studied accountancy at PC.

Kerri Murray '95 of Santa Barbara, California, received PC's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Vision Award, presented annually to indi-

viduals and groups who exemplify the teachings and spirit of Dr. King. Murray is president of ShelterBox USA, a nonprofit that provides customized emergency shelter kits to displaced people. She has led ShelterBox through a significant expansion of its humanitarian efforts and personally worked in conflict and disaster zones, including Morocco and Ukraine. Under her leadership, ShelterBox has been twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Before entering the nonprofit sector in 2009, Murray spent 13 years as a healthcare leader at GlaxoSmithKline. As a student, she worked for the Rhode Island Public Defender, taught ESL, and was the first lobbyist for Save the Bay.

Chris Stanley '95 of Warren, Rhode Island, a history teacher at Ponaganset High School in Glocester, is the 2023 recipient of the Susan B. Wilson Award from the South County League of Women Voters for his project, "Where the Rivers Meet." The multidisciplinary project explored the origins of the land on which Ponaganset High School stands and the native people who once lived there. Students researched local and state archives and worked with local organizations to learn history and civics firsthand. Stanley also received the 2023 Beveridge Family Teaching Prize, awarded by the American Historical Association for excellence and innovation in history teaching. He is a student in PC's graduate history program and has a master's degree from La Salle University.

'96

Jennifer Gunderman '96 of Belfast, Maine, was named director of the city of Bangor Public Health and Community Services. She formerly was director of the Maine Area Health Education Center and was Midcoast Maine's public health liaison for the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. She worked as an epidemiologist and health educator for the Maine Bureau of Health, was a health and safety director in Maine for the American Red Cross, and worked as a public health specialist for the U.S. Peace Corps in Niger. She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in public health and other disciplines at the University of New England, University of Southern Maine, and University of Vermont. A health policy and management major at PC, she also has a master's degree in public health from Emory Univer-



That pickleball bond

Like many retirees, **BOB MAYERICK '81**, a Connecticut native residing in coastal Delaware, embraced the sport of pickleball after a four-decade Wall Street career. Playing in an indoor facility in Lewes, he was approached by a younger man who noticed his gray Providence College T-shirt. **KEN QUEZADA '08**, who studied for an MBA at Wilmington University after a decade with the University of Pennsylvania Health System, introduced himself with the universal greeting, "Go Friars!"

Mayerick and Quezada began playing together regularly. In November 2023, they entered a pickleball tournament to benefit Meals on Wheels, though both were new to the sport and neither had played in a tournament before. A further challenge: Because Quezada is 27 years younger, Mayerick was forced to play in his age category, for those 30-49.

"After four hours and about a dozen games, this PC duo, separated by a generation, made it all the way to the gold medal championship game before having to settle for silver and second place," Mayerick said. "We both agreed it was a fabulous experience and something that we might well do again."

"Whenever I meet a fellow Friar there is an instant bond," said Quezada, who grew up in East Providence and now lives in Lewes. "Although Bob and I attended PC many years apart, our love for the Friars runs deep. We refer to each other as our 'Friar brother.' I'm honored to be part of the Friar family."

sity and is studying for a doctorate in public health. She is the mother of three grown children.

Dennis Sousa '96, '11G of Foster, Rhode Island, is director of the Office of Family, Youth, and Young Adult Evangelization for the Diocese of Providence. He formerly was director of faith formation for St. Philip Church in Greenville. Sousa studied sociology as an undergraduate at PC and earned a master of arts degree in theology. He is completing a master of arts degree in catechetics and evangelization through Franciscan University of Steubenville and is in the Diaconate Program of Formation for the Diocese of Providence. He also has experience in finance and construction and was an airborne ranger medic in the U.S. Army.

'97

Debra A. Mulligan, '97Ph.D. of Warren, Rhode Island, is a professor of history and department chair at Roger Williams University, where she teaches courses in East Asian, European, and

American history. She is a member of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame and president of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society. Mulligan is working on a manuscript tentatively titled *Between Two Worlds: Rhode Island's Little Italies, 1880-1930*, and presented a program on the topic at the Johnston Historical Society. She has a master's degree and Ph.D. in history from PC.

'98

Erin Wright '98 of Providence is associate ombuds at Boston University. The Office of the Ombuds is a confidential, independent, impartial, and informal problem-solving resource serving faculty, staff, and students. She previously was senior HR business partner with Lifespan and worked in human resources at Bristol Community College. Wright also managed programs for the Center for Mediation and Collaboration, now in Warwick, which she continues to support, and she serves on the board of the Nonviolence Institute in Providence. She has been a lecturer and associate director of career

services at Roger Williams University School of Law. She has a master of human relations degree from the University of Oklahoma and a juris doctor degree from Notre Dame Law School.

'99 (Reunion: June 7-9)

Kerry Murphy Benenato, Ph.D. '99 of Sudbury, Massachusetts, joined Sail Biomedicines, Inc., a Flagship Pioneering company and a leader in RNA-based programmable medicines, as chief platform officer. She previously was chief scientific officer at 76Bio, a startup where she led research and development activities, and was vice president, platform chemistry and formulation discovery, at Moderna. In 2022, she was awarded the American Chemical Society Heroes of Chemistry award for her work contributing to Moderna's mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine. She studied chemistry at PC and holds a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Boston College. She also completed a research fellowship at Harvard University as a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow.

PLAY BALL!

The 2023 season was the best in the 17-year history of the PC in DC alumni softball team, which competes in the Capital Alumni Network in the shadow of D.C.'s famous landmarks. CAN Softball includes alumni teams from 50 colleges and universities, including Providence, which saw Friars competing in class years ranging from 1999-2020.

The Friars were 8-6 in the regular season, defeating BIG EAST rivals Villanova and Xavier and recording statement wins over Penn State and UCLA. During tournament time, the Friars shined, making their first Elite 8 appearance. They were undefeated in pod play, beating Johns Hopkins, Tulane, and the Air Force Academy before taking down Delaware and Michigan in the elimination rounds. The Friar magic couldn't quite get them past local powerhouse George Mason to make it to the finals.

The team looks to build on its historic season in 2024, which began play in April. Contact Coach **Emily-Anne Patt '06** at emily.anne.patt@gmail.com to join the team as a player or a fan.

Team members in 2023 were **Maura McConville Bashant '05, Megan Bennett '10, John Burke '09, Ben Cabana '10, Marc Capuano '12, Matthias Connelly '12, JR Cummings '09, Brigid Flaherty '16, Greg Hindsley '99, Mike Killoley '10, Allison Peck Mandich '01, Alvaro Muniz '07, Emily-Anne Patt '06, Peter Rindfuss '20, Patrick Sheridan '16, Alexa Stiles '20, Ryan Walsh '02, and Peter Young '10.**



'00

Jill M. Connolly '00SCE, '23G of Blackstone, Massachusetts, joined Milford Regional Medical Center as director, compensation and HR operations. The medical center, a 148-bed, nonprofit, acute care facility and community and regional teaching hospital, serves more than 20 towns. She earned an MBA from PC in May 2023.

Brendan Hurson '00 of Baltimore was sworn in on October 11, 2023, to serve as a district judge of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. He was nominated by President Biden in March 2023 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Hurson majored in public and community service studies at PC and minored in Black studies. After

graduation, he served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in San Francisco, then taught middle school in Washington, D.C. He graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law in 2005 and served as a law clerk for a U.S. district judge in South Carolina. Hurson then spent 15 years as a federal public defender in Baltimore and on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands before becoming a U.S. magistrate judge in 2022. He is the husband of **Abigail Smith Hurson '00** and the brother of **Devin Hurson '07**.

Kelly A. Kincaid '00 of Cumberland, Rhode Island, was promoted from counsel to shareholder at Adler, Pollock & Sheehan. She is a member of the litigation group, assisting clients in civil matters, including disputes involving personal injury, wrongful death, product liability, toxic torts, and premises liability actions. Kelly received a J.D. from Suffolk University School of Law.



Thanks for the inspiration

On his way to the Rhode Island State House in December 2023 to be sworn in as the new state senator serving District 1, which includes Providence College, **Jake Bissaillon '09, '10g** stopped by the home of retired political science professor Mark Hyde, Ph.D., who inspired his interest in public service.

Bissaillon, a former chief of staff for Senate President **Dominick Ruggiero '74**, was elected to fill a seat left vacant by the death of Majority Whip Maryellen Goodwin. He notes that at least three members of his graduating class at PC have chosen careers in public service.

"You can appreciate the deeper significance of the role the college played in cultivating within us a sense of service to thy neighbor," said Bissaillon, who also holds an MBA from PC.

Ben Sweeney '00 of Cranston, Rhode Island, an adjunct professor of film at PC, was coordinating producer for the second season of the PBS documentary series *Native America*, which aired in October 2023. His duties ranged from pre-production (research and shoot planning) to production (coordinating all producers and directors, overseeing filming across the country, and working with editors, animators, and composers). For the second season, crews filmed with tribes throughout the country, in Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, South Dakota, Florida, South Carolina, and northern Maine, among other locations. Sweeney also was coordinating producer for the first season of *Native America* in 2018. He has worked for the production company Providence Pictures for 20 years and has an MFA from Boston University.

'01

Bethany Schneider Lyons '01, '05G of Westerly, Rhode Island, was promoted to senior vice president and team leader of the Commercial Real Estate Division at The Washington Trust Company. She is responsible for managing the lending and sales activities of a team with a commercial loan portfolio in excess of \$1.5 billion. She is board president of the Frank Olean Center in Westerly and a supporter and fundraiser for the American Heart Association. She holds an MBA from PC.

Kyle Snyder '01 of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, was appointed president of Penn State Health's Hampden and Holy Spirit medical centers in February 2024. He joined Penn State Health in 2020 as chief operating officer of Holy Spirit Medical Center. He was appointed senior vice president and regional chief operating officer for Hampden and Holy Spirit medical centers in June 2022 and became interim president in July 2023. He has a master of health administration degree from Cornell University.

'02

Keith Chobot '02 of Rockville Centre, New York, has been appointed principal of P.S. 214, the Cadwallader Colden School, a New York City Department of Education elementary school in Flushing, Queens.

'03

Sarah Beth Coughlin, LICSW '03 of Dorches-

ter, Massachusetts, was nominated to the Massachusetts Parole Board by Governor Maura Healey and confirmed by the Governor's Council in November 2023. She formerly was director of community engagement and partnerships at Massachusetts General Hospital and served as director of the Charlestown Coalition. She has a master's degree in social work from Boston College.

Karen Bagley Pambianchi '03 of Merrimac, Massachusetts, CEO and founder of Swift Water Collaborative, presented a session on "The Impact of Perfectionism" at the Northeast HR Association's annual conference in Newport, Rhode Island. **Kristen Parsons '98**, the north region communications manager at Quest Diagnostics, attended the session. Karen, a leadership coach, speaker, and facilitator, and Kristen got to know each other at past Greater Boston Alumni Club events.

'04 (Reunion: June 7-9)

Liz Abel Catucci '04 of North Providence, Rhode Island, was appointed vice president of the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island. She has been president and CEO of the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce since 2019. She serves on the boards of Delta Dental of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Commodores, United Way Community Advisory Board, and the Stadium Theater Foundation. She is vice chair of the Commerce Corporation Board, chair of the Twin River Advisory Council, and trustee to the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council. She also is past president of PC's Alumni Club of Greater Providence (Mal Brown).

'05

Karen Kane-Roby '05G of Bowling Green, Kentucky, joined the law firm of English, Lucas, Priest & Owsley as senior counsel in September 2023. She practices in commercial real estate, real estate, litigation, and tax law. A native of Caribou, Maine, Kane-Roby earned a bachelor's degree from Saint Anselm College. She taught fourth and fifth grades in Catholic schools in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and Providence while earning a master's degree in special education and secondary education from PC through the Providence Alliance for Catholic Teachers program, known as PACT. After two years of teaching, she entered Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan, completing her degree in 2008. She

has 15 years of legal experience and is licensed to practice in Kentucky and Maine.

'06

Martha McCahill Sprague '06 of Gorham, Maine, earned her Certified Clinical Supervisor certification and the Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification. She continues to work at a local psychiatric hospital as a clinical social worker.

'07

Colleen Rosati McCormack '07 has been named managing director of the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Center for Thought and Culture. The Off Broadway and Black Box theaters present concerts, theatrical works, film premieres, and lectures in the heart of downtown New York City. Colleen resides in Purdys, New York, with her husband, **Joseph McCormack '07**, and their three children. She was a double major in theatre and music at PC.

'08

Paul Coyne '08 and **Michael Rekola '08** launched Veritas Films, LP, a Rhode Island-based partnership, along with several alumni.

Their goal is to produce feature films in the Ocean State. Their first full-length film, a dark comedy, "Burying Doris," will begin filming in the fall in Rhode Island, directed by Michael. Their proof of concept short film, "Last Laughs," is on the film festival circuit.

Tyler Sims '08 of Tampa, Florida, an attorney in the Newark, New Jersey, office of Littler, the world's largest employment and labor law practice representing management, was elevated to shareholder, effective January 1, 2024. Tyler advises and represents employers in all areas of labor and employment law. He focuses his multi-jurisdictional practice in two specialized areas: post-employment restrictive covenants, unfair competition and trade secrets; and traditional labor law.

'09 (Reunion June 7-9)

Derek Gillis '09 of Dedham, Massachusetts, was promoted to partner at the law firm Barton Gilman LLP. He is an appellate and complex litigation attorney practicing in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. He graduated magna cum laude from Suffolk University Law School.




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Julie Parise Millet '09 of Millwood, New York, joined WPIX-TV Channel 11 in New York City as a morning reporter. She previously was an investigative reporter at WAVY-TV, an NBC affiliate in Portsmouth, Virginia, and has worked for stations in Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and Georgia. She began her career at age 20 as a producer with WCBS-TV in New York City. She studied political science at PC and was a member of the cheerleading team.

Dylan Zelazo '09 of Cranston, Rhode Island, was named executive director of the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation in February 2023. The agency is the state's largest provider of bond financing for health and educational institutions. He most recently was director of administration for the city of Pawtucket, where he supervised department heads, developed the city's annual budget, and oversaw economic development projects. He has a master of public affairs degree with a concentration in local government management from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Bloomington.

'10

Owen Bligh '10, '14G of Providence was appointed dean of admission in PC's Office of Admission in August 2023. He chairs the Committee on Admission, which is responsible for selecting candidates for admission to the college and for scholarships. He has worked in the Office of Admission since 2010, most recently as senior associate dean. Among his professional memberships, he has served as president of the Rhode Island Association of Admission Officers and treasurer of the New England Association for College Admission Counseling. He has presented nationally on topics ranging from the role of parents in the college search to athletic recruitment and NCAA eligibility.

'13

Cassandra Santoro Fuller '13 of Medway, Massachusetts, an attorney with Morgan, Brown & Joy of Boston, was recognized in 2024 Best

Lawyers: Ones to Watch, in the fields of labor and employment law – mitigation, and litigation – labor and employment. The Ones to Watch category recognizes lawyers who are early in their careers for outstanding professional excellence in private practice. Morgan, Brown & Joy is one of the largest management-side labor and employment law firms in New England, representing a range of Fortune 100 corporations, educational and health care institutions, and small businesses.

Friars of the Last Decade

'16

Katcy Stephan '16 of San Jose, California, was named film reporter for Variety, where she focuses on news, features, and analysis-related content deals and business activity at Hollywood's major studios and independent film distributors. She also serves as Variety's primary reporter covering talent agencies and management firms. Stephan joined Variety in 2021 as social media editor and nearly doubled its social footprint across major platforms. Before joining Variety, Stephan worked for Access Hollywood and BuzzFeed News. She has a master's degree in journalism from the University of Southern California.

'18

Kathi Mattice Baker '18G of Cumberland, Rhode Island, and her husband, David, run Baker's Boffins, a Harrisville business that offers design and fabrication of hard-to-find automotive parts, prototyping and classic car mechanics, and laser cutting and engraving of art, signs, jewelry, and other home products. Baker earned a master's degree in counseling at PC and worked as central reservation coordinator in PC's Chirico Career Center before launching the business.

'20

Perla Castillo Calderon '20, '22G of Providence was named director of PC's Center at Moore Hall in January 2024. The center has been a multicultural space on campus since 2018, offering arts programming, lectures, and meeting spaces for students and faculty. Calderon previously was assistant director of diversity, equity, and inclusion for student success in the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity,

and Inclusion. She majored in public and community service studies at PC and earned a master's degree in higher education.

Sokeo Ros '20G of Providence was named executive director of Inspiring Minds in January 2024. The organization believes children deserve an educational environment that fosters a sense of belonging and purpose shared with the community. It works with school districts, higher education institutions, civic groups, and the community to produce programs that provide culturally responsive, academic, and social-emotional learning strategies vital to the educational and personal lives of students. Ros is excited to continue the work to recruit volunteers to tutor and mentor in Providence, send students to summer learning programs, provide workforce development and mentoring to aspiring teachers, and teach mindfulness education across the state. He earned a master of education degree from PC and teaches in the Master of Education in Urban Teaching Program. A professional dancer, artist, educator, and advocate, he had been director of PC's Center at Moore Hall since July 2021.

'22

Haley Gervino '22 of Waltham, Massachusetts, is a graduate student at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, pursuing a master's degree in public policy with a concentration in health policy. She majored in health policy and management and in theology at PC. She also works for the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, where she aids policy initiatives and writes testimony.

'23

Aidan Arone '23 of Pembroke, Massachusetts, is a financial representative with The Bulfinch Group, a wealth management firm headquartered in Needham, Massachusetts. Aidan was a summer intern with the firm in 2022 and performed talent acquisition research in 2021. A double major in finance and management at PC, he was recognized at graduation with the Mary Politelli Award for Outstanding Achievement in Management, presented for academic achievement and embodiment of the mission and values of the School of Business. He also received the Poets&Quants for Undergrads – Best and Brightest 2023 designation. ❏

Little FRIARS

SUBMISSIONS: prov.ly/alumninotes

→ **Megan Ryan Lynch '12, '14G** and her husband, **Kyle Lynch, Esq.** of Providence welcomed their first child, **John "Jack" Ryan Lynch**, on December 3, 2023.



← **John Balliro '05, '07G and Katie Leonard Balliro '06** welcomed their first child, a son, **Francis Joseph Balliro**, on September 15, 2023. John and Katie were married at St. Dominic Chapel in July 2022. The family lives in Malden, Massachusetts.



↑ **Meghan Welsh Hermann '06** and her husband, **Karl Hermann**, of Alexandria, Virginia, welcomed a baby boy on August 18, 2023. **Rowan Joseph Hermann** joins his big sister, Reagan Katherine.



↑ **Rick Cimini '13 and Haley Webster Cimini '14** welcomed a daughter and Friar basketball fan, **Cecilia Webster Cimini**, on August 10, 2023. The family lives in Warwick, Rhode Island.



↑ **Mark Plummer '04** and his wife, **Justine**, of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, welcomed a son, **Mark Rodney Plummer**, on June 25, 2023. They are thrilled to add another Friar fan to the family.

→ **Julie Parise Millet '09** and her husband, **Joseph Millet III**, welcomed their son, **John "Jack" Kenneth Millet**, on June 18, 2023. He is named in part after Julie's late father. The family lives in Millwood, New York, with their dog, Cooley.



← **Christiane Darby Lynch '09** and her husband, **Daniel**, welcomed a daughter, **Harper Eloise Lynch**, on December 6, 2022. She has a big brother, Desmond, who started kindergarten in August 2023. The family resides in Winter Garden, Florida.



Sarah O'Brien '15 of Lincoln, Nebraska, welcomed a daughter, **Trinity Rose**, in February 2024. Sarah studied creative writing at PC, is a teacher and artist, and says her greatest work is Trinity.



Alyssa Loring Tirella '08 and her husband, **Terence Tirella**, of Woburn, Massachusetts, welcomed their third child, **Emma**, in May 2023. She joins big brother Robert "Bobby," age 3, and big sister Eleanor, age 6.



Tom Planek '18 and Clare Rochford '18 married on November 4, 2023, in Red Bank, New Jersey, with Rev. Peter Martyr Yungwirth, O.P., former college chaplain, officiating and more than 40 Friars attending. At the reception, Clare changed into her “second look” dress — the basketball jersey Tom wore when he played for the Friars — and entered the venue to Taylor Swift’s “You Belong with Me.” Music was by the Ray Greiche '93 Band and the cocktail napkins read “Go Friars.” Tom and Clare were in every class together during their first semester at PC. At the end of their second semester, they went on their first date to The Abbey. During their honeymoon in Italy, they met Pope Francis at a papal audience and visited Siena to pay homage to Saint Catherine, since both received the St. Catherine of Siena Scholarship in the Honors Program. They reside in New York City.

FRIAR WEDDINGS

Jake Pirri '12 and Meredith Sullivan married on December 16, 2023, in St. Dominic Chapel with Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04 officiating. The wedding party included Matt Dennison '12, Emma Pirri '17, and Jim Spirito '12. The couple lives in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts.

Mary Goggins '14 and Edward Carey married on October 21, 2023, at St. Vincent Ferrer in New York City with Rev. Peter Martyr Yungwirth, O.P. as the celebrant. Friars from 1986, 1987, 2011, 2013, and 2014 attended. The couple resides in Mineola, New York.

Lauren Cramer '17 and Michael Finnerty '16 married on October 14, 2023, in Dennis Port, Massachusetts, surrounded by Friars. They reside in Boston.

Deirdre Bednar '16, '17G and Kevin Gallant '16, '17G married on October 6, 2023, at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, New York. They reside in New York City.

Kathryn Maloney '17 and Steven Cannell '17 of Stamford, Connecticut, married on October 6, 2023, at The Mill Lakeside Manor in Spring Lake, New Jersey. They met at orientation during their first days at PC and have been together since second semester of their first year. They are forever grateful to the college for bringing them together.

Rachel Ferruggia '14 and Patrick Stanek married on October 1, 2023, in Newport, Rhode Island. Rachel received master's degrees from both Salve Regina University and the University of St. Joseph. She works with children with autism as a special education teacher and board-certified behavior analyst in the Seymour, Connecticut, school system. The couple resides in Milford.

Craig Hilliard '16 and Lauryn Thorpe '16 married at the Hilliard Mills in Manchester, Connecticut, on September 30, 2023. Craig's grandfather, Robert Hilliard, a deacon in the Archdiocese of Hartford for

50 years, officiated. The two were celebrated by friends, family, and Friars. They reside in Newington.

Kwaku Frimpong '14 and Samantha Rodriguez '14 married on September 23, 2023, in Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago. The reception at the Fairlie Chicago was attended by Friar friends, including Dan Horne, Ph.D., professor of marketing.

Victoria Esper '19 and Christian Laraia '19, '20G married on September 16, 2023, in St. Dominic Chapel. They were accompanied by 38 fellow Friar friends, family, and professors, including College President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G, who celebrated the Mass. Victoria and Christian live in New York City.

Emily Cameron '16 and Brian Sparke '16 married on September 16, 2023, in Falmouth, Massachusetts. They reside in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

Hannah Struever '16 and Michael Murphy '16 married on September 16, 2023, in Dennis Port, Massachusetts. They reside in Charlestown.

Billy Ricci '14 married **Kate Sullivan** on September 9, 2023, at Camp Asquam in Center Harbor, New Hampshire, with more than 20 Friars in attendance. Billy hosts the Friar Podcast covering the men's basketball team. The couple lives in Dedham, Massachusetts.

Casey Tenney '14, '16G married **Michelle Bellino** on September 9, 2023, at The Bohlin in Newport, Rhode Island, surrounded by family, friends, their two French bulldogs, and many Friars, including Stephen Kogut '14, who officiated. Casey is an investment officer for a private trust company in Rhode Island and Michelle is a senior account manager for Magnite in Boston. They reside in South Boston.

Caragh Corcoran '17 and Marco Scozzari '17 married in Gladstone, New Jersey, on September 2, 2023. They met while volunteering at Reunion Weekend in June 2014 as members of the Student Alumni Association. Several members of the Class of 2017 celebrated with them at the wedding.

Jenna Marsala '18 and Nick Komsa '18 celebrated their wedding day with fellow Friars. They married on August 26, 2023, at Land's End Waterfront Catering in Sayville, Long Island.

Rose Turner '16 and Eric Lizzul '16 married in St. Dominic Chapel on August 5, 2023, with Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04 officiating. The reception was held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. Joining them were Jordan Rodman '16, Alison Simone '16, Coleen Higgins '16, Erika Bryz-Gornia '16, Nicholas Wolfe '16, Karla Accorto Kozak '18 and Stephen Kozak '16, Nicholas Teri '16, Justin Singh '16, Victoria Long '16, and Therese Krebs '81. The couple resides in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

Leonard Benson Fechter '24 and Isabella Grace Martino '24 married on July 29, 2023, in Pittsburgh. Dory Aine '24 was a

groomsman and English professor John T. Scanlan, Ph.D., attended. They live in Riverside, Rhode Island.

Sean Murphy '14 and Eliza Zalis '14 married on July 15, 2023, in Plattsburgh, New York, surrounded by family and friends, including many Friars. They reside in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Cory Stratford '14 and Maggie Cook '14 married on June 16, 2023, in Newport, Rhode Island, with more than 50 Friar friends and family in attendance. They reside in Boston.

Catherine Marenick '15 and Bernie Nangle '15 of Boston met during their junior year at PC at an Ugly Christmas Sweater party hosted by 88 Pinehurst Avenue (also known as "Central Park"). They married in St. Rose Church in Belmar, New Jersey, on the Jersey shore, on July 8, 2023. At the reception in Spring Lake, they displayed a flag featured at three previous Friar weddings and signed by each couple. Alex Barroso '15 and Ted Seufert '15 used the flag at their wedding on May 29, 2022, then passed it along to Carly McCarthy '16 and Jack Lockwood '15 for their wedding on June 11, 2022. McCarthy and Lockwood gave the flag to Jennifer Pinto '15 and Matteo Giarrusso '15, who married on September 4, 2022, and brought the flag to the Marenick-Nangle wedding. Other new couples in the crowd were Lindsey Krupa '15 and Matthew Mahoney '15 (married on September 19, 2020) and Kathryn Andrea '15 and Jack Bernatchez '17 (married on October 22, 2022).

Kasey Cardin '18, '20G and Liam Hillery '15, '19G married on June 24, 2023, in St. Dominic Chapel, blessed with 45 Friars in attendance. The wedding Mass was celebrated by Rev. Jordan Zajac, O.P. '04. The couple met in a class taught by Wanda Ingram, Ed.D. '75. They reside in Providence.

Karla Accorto '18 and Stephen Kozak '16 married on June 4, 2023, at St. Patrick's Parish in Stoneham, Massachusetts, celebrating with family, friends, and fellow Friars at the Beauport Hotel in Gloucester. They met at PC eight years ago and reside in Melrose.

Karl Anderson '17 and Emily Palazesi '17, '18G married in Chatham, Massachusetts, in June 2023, surrounded by their favorite Friars. They reside in Boston.

Kelli Jenney '19 and Tommy Heavren '19 married on May 6, 2023, at St. Augustine Church in Ossining, New York, surrounded by 34 fellow Friars. Class years spanned 61 years and three generations of Heavrens, from Tommy's grandfather, Thomas F. Heavren II '60, to Tommy's parents, Susan Robertson Heavren '84 and Thomas F. Heavren III '84, and Tommy's sister, Sarah R. Heavren '21. Rev. Michael Weibley, O.P. officiated. Kelli and Tommy met on the Connections Retreat three weeks into their first semester at PC. They reside in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Giana D'Avanzo '17 and Hunter Benson '16 married in March 2023 at StoneHurst at Hampton Valley in Connecticut, surrounded by family and friends. The wedding party included Hunter's sister, Kaley (Benson) Adua '13, and Will Adua '13, who were married in September 2019 — one big Friar family! Giana and Hunter reside in New York City.

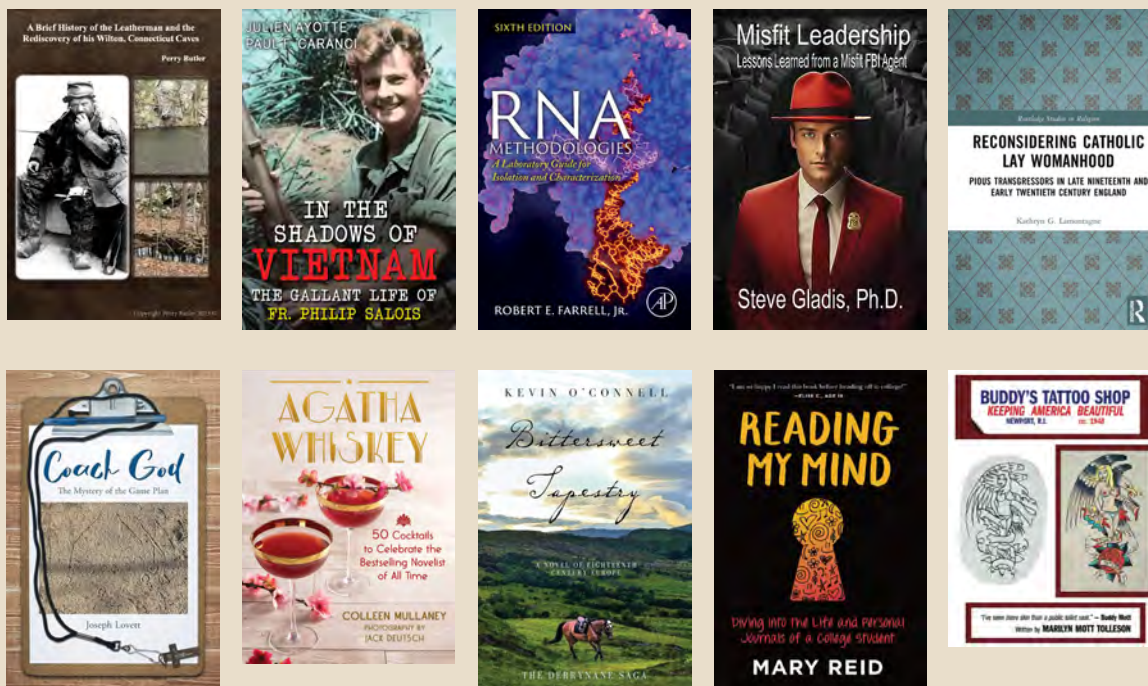
Molly McGeady '14 and Billy Haas '15, lacrosse player and 2015 team captain, were married in New York City on December 4, 2022, with many PC alumni in attendance, including the bride's brothers, Harrison McGeady '12 and Patrick McGeady '16. The couple resides in New York City with their new baby, William.

Bailey Zimmitti '20 and Quinn D'Andrea married on November 26, 2022, at St. Ann Catholic Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, with Rev. Isaac Morales, O.P. and Rev. Peter Martyr Yungwirth, O.P. in attendance. The couple resides in Belmont, North Carolina, and expect their first baby in 2024.

The logo features a gold-colored knot icon to the left of the text "TYING THE KNOT?". Below this, the URL "prov.ly/alumninotes" is written in a smaller, gold-colored font.

TYING
THE KNOT?
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ALUMNI AUTHORS



Peter (Perry) Butler '90 of Littleton, Colorado, wrote a historical essay about a hometown legend, the Old Leatherman, a wandering vagabond who traveled a 365-mile route through Connecticut and New York every 34 days from 1856-1889. The Leatherman rarely spoke, made little effort to engage people, and was a mystery and fascination to all who encountered him. Butler grew up in Wilton, Connecticut, with several hundred acres of woods behind his childhood home, including a cave the Old Leatherman was said to have frequented. For his research, he visited local libraries and historical societies and met Leatherman enthusiasts when he returned to Connecticut to visit family twice a year from Colorado, where he is a dean at Denver Academy. The essay is available on Kindle.

Paul Caranci '77 of North Providence, Rhode Island, teamed with novelist Julien Ayotte of Lincoln to write a book about

Rev. Philip Salois '79SCE, a Woonsocket native who received the Silver Star for valor in Vietnam. *In the Shadows of Vietnam: The Gallant Life of Fr. Philip Salois* was released on Veterans Day 2023. Father Salois risked his life to save others after his unit was caught in an ambush on March 1, 1970. He kept a battlefield promise to devote his life to God and entered the priesthood. As chief of chaplains in the Boston VA Healthcare System, Father Salois spent 40 years ministering to veterans suffering from PTSD. He is retired and lives in North Smithfield.

Robert Farrell, Ph.D. '82 recently published the sixth edition of his book, *RNA Methodologies: A Laboratory Guide for Isolation and Characterization* (Elsevier Academic Press). The publication coincided with the 30th anniversary of the publication of the first edition in 1993. Farrell is professor of biology and director of academic affairs at Penn State York,

where he first began teaching in 1991. He is a well-regarded researcher in the area of transcriptional and posttranscriptional control of gene expression and all things RNA. Farrell and his wife, Cathy, reside in Loganville, Pennsylvania.

Steve Gladis, Ph.D. '68 of Fairfax, Virginia, wrote *Misfit Leadership: Lessons Learned from a Misfit FBI Agent*, the story of his 23 years as an FBI agent and what it was like to be a "misfit" with dyslexia in a large, bureaucratic organization. Gladis managed to rise to the top by leveraging "weirdness or nonconformity to improve performance and character" — what he calls "misfit leadership." A retired FBI special agent, Gladis has written 27 books on leadership and executive communication and two novels about his FBI career. He is the CEO of Steve Gladis Leadership Partners, a senior scholar at George Mason University, and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. His book is available on Amazon and other online sites.

British historian and Boston University professor **Kathryn Lamontagne, Ph.D. '01, '03G**, a member of PC's National Alumni Association Council, published her first book with Routledge U.K., *Reconsidering Catholic Lay Womanhood: Pious Transgressors in Late 19th and Early 20th Century England*. She dedicated the book to PC and writes in the acknowledgements about how much her undergraduate studies influenced the work. Lamontagne was invited to speak about the book at Blackfriars, Oxford. She was featured in *Bostonia*, BU's alumni magazine, and appeared on TV in the Boston area as the royal history expert for the coronation of King Charles III. Lamontagne formerly worked in the royal household, an experience she discussed in 2023 on the Providence College Podcast.

Joseph P. Lovett '82, '83G of Groveland, Massachusetts, wrote *Coach God: The Mystery of the Game Plan*, available online through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Walmart. He is a Hall of Fame football and basketball coach at St. John's Preparatory High School and in his 41st year of teaching religious studies after obtaining bachelor's and master's degrees from PC. The book includes stories of how God has been involved in the ordinary lives of players, parents, and coaches throughout his coaching career, including Peter Frates of the Ice Bucket Challenge, Mark Bavaro of the New York Giants, and Pat Connaughton of the Milwaukee Bucks, who wrote the foreword.

Lifestyle expert **Colleen Mullaney '88** of Larchmont, New York, has written 13 books about entertaining, cocktails, floral design, and weddings. Her latest is *Agatha Whiskey, 50 Cocktails to Celebrate the Bestselling Novelist of All Time*, by Sky Horse Publishing. It is a followup to her previous book, *Gin Austen, 50 Cocktails Celebrating the Novels of Jane Austen*, which won the International Gourmand Drink Culture Award. She is a regular contributor to The Huffington Post and has been featured in *InStyle* and on HGTV's *Insider's Garden*, ABCNews.com, MSNBC.com, Gannett News, and Martha Stewart Radio.

Kevin O'Connell '70 of Severna Park, Maryland, is the author of *The Derrynane Saga*, three novels of historical fiction that chronicle the exploits of a family of the fallen Gaelic aristocracy in 18th century Ireland and at the courts of Versailles and Vienna. A fourth novel, set during the period of the French Revolution, will be released later this year. *Beyond Derrynane*, *Two Journeys Home*, and *Bittersweet Tapestry* have received positive reviews in the United States, United Kingdom, and Europe. O'Connell studied political science at PC and holds a juris doctor degree from American University's Washington College of Law and a master of laws degree from Georgetown University Law Center. He spent 40 years as an international corporate lawyer before beginning his writing career.

Mary Burke Reid '03 of Lemont, Illinois, wrote *Reading My Mind*, an honest and intimate collection of journal excerpts chronicling her rollercoaster ride through the pivotal years of college life. The book was released in December 2023. She decided to write it after discovering her college journals packed away in moving boxes, hoping her experiences would benefit those heading off to college.

Marilyn Mott Tolleson '78 of Bristol, Rhode Island, published her first book, *Buddy's Tattoo Shop*, in July 2023 through Stillwater River Publishing. The book is based on the stories she experienced during the nearly 30 years she worked alongside her father, Buddy Mott, during his 59-year career in the family tattoo business in Newport. "His career began with the Navy in the late '40s. I caught the transition from sailors to sailing tourists," said Tolleson, who took art courses at PC and painted scenery for the theatre department. "Our father-daughter team included my sister, Carolyn Mott Jaques '80, who joined us in the mid-1990s for 10 years. We tattooed customers from all walks of life (with or without motorcycles) wanting to wear some permanent art. I'm pretty sure only one was a nun." The book includes more than 200 color pictures, 67 stencils, tattoo tips, and trade secrets for fellow artists and tattoo collectors. The work of Buddy's Tattoo Shop will be part of a tattoo exhibit being planned at the Newport Art Museum for the fall of 2024, which coincidentally is the centennial of Buddy's birth.

Young alumni publish essays by English professors

The essays of English professors **René Fortin, Ph.D.**, **Rodney Delasanta, Ph.D.**, and **Brian Barbour, Ph.D.** have been published in a collection by Cluny Media, a publishing company owned by **John Clarke '15** and **Scott Thompson '14, '18G**.

Reaching into the Silence: Literary Scholarship in the Tradition of Catholic Humanism features 35 essays about the works of 17 major authors, from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Jacques Maritain and Flannery O'Connor.

Barbour, professor emeritus of English, edited the collection. His objective was to preserve "the work of three friends who taught together for decades in the English Department ... and had a fairly similar outlook ... that can only be called Catholic Humanism: grounded in the Creed and blending a love of letters and the arts with a conviction that reality is sacramental."

Cluny Media was established in 2015 by Clarke's parents to preserve and promote the Catholic literary and intellectual tradition. Clark and Thompson took ownership in January 2017.





IN MEMORIAM

Jane Lunin Perel, MFA '15Hon.

Jane Lunin Perel, MFA '15Hon., professor emerita of English and of women's studies, died February 22, 2024.

She was one of the first women hired by the college in 1971, the year that it enrolled its first undergraduate class of women. A celebrated poet, she founded the Providence College Poetry and Fiction Series with her husband, Morton L. Perel, DDS. She led the initiative to establish the Women's Studies Program in 1994 and served as its

first director. One of the college's first Jewish faculty members, she helped preserve the photographs of Rev. Edward P. Doyle, O.P. '34, who was present at the liberation of the Nordhausen concentration camp in World War II. She was awarded an honorary doctor of fine arts degree at commencement in 2015.

Here are some memories of Professor Lunin Perel shared by alumni on social media.

The first time I saw Jane walk across campus in 1971, I told myself I wanted to be like her. Grace, independence, focused. She never changed. What a lady, beautiful flower, teacher, friend.

— EVA WESTON IRBY DAVIS '75

I had her for a class called Dimensions of Art, which was ... eye opening and really broadening. I also regularly went to poetry readings she ran. I would recommend to anyone interested that you view the last lecture she gave upon retirement, which the college has posted (online). She will be missed.

— PETER COMERFORD '80

She was, simply, amazing. She pushed us all to think critically, consider the experiences of those who came before, and remind us that the work was left undone — and it was our job as young women to continue to advocate for change. I can say that she is one of the PC women who greatly influenced my path in academia ... and what I teach today.

— KATHRYN LAMONTAGNE '01, '03G

My absolute favorite professor. She had us sit in a circle and in 1997 that absolutely blew my mind! She gave the most amazing lectures, and she would speak so eloquently, and use her hands in a way that would just draw you in, and I was absolutely enamored with her jewelry. Being a women's studies minor is one of the best things I've ever done and it's all thanks to her.

— NICOLE PEDRO '99

Jane was my undergrad advisor, my first poetry mentor, and my dear friend of over 30 years. I am the poet and person I am because of Jane; her continued support (and editing) of my work pushed me to deepen my understanding of the craft of poetry, and her generosity shaped my approach to literary citizenship. I will miss the hours we spent on the phone talking about each other's poems and recommending new poets to each other, and I'll miss getting cards and notes in her distinctive handwriting.

— MICHAEL MECURIO '97

Jane is a remarkable human! Founded a Women's Studies Program at an all-male Catholic college. Followed by a second act of leading the way on educating generations on the Holocaust. A versatile and enigmatic leader. Blessed to know her.

— MICHELLE PANNETON GATES '99

She was an extraordinary teacher and charged us to look at literature, gender, and the world in a unique way. I feel privileged to have been her student.

— CHRISTINE HAYES '91

One of the Providence College greats! A remarkable professor who pushed her students in the best possible way. She was also an incredible role model for all the young women who crossed her path.

— KATHY BISEGNA MARTZ '84

→ **Read more:**
[news.providence.edu/
remembering-jane-lunin-perel](https://news.providence.edu/remembering-jane-lunin-perel)



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THE LAST WORD

HEALING GRACE

BY REV. JOSEPH J. GUIDO, O.P.

“Are you a Catholic priest?”

the caller asked.

“I am,” I said.

“My name is Seth,” he said. “I was tripping on acid last night and Jesus appeared to me and said that I should talk to a Catholic priest as soon as possible. So can you see me right now, please?” His speech was urgent, feverish even, and he hardly paused to catch his breath. Worried that he might still be under the influence of the drug or that it had triggered an incipient psychosis, I told him to meet me at my office.

He was waiting for me when I arrived. Tall, fit, and broad

shouldered, he had a mop of thick, dark hair and a disheveled look.



No sooner had we sat down than he began talking, assuring me that he had never used drugs before, “just beer and shots, you know, like everyone else,” but was eager to know, “Why did Jesus appear to me?” I wanted the answer as well, especially after he told me that he was not Christian and, in fact, had but a passing acquaintance with religion of any kind.

We spoke for the better part of two hours and as we did, his speech slowed, and he seemed more at ease. So was I. But it also became

apparent that Seth had been living multiple lives.

On the one hand, he favored the confident, jocular swagger of a frat boy interested in girls, sports, and the upcoming weekend. Less obviously, he was a student in the Honors Program, a double major in English and American studies, and a sensitive soul who always had time to listen to the sad story of a forsaken girl or a rueful buddy felt compelled to tell.

Then there was the fact that when he was 13, he came home from school one day to find his mother dead from an overdose. He never


Herein may
be the answer to
Seth's question,
“Why did
Jesus appear
to me?”


shed a tear, not then and not since, and had hardly ever talked about it with anyone, even family members, until now.

Seth and I met weekly for the better part of a year. The work was hard, painfully so. It was not only the buried grief that had to be unearthed but the welter of emotions that attended life in a family riven by secrets and bound by an unspoken agreement never to acknowledge their shared desperation. But Seth persevered and over time, his anguish dissipated and his capacity for joy and hope increased.

He also became particularly attached to an older priest, a professor of literature, who modeled for him the possibility of twinning a rigorous intellectual life with a dedicated life of faith. This led to Seth's decision to become Catholic, and at his baptism and confirmation he broke down and cried, feeling, perhaps for the first time, the lifting of the weight of his childhood and the light touch of redemption.

After graduation, he went on to graduate school, married, and became a well-known author and commentator on contemporary culture. Sadly, while still in his 30s, Seth died suddenly and unexpectedly from a massive heart attack.

The ancient Greek word *psyche* encompasses mind, soul, and spirit suggesting the intimate relationship between one's mental and spiritual life, and *therapeuein*, translated as therapy, refers to the healing

ministrations of a priest. Together they underscore what we are apt to forget, namely, that healing is an art exercised on behalf of the whole person rather than the application of a specific remedy to a discreet malady. This poses a challenge both to those who would dismiss the spiritual as a mere efflorescence of the mind and to those who unduly spiritualize suffering in an unwitting denial of the incarnational character of grace.

Herein may be the answer to Seth's question, “Why did Jesus appear to me?”

In the immediate context, the hallucination was a product of the drug; moreover, Jesus is a cultural artifact even for the non-believer. But finally, it happened because Seth needed to be healed and made whole, to begin a journey as necessary as it was improbable. It is a singular mark of Divine Grace to be forever bent in the direction of human need with the sole purpose of healing and redeeming, employing whatever it deems necessary, be it noble or base, and this for no other reason than love. ❖

Rev. Joseph J. Guido, O.P. is an assistant professor of psychology, senior staff psychologist in the Personal Counseling Center, and prior of the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas on PC's campus.





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any student can seek confidential help. — PAGE 10

