

# THE COWL



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Celebrating 80 Years  
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Providence College

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## New Plans Blooming for Providence College Community

by Daria Purdy '18  
News Staff

### CAMPUS

As the semester comes to a close, new and exciting projects for the future of Providence College are just beginning. This is exemplified by Meaghan Enright '16, who recently started the PC community garden. The garden is located in Davis Park Community

Garden, which is only a few blocks away from campus. Families in the community can pay \$20 to use a plot of land in the garden. Enright has planted seeds, which were

donated by the University of Rhode Island, on the two plots of land in the garden dedicated to PC students. Enright worked with Dr. Maia Bailey of the Biology Department to start the PC community garden. She hopes

that students will come and volunteer to help plant seeds and maintain the garden for the rest of this semester and next academic year. Over the summer, the garden will be maintained by Faith Krefft '17, an independent study student who has taken the garden on as her project. Krefft will also be working on the garden next semester.

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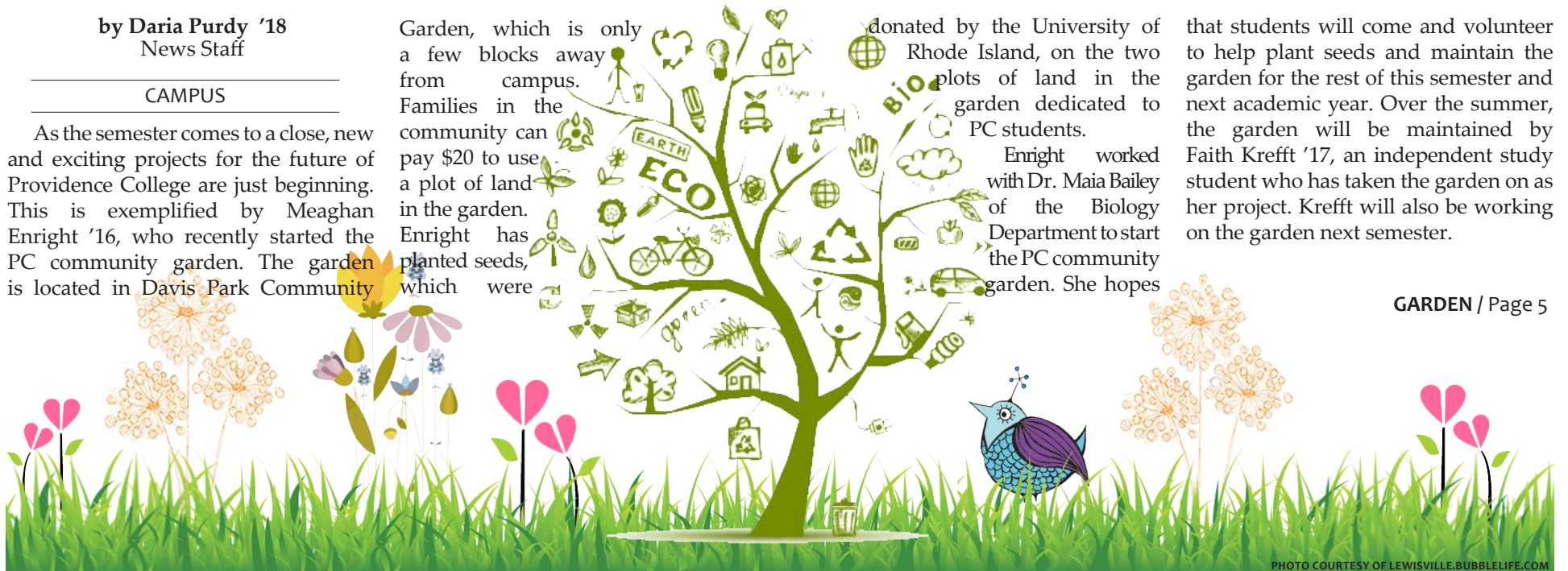


PHOTO COURTESY OF LEWISVILLE.BUBBLELIFE.COM

## Dancing Their Hearts Out

by Isabella Goldstein '17  
A&E Staff

### CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

This past weekend Providence College's Dance Company (PCDC) performed their annual spring show down at the Smith Center for the Arts. PCDC's president, Maria Costa '16, took the time to speak about her experience performing during her time at PC.

**Isabella Goldstein (IG):** What have these past four years been like for you being a company member? How has PCDC made your experience at PC more special?

**Maria Costa (MC):** PCDC has been central to my college experience. Dance has always been my passion, and finding other people who feel the same way has been both motivating and comforting during my time here at PC. PCDC offers a blend of formal rehearsal, choreography, and dance training, while still leaving plenty of room for creativity and fun for us. Freshman year, PCDC immediately became the place where I felt at home, and I feel that the company has given me the opportunity to express myself and continue practicing dance while also providing me with an amazing group of friends who share my love of dance.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GAIAONLINE.COM

## Decrease Stress and Take a Break

by Hannah Paxton '19  
Opinion Staff

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Five papers, four exams, six projects—all due in less than two week's time. This is usually only the beginning of a student's stress when approaching finals week. It is hard to think about anything else when you have not even begun that five-page Civ essay or have barely cracked open that textbook to study for the economics final. And once you have made progress, you still procrastinate every so often, whether it is people watching from your self-appointed spot in Slavin or checking your Facebook feed, because you honestly do deserve a break every five minutes. Add up all that unproductivity plus the hours you actually do spend studying, and it is hard to have time for anything else.

But even in this time of great stress and constant pressure to get things done, it is important to make time for the other parts of your life—and above all to make time for yourself.

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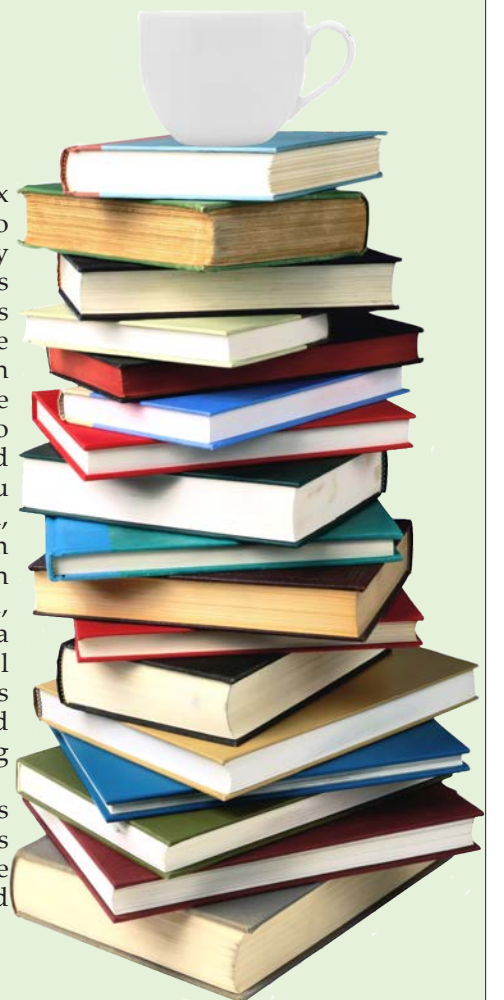


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## UNDER THE HOOD

Providence College's Student-Run Newspaper Since 1935

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### INSERT

Read our annual Commencement Insert to see who will be graduating Summa Cum Laude (page 7) and to read our graduating staff's Swan Songs (pages 2-6).



### A&E

Fans around the world have been mourning the death of the legendary pop star Prince. Read more about the musician's legacy.

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### PORTFOLIO

Check out our last Listomania of the year: Rejected Listomania Ideas.

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# NEWS

## PC Celebrates Holi: Good, Spring, and Unity *Fourth Annual Festival of Unity and Color*

by Gabriella Pisano '18  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

Good, spring, and unity. Three great things that are celebrated during the Holi Festival. On Saturday, April 23 at 2 p.m., Providence College had its Fourth Annual Holi Festival hosted by The International Student Organization.

Most people know Holi for its colorful powder that gets thrown on everyone, but it is actually much more important than that. Holi is a Hindu festival that celebrates the importance of good over evil, the arrival of spring, and unity. The festival is celebrated

with different colors of joy.

People throw powdered color and water at each other, creating a colorful and joyful atmosphere. The festival brings people together with its promise of a carefree time full of bright color and fun.

All students, staff, and faculty were invited to attend the event. There was also music and snacks at the event. Pratima Benjamin '16, president of the International Student Organization, said, "My favorite thing about the festival is seeing everyone come together. Even though PC is a smaller campus, we don't know everyone. This event brings people together and celebrates unity. I like that people of all races and backgrounds show up

and have fun together."

While the weather wasn't ideal for the event, people still attended. Benjamin said, "This year we had about 50 to 75 people attend. We usually have about 100 or more but the weather has a huge impact on the number of people who show up. It was raining in the morning and it was cloudy when the event was happening. In the past we have had a lot of sunshine."

While the event had less people in attendance than in past years, those who did attend had smiles on their faces as clouds of color surrounded them. Benjamin went on to say, "I believe that Holi is an important event on campus because it is teaching and

celebrating another culture. It is events like this that make it open for people to bring more cultural events to campus, which is something that we really need."

The International Student Organization plans other events throughout the school year that celebrate culture and recognize the diversity of the student body. Some of these events include: the International Meet and Greet where staff and students get to know each other; colorblind, where people talk about race and inclusion in today's society; and a Caribbean themed party that celebrates the culture of Caribbean students.



KRISTINA'HO'18/THE COWL

## Forever a Friar: Celebrating PC's Gratitude *Students Say What They are Thankful For at PC*

by Zak Harvey '16  
News Staff

EVENT

On Tuesday, April 19, hundreds of Friars came to the entry of Slavin to express their gratitude for Friar donors on Gratitude Day. The event was sponsored by the Office of Institutional Advancement. Like all successful events featured at the College, food was in no short supply. Students who participated in the gratitude campaign were thanked with Rhode Island Del's Lemonade and Allie's Donnuts.

While at the event, students were asked to share what they were grateful for here at Providence College. Answers ranged from the Ruane Center for the Humanities to new fitness equipment to scholarships to academic resources.

One answer that invariably touched those that saw it simply read: a Home. For many of its students, Providence truly becomes a home away from home during their four years here. A home is a place where you can learn from mistakes, thrive in the face of adversity, and strive to achieve your goals. It is within the Friar family that many students find their support whether that is an additional grant for research or the financial help to stay for one more semester.

There is no dispute that without their donors college institutions



Happy Friars show off how much gratitude they have for PC.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PCGRATITUDEDAY.TUMBLR

would not be what they are—Providence is no exception. Without the support from past generations of Friars it would be impossible for all that is happening here on campus to continue.

According to information found on Providence's website, the College received over \$19,172,523 in donations between July of 2014 and June of 2015. It is crucial to note how much it costs to operate a college like Providence. In the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2015, the College had operating expenses of \$176,553,416. From Academic Support totaling over \$18 million to Instruction totaling over \$57 million, the costs of running Providence annually are astronomical.

Looking at these numbers, one can see just how valuable each and every donor is to the College. Without the support of Friars and friends of the Friar Family, many of the opportunities PC has for its students would be just that: opportunities. With the help of alumni and the donor base, these opportunities become reality.

It is with a grateful heart that students say thank you to the donors who support each and every one of our endeavors. Most importantly, each and every student is forever grateful to be forever a Friar.

# Students and Faculty Stop the 'I-Word'

## The Providence Immigrants Rights Coalition Challenge the Word "Illegal"

by Patrick Healey '17  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

The phrase "illegal immigrant" is often tossed around lightly and without much thought, and a group of students and faculty decided to get together and discuss the implications of this common expression.

On Tuesday, April 19, in Moore Hall, the "Drop the 'i-word'" discussion was held by the Providence Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC) and advocated against the use of the word "illegal" when speaking about immigrants who do not have legal documentation in the United States. Jeff Bausch '16, one of the students responsible for "Drop the 'i-word,'" said, "We wanted to raise awareness for undocumented students on our campus, as well as those who come from mixed status families."

There were three speakers who sat in the front of the classroom and created a panel-style discussion in which there were prearranged questions on a PowerPoint; however anyone in the crowd could either comment or question as well. Professor Kara Cebulko, Professor Thea Riofrancos, and Sabine Adrian from the Providence Student Union, which works with high schools to foster positive political change in the community, started by speaking about how calling someone an "illegal immigrant" or "illegal" in any sense is actually grammatically incorrect. They

explained that illegal is an adjective and calling someone "an illegal" would be using it as a noun, making it an incorrect use of the English language.

Next, the panel discussed how the word is often used by people and the media to create boundaries and a culture of exclusivity. Citing someone as "illegal" has an extremely negative connotation to it, and thus can create hate and stereotypes. One of the PowerPoints slides read, "Illegal should be used to describe actions, not human beings." Underaged drinking was used as an example: if someone under the legal drinking age has a drink, no one ever refers to that person as an illegal. There were a few more of these eye-opening examples that proved how strange and foolish it is that the term "illegal immigrant" or "illegal alien" was even coined.

Next, the speakers discussed how labeling someone as "illegal" does great psychological damage to that person and often creates a lack of self-worth within the individual being labeled. To be called illegal is to be called unworthy and to be told one does not belong. It was explained that statistics have shown that rates of anxiety and depression in children go up if they hear their parents being called "illegal." Children living with parents who are labeled "illegal" often fear that their parents will be taken from them, and what people do not understand is that the word "illegal," while often thrown around, actually carries a lot of hurtful weight.

Additionally, the word "illegal," because of its ominous nature, makes people uncomfortable about coming out to others about their legal status. The law that is being broken if one comes to the

United States in an illegal fashion is civil, and not criminal, yet the word "illegal" typically conjures up criminal images.

This event ended with the question that many people seemed eager to have answered: what is the best alternative to the phrase "illegal immigrant?" While it was repeatedly stated that labeling any group is not inclusive and generally harmful, the best alternative, if it must be used, is "undocumented" because it does not have the same dehumanizing qualities that the word "illegal" carries. When asked what PIRC wished to achieve with the event, Bausch commented, "Undocumented immigrants are present on our campus at PC, and it is important to continue to foster an inclusive on-campus environment."

It was also mentioned that to advocate for the end of the use of "illegal," one needs to express that a change in language can often yield a change in conscience; there are stickers available in the BMSA office that advocate for the stoppage of "illegal." Perhaps the most powerful statement during the whole event was written on the concluding PowerPoint slide: "Dehumanizing language contributes to a society that accepts dehumanizing treatment as 'justified.'" Overall, "Drop the 'i-word'" helped bring up an issue that often goes unaddressed yet is very hurtful to many people.



PHOTO COURTESY OF USSEEK.COM

# Women in the Workforce: Alumna Presents Current Challenges

## Motivation, Risks, and Perseverance are Key to Success

by Marla Gagne '18  
News Co-Editor

WORKSHOP

"It takes a lot more for you to be number one than for him to be number one," said Jeanne Benincasa '90. Benincasa, a Providence College graduate, has seen first-hand the struggles of working in male-dominated industries. Whether it is in her work in the government, public relations, or her own business, she has surpassed obstacles and difficulties to find her own success.

On April 19, 2016, in the Ruane Center for the Humanities, Benincasa addressed around 30 female students who are planning to one day enter the business world. Benincasa recalls her own days as a PC student, when she thought she was going pre-med, becoming class president, and then studying abroad for a semester. But soon after starting college, she realized her "do it all" attitude at PC was not possible.

By her second year at PC, she was more involved in school, belonging to Campus Ministry and Friars Club; she also expanded her social life, which made it difficult to keep up her grades. She also realized her plans to study abroad as a biology major were impossible if she wanted to graduate on time. This was the start of many important decision-making moments in her life. She asked herself, "What are you going to do in your four years?"

She felt it was an important time to "challenge myself [herself]" and decided to change her major to political science and still study abroad. By the time she graduated a few years later, she was moving down to Washington, D.C. to work for a senator, hoping to work with legislation. "I was going to run the show," said Benincasa. But her PC education and big dreams were

not enough to combat a mostly male-dominated world.

Instead of becoming the next Congresswoman, Benincasa was opening mail at a small desk in a senator's office. Women at the time were only seen when working behind the scenes in government, planning meetings, and lobbying. For Benincasa, this was a new experience. PC was a world of equality, and she did not feel discriminated against in the classroom. Benincasa would not continue doing a job that she felt was moving her nowhere.

Instead she found a new job with Rendon Group, a public relations firm with an all female staff. In this new environment, there "didn't seem like there was a glass ceiling." The group was competitive and the environment was stressful, but the staff was also close-knit and worked together in a way that is essential for business.

Just like in her college days, Benincasa's new plan took an unexpected turn. While representing

Kuwait's government in the Gulf War, she and other staff members were terrorized and had to go undercover with FBI protection. She had to stop her work, change her name, and move out of the country; she was constantly guarded by security and lived out of hotel rooms.

After this difficult and scary time, Benincasa had the choice of returning to the Rendon Group to finish her job or move on. She thought about her time at PC—studying for tough exams, balancing her clubs, negotiating with bad roommates. She thought about the skills she used to get her job in the first place—motivation, perseverance, self-confidence, adaptability, leadership. She had worked hard to get through all of these stages of her life and decided to finish the job she started.

From then on, Benincasa had a variety of jobs. She used her skills from her PC days to work for President Clinton's political campaign, own her own companies, create disaster plans for the state of Massachusetts, and work

for Homeland Security. Throughout all of this, she kept her eye on her goal—being a leader in whatever industry she worked in. The entire time she was a risk taker and stayed motivated, embodying the qualities she looks for in her own employees.

As students look for internships and job opportunities, Benincasa encourages them to find mentors whose style and work they admire. She also emphasized networking with alumni, who are eager to help and have connections across the country in many different industries.

Within the next year, Benincasa will be helping to write a screenplay that recreates her experience with the Rendon Group when living under the Witness Protection program. As her younger children finish up high school and start college, she also plans to jump back into her work at full speed, moving back to D.C. to continue her career and take risks as a businesswoman and leader.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIRECTSELLINGNEWS.COM

## Bursting the PC Bubble

by David Toro '16  
News Staff

### Bluefin Tuna Population Drops 97 Percent

Following increased demand and popularity, Pacific bluefin tuna fishing has soared and the species might be close to becoming commercially extinct. In the past, international regulations have set limits on how much tuna can be fished, but these limits have been ignored and little legal action has been taken. The Pacific bluefin tuna population is thought to have peaked in the 1960s and has steadily declined since. Japan consumes close to 80 percent of the world's supply of bluefin tuna. Last year, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission was unable to reach a decision concerning the long-term and short-term measures needed to help restore Bluefin tuna numbers. Making these decisions can be challenging since bluefin tuna live for 40 years and effects can take a long time to play out. In 2014, the population was estimated to be 26,000 tons; the most recent estimate has put the population at 17,000 tons.

### France Fines McDonald's for Tax Evasion

McDonald's has been fined \$341 million by France for funneling profits through Luxembourg and Switzerland. McDonald's was using this process to shift profits to lower-tax jurisdictions in order to pay less tax in France. Since 2014, McDonald's has paid close to €1.2 billion in taxes. Also in 2014, French McDonald's offices had been searched by French tax officials following allegations posted by *L'Expansion*, a French business magazine.

### Volkswagen Emission Scandal Ticket Price: \$18 Billion

This past Friday, Volkswagen (VW) released full-year earnings. It reported a loss of \$6.2 billion following the great diesel car scandal. VW also cut its dividend from €4.86 per share to €0.11 per share. When the scandal hit, VW said it needed roughly €6.7 billion to deal with the crisis worldwide. However, VW has now said that it has set aside €16.2 billion, more than double the original prediction. Last year, VW placed software in its vehicles that detected when a car was undergoing an emissions inspection. This software would change the engine's mode to immediately have less power and performance to pass emissions testing. Now, VW plans to repurchase or fix almost 500,000 diesel cars in the U.S. alone.

### Saudi Connection to 9/11 Plotters Made

New declassified documents are making the media question the connection between Saudi Arabia and the 9/11 attacks. The FBI prepared a work plan with 47 pages of information that was classified until this past July. Even declassified, 28 pages of the document details remain classified. Amidst new information, it is believed that these classified pages illuminate the connection between Saudi Arabia and the attacks.

## Congress Updates

by Marla Gagne '18  
News Co-Editor

STUDENT CONGRESS

The 66th Congress is adjourned.  
The 67th Congress had its first meeting.

*See you next  
year!*



## Club Spotlight: Photography Club

*Engaging Students Through Photographs*

by Sarah Gianni '18  
News Staff

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

As the school year comes to an end, there are many students wishing that their time at Providence College could last just a little bit longer. While there is no way to extend the school year and all of the activities and events it brings, students can capture these moments on campus by joining the PC Photography Club. The Photography Club is an organization on campus that works to engage the entire student body in a common interest of photography. As it is open to all majors and minors, you do not need any prior experience to participate.

"The photography club has been around for about five years, and currently has about 10 to 15 active members," said Vice President Kerry Smith '17. The club, which used to meet in Hunt-Cavanagh, has now changed their meeting location to Slavin; this move has dramatically increased attendance. The Photography Club helps to organize events such as a campus-wide scavenger hunt, photography lessons, and field trips to scenic destinations and various photo galleries in the area.

"During my sophomore year we were able to host a trip to the RISD museum as well as create our own shadow box cameras," said Smith. "The club also runs the Humans of Providence College Facebook page, which shares photos of various members of the Providence College community."

This Facebook page strives to bring campus members closer by displaying images with accompanying quotations

that give a "voice" to the faces that we see everyday. In addition, these photos and short quotes help followers to recognize the individuality and value of each person on campus. All students who are interested in taking photos, expanding their creative side, or who are simply curious about the club are encouraged to attend any photography club meeting.

The club meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in Slavin LL19. For more information, contact Ellie Dorsch '16 at edorsch@friars.providence.edu.



# Garden: Meaghan Enright '16 Cultivates More Than Soil

Continued from front page



Community members work together to plant seeds donated from the University of Rhode Island in the new PC Garden.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEAGHAN ENRIGHT '16

On April 16, Enright organized the planting day for the garden. Many other members of the community were there. Enright described the variety of people there as being of every age, and people brought their babies and even their dogs. Dr. Nicholas Longo of the Global Studies Department also attended the event.

Enright hopes that the produce grown in the garden can benefit PC

in the future. She hopes to one day “possibly have a farmers market on campus, or even food at the salad bar at Ray that we can say was grown locally, in fact a few blocks away from campus.” Enright also hopes that clubs on campus will go to the garden to weed or plant and gain community service hours. The goal of the garden, according to Enright, is to “get people engaged in their community and working together

for something, and to demonstrate the importance of local food.” The garden is also meant to get students off campus and to lessen the barriers between PC and the community. Enright hopes the garden will alleviate the trepidation students feel when they venture off campus, and encourage them to interact with the community through the garden.

Enright highlights the importance of responsible consumer choices.

Every time a consumer buys a product, they are supporting the system that creates that product. Enright emphasizes the importance of consuming locally grown food to support local food movements. As Enright says, supporting locally grown food “helps you realize your power as an individual. You might not think you can make a huge change, but as an individual you have so much power.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIPARTPANDA.COM

## PC Shoots, PC Scores: Panel Discussion

AMA Hosts Open Panel Featuring the Athletic Marketing Department

by Gabrielle Shkreli '17  
News Staff

MARKETING

Kris Dunn '17, Kevin Rooney '16, Ben Bentil '18, Brandon Tanev '16—these are just a few of the names that may come to mind when discussing Providence College’s Division I sports program. But what about the people working behind the scenes?

This past Thursday, April 21, PC’s chapter of the American Marketing Association hosted an open panel featuring several members of the Athletic Marketing Department. The event took place in the Slavin Overlook Lounge from 6-7 p.m. and was open to all PC students.

In total, four members of the Athletic Department were present, each serving as representatives for their respective offices. They included: Senior Assistant Director of Athletic Media Relations, Mike Tilley, Marketing Graduate Assistant, Brian Catinella, Assistant AD/Ticket Operations and Data Analysis, Andrew Schoepfer, and Director of Sales, Erin Dunn.

The session began with the panel members giving a quick overview of what their jobs entail. While much of their work has to do with selling tickets and pushing consumer loyalty through special season ticket programs, the representatives revealed that much of the behind-the-scenes action is all about keeping sponsors satisfied.

Whether it be placing Big Tony’s

Pizza on free T-shirts at basketball games or featuring the ROTC Muscle Cam on the big screen in Schneider Arena, all panel members must work together throughout the entirety of each PC game in order to ensure that all sponsors are being represented and that fans are having fun in the process.

After providing the students with brief introductions, the panel members opened the floor to any and all student questions regarding the school’s sports programs and their corresponding marketing strategies. While hockey was mentioned a few times, the majority of the discussion centered on the Providence College’s Men’s Basketball Team.

One of the first questions asked regarded how the marketing department remains competitive with both the popular professional

and collegiate sports teams in the Boston area. In general, all four panel members stressed the importance of demographics and understanding the target market.

Catinella explained, “The hardest person to sell to is the Providence College student. Right now, we are focusing on young money, the young millennials in the city that are willing to spend more and get drawn into the experience.”

Another question raised pertained to how the marketing team adjusts their strategies during bad sports seasons. In this instance, the panel placed an emphasis upon selling the experience and putting more of a focus upon the school’s historical impact on sports.

Again, Catinella stated, “At the end of the day, winning sells. We have to find a way to find that new draw to the

game. We have to sell the experience more so than the team performance. The better we craft and control that season’s narrative, the better we do our jobs.”

Many students also displayed an interest in how “Kris Dunn [is a] phenomenon,” a player leaving in the middle of their collegiate career in order to enter a professional draft; this affects the marketing process. There appeared to be a unanimously positive reaction from the group. Catinella replied, “That’s a good problem. Who doesn’t want to associate their brand with a top five draft pick?”

After addressing the “Dunn” question, students voiced their desire to find out more about the marketing department’s narrative for the upcoming season. Panel members divulged two possibilities for next year’s campaign: Bentil’s role as a star player, if he decides to return, or a focus on the bench players in regards to who will be the next man to step up.

As the discussion came to a close, panel members offered the students seeking jobs in the sports marketing field some advice. While networking and relationship building were stressed, all agreed that the key to working in sports marketing is passion. They said, “The first year in sports is a test of how bad you want it. If you can get through the first year, you’ll get a job offer for sure.”



The Athletic Marketing Department speaks to PC about the marketing process for PC Athletics.

KRISTINA HO '18/THE COWL

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[gnigro@friars.providence.edu](mailto:gnigro@friars.providence.edu)



# OPINION

## Forever A Friar *Thanking the Providence College Community*



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE-ADMISSIONS.TUMBLR.COM

by Wesley Trask '16  
Opinion Staff

COMMUNITY

The term "Friar Family" gets thrown around on this campus a lot. Everyone at Providence College is referred to as a Friar, regardless of their religious vows or affiliation with athletic teams. Every school around the country probably talks about the family that is their community, but few can really claim that their campus produces the same atmosphere of inclusion and togetherness as exists at PC.

Being only weeks from graduating can make someone really contemplate what they have. I have found myself thinking often about things like what this campus means to me. It would not be wrong to say that this campus feels

like home. After all, I have lived here for four years and always know where to go and what to do. I know where to go for a late night snack, where to go to watch the game, and the fastest way to get anywhere. It would seem I have come a long way from when I had my first tour of the campus from my orientation leader four years ago.

Home, however, is not just a place where you know where everything is. It is also a place where the people around you know and care about you. That is certainly the case at PC. Maybe it is a bit of a bad sign that Fausto always knows I want a chicken patty and fries when he first spots me, or that I can get the drink I want at McPhail's without opening my mouth. Still, it is always nice to hear a "Hey Wes" wherever I go. Whenever I go to Ray, I know I will always see Dot, and she will always ask how I am

doing and tell me what she thought about my latest article in *The Owl*. It always feels like any employee at PC is more than a Sodexo employee or a physical plant worker or a security guard. Perhaps it is because every student will probably come across every employee of the school at some point that the campus feels like one close-knit community, but even smaller schools cannot claim to have this atmosphere of togetherness that PC does.

Generations of PC students are tied together by their four years here. There are the dorms, Ray, the athletic teams, and, of course, Civ. This is where the true magic of PC comes from. Whether you meet an alumnus from 10 years ago or 30 years ago, you can share the experience of Civ. Alumni all over the country probably went through the same range of emotions

as on campus students during last month's basketball game against USC. As a senior, I seem to hear stories all the time about my fellow classmates finding a job thanks to the help of an alumnus they met.

From everyone holding doors open, to the friendliness of everyone you come across around campus, or any other factor, the community that is Providence College is a powerful one. College can be a really stressful time, but having an environment where one feels comfortable and accepted makes everything easier. The Friar Family has made the last four years of mine and countless other Friars the best of our lives so far, and having the opportunity to be part of this community is an experience that lasts a lifetime.

## A Thank You To Dr. Esolen

### *A Professor who Plays an Integral Role in Shaping Students*

by Matt Tinsley '16  
Opinion Staff

GRATITUDE

It takes a unique person to inspire us, refine and embolden our thinking, and make a lasting impact on our college experience. It takes a rare talent to reach students, carefully walk them through some of the greatest literary works in human history, and prepare them for a lifetime of learning. You may have had a professor at Providence College who played an integral role in your formation as a student, as a leader in your community, and as a person. For me, that person was Dr. Anthony Esolen.

Of all the great courses offered to us here, I submit one for your consideration: Dr. Esolen's Literature of Spiritual Crisis. In a note to us at the start of the semester, Dr. Esolen wrote:

*"Dear Students,  
Sometimes the most wondrous things are those that lie before us every day, which we see so often that we fail to take note of how strange they really are. The subject of spiritual crisis is, I believe, one of those very things."*

Many of us wondered what this "crisis" was, what it meant for someone to be in spiritual turmoil, and how, all too often, our gaze misses this condition all around us. So we began reading Fyodor Dostoyevsky,



Dr. Esolen speaks at his lecture, The Art of The Beautiful, at NYU.

PHOTOS COURTESY OFCATHOLICARTISTSOCIETY.ORG

C.S. Lewis, Romano Guardini, Sigrid Undset, Joseph Pieper, and several other authors whose works capture the essence of the human condition.

We followed characters through difficult times, through pivotal moments that revealed their brokenness and the deepest longings of their hearts. We encountered

characters in the throes of acedia, spiritual poverty, and restlessness in their souls. We followed them in their ascent toward truth, beauty, and goodness: their journey toward truly loving God.

The great invitation of Dr. Esolen's Literature of Spiritual Crisis is to learn what it really means to be human.

The course is caught squarely at the intersection between English and theology, and thus it sheds light on what it means to be a created being, endowed with invaluable dignity and destined for eternal happiness. We learn of the intrinsic value of human life and the goodness of communal living, the pillars of the Catholic social tradition.

Equipped with an education rich in the liberal arts, we perceive the world around us through a whole new lens. We see characters from literature alive in our community today, thus affirming that human beings have faced many of the same challenges throughout history. Contemporary moral issues are oftentimes the 2016 version of a previous crisis, repackaged and presented anew. Indeed, as we read the great literature of the Western tradition, we can recognize and encounter the world that we know around us.

Calling all those who wish to explore the deep and beautiful complexities of the human drama. If you have a free elective, I recommend Dr. Esolen's class. It takes a special person to make education exciting, to make stories come to life, and to inspire you to learn more. No other professor is more dedicated to reaching students, motivating them, and responding to their needs than Dr. Esolen. He has made an impact on my life that I won't soon forget.

# Keep Making Change

## Graduates and Undergrads Must Still Fight for Progress

by Edward Walrod '16  
Opinion Staff

PROGRESS

As seniors wrap up their last week of classes, the sudden realization hits that many of the faces who we have come to associate with the College itself will be leaving. Gone like the wind. Han Solo falling into the pit. Jean jackets from the early 2000s. The Class of 2016 gone. What will happen afterward?

This year has been huge, and undoubtedly one that was indicative of colleges all over the United States. Our campus was gripped with protests for the past year as it struggled to address its own issues with racism, sexism, and homophobia, searching for answers in its Catholic identity. Such issues were juxtaposed with the grand-scale transformations the College has begun to undertake from Alumni Hall to Anderson Stadium to Huxley Avenue/East Campus. Our campus and many of our sports teams exemplified the momentum the College has sought to gain for the past decade or so.

It has truly been a year that had its ups and downs. Ones that birthed campus leaders and tested the administration's ability to respond. Some of these leaders came from the Class of 2016 and, yes, they are leaving. But the College's entire theme for the previous two years

has been momentum. The mission of upcoming classes is to continue as 2016 leaves.

Much was left unaccomplished, and the dialogue that currently exists needs to be continuously developed. This is a daunting task, and convincing everyone that such dialogue needs to continue and that further change needs to be implemented will be an enormously difficult task in and of itself. The Class of 2016 didn't have all the answers and no one class after it will.

Which is all the more reason the next few classes will need greater lines of communication than previously established with the student body, administration, and faculty. One could only imagine

how much further dialogues on this campus would have gone if all sides had opened channels of communication far sooner than had been the case.

Pick up where we have succeeded and rebuild where we as the Class of 2016 has failed. This campus' physical beauty

can only make you so happy before a rotten core class causes much of your distress... That being said, it is going to be pretty freaking beautiful, which angers me that I am missing it. Like, seriously? Four years of college tuition and I miss what my money has been invested in?

This is also directed toward the Class of 2016. Our undergrad days may be over, but now our days as agents of change for the larger world as a whole start. Pick up where we left off at PC and change the world for the better. The way we pay it forward, become engaged citizens, and, yes, search for that all important veritas is by engaging the world around us and changing it for the better...that also means don't vote for Trump or Cruz...like, if you find truth in

we ultimately just can't control. As the valedictorian of Hingham High Class of 2011 once said, "Life is like spin art. No matter how hard you try to make those perfect spirals that come advertised on the box, it will always be a mess." So have fun with your mess and pass it forward.

Thank you to *The Cowl* readers for the past four years. To everyone whose struggles have become my reason for writing. For the communities of racial, ethnic, and cultural minorities on campus, keep on fighting. To the LGBTQIAA community (of which I am a proud G) thank you for continuing to fight for everyone, even if people like me were not as active as they should have been. To those facing gender discrimination, keep kicking ass

Trump or Cruz, just stop searching. You're done. Stop. Please.

Most of all have fun. Do crazy things. Burn a couch. Defeat Man-Ray and the Dirty Bubble. With all the talk about effecting change on campus, we can all forget to enjoy college. That's the most important part. Don't end up stressing about things that

and showing everyone that you are equals below no one.

It has truly been an honor writing for all of you and the paper. \*Drops mic while Beyoncé dances and sings in the background and Taylor Swift cries with joy\* Edward out.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOCALSONLY401.COM

# The Importance of Being Yourself

## College is the Time to Explore Your Identity

by Taylor Godfrey '19  
Opinion Staff

SOCIAL SCENE

As my freshman year of college comes to a close, I have had some time to think about what has happened throughout the year and the period of adjustment that all freshmen go through. College is a time to try new things, a place where usually no one knows you or has any of the preconceived notions about you that some high school peers may have. It is a time, at least I thought, where I could be someone new and different, a completely different me for a completely different chapter of my life. However, I have learned that that is not what college is really about. This time in our lives is not about becoming a different person entirely, but instead about better crafting and understanding the person that each of us already is.

I thought that my college experience was supposed to be about reinventing myself, about becoming the person my high-school self had always wanted to be. I tried to create a new persona for myself, someone who was more outgoing and what I thought was more interesting, but eventually it became exhausting to keep up the façade. What I did not understand was that there was nothing wrong with the person I already was. I just needed to appreciate and accept myself for who I was, not who I thought I should be.

This is not to say that people cannot change or that fresh starts are a bad thing. The wonderful thing about people is that we are always changing, always becoming new

versions of ourselves. It is just that this reinvention should come from a place of self-understanding and acceptance, not from a place of hatred or resentment. We should not want to change ourselves because we do not like our old selves, but because we want to be the best versions of the people we already are.

College is one of the best places to truly become your best self. There are so many new clubs and opportunities that it is



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
BE  
YOURSELF

PHOTO COURTESY OF REDBUBBLE.COM

easy to find your niche, to really find the things that you love and the people who will support you.

But there is no sense in participating in activities that you do not enjoy or trying to act in a certain way just to fit an ideal mold in your head. Sometimes there is a lot of pressure—oftentimes from the perceived notions about people around us—to act a certain way or be a certain person. And a college setting can seem like the perfect place to put that new character or personality into practice. Yet, there is nothing to be gained from being false and everything to be gained from understanding ourselves and learning more about who we already are.

I have learned since the beginning of last semester that I am not truly that person I was trying so hard to be. I can admit that I am more introverted and all of those books I eventually brought to school and stacked in my room are actually (gasp!) for pleasure reading. And that is okay, actually that is more than okay. There are all kinds of people in the world and that diversity is what makes our lives so interesting.

I am still in the process of finding myself (however cliché that may seem), but I have realized that by accepting myself for who I really am—not who I wished I could be—I have found the activities that I truly enjoy and the friends that appreciate and support me just as I am. So college should be a time to explore and try new things, to take risks and to really make the time count. But it should also be a time of introspection and understanding, a time when we can truly grow as people and better understand and appreciate ourselves in the context of these new and exciting experiences.



# Bring Intramural Softball to the Fall

## *The Best Intramural Sport Deserves More Game Time*

by Kevin Copp '18  
Opinion Staff

SPORTS

The intramural program at Providence College is unmatched. It was recently named the number one intramural program for participation in the country by *The Princeton Review*, and it inspires enormous excitement among students who are eager to win a T-shirt. Yet one intramural sport stands out because it goes beyond simply winning. Intramural softball is the best sport anyone at PC can play, and it should be played in the spring and the fall.

The main reason that softball has asserted its dominance in the intramural sphere is because of the new softball field. The fences now sit at a nearly perfect length; home runs are not necessarily easy to come by, but they are never out of reach. It has become every right-handed hitter's dream to crush a homer off the side of Suites Hall. And for lefties, a parking lot full of cars is the landing zone. The turf on the new field also makes the average student feel like a pro, and the dugouts are huge. The game is better because the experience for the player is better.

The nature of intramural softball also makes for an exciting game. It is fast-paced; games are seven innings but are scheduled only 50 minutes apart. There is barely any time between innings, and

each batter gets a maximum of only three pitches per at bat. No dead time exists at all. Additionally, the potential capability of each batter makes the game very alluring. Teams pitch to their own hitters, so the batter receives good pitches; this puts the emphasis on hitting and scoring runs. Each batter walks up to the plate knowing that he or she can have a huge impact on the game.

Finally, the fact that the new field is being used so extensively for intramurals during the official softball season indicates that it is likely available during the off-season as well. It would be a shame to see the field used so little during the fall, especially during September when the weather tends to cooperate much more than in April. The participation in the spring season has been off the charts, with well over thirty teams signed up for the Men's B league. While it isn't likely the same amount of teams would sign up in the coming fall with other sports going on, the mere existence of the fall league would draw many teams and create a tradition that would allow participation to grow in future years. The exciting brand of softball played during intramurals and the new field makes fall ball a virtual necessity.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIVERCSPTS.COM

## Finals: You Need a Break from Studying

Continued from front page

According to a Harvard study, we are typically thinking of something other than what we are doing in a particular moment at least 47 percent of the time. We spend a lot of our day thinking about everything we need to do, especially in times of busyness and tension. Our focus is almost always on anything and everything other than ourselves.

When we distract ourselves with other thoughts and do not concentrate on ourselves, this can add to a lot of the stress we are experiencing. With finals looming over our heads, it is easy to fall into the mentality

that we constantly need to be doing work—studying for exams, writing essays, preparing presentations. We never allow ourselves an ounce of free time. But as backward as it seems, we should always aim to allow more time to do things not for our classes, but for ourselves.

It is not about procrastinating work for as long as possible but rather realizing that we will only put more pressure on ourselves if we are in a constant study mode that never allows us to take a break. It is a challenging thing to do most of the time, letting ourselves slow down, but we need

to have some downtime. You do not necessarily have to be by yourself, though that is often where we can find the most relaxation, but setting aside periods of time to do things you like is beneficial to your finals mindset.

Making time for ourselves is crucial not only to give our anxious minds a break, but also to help keep our focus. When we spend too much time studying, we are not processing the information as well as we were when we first sat down in the library and opened our books. But when you allow yourself to take a break and put some distance between you and the books,

you feel more energized when you go back to it later; that time studying is more beneficial and productive than it would have been if you had pulled an all-nighter. If you find yourself asking if you deserve a rest from writing that essay, chances are you probably do, and you should take it.

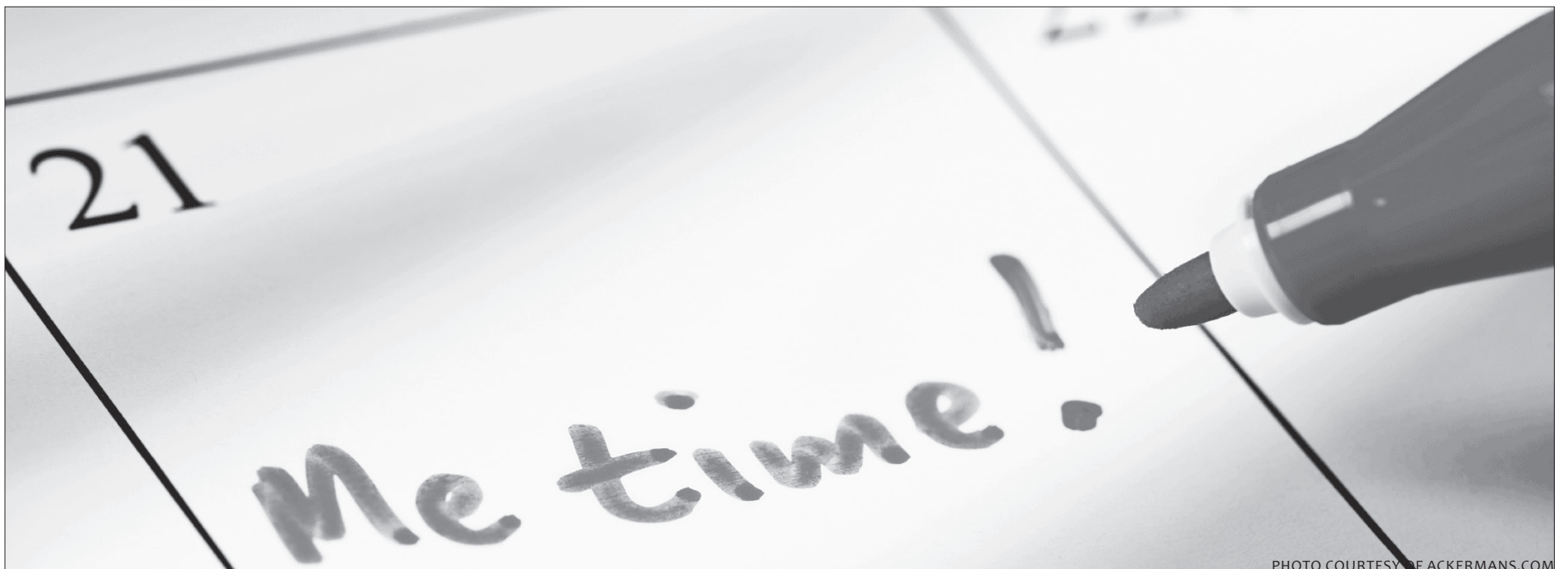


PHOTO COURTESY OF ACKERMANS.COM





# PHOTOGRAPHY

The Cowl 11  
April 28, 2016



KIMBERLY LEZAMA '18/ THE COWL



KIMBERLY LEZAMA '18/ THE COWL



KRISTINA HO '18/ THE COWL

**ABOVE:** Students gather together on Slavin Lawn to play with baby barnyard animals, sponsored by BOP.

**BELOW:** Students attend Holi, a Hindu festival that celebrates the different colors of joy, by throwing powdered colors and water at each other, sponsored by the International Student Organization.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Students attend a workshop where they learn the importance of cyber security and of caring for their electronic devices, co-sponsored by Career Education Center, Department of Philosophy, and the Liberal Arts Honors Program.

**TOP LEFT:** Students celebrate and learn about Hispanic culture at the Latin Carnival, sponsored by OLAS.  
**TOP RIGHT:** Students of the Class of 2017 order rings from the Balfour Ring Company, sponsored by the Class of 2017.  
**BELOW:** The HD (Hall Director) and RAs of McVinney Hall host an event where student residents have the chance to pie their RA. Proceeds from the event were used to buy a gift for ABM workers.



KIMBERLY LEZAMA '18/ THE COWL



KRISTINA HO '18/ THE COWL



KRISTINA HO '18/ THE COWL



# PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

## *How are you going to spend your summer vacation?*



*"Summer school."*  
Megan Onyundo '19



*"Visit my friends in Buenos Aires, Argentina."*  
Pedro Alemán '17



*"Babysitting, going to my new hometown of Gilbert, Arizona, and going abroad to the Czech Republic and Paris."*  
Haley Rayment '18, Ivy Barclay '18, and  
Phionna-Cayola Claude '18



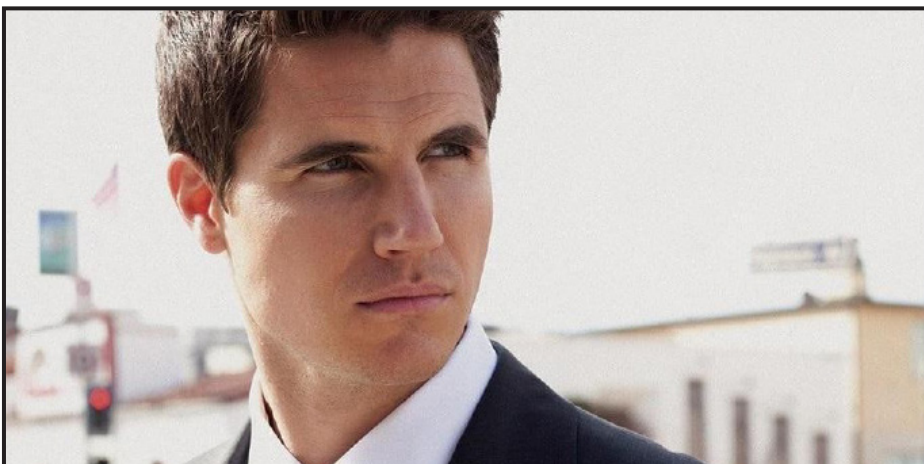
*"Making that money for abroad and summer internship."*  
Amanda Wozniak '18, Richard Gonzalez '18,  
and Stachel Roberts '18



*"Go back home to England and go to Rio to see my brother play."*  
Tadas Jalinskas '18, Matt Raffoul '18, and  
Cameron Hughes '17



*"Summer job, internship in Rhode Island, and golfing."*  
Alex Jenkins '19, Christian Giacondino '18, John Boardman  
'19, and Scott Melbourne '19



*"By getting a tan."*

**-Robbie Amell**

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.FANSSHARE.COM

**Photos Taken By Kimberly Lezama '18, Assistant Photo Editor**



## Dance: An Interview with Maria Costa '16

Continued from front page



Members of PCDC during the Spring Dance Concert.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE THEATRE, DANCE, AND FILM

**IG:** What will you miss most about PCDC?

**MC:** I am going to miss all of the incredible friends that I have made through PCDC. Dancing has a unique quality that seems to instantly bond dancers together, because we understand each other—we understand the commitments that we make to our rehearsals, the drive that we feel to perfect technique, and the excitement we share in getting to dance and perform together. I will miss the special energy that PCDC has and the many traditions that we hold. I will miss knowing that no matter what stress I have or whatever is going on, that PCDC is a definite part of my schedule, and I will especially miss getting to dance alongside some of my best friends at PC multiple times a week.

**IG:** What has been your most memorable experience?

**MC:** My most memorable experience with PCDC is definitely the audition process that we go through each fall. The excitement of all of

the dancers is palpable as it mixes with all the company members reuniting for the first time after summer break. Auditions always make me very excited to see what new members are going to join us, because this process also means welcoming new members into our PCDC family. It is so special and fun to get to share dance with new friends and watch PCDC grow and transform into something new each year.

**IG:** What is the bond you have developed with your five fellow senior members like?

**MC:** I am incredibly grateful to have shared my time on PCDC with Audrey, Christina, Wheels, Ketch, and Abby. The six of us have a very fun group dynamic and I am so lucky to have them as some of my best friends at PC. They are each absolutely wonderful people and beautiful dancers, and we have definitely become very close during our years dancing together. We all have a lot of PCDC pride, and will never let go of our love for PCDC—we'll always be connected by dance

and by the many experiences that we have shared.

**IG:** Can you describe to me what it felt like to perform your last dance on stage as a PCDC member?

**MC:** Performing our last dance as PCDC members on stage was an overwhelming and emotional experience. The other seniors and I worked hard to create this dance together, and even though we were excited and proud to perform it for our friends and families, it was a more emotionally complex moment for us. As we were dancing, we all knew that there were 16 amazing friends and dancers standing, watching us from the wings, who we would have to say goodbye to. This realization was very challenging, but it was so comforting and empowering to have five people who understand what it's like to go through such a whirlwind of emotions. The six of us definitely expressed our connection and friendship as we danced together one last time, and I think that the opportunity to celebrate our friendship and our dedication to PCDC through dance was truly invaluable.

**IG:** What does your future in dance look like? How do you plan on keeping dance a part of your life?

**MC:** Dance has always been an integral part of who I am, so wherever I go I will always find a way to dance. I'm moving forward to graduate school, but I have already started researching dance companies in the area where I'll be studying and plan to attend some of those auditions this summer and fall. I taught Children's Dance here at PC and fell in love with teaching dance, so I also hope to potentially find work teaching dance somewhere in my future. It is extremely important to me to always save time for dance, so I have confidence that I'll always find a way to keep dancing throughout my life. I won't be too far from Providence, so PCDC can definitely expect some alumna visits whenever possible!

Thank you for your time Maria. You are a beautiful dancer and carry yourself with grace on and off stage! Good luck with everything that you do!

## Singing the Night Away

by Elizabeth Jancsy '18  
A&E Staff  
CAMPUS

If you have ever seen the movie *Pitch Perfect*, you are no stranger to the college a cappella scene. Crazy Riff-Offs, insane beat boxing, and mind-blowing solos are not only seen on the big screen; in fact, all of that and more was displayed on stage Saturday night and Sunday afternoon at Providence College's Senior A Cappella Show.

Every semester, the three talented a cappella groups here on campus grace our ears with the sounds of current pop hits, classic rock, and a few throwbacks during a wonderful concert featuring Anaclastic (all-female group), Special Guest (all-male group), and Strictly Speaking (co-ed group). Typically each group will suggest songs for their set list, go about picking the songs, and hold auditions for the solos within their group; however, something special about the senior show is that each

senior picks and sings his or her own song.

Every performance celebrated the essence of each senior and who they are. Of course being a senior also means saying goodbye, and with that comes quite a few tears on stage. "Anaclastic and PC a cappella has become my family here at PC and some of my best friends. My Providence College experience would not be the same without them," said Meg Enright '16, who is a member and co-music director of Anaclastic as well as co-president of the A Cappella Club.

One can definitely feel that sense of community when watching these performers on stage. Every person looks so engaged and passionate as they bring familiar tunes to life. On Saturday night, Anaclastic opened the show with three senior songs followed by a lovely group song that honored all three seniors. Strictly Speaking was next up and members gave touching speeches before each senior's song, sharing memories and wonderful sentiments. Finally, Special Guest



PC's Strictly Speaking poses for a photo. PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE'S STRICTLY SPEAKING

closed the night with their graduating seniors and a fun Disney medley.

I was blown away with the talent that was shared at the concert. It is one thing to simply sing a song with a track in the background like so many artists do today, but this was all vocal chords and raw talent. Kelvin Oppong '16 expressed his feelings about being a part of Special Guest, saying, "It's a great way to express myself artistically and it's a great way to celebrate the talent around me."

A feeling of festivity was in the air at this concert as the groups showcased what they have been working on for the past semester and celebrated of the seniors that have called a cappella their family here at PC. Do not think watching *Pitch Perfect* will provide the full a cappella effect; you must see these groups live. If you missed PC a cappella this time around, make sure to mark your calendars for next year's performances; the show is one hot ticket here at PC.

# The Legacy of Prince

## Saying Goodbye to a Musical Genius

by Kealy Robertson '16  
A&E Staff

### MUSIC

The world lost one of the most iconic, forward-thinking artists and musicians last Thursday, April 21, 2016. Prince, a songwriter, producer, singer, and one-man performer was found dead in his Minnesota home at the age of 57. Prince's stardom began in the mid-'80s with several hit songs, films, and collaborations with other musicians. He was a man of many talents.

Prince will be remembered for his game-changing sounds and creativity. Without him, R&B and Pop music would not be the same. He blended together the sounds of pop and funk to create an individual character that will define him for decades.

From a young age he pushed against the edge of society, trying to defy the stereotypes and create a world within his music and art that changed the points of view of others. He wanted to see how far he could push and challenge things throughout his career,

which ultimately added to the success of his persona.

Prince was a gifted individual who will not be forgotten by his fan base or the world. His Top-10 hits included: "Let's Go Crazy," "Kiss," "When Doves Cry," "Little Red Corvette," and "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World." Not only did he create his own hit records, but he also wrote songs for others, including "I Feel for You" and "Nothing Compares 2 U." His ambition won him an Academy Award, one of the most highly regarded awards in his profession.

When he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004, he expressed his form saying, "When I first started out in the music industry, I was most concerned with freedom. Freedom to produce, freedom to play all the instruments on my records, freedom to say anything I wanted to." He represented a sense of independence and power unlike any other. His music, his performances, and his sounds were one of a kind.

Not only was Prince

an esteemed and respected musician, but he also broke out into the field of acting. He made his acting debut in the film *Purple Rain*, which turned him into a superstar across multiple media platforms.

Just as most great musicians never wane, Prince never gave up on his art. Even in his last years, he continued to produce music. Last year he released *Hit n RUN* in two albums, *Phase One* and *Phase Two*. This past March he had announced that he was working on a memoir depicting his up-and-coming album and his road to success that was expected to hit storefronts next year.

Prince will go down in history as one of the most well rounded, barrier pushing musicians and performers. He was unique in his ability to be a musician, performer, producer, actor, and dancer. His legacy will continue to live on even past his passing. Last Thursday, the world lost an influential member of the entertainment world, but he will continue to be idolized throughout history.



Late musician Prince during one of his performances.

PHOTO COURTESY OF REALTOR.COM

# Another Home Run for *House of Cards*

by Francis Hannon '17  
A&E Staff

### CAMPUS

The Netflix hit series *House of Cards* released its fourth season on March 4, 2016, and it did not disappoint its loyal fans. Critics at Rotten Tomatoes gave it an 86 percent approval rating, while the site's viewers approved at a rate of 93 percent. The season is successful not only in the way it builds on past success, but also in introducing new and engaging aspects.

At the close of season three, viewers were left astounded when First Lady Claire Underwood (Robin Wright) walked out of the White House after telling President Francis Underwood (Kevin Spacey) that she was done with him. Season four addresses this central plotline immediately and thoroughly, opening with Claire ignoring the President and jockeying for a political appointment of her own without his blessing. The couple's estrangement is frustrating, as both Francis and Claire are excessively stubborn and self-interested. But that all changes when Francis is shot, forcing him to



Kevin Spacey poses for a promotional photo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THEFISCALTIMES.COM

the realization that he is politically ineffective without her. Eventually it is he who submits to her will, as he throws his support behind her idea to get on the ticket as Vice President. The Underwood's union in their lust for power is satisfying to the audience, gets to appreciate, the "stomach of steel" they display as Francis puts it. It is a perfect example of the gritty, morally questionable will to power that is both unsettling and alluring to the audience.

In a deviation from the past seasons, the newest installment features a worthy adversary to President Underwood in the Republican challenger William

Conway (Joel Kinnaman). Conway, as well as his beautiful young wife and children, is a strong foil to the Underwoods. He is a young, swaggering Republican who runs on a campaign of freedom and limited government and who boasts an impressive military record. He uses data from a search engine to see what the people want, and he gives it to them amply via a direct and controlled social media approach that comes off as completely genuine. But as the season comes to a close, he makes a few mistakes that expose his political naivety, such as electing a poor choice in his running mate and not fully covering

up that an apparently deceptive service record is alluded to but not exposed in the final episodes of the show.

Outside of the main arc, there are a few subplots which have the potential to become major influences as the storyline progresses. Within the President's staff, we see a divide between his two media coordinators as well as the introduction of a female who works to earn the trust of the other two. Additionally, the staff uses a surveillance company that has been operating illegally and providing the Underwoods with data; they could potentially be exposed. Also, a journalist publishes an incriminating story about Francis' rise to power that has decently credible evidence and will certainly prove significant in the next season.

As far as the direction the show will take, it is hard to say. One possibility is that Claire will somehow end up in the Oval Office. Her rise has been steady and compelling, and she is increasingly becoming the most powerful player in the political jockeying. At any rate, the show continues to succeed in engaging the audience in intellectual, morally unsettling, and provocative political drama.

Let's

Rave



Leonardo DiCaprio after his Oscar victory.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USMAGAZINE.COM

Let's

Rant



Celtics player Jeff Green during a game.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHOWDERANDCHAMPIONS.COM

## This Week: Large Arts Presence in *TIME* 100

by Ryan Cox '18  
A&E Staff

FILM

As someone who has grown up with, and now studies, music, I always love when there is a large, positive presence of the arts in the media because it validates my musical pursuits. *TIME* magazine released its annual list of "The 100 Most Influential People," and the presence of artistic superstars is hard to miss. In four out of the five categories, a slew of names from all aspects of arts and entertainment are listed, from Adele (under "Icons") to Dwayne Johnson (under "Titans"), and even Felix Kjellberg (under "Pioneers"), better known as YouTube star PewDiePie. These names reflect great success, leadership, and innovation in today's world.

The presence of such names display the growing influence of the arts in today's society. It inspires amateur musicians, filmmakers, and actors to pursue what they love. That is the beauty of the arts: the vast majority of artists do not get into it for the money, but for their passion for the arts and the ability to impact an audience. I know that my musical heroes are not typical success stories, but speaking personally,

I am not in music for the success, I do it because I cannot imagine my life without it. Outside of music, look at Leonardo DiCaprio, who after years of starring in hit film after hit film, finally won his first Oscar this year, and is recognized in the Icons category in *TIME* 100.

The growing influence of the arts in society instills hope in young artists, but with the growth of these artistic juggernauts comes, unfortunately, the decline of the arts in school. While many artists find their beginnings in the arts outside of their schooling, there are just as many who get their start in the school system or are able to enrich their artistic pursuits in the same way. Adele, one of *TIME*'s Icons on the list, credits her time at the BRIT School for Performing Arts and Technology for nurturing her musical passion.

Our education system pushes kids to become the next Bill Gates, the next president, or the next great inventor that reshapes the world we live in. The arts thus become a hobby and no longer an occupational pursuit. Why not encourage kids to take the risk and become the next musical legend, or acclaimed film producer? We know the impact that the arts have on humanity, so why not push the rising generation to succeed there as well?

## This Week: Growing Sports Commercialism

by Kelly Laske '16  
A&E Staff

CELEBRITY

Playing in a college basketball game is completely different from participating in the NBA. You are not playing for a salary or getting endorsements, but instead for the sake of the team and the college you are playing for.

The NBA is for money making. From the steep ticket prices to the multi-million dollar athletes, everything about the association revolves around money. Just when you think professional sports could not get any more swallowed up by commercialism, the NBA just announced that it will allow logos on its jerseys, similar to what is seen on European professional soccer jerseys, but smaller.

In fact, the NBA has now become the first major U.S. sports league to allow ads on jerseys. In an announcement made last week, starting in the 2017-2018 season, the NBA will allow players to wear corporate logos on their uniforms.

Each team will have the opportunity to sell ad space; half of the profits made will go to the individual team while the other half will go into the league's revenue sharing pool. According to NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, the addition of ad space could potentially

bring in over \$100 million to the league—as if they need that kind of money!

The NBA's yearly revenue is close to \$5 billion per year. Silver told *CNN Money* that this move was made to keep the league competitive saying, "We're always thinking about innovative ways the NBA can remain competitive in a global marketplace, and we are excited to see the results of this three-year trial."

When you attend the games or watch sporting events on television, you are often blinded by the number of advertisements plastered over every open space in the stadium. While we just want to go see our favorite teams play, they want us to consume for more profit. As if we are not already seeing enough posters and commercials during sporting events, now we are going to see even more because of the new chest ad location.

If the NBA donated the profits from this to charities or organizations in need, then I would be more into the new addition. As millennials, we never knew a world without being suffocated by commercials and advertisements, and this shows that our country is losing sight of what really matters in life. Professional sports are no longer about the love of the game, but instead, for the love of profit.

# College Storage

[www.collegestorageusa.com](http://www.collegestorageusa.com)

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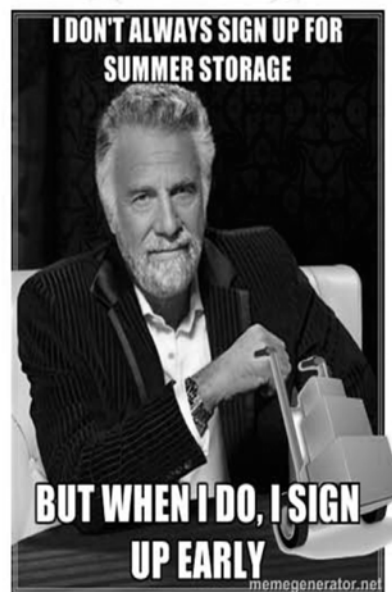
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**BREAKING NEWS:**

There is a brand new club here at PC! It's called the Cyber Leadership Initiative! Here at CLI we hold events and bi-weekly meetings to discuss the Social, Ethical, Political, and Legal implications of technology. Best of all it is open to All Majors! Exec. Board openings available!

**Cyber Leadership Initiative**

**Topics to Explore**

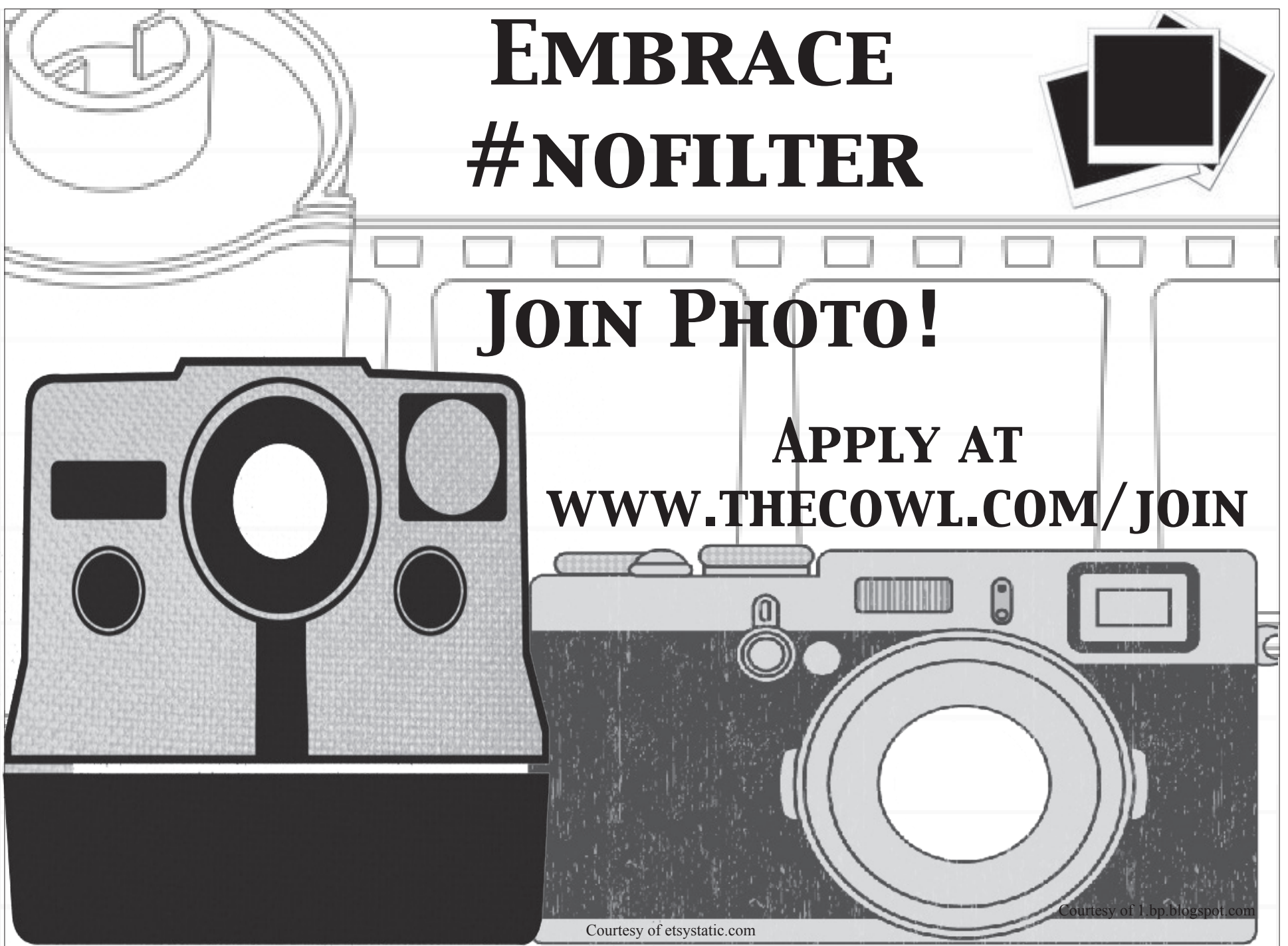
- Artificial Intelligence
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- Cyberbullying
- Cyber Ethics
- Cyber Law
- Cybersecurity
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- Hacking / Hacktivism
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- & Many More!

**Want to Learn More? Contact Us!**

**Matthew Cavaco**  
mcavaco@friars.providence.edu

**Nick Thomas**  
nthomas1@friars.providence.edu

**Bruno Guiop**  
bguiop@friars.providence.edu



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# PORTFOLIO

The Cowl 18  
April 28, 2016

## *Three Sisters*

by Ariana Pasquantonio '16  
Portfolio Staff

PROSE POETRY

### *Spin*

Three nights after the baby is born, she gets to work. She's not dressed in rags but clad in white, her hair glows gray, electric. She sits down at the loom, eyes closed, fingers winding patterns that she is so used to. She takes the fibers and weaves in the bits of light, the thrum of laughter, the warmth of a family. The grief of living, too, that she must add. Everything is laid out neatly before her—the girl's first heavy steps, the song played on a loop to placate her, the undulating moods. The girl's grandfather will disappear before she can remember, and it is set. It is a curse to deaden this thread with the absence of possibility. Her foot pounds the pedal, but her joints no longer ache because she spins a life, this fragile, glowing thing.

### *Measure*

When the parents cracked their front door for the sisters to slip in and see the baby, she was the one who had to make the decision, the one who felt that child's weight in her arms and said, *She will not have long*. She held the baby's untouched face close to her own and thought how she was shining once, too, somewhere beneath charred skin and ancient eyes.

But now, after the thread has been spun, she takes it gingerly, holding one end taut and rubbing her fingertips along the length of it, feeling its softness, searching for a place to end. Three meters. The girl will have only three years, over before she can fall from rusty training wheels, before her tender heart has been split too many times. Three meters, parted out coldly, because three years does not allow for attachment.

### *Cut*

Three years later, on the morning when it must be done, she sits up in her bed and grips her white sheets. It would be kind to say that this job and nothing else has aged her, her hair hanging dead to her shoulders, the hollowness of a woman on the edge. Her fingernails drive into her palms and her thinning skin flushes, confirmation that she herself is alive. It is a morning like all the rest. In the room filled with threads to cut, she makes her rounds down the rows. She has no thread of her own that could fray at the ends, that she might peel away, fiber by fiber, until it is nothing. Before she can think, *It was bound to happen*, she lifts her scissors to a thread, only three meters. She gives a snip and it's done.

# Pocket Poems

## SPECIAL HAIKU EDITION

### Doorways to Other Worlds

We all find exits.  
As if illuminated  
We are drawn like flies.

by Matt Farrell '17  
Portfolio Staff

We no longer date,  
due to the fact you suck eggs.  
Need I explicate?

by Joey Aiello '17  
Portfolio Editor

### Unfolding of Spring

crocus, daisy, sun,  
then daffodil, tulip, come,  
lastly, all trees bloom

by Abby Johnston '17  
Portfolio Staff

Bells ring. Brides, grooms, gowns  
Flowers and caps are thrown high!  
Spring into new life

by Chennah Sharpe '17  
Portfolio Staff

Happiness for me  
Yesterday's tears long dried up  
I like this new me.

by Clara Howard '19  
Portfolio Staff

# Joyous Boxes

by Jose Martinez '16

Asst. Portfolio Editor Emeritus

FICTION

Gomez and Ida were looking over their things. Gomez took down a few photos from the fridge; a photo from a night out a few years ago, a photo from a night out where they first met, a photo with Ida wiping off cake from her face from one of her birthday parties, just to name a few. He went over to the dinner table where he had a few albums stacked atop one another. He opened up the one on top, opened to whatever empty slots were available, and slid them in. He'd organize them when they arrived.

Ida walked in with a bag of clothes. "Is it bad that it took a move for me to finally get rid of these?" she asked.

"I have my own," he chuckled, "you're fine."

"Into the city?" asked Henrique, one of Ida's cousins, a couple of months ago.

"You don't think it's too soon?" asked Louisa, Gomez's sister. Both families were organized for a barbecue.

"Or too expensive?" asked Henrique again.

"No," began Ida.

"And no," Gomez finished.

Some family members gave looks of welcome surprise. Others appeared more concerned.

"I think it sounds pretty friggin' awesome," said Vera, one of Gomez's cousins. Gomez raised his cup and gave her a friendly nod of thanks.

"Also, not to mention," Ida said, "We'd be in visiting distance, so these family dinners would still be a thing."

"A thing?" said an uncle from Gomez's side, "They're not a thing. They're a tradition. There's a difference."

"Semantics aside," Louisa said, "The city's pretty far. I'm not sure if everyone would be willing to go that far."

"Then they'd just be visits," Gomez said. "Easy."

Ida stacked a couple of boxes up near the dinner table.

"What's in those?" Gomez asked.

"Some have our books," Ida answered, "The ones we gave to each other as presents are on top."

"And the others?" he asked, with a smile.

"Furniture, decorating stuff. The

usual, you know?"

He turned back to his photo albums, maintaining his grin. He felt her warm arms wrap around his chest, as well as her chin to one of his shoulders.

"Can you believe it, babe?" she asked him.

He took one of her hands and they joined in an embrace.

"I never thought it would happen," he said. "I imagined we'd be...old, before it'd happen. That or broken up."

"Well, we wouldn't have to be together for either of us to make this choice," she said, pecking his cheek, "And plus, we're too good of a couple for the latter to happen."

"And, can't forget, it's nice to travel with a co-pilot," he added.

"It sure is," she said, rubbing his arms, then tapping one of them, "Help me with starting to get this into the van?"

"You got it," he replied.

The subject never caused what could be constituted as "arguments." But there were disagreements. And there were rounds of endless questioning. Not to mention attempts at trying to talk them out of it. People like Ida's father or Gomez's mother would present them with a cup of juice or water. They'd ask them about their day, before not so subtly segueing into *the topic*. Why did you choose this, would be one of the questions they'd

ask. *Where exactly would you live? What would you do for money, or just to get by? Why did you choose now? What about here? Isn't it nice enough here, where you already have a life? Why are you going to leave all this behind?*

And it was the same reason they gave every time.

"It was just time to."

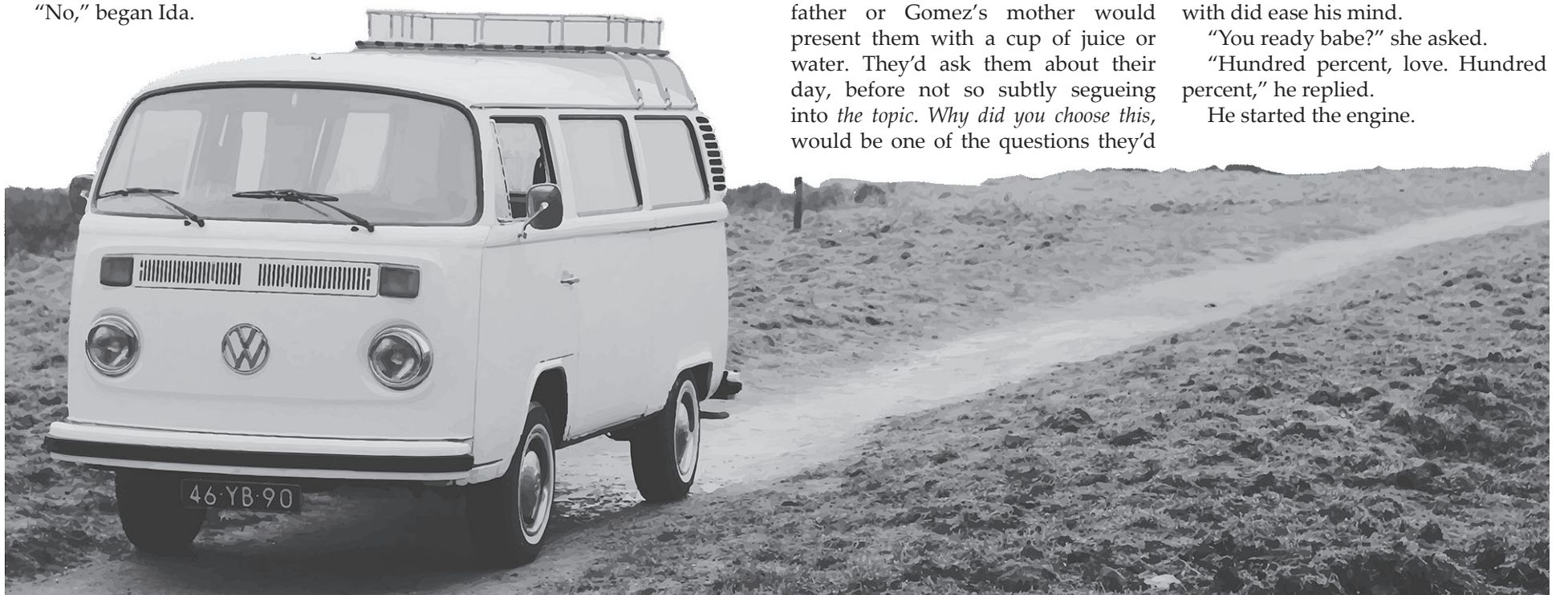
Ida pushed the last box that would fit into their van. She looked at their old place one last time, remembering all the memories they created together while trying to build their own lives, before they decided they wanted to start one together. She remembered the nights when one or both of them got no sleep, and she remembered the look on his face when she received the call that told her she got the gig. He couldn't hold back the tears.

She got into the passenger seat, and they both put their seatbelts on. Gomez put a hand on the steering wheel and another in one of Ida's. He was nervous, extremely really, but feeling the warmth of the girl he had shared the last several years of his life with did ease his mind.

"You ready babe?" she asked.

"Hundred percent, love. Hundred percent," he replied.

He started the engine.



# Listomania

## Rejected Listomania Ideas

Reasons Why My Mother Hates Me

PC Themed Stripper Names

Ways to Get Meng

Artists Inferior to Eyes to the Skies

Places Better than Shelby, Ohio

Ways to Eat Watermelon

Buddy Cianci Eulogy Topics

Professor Deathmatch Battles

States Better than Rhode Island

Professors We'd Swipe Right On

Better Uses for a White Blazer

PC Bros: How To Do Less

PC Burn Book

# Viola Sororia

by Branan Durbin '16  
Portfolio Editor Emeritus

POETRY

Trumpets of purple, scattered,  
a small symphony.  
Are they announcing, celebrating  
the wonder of a minute moment of harmony?  
They spread wide, as though each corner of the globe  
should be covered in their song—  
but, no, not the globe,  
just this yard,  
just this band of motley souls  
finding respite in each other:  
respite that doesn't need fanfare,  
doesn't require trumpets to go before.

And yet, they still reach up,  
shouting their silent song—and I listen,  
I pick one and place it close to my ear, against my cheek,  
appreciating its majesty,  
appreciating the fervent accompaniment  
to this four-movement piece,  
modern and dissonant,  
beautiful in well-placed notes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM

# Tiffany & Earl

*Making PC an emotionally stable place one letter at a time*

Dear Tiff and Earl,

My head is too smol for the square hat thing for graduation?  
What do?

Sincerely,  
What a tassel

Dear Small Head, Small Brains, Small Feet, Small Everything,

Don't be stoopid? If you were not a complete and total nimrod, then you would have printed out the stupid paper head ruler they told us to when we ordered the square hat thingies. You are an example of procreation gone wrong. Was your favorite subject in school astronomy? The stars are not aligned for you.

If you can't figure this, out don't graduate. Eat lead then go swimming without waiting 30 minutes. Drink the Kool Aid. Do it. Do it now Draco. Kill him. Coward. Ten points from Gryffindor.

I will also be graduating. Yes I, the Goddess of Advice, the Paragon of Fashion, the Duchess of Bluntness, the Purveyor of Truth will be leaving this dump of idiots and moving to a friggin' sweet place.

Do not fret though, my hat thingie fits. Die. Just all of you shut up and die. My entire year has been spent reading the dumbest questions ever asked. This is my fight song. This is my freedom. I was born this way. Don't hate me because you ain't me. BYE FELICIA.

\*DROPS MICROPHONE and baby on head\*

—Tiffany Victoria Reginald De'Kloppensburger Lexus Mercedes  
Diana Ruane Organa De'Wedradevrelardaw, The First of Her Name of the House Dominican, the Unburnt, Mother of Friars, Breaker of Civ, Khaleesi of the Great Slavin Quad.

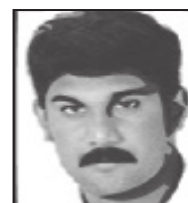


Tiffany

Dear Didn't-Even-Get-A-Cowl-Cord,

It sounds to me that your ego has not inflated enough. Seriously, you're about to graduate from Providence College. You get to point and laugh at everyone you know who didn't. Also, you're on *The Cowl*, which is so good it's like Friars Club on Opposite Day. Let's run through the checklist here: you have a stronger grasp of the English language than the average PC business student, people probably listen to you so you obviously aren't on WDOM, you have enough organizational skills to pick up your cap and gown so you aren't on BOP, and you're concerning yourself with a matter that actually affects a significant number of students, so you couldn't be in Student Congress. So yeah, you graduated from PC and were not among the worst people on campus, collectively responsible for lowering the reputation of the school to URI levels. If that doesn't make your head grow, I don't know what will. Seriously, you've earned it.

—Earl "The Advice Doctor," "Squirrel Whisperer," "4.0," "Master of Arts," "The Vance Morgan of Satire," "El Magnifico," "Not Unintelligent," "Better Than Tiffany," "The Noble," "The Concise," "He of Few Names" PC 2016



EARL

### Disclaimer

The Tiffany & Earl feature is a satirized account of Providence College. Both the question and answers are purely works of fiction. Tiffany & Earl are anti-heroes whose comments ultimately satirize the stereotypes they each represent.

# Did You Know...



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There are 16 days until  
graduation.



# SPORTS

## Editor's Corner: Olympic Preview

by **Gretta Schultz '17**  
Sports Editor

COLUMN

The 2016 Summer Olympics will be an Olympics for the ages with returning athletes like swimmer Michael Phelps—who won 22 medals (18 of them gold) in Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, and London 2012,—and newcomers like gymnast Simone Biles. This Summer will be the toughest competition of most Olympic athletes' lives as they face competitors from all over the world.

We all know that the summer Olympics is a frenzy of sports competitions that includes swimming and diving, track and field, volleyball, and gymnastics. But what most people do not realize is how many other sports there are to compete in at the Olympics. In the Summer Olympics there are sports such as canoe sprinting, marathon swimming, modern pentathlon, and table tennis. In addition to the most-watched sports and the never before watched sports, there's a grouping of sports that we watch during the year, but not as much during the Olympics. This includes basketball, rugby, golf, and boxing. All of these sports have major competitions of their own, such as the NBA Finals and the Masters. It

is interesting to note that many of the most beloved golfers and basketball players will never actually play in the Olympics; yet, we may argue that some of these athletes are the best in their field.

As far as swimming goes, Phelps is known as the man to beat in this year's Olympic games. While Phelps is the best of the best, teams like Australia and China are the U.S.'s biggest rivals. They have swimmers such as James Magnussen and Cate Campbell from Australia and Ye Shiwen and Sun Yang from China, who will compete against the U.S. in the 2016 Olympics. These competitors from around the world should not be taken lightly, but if history is any indication, the U.S. will be victorious once again. The U.S. has dominated in swimming, winning at least half of the medals at almost every Olympics. This year will hopefully be no exception with Phelps, Ryan Lochte, and Missy Franklin, returning. These three swimmers have always dominated their events and have proven to be part of the team to beat when it comes to swimming.

Gymnastics is another

sport that many people follow closely throughout the Olympics. We seem to be fascinated by the way these people make flipping through the air look so simple and graceful. The strength that these tiny athletes possess is unlike anything we could ever imagine. After 16 years without a gold medal, the U.S. women surprised the world during London 2012, scoring well ahead of top-dog Russia to claim the gold. This year, the world will be watching the women's gymnastics team to see if they will be able to pull off another major victory for Team USA.

Regardless of what sports you watch, this year's Summer Olympics will be intriguing. These athletes are the best of the best and they have committed their entire lives to their sports. Regardless of which country takes home gold, each athlete is deserving of the "Champion" title. Personally, I will be chanting "USA" until the bitter end!



Team USA celebrates winning Gold at London 2012 Olympics.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PLAYBUZZ.COM

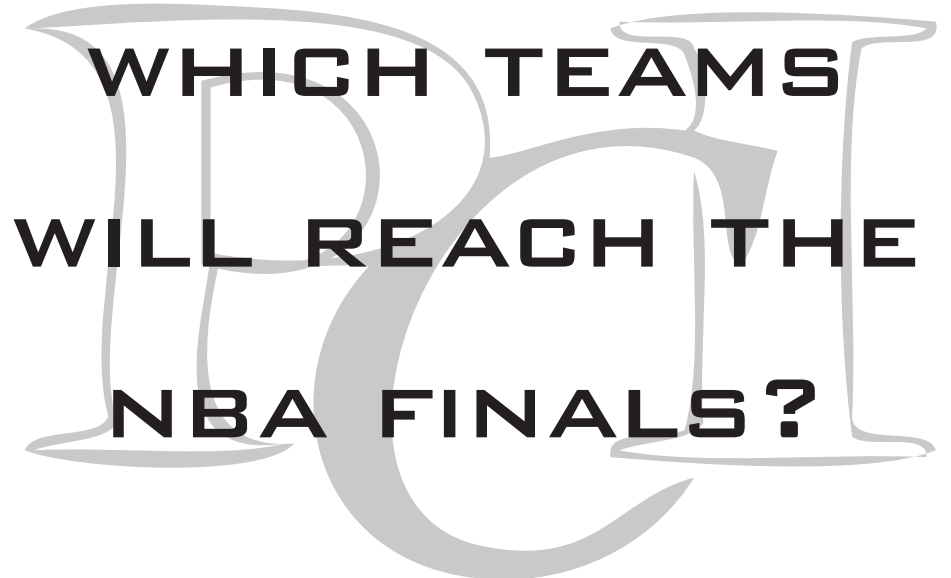
## WESTERN: SPURS

The Western Conference has been absolutely dominated by the Warriors and the Spurs so far this season. It seems almost inevitable that the two teams will meet in an epic Western Conference Final. With the recent news of Stephen Curry being re-evaluated in two weeks for an MCL sprain in his right knee, it seems that the edge will go to the Spurs.

Yes, the Warriors have won a record 73 games this season, but Curry is the most important piece of their puzzle. Curry has had leg problems his whole career, including an ankle injury that even left him sidelined in games two and three against the Rockets. Both of his ankles seem to be made of jelly, considering he has injured them both throughout his career. Although basketball is a team sport, Curry gives the Warriors an enormous edge and if he ends up out for the remainder of the playoffs then the conference is the Spurs' to take.

The Spurs are a worthy opponent for the defending champions as the season series only resulted in a 4-3 win for the Warriors. The Spurs handed the Warriors a third of their losses and may be the only team who can match their ball movement. The Spurs have a strong veteran core of Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, and Tony Parker, who have countless playoff experiences and rings to prove it. The veterans are also paving the way for the younger generation on the team, which includes players like Kawhi Leonard and LaMarcus Aldridge. The defensive and unselfish mentality that head coach Gregg Popovich has preached since he arrived in San Antonio will again prevail when the Spurs head to the NBA Finals.

-Aiden Killeen '18



## EASTERN: CAVALIERS

The 2016 NBA Playoffs are underway and could result in what could be one of the most interesting finals in a while. In the Western Conference, you have the best team in regular season history with the Golden State Warriors and not too far behind them are the San Antonio Spurs. The Eastern Conference has a more open field, as it is not dominated by two historically good teams. The Cleveland Cavaliers are looking to return to the NBA Finals for a second straight year and hope to finally win a title. As a team led by all-star LeBron James along with Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love, it is hard to see other teams as capable of beating them. However, the Toronto Raptors—with players DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry—could look to pull off an upset down the road.

The Raptors have been notorious for struggling in the postseason, which is why the three-seeded Miami Heat could be the dark horse of the conference. The Heat started the playoffs strong with a 123-91 rout over Kemba Walker and the Charlotte Hornets. Many people saw this and began to talk about Miami as the second favorite in the Eastern Conference. If Miami were to make it to the Conference Finals and face off against James and Cleveland, they would make it an interesting series. Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh have both played with James and know his style of play well. Although it is hard to see the heavy favorite Cleveland Cavaliers losing, I think the best matchup will be the Miami Heat. My prediction as to who wins the Eastern Conference is the Cleveland Cavaliers over the Miami Heat, four games to two.

-Chris McCormack '18

# Athlete in Friar History: Lou Merloni

by Max Anderson '18  
Sports Staff

## FRIAR HISTORY

If you ask many of the students here at Providence College what position Lou Merloni played during his baseball career here at PC, you will likely get the same response from about 95 percent of the student body:

"We had a baseball team?"

The answer to that question is yes, we did; it was less than 20 years ago, in 1999, when the Providence College Baseball Team became officially extinct. While some students here may have been less than five years old at the time of PC baseball's extinction, many students whose parents attended PC surely remember the Friar baseball program and the 1993 Providence College Male Athlete of the Year, Lou Merloni '93.

Merloni was born on April 6, 1971, in Framingham, Massachusetts. "Sweet Lou," as he is known to many, was

always a standout baseball player in his youth; this ability eventually earned him an athletic scholarship to PC. Enrolling at PC in the fall of 1989, Merloni played his first season was in the spring of 1990, when he quickly made an impact helping the Friars win 27 games that year. Merloni's contributions during the 1990 season earned him the Big East Rookie of the Year Award, the first of numerous accolades Merloni would earn during his tenure at PC. During Merloni's junior season in 1992, his outstanding play earned him a spot on the All-Big East team, as well as a spot on the All-New England and All ECAC (Eastern College Athletic Conference) teams. Merloni saved the best for last, however; during his senior season, he led the team in home runs (10) as well as runs scored (48), both of which still stand as top-10 recordings for PC baseball players. Merloni's spectacular play earned him his second All-Big East team selection, as well as the coveted

Big-East Player of the Year award. PC took notice of Merloni's achievements as well, recognizing him as the PC Male Athlete of the Year to round out a phenomenal senior season. By the time his career at PC ended, Merloni was the all-time record holder for total bases (397), was tied for second in career RBI (159), runs scored (178), and triples (12); he also finished in the top five for doubles (49).

After his senior season, Merloni entered the MLB Amateur Draft, where he was selected in the 10th round by his home-state Boston Red Sox. Despite being drafted in 1993, Merloni did not make his MLB debut until 1998, when he was officially called up by the Red Sox. After his debut in 1998, Merloni's career with the Red Sox shifted frequently between playing for the Triple-A affiliate Pawtucket Red Sox and the actual Red Sox themselves. The frequent change even earned itself a title, the "Merloni Shuttle." After his release from the Red Sox, Merloni played for the Cleveland Indians and

Oakland Athletics but continued to frequently shift between Triple-A and the MLB. Merloni retired in 2006, with 14 career home runs, 125 runs batted in, and a .271 batting average.

After his retirement, Merloni found success in the radio business, and to this day appears on the WEEI radio network. He has his own radio show entitled "Mut and Merloni" with co-host Mike Mutnansky, and also serves as a part-time color analyst for Red Sox games. In 2008, Merloni was inducted into the Providence College Athletic Hall of Fame for his contributions to the baseball team during his career at PC. While future students may never be able to witness a Providence College baseball game again, it is important to recognize the athletes who brought PC baseball fame during its height; Lou Merloni, a Friar legend, should be on the top of the list of people future Friars should salute.



Friars put up a fight against No. 2 Denver

PHOTO COURTESY OF DUCLARIAON.COM

## Friars Lacrosse Drops Two Straight, Fall to 7-7

by Kevin Skirvin '18  
Asst. Sports Editor

## LACROSSE

The Providence College Men's Lacrosse Team had one of its toughest weeks of the season while traveling to No. 3 Brown and hosting No. 2 Denver. The Friars were well aware of the type of talent Brown possessed, as PC has gone 0 for 21 against the Bears heading into Tuesday. PC was able to move the ball very well in the early stages of the game, and seemed to dominate possession in the first quarter. The Friars worked well in the offensive zone, setting off-ball screens and utilizing Will Mazzone '16 behind the cage.

However, after the first quarter Brown really began to loosen up and play their game. The Bears' ability to move the ball and complete difficult

passes certainly played a huge role in their building lead. Brown netted six goals in the first half, but would end up winning with a final score of 16-10. The struggles for the Friars came on both sides of the ball. Apart from Mazzone, PC's offense seemed unwilling to attack the cage, resulting in settling for forced shots that often ended up being blocked before they even got on net. The ball movement was slow—noticeably slower than Brown's—and there was a serious lack of off-ball movement. The Friars offense had its spurts of energy, but overall was not enough to beat a very good Bears' defense.

On the defensive side of the ball there were two major issues that really hurt the Friars. Brown's quick passing and off-ball movement created way too much open space directly in front of the cage. It seemed

like every shot the Bears took had a very good chance of going in. Whether the issue was ball watching on the part of the defenders or just a lack of communication from everyone, PC's defensive zone was absolutely absent from what some would call "the paint."

The other aspect of the Friars' struggles came in transition. In transition, the most important thing to do is stop the ball from advancing and force the offense to make a pass. The Friars miscommunicated on several transition chances, resulting in Brown strolling right down the center of the field and scoring on a wide-open shot.

Following the 16-10 loss to Brown, the Friars hoped to close out their home games with a win against Denver. Unfortunately Denver came out firing on all cylinders and was able to come out of Providence with a convincing 17-7 victory. Despite the score, this game was

not one you wanted to miss. Friar Fest had taken over senior day and lit up Anderson Stadium with an incredible atmosphere that made Saturday extra special.

So where do the Friars go from here? As the season winds down, PC should be very proud of what this team has accomplished in 2016, knocking off some really tough teams and showing that the future is definitely a bright one. Hopefully, the combination of young talent and an unbelievable new stadium will draw some huge crowds next year that will help propel the Friars into postseason success.



Tom Brady, New England Patriots quarterback faced suspension after deflategate scandal.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWSWEEK.COM

## Brady's Suspension is Upheld by US Appeals Court

by Sam Hardwick '17  
Sports Staff

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NFL

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Another twist in the never-ending sagabetweenNFLCommissionerRoger Goodell and the Patriots organization occurred on Monday, April 25. After months of back and forth within the appeal case filed by the NFL to uphold Tom Brady's four-game suspension, the federal judge of the U.S. appeals court reinstated the suspension. This suspension comes a full season after the suspected Deflategate occurred in January 2015, when the Patriots were accused of deflating balls in an NFL playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts. The suspension will cause Brady to miss the first four games of the 2016-2017 NFL season, which includes two

divisional games against the Miami Dolphins and the Buffalo Bills.

The Deflategate scandal has had many twists and turns. On May 11, 2015, Goodell handed down the suspension along with the loss of picks for the Patriots organization, there was uproar from fans who felt that there was no indisputable proof that Brady or anyone in the organization had deflated the footballs before the Colts game. This uproar continued as Brady went ahead and appealed the suspension in court. At this point, the conversation began to shift—at least in the courtrooms—from whether or not Brady and the Patriots organization had deflated the balls and onto whether or not Goodell had the authority to hand down the suspension as he did. According to the collective bargaining agreement, it would appear that he does

have the authority to suspend someone even if the evidence is not completely incriminating. Consequently, Brady is currently suspended for the opening four games of the season despite neither he nor the Patriots ever being fully convicted for deflating footballs.

In spite of the suspension, fans and players alike remain confident that the rest of the Patriots squad can pick up the slack and do well in those games. Much of that responsibility will fall onto backup QB Jimmy Garoppolo, who has been Brady's backup since 2014. Garoppolo only had one completion last year, so there's plenty of room for improvement. The addition of WR Martellus Bennett, the return of a healthy Julian Edelman, and Rob Gronkowski should allow Garoppolo to succeed if he can make the right passes. The promise of a bright new QB

is there, but whether or not he can live up to the high expectations of Patriots fans remains to be seen.

Deflategate has been a scandal that has had serious repercussions for Brady and the Patriots, but in the public eye it is almost seen as a joke of an investigation since it never delivered the definitive evidence needed to incriminate Brady. This leaves Brady-haters still looking for ways to degrade Brady and Brady-lovers crying "Fire Goodell." This very may be the end of Deflategate, but it seems unlikely.

## Softball Prepares for Weekend Series Against Georgetown

by Lauren Altmeyer '17  
Sports Staff

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SOFTBALL

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With just eight games left, the season is winding down for the Providence College Women's Softball team. The Friars hold a 16-26 (2-12 Big East) record after a big win against Brown University. The victory was followed by a loss against Harvard University and three losses at Seton Hall University.

PC defeated Brown in just five innings by a score of 8-0. Pitcher Taylor Huntly '17 struck out seven batters and allowed just three hits. Kelsi Luttrell '17G scored three runs and Emma Lee '19 scored two, while Nicole Lundstrom '17, Paige Mulry '18, and Nadia Kemp '17 each scored one.

Although the loss against the Harvard Crimson ended with a final score of 8-2, the series against the Seton Hall Pirates was much closer. The first two games were evenly matched, as the Pirates defeated the Friars by just one run each time for scores of 4-3 and 6-5 respectively. In the third game, the Pirates took a 4-1 lead at the bottom of the first inning and went on to win the game 10-4. Lee, Lundstrom, Julianne Rurka '18, Kiki Baldassari '16, Brittney Veler '18, Mulry, and Luttrell all tallied one or more runs in the series.

Up next for the Friars are two non-conference games against the University of Connecticut and Boston College. Senior Annie DeRosa '16 commented on the upcoming games, saying, "Our team has had its ups and downs, like most athletic teams do, but I truly believe that this team has bought into the process and has

done a great job of sticking together and working hard everyday. We are so lucky to have such amazing facilities and our new beautiful field to practice on everyday and be able to compete at the highest level. This week we have two games, one against UConn, and the other against Boston College. I think that these teams will give us some good competition and will allow us to prepare for our Big East series this weekend against Georgetown." The Friars will rely on players such as Baldassari, who has a team-high 53 hits, and Megan McCune '19, who has struck out 55 batters, to help them defeat Georgetown.

At the end of the season, the team will say goodbye to four seniors: outfielder Baldassari, pitcher Kiara Amos '16, and utility players DeRosa and Danielle Deraney '16. "Wearing the Friar logo and Providence name

against my chest means everything to me," said DeRosa, summing up her feelings about playing for PC. "Providence has not only provided me with an amazing education, but friendships and experiences that will last a lifetime. It means so much to me that I can compete for my school and bring pride to my community. Wearing the Friars jersey has also provided me with an enormous sense of school spirit and I think being an athlete, especially for Providence, has allowed me to be a part of the Friar family forever."





# COMMENCEMENT

## CLASS OF

# 2016

**SWAN SONGS: PAGES 2-6**

**SUMMA CUM LAUDE: PAGE 7**

## By: Kathleen McGinty, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

*The Cowl* brought me to tears from the get-go, and I'm pretty sure that is where it will bring me when I read through this publication, the final one published during my undergraduate career.

I remember the first time I stepped into *The Cowl* office on a Monday afternoon shortly after the Fall Involvement Fair of my freshman year to interview with our former News Editor, Christine Rousselle '13, and Assistant News Editor, Andres Taborda '15, for a position on the News Staff. Right then and there, I received my first news assignment: attend the Student Congress meeting that Tuesday night at 5:30 p.m. and turn in a 500-700 word article in less than 18 hours. I went back to my McVinney dorm room feeling overwhelmed with my first wave of college midterms and now my new *Cowl* responsibilities, and indulged in a session of hysterical crying. Despite this first encounter with *The Cowl*, and the hardships and triumphs that have ensued, something held my interest and kept me a member for four years.

My experience on *The Cowl* has shaped my experience at Providence

College. The intellectual stimulation I engaged in and social networks I built through *The Cowl* have fulfilled me and encouraged my naturally shy and hesitant self to become an active member in the campus community. For those of you who know how shy I am as senior year comes to a close, I have *The Cowl* to thank for forcing me out of the shell that confined me even more during my years as an underclassman.

This transformative experience makes me much indebted to our publisher and co-publisher, Kristine Goodwin and Steve Sears, as well as our advisor, Richy Kless, whose oversight has kept *The Cowl* a constant for me during the past four years. Richy, you claim to have a hands-off role as our advisor, but never underestimate the impact your constant compassion has on our Editorial Board.

To my predecessors, Mason Sciotti '15 and Kelly Sullivan '15, and in particular Christine and Andres, thank you all for encouraging me to consider leadership positions within *The Cowl*. If I hadn't been encouraged my freshman year to apply for the Assistant News Editor position, I don't think I would be serving in this capacity as EIC.

To Gabby Nigro '16, my gluten-free partner in crime, thank you for sticking by my side this year. Fulfilling my role as EIC would have been impossible without our tag-teaming efforts, and gaining a new friend through this position was certainly an extra perk.

To James Seabright '16 and Wes Trask '16, you two were the lifeblood of *The Cowl* this year. Your behind-the-scenes efforts are not lost on us.

To this year's Editorial Board and staff, thank you for all of your hard work this year. Your talents have certainly made my job easy and you are the ones who deserve all the credit for making *The Cowl* what it is every week.

To Katie Puzycki '17 and Jackie Kelley '17, congratulations on your new roles with *The Cowl*. I am confident that you two will make *The Cowl* shine next year, and I can't wait to visit stands every Thursday night next year to see your work.

And lastly, to this sacred, 80 year long tradition, thank you for undoubtedly defining my Providence College experience.



## By: Gabriella Nigro, Associate Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

I have no doubt that I was the last one to compose, or even think about, my swan song. Sometimes we try to dodge reality for as long as we can, but we know it will catch up to us eventually.

I joined *The Cowl* during the fall of my freshman year, simply enticed by the therapeutic idea of correcting grammar. The next four years, I would never have thought it would amount to much more. People who know me now would probably be shocked to know how shy I was less than five years ago. I kept my puns, jokes, and witty comments to myself. Yet, within that world of journalism and constant editing, I found friends, and I found a literary passion.

As the years passed, I became more invested in *The Cowl*. Looking at Mason and Kelly, and Keeley and Kayla before them, and their predecessors before them, I wanted to do more. Luckily, around this time last year, I was able to call myself the new Associate Editor-in-Chief of *The Cowl*. I still cannot understand how the year went as quickly as it did. Looking at Jackie and Katie now, I know they will understand the feeling by this time next year. They will make one fantastic team.

Clearly, it would not have been this "easy" if I did not have Kathleen. I'd say I am the John Adams to her George Washington (but not the Dick Cheney to

her George Bush). She is professional, wise, and incredibly thoughtful. I do not know what I'd do without her, and her amazing leadership skills. I have treasured every moment of being her partner-in-crime.

Firstly, I would like to thank our publisher, Kristine Goodwin, and Co-publisher, Dr. Dean Sears. Thank you for meeting with us every week in order to discuss content and just ask Kathleen and me how we were doing. Your compassion, Dean Sears, will always reside with me.

James, I don't know what Kathleen and I would do without you. You crunch numbers, take insane calls, and make sure our budget looks great. You're behind the scenes, but in the forefront of our appreciation.

The copy editors are silent warriors. Our work would never look as good as it does if we did not have their team editing, fact-checking, and proofing all of our work. You never forget the place where you came from. Casey and Abbey, you have done an amazing job. Truly.

To all of the editors, congratulations. If you are not graduating, you are getting promoted, or you are maintaining the most important positions of your sections. I know no one receives

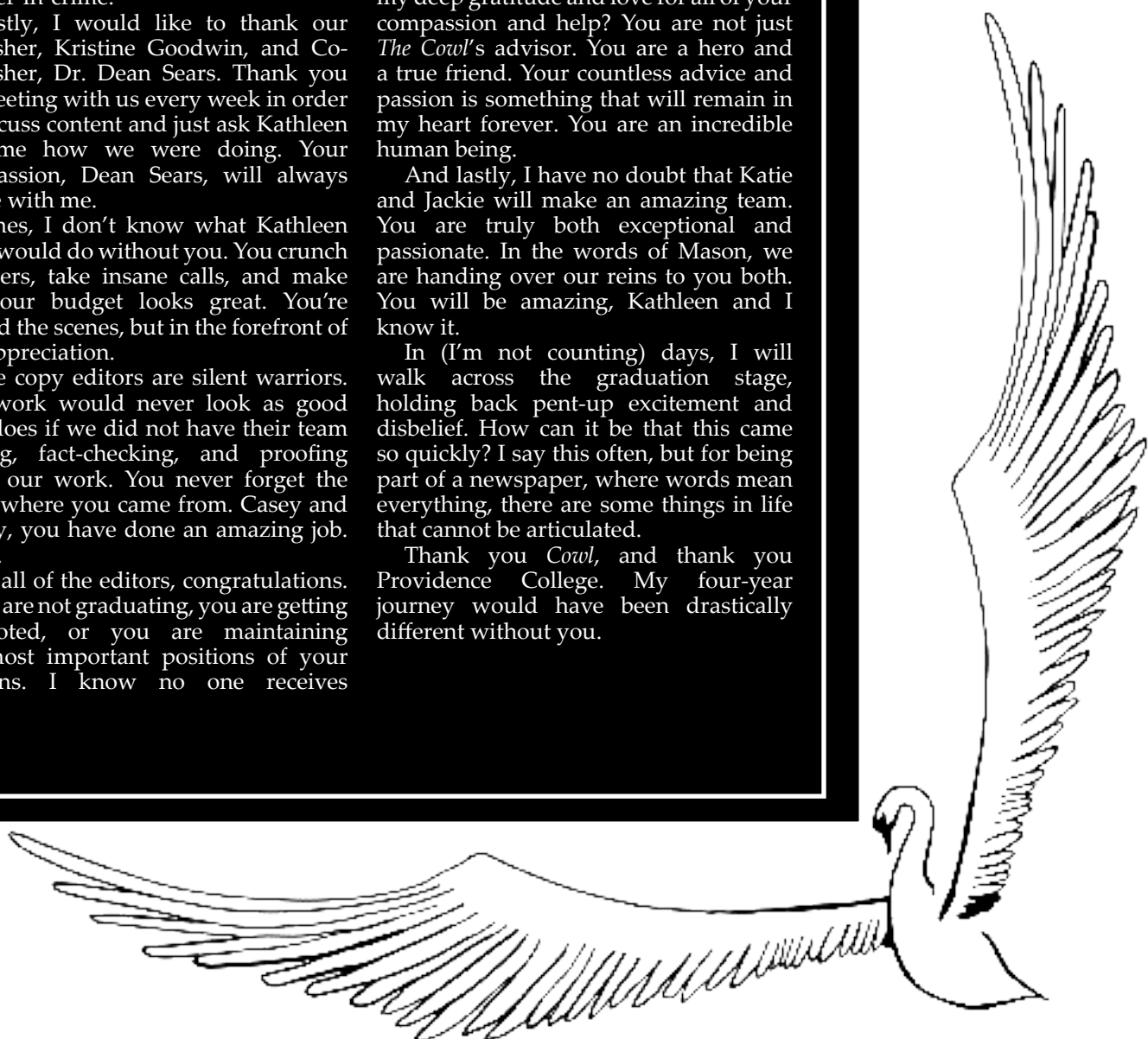
compensation or credits for their hours upon hours here, but just know, these are skills you will take with you throughout life.

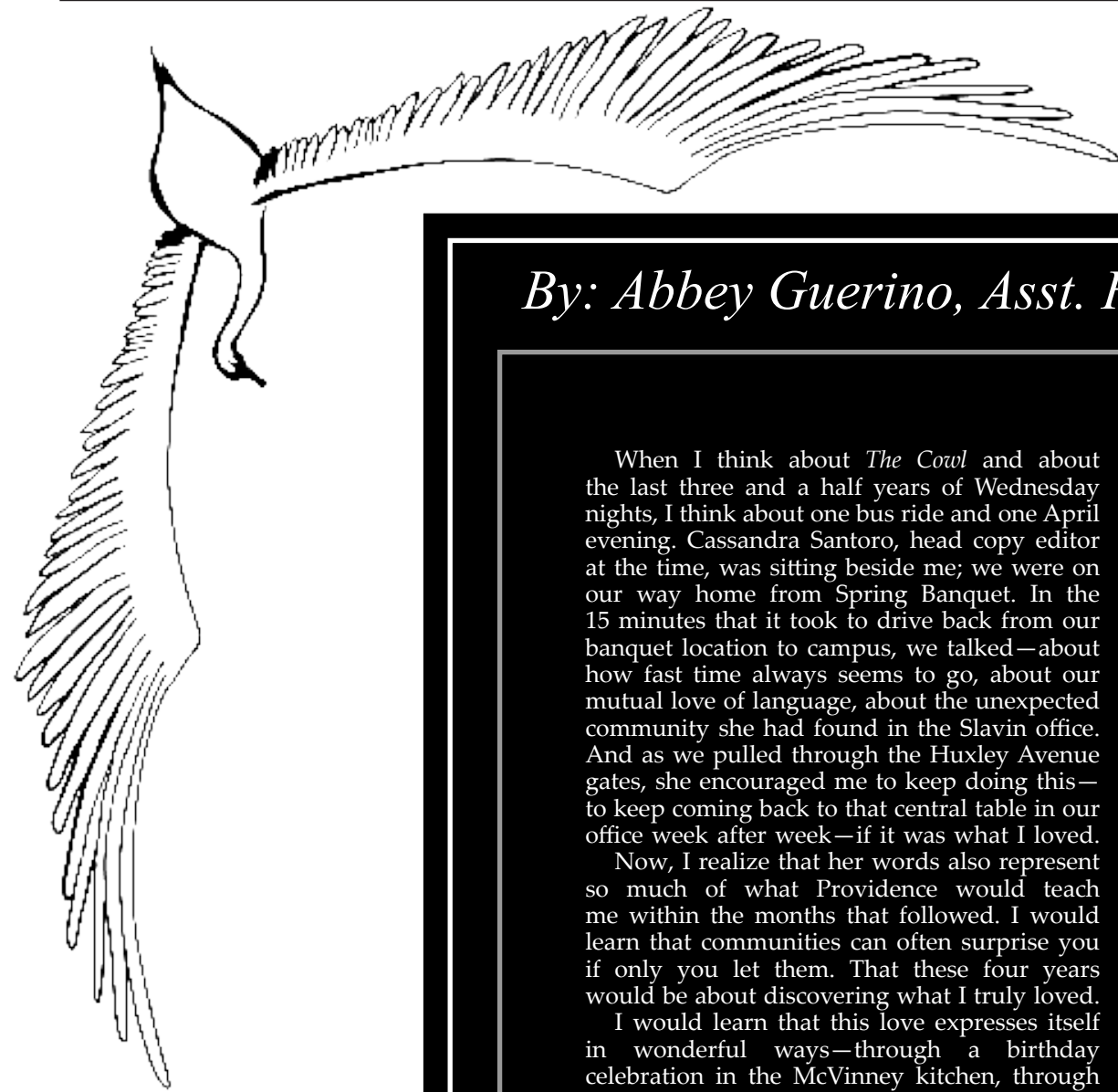
And Richy...How do I even express my deep gratitude and love for all of your compassion and help? You are not just *The Cowl's* advisor. You are a hero and a true friend. Your countless advice and passion is something that will remain in my heart forever. You are an incredible human being.

And lastly, I have no doubt that Katie and Jackie will make an amazing team. You are truly both exceptional and passionate. In the words of Mason, we are handing over our reins to you both. You will be amazing, Kathleen and I know it.

In (I'm not counting) days, I will walk across the graduation stage, holding back pent-up excitement and disbelief. How can it be that this came so quickly? I say this often, but for being part of a newspaper, where words mean everything, there are some things in life that cannot be articulated.

Thank you *Cowl*, and thank you Providence College. My four-year journey would have been drastically different without you.





*By: Abbey Guerino, Asst. Head Copy Editor Emeritus*

When I think about *The Cowl* and about the last three and a half years of Wednesday nights, I think about one bus ride and one April evening. Cassandra Santoro, head copy editor at the time, was sitting beside me; we were on our way home from Spring Banquet. In the 15 minutes that it took to drive back from our banquet location to campus, we talked—about how fast time always seems to go, about our mutual love of language, about the unexpected community she had found in the Slavin office. And as we pulled through the Huxley Avenue gates, she encouraged me to keep doing this—to keep coming back to that central table in our office week after week—if it was what I loved.

Now, I realize that her words also represent so much of what Providence would teach me within the months that followed. I would learn that communities can often surprise you if only you let them. That these four years would be about discovering what I truly loved.

I would learn that this love expresses itself in wonderful ways—through a birthday celebration in the McVinney kitchen, through weekend walks in India Point Park, through late-night conversations and cups of hot chocolate.

I would learn that it is those who walk alongside you in the journey that matter most—

that I will always be grateful for my family, that first community that teaches me so much about what it means to persevere; for my friends, who welcome me home no matter how much distance or time has come between us; for my mentors, who have been sources of encouragement and comfort; for my high-school guidance counselor, whose recommendation started it all.

I would learn that sometimes the greatest stretches of the journey lay beyond the most unpredictable turns—beyond walking into the basement of St. Dominic Chapel for the first time, beyond boarding a plane for Europe and finding that community transcends borders, beyond my first Wednesday night at that central table in *The Cowl* office.

To my fellow Copy Editors, thank you for turning that table into a home. Thank you for your friendship, for your patience, and for your love of the Oxford Comma. Casey, thank you for being the best partner and fellow wielder of the green pen that I could have asked for.

And so tomorrow I will board another bus on another April evening as I travel to my last Spring Banquet. Thank you to all those who, like Cassandra, have sat down beside me along the way.

*By: Joey Ciccarello, Sports Co-Editor Emeritus*

Everything changes when you get to college. Your friends change, your classes and teachers do as well. You move into a new room each year. So on and so forth. Thus has been the case for me. I've gained friends, changed roommates, taken new classes. But as some things change, I have found that other things stay constant, provide structure.

One of these things has been *The Cowl*. Ever since I joined *The Cowl* as a wide-eyed freshman, I was welcomed with open arms. Every editor, every fellow member that I have met during my four years has been nothing but welcoming and hospitable, willing to help me get interviews, improve my writing, and move up from a staff writer to Sports Co-Editor.

With this in mind, I owe the entire *Cowl* family a sincere thank you. Thank you to Kathleen for being an exceptional EIC, and thank you to Gabby for being a superb AEIC. Thank you to Bridget and Sean, my former sports editors. DJ, thank you for being one heck of an editor, friend, and classmate for the last 10 years. Thanks to the Copy Editors for putting up with me not knowing how to do the correct apostrophe before a class year until junior year. Thanks to the entire sports section for their superb work. Thank you to Richy; we would not be where we are without your help. Finally, thank you to all my friends who read *The Cowl* each week—your support has been invaluable.

So, as year four draws to a close, I cannot help but think back on how much *The Cowl* has meant to me.

And for that, I am forever grateful.  
Go Friars.

*By: James Seabright, Head Managing Editor Emeritus*

Well here it goes: the first and last piece I will ever write for *The Cowl*. I'm sure that most of you are wondering why the hell I'm writing (and some may even wonder that I even know how to write). My senior year has gone by all too fast. It is my last year with *The Cowl*, and I could not be sadder to leave it behind when I graduate. Over the past two and a half years, *The Cowl* has come to define my time at PC. I guess I'll start thanking people now. First I have to thank Iryna: for seeing the potential in me, hiring me as the Managing Editor, and consequentially giving me the opportunity to meet all these great people. Mason made the office friendly and kept it from getting too out of control by "herding the cats." I could always rely on Kelly to cheer me up; she embodied the spirit of the office. Courtney was the counterpoint to Diana's madness, while having just enough craziness of her own to mix things up (LaDontbae). Justin contributed to the wildness that made the office such a great place, and even let me occasionally contribute to Listomania. Jacob shared my love of Ohio, Cleveland sports, and wild and crazy business ideas (California Redwood dome). He also managed to write more for *The Cowl* than I did, despite not actually being on the staff. Jen both saved me from Diana but was also always starting rumors about me (something about mouths...). Kathleen has been our fearless leader this past year, putting up with my shenanigans. It was great working with Gabby; she kept me on track and handled everything she did so well. Abby is going to do a great job taking over for me next year; the office will be in good hands. Richy is a great man who was always there for me with encouragement and support. He does so much for *The Cowl*, and I feel like he does not get the recognition he deserves. Ed is my friend who has been with me for these past four years (only two on *The Cowl*), and has brought more insanity into my life than I could ever have hoped for or even imagined. Thanks for sticking with me, also kisses. Wes is my roommate and my best friend, though I don't know how or why he puts up with me. Through the past four years we have been through more hilarity and adventures than I can even remember. He should also come visit me in Ohio. And Diana. Oh Diana. I could honestly write an entire swan song just about her. She is the one who more or less forced me to get to know everyone in the office and I cannot thank her more for that. Between harassing me, impersonating Johnny Cash, introducing me to 40-ounce bottles and Colt 45 (at the same time), dancing on the tables, singing "Tiny Mason," and creating general mayhem, she made my time with *The Cowl* the unique experience that I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life. There are so many more people who helped me along that I'd need an entire issue to mention everyone, but I only have this one article. So this is it, it's been real, stay golden *Cowl*.



**By: Serena Ambroselli, A&E  
Editor Emeritus**

It was September 2012—a nervous freshman girl struggled to locate *The Cowl's* office in Lower Slavin. Upon finding it, she stepped inside the room full of strange faces, handed her aggressively pristine application to the Arts & Entertainment section, and was called “fresh meat” by one of the editors. She got hired to staff, then took a plunge and applied for the Assistant Editor position at the tail end of her freshman year. She got the job, then proceeded to tell everyone about it. She felt really cool and powerful and important and absolutely terrified.

I could have never expected to make as many friends as I did during my time in that office during my sophomore year; I'm truly thankful to all of you for making the naïve newbie feel so welcome. On that note of thanks, we're going full-steam ahead. To Kathleen and Gabby, thank you for being this year's fearless leaders, for dedicating so much time and thought to ensure that *The Cowl* continues to meet and exceed its high standards. To

my Providence College friends, your inexhaustible enthusiasm for always picking up a copy of *The Cowl* to read and for being my biggest fans has meant the world to me. To my friends at home and my family, you have been the most resilient supporters of my dreams to make a career out of being a writer. You all challenge me to write the next great American novel, you critique me and create with me, you drive me forward with your endless love, and I am, as usual, left completely at a loss of how to sufficiently thank you.



**By: Kelly Laske, A&E Staff Emeritus**

I have an unsettling feeling in my stomach, and it is all because of May 15. The moment I cross the stage at the Dunkin' Donuts Center, my life will be changed forever. For the past four years, I felt comforted by the fact that I still had time to figure my life out. For the first time in my life, I do not know where I am going. I will leave a life here that I have become very comfortable with. The faces I am used to seeing everyday I may never see again.

Providence College has taught me how to live my life to the absolute fullest. I have met and grown close with some of the best people in the world, and it is frightening to think that this is the last time we will all be together. I wake up every day in the same house with 11 other girls, and we may never again all be in the same place at once. I am going to miss our trips to Ray. Whereas we eat dinner every day together now, we may only get to have dinner maybe once or twice a year in the future. My point is that I never saw myself getting to this point, where each day coming up is a “last” of something that I have grown used to or taken for granted.

College is that time in our lives that we all look forward to. Ever since I was a little girl, I knew I was going to college. Now that I have less than a month left, I cannot help but feel scared and worried that I have gotten to this point in my life. Yes, I am proud that I have accomplished this and will be getting a degree, but leaving a place that I love so much is something I am having trouble celebrating. From what I have been told, these next few weeks will be the best of my life. I do not have time left, but I am forever grateful for the time I did have here. Providence College has given me the best four years of my life.

**By: Branan Durbin,  
Portfolio Editor Emeritus**

“I write because I do not know what I think until I read what I say.”  
-Flannery O'Connor

This swan song is definitely one of many moments in which these words ring true, and I can only hope to do a little justice to the whirlwind that being on *The Cowl* has been.

The past two and a half years being part of this publication and family have been such a blessing at Providence College. It's gotten me out of my shell and given me a creative outlet that has really helped my poetry to grow, trying again and again to create something I would feel proud to see printed on these 80-year-old pages. More importantly, though, *The Cowl* has given me the opportunity to work alongside truly dear friends who have given my senior year unexpected joys, and I want to thank a couple of those cool kids.

First, shoutout to the Portfolio staff. You guys make every week interesting and I love our Thursday meetings. Thank you for all of your (sometimes hilariously inappropriate) Listomania jokes and your countless references to Buddy Cianci, Shelby, Ohio, and #toosoon topics. I'm amazed by your dedication, talent, and desire to witness to the world around you—you all care so deeply and help me see the world more clearly. I know you are going to do wonderful things next year, and I can't wait to read what you write!

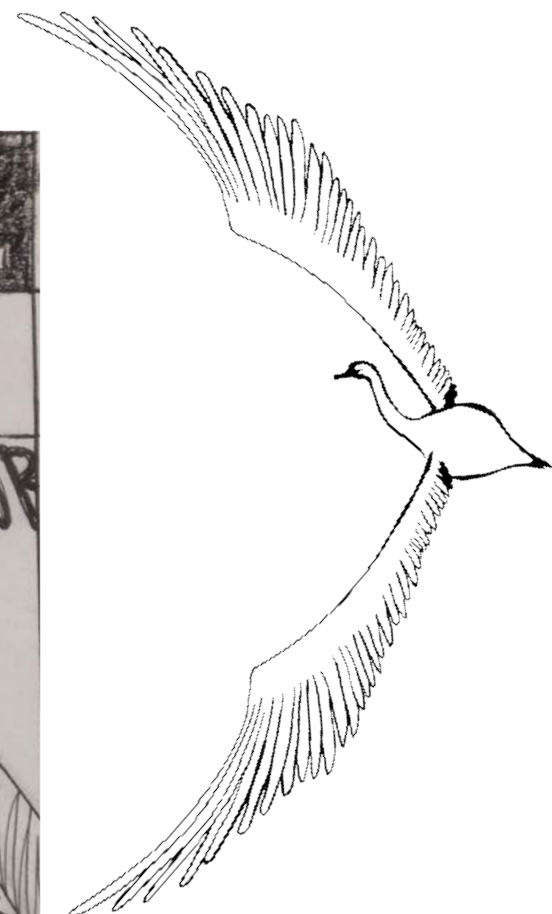
I'm also grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside our Ed Board this year, especially you, Abbey. Being able to share *Cowl* Wednesdays with one of my best friends has been so wonderful. I love being able to watch you shine, especially this year as Assistant Head Copy Editor. (Shoutout to you and Casey's crew, also, because I've been consciously trying to not make mistakes and therefore more work for you all, but I think I failed.) Having you these past four years to talk about writing and *The Cowl* and future hopes and dreams as authors has absolutely given my PC experience something invaluable. Thank you for YOU, your insight, and your love! (And your use of Oxford commas.)

Last, this would be sorely incomplete if I didn't give a shoutout to my partner in crime, Jose Martinez. Having the privilege of becoming your friend and spending so much time working on Portfolio with you has been an honor. You are such a unique person, and I love your puns, your John Cena horn, and your reign as Meme King. Thank you for being the Funk Master J to my B-Dubs—you are the best and I can't imagine this year without you.

God has worked in strange and wonderful ways in my life during my time at PC, both in and outside St. Dominic Chapel, and He definitely has done so through *The Cowl*. His Love finds so many little places to hide, and this office in the corner of Slavin has definitely been one of the best.



**By: Abigail S. Henry, Portfolio Illustrator Emeritus**



### By: David Toro, News Staff Writer Emeritus

It has been four years and four tough ones at that. I came to Providence College after graduating high school in Spain, 3,500 miles away. A new life dawned before me in the U.S. and I was willing to take a chance.

I accepted PC's offer and moved to Rhode Island. People constantly asked me why I moved from sunny Spain to the often gloomy New England. I always gave different answers since I always thought "because I'm insane and a new place sounds exciting" wouldn't fly without follow ups.

During my sophomore year I joined *The Cowl* to improve my writing and to meet new people. I found a great community of writers and passionate members of the Providence College community. I found a newfound passion within me to write for PC. I have met wonderful people who have pushed me out of my comfort zone to write challenging and controversial articles.

I want to thank all the editors from the News section throughout these past three years and the staff I have worked with. I am mostly known for my World News Briefs in the News section but know that I have greatly enjoyed writing for *The Cowl* and I hope I have raised the bar for future World News Brief writers.

I want to thank my roommates this year, Satyam Khanal, Mohammed Al-Shair, Ali Malik, Christopher Torres, and Christopher Baryames, for giving me an unforgettable year at PC.

I want to thank my family, David, Sara, and Celia, for always pushing me forward. A mi familia en España, os quiero. Also, I want to thank Tara who has supported me every step of the way for three years and the many more to come.

Lastly, I want to thank all the professors I have had these four years. Each one has influenced me in vastly different ways. Every single one of you has helped me grow and question life's most important question: why?

Thank you Providence College, I will miss you dearly.

"This is it."

"This is what?"

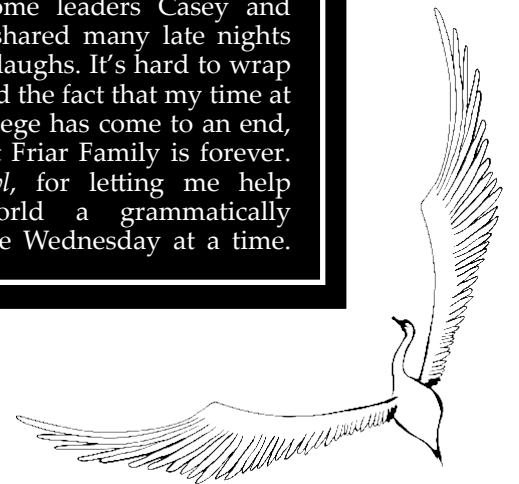
"If I take one more step, it'll be the farthest away from home I've ever been."

### By: Kristina Meyers, Copy Editor Emeritus

*The Cowl* has been an embedded part of my time and my experience at Providence College. Being a copy editor for the last three years has provided consistency, structure, and exposure to new things. Step into the office and you are in another world, one where words and pages and deadlines are all-important week in and week out. Some of the College's coolest people are in that office, behind the layout and the content, dedicated to the publication in a way no other group can be. This commitment, and the sincere love for journalism, design, and even copy editing is something special that I have been fortunate enough to witness and participate in.

Shout out to the copy editing staff and our awesome leaders Casey and Abbey. We've shared many late nights and even more laughs. It's hard to wrap my mind around the fact that my time at Providence College has come to an end, but I know that Friar Family is forever.

Thanks, *Cowl*, for letting me help make the world a grammatically better place, one Wednesday at a time.



### By: DJ Anderson, Sports Co-Editor Emeritus

I don't know if I am going to be able to do this topic any justice, but I would like the final article of my college career to underline the importance of college sports in my life. As ashamed as I would be to say this in front of Coach Cooley, I grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut, and the only sports team that anyone in CT can truly call their own is the UConn Huskies. To this day, I have remained a huge UConn fan, and this has certainly been made easier by the fact that the Friars have not played UConn in a regular season game since my freshman year.

However, before coming to Providence College, I did not truly understand the importance that sports can have on the overall college experience. There is nothing that brings this school together like our sports teams succeeding, especially when this success comes in a playoff format. The Class of 2016 is very lucky in comparison to graduating classes of the past, as we have been able to see the development of both the Men's Hockey and Men's Basketball Teams, the two biggest teams on our campus.

Through the tutelage of two unbelievable coaches, Nate Leaman and Ed Cooley, these two teams were able to reach unparalleled heights during our time at PC. For basketball, this rise culminated in a 2013-14 Big East Championship and three straight trips to the NCAA Tournament. For men's hockey, the 2015-16 year provided the school with its first major sport National Championship in its history.

I bring up these championships because of the memories that are tied with them. The night that the hockey team was able to win the National Championship, the entire school seemed to be involved in a unified celebration on the corner of Pembroke and Eaton St. This type of celebration was seen once again this year, albeit at a reduced level, when Rodney Bullock hit a buzzer beating game winner to knock the USC Trojans out of the NCAA Tournament. When I think back to my Providence College career, these will be always be two of the nights that I think of first, and I want to thank PC Athletics for these memories.

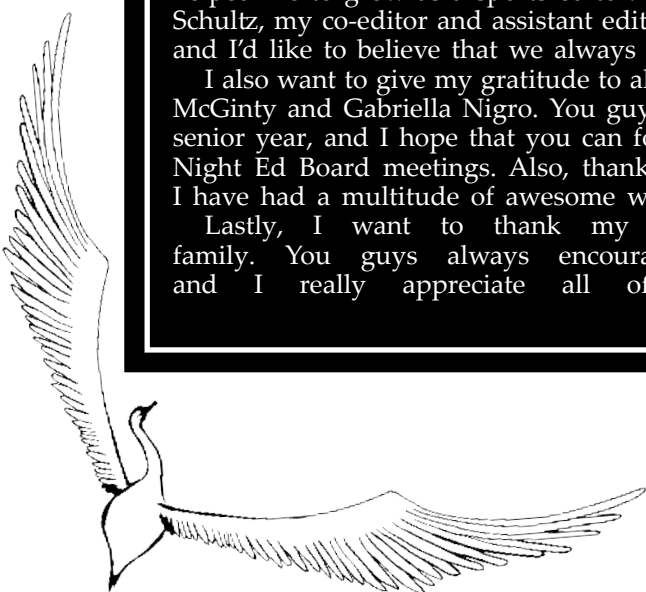
Moving past the sports themselves, I want to thank the people that helped me to succeed as a sports editor. First and foremost, I want to thank Richy Kless, the *Cowl's* advisor, for being a great friend and mentor to me throughout my time at PC. Next, there is Bridget Stack and Sean Bailey, the two editors that welcomed me to the Ed Board and helped me to grow as a sports editor. I also want to thank Joey Ciccarello and Gretta Schultz, my co-editor and assistant editor over the past year. You guys were awesome, and I'd like to believe that we always tried to make the section easier for each other.

I also want to give my gratitude to all of the other senior editors, especially Kathleen McGinty and Gabriella Nigro. You guys had to put up with quite a bit of me during senior year, and I hope that you can forgive me for my lack of attendance at Sunday Night Ed Board meetings. Also, thank you to my sports staff throughout the years, I have had a multitude of awesome writers, and you guys made my job really easy.

Lastly, I want to thank my mother, brothers, and the rest of my family. You guys always encouraged me in my role as sports editor, and I really appreciate all of your support throughout the years.

### By: Wesley Trask, Opinion Writer Emeritus

It's amazing to think that I have only been on *The Cowl* for two years, considering how special it became to me. It feels like this has been a club which I had been a part of for my entire time at PC, not just half, and I cannot put into words how thankful I am that I applied to the Opinion staff on a whim two Septembers ago. Since that time I have loved every minute of writing for the newspaper that so many of my friends have had a hand in making so great. Even better, *The Cowl* brought me even more friends I probably would have never met otherwise. Writing for the paper was never even the best part about being on *The Cowl*, but rather all of the great things that came with it. Banquets of course make being on *The Cowl* worth it alone, not to mention all of the Wednesdays in the office bugging people who were supposed to be doing work. Even distributing each issue around campus for hours every Thursday grew on me. There are so many people who had a hand in making these two years wonderful. Naturally, my friend and fellow opinion writer Ed deserves mention, always giving his two cents on the latest controversy in his distinct grammatically-challenged and comma-hating voice. Shout-out to James for not bankrupting *The Cowl* as Managing Editor (and usually ordering pizza fairly competently). Big time gratitude to all the editors who had to deal with me too. Congrats to Jackie on becoming AEIC, it's fitting that the editor of the best section on the paper would (again) move on to big things. With how well she handled me missing deadlines, I know it's probably only a matter of time before Bri runs *The Cowl* too. The paper was obviously be in great hands with people like Kathleen and Gabby running things. It's also worth mentioning Branan and Jose, the other editors who had to deal with me getting my \*anonymous\* content in late. And of course there's Richy, who deserves all kinds of praise for how much he does as *The Cowl's* advisor. I can't thank everyone enough who has been instrumental in making this paper so great. Happy writing to everyone on *The Cowl*!



**By: Edward Walrod, Opinion Staff Emeritus**

I originally applied freshman year to the Opinion section. I was told that they were full and they wanted me for World News. Tired of writing news, I turned it down. Junior year I decided to apply for World News...only to be told that the section was now defunct and they wanted me on Opinion. God has a sense of humor.

I openly made my motivations for joining very clear: free food at the banquet. It was worth it. But...*The Cowl* and the people I met because of it came to mean so much more than that.

As someone who grew up with poor English (I still suck at grammar; this is my shoutout to the Copy Editors, I love you guys for making me seem literate) and had a weird pseudo-British accent until 9th grade, I was always looking for ways to express myself. *The Cowl* became one of those ways. I have truly tried to be someone who questions the status quo and someone who used the Opinion section to fight perceived injustices. Sometimes I failed, sometimes I didn't. *The Cowl*, its readers, and the feedback remind me that I am human and that it's ok to stumble. As the years continue, one can only hope that such mistakes made on my end will be negligent as the College grows.

To Kathleen and Gabby, my Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor-in-Chief, thank you for a fantastic year, for being so caring, kind, and leading us to new heights; you are our fearless leaders who have conquered the College.

To Jackie Kelley, I know you are abroad, but you are possibly the kindest and most intelligent individual I have had the honor of knowing and working for.

To Brianna, Carolyn, and Sarah, you three are amazing and you provided a seamless transition. Keep rocking. Opinion Section, you guys are amazing and are in wonderful hands.

To James and Wes... you guys are ok I guess. Not like we live together or something.

To Mason Sciotti, Kelly Sullivan, Jen Geraghty, and Elizabeth Nako: I love you guys and thank you for welcoming me into *The Cowl* last year. You guys made it all worth it.

To Justin Fernandez...you're still the worst.

Finally, to Diana Vlavianos: YOU ARE GONE WITH THE WIND FABULOUS. SATCHELS OF GOLD. MONEY CAN'T BUY HER CLASS. ELEGANCE IS LEARNED, MY FRIEND. I love you more than life and death and you are still the Princess of *The Cowl*.

Thank you, everyone. This is Edward V. Walrod signing out for the last time.

**By: Jose Martinez, Asst. Portfolio Editor Emeritus**

Honestly, I apologize if my thoughts come off as scattered, or unfocused, or some other related synonym. Truth be told, I don't know how you properly close the book on these past two-or-so amazing years and do them justice. But I'll at least try.

First, thank you Mason Sciotti and Justin Fernandez. You two were the ones that started this all. Thank you for having faith in me, letting me join the team, and graciously inviting me to become part of something this special. I owe a lot to you both, and I can't thank you both enough.

Thank you to the staffs of my last semester of my sophomore year, my junior year, and my final year. Each year was a different experience, and you all certainly contributed to the excitement I felt.

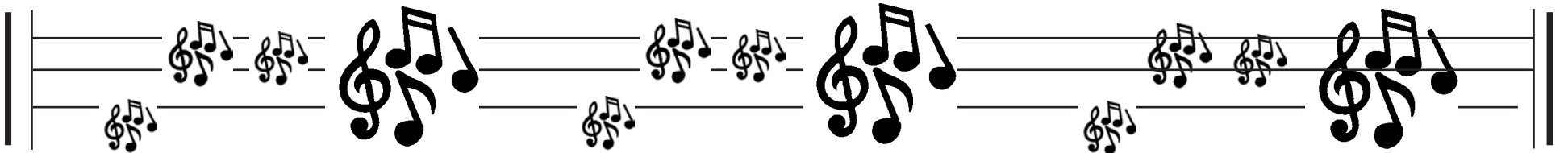
Thanks to the friends I already had and the friends I made while being a part of this incredible ride. You guys made every moment special, and honestly, this is the part where I can't come up with the proper words to show my appreciation; you guys are that incredible.

I know you're not supposed to admit to having favorites, but...just kidding, but seriously, thanks to the Portfolio staff I would close my time at *The Cowl* with. You guys are a zany, fun, creative, and extremely talented bunch, and I look forward to seeing you guys succeed in your future endeavors. You guys are capable of anything, and you can hold me to that.

Thanks to Branan Durbin for being the best Portfolio Editor that a guy could ask for. This is another one of those times where I wish I had more to say; it's that hard to put into words. Working every Wednesday on *The Cowl* and just plain getting to know you better is something I'll be eternally grateful for, and I'll feel blessed for forever being chosen to be your Portfolio Co-Pilot. Co-DJ? Which one did we choose again?

Finally, I'd just like to thank *The Cowl* as a whole. Thank you for existing. Thank you for every bit of experience you've given me. Thank you for the memories. Thank you for everything.

On a final note, joining *The Cowl*, I knew that my time on it would be measured, and that it would last as long as whatever years I had left at PC. I just never thought it'd come so soon.



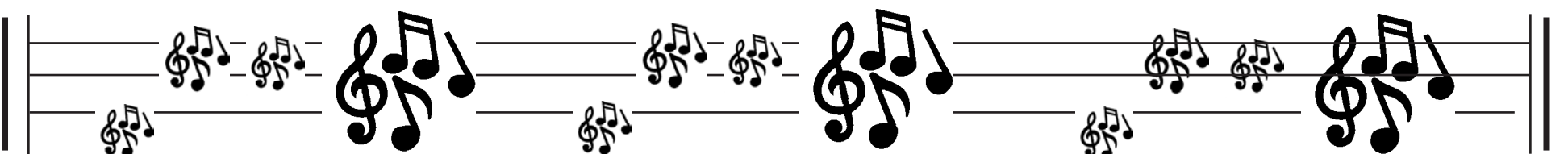
**By: Zak Harvey, News Staff Emeritus**

On a spring day five Aprils ago, a day much like the ones we have been having lately, I made a decision that would forever change my life. Dissimilar to Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken," I had not two, but several roads to choose from. Looking back today as I write this, I can undoubtedly say that I would take this road every time. For if I hadn't taken that road those five years ago, I never would have found my way to Providence College.

It should come as no surprise that over the past four years each and every one of us have grown into the people who will walk across that stage just two weeks from now. I am certainly no exception. I think back to freshman year and sometimes shake my head, other times laugh to myself, and most times just sit there—content.

The past four years have brought me many laughs, some of my closest friends, fond memories, and, above all, a second home. Coming to know a place you can call your second home is a blessing, coming to a place and finding a family is something even more than that. It has been in the dining halls on campus, the athletic facilities, the library, the dorms, the quads, and yes, even down in those backyards off Eaton Street. The value of family is something that Providence begins teaching from day one, but it is not until your final days that you come to appreciate just how much that means.

So to my professors, friends, mentors, and classmates, thank you. I would be remiss not to mention what my time at *The Cowl* has meant to me. Writing my thoughts and covering the stories has given me a voice on campus that few are able to enjoy. I can say joining *The Cowl* in my last year has been one of the most rewarding, challenging, and transforming student organizations I have been a part of here. With that I say thank you, thank you for everything.



# Summa

# 2016

Michael Burke



Catherine Cherry



Danielle Colabattisto



Connor Barrett



Lauren Griffin



Abbey Guerino



Kelsey Hayes



Erin Curtin



Michelle Fernando



Meghan Lescault



Ramon Eduardo Lopez



Alyssa Kinney



Patricia Krupinski



Morgan McCarthy



Kathleen McGinty



Amanda Muzyka



Brittany Mandeville



Rebecca Marisseau



Christina Perri



Cayla Stifler



Nicole Toscano



Michelle Ouellette



Kristen Perrelli



Andrea Spencer



Benjamin Swiszc



Daniel Tosiano

