PC women celebrate 20 years

Judith Colonna ’95
News Writer

Twenty years ago, 190 women sat among their male classmates, preparing for the same goal: graduation. It may not appear to be anything special, but in Providence College history, it marks a revolution. For the first time, PC was graduat-
ing a class of both men and women, establishing the end of an all-male academic institution.

Though 1975 was technically the first year PC graduated a class where women had completed a four-year academic program, it was not the first time women attended school. In fact, the first students to ever receive credit for PC courses were women.

Established for the purpose of education poor to middle-class, Catholic, male immi-

grants, Providence College was incorporated by RI Legislature as an education institution by February 14, 1917. At this point, PC consisted of 18 acres of land and one administrative building. Plans for the official opening day of the college were set for the fall of 1918. Unfor-

tunately, however, World War I postponed the opening for a full year. Because of the setback, priests travelled to the local con-
vents and taught the nuns who were interested in furthering their education, giving them a status equivalent to those in the School of Continuing Educa-
tion. By the fall of 1919, sev-

enty-one males joined nine Do-
mocratic faculty members in commencing the “official” opening day of PC.

Many years passed, and though there would be an occasional female transfer student, the opening of a new college presi-
dent, Dr. Thomas R. Peterson, and the acceptance of females into the freshman class.

Committed to making Prov-
dence College a complete suc-

cess, Fr. Peterson served as the female liaison between the com-
mittee (alumni, faculty, and the students) and the female stu-
rivaled women to the PC cam-
pus. Though some believed be-
coming co-ed was a necessity, not only for social needs, but also for economic ones, some thought it was an uncomfortable necessity. “If I went to an all-
male institution, so can every-
one else.” Many people didn’t even think the change would be of the 6 female RAs and a full-
time graduate student, remem-

bers, “The boys all showed up outside of Aquinas in suits and ties, willing to carry our luggage and anxious to introduce them-
selves.” The men would even open doors and pull out chairs for their new schoolmates.

And though chivalry was not dead and the females appeared to “have it easy,” PC enforced many strict rules on the new Lady Friars. For one, all shades of every dorm room had to be drawn by 6pm—no matter what time of the year. Secondly, if one intended on leaving the building after 6pm, it was man-
datory to sign out first, and in upon returning to the dorm. And living as the only females on campus, one definitely, as Dean Ingram stated, “had no anonymity; you were constantly watched and looked at, and ev-

eryone knew who you were.”

And despite the “open-
mindedness” of the existing community members, women were occasionally referred to as a pronoun (she/her), and Dr.

McCaffrey recalls it taking 6
weeks before curtains were put up in the showers, terminating the “male-idea” of bathing.

Dr. Jane Perali, who also joined the PC community in ’71 as the second female to enter the English major, thought that “we can re-

member when her male, faculty peers would continually ask her continued on page 2

Alternative Action
Habitat for Humanity builds more than just houses

Kristen Gariepy ’95
Editor-in-Chief

If you’re ever looking for a heated debate, try the hallway outside The Cowl office on Monday nights. Every week, our editorial staff meets and discusses their articles—most of which focus on national topics such as politics and so-
cial issues. As editor, I am supposed to offer my ideas during these meetings, but several months ago I made the decision to abstain from discussing article ideas with the writers.

I based my decision on the fact that I don’t believe I am a very opinionated person. Sure, I enjoy listening to two writers battle for or against the need for welfare reform, but I do not choose a side. Don’t get me wrong, just because I avoid a concrete stance doesn’t mean I am uninterested. I consider my intelli-
gence the fact that I listen to all sides of an issue and attempt to broaden my knowledge, but refrain from consistently arguing against another’s opinions.

My whole attitude on personal opin-

ions changed over Spring Break. In early November, I was accepted to participate in the Habitat for Humanity Alternative Spring Break trip to Homestead, Florida. (There were also three other trips— to Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and West Virginia.) I had no clue what to expect during the trip and I was hardly one to lend a “helping hand” price to my ac-
ceptance. All I knew was that I was go-
ing to Florida to rebuild after the destruc-
tion of Hurricane Andrew two years ago—a storm that hit southern Florida while I was vacationing there during the sum-

In order for these trips to take place, the 52 participants had to raise $16,000. Luckily, we were successful and then continued on page 2

PC graduates their first females in 1975.

PC remained an all-male insti-
tution. With society changing and other single-sexed colleges becoming co-ed, however, the college was experiencing a de-
cline in its enrollment numbers. Thus, in 1971, PC underwent structural changes. The year marked the beginning of the Western Civilization program, the resurrection of the library and Slavin Center, the inaugu-

ated, representing any prob-
lems that may occur. Interest-
ing enough, there was an ex-
citement in the quality of life at PC and of the attending stu-
dents. As one male alumni stated, “I can recall how the campus felt ‘more humane’ when the women arrived.”

The warm feeling, however, was not felt by all; many alumni and lay faculty opposed the ar-

last. As Dean Wanda Ingram, a member of the Class of ’75 recalls, “if someone didn’t like you or want to accept you, believe me, they’d let you know!”

Overall, however, the change was welcomed by the majority of returning students that year. Dr. Donna McCaffrey, who also arrived at the PC campus in ’71 as one

Members of Habitat for Humanity rebuild a termite-eaten floor.
Alternative Action

Blackfriars theater presents Little Women

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PC women celebrate 20 years

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Mark Cybulski '95

A&E Editor

Adapting one of the most fa-
mous novels in American litera-
ture to the stage is both an ar-
duous and difficult task. The
Blackfriars Theatre has met this
challenge with their live pro-
duction of Little Women, their
final show of the 1994-95 aca-
demic year. While inconsistent
in some places, the show fea-
tured the usual strong perfor-
mances by the Blackfriars' cast
members along with some am-
bitions directing by Mary
Farrell of the Theater Arts De-
partment.

Littie Women takes place at
PC March 30, April 1, 2
and 7, 8, 9.

Jo Bennett recently por-
trayed the characters of Meg
and Amy very nicely. Despite
her character being downplayed
in this adaptation, Jennifer
O'Donnell did a fine job as
Marmee. F. Michael Scafati
brought a lot of spirit and en-
ergy to the role of Laurie and
brought his acting abilities to a
new level. Heath A. Tiberio,
Ericud Cullifer, Stuart
Cappiello, Nicholas J. Shadrack
and Amanda Blake Davis avl
deserve recognition for their
strong performances in support-
ing roles. The beautiful sing-
ing of Stephanie Kruse and the
elegant piano and guitar play-
ning by Jennifer Oman and Ri-
chard A. Brewer were also nice
touches to the performance.

Mary Farrell's direction and
adaptation of Little Women of-
fered both high points and low
points. Her inclusion of Louis.
May Alcott as the narrator added
much in terms of help-
ing the audience follow the
story and also enabled us to
draw clear parallels between
Alcott and Jo. Farrell also chose
to work with a bare stage and
added different settings and props
as they were needed. This also
worked well as it gave the show
a great deal of freedom without
being restricted to one primary
setting. Brian Jones' lighting and
acoustics were superb and
David Costa-Cabral's costumes
were as they truly
seemed to fit each character's
personality. The show's casting
could also have not been better.
Everybody seemed to be per-
fectly fit to play their respective
groups, particularly in the cases
of Elizabeth A. Brady at Beth
and Mary Jo Bennett as Amy.
Although Little Women had
several positive aspects about it,
there were some inconsistencies

in the adaptation of Alcott's
novel. One part of the play that
suffered was the lack of buildup
to the tension of Laurie and
Jo's relationship. It would have
been much more interesting to
see more time devoted to this
facet of the story. The interest-
ning bond between Jo and Laurie
seemed to take a back seat to
the sappy camaraderie between
the March sisters. Farrell seemed
to love the sentimental-
ity of the story so much that the
show bordered on being melo-
dramatic.

The lack of the impact of
male characters on the female
characters was also rather con-
ting. The exclusion of the sis-
ters' father was also a glaring
absence. Everybody cries in
rejoice as they look offstage and
greet him when he returns, but
we do not even hear or see about
him during the midst of the pro-
duction. Jo's reaction to her
seemingly hopeless romantic
situation with Professor Blaes
was also questionable. She sp-
ends far too much time la-
menting over what it would be
like to live alone as an old maid.
For a story that is supposed to
portray women as being strong
and independent, it seems rather
irratic that they are at their hap-
piest when they each have
found a husband.

Although the Blackfriars' pro-
duction of Little Women is some-
what inconsistent, the show's strong performances
cannot be overlooked. If you
are looking to see the culmina-
tion of talent and hard work by
your fellow PC students and
theater arts department, you
may want to check out Little
Women. If you are not, you
will appreciate Louise May Alcott's
original classic, you may want
to check out your local library.
PC senior researches cure for cancer

Michael Quin '95
Asst. A&E Editor
Earlier this semester, I interviewed Ken Milligan on his achievements with WDOM. While his work with the station has been a great contribution to the school, there are plans involve large contributions to the wellness of people with cancer. Ken has done research several times during college, most recently in Houston over the summer. The following is a discussion of Ken's aspirations and achievements in the field of medicine.

MQ: How did you manage to find the job in Houston?
Ken: I called a friend in Houston and asked him to look around for opportunities, and he came up with this one. On the application, they wanted to know what other experiences I have had, and I left out the radio work. The job I worked at with the radio station helped immensely. That along with the research I had done during college got me the job.

MQ: And I assume you had to write some kind of paper about the internship. Ken: Yes, I did a full paper and a presentation. The paper will be published in a symposium of oral, and I worked long hours during the week and came in on Saturdays as well.

MQ: What did you learn on this specific—what did you focus on this summer?
Ken: I dealt with neuroblastoma. It's the second leading cause of pediatric cancer, and it is the most prominent in the first year of life. Basically, there is a protein on the surface of a neuroblastoma cell, and I was testing for the binding of monoclonal antibody 5G3 to this specific antigen. My advisor, Dr. Kalypna Mujoo, created and cultivated the 5G3 antibody. We tested it on several neuroblastoma cells. It was very interesting—we were able to manipulate the binding over the time course of the research.

MQ: Did you make any significant progress?
Ken: I think that for a student, I did pretty well. I put a lot of time and effort into it, and I guess the other people in the lab were pretty happy with what I did. What I have is a good basis for future research. It's not really substantial on its own, but Dr. Mujoo will be taking up the rest of the research.

MQ: Did you work with patients at all?
Ken: Our research is a long way from reaching the clinical stage, so I never did anything with that. I worked on the pediatric floor.

MQ: You've done previous research up here. Do you notice a difference between the two that may have resulted from the difference in culture or society?
Ken: Well, I've only done student research up here: a different setting, different funding, and different motivations. I don't really compare the two.

MQ: What have you researched at school?
Ken: I've researched medical ethics—specifically, the eugenics movement and the cloning of human embryos. I had two papers published and gave two presentations on the subjects. Other than that, I've done research on a gastrointestinal illness called Celiac disease. I have a friend who has the disease, so I became interested in how I could make their lives easier in high school.

MQ: Is this how you got interested in science?
Ken: My sister was very sick when she was born, and that was probably the first thing, but my friend's sickness also had an influence. I also want to become a doctor because I feel helpless. Right now, I can make a sick child smile, but I want to help in a more substantial way. I feel on my way, particularly with the help of certain people. Dr. O'Leary is the first person who believed in me scientifically. He and Father Cassidy have given me help and resources, and I really appreciate them.

MQ: What do you think about a cure for cancer?
Ken: I think that for a student, I did pretty well. I put a lot of time and effort into it, and I guess the other people in the lab were pretty happy with what I did. What I have is a good basis for future research. It's not really substantial on its own, but Dr. Mujoo will be taking up the rest of the research.

Ken Milligan '95

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The Terrible Tryout

Justin Macione '95
Sports Editor
Columbus Day weekend is a time when we honor a man who talked into unfathomable waters. Many students also go home to spend time with their families and friends, or to live without a competitive one myself. Saturday morning featured the event which causes my father to value my presence the most, two on two basketball games with us, Uncle Bill, and a friend named Clar. After draining continuous set shots to retain the father-son dominance, my dad suggested that I test some uncharted waters: try out for the PC Friar basketball team.

My first thought was that if they thought Columbus was stupid in 1492, friends and faces at PC will think that I received a lobotomy last weekend when I voice my idea. However, my three friends tried to convince me, while furthering their personal objectives. My father would have an excuse to shuttle around the east coast to watch Big Ten basketball games. Uncle Bill, age 34, would be able to relive the college scene after Civil Master Saturday nights; Clar would assume that a bevy of PC females will be attracted to a bencehwarmer who doesn't even need to shower after games, and that he can crash the party. Yet, it occurred to none of them that I was cut pany my pursuit at local public courts (Those which don't have L.L. Cool J or disco razing from a boombox). Compensating for this lack of a good racket, with a few cheap shots, I came out of these workouts feeling like Charles Barkley in his barrow brawl stage.

Upon arriving at Peterson on Monday night p.m., these dreams would quickly shatter. After collecting $15 from the pile of practice shirts, coach Gilpen provided focus for the evening: "We're not looking for guys who think they'll play a lot and take a lot of shots. We're looking for people who will make the commitment, play hard in practice, and maybe get a few shots," he said. Such pep talks gave me realistic hope, since I probably won't get many shots off against this level of competition, never mind taking the ball away from the regulars at practice.

The one hour session's first drill involved strong hand lay-ups, based on the assumption would figuratively be a man shot, every time on the court. Much like Big East opponents would always try Abdalullah take open shots for two years, it seemed as if the opposition didn't care to cover me. One open clanger proved that point.

Some in my situation might have either suffered from mania depression or been on an "accidental" trip by an irate
defensive rebound and proceeded to court surf over an opponent's back, onto the rubber floor. This move finally grabbed coach Gilpen's eye: "That's not his back," he said, "only ask me to identify my last name for the prospect sheet."

Following the session, coach Gilpen thanked all participants and bid us adieu. 3 or 4 chosen ones will receive a reward for their play when they're awarded an all work-no play permit for the season, at the end of the week. The final step in the withdrawal process arrived when trainer "Fast Eddie" Jamiel asked us to return the practice shirts.

My father hasn't received a return call from the Friar coaching staff yet, it looks as if I'll have to accept the dis-appointment of never having suited up for my high school or college basketball squads. However, state of denial hasn't left my mind, so I believe that failure is necessary at a fi nal level: the National Basket- ball Association. Thus, instead of writing resumes and attend- ing job interviews during my senior year of college, my per sonal voyage forces me to remind Boston Celtics general manager M.L. Carr how I competed to Robert Parish when I attended his basketball camp ten years ago.
Four in a Row!!!

Lady Friars crowned national hockey champions... AGAIN

Derek Stout ’95

Sports Writer

The Lady Friars hockey team have captured their fourth consecutive ECAC championship, as a result of a 2-1 sudden-death overtime victory over New Hampshire Sunday, senior Mel Mills, Stephanie O’Sullivan and Kathleen Brophy will graduating having won each of their four years at Providence College. The title has also set a standard for first year head coach Jackie Barto, and assistant Chris Bailey for years to come.

The sudden-death overtime period was a tale of two teams. Both teams carried the puck back and forth firing shots on net. PC had two quality opportunities fired by O’Sullivan at 18:21 when she took a slapshot which was stopped. At 19:42 O’Sullivan and Jeanne Wilkins fired shots which were one opportunity halted by the Wildcats. Allison Wheeler finally broke free at the 21:31 mark on a breakaway and took the puck from PC’s blue line, skated in front of the net, deceived the goalie with her stick-work and shot the puck into high into the net to assure the Lady Friars of their fourth consecutive ECAC title.

The 15:10 mark of the third period proved to be a turning point for PC. In a spectacular reunion, Melissa Mills found a loose puck and took it from the red line and shot a chest-high shot which tied the game at one.. The goal was short-handed for the Lady Friars as Brophy was questionable placed in the box, receiving two minutes for hitting from behind. “We had so many close calls in that game when we should have scored,” commented O’Sullivan. “The game was very back and forth through those first two periods. Natasha (Fine) kept it in it with so many great saves. After Melissa’s goal our confidence was really high going into overtime.” Mills also was a nuisance on defense, consistently poaching the puck away from the UNH offense.

Of the four ECAC titles, the ’94-95 title was the most difficult for PC. The Lady Friars were not predicted to repeat their season and did not even have a roster for the entire season. Barto had to utilize a squad which consisted of only two lines, which made her job that more difficult. Consequently Sunday’s victory was more satisfying than in previous years.

Despite all the Lady Friars’ handicaps this season PC finished the season victorious in ten of their last eleven games. Much of the credit is due to Natasha Fine’s consistent play in goal, as she was given the starting position to conclude the season. Most importantly was the confidence exhibited in this young team by Coach Barto and Bailey. “Jennie and Chris did a great job this year. They made us play with a lot of heart. This was shown in the UNH game when UNH came out overconfident. Our coaching staff recognized this and helped us to capitalize on it,” answered O’Sullivan.

PC was guaranteed a defense of their title due to an overtime victory over Princeton on Saturday. This was another difficult game for the Lady Friars who were ahead 2-1 compliments of Sheila Killion and Kathleen Brophy’s goals. Princeton tied the game with seventeen seconds remaining in the third period. PC wasted no time in the overtime period as Alana Balsberger scored at the 17:07 mark to put the Lady Friars into the finals.

SLAPSHOTS... The 1995 all-tournament team included Alana Balsberger, Melissa Mills, and Alain Wheeler (MVF). O’Sullivan finished the season with forty goals, followed by Wheeler's twenty goals. Fine finished the season with a 2.23 goals against average. Fine also had 51 saves in the tournament which should have earned her a spot on the all-tournament team...O’Sullivan plans to try-out for the ’98 Olympic team.

Memories of a Non-athlete

Melissa McCrosson ’95

Features Writer

I vividly remember that first instant when I realized how completely unathletically inclined I am. I was about seven years old and playing on a girls’ Little League team, happy with my cute little uniform and my cute little self. The sun was shining, my parents were beam ing with pride, and my team was winning. Life was good. We won the game that day, defeating an opponent who somehow escapes me, and as my teammates and I rushed the field in total victory, my dad turned to me and said, “What are you so happy about? It’s not like you ever try to hit anything!” Ouch. But I guess she was right; in two years of little league, I had never swung the bat. Well, why should I have? If the pitcher threw four balls, I could just walk to the base, and if the pitcher threw three strikes, I could go back to the dirt. I thought my system was perfect! Wasn’t fun what the game was all about? Appar-ently not to some people. I was forever scarred.

When I was ten, I wanted to be a gymnast. More specifically, I wanted to be the next Mary Lou Retton. My friend and I turned a plank of wood into a balance beam/vault, and the bars on my canopy bed became parallel bars. For the whole summer of ’84 I trained in my room and in the lot across the street. Then I heard somewhere that many Olympic gymnasts began training at birth and had to live away from home. Too much of a commitment for me.

In middle school, my athletic life became really bad. Elementary School gym games were fun. We played scoop-scooper, parachute games, and TV tag. Gym went from fun to competitive and hellish. They made us change clothes in a locker room - a fate worse than death for any under-developed prepubescent child. And they wanted us to play volleyball, soccer, softball and basketball; basically, they wanted us to play sports. All of a sudden games were played to win. Whoever came up with the concept of picking teams to be sent to a tournament to pass their after-life in hell, spending eternity being the last one picked for a team.

The summer before I entered high school, I received a phone call asking me to join the JV cheerleading team. For a fleeting moment, I thought that perhaps someone must see some sort of unappreciated potential in me, but then I realized that they weren’t just hard up. Being the naive freshman I was, I decided to give it a try anyway. Perhaps this was exactly the kind of athletic activity I could excel at. Perhaps not; it was entirely too cold at the games, I didn’t know when to use what cheers, and I couldn’t stand the way the boys smelled after a game. That was the end of that. I spent my four years in high school gym class trying to avoid everything that was thrown, kicked, passed or hit to me. In volleyball, I didn’t know where to rotate and when, and at the last minute I was to run the other way (much to the annoyance of my teammates). Soccer found me slowly pacing up and down the gym floor hoping that I could go an entire game without touching the ball. In four years, the only time I broke a sweat was out of nervous anxiety that I would again be the last one picked for a team. Thanks for the self-esteem booster, Mr. Gym Teacher.

One reason I chose to come to Providence College was that fact that there is absolutely no Gym requirement (although I would sometimes rather take that than Philosophy). I tried going to aerobic once or twice, but my friends asked me not to come back because I made them laugh too hard. I get all the exercise I need walking up to fourth floor Harkins or the steep back stairs of my apartment and I don’t think I am any less of a person for that.

Class of 1999...

Be sure to check out the intramural Athletic Board in September (regardless of your ability).

It’s a great way to get involved with sports at PC!!