

# The Cowl



SINCE 1935

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The Class of 2021, PC's 103rd graduating class, will celebrate Commencement on May 20. (Commencement/Page 3).

ISABELLA BAFFONI '23/THE COWL

## BOP Hosts Virtual Spring Concert *Two Friends Performs as Part of Friartown Features Series*

by Grace Whitman '22  
A&E Staff  
CAMPUS

Students all over campus gathered with their roommates last Friday to watch Two Friends perform at Providence College's 2021



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWO FRIENDS/SOUNDCLOUD

Two Friends is known for their remixes, which are popular amongst college students.

Virtual Spring Concert hosted by the Board of Programmers.

Getting their start on SoundCloud with their hour-long "Big Bootie Remixes," Eli Sones and Matthew Halper have become staples in college dorm rooms.

Two Friends was supposed to travel to Friartown last spring with Matoma for the annual Spring Concert, but COVID-19 prevented the pair from coming. After this disappointing cancellation, Two Friends created a personalized remix for PC students that included song clips from some of the best new music and oldies but goodies.

Streamed on Looped, the concert was a great way for students to step away from their busy academic schedules and enjoy the night of April 30. Additionally, students could sign up for a lawn spot to sit on Slavin Lawn and watch a live stream of the concert.

Two Friends' Big Bootie 19 Remix was released to the public on May 3, so the event was a great opportunity for them to promote their newest project.

Although some students wished the concert was more personalized for PC Students, by including visuals of Friartown rather than generic video clips in their set, Two Friends did throw in plenty of "Go Friars" within their set.

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## A Year in Review: *COVID -19 at Providence College*

by Hannah Langley '21  
News Co-Editor  
CAMPUS

Throughout this year, the News section of *The Cowl* has made it a mission to provide weekly or bi-weekly COVID-19 updates to the Providence College community. With the closing of this academic year and our final issue, we wish to provide an overall review of how the College has handled COVID and the overall status of the College currently.

On May 8, 2020, Fr. Brian Shanley, O.P., and Fr. Kenneth Sicard, O.P., sent an email to the PC community, stating, "We are directing all our efforts toward safely providing our students with a full and robust Providence College experience, with course instruction and services to be offered on a fully operational campus."

It has been nearly one year since this announcement, and what a year it has been. Throughout the summer of 2020, the PC Continuity Task Force, a committee of 150 representatives, worked tirelessly to create an academic schedule for the fall semester and guidelines for academics, operations, space occupancy, student life, workplace support, and more.

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### News

Read about the Donald Ryan Incubator for Entrepreneurship in the Arts and Sciences.

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### Photography

This week's Roving Photography question: "What is your favorite memory from PC?"

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### Sports

An interview with soccer player and PC alumna Catherine Zimmerman '16.

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## A Year for the Books

### *An Overview of COVID-19 at PC This Academic Year*

#### Year in Review

Continued from front page

Since the formation of this committee, PC students have become all too familiar with emails and text notifications for daily screenings, weekly testing schedules, and other updates.

An email from Dr. Sean Reid, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, explained the mix of classes that would be offered going into the fall semester. The mix of in-person, hybrid, split, hy-flex, and remote classes gave faculty the ability to choose the way in which they wished to teach their classes. It also gave students who decided to remain remote and not return to campus greater flexibility.

Not long into the fall semester, a COVID-19 outbreak occurred. On Sept. 17, Fr. Sicard announced that the College would be shifting to “total remote learning at least through September 26” after over 80 students tested positive in the span of two days. On-campus students were directed to not leave campus, and stay-at-home orders were put in place for all off-campus students. By Sept. 19, the number of cases rose to about 138 positive students.

On Sept. 25, Fr. Sicard announced that remote instruction and stay-at-home directives for students would last until Oct. 3. Just a few days later, the date was extended to Oct. 8 for on-campus students and Oct. 12 for off-campus students.

The outbreak led to several initiatives by the College, including weekly testing for all students, consistent messaging about remaining in one’s pod, a restriction on any non-essential travel, and more. Rising cases in the state by November also caused Governor Gina Raimondo to make several announcements, restricting group gatherings to 10 and setting curfews.

Following winter break, students began to return with point-of-origin tests the week of Jan. 18. With classes resuming on Jan. 25, weekly COVID tests also resumed. Not long into the spring semester, though, a



Picture of Eaton Street from fall 2020.

HANNAH LANGLEY '21/THECOWL

smaller COVID outbreak occurred. Students both on and off campus were sent to the Providence Marriott Downtown and Davis Hall to quarantine and isolate. The Continuity Task Force announced that PC had an approximately 2% positivity rate, leading to further restrictions from the President’s Office.

This second outbreak led to the decision to have students tested twice a week. For the remainder of the semester, students were asked to go for testing either Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays, leaving Fridays for faculty and staff testing.

As cases began to decline, more and more restrictions and precautions began to ease. McPhail’s reopened on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays for seniors. Attendance of outdoor games began to be permitted.

Acceptable outdoor group gatherings increased to 50 people. Club sports were able to resume. An in-person commencement with two guests per graduate was approved to be held on May 20 on Hendricken Field.

Vaccines were also made eligible to all Rhode Island residents 16-years-old or over. Friars off campus began getting vaccinated towards the end of March, and the College held a vaccination clinic for all students, faculty, and staff on April 28.

Fr. Sicard reflected on the year by saying, “I think that one of the best decisions that we made was to reopen in person.” He continued, “During the first year of my presidency, I have been deeply moved by the commitment I have seen from our faculty, staff, and students. So many went above and beyond in caring for each other, in helping our students succeed, and in keeping each other safe and well.”

Ann Manchester-Molak, executive vice president, commented as well, saying, “In the 40+ years that I’ve worked here, I honestly can say that I have never experienced such a spirit of collegiality, involving so many faculty, staff, and students who joined together to somehow maneuver the highs and lows of a pandemic that has affected us all so acutely.” She commended the work of faculty, staff, and students who each did their part to persevere this academic year.

While masks are still required on campus, social distancing is still enforced, and students are still getting tested twice per week, there has been a significant change in COVID protocols since the fall semester began in August. Both Fr. Sicard and Manchester-Molak noted their excitement at the opportunity to have an in-person commencement for the class of 2021 to conclude the year.

The PC community has faced many trials and tribulations in dealing with COVID-19, but actions being taken and certain restrictions being eased show that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and a promising future for the next academic year. As Manchester-Molak stated, “Someday we will be able to look back at this year and realize that the goodness of ordinary people—doing extraordinary things—was all around us.”

## Vaccinations at Friars’ Fingertips

### *Moderna Vaccines Arrive on PC Campus*

by Katherine Morrissey '22  
News Staff

CAMPUS

Almost a week after vaccines became available to all students over the age of 16 in Rhode Island, the Providence College community was once again greeted with positive news regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. In addition to vaccination appointments continuing to be available in Providence at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center, vaccines would soon become accessible like never before for the Friar Family.

The news came through a series of emails sent to students, faculty, and members of the PC community from the Continuity Task Force during the weekend of April 25. These messages communicated that the Rhode Island Department of Health had announced it would offer a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for Providence College students, faculty, and staff at Peterson Recreation Center on Wednesday, April 28.

Students who wished to be vaccinated at the on-campus clinic

were required to register in advance through the state’s scheduling portal. Despite the need for registration, the clinic located on campus provided a convenient opportunity to get vaccinated for students, faculty, and staff as Wednesday, April 28 was already a designated rest day.

The clinic operated from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Peterson Recreation Center, offering those who wished to make appointments a large window on their day off to stop by and get vaccinated. The large gym, with the help of many devoted workers, was quickly transformed into a fully functional vaccination clinic. The gym, however, is no stranger to dramatic transformations as it has been the backdrop of many events throughout the years including everything from Black and White Ball to spin classes to, most recently, a COVID-19 testing center.

Those who got vaccinated at the on-campus clinic on April 28 received the Moderna vaccine, which requires a minimum of four weeks between doses. Those who are able to return to campus after the school year is over are encouraged to come back to Peterson on May 26 for their second dose. Individuals who cannot are encouraged to schedule their second

doses of Moderna at home for on or around the same date. Those who have received both doses are then required to upload documentation to the College’s website.

After receiving their vaccine, students were given a Dunkin’ gift card and were entered into a raffle for the opportunity to win an Apple Watch. This provided extra incentive for all students to take a little time during their day off to get vaccinated.

The vaccination clinic was not open to all students, such as those who have already received the first dose of vaccines from different manufacturers like Pfizer, or students who were in quarantine or isolation for COVID-19. The clinic did not have significantly negative impacts on the schedules and routine of other students on their day off. The only change the PC community was forced to make was to their twice-a-week testing schedule.

While this change required students to test a day earlier and later than normal during the week, it also afforded them no testing on their day off. This quick and successful change demonstrated the school’s flexibility in executing the clinic as well as maintaining COVID-19 protocols already in place.

Vaccinations for students do

not indicate an immediate end to the COVID-19 pandemic which continues to impact all our lives. However, Wednesday’s clinic marked a revolutionary step in the process of getting all members of the school community vaccinated.

Within the last year, many communities and groups of people have struggled to adapt and navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. This was widely seen across many college campuses as school communities had no choice but to be remote in order to keep students and faculty safe. Although many of us have been witnesses to the struggles and hardships of the last year, widespread vaccinations remind us of the triumphs of the human spirit and the many ways in which situations of necessity bring about the most impressive innovations.

Continued information about vaccination availability and registration will be provided to students through Continuity emails. The most up-to-date information is also provided on Providence College’s website and the state health department’s online portal.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

# Featured Friars: Class of 2021

*Kevin Schwalm '21, Cameron McCauley '21, Tim Sears '21, Sean King '21, and Ashlyn Hovan '21*

by Kyle Burgess '21  
News Co-Editor

## FEATURES

As an unforgettable academic year draws to a close, the class of 2021 begins the bittersweet process of both opening an exciting new chapter in their lives as college graduates and closing the final chapter in their college careers.

While this process is already difficult enough to manage on its own, seniors have also seen their special year overshadowed by the continued frustrations brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many traditions such as the Senior Ring Weekend formal dance and 2021 nights to graduation were scrapped from the schedule as social distancing protocols prevented the possibility for seniors to celebrate themselves and their classmates all together.

However, many seniors have reflected on the past year as a gift which allowed them to spend their final year in Friartown, on campus with their peers.

Such was the case for Kevin Schwalm '21 as he began his Board of Programmers presidency during one of the strangest years this campus has seen. Schwalm originally found PC through older classmates in high school, and they succeeded in convincing him to tour the school and discover its close-knit community atmosphere; the rest was history.

Schwalm rose through the ranks to become president of BOP this year, and the realities of social distancing required him and other members to think outside the box. "COVID

certainly affected the responsibilities [of BOP] because we always had to have back-up plans in case the events had to be changed to a virtual format. It also changed the types of events we held because we had to get creative with our programming since some of the events we traditionally do in person were not possible due to COVID so we had to come up with alternatives the students would still enjoy."

Despite these setbacks, Schwalm and his fellow "BOP-pers" were able to host a number of events for their classmates to enjoy. Schwalm's favorite memory from this year was hosting Clam Jam, the first large-scale and in-person event that BOP has hosted since last year's Black and White Ball. "I found it to be rewarding because it felt as though there was a sense of normalcy after such a bizarre few months with COVID and all the virtual programming," Schwalm explained.

Other senior leaders have also adapted well to the imposed COVID-19 regulations. Cameron McCauley '21 served as the president of Campus Ministry this year, having made a connection with Fr. Peter Martyr, O.P., during her freshman year, who encouraged her to apply for a leadership position.

In addition to organizing retreats and meeting information and attending other clubs' meetings to share announcements, McCauley also met with other Camp Min leaders to gauge the needs of the student body that they could address. Much of these responsibilities became virtual this year, as interactions with other student leaders were difficult to have in person.

However, McCauley described the joy she felt in being able to lead Campus Ministry this year despite the virtual

makeover. "The most rewarding aspect of this year was at the very end of my position; we had a close-out celebration for CML and the lower classmen gave the seniors affirmations and graduation cords," she explained. "Hearing that our leaders had a great year and were excited for what's to come granted me some peace because the year had been so challenging, and it was comforting to know they felt supported and still enjoyed their ministries despite the circumstances."

Many other seniors have also come to embrace the unexpected over the past year. As Tim Sears '21 explained, much of his work as the president of Friars Club was atypical from what members usually experienced in other years. Sears credits his father's influence as a Friar alumnus as well as the Friars Club member who gave him his prospective student tours as leading factors in his own enrollment, with the tour guide in particular inspiring him to join Friars Club, as well.

While such tours have become a staple for Friars Club members, many events for prospective students, alumni, and current students that required their assistance went virtual this year. This gave Sears time to create an inclusive atmosphere within the organization, as well as to look inwardly at his responsibilities. "We tried to give the club a lot of opportunities to connect virtually, and that was definitely needed to keep the club. Representing over 80 members, I knew that I needed to grow myself and do everything I could to correctly lead them. Focusing inward on myself allowed me to think about a lot of important things I had not thought about before, and it allowed me to grow in essential areas of my life."

Fellow Friars Club member Sean King '21 echoed Sears's appreciation for the ability to make an impact on campus. "Certainly it feels weird walking around campus with masks and there not being as many students out and about," he admitted, "however that spirit does truly still exist. I can still hear 'GO FRIARS' passing McDermott Hall, all the funny jokes they say to mess with us when by Ray, all of that community is still present. COVID has taken a lot from the "normal experiences" this year, but the same Friar Family is still there."

This strong sense of Friar Family has also propelled students to continue supporting PC Athletics despite the inability for them to attend many events this year. "Once COVID struck, we were no longer able to attend games, and promotional events were put on pause," explained Ashlyn Hovan '21, head of social media for Friar Fanatics. "This put a big damper on the club because Friar Fanatics revolves around student body interaction and in-person sporting events. With that said, Friar Fanatics and Friar fans alike are some of the most dedicated, passionate, and supportive fans that I have seen during my four years; the Friartown energy in the student section during any sporting event is so infectious and is something that I will miss the most from Friar Fanatics."

Although the past year has been far from what the class of 2021 expected their senior year would be when they first entered PC's gates, the strong sense of Friar Family that has remained consistent has helped them make the most of their last few days as Providence College students.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

## Giving It the Old (Providence) College Try PC Allows Graduates Guests at Commencement

by Nicole Silverio '22  
News Staff

## CAMPUS

With the Providence College class of 2021 commencement approaching, College Events and Activities have made changes to rules regarding guests due to COVID-19.

On April 23, the College announced that graduating seniors would be allowed to register two tickets reserved for guests at the Commencement Mass and ceremonies. Only PC students, faculty, staff, and ticketed guests will be allowed entry onto campus on May 19 between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., May 20 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., and May 21 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Graduates will be able to pick up their tickets for their guests on the morning and early afternoon of May 17 in Slavin. The commencement ceremony will be held on May 20.

This is a welcome relief to seniors after they received an email from Fr. Sicard on March 19, stating, "Unfortunately, it has become clear that the state's COVID-19 regulations will not allow for a scenario that would include parents and/or guests," the email said. "We will, of course, livestream the event so that families can see the graduates cross the stage as their names are announced."

Fr. Sicard added that the commencement date was moved three days earlier than originally scheduled in order to shorten the length of the commencement week with the hopes of decreasing the chances of graduates' testing positive for COVID.



Seniors are thrilled to have their loved ones be in attendance at commencement.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Hia email concluded, "My pride in the Class of 2021 cannot be overstated. It is a group of remarkable Friars that will forever hold a special place in the College's history and in our hearts. It will be an honor to preside over this ceremony on May 20."

The class of 2021 overwhelmingly agreed that they wanted an in-person commencement, according to Fr. Sicard's email, and they will now have the opportunity to have their time and achievements at

PC formally acknowledged in person.

Typically, the commencement ceremony is held at the Dunkin' Donuts Center in downtown Providence, but since it is being used as a vaccine clinic, commencement is instead being held at Hendricken Field on campus. If there is severe weather, the ceremony will be held in the Peterson Recreation Center and guests will be moved to off-campus viewing sites due to Rhode Island state guidelines.

# Inspiring a Future for Innovation

## PC Alumnus's Family Donates Money for New Campus Facility

by Eileen Cooney '23  
News Staff

CAMPUS

Earlier this week, Providence College announced that the family of Donald R. Ryan '69 would give PC a \$2 million gift to establish an incubator for entrepreneurship. The Donald Ryan Incubator for Entrepreneurship in the Arts and Sciences will be a place where students from all academic disciplines can create and experiment with their own unique products or new service and organization ideas.

The incubator is expected to become a noteworthy gathering place on campus for students, as it will be equipped with the newest technology, areas for individual study or work, and a collaborative working space. Smaller grants for the development of curricula will be available to professors, and it is expected that School of Business faculty will mentor and support those using the incubator's services.

Additionally, the incubator's space and services are expected to be geared toward the unique business and innovation minor, which "combines the best of a liberal arts education with contemporary courses in business." The interdisciplinary nature of the minor allows non-business majors to obtain a valuable

set of skills, as students within the minor take various foundational courses within different disciplines such as accounting, computer science, and art.

Dr. Sean Reid, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, has expressed his utmost excitement about the academic programs and opportunities that the incubator will provide for students. He said he remembers "reading something that Professor Eric Sung [associate professor of photography and director of the business and innovation program] wrote essentially saying that to address larger societal issues, we need 'thinkers' who can make connections through various areas of expertise."

Reid expresses his affirmation of this statement by Professor Sung and said he believes "the Donald Ryan Incubator for Entrepreneurship in the Arts and Sciences will help provide countless opportunities for students to become better multidisciplinary thinkers. It will be invaluable to have a space where students can work together and with faculty mentors to try, fail, learn from their mistakes, and ultimately succeed."

Donald Ryan '69, a political science major during his time at the College, was described by his family as "an entrepreneur at heart—an out-of-the-box thinker, always two steps ahead of technology." He was chairman

and CEO of CareCore National, LLC in Bluffton, SC. He co-founded the company in 1994, which provided benefit management services to health care providers in various fields from radiology, to cardiology, to medical and radiation oncology.

Ryan's innovative, trailblazing spirit is exemplified in his decision to move the company from Wappingers Falls, NY to Bluffton in 2007. It is estimated that this shift generated 300 new jobs for those in the Bluffton area. In 2010, as CareCore National expanded and created even more new jobs, the town named it the Bluffton-Hardeeville Small Business of the Year.

The Ryan family has always been deeply involved and committed to the PC community. In 2011, after Donald Ryan's death at only 64 years old, his wife Helen and their two children Keri and Kevin established a \$500,000 scholarship at PC in his memory. They befriended the first recipient of the scholarship and have been extremely involved in his life and the PC community ever since.

Reid said, "We couldn't be more grateful for this gift from the Ryan family. They have been consistent champions of Providence College and have a deep understanding of the academic experience we strive to offer. Specifically, Don Ryan knew firsthand what entrepreneurship and innovation looked like—his career



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

After his passing, Ryan's family has given to PC in many ways.

trajectory as a leader in the healthcare industry proves that. To have an on-campus space for innovation named for this great PC alumnus is our honor. We can't wait to get working on it."

# Vaccinated Americans Get Breath of Fresh Air

## Biden Removes Mask Mandate for COVID Vaccine Recipients

by Sydney Olinger '23  
News Staff

WORLD NEWS

As of Tuesday, April 27, President Joseph Biden, alongside the CDC and Dr. Anthony Fauci, released new guidelines regarding the wearing of face masks. Biden addressed the immense progress America has made in reducing the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths by continuing to wear masks, social distancing, and now getting vaccinated. With full vaccination comes many new privileges, one of which is the freedom to not wear a face mask outdoors.

Experts have determined that wearing face masks throughout this pandemic has been one of the most effective ways of controlling virus transmission.

This new mandate has been up for debate for a few months; however, since the release of the vaccine. Because many people are now getting the vaccine and most COVID-19 transmission occurs indoors, it was finally decided that a fully vaccinated person does not have to wear a mask outdoors. These new perks of not having to wear a mask in certain places will hopefully be an incentive for every person to get out and get vaccinated.

"So, for those who haven't gotten their vaccination, especially if you're younger or thinking you don't need it, this is another great reason to go get vaccinated," Biden said. People are considered fully vaccinated by the CDC two weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Unfortunately, though the vaccine certainly makes it much less likely that vaccinated people will test positive for COVID-19 or experience symptoms, there is still a small chance that a vaccinated person could carry the virus and possibly transfer it to an unvaccinated person. It is also important that those who received the



Nearly 30 percent of the U.S. population has been fully vaccinated.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HEALTH MAGAZINE

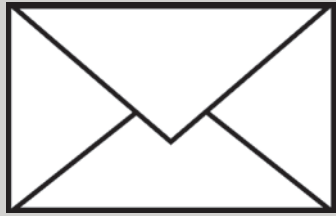
Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines remain especially cautious, wear a mask, and socially distance before their second dose.

Coronavirus cases have decreased by 16 percent in just the last week as the amount of people in the U.S. who have received the first dose of the vaccine surpassed 140 million people. This means that 32 percent of the population is now fully vaccinated, with 44 percent having received one dose of the two-shot vaccine. Despite the high numbers of vaccinated citizens, many more will need to receive the vaccine before the country can

return to normal life.

There has been hesitancy surrounding the vaccine, mainly as a result of fear of possible long-term effects. However, the vaccines were developed over a fairly long period of time, ruling out the majority of possible risks. Moreover, as of right now, there have been very few extreme negative reactions to the vaccines. It is important that we trust the experts and health professionals who worked diligently to find the most effective way to prevent the spread of the virus that we have faced for over a year now.

Have Something to Say?  
Write a Letter to the Editor!



editor@thecowl.com

Class of  
**2021**



Congrats Class of 2021!  
Have a Great Summer!



Class of  
**2021**



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## Seniors' Final Words *Student Leaders Talk Social Justice at PC*

by Nicole Patano '22,  
Co-Asst. Head Copy Editor,  
and Savannah Plaisted '21,  
Opinion Co-Editor

CAMPUS

The class of 2021 has been through a great deal—the second semester of their junior year was interrupted by the pandemic and a transition to fully remote learning for the first time in their lives, and through their senior year they have had to cope with going between in-person and remote classes.

The class is now graduating into a not yet fully recovered economy and one of the most difficult years to get accepted into postgraduate schools due to an increased interest in students returning for postgraduate degrees.

The seniors also had to endure all of this against the backdrop of the largest civil rights movement in recent decades. In response to this, schools, businesses, and organizations across the country have been forced to reconcile with diversity, equity, and inclusion issues; of which Providence College has been no exception.

Even through all of this, the senior class worked incredibly hard. They did not allow the immense obstacles they faced to dissuade them from working towards social change on PC's campus and beyond. In many cases, student leaders took charge in pushing for social change on campus.

*The Cowl* reached out to 50 seniors who have been active and involved in student organizations leading social justice initiatives on

comment and because they pertain to the article's intended goal of highlighting the experience of doing social activism at the College. *The Cowl* thanks all of the seniors who provided responses for this article.

**"What would you like to say to PC administration before you graduate?"**

CR '21: "In a short few weeks, I will be graduating from this institution, burnt-out, exhausted, and frustrated with the lack of initiative displayed to address various institutional issues and the constant gaslighting/defusing of student/faculty activism. Unfortunately, PC never felt like home to me. I constantly think about what my undergraduate experience would've been like if I transferred to an institution that took student/faculty demands seriously. Thus, I urge you all to re-evaluate the ways in which you silence minoritized students & faculty members by your lack of action."

Anonymous '21: "Providence College, you have made a tough, loud woman out of me. It was, however, at the cost of discrimination and exclusion."

Jolssen Rodriguez '21: "I can vividly see the more power you have, the less control you have. Remember why you chose your position and remember the people you are supposed to support (us, the students) versus the people you like to support."

Estarlyn Hiraldo '21: "Stop settling for less. Put the students first."

Emili Castro '21: "As a BIPOC student, I rarely felt a part of the

career is extremely exhausting. Providence College taught me the harsh reality of the society we live in and has encouraged me to create my own reality and find security in myself."

Jolssen Rodriguez '21: "I was forced to grow up and not into a "presentable adult" but to grow up and realize that the microcosm of

and accepting of every student. I feel that progress needs to be made to ensure that our BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ community members can feel wholly safe and included on campus. I also hope that students can feel accepted regardless of their religious beliefs."

Kevin Schwalm '21: "My hope is that the College will continue to

**"My experience at Providence College was one to be remembered, but never had again."  
-Estarlyn Hiraldo '21**

PC was really the front-line battle of survival and resilience. I am stronger because I had to be, not because I wanted to be."

Anonymous '21: "Honestly, frustration. I understand that change moves slow, but that slow movement towards progress sometimes seems like an intentional effort to disempower and frustrate students so that they give up in calling for change."

Shannon Sullivan '21: "My time at PC has changed my view of the world. I have grown a lot during my four years, and I attribute much of that to my role as a student leader fighting for change on campus."

**"What is your hope for the future of Providence College?"**

Anonymous '21: "My hope for the future of Providence College is to hold students accountable for their wrongdoings, actually listen to staff and faculty, and follow up with action. I hope marginalized, BIPOC, and LGBTQ students are valued and respected more by their peers, staff, faculty, and administration."

Julia Murphy '21: "My hope for the future of Providence College is that PC keeps striving to be a place where everyone feels at home and can thrive—regardless of their race, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, etc.—not only academically, but socially and emotionally...Throughout my time at PC, I have felt loved, welcomed, and supported every step of the way. It is my hope that every single student is provided with the opportunities and relationships to experience those same things."

Jolssen Rodriguez '21: "I hope PC learns what it means to hold the name "Providence." I want to return to PC and see the city of Providence be accurately, equitably, and honorably represented and, if not, then have a donor pay to change your name."

Estarlyn Hiraldo '21: "I hope that going forward, Providence College becomes a more inclusive and less narrow-minded institution, more accepting of diverse identities and perspectives even if they do not align with traditional Catholic values."

Carly Johnson '21: "My hope for the future of PC is to create an atmosphere that is more diverse

re-evaluate how it handles different issues for students on campus, so it can truly become an inclusive environment for every student."

Anna Russo '21: "I hope for a more collective Friar Family that is socially responsible and filled with more active listeners."

Shannon Sullivan '21: "I hope to come back and see long-demanded changes implemented. In essence, I hope PC becomes a better and more welcoming environment in the years to come."

**"What or who has been your safe haven during your time at PC?"**

Anonymous '21: "Other student activists such as those in BMSA, Shepard, PC DSA, PC CAR. I probably would have transferred if I didn't know that other people were helping fight for change."

Estarlyn Hiraldo '21: "If it wasn't for my family, friends, club safe spaces like WDOM and OLAS, and mentors like Liz Lombard, Ralph Tavares, Taiwo Adefiyifu, the Personal Counseling Center, my professors (to mention a few), I would not have persevered during my time at PC. They've held me up at my lowest points."

Jolssen Rodriguez '21: "Thank you to the students, faculty, and staff who saw me and smiled. Thank you to the student leaders and activists that allowed me to create my space on campus and understand who I am."

**"The racism, sexism, classism, and the anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment on top of the pressure to succeed academically and prepare for your career is extremely exhausting."  
-Talysha Rivera '21**

campus with four prompts that they could respond to. Students were not required to respond to all prompts; however, some chose to. Since most of the responses *The Cowl* received pertained to students' opinions on diversity, equity, and inclusion on PC's campus, the article has centered this theme.

This article is meant to provide a platform for these students to reflect on their time at PC and voice their opinions on the status of diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus, one last time as undergraduates at the College. While some students allowed *The Cowl* to share their names, we ask that the privacy of those students who chose to use their initials or to remain anonymous be respected.

*The Cowl* selected the responses below for publication because they best capture the sentiments and hopes of many students who responded to *The Cowl's* request for

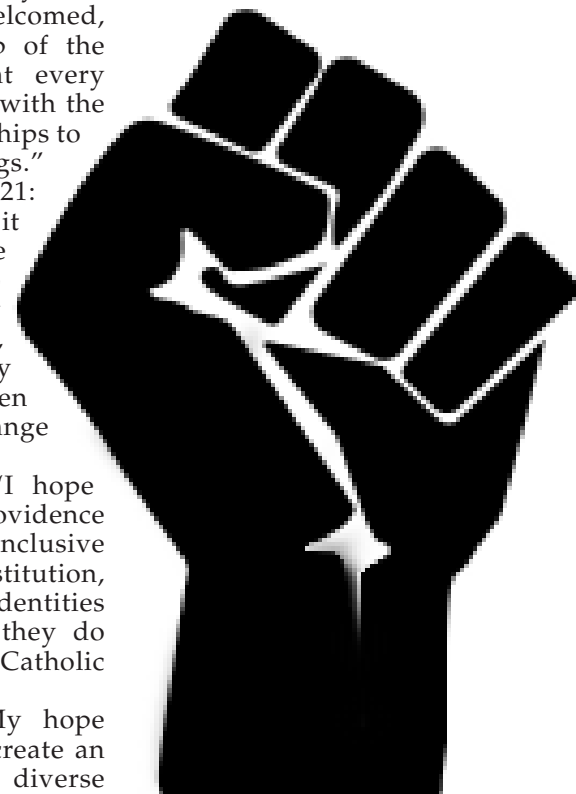
Friar Family. I know I am not the only one—Providence College, do better."

**"How would you describe your experience at Providence College?"**

Estarlyn Hiraldo '21: "My experience at Providence College was one to be remembered, but never had again. I did not feel supported as underrepresented students should be. But I am grateful for the challenges and hardships that made me a stronger person."

Junielly Vargas '21: "It was the best of times and the worst of times but I wouldn't have changed it for anything. Thank you for pushing me to the strongest version of myself."

Talysha Rivera '21: "I would describe my experience at Providence College as a microcosm of our American capitalistic society. The racism, sexism, classism, and the anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment on top of the pressure to succeed academically and prepare for your



# Set Aside Your Political Pride

## *Why it is Important to Get the COVID-19 Vaccine*

by Olivia Bretzman '22  
Opinion Staff

POLITICS

As many are aware, the recent push to get the COVID-19 vaccination has caused many debates and issues within families and among people with different political and religious beliefs. Instead of seeing the vaccine as a tool for protecting oneself and others, many people are hyper-aware of the different vaccines, their effects, and the perceived risks that one takes in receiving them.

This debate and the controversies that come with it must stop; everyone, including students, need to set aside their politics, emotions, and propriety to keep themselves and each other safe and, ultimately, to restore a sense of freedom, normalcy, and health to our world.

COVID-19 is absolutely not, the only pandemic that mankind has faced. Humans have dealt with raging diseases as early as 430 B.C. when an unknown, deadly microbe took out two-thirds of the Athenian population. More notably, the Black Death, the Columbian exchange, Cholera, the Spanish flu, and even epidemics as recent as HIV and SARS in 2003 have affected the world in detrimental ways. (<https://www.history.com/topics/middle-ages/pandemics-timeline>) As time passes, so do epidemics and pandemics, and, in turn, humans respond.

The interesting aspect of these diseases is the response. Humans suffering from any of the aforementioned diseases would have done anything for a cure: an explanation to their illness, some preventative medications or measures, and most definitely a vaccine. Thus, it is truly mind-boggling that during one of the most horrific pandemics our world has seen, many people are refusing to get the vaccine because of rumors and myths that frame the vaccine in a negative light.

Many people have legitimate health concerns

about the vaccine, which are more than understandable. If someone is allergic to the vaccine, please do not get it. In other arguments, though, one must accept the actual scientific facts surrounding the vaccine, its production, its side effects, and its availability to make a fully informed, politic-free decision.

The vaccine came fast. This is, of course, a startling fact considering the amount of time it often takes for other cures and vaccines to arrive. However, one must realize the tremendous investments of both money and time that fast-tracked this process. This was not simply an overnight fix, and scientists, doctors, and the CDC would not recommend the vaccine were it not safe.

Every vaccine has side effects. Some people react to their flu shot in a similar manner as the COVID-19 vaccine. Some people get blood clots and similar side effects because of a vaccine or medication even if it has been out for years, has been approved by the FDA, and then studied afterwards for any side effects.

Many people are hesitant to get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine after the U.S. halted its distribution out of an abundance of caution in order to investigate its association with blood clots. However, the CDC explains, "This adverse event is rare, occurring at a rate of about 7 per 1 million vaccinated women between 18 and 49 years old. For women 50 years and older and men of all ages, this adverse event is even more rare."

This possible side effect is extremely rare and is hardly a risk when one looks at all the other vaccines and medications such as certain birth control pills that cause blood clots in young women at higher rates. Relatively speaking, 7 per 1 million young women is a minuscule percentage.

In fact, every day, humans take a risk by simply walking out their door into the outside world. Who knows what side effects could loom around the corner? Side effects are a part of life.

This science should back up the fact that the J & J vaccine is safe to get after considering your past medical health and personal circumstances. Moreover, not only is the J & J vaccine effective and protective, but any of the other COVID-19 vaccines, no matter what people say about them, are also suitable to receive. Do not let vaccine biases fool you.

Herein still lies the question, "Why should I get a vaccine?" Well, quite frankly, if you are still complaining about wearing your mask and having to stick to small gatherings, you should probably get vaccinated to speed up this slow process.

In all seriousness, the vaccine helps to protect vulnerable people in your life such as your grandparents or friends with disabilities and autoimmune disorders. Even more amazingly, the vaccine has proven to have real results.

Although there are so many claims surrounding the various vaccines and their validity, regardless of one's beliefs, we as Americans and students at Providence College can come together under the common desire for a bit more freedom in our daily lives and a restoration of livelihoods. Not only can we find reason for vaccinations, but response, renewal, and repose in a decision that will ultimately save lives.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WTOPT

COVID-19 vaccine distribution has stagnated in recent weeks as people are hesitant of the side effects.

# Busyness is Not Always What it Appears to Be

## *Why Taking a Mental Break Is Beneficial for the Brain*

by Joseph Kulesza '22  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

The college student is often subject to procrastination, writer's block, or indifference from time to time; and it is during these times that we further subject ourselves to ridicule, calling ourselves lazy.

These moments of sloth seem like a dire contrast to the perpetually busy nature of being on a college campus, where the phrase "get involved" is as common as the phrase "clean up your room" is at home.

Any moment of time that is not spent studying for a chemistry exam, annotating a book for a humanities course, or socializing with friends is seen as a debit against our attempts at being successful on the balance sheet of life.

This attitude leaves us to seldom consider the contrary to perpetual busyness, so much so that it leaves the default mode of thinking about one's time in college uncontested. Yet, it may just be the case that the real threat to success lies not in one's inability to be constantly busy, rather in our inability to be lazy.

The execution of everyday demands can be a taxing endeavor for the college student, one that leaves them subject to neglecting a more vulnerable part of their psyche, that being their interior mind. It is in this realm of the interior mind where we contend with our problems, fears, and desires, and without adequate attention to this portion of our mind, everything else can quickly become disjointed.

Being helplessly preoccupied, it is all too easy to be burdened with problems and difficult decisions; while at the same time, it is in the quieter times of self-reflection that we come to understand the foundations of our problems and arrive at decisions that ultimately govern the plan

we were otherwise feverishly trying to carry out.

These instances of access to our interior minds only occur when we are brave enough to ignore the immediate demands of our lives, or more bluntly, to be lazy for once. In a way, what is many times seen as busyness can also be seen as avoidance, for those who may appear to have everything figured out the most may actually have it figured out the least.

The appearance of dutiful work and an extravagant social life can in actuality be distractions from the more abstract questions and problems that everyone is tasked with navigating eventually.

Although brains are better apt to carry out plans than reflect on their ultimate purpose, this doesn't mean one ought not to be reflective. What is seen as laziness can in fact be the incredibly fruitful activity of self-reflection.

In the absence of laptops, textbooks, and friends, the sometimes chaotic nature of one's time in college can be temporarily left behind and replaced with meaningful thoughts that have

been previously ignored.

Under the guise of laziness, one can perform the important work of cleaning up the thoughts of our interior mind, and this task becomes even more important during final exams.

While it may be the case that there are textbooks for every class that is offered, there is not a textbook for life. This fact warrants that adequate time is spent attending to the difficulties and problems that come along with it, even if this is done at the expense of socializing or studying.

Ironically enough, time taken away from studying, annotating, and socializing can improve what time is spent carrying out these activities which are all commonplace in college life.

It is important to realize that not all forms of busyness are beneficial.

Understanding why one is completing a task is just as important as understanding how that task will be completed.

Only through the act of being lazy can one truly be productive, and in this way, busyness is not always what it appears to be.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

Oftentimes, students become too overwhelmed with classes and extracurriculars that they forget to make time for themselves.

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## A Reflection on My Time at Providence College



by Andrea Traietti '21  
Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Seeing as this is our final issue of *The Cowl*, this is the final Editor's Column I will write, marking the end of my tenure as editor-in-chief of *The Cowl*.

I would usually write my Editor's Columns mid-week, in the midst of

dealing with homework piling up and working on the issue we were putting out, so sometimes having to sit down and write felt like a chore.

But something that I appreciated about writing the Editor's Column each issue was that it often provided an opportunity for me to pause and reflect—on anything and everything from what was going on in the world to what was happening on campus.

Seeing as my time at Providence College is now coming to an end, I find myself reflecting on my college experience more broadly as I'm sitting down to write this last article, so I figure I'll use my final words in *The Cowl* to express just how grateful I am for the place that has made me who I am today.

My freshman year was, in a word, miserable. Like many other freshmen, I felt lonely and out of place. I went home a lot. I considered transferring.

But something kept me here. I'm not sure why I felt this way, but I always had faith that if I stuck it out, things would turn around.

And they did, slowly but surely. I'm not quite sure when or how everything shifted, and though I know it was a gradual process—and one that took a lot of work—sometimes it seems like it

happened overnight.

It can be easy to laugh about how often the College talks about Divine Providence, but looking back from where I'm at now, it's clear to me that while the happy moments, opportunities, and successes far outweigh the failures, struggles, and challenges, those difficult moments have been equally important. They challenged me and changed me for the better, and they made me who I am.

So if I could say anything to my freshman-year self, or to anyone else who finds themselves now feeling just as I was four years ago, I would say just that.

My freshman-year self wouldn't have believed me if I told her about the opportunities she'd encounter academically and extracurricularly or the incredible friendships she'd make along the way, and she surely never would have imagined herself where I am now.

From where I'm sitting now, if PC has taught me one thing, it's to have faith—in every sense of the word. That perspective has been life changing and defining for me, and it's one that I am immeasurably grateful to have. And, so, in the end, I feel strongly that I owe it to this amazing place, Providence College—and to the people who make it everything that it is—for making me who I am.

## TANGENTS & TIRADES

*Talking on the Phone  
Trumps Texting*

Texting has quickly grown to become one of, if not the most popular form of communication. Psychologists and other experts are even starting to study texting as a separate language, including emojis and their meanings. While texting is a quick and efficient way to get your message across, calling on the phone is a far better form of technological communication.

Some argue that talking on the phone is way more awkward and uncomfortable than texting. Teenagers especially, who grew up with this technology, would prefer to hide behind the mask of their iMessage. However, making a phone call is better because it helps the caller to practice social skills, unlike texting.

Tone is often misunderstood in text messages, which can make things uncomfortable for both sides. A text sent with a period may seem to some to be just a simple declarative sentence, but others may view it as a passive aggressive message. In contrast, with calling on the phone, people can communicate their tone with their voices, making conversations a lot less awkward and vague.

With phone calls, you can save voicemails from loved ones that have a much deeper meaning than text messages. The several recorded voicemails I have saved from my late grandmother are so special to me because I can hear her voice; text messages do not convey this type of deep connection.

While texting is good for small and trite messages, calling on the phone is good for practicing social skills, which often seem lost in this technologically driven world, and hearing the voices of loved ones.



—Emily Ball '22

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

*Making up for Lost  
Time*

During the past two semesters of the 2020-2021 school year, Providence College students have been through it all with the COVID-19 pandemic: on-campus buildings were forced to close, strict pods were enforced, and the ability to hold both on- and off-campus social gatherings and important events became essentially impossible.

As of late April, PC has been able to lift some of these restrictions and mandates as many students are becoming partially and fully vaccinated.

While this school year has been undeniably unforgettable, there were also many events which could not be forgotten because they were never able to take place. So, as we near our three-month summer vacation and excitedly await the potential of a far more social return, it is important to make up for all the lost time as much as possible.

While we cannot gain back the semesters we have lost to social distancing and other unforeseen and unfortunate realities, we can set social goals and plans for the fall 2021 semester to make sure that we see the people, go to the places, and do more of what we have all literally and figuratively missed.

By taking time to reflect on this past year and set goals over the summer vacation, we, the Friar Family, will return more united than ever, ensuring that another year will not be lost to missed opportunities.

—Madeline Morkin '22



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

*More Than a Post*

No one can deny that the past year has been riddled with social issues that need to be addressed by the greater population. While sharing an infographic is a great starting point to provide information to a larger audience, Instagram should not be the only avenue of education on a topic.

Issues surrounding mental health, social justice, and gender equality are significant, and while it is promising that the younger generations are willing to have these conversations, there is so much more to a movement than what you might see on social media. That is why it is important to go beyond the app and study the issues being addressed.

The best way to do this is through thorough research. If you are interested in an issue, make sure you can understand it from all sides, rather than one (likely biased) account on Instagram.

Of course, posting these infographics is not necessarily harmful. In fact, they can make people aware of issues they may not have heard of before. So sharing is okay. But a person should fully read a source before sharing it to a large number of followers. Compare it to a source on an essay: would it be smart to cite something you've only skimmed?

Overall, staying up to date on the news is necessary. And sharing issues you are passionate about is an effective way to use social media. But remember that life and information continues outside of those apps and that it might be better to inform yourself further on more reputable sites.

—Julia McCoy '22



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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# PHOTOGRAPHY



SAMMI BUTTITTA '23/THE COWL

**ABOVE:** The Organization of Latin-American Students, Circolo Italiano, and SHEPARD co-hosted the event “Connecting Through Color” on April 24. Students could spend the day soaking up the sun and celebrating identity intersectionality by tie-dying T-shirts on Slavin Lawn.

**RIGHT:** Sara Jackson '22, Aminata Sheriff '22, Catalina Betancur '23, Jerusalem Castro '23, and Luis Urena '21 attended the “Taste of Culture” event on April 23 on Concannon Circle. This event was one of many that the Motherland dance group hosted to celebrate African-Awareness Week.

**BELOW:** BOP and Asian American Association co-hosted “1000 Cranes” from April 28-30 on Slavin Lawn. It is a Japanese tradition which is founded on the belief that folding 1000 origami cranes, a symbol of peace, grants one wish. Sarah Milne '22, Linda Ineus '22, Samantha Sierra '22, and Anthony DiSpena '24 joined other students in showing support for the AAPI Community and granting the wish of peace and acceptance.



AIDAN CASTRICONE '24/THE COWL

**ABOVE:** The Board of Programmers and The Board of Multicultural Student Affairs hosted “Fiestaval” from April 28-30 on Slavin Lawn. Each night students could gather together and enjoy food from a variety of food trucks and see performances by student groups, such as PC Irish Step (pictured above).



LILLIE HUNTER '22/THE COWL



AIDAN CASTRICONE '24/THE COWL

# ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

## What is your favorite memory from PC?



**"Winning an intramural championship for Jenga."  
Jillian Ferrigno '21**



**"Watching Coachella sophomore year in Aquinas."  
Kevin Michels '21**



**"My first time as an altar server in St. Dominic Chapel."  
Ryan McIntyre '21**



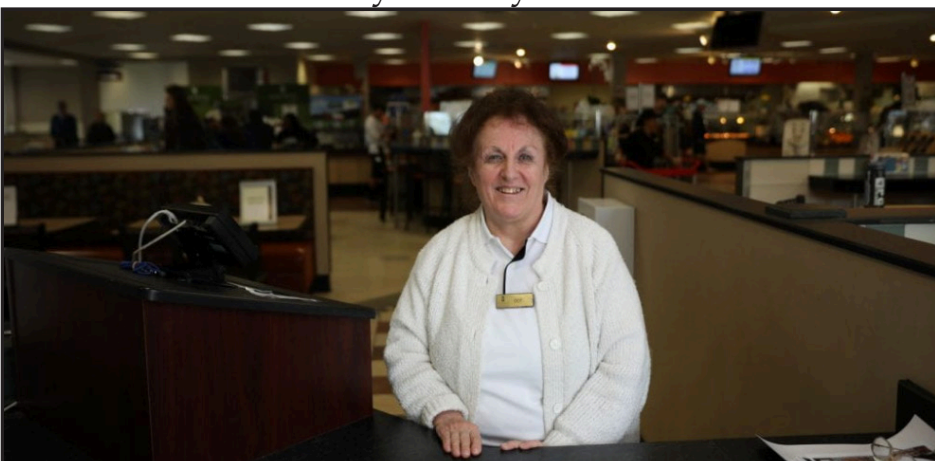
**"Watching my roommate mascot at hockey games."  
Katherine Pineo '21**



**"Winning the Pep Band costume contest as Guy Fieri."  
Shay Toohey '21**



**"Playing intramural flag football with the boys."  
Sean Gray '21**



**"Swiping everyone into Ray."**

**-Dot**

PHOTO COURTESY OF [dining.providence](http://dining.providence)

**Photos by Aislinn Hoover '21, Photography Staff**

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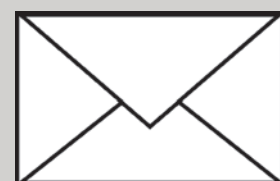
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[editor@thecowl.com](mailto:editor@thecowl.com)

## Two Friends Returns for Virtual Spring Concert *A Friartown Features Series Recap of Inspiring Guests*

### Virtual Concert

Continued from front page



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWO FRIENDS ON TWITTER

Two Friends teased Big Bootie Mix, Vol. 19 during the concert.

The concert wrapped up with a question-and-answer session hosted by BOP executive president Kevin Schwalm '21. When speaking with Schwalm about his experience working with Two Friends, he said, "Through the help of the Office of Student Activities and Cultural Programming and Athletics, it was incredible to be able to program some form of Spring Concert after the Two Friends concert was initially canceled last spring. Two Friends was great to work with, and they were

excited to come back to Providence even if it meant a virtual concert. Although the College was not able to come together in person to enjoy the show, I think it is a great way to end the year and give students something fun to do on a Friday night."

The Spring Concert was part of a four-part Friartown Features virtual series hosted by BOP and Providence Athletics. On April 24, Trevor Noah, host of *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central and author of *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*, the PC class of 2022 common reading book, was interviewed and kicked off the series with a great conversation about race in America.

Decked out in his Friars hockey jersey, former New England Patriots and current Tampa Bay Buccaneers tight end Rob Gronkowski had a conversation with Brett Rodman '16P, '20P,

'25P, and Steve Napolillo. Giving students great advice about how to persevere through the struggles of this year, nobody expected anything less than high spirits from Gronk.

The third event of the series was a conversation between Serena Williams and Doris Burke '87, '92G, '05Hon. As two incredible women in sports, they had a discussion about female athletics and Williams' ventures outside the realm of tennis.

Although the events were pre-recorded and students were not able to personally interact with the speakers, they all included a Q&A panel discussion with questions sent in from PC students. Overall, all of these events were still able to bring the Friar Family together in spirit even though COVID-19 prevented us from being together physically.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE ON TWITTER



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

The Friartown Features Series also hosted world famous tennis legend, mother, and fashion entrepreneur Serena Williams (above left); NBA basketball commentator Doris Burke '87, '92G, '05Hon; author and late night show host Trevor Noah (above right); and NFL tight end Rob Gronkowski.

## Youth Distribute: Inside the Local Punk Label *Celebrating the Ambition of 14-year-old Alex Simmons*

by Jack Downey '23  
A&E Staff

### LOCAL MUSIC

One would not expect a 14-year-old to start a record label. However, one did: his name is Alex Simmons, and he is the founder of Newport-based tape label Youth Distribute. On the label's bandcamp site, the biography reads, "RI music for goons," but the scope of the label is actually much wider, representing music from multiple states. The genres featured are also eclectic, ranging from hardcore punk to

grindcore and everything in between.

Originating in the fall of 2020, Youth Distribute burst onto the scene by releasing the demo tape of Connecticut punk band Zipper. The tape sold out in a matter of weeks. Building on the success of this release, the label quickly put out "The Fragility of Human Life" by Pillow Over Face, which soon sold out as well. Since then, the label has put out nine releases, most recently, the demos from Alligators on Acid, a self-described "TV static grungecore band," and Degenerate, a one-man grindcore project started by none other than Alex Simmons himself.

As mentioned earlier, Youth Distribute is a tape label, meaning that all the music released on the label is put out not only digitally, but also on cassette. This might seem like a risky venture since cassettes are widely considered to be an antiquated way of listening to music. However, cassettes have a surprisingly loyal consumer base, with tape labels all around the world. Many of these labels are underground, which excites fans of indie music. However, Youth Distribute has acquired a large fanbase that consists of punk and cassette fans. A Newport newspaper even wrote about Simmons, and he has been interviewed on other sites as well.

On top of running Youth Distribute, Simmons also plays in multiple projects. Not only is he behind the previously mentioned Degenerate, but he also sings for the hardcore punk band Bullet Proof Backpack, who have been making quite a name for themselves since releasing their first demo "Total Lockdown" in May 2020. The EP has garnered a lot of support on bandcamp and elsewhere, with some copies of the tape even being sold at Armageddon Shop, a record store in Providence. The tape did so well, in fact, that a second run was made.

The success of Youth Distribute serves to highlight the burgeoning

punk scene that is still alive and well in Rhode Island. Bands such as Bullet Proof Backpack, Boiling Point, and Gel have acquired large followings in the community due to their furious music and honest, truth-to-power lyrics. What also helps the punk scene in Rhode Island is the willingness of venues to book punk bands. AS220, Dusk, and News Cafe all come to mind; over the years, they have held insane show after insane show, providing a home for punks from Rhode Island and beyond. However, these venues are just the tip of the iceberg: house venues are also vitally important. The biggest example of one of these house venues is Al Dios No Conocidos. Run by Carlos Romero, the basement venue has hosted bands not only from Rhode Island, but from all over the country, even outside of it, such as the band Riña from Mexico.

To support Youth Distribute, you can go to youthdistribute.bandcamp.com and buy music either digitally or on tape. They also have shirts you can buy. Also, once things open back up, definitely support your local venues. Places like AS220 provide a home for those who do not always have one, and going there is always a great time. Punk might be more commodified every day, but it will never truly die, and Rhode Island proves it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTH DISTRIBUTE

# Chloe Zhao Wins Best Director for *Nomadland* Her Journey from China to Pine Ridge to Hollywood

by Grace O'Connor '22  
A&E Staff

FILM



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Chloe Zhao is an impressive Chinese director, screenwriter, and producer who recently earned the Academy Award for Best Directing for the film *Nomadland*. After growing up in Beijing, Zhao made her way to the Pine Ridge Indian Reserve in South Dakota. According to *Vulture*, "Zhao wasn't the first artist to come from outside an Indigenous community with the intention of telling a story set within it. But she was coming from *far* outside it, so far that she felt unconstrained by both American colonialist history and

the legacy of guilt that comes with it."

With her background and passion for film, Zhao eventually made a name herself. She used locals in her films, giving them fictional parts that closely related to their own experiences. Zhao produced some films before *Nomadland* including *Songs My Brother Taught Me* and *The Rider*. Over the past four years, she has become one of the most pursued directors in Hollywood thanks to a trio of devoutly noncommercial features. By the time she started shooting *Nomadland* in the fall of 2018, she had attracted the attention of a major star, Frances McDormand, who co-produced the film and plays its heroine. *Nomadland* was not considered a typical Oscar movie, but with Zhao's great eye and talent, the film was an inevitable success. *Vulture* again states that *Nomadland* "follows a loose collection of nomads for whom "retirement" means traveling the country for seasonal work after losing their savings in the 2008 recession or never having any to begin with. It's an exploration of tattered safety nets, stubborn individualism, and economic decay in the heartland." This unorthodox plot brought the story close to home for many individuals.

In the 93 years that the Academy Awards have been around, fewer than two dozen Asian performers have been recognized. Additionally, only 18% of directors working on the top 250 domestic grossing films are women. Zhao is the first woman of color in history to win the Academy Award for Best Director, both an exciting and historic achievement.



On top of being *Nomadland*'s main character, Frances McDormand helped produce the film, recruiting Zhao to direct after watching *The Rider* at the Toronto International Film Festival.

However, not everyone is celebrating Zhao's well-deserved win. The *New York Times* cautioned that although "Zhao's success has been praised as a major step forward in representation behind the camera this awards season, efforts to celebrate these firsts appear to have been dampened in China, where reports of censorship and media silence emerged Monday." Chinese social media sites began censoring

Zhao following a comment she made in a 2013 interview, calling China "a place where there are lies everywhere." Growing up in China, Zhao felt constrained and unable to tell the truth, which strengthened her desire to move out of the country so that she could speak her mind. These desires made her who she is today: a woman who embodies resilience, intelligence, and talent.

# House of the Dragon Seeks GoT Redemption George R.R. Martin Returns to Advise the Prequel

by Dave Argento '21  
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

Just three days before the 10-year anniversary of the premiere of the record-breaking series *Game of Thrones*, HBO officially announced production of the highly anticipated prequel series *House of the Dragon*. Fans of George R.R. Martin's high fantasy universe have been anticipating *House of the Dragon* since the show was unveiled by WarnerMedia in Oct. 2019. Co-creators Martin and Ryan Condal will have an upward battle in producing the first official project from the *Song of Fire and Ice* world since what many consider to be one of the most disappointing final seasons and finales in television history.

*House of the Dragon* will take place 300 years before the events of *Game of Thrones* and will follow the story of House Targaryen using material from Martin's 2018 book *Fire & Blood*. The ancestors of Daenerys Targaryen (a.k.a. the Mother of Dragons) ruled the lands of Westeros prior to Robert's Rebellion which had preceded the *Game of Thrones* story arc. Considering the series will take place during the peak of Targaryen military power, the massive budget of \$15 million per episode as the most expensive show to date should suffice to provide fans with all of the CGI dragon action one's heart could desire.

The massive project will surely have the production value and media buzz to succeed, but the quality of the writing will be observed incredibly closely considering the bad taste left in fans' mouths as a consequence of *House of the Dragon*'s predecessor. Some good indications have come from the staff announced to create the show as the likes of Miguel Sapochnik who has directing credits for six *Game of*



PHOTO COURTESY OF HBO

A recent first look from HBO showed Emma D'Arcy as Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen and Matt Smith as Prince Daemon Targaryen.

*Thrones* episodes for which he won an Emmy and DGA honors for "Battle of the Bastards" will be involved.

Contrary to the last seasons of *Game of Thrones*, where it was rumored George R.R. Martin and co-creators David Benioff and D.B. Weiss had severed ties over creative differences, Martin is back to being a more active contributor to the new project. Many attribute Martin's absence and lack of source material to why the ending to *Game of Thrones* was what most consider a tremendous failure in story writing, so at least these two corrections seem to have been made. There will likely be a mix of hope and skepticism as diehard fans would love to see more of Martin's highly regarded writing come to life on screen without the

disappointment that was felt throughout the fandom following the finale approximately two years ago.

*House of the Dragon* lacks an official release date, but HBO programming chief Casey Bloys suggested in a January interview that it might premiere sometime in 2022. Other *Game of Thrones* spinoff series are likely to come in the coming years, but production delays and budget cuts during the COVID pandemic have led to even more questions surrounding if and when such projects might come to life. *House of the Dragon* serves as a new opportunity to dive into George R.R. Martin's genius and incredibly detailed fantasy universe, causing fans to eagerly await any content to come in the coming months of production.

# Capturing the Intricacies of Climate Change, Sisterhood, A Decaying World, and the Worth of Humankind

## ~ The Ones We're Meant to Find by Joan He ~

by Sara Conway '21  
A&E Co-Editor

BOOKS

Cee knows two things: she woke up on a deserted island three years ago, and she does not remember anything, except that she has a sister named Kasey. And she needs to find her. Meanwhile, Kasey, declared a "STEM prodigy," wants a solution. Humans are rapidly destroying the earth as she knows it, and the coveted eco-cities that float above can only protect humanity for so long. Two timelines; two stories; two sisters. One twist-filled sci-fi novel that tackles climate change, the end of the world, and the ever-lingering question of what it means to be human.

Meet *The Ones We're Meant to Find* by Joan He. Released on May 4, this book is He's sophomore novel, coming two years after her debut novel, *Descendant of the Crane*. Prior to the publication of *The Ones We're Meant to Find*, *The Cowl* spoke with He about the inspiration behind her latest book, writing Cee and Kasey's characters, and the part oceans play in *The Ones We're Meant to Find*.

**Hi Joan! Thank you so much for speaking with me today for The Cowl. Let's just jump into it then: How did the idea for *The Ones We're Meant to Find* (TOWMTF) first come to you?**

The initial idea came to me in a dream: I had a very vivid image of a girl diving to the bottom of a sea, in search of something or someone. As I tried to figure out the "what," my mind went back to some of my favorite YA [young adult] Dystopians I'd read as a teen, such as *The Hunger Games* and *Legend*. They left a deep impression on me, particularly in how they signaled the relatability of their main characters. A single scene with a younger sibling, for example, could frame a protagonist as human and vulnerable before they went on to topple dictatorships or save the world. I wanted to subvert that. What if, I wondered, the girl in my dream is searching for her younger sister, but that sister is more than a storytelling device? And so came the heart of the story.

**The title, *The Ones We're Meant to Find*, has such a beautiful rhythm to it (and this line actually appears in the story). Was the title always this?**

Yes—this was the title from the start, and I'm grateful it survived the many drafts, all the way to the final book.

**TOWMTF is your sophomore novel. Would you say there was a difference in your writing process and approach to this story (sci-fi fantasy) compared to your debut, *Descendant of the Crane* (high fantasy)?**

*Descendant of the Crane* was actually the book that forced me to become a plotter. Anyone who's read it can probably understand why writing it without a plan was NOT a good idea. But even for DOTC, I knew the middle from the start, as well as how I wanted it to end. Same for TOWMTF. So the



The *Ones We're Meant to Find* was published on May 4 by Roaring Brook Press.

overall approach didn't really differ even though TOWMTF is in a different genre. I will say though that the second book is harder solely because you have more voices in the room than you would when working on your debut.

**One thing most readers probably notice is the distinction in point-of-view as the chapters alternate between Cee and Kasey. Why did you choose to write Cee's chapters in the first person, while writing Kasey's in the third person?**

As mentioned above, part of the inspiration behind the book comes from the expectations set up by the early YA dystopias. Cee, as a character, is based off of a lot of the protagonists I found within the pages of those stories, and has many of the traits that, simply by appearing often enough, would be deemed almost requisite for a traditional YA hero. Likewise, I also wanted Cee's POV and writing style to reflect that "canon" so that the eventual subversion of it would be more impactful. Hence, the first-person present tense. As it happens, it's also well suited to her character.

Meanwhile for Kasey, I wanted to respect her character and give her the distance that she would personally have wanted from the reader. Her deepest thoughts aren't something that anyone can or should be privy to. At times, even Kasey has a hard time accessing how she really feels when she's overly aware of how she should feel.

**What was it like finding and writing Cee and Kasey's characters/voices (I'm especially curious about Kasey and her intelligence level)?**

Writing Cee was pretty easy; there's a lot of existing fodder and framework for her sort of character, and I never really felt like I was pushing the envelope with her voice. Don't get me wrong—I loved writing Cee and had a lot of fun with her, but her voice felt like a safe choice.

Kasey, on the other hand, was much more of a challenge—and not just because of her intelligence. Time

and time again, I wondered if I should give her a little more. Make her a bit more sarcastic, put more sass and bite into her voice, give her more opinions, more attitude, more flair. But none of those add-ons would be true to Kasey. I had to sit with the insecurity of writing a character who I knew was missing a lot of charm and wit. Her being smart, after all, doesn't make her any less awkward. But it felt right that I would feel insecure about her, because if Cee is the kind of the character I would have wanted to be as a teen, Kasey is much closer to who I was. I didn't feel like I fit in or had the most interesting things to say. I still feel the same insecurities, to this day. I hope that Kasey can show readers that there is space in books for characters like Cee, but also space in books for characters like her.

**How and why (non-spoiler or super vaguely) did you choose each character's name?**

Cee's name came to me first—the reason behind it is a spoiler, so I will not say. Once I had Cee's name, I then tried to pick a name for the sister that would be a good complement for it.

**The ocean plays a crucial role in TOWMTF (and the gorgeous cover definitely emphasizes this). Why the sea?**

Because of that earliest dream I had, I always knew that the setting would be by the ocean. It worked out, because in the plot, the ocean serves as a huge obstacle both characters must overcome to find their way back to each other. As I continued to develop the story, the ocean also became more and more thematically relevant to the heart of the book and the world. It's a crucial part of our biosphere. The earliest life forms originated from it, including our human ancestors. It's a place of birth, and also of a place of death. Radioactive isotopes can travel from one continent to another by way of the currents. It connects all of us, no matter where we live. We're dependent on it, and it also

depends on us. It mirrors the conflict in the story perfectly, and adds to the mystery of the atmosphere.

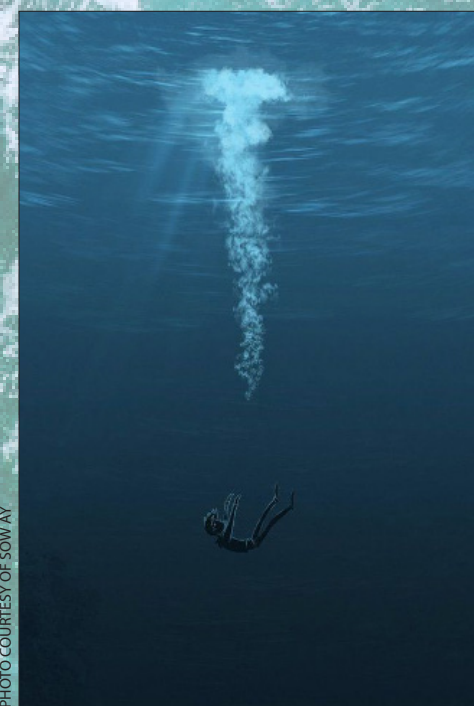
Pollution, mass climate change, climbing death counts, and intense natural disasters create the backdrop of destruction for TOWMTF—this is the world the characters live in. There must have been points when you became overwhelmed with the state of their life (and its connection to ours) and the questions they were forced to confront. How did you strike a balance with the overwhelming, and how did climate change become the focus of TOWMTF?

Because of the twist, I knew I needed the world to be ending in the story. For what reason? I wondered. Since I wanted the focus to be firmly kept on the sisters' relationship, I tried to pick the most plausible and intuitive cause. Climate change, therefore, felt like the obvious choice.

I first drafted the book in 2017, so of course I couldn't have foreseen the parallels as clearly as I did in 2020, when I was revising it. There were definitely moments where I got overwhelmed—not by the story, but by the facets of human behavior I knew to be true. I'd seeded them into the book, and the moment I heard COVID was in the US, as early as February, I had a sinking feeling. We weren't going to be able to contain it. If our best stopgap measure was relying on everyone to stay in and wear masks, that wasn't going to happen on a wide enough scale to make a difference; it's incredibly hard to get people to care about something that isn't immediately threatening them. So, yeah, that was overwhelming. But the story in the book actually gave me hope. I knew I had to share it. Because as flawed as we are as a species, we are also capable of incredible things.

**What songs and images come to mind when you think about TOWMTF?**

I'm pasting an image below that comes closer to capturing the image I saw in my dream. As for songs: "TIME" by Hans Zimmer, "On the Nature of Daylight" by Max Richter, and the entire Gattaca soundtrack, but especially "Departure."



# Elliot Page Opens up About the Trans Experience

## *The Actor Hopes to Use His Voice to Help Others*

by Nikki Idelson '22  
A&E Staff

TELEVISION



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEOPLE.COM

On April 30, Elliot Page, who is known for his roles in the films *Juno* and *Inception*, went on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* to discuss his journey in coming to terms with his identity as transgender. This interview followed his coming out on Instagram on Dec. 1, 2020, when he said, "To all trans people who deal with harassment, self-loathing, abuse and the threat of violence every day: I see you, I love you and I will do everything I can to change the world for the better."

There is growing violence against those within the trans community.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, as of May 4, "Sadly, 2021 has already seen at least 19 transgender or gender non-conforming people fatally shot or killed by other violent means." However, "too often these stories go unreported—or misreported." Page is one of the first well-known actors to openly identify as transgender, which has helped to inspire others to feel safe enough to openly identify with the LGBTQ+ community.

Page's interview with Oprah Winfrey has helped others to see and come to terms with their own identity. According to CBS News, in an interview that was conducted by Time Magazine, "Elliot Page announced that he'd had top surgery." He says that "he now feels more like himself and that little moments, like when he sees himself in a mirror, lead to 'tears of joy.'" It is clear that by being able to come to terms with and share who he truly is with the world, Page now feels comfortable and can even celebrate himself as a person.

Page also talked about the gender norm pressures that he had faced following the release of the films that helped to set off his career. While filming *Inception*, he began to struggle with the pressure of gender norms. Page said, "My manager

really believed that she was really doing the right thing for me and helping my career by encouraging the dresses, and the heels, and the sort of pressure to do that." This pressure affected Page both emotionally and physically, as he would frequently have panic attacks. However, coming out for Page has been monumental and has allowed him to be his true, authentic self.

Coming to terms with his own identity allowed Page to connect his struggles to discrimination against transgender individuals in the

healthcare system. At the end of the interview, according to CBS News, he brought up how "there is such an attack on trans health care right now, when already there is such a lack of access or trans people who don't even want to go to the doctor." As many who belong to the trans community have a lack of access to healthcare and this issue has not been talked about enough, it is clear that Page is helping to start a discussion to not only fight against this, but alongside many of the other inequalities that those who identify as trans face.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VANITYFAIR.COM

# Roaring into the '20s with *The Great Gatsby* Musical

## *Florence Welch Plans a New Adaptation of the Classic Novel*

by Liam O'Hara '21  
A&E Staff

MUSIC/THEATRE

One of the most notable novels in the history of American literature from the Roaring '20s, arguably of all time, is Francis Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. First published in 1925, the work tells the iconic story of newcomer to New York, Nick Carraway, who befriends Jay Gatsby, a shadowy businessman. The two attend extravagant parties in Gatsby's mansion as Gatsby pines after his love interest, Daisy Buchanan.

This classic novel has thrilled readers with its lyrical prose and incisive look at the American dream. The 1925 book has also inspired a wide range of films, including, notably, Baz Luhrmann's 2013 feature starring Leonardo DiCaprio; it has also hit the stage multiple times with shows, an opera, a ballet, and even other adaptations such as an online video game.

Florence Welch, lead singer of the indie rock band Florence and the Machine, who also received a Grammy nomination, proposed a plan to write *The Great Gatsby: A New Musical*. Welch will journey into the Jazz Age for this new musical project; it will be one that will offer up fortune seekers and flappers, rum runners and rich debutantes, self-made men and high society standard bearers. This rendition will provide the spine of a new stage show that is eyeing a Broadway run. There have been rumors that the post-COVID era will be the next "Roaring '20s," so Welch seems to be taking it literally.

Welch will be working alongside Grammy and Oscar award nominee Thomas Bartlett on the musical aspect of it all. Welch has worked with Bartlett in the past through Florence and the Machine. She has always wanted to take her musical

talents to the theatrical world, and Fitzgerald's classic inspired her to create this new piece of art. Welch commented: "This book has haunted me for a large part of my life. It contains some of my favorite lines in literature. Musicals were my first love, and I feel a deep connection to Fitzgerald's broken romanticism. It is an honor to have been offered the chance to recreate this book in song."

Len Blavatnik and Amanda Ghost for Unigram in association with Robert Fox reported that Pulitzer Prize winner Martyna

**"I feel a deep connection to Fitzgerald's broken romanticism. It is an honor to have been offered the chance to recreate this book in song."**

Majok will write the book, and the show will be directed by Olivier Award nominee Rebecca Frecknall. Majok said, "I'm thrilled, honored, and inspired to work with this company of extraordinary artists, and to get to live in F. Scott Fitzgerald's transcendent and gorgeous words.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PINTEREST.COM

Florence Welch, lead singer of indie rock band Florence and the Machine, is set to lead the project.

I'm also overjoyed to be reunited with Rebecca Frecknall, with whom I had the most wonderful experience working on my play, *Sanctuary City*."

This musical marks the first major new Broadway-bound musical announced since the start of the pandemic, and it will for sure be coming at the right time. The producers said that they will disclose a pre-Broadway engagement and production timeline shortly. Broadway, here comes *The Great Gatsby: A New Musical*.

# 2021 Class of 2021 Graduation



S	A	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	E	E	M	C	E
N	B	R	C	C	J	I	N	R	G	E	M	O	C
D	U	F	E	H	E	C	C	I	A	V	S	M	N
M	S	C	R	C	O	L	A	I	E	E	R	M	E
A	I	V	C	L	N	R	E	P	I	R	O	E	I
M	N	I	F	A	N	M	D	B	C	I	N	N	C
O	E	F	O	S	P	T	E	S	R	T	O	C	S
L	S	A	I	S	E	S	R	L	M	A	H	E	D
P	S	M	S	O	Y	I	E	R	G	S	T	M	N
I	R	I	G	M	M	M	R	M	O	C	R	E	A
D	A	L	S	O	A	R	A	O	N	N	P	N	S
I	T	Y	O	J	W	A	B	O	M	O	I	T	T
A	R	I	O	E	C	N	N	C	A	E	A	M	R
W	M	R	B	O	O	A	S	M	A	N	M	M	A

- Cap
- Gown
- Minor
- Major
- Honors
- Friends
- Family
- Business
- Arts and Science
- Celebrate
- Diploma
- Commencement
- Chords
- Memories
- Class
- Veritas



GRAPHICS COURTESY OF CLIPARTKEY.COM  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE MADE WITH THEWORDSEARCH.COM

## Friar Libs (Graduation Edition)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,  
Name

As I finish up my four years at \_\_\_\_\_, I want to thank you for  
Place

the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ support. My time at \_\_\_\_\_ has  
Adj. Adj. Place

been unforgettable thanks to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and others.  
Person Noun

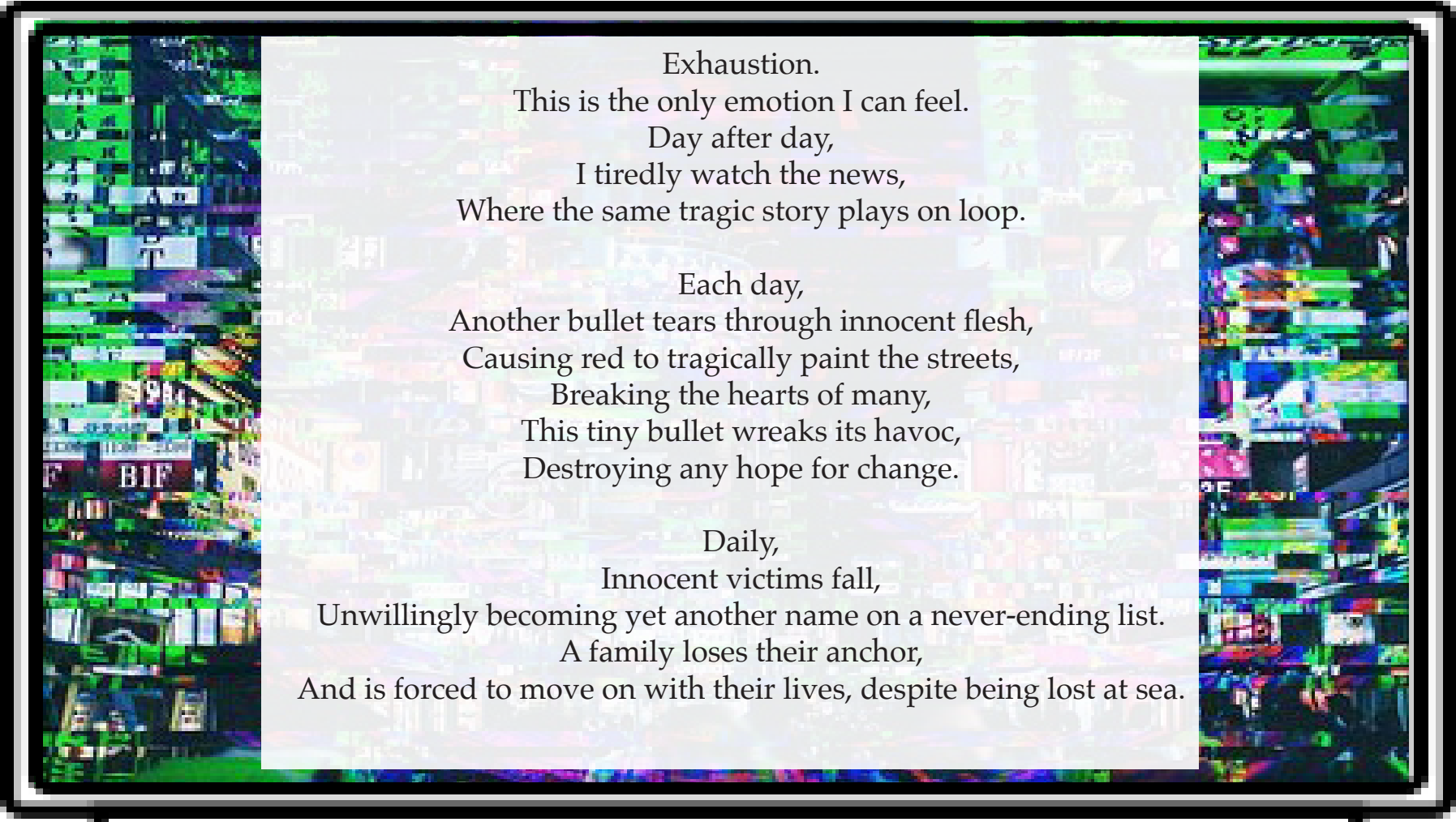
Thanks again, and \_\_\_\_\_!  
Sign-off



## Daily

by Taylor Rogers '24  
Portfolio Asst. Editor

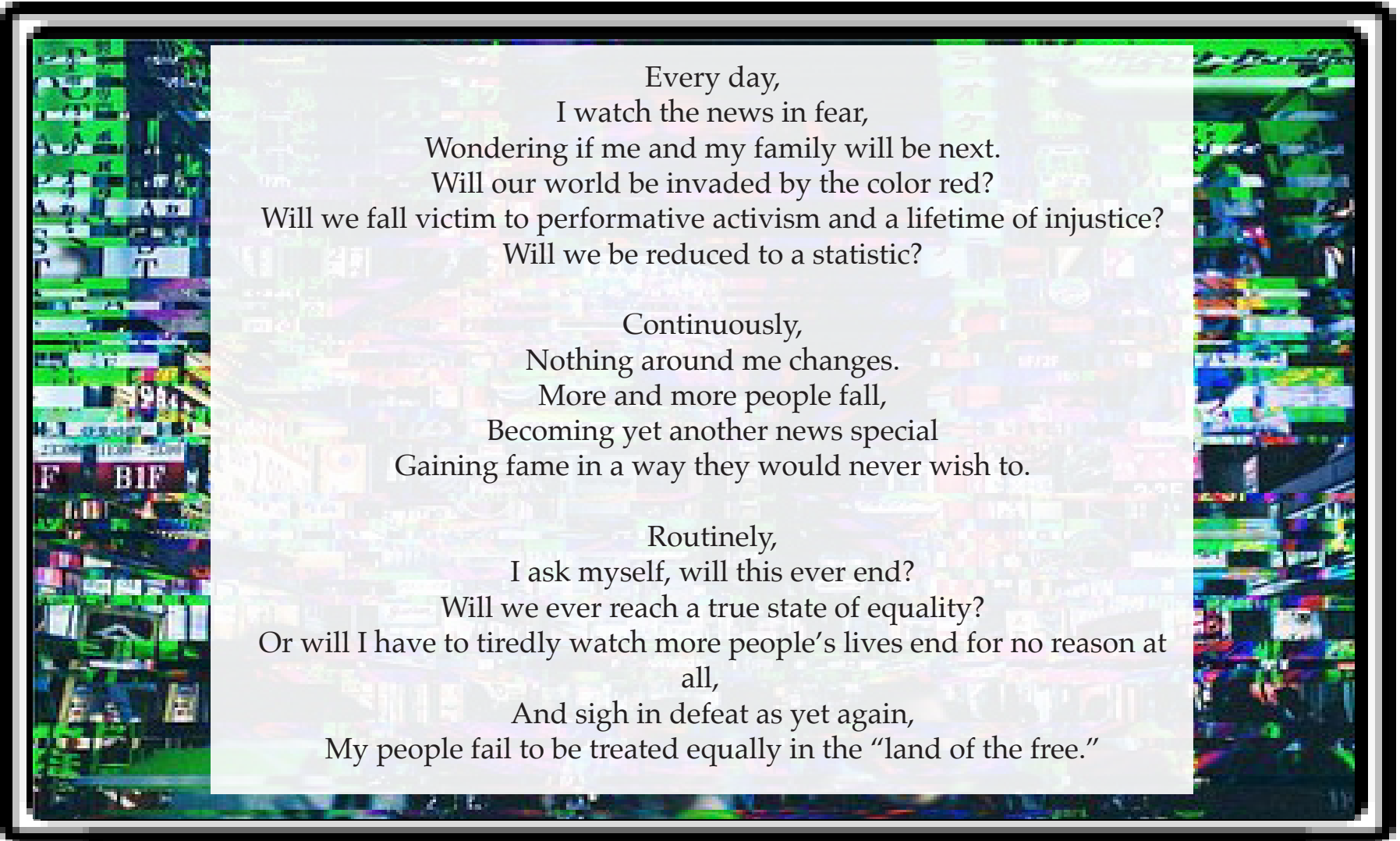
POETRY



Exhaustion.  
This is the only emotion I can feel.  
Day after day,  
I tiredly watch the news,  
Where the same tragic story plays on loop.

Each day,  
Another bullet tears through innocent flesh,  
Causing red to tragically paint the streets,  
Breaking the hearts of many,  
This tiny bullet wreaks its havoc,  
Destroying any hope for change.

Daily,  
Innocent victims fall,  
Unwillingly becoming yet another name on a never-ending list.  
A family loses their anchor,  
And is forced to move on with their lives, despite being lost at sea.



Every day,  
I watch the news in fear,  
Wondering if me and my family will be next.  
Will our world be invaded by the color red?  
Will we fall victim to performative activism and a lifetime of injustice?  
Will we be reduced to a statistic?

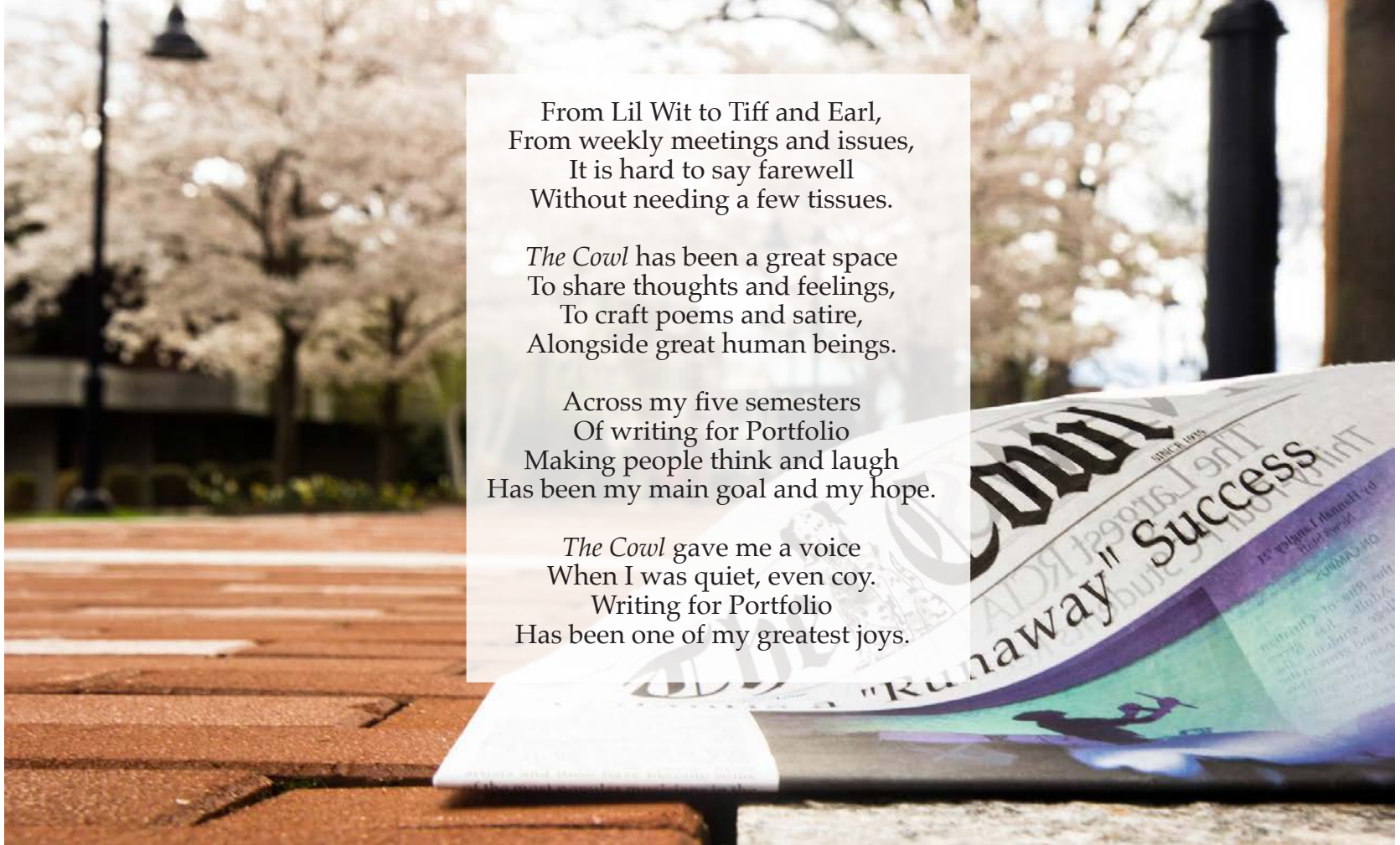
Continuously,  
Nothing around me changes.  
More and more people fall,  
Becoming yet another news special  
Gaining fame in a way they would never wish to.

Routinely,  
I ask myself, will this ever end?  
Will we ever reach a true state of equality?  
Or will I have to tiredly watch more people's lives end for no reason at all,  
And sigh in defeat as yet again,  
My people fail to be treated equally in the "land of the free."

# Farewell

by Sarah Heavren '21  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY



From Lil Wit to Tiff and Earl,  
From weekly meetings and issues,  
It is hard to say farewell  
Without needing a few tissues.

*The Cowl* has been a great space  
To share thoughts and feelings,  
To craft poems and satire,  
Alongside great human beings.

Across my five semesters  
Of writing for Portfolio  
Making people think and laugh  
Has been my main goal and my hope.

*The Cowl* gave me a voice  
When I was quiet, even coy.  
Writing for Portfolio  
Has been one of my greatest joys.

PHOTO BY MAGGIE BRANHAM '18/TheCowl

# the weather

by Marelle Hipolito '22  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

the sun is shining  
the blades of grass are dancing  
your playlist is playing  
but you are missing

the flowers are blooming  
the birds are flying  
your guitar solo is playing  
but you are missing

it's a beautiful day outside  
we are all here together, it's pretty nice  
but there's something not right  
you are missing, i'm not alright

you are missing out on the beautiful weather outside  
you are missing out on being here with us because there's something missing in you inside  
and i can't help you fix you because I'm just here outside  
let me in let me in let me in, i miss you and i want you to be alright

the sun is shining  
but i am crying  
you are missed and you are missing  
inside and outside

the flowers are blooming  
but i am dying  
i'm missing you being by my side  
let me help you, let me inside

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

# Rip Tide

by Grace O'Connor '22  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

He shimmers in the golden sunlight,  
As she looks at his ripples from the light breeze, mesmerized.  
The dip in the ripples is a dark blue with a light blue exterior that the sun accentuates,  
He cools her feet, welcoming her into his bountiful abyss.  
She steps in, and the water wraps her in his silky balminess.  
She slowly swims out, guided by his riptide.  
The riptide pushes her out further as she looks at the land becoming smaller.  
She starts to panic as she slowly looks for the floor he pushed away.

He is a ravenous beast, trying to pull her down to his deep, dark, depths.  
He is frigid, forceful, and has fingers that claw at the shore, constantly searching for more.  
Grabbing her legs, dragging her down to the darkness that lingers below,  
As her arms move in circles to keep her up, his waves consistently rumble her way,  
Pushing her down, and tossing her around, like a plastic bag in the wind.  
Her lungs are begging for air, as the saltwater screams around her.  
Her eyes beg for help as she looks at the people on the land.

He pulls her back as she reaches for land.  
He is everywhere, successfully drowning her in his malice.  
He is the water keeping her afloat but slowly dehydrating her.  
His hand slices through her like a knife when he slaps her with his weight.  
Her tears silently melt away in the water as he rumbles,  
Marks of his anger are sheared onto her skin from the debris he spews.  
Her arms and legs are weak from pain,

As he pulls her away with his foamy arms, grabbing her from all sides.  
She stops swimming, looking at the land bobbing in the far distance,  
Filled with people smiling as they savor their lives in the warm sun.  
Her home, her safety, no longer could be even through persistence.  
He pulls her under, blinding her with murky water from the sea,  
As quickly as a wave covers up a footprint,  
Gone as can be.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

# The Piano Jury

by Matthew Ciesla '24  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

Bright, silent, daunting  
Central to my narrowing vision.  
The floorboards of all things taunting  
My stare returning with derision.  
Every seat with its front bare  
No staring heads in sight  
None but those that at me glare  
Basked in blinding light.  
Should I try to glance?  
Dare I take that chance?  
One with pad and pen  
One with eyes so stern  
Best to look back again  
No, not heartburn!  
Something was said  
Is that the cue?  
No only dread  
One, two  
Go!  
GO!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

*Trigger Warning: This poem includes references to sexual assault and rape.*

# Tough Decisions

by Anna Pomeroy '23  
Portfolio Staff

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Since the moment our voices make that tremendous cry, we've been thrown onto a path. The doctor's palms whisk us away into the comforting arms of a mother, a mother given to us merely by fate. Born into a family of strangers, realistically. It's crazy how we are told our whole lives that we choose what we make of it, yet we truly are only brought into a life with strings attached that we did not form. With two siblings after me, I was born into the role of the oldest sibling— not by choice. Becoming the second voice of a parent under the roof wasn't easy. At Christmas, my mom, through valid attempts to make present shopping easier, presumed that my sister and I morphed into the same character, gifting the pink version of a shirt for me, and the blue for her. Yet, we eventually grew into our own skin. The home, the town, and the state we were born into are random, with little control granted to family income opportunities for varying education. Assigned a gender at birth, this is never a choice. I am grateful for being born a female in a world of strong feminist morals, but I frankly had no control over the assumptions made about me due to my gender. I have sometimes been told by society and social media what is "ok" to wear and what is "not"—that I cannot walk alone at night without baring keys between my white knuckles and faking a phone call to my dad. No control regarding doing the same job as male colleagues but given less pay due to my gender. How downright scary it is for women that someone could even think an incident of sexual assault could have been influenced by the clothes I chose to wear that morning. They say we make life our own and can choose what happens, yet, because we are born into a society with an imbalanced structure of power, I will hear *"your outfit is too distracting," "yeah, well you did well for a girl," "but what were you wearing when you were raped?"*

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

## Listomania\*

### Things to do before I graduate

- Jump in the koi pond
- Go streaking in the tunnels
- Give a big smooch to Friar Dom
- Dress up as Friar Dom
- Grab a beer at McPhail's
- Watch MondoZ get rebuilt
- Break into Fr. Sicard's house
- Fail a theology class
- Participate in Civ Scream
- Set a couch on fire
- Sacrifice a virgin
- Climb the stairs to the top of McVinney
- Pull an all-nighter in the library
- Get my fake confiscated at Old's
- Get into the Friar Development Center
- Win an intramural t-shirt
- Finally open my textbooks
- Learn the names of the 12 Apostles
- Figure out where Sullivan Hall is located on campus
- Find out who Tiff & Earl are
- Find out who the Serial Pissah is

\*Listomania and Tiffany & Earl are both satirical pieces that do not reflect the views of Providence College or The Cowl.

## Tiffany & Earl

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

Dear Tiff and Earl,

I have found myself suffering from a bad case of senioritis as a freshman. Any cures?

Sincerely,

Soon-to-be Sophomore

Dear Fresh Meat,

Finals week is coming and there is only one cure. Go to the bowels of the library where the light of day does not shine. Chain yourself to one of the desks or tables there. Eat and drink nothing but Dr. Pepper until you have completed all of your work. Speak to no one. If you find yourself desperate for food, a meager bag of chips is all you are allowed to consume. Depending on your schedule, the vending machine might run out of Dr. Pepper, in which case you must scour campus for your elixir of life. This is the only way, and it has indeed been proven to be successful. If you need any further motivation at all, listen to the *Braveheart* freedom speech on repeat. This is the only way.

Tough lovingly,

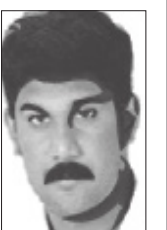


Tiff

Dear Frustrated Freshman,

Oh yes, I have something. Just think about the sweet, sweet halls of AQ that you get to roam next year. They're filled with the highest quality amenities such as beige walls, doors that do not shut, and weird, little toilets in random corners. You'll get to party in the lounge till 2 a.m. on a Tuesday before rolling out of bed for a Ray breakfast. Just don't you dare step foot in the wrong side of the building or you will get expelled on the spot. Indeed, thoughts of AQ dancing in your head should power you through the end of the year!

AQ-tiely,



Earl

## Editor's Corner

by Liam Tormey '22  
Sports Asst. Editor

PROFESSIONAL SOCCER

On April 18, the European soccer community was shaken to its core when it was announced that 12 of the biggest clubs in Europe would be breaking away to form the European Super League, ending the competitive structure of the game all for the pockets of 12 greedy owners.

Real Madrid CF, FC Barcelona, Manchester United FC, Liverpool FC, Juventus FC, and seven more of the most well-known clubs in the world founded the Super League. Florentino Pérez, the president of Real Madrid, was due to be the chairman of the Super League, with owners from other clubs named vice-chairmen.

Talks of a European Super League had been rumored for decades. In theory, the top clubs across Europe would create a league in which they would compete against each other every week. Due to the financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, these top clubs have been hit with large amounts of debt, giving the owners an excuse to finally propose this idea.

Quickly following the news, UEFA, the Union of European Football Associations, and many other domestic leagues, condemned the formation of the Super League, issuing a statement that if the clubs went through with this proposal, there would be major punishments.

Television pundits, fans, and even players and managers took to the press and social media to express their disgust at the proposal. A Sky Sports commentator, Gary Neville, who played for Manchester United for 19 seasons, labeled the formation of the league as an act of "pure greed."

In the end, the proposal of the European Super League is an act of "Americanizing" the European game. European soccer is so unique because of the opportunity for any team to win it all. The promotion and relegation system across European soccer is not seen within American sports, and it allows for teams' successes to be rewarded and teams' failures to be punished.

After the upheaval from fans, many within the Super League, most notably the English clubs, were the first to apologize to their fans and withdraw from the proposal just three days after the news broke on April 18.

The Super League responded by saying they will need to reshape the project, as they still believe it will enhance the experience of European soccer.

Fans across Europe, particularly in England, have continued to express their disapproval of their owner's wishes. Large protests outside stadiums have occurred, and on May 2, Manchester United against Liverpool was canceled due to United fans storming Old Trafford in protest of their owners.

This fiasco has shown the power that soccer fans still have in shaping the game. As the famous saying across Europe goes, "Football is nothing without fans."

## Zimmerman Succeeding Down Under *Former Friar Star Wins Championship*

by Leo Hainline '22  
Sports Staff

FORMER FRIAR

Catherine Zimmerman '16, one of the most accomplished soccer players in Providence College program history, recently added to her successful career in Australia by winning the W-League Championship with the Melbourne Victory. She played a crucial part in Melbourne's success, scoring six goals and providing one assist across 10 games this season. Zimmerman started up front at forward in the W-League finals against Sydney FC, a game in which the Victory won in dramatic fashion. Indeed, the 1-0 score did little to reflect the thrilling nature of the game. This was Melbourne's first W-League Championship since the 2013-14 season.

At PC, Zimmerman was a three-time All-Big East selection. In 2014, she became the first player in program history to make the All-Big East First team, an honor she would again receive in 2015. When playing for the Friars, Zimmerman also helped the team reach back-to-back Big East tournament appearances and helped the team reach the championship game in 2015.

Zimmerman attributes much of her professional success to her experiences in Friartown: "My time at Providence was great. I think I owe a lot of success to [coach] Sam Lopes. He believed in me and worked with me and has done so much for me on and off the field, so I owe a lot to him." She continued by saying that Lopes "was probably one of the best coaches I've had in my lifetime. Playing under him and his drive and passion and knowledge for the game, I think he just helped me become a better soccer player rather than just an athlete."

After her collegiate career, Zimmerman began playing professionally in the National Women's Soccer League. She signed her first professional contract with Sky Blue FC, the team she watched while growing up in New Jersey. Her career really took off in Australia when Zimmerman signed for Calder United SC in 2018. In two seasons at the club, she won back-to-back Golden Boots, scoring an impressive 78 goals in 56 games. In 2020, Zimmerman signed for Melbourne Victory, and soon began enjoying instant success playing in Australia's top league.

Zimmerman has embraced Australia as a new home, attributing part of her breakthrough to the country's lifestyle and culture. "Australia in general is a



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

As a Friar, Zimmerman became the first player in program history to make the All-Big East First Team.

great place to live," said Zimmerman. "It's pretty relaxed as far as the lifestyle goes, so I think I found a bit more freedom here, as where in the U.S. there is a lot of pressure to do the normal thing like work a nine-to-five job."

"I have my soccer career, but I also do some coaching, work some random jobs, and also just with the social and life aspect," she continued. "There's a lot to do and a lot to see and a lot of fun to have. Overall, you get a little bit of everything here, and I think that comes down to how the sporting system here is different than in the U.S."

Melbourne Victory's first championship since the 2013-14 campaign was even more impressive given the uncertainty of the pandemic. Zimmerman explained that this was a major challenge during the season. "A schedule was set and then it was changing around every week," she said. "You're preparing for a game on the weekend and then you get an email or a call saying we're not playing this weekend, and we're playing in four days not in Perth but in Sydney, or something like that."

Zimmerman explained that there were a lot of changes and uncertainty, but overall, she thought "the league in general did a good job of dealing with it. I think their goal was always to do whatever it takes to get the season in, so I'm appreciative of that and I think that's something they should take credit for."

The friendships in the locker room

and leadership both from players and coaches were a major reason the team enjoyed so much success, according to Zimmerman. "I think between everyone on the team, everyone knew each other, or knew of each other because we all played in the local NPL...we all got along very well on and off the field." She also credits the leadership of her good friend Angie Beard, the captain of the team. "I think her leadership is second to none and made an impact on us throughout the season. And I think from the coaches, that leadership from them also trickled down," Zimmerman said. "I think they're two of the better coaches I've had in my career, so playing under them was really special, too."

This team effort was on full display in the W-League Finals against Sydney FC. Both sides had plenty of scoring opportunities, with some chances rattling off the crossbar while others required brilliant saves and goal-line clearances. The Victory had nice build-up play throughout the game, but somehow kept coming up short of finding the back of the net.

After 90 minutes, the match remained scoreless. Deep into extra-time, Melbourne still was attacking and putting the pressure on, believing that they could finally find the decisive goal in the match. With a penalty shootout looming in the 120th minute, Zimmerman's teammate Kyra Cooney-Cross stepped up to take a corner and miraculously launched it over the top of the keeper, curling the ball past the goal line to put Melbourne on top. It was an incredible goal and a fitting way to secure the championship.

As this season wraps up, Zimmerman can envision herself playing in Australia for years to come. "I could definitely see myself staying in Australia, again it's a great place to play and live," she said. "I hope to get overseas one more time, but ultimately, as far as soccer goes, Melbourne is my home and that's my home ground, so I'll probably stay here a couple more years and see where I end up."

Zimmerman will look to gain more accolades throughout her esteemed career in the coming years, continuing a trend that has made her one of the most successful PC athletes around.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Zimmerman has found a home in Australia. In two seasons with Calder United SC, she put up 78 goals. This year, she scored six goals in 10 games for the champions, the Melbourne Victory.

# Men's Lacrosse Takes on Denver

## With Big East Tournament on the Horizon, PC Prepared

by Margaret Maloney '23  
Sports Staff

MEN'S LACROSSE

The Providence College Men's Lacrosse Team has risen to the occasion in this difficult spring 2021 season, and they are ready to continue the momentum they had at this time last year before COVID-19 struck. Last year, the Friars started their season 5-1 and were ready to dominate in the Big East tournament. This year, they have used their disappointment as a motivator and now aim to make some noise in the Big East tournament.

The Friars, the fourth seed in the tournament, will take on top-seeded University of Denver on May 6 right here on the PC campus. The Friars have lost their two matchups this year against a talented Denver squad and will look to pull off the upset in their semifinal matchup.

Head coach Chris Gabrielli shared how proud he is of his team for pushing through all sorts of COVID-19 restrictions and protocols, explaining that the adversity has made the team better overall and more committed to the sport. He especially emphasized their win against Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI.

Gabrielli explained that the trip to Milwaukee entailed taking "multiple flights and buses, wearing masks, isolating in our hotel rooms...It was an in-and-out trip, leaving the day before, and it was a very quick turnaround to play the next morning, and we just played great."

He then spoke about how hard it has been mentally for his players to stay healthy, get tested multiple times a week, and also stay focused on the fact that they play the game because they love it. All of the COVID protocols and restrictions have made the season a difficult one, but that all seems to go away when they step on the field to practice or play in games. Gabrielli has made the extra effort to ensure that his players remember this feeling of normalcy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Toby Burgdorf '21 is the steady hand that will lead the Friars into their matchup against Denver. A recent recipient of PC's Mal Brown award, he has also seen his name featured frequently on the Big East Weekly Honor Roll this season.

When talking to coach Gabrielli about preparing for the tournament this season, he explained how important it is to have fun. While the Friars are sticking to their regular practice schedule with extra shooting sessions heading into the tournament, there was an organized "inter-squad scrimmage to make it competitive and fun" for the team the week before the tournament. Gabrielli emphasized that the team is putting in hard work to succeed in the postseason, but it is also important to stay loose going in.

This year, the Friars had eight returning graduates who decided to take advantage of

the opportunity given to them by the NCAA to play one more season. When asked about what winning the Big East tournament would mean to him and his players, Gabrielli responded that "a Big East championship would mean the world to us, especially for all of our fifth year athletes who came back with the goal of competing for a Big East championship on Chapey Field."

Indeed, PC is lucky enough to host the Big East championship this year, giving the Friars home-field advantage. As they approach their first game in the tournament on May 6, the men's lacrosse team is fully prepared to excel in the tournament and earn back what they lost last year.

# Friartown Features Hosts Williams and Burke

## Two Greats Share Valuable Pieces of Advice

by Scott Jarosz '21  
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

On April 26, professional tennis player Serena Williams joined Providence College alumna and NBA broadcaster Doris Burke virtually to take part in a conversation that was broadcasted to the entire PC community. This conversation was part of a series of virtual events hosted by PC entitled "Friartown Features." Throughout the conversation, Williams and Burke shared many valuable insights that made this event well worth attending.

A native of Saginaw, MI, Williams began playing tennis at a young age and has not looked back since. Now 39 years old, Williams has solidified herself as one of the best tennis players of all time. Throughout her professional career, which began in 1995, Williams has won a total of 73 matches, including 23 individual grand slams.

Her 23 grand slam victories are the

**"You have to be willing to put in hours when other people are not. You have to be willing to miss out on something when other people are not."**



GRAPHIC BY JACK BELANGER '21

With Doris Burke interviewing Serena Williams, the two were able to share personal tips and tricks on how to be successful based on their respective careers.

most by a player in the Open Era and are the second-most of all time. In addition to her on-court performance, Williams is highly involved in social activism and charity work. Her outstanding career on the court, as well as her efforts off the court, have established her as a premier role model for people across the globe.

Given her simply outstanding accomplishments and impact, Williams' conversation with Burke was an opportunity that many members of the

PC community could not pass up. The conversation was designed for Burke to serve as the interviewer and Williams as the respondent. Burke asked Williams a wide variety of questions, to which Williams responded with thoughtful answers. Burke also offered her own input following Williams' responses.

The conversation began with Burke asking Williams for her biggest piece of advice that has led her to have such an outstanding career. Williams

responded, "You have to be willing to put in hours when other people are not. You have to be willing to miss out on something when other people are not."

She continued her answer by sharing some additional insights. "I can't tell you the amount of times I've wanted to do other things [instead of working] and now I'm so grateful that I spent my time doing what I had to do, not necessarily what I wanted to do." Williams' response to this question gave the PC community an inside look into what allowed her to have such a successful career, which was inspiring to hear.

When Burke asked her about what tennis means to her and whether she strives to earn the all-time record for most grand slam victories, Williams said, "At the end of the day I don't really care if I'm known [for] how many grand slams I've won, I definitely want to be known more for things I did off the court and people's lives I was able to influence." An admirable sentiment, this shows how passionate Williams is about making an impact on the world at large, and how she understands that there is more to life than on-court achievements such as grand slam titles.

Overall, the virtual conversation between Doris Burke and Serena Williams was an amazing experience for the PC community. Both Burke and Williams have had outstanding careers as women in sports and hearing their input on a wide variety of topics was immensely valuable.

# What Was the Best Moment in Friars Athletics This Year? Providence College Investigates: PC Athletics

## Women's Hockey Makes NCAA's

There have been a lot of impactful events that have happened in Providence College Athletics this year, but few are as impactful and program-defining as the PC Women's Ice Hockey Team's run to the NCAA tournament. The Friars made the national tournament for just the second time in program history, their first appearance since the 2004-2005 season when they lost to the University of Minnesota 6-1 in the first round.

That year, the Friars, led by Bob Deraney, went 21-11-5, finished second in Hockey East, and won the Hockey East Conference Championship. But that was then, and now the Friars are under the tutelage of head coach Matt Kelly. In a shortened season caused by COVID-19, Kelly's squad boasted a 12-8-1 record. The Friars had a fantastic season all around, highlighted by the performances of forwards Bailey Burton '23, Sara Hjalmarsson '22, and Caroline Peterson '22, defensemen Brooke Becker '24 and Claire Tyo '24, and goaltender Sandra Abstreiter '21.

They would ultimately reach the Hockey East Championship game against Northeastern University. The Friars would fall in that game 6-2, but luckily their season would not end there.

The second-place finish at the hands of an elite NU squad would earn the Friars the No. 7 seed in the NCAA tournament.

The women's ice hockey tournament is only eight teams deep, making it incredibly difficult for teams to qualify, and the Friars were just able to edge

in at the seven spot. The Northeastern team that had defeated them in the Hockey East Championship would earn the number one seed, and Boston College, who had been upset by the University of Connecticut in the Hockey East Quarterfinals, would round out the Hockey East representation at the tournament. The Friars would match up with the number two seed, and the eventual champions, the University of Wisconsin Badgers.

Unfortunately, the Friars would be blanked 3-0 by the Badgers, who would go on to defeat Northeastern in the National Championship 2-1. While the outcome was not much different than the last time they qualified for the tournament, making the tournament under this new coaching staff and fielding a team capable of doing so is not only the biggest moment of the year for PC Athletics, but also a vital building block for the program for years to come.

With COVID-19 affecting so many sports on campus—limiting teams' preseasons, practice, and travel, as well as cutting games out of the schedule—many teams struggled to find consistent success this season. However, the women's hockey team rose above, having one of their most impressive seasons in recent memory, attaining a goal that had only been accomplished once before in program history.

-Joseph Quirk '23  
Sports Staff

## David Duke's Emergence

Providence College Friars' guard David Duke Jr. '22 has always had a bright future ahead of him. The 21-year-old already has a very impressive resume and is looking to add one more accolade to his growing list. Concluding this year's college basketball season, Duke declared for the NBA Draft. Overall, Duke's performance this year and subsequent entry into the NBA Draft is the highlight of the year for Friars athletics.

Duke's first season for the Friars was not one to scoff at. Heading into the 2018-19 basketball season, Duke was named the Preseason Big East Co-Freshman of the Year. In 34 games he averaged 7.1 points and made 38.7 percent of attempted field goals, an impressive line for a freshman. Concluding Duke's inaugural season, he earned the team's Coca-Cola Most Promising Prospect Award.

David Duke's success continued in his sophomore campaign. On top of being awarded the team's Ryan Gomes Most Improved Player Award and being named to the U.S. Basketball Writers Association All-District I team, Duke also competed as a member of Team USA in the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru, where he helped the squad earn a bronze medal. During PC's season he improved his field goal percentage to 40.9 percent while making 42 percent of his threes.

Duke's success peaked in his final season. The junior ranked first in the Big

East in minutes played, averaging 37.1 minutes per game. He ranked second in the league in assists and finished second on the Friars for scoring. On Feb. 24, Duke scored his 1,000th career point. On that day he became the 52nd Friar to reach the 1,000-career-point mark. He earned USBWA All-District I honors again and was named to the All-Big East Second Team.

Despite all the success on the court, what makes David Duke's looming selection in the draft so special is that he grew up right in Providence, RI and has always given back to his community. This past February, Duke helped to publicize a GoFundMe that he and his classmates made for a class project, with the goal of raising \$5,000. The money donated would go to Crossroads Rhode Island, the leader in homeless services organizations in Rhode Island. Duke and his classmates surpassed the goal of \$5,000 with ease, raising over \$14,000.

The NBA Draft will take place on July 29. Many suspect Duke will be selected in the 60-player, two-round draft, and coming off a breakout junior campaign, Duke certainly has much to look forward to in his basketball career. Friar fans will be glued to the TV, waiting to see where Duke lands next as he leaves behind a substantial legacy in his city.

-Ben Bilotti '23  
Sports Staff

# COVID-19 Ends PC Volleyball's Incredible Year

by Luke Sweeney '24  
Sports Staff

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Adversity struck the Providence College Women's Volleyball Team, when they were sent home for the 2020 spring semester last year. This meant that they would not have the chance to practice together or to engage in any in-person, team-building activities in the lead up to their next season. However, head coach and former player Margot Royer-Johnson was able to adapt to the situation by creating an online fitness and team-building program that allowed her team to remain in contact with each other while improving their skills in preparation for the 2021 season.

When asked about her team and how they responded to the challenges of COVID-19 protocols, coach Royer-

Johnson could not say enough about how pleased she was with the way the athletes adapted and committed themselves to being successful: "Every member of our team completely bought into our offseason program and were more than excited to compete once allowed back on campus."

Their hard work in the offseason clearly paid dividends as the shortened 2021 spring season came to a close. It was a special season for the Friars, as it was the first time they had been invited to the Big East tournament since 1999. In a dramatic, five-set victory over the Villanova University Wildcats in late March, the Friars punched their ticket to become the No. 2 seed in the tournament.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 complications, such as players testing positive and being close contacts of positive cases, Royer-Johnson and her team were forced to pull out of the tournament just a week before

they were set to begin. This was a devastating moment for all members of the team, especially the seniors who will not be returning to compete next year.

Although the season did not end quite the way they had hoped, two players, as well as the entire coaching staff, were awarded Big East All-Conference Honors to highlight their exceptional performances this season.

Allison Barber '21 and Emma Nelson '23 were both named to the All-Big East First Team.

Barber was highlighted as a dominant player in the Big East because of her ability in the backcourt, ranking fourth in assists in the Big East, while also racking up 115 defensive digs. Nelson has proved to be dangerous near the net in her first two seasons with the Friars, tallying a total of 128 kills in her sophomore year as well as carrying a .226 hitting percentage.

Although both players were tremendous this year, coach Royer-Johnson emphasized that their success as a team was not dependent on any individual's performance, rather, their success was the product of a complete team effort. "Every player on this year's team contributed to our success," said Royer-Johnson. "There was very little focus on individual accomplishment."

The coaching staff, headed by Royer-Johnson, was recognized for their 7-3 season by being named the Big East Coaching Staff of the Year. The team, picked to finish fifth in the preseason poll, far exceeded expectations by finishing second in the east division.

When asked what she thought contributed to this accolade, Royer-Johnson remained humble by insisting it was a full-team effort. She also explained that it was not only the coaching staff that was crucial to the team's accomplishments, but also the College's athletic training staff, calling them "one of the best in the entire country." The trainers played a huge role in keeping the members of the team healthy and in peak physical shape throughout a difficult offseason and into the end of the year.

Although their run came to an end in a heartbreaking fashion, PC volleyball produced fantastic results in a trying time, and now look well positioned to build on their success next season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

The Big East Coaching Staff of the Year, headed by Margot Royer-Johnson, led the Friars to their first Big East tournament since 1999.

# A Look Around Friartown

*Providence College honored its top student-athletes at the 60th Annual All-Sports Gala on Monday, May 3. The athletic department gave out awards such as male and female athletes of the year, among other awards. Here are some of the winners:*

**Male Athlete of the Year (Team Sport):**  
Nate Watson '21 - Men's Basketball

**Female Athlete of the Year (Team Sport):**  
Sandra Abstreiter '21 - Women's Ice Hockey

**Male Athlete of the Year (Individual Sports):**  
Justin Viotto '22 - Men's Swimming

**Female Athlete of the Year (Individual Sports):**  
Abbey Wheeler '20GS - Women's Track and Field

**Mal Brown Award:**  
Toby Burgdorf '21 - Men's Lacrosse  
(This award is given to the male athlete whose career demonstrated sportsmanship, courage, and honor.)

**Paul Connolly Award:**  
Julia Murphy '21 - Women's Softball  
(This award is given to the female athlete whose career demonstrated sportsmanship, courage, and honor.)

**Sine Qua Non Award:**

Malcolm Duncan '21- Men's Soccer  
Chloe Gonsalves '21 - Women's Ice Hockey  
(This award is given to a male and a female athlete who have distinguished themselves among their teammates and have not received proper recognition.)

**Jane Thompson Award:**  
Davis Bunz '21 - Men's Hockey  
(This award is given to a male or female senior student-athlete who personifies all that is good about being a student-athlete at Providence College and shows selflessness, dedication, loyalty, courage and perseverance.)

**Rev. Robert A. Morris, O.P. '46 Memorial Award:**  
Julia Murphy '21 - Women's Softball  
(This award is given to a male or female athlete who had a profound impact on Providence College during their career.)

# PROVIDENCE

## '99: The Final At-Bat

by Thomas Zinzarella '21  
Sports Staff

MEN'S BASEBALL

27 minutes is not nearly enough time to recount the entire history of the Providence College baseball program. Figuring out how to tell the story was even more difficult. For a film class this year, I was tasked with creating a sports documentary. There was only one story I knew I wanted to tell. The story of PC's baseball program.

It has been 21 years now since Title IX, among other decisions, forced Providence College to cut the men's baseball program along with the men's tennis and golf teams. To this day, there are no signs of resurrecting them. If you walk around the campus today, remnants of the Friar program can be found in Alumni Hall. There, you can catch a glimpse of some of the trophies, or some of the players' likenesses on the wall of the athletic hall of fame.

Baseball was once a sport for some of the most talented players in the Northeast, especially right here in Rhode Island. The first varsity sport founded on PC's campus in 1921, the baseball team faced off with schools that many are familiar with today, such as the College of the Holy Cross, Villanova University, and more. As the character Terrence Mann said in the baseball hit movie *Field of Dreams*, "The one constant through the years has been baseball." The program made it through turbulent times in the country such as the Great Depression and World War II.

One obstacle that it could not beat, however, was Title IX. Many universities and colleges in the '90s were starting to face a problem that Providence College had just begun facing; the costs of programs were starting to escalate, and some schools' athletics programs were not in compliance with Title IX. Many schools had met the criteria for female students, but not for female student-athletes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

**"Hendricken Field (seen above) was home to the Providence College baseball team for decades."**



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Above is a team photo of the 1930 varsity team. They were led by coach John Flynn (front row, fourth from right).

### 1997 PROVIDENCE COLLEGE BASEBALL MEDIA GUIDE

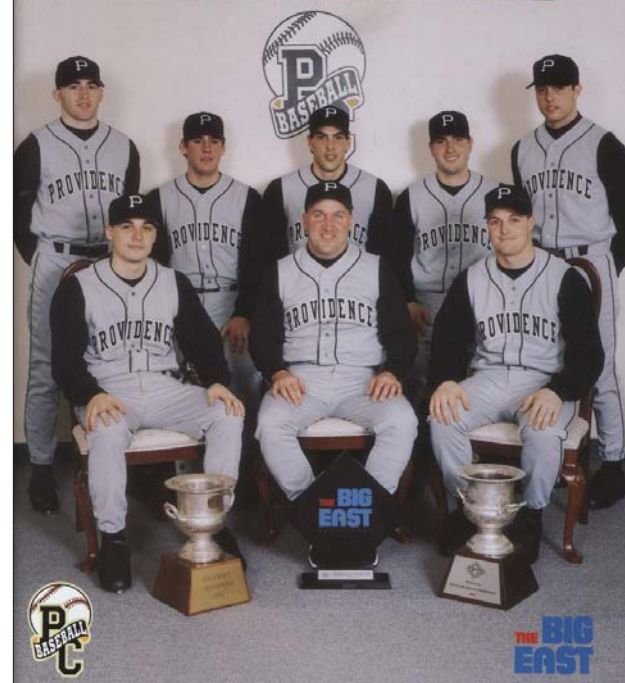


PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Charlie Hickey (front row, center) became head coach for the Friars in the 1997 season. Before the program's closing, Hickey recorded a 106-61-2 record.

In my film, "'99: The Final At-Bat", I examine more of this issue, in addition to the history behind the program and the final season that saw the Friars capture success. It features interviews from former head coach Charlie Hickey, former players such as Marc Desroches '99, and more.

The death of the baseball program here at PC mirrors a Greek tragedy. The 1990s brought some of the team's greatest success, with multiple Big East titles and NCAA tournament appearances, before being gutted in the fall of 1998. Competing in one last season, the Friars not only set the school record for wins, but also captured the Big East title and a spot in the NCAA tournament. There, they would fall to the No. 2 overall seed and national runner-up that year, Florida State University.

The Friars showed that blue collar work ethic that many Rhode Islanders and New Englanders pride themselves on after dropping their first game to Jacksonville University. They then roared back to win the next two games, knocking off JU, and moving on to face FSU. With a lack of PC pitching depth in the short term, Florida State defeated the Friars, but it was something that all college baseball fans could admire. At the end of the year, PC was not only the best team in New England, but Baseball America also ranked the Friars in the final top 25 at the conclusion of the NCAA tournament.

The only thing left from the team are the stories from fans, players, and students alike who not only saw the team, but lived it. If you look around the college baseball landscape today, Boston College and the University of Connecticut have sustained success as top programs in the Northeast. But there's a team missing from that bunch, and it just makes you wonder where PC would be in that mix.





# PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

# Commencement

# 2021

*Swan Songs*  
pages 2-5

*Summa Cum*  
*Laude*  
pages 6-8

For there is always light.  
If only we're brave enough to see it.  
If only we're brave enough to be it.

*Amanda Gorman*

# By: Andrea Traietti, Editor-in-Chief Emerita

When I sent in my application to serve as editor-in-chief last March, mid-pandemic, I wrote the following: "I view the chance to lead The Cowl in its 85th year as a great responsibility and an even greater privilege. I understand that this role would challenge me in novel ways, and I anticipate that these new challenges would change me as a leader and as a person."

Frankly, I don't think I understood. There was no way I could have known the extent of the challenges that this year would bring, nor could I ever have anticipated just how much those challenges would shape me as a leader and as a person. But that's exactly what The Cowl did for me this year and the past four years, as it's done for so many others: it challenges you and changes you for the better.

When I applied to The Cowl at the start of my freshman year, I hoped it would give me an outlet to share my ideas and that it would make me a better writer. Four years later, The Cowl has exceeded my hopes in every way: it has given me confidence, new perspectives, and some of my best friends. It has made me not just a better writer, but a better leader and a better person.

It's hard to explain what being on The Cowl is like because it's hard to capture the pressure and the adrenaline that comes with Cowl Wednesday, the feeling you get seeing your article in print for the first time—which, I might add, is still just as exciting four years later—or what it means to get to participate in one of Providence College's most long-standing traditions each and every week.

And so it's quite the challenge to put into words everything this organization has meant to me these past four years. But if there's one thing I know, it's that it's the people who

make The Cowl everything it is. And so I have a number of thank-yous to offer and more than a few amazing people to recognize.

I still remember walking down the staircase in Slavin to meet with Hannah Paxton '19 and Sarah Kelly '18 for my interview to join the Opinion staff. I was an eager, terrified freshman looking for a way to get involved on campus. I have Hannah and Sarah to thank for making The Cowl such a welcoming place for a shy, lonely freshman, and also for their confidence in me when they hired me as assistant editor at the end of my freshman year.

I also have to thank two other former Cowl editors: editor-in-chief Kerry Torpey '20 and associate editor-in-chief Katie Torok '20. Kerry and Katie were the epitome of what it means to be a good leader. They made all of us at The Cowl a team, and they graciously worked with me in the months leading up to this school year to make sure I was prepared, even though they had graduated without the ending they deserved. I don't know how they did this job with such grace, but they made me want to be a leader, and I still think of them every time I step into The Cowl office. I couldn't be more grateful to have had such inspiring role models during my time in college.

There isn't enough space on this page for me to express how thankful I am for each and every member of The Cowl's Editorial Board this year. When we went into lockdown in the fall the night before our second issue was coming out, none of you missed a beat. You persevered through the challenges of that very first 'virtual Cowl Wednesday,' and you've maintained that incredible commitment and work ethic the entire year. I couldn't be more proud. You all made my job easy each week, but even more so, you made it a joy to serve in this position.

To my fellow seniors on the Editorial Board, Bri, Kyle, Hannah, Savannah,

Kelly, Pat, Sara, Jack, Cam, Lizzie, Sarah, and Elizabeth—I couldn't have asked for a better group of seniors to work alongside during this crazy and unpredictable year. I can't wait to watch the amazing things you all accomplish in the future.

To Elizabeth, head copy editor, roommate, and friend extraordinaire, thank you for everything this year. I couldn't have done this job without you, and The Cowl wouldn't have been what it was this year without your leadership. To Cam, Jack, Pat, and Bri—thanks for bringing the office to life even during this strange, oftentimes quiet year. To Hannah—thanks for always being there, ready to answer a call or help me with pages no matter how late it was. You all made everything feel a little more normal this year, and I'm so grateful for your support.

Thank you to Mike Pare, who was always available for a phone call and always willing to help with the toughest questions. Your advice and expertise were invaluable, and I'm so thankful.

I have to say a massive thank you to Richy Kless, the best advisor those of us at The Cowl could ever ask for. Richy's official title might be "Advisor," but he's been so much more than that for so many of us and certainly for me this year; he's one of the most inspiring people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. His dedication and service to Providence College and to this community is beyond admirable. I'm lucky that I had Richy to look up to these past four years and to turn to for advice during this challenging year in particular. I couldn't have done it without him, and The Cowl—and the College at large—wouldn't be what they are today without the time and effort he so willingly gives.

Finally, I extend my thanks to the entire Cowl staff—the nearly 80 students who serve as Editorial Board members, photographers, copy editors, and



writers, and who make The Cowl what it is each and every week. You all continuously amazed and inspired me this year, and I am so immeasurably grateful for each and every one of you. I don't think I could put into words what an honor it's been for me to serve as editor-in-chief this year.

As I head into the exciting, scary world of adulthood, I thought I'd end my swan song by hearkening back to my childhood with one of my all-time favorite Winnie the Pooh quotes: "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

If the difficulty of the goodbyes is a measure of luck, then I consider myself very lucky indeed for The Cowl, Providence College, and all of the incredible, inspiring people who make this paper and this place everything they are.

The Cowl made PC home and made my college experience what it was, and I wouldn't have wanted to do it any other way. As difficult as it is to step away, I leave with a grateful heart, thankful for everything this organization has done for me, and for all of the people I was blessed to meet along the way.

# By: Cam Smith, Sports Co-Editor Emeritus

I joined The Cowl as a writer my sophomore year, motivated to become more involved on campus. I got exactly what I was looking for. The Cowl almost immediately became my safe haven. Indeed, there's a unique bond formed between those who report the news, born out of the shared burden of trying to accurately portray the events of the past week. Long Cowl Wednesdays starting my junior year only strengthened this bond, as the experience of feverishly typing away in a windowless room for 12 hours with only Big Tony's to sustain you cannot be explained, only experienced.

I can also not overstate the value of the actual work. The ability to interview a wide range of athletes, coaches, and alumni, and then craft a story out of our talks was infinitely rewarding. This year in particular, the ability to lead a tremendous staff of writers did wonders to my confidence and development

of my own leadership skills. That would have not been possible without the staff's hard work this year. I am immensely proud of them and the amazing stories we were able to tell. It was an honor watching us improve, together, as a section over the past three years.

Now come the thank-yous. To Jack and Meaghan, for believing in me and setting me up for success. And to Jack further, for being there through everything this year. We made a great team. To Kerry and Katie, forever our fearless leaders, for welcoming me in and being tremendous role models. I miss you both. To the one and only Andrea Traietti. I don't know how you do it. You deserve a long rest and a drink at McPhail's on May 7. To the copy editors of this year and last, I am forever in your debt. To Pete for being Pete. And finally, to Jack, Andrea, and my dearest friends and colleagues Pat and Bri, for making this year's Cowl Wednesdays feel a little more normal.

Joining The Cowl was arguably the best decision of my college experience. I leave with no regrets. What I do leave with is confidence, as the Sports section is in good hands with the talented duo of Liam Tormey and Leo Hainline at its forefront.

Congratulations to the entire class of 2021. Navigating a senior year in a pandemic was immensely challenging, but we made it. I look forward to seeing all the amazing things you do in the future.



# By: Elizabeth Gleason, Head Copyeditor Emerita



When I look back on my three years as a copy editor on The Cowl, one defining word comes to mind: community. Throughout my undergraduate career, being a part of The Cowl has always been the experience that has made me feel most connected to Providence College.

I nervously walked into The Cowl office for the first time during the fall of my sophomore year. Freshman year had been a difficult transition for me to say the least, and I hoped that joining a club would make me feel happier at school.

With The Cowl, I got that and more. I felt like I wasn't just a member of a club, but a part of a community, a family, who all care so much about each other and the organization. From meeting the most wonderful people at the copyediting table, to eating Big Tony's for dinner every Cowl Wednesday, to becoming a little too passionate about the Oxford comma, I made memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Even after I started to acclimate more to PC, The Cowl continued to be the constant that made me feel most connected to the school. In this past year of taking Zoom classes and having senior events canceled, The Cowl has been my one sense of normalcy. There was something truly beautiful about being part of a team that worked so hard to ensure that The Cowl kept publishing, even in a pandemic.

I want to thank Andrea, our fearless editor-in-chief, for encouraging me to apply to The Cowl in the first place. I also want to thank my incredible assistant head copy editors, Nicole and Angie, who made my time as head copy editor worthwhile. I know I am leaving the copyediting staff in good hands, and I can't wait to hear about everything you will accomplish.

So, to The Cowl, and to all the people who make it what it is: thank you. Thank you for giving me the community that I could only dream of being a part of as a freshman, and for teaching me what it means to be part of the Friar Family.



# By: Hannah Langley, News Co-Editor Emerita

How to sum up my past four years on The Cowl? I guess I will start at the beginning. I joined The Cowl almost on a whim at the beginning of my freshman year. I remember my first article was coverage of the Friar 5K, and I had no idea what I was doing. Little did I know that The Cowl would soon become one of the biggest parts of my life here at PC. Being an editor for the past three years has been one of the most rewarding, tiring, and fun experiences of my PC career. My friends joke that The Cowl is my life and I would spend more time in that unlit, unventilated office than anywhere else on campus. I never minded it, though, because the memories and friendships I had in that office are what kept me coming back every Wednesday.

Some people say The Cowl is a thankless job, and I guess there are some weeks it might feel like that, but the relationships I have built during my time here at PC make being part of The Cowl priceless, and I would not take anything back. Words cannot describe what this club and these people mean to me.

To Kyle, thank you for everything these past two and a half years. News simply would not be what it is without you. To Dre, our fearless leader this year, you have taken on more responsibilities than any other girl I know and executed everything flawlessly. You are a true star and deserve more recognition for all the hard work you have done this year. To all the other seniors, thank you for all the crazy, weird, awesome times both in and out of the office. Maura and Addison, good luck next year—I have all the faith in both of you to carry on News.

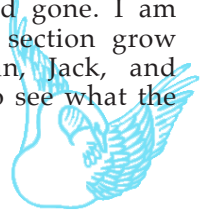
This year has been strange and very different, there is no denying that, but we all persevered in our own individual ways. If I could go back to my last Cowl Wednesday in March 2020, I would just tell myself to soak it in because this would be the last time most of you would be in the office together. Have that extra piece of Big Tony's. Get one more drink or popcorn from McPhail's. Give Kerry, Katie, Nick, Pete, Maddie, CJ, Kathy, Nora, Laura, CZ, and Meaghan one more hug.

To everyone on The Cowl and every unforgettable, rewarding moment that made me who I am today, thank you. I am sad to leave, but grateful for everyone and everything, and excited for the next Ed Board's future. My grandpa always told me to remember to thank God for my blessings, so to that I say thank you for The Cowl.



# By: Thomas Zinzarella, Sports Writer Emeritus

When I joined The Cowl my freshman year, I had no idea what to expect. I had always wanted to get involved with my high school's newspaper, but I never did. Being able to write at The Cowl for four years has not only made my college experience better but also made me a better writer. I genuinely think I would not have gotten some of my internships and jobs without it. From being able to cover the Big East tournament and PC sporting events, to interviewing alumni and players like God Shammgod, I never imagined the vast reach that I would be able to cover. I sure am going to miss our weekly meetings and our end of the year banquets, because The Cowl is full of great people. I cannot believe that my four years have come and gone. I am happy to see the sports section grow drastically under Meghan, Jack, and Cam, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds!



# By: Brianna Colletti, Photography Editor Emerita

People always told me that my four years at Providence College would fly by, and I didn't believe them until I sat down to write my Swan Song. As a freshman, I was timid and shy but knew that I wanted to get involved on campus. All of my friends quickly joined clubs, began meeting other people, and it felt like there wasn't a place for me on this campus. I wandered the involvement fair until the table for The Cowl caught my eye. I've always loved photography, but did not believe that I would be a good enough photographer to take photos for the newspaper. I tried putting all of my self-doubt aside and finally decided to join the photography staff. Initially, I would only volunteer for assignments that felt easy and didn't involve me having to approach anyone. Before attending any event, I would ask the staff hundreds of questions because I felt so unsure and nervous. The photography staff was very small my freshman year, and so I had to start taking on roving assignments, much to my dismay. Although, the more I did them, the easier they became, and by approaching and talking to new people I began to feel more comfortable on campus. With each event I attended, I gained more confidence and felt so much pride with every photo I took. I have carried that self-confidence that I gained from being on The Cowl, and it has guided me into becoming the strong student leader that I believe myself to be today. It has been such an honor to serve as editor my senior year and to motivate my staff the same way my editors did for me. This year's Cowl would not have been possible without all of the hard work and dedication from our editor-in-chief, Andrea; you're a total superstar! Our nights spent laughing and ranting in the office this year will always be treasured. Lillie, Isabella, Sammi, Jack, Ryan, and Aislinn: thank you all for being such incredible photographers. You never failed to impress me with your photos that always embodied the community of the Providence College campus, especially during such a hectic and unconventional year. Good luck next year, and keep taking photos that capture the beauty of this campus that we have all come to love and call our home.



# By: Elizabeth McGinn, Portfolio Co-Editor Emerita

My path during my time at The Cowl was circuitous—I started as an opinion writer my sophomore year, then became an editor for Portfolio at the end of that school year. As a result, I've had the opportunity to witness how two sections work and operate, and let me tell you, both teams are talented in vastly different ways.

Opinion writing came easier to me, since I think analytically and can make persuasive arguments, but creativing writing as a Portfolio editor was extremely challenging. I spent countless hours writing and erasing the poems I wrote, but it just didn't work; as an editor and English major, I know and love good poetry, but my poetry simply wasn't that. Because of this revelation, I have nothing but the utmost respect for the Portfolio writers and my co-editors. Each week, I am always in awe of our content and find myself reading and rereading Portfolio works to appreciate the talent and beauty that our section produces.

Now I wouldn't want to sell myself short—I've become a decent Photoshopper, making graphics to compliment the pieces of the writers. While I continued to write for Opinion every once in a while (thanks Savannah Plaisted '21!), my creativity takes a different form from most of Portfolio. But that's the beauty of art: we are free to explore, make mistakes, and discover new mediums for expression.

I am so proud of The Cowl team and Portfolio staff for continuing to create an excellent newspaper even under the strange circumstances we've found ourselves in this past year.

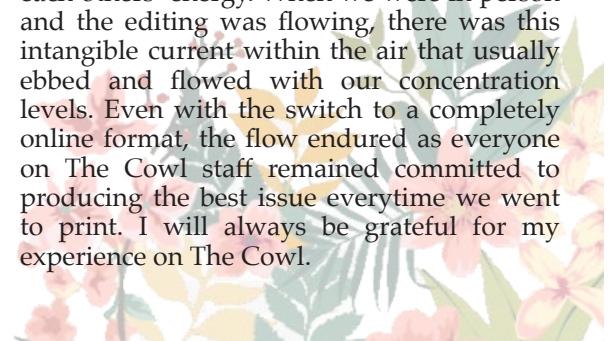
To Sarah McLaughlin '23 and Taylor Rogers '24, I cannot wait to see what this section can accomplish under your guidance and leadership—I will be reading!



# By: Ashley Kaplan, Copy Editor Emerita

Sophomore year, I sought advice on how to become a better writer from various professors. I remember one professor told me to read a lot of good writing and try to emulate it. My roommate Sara Conway, one of the editors for A&E, recommended that I become a copy editor. When I joined The Cowl my junior year, I began to read quality writing every week and, consequently, my personal writing improved.

Being a copy editor for the last two years was a responsibility I did not take lightly. Editing for The Cowl can be quite daunting at times, but the best part is the fact that we are not alone. The copy editors are a team of talented individuals that tend to feed off each others' energy. When we were in person and the editing was flowing, there was this intangible current within the air that usually ebbed and flowed with our concentration levels. Even with the switch to a completely online format, the flow endured as everyone on The Cowl staff remained committed to producing the best issue everytime we went to print. I will always be grateful for my experience on The Cowl.





## By: Sara Conway, A&E Co-Editor Emerita

An application for The Cowl sat on my desk in McVinney Hall freshman year for more than a semester. As much as I wanted to write for the newspaper, I didn't find the courage to do so until a few months after I got the application from the Involvement Fair.

I remember being so sick that spring, the sickest I had been in a while. I remember waking up and checking my email through bleary eyes. I rolled out of bed so fast because I had an interview with the editors of the Arts & Entertainment section...in about 15 minutes. I remember sitting across from Kerry Torpey '20 and Abby Czerniecki '19, still not completely awake, and hoping that my answers to their questions were at least okay. Fortunately, they asked me to join A&E.

As a member of the A&E staff, I loved writing about books. From event highlights to book reviews to author interviews, I was

thrilled to be able to talk about the books I loved reading and to bring them to Cowl readers.

Then my editor, Kerry, asked me to step into a co-editing role while she was studying abroad in London. I hesitated, but I knew I loved The Cowl, so I said why not. Looking back, it's a bit funny to see how so many different things came together that spring of my sophomore year. And, honestly, most of it probably could not have happened without The Cowl.

But here we are a few years later making our final issue of the school year. I will miss our Cowl Wednesdays, the content we get to create, and all the people who make each issue happen.

To my co-editor, Pat Fuller '21: Thank you for always patiently answering my questions about InDesign and for humoring my determination to write about K-pop whenever I can. You are a great co-editor,

and I am glad that I could work with you these past two-and-a-half years.

To Madison Palmieri '22 and Jack Downey '23, A&E's newest co-editors: Best of luck next year! Madison, I hope you keep on writing about Taylor Swift, and Jack, I hope you can keep writing about the Providence music scene. The Cowl needs your voices.

To Ashley Kaplan '21: Thank you for keeping me on my copyediting toes and for your humor. I am glad that you decided to join The Cowl!

To Andrea Traietti '21: Thank you for being an incredible Editor-in-Chief. This year's Cowl could not have worked out so well without you at the helm.

Lastly, to Kerry and Katie Torok '20: Thank you for being amazing leaders we could look up to last year, and thank you for letting me interview you for The Cowl!

Good luck to my fellow classmates and my fellow senior Cowlers. I know you will do even more amazing things from here-on-out.

## By: Sarah Heavren, Portfolio Writer Emerita

Being a part of the Portfolio staff introduced me to a lot of wonderful friends and writers who encouraged me to grow in my writing. The Cowl was my space to express myself, especially my humor. I had the honor and privilege of being Tiff for four out of my five semesters on the Portfolio staff, and I hope my sarcasm has spread some smiles and gotten a few laughs. The Cowl also gave me the opportunity to adopt the persona of Lil Wit and experience the great joy of publishing some of my song parodies in our inserts and the Scowl. I am so blessed to have been a part of this staff and to share poems, song parodies, Friar Tires, and satirical advice with the PC community through The Cowl. Best wishes to all the graduating seniors and future writers! This is a special place.



## By: Savannah Plaisted, Opinion Co-Editor Emerita

While my time on The Cowl staff only began in my second semester of sophomore year, it has truly shaped so much of my college career. The Cowl has allowed me to advocate for myself and on behalf of those I have written about, and for that I am grateful for this paper giving me a voice.

One of the best aspects of being on The Cowl and, more specifically, being on the editing staff is that it introduces you to an incredible group of people who are passionate about the sections they edit for. We don't get paid for any of the countless hours we put into The Cowl, which shows a lot about the character of the editing staff.

Being on this staff during the beginning of the pandemic was a learning experience in and of itself. It was heartbreaking to not be able to say goodbye to the seniors who graduated in 2020 and then to come back to school our senior year to see the same message our previous editor-in-chief had left on the whiteboard because no one had the heart to erase it.

The creation of the remotely edited Cowl would not

be complete without my two editor roommates, Kelly Wheeler (my opinion co-editor) and Sarah Kirchner (portfolio co-editor). It would not be a true Cowl Wednesday without Kelly saying "no" to at least one of the pictures I had chosen, and without sharing a look with Sarah that said "Kelly is being scary."

The Cowl taught me many things but mainly it taught me leadership skills, it taught me a lot about collaboration, and it taught me how to deal with censorship. I learned how to stick up for my own pieces and for the pieces of my writers.

The Cowl has also given me an opportunity to explore an interest I didn't know I had. I had always loved reading the paper, and have always loved writing pieces that speak to my opinions, but with the lack of a newspaper at my high school, I wasn't aware of my love for journalism. The Cowl provided an avenue for my love of writing, my love of sharing my opinions, and my love of newspapers all at once. I will forever be grateful for my time on this newspaper, and I will miss it dearly.

## By: Jack Belanger, Sports Co-Editor Emeritus

Ten years from now when someone asks me what it was like working for The Cowl, the only response I will come up with is that it was everything. Where else could I get accustomed to Justin Bieber's Christmas album, keep up with Harry Styles, and watch the Celtics and the Bruins all in a single Wednesday? There's a reason why Friars Club avoids our corner of the building.

In all seriousness, what happened in Slavin LL04 truly is what kept me from ever leaving Providence College. The Cowl gave me the chance to travel to cities like Washington, D.C. and Louisville, KY. It blessed me with meeting some of the greatest students ever to walk onto campus. It revealed and grew my passion for journalism.

Being an editor for four years has granted me the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people. All of you have made a significant impact on my life from the moment I stepped into the office. If I could thank every person, I would probably fill up an entire Cowl.

Meaghan, I could not have asked for a better partner to get thrown into the Ed Board with. I appreciate your friendship and support week after week. Thank you for putting up with me for three years.

Cam, the best decision we made was bringing you on as an editor. You have grown into a fantastic leader so quickly. I know you are destined for greatness after graduation.

Liam, we are leaving sports in great hands. You have developed into a great editor this year and I can see your passion for working in sports.

Richy and Mike, you two have been great mentors to me. You both have taught me more than any MBA professor could, and I can never thank you enough for your guidance.

I will always be grateful for our previous EIC and AIC, Kerry and Katie, for making the entire staff feel like one big family. I was heartbroken when our time was cut short.

I have to applaud Andrea for leading The Cowl this year. I know it was not always easy, but nobody worked harder than you to make sure we published as much as we did.

And, finally, copy editors, without you I would be lost. Your collective knowledge on pop culture has saved me from living under a rock. I hope I was able to teach you a few sports terms along the way.

To many who walk by our office, it is just another office with a lot of desktops. But anyone who experienced a Cowl Wednesday knows that room holds so many special memories. Pam Beesly may have put it best when closing out The Office: "There's a lot of beauty in ordinary things. Isn't that kind of the point?"

## By: Liam O'Hara, A&E Writer Emeritus

During the fall of my senior year at Providence College, I received a message from a friend stating that the Arts and Entertainment staff on The Cowl was looking for more writers, so I decided to apply. I am a music education major, and so I thought, "Hey, if I joined a club that involved writing about arts topics, then this might benefit me in the future when I am an arts educator."

I submitted an application to be on staff, and within days, I found out I was on the team! Despite all of my meetings and communication with the other writers and editors being online and on Zoom, there was never a dull moment with them. Every meeting, we were all happy to see each other and prepared to share our thoughts about what we wanted to write about for the next Cowl issue. My first article I wrote revolved around the new setting of music ensemble rehearsing within the ensembles at PC. I originally thought I was only going to be writing about topics that centered around performing arts and instrumental settings, but through hearing the curiosity of other staff writers of topics to write about, I was able to step out of my comfort zone and start writing more about topics that were less focused on my areas of expertise.

Despite only being on The Cowl for about a semester and a half, I am so honored to have been a part of such an incredible organization here at PC. If you told me my freshman year (when I was studying accounting and was not a fan of writing outside of the classroom) that I was going to be on the A&E staff of The Cowl at the end of my college career, I would have laughed right in your face.

Looking back, it really goes to show you how transformative a time college can be, and what wonderful things you can accomplish and what awesome people you can meet. Thanks so much to The Cowl and the A&E staff!



## By: Patrick Fuller, A&E Co-Editor Emeritus

I joined The Cowl as a lonely freshman looking for ways to get involved that aligned with my passions. Kerry Torpey '20 (former Editor-in-Chief) and Abigail Czerniecki '19 (former Assistant Editor-in-Chief), both former Arts and Entertainment editors, roasted me for showing up to the interview in business casual, but gave me the opportunity to write about music, nonetheless. I thank both for their hospitality, patience, and guidance.

I have spent most of my Cowl journey as Co-Editor of the Arts and Entertainment section along with Kerry and Sara Conway '21. Both proved to be efficient teammates and amazing people, committed to putting out a great section while maintaining a bonding love for K-pop. Although Sara did try to poison me with a nut cookie, she did compensate for damages with a Dunkin' gift card. The bold attempt to usurp the section increased my respect and admiration for Sara as a brilliant writer capable of planning layouts and coup plots alike. Peter Keough '20 also served as Co-Editor of the Arts and Entertainment section during the 2019-2020 semester.

I want to thank all the writers who have been on the Arts and Entertainment staff since I have joined the club. Your skills inspired me to be a better writer, and your trust in me as an editor made me feel valued and worthy when it was tough to do so at times. To the copy editors and the photography section, the two most slept on elements of the newspaper, "You is important" (Viola Davis, The Help). I hope my appreciation will help fuel you even when sections ask for stock hand photos, submit articles late through Google Drive, or more generally drive you crazy. And finally, to all the other section editors and our superstar Editor-in-Chief Andrea Traietti '21, thank you for motivating me with your hard work and commitment.

All gratitude aside, The Cowl provided me with a foundational sense of community which allowed me to grow as a leader. I think it was a crucial step in being more willing to leave my comfort zone to explore responsibilities I desired but might have been too scared to pursue. To think that the student newspaper could impact my life so profoundly through building that preliminary self-confidence is wild.

To anyone skeptical of joining The Cowl, either out of shyness or due to its nerdy connotation, know that we are cool. We have memes and a bean bag. But we are also a family who spend a lot of time together. Sure, that time comes with its fair share of tension and teasing, but Wednesdays always see us dining together over Big Tony's. Being a part of this family that allows you to be unapologetically yourself has been one of the most memorable and formative experiences of my college career. Encourage you to only join clubs that allow you to be that unapologetic self. If there are no others, know there is always The Cowl.

## By: Kyle Burgess, News Co-Editor Emeritus

I can still recall the excruciating embarrassment I felt as the public safety officer burst into my room. Being the oldest of three boys, I didn't know much about how to start up my college social life, but I knew for sure that a public safety officer waking up my roommates to help me move in was what NOT to do. My parents had wanted to arrive early and stake a claim on the last available closet in my cramped McDermott quad, opting to drive up from Long Island a day before freshmen moved in and stay the night in a hotel. As it turns out, we not only beat my third roommate to PC, but we had beaten the entire class of 2021 as well. After sitting alone in our car in the barren Eaton Street parking lot, an officer approached us and took pity on my simple freshman self; he hopped back in his car and drove us all the way to the front door of McDermott. With boxes of my clothes in hand, he charged forward into the building and opened up my door for me (I still sometimes struggle with the keypad locks, but I have definitely improved since then) and threw on the lights to welcome me to my new home. My new roommates, who had moved in early themselves, were less than pleased with my early arrival, which set the tone for the rest of our time together.

At that point in my young college career, "transfer" was the only option that could logically cross my mind. I had already ruined any chances of making a good first impression with my roommates, and considering I wasn't close with anyone outside of my room at that point, it didn't look like my situation would get any better. However, in spite of this unexpected beginning to life at PC, I managed to branch out and make plenty of new friends my freshman year, some of whom I live with today in a more spacious Ditraglia apartment. I was able to juggle my honors civ curriculum with a healthy social scene through my involvement with Admissions Ambassadors, freshman orientation staff, and, of course, The Cowl. I've even come to consider the many classmates I've worked with in each as part of my extended family—my Friar Family.

Perhaps most importantly, my time here at PC has taught me that I should never fear the unexpected. Whether it's a move-in gone wrong, a worldwide pandemic, or a potential featured friar who hasn't responded to my emailed questions as of Tuesday morning, I've realized that the friends I've made make things easier. I cannot thank them enough for pushing me to become the person I am today. And while it will be a bittersweet beginning to my law school career at Boston College this fall, I'm thankful that I'll be just up the road from the place I've come to consider home. Go Friars!

## By: Kelly Wheeler, Opinion Co-Editor Emeritus

When I first applied for The Cowl during my sophomore year, I did not anticipate how big of an impact that decision would have on my PC experience. I knew I loved to write, and I knew I wanted to become more involved on campus, so I decided it wouldn't hurt to give it a try. But as my senior year begins to reach its bittersweet end, I have come to realize that The Cowl has been about a lot more than just writing. Although I may forget many of the headlines of my past articles in the years to come, I will never forget the amazing friendships that I have formed during my time in the organization. To my exceptional co-editor and roommate, Savannah—thank you for challenging me to be my best self. To the brilliant Portfolio editor and my other roommate, Sarah—thank you for never failing to have my back. To the eloquent Opinion writer and my third roommate, Alyssa (sensing a theme?)—thank you for always inspiring me with your passion. And to all the other incredibly talented, intelligent, and hard-working people that I have had the pleasure of Cowling alongside over the past three years—I am truly honored to have had the opportunity to know and work with each and every one of you. Congratulations to my fellow 2021 graduates!



## By: Dave Argento, A&E Writer Emeritus

Despite being a member of The Cowl for only my senior year, my time as a writer on the Arts and Entertainment staff and as a delivery person of the paper editions was an experience that I will cherish as I begin my professional career in finance this summer. I would have loved to see The Cowl operate in a more typical environment than these past two semesters of COVID-19, but delivering the paper with "Jack from Sports" taught me an incredible amount of Cowl history, and all of the moving parts that readers (and myself included) likely take for granted. Jack was a major part of my wanting to become a writer and I will truly miss shooting the breeze during our

Thursday delivery days together.

Having a platform to work on my writing style and have pieces published to an audience was a valuable experience and hopefully a stepping stone towards beginning my own creative writing projects post graduation. Although my finance career is not particularly likely to lead to working for a newspaper or media company, the communications skills that I have developed while writing my articles will carry benefits throughout my career. Pat Fuller and Sara Conway were great editors to work with, and it was my pleasure to write for them this year. God bless, go Friars!!!



## By: Max Waite, News Writer Emeritus

Over the past four years at Providence College, I have had the privilege of being a part of an environment that has taught me a lot about both myself and the world around me. I've established many connections and relationships within the community that I will cherish for many years to come. Though my time at Providence College seemed to fly by, I will always remember all of the great memories I have made with people I consider to be my lifelong friends. My studies of business management as well as writing have given me a well-rounded education, and the people I have met throughout my education have formed me into the person I am today. My involvement with The Cowl over the past two years has been nothing short of amazing. The newspaper gave me the opportunity to interact with many fellow members of the Friar Family from a variety of different backgrounds and positions within the community, as well as enhanced my skills and passion as a writer. I am forever grateful for my time at Providence College, and I am proud of the person that my education and involvement has allowed me to become. Go Friars!

## By: Sarah Kirchner, Portfolio Co-Editor Emeritus

When I joined The Cowl sophomore year, I had no idea how much it would come to mean to me. Being part of the Portfolio staff, I was able to share my creativity and express my love for writing. Before joining, I would have been terrified letting others read my work; however Portfolio and everyone on The Cowl made those nerves slip away. The amount of support and love that the team provides is indescribable. Some of my favorite memories are sitting around the table in The Cowl's office coming up with Listomania topics and ridiculous Tiff and Earl questions. The hunt for the Serial Pissah is still on, BTW. I am forever grateful for my satirical staff. When I stepped up as editor for Portfolio, I got to lead an incredible group of writers and also spend more time with the entire Cowl staff.

Without The Cowl, I would not have met my amazingly talented roommate Kelly Wheeler, nor would I have seen my roommate Savannah Plaisted grow as a leader. You both inspire me endlessly and make remote Cowl Wednesdays...interesting, let's say. There's nothing we can't accomplish on InDesign when we're all together.

It has been an honor to have spent three years with this group, and I am lucky to call it a kind of home on campus. From wild banquets to late-night Big Tony's, the memories I made with The Cowl are incomparable. Thank you for giving me the chance to grow as a writer and as a person, and I wish the best of luck to my fellow members of the class of 2021 moving forward. I cannot wait to watch on from the sidelines all that The Cowl accomplishes in the future.

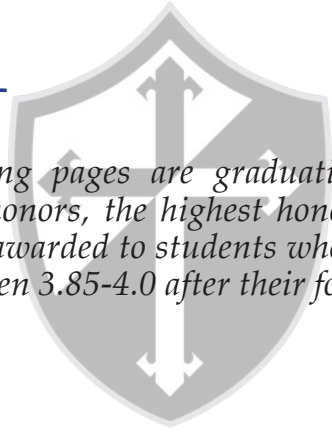
## By: Scott Jarosz, Sports Writer Emeritus

Joining The Cowl during my sophomore year was easily one of the best decisions I made at Providence College. Prior to writing for The Cowl, I knew I liked sports and I knew I liked to write, but I did not have an outlet to work on my sports writing skills. While at The Cowl, I have made numerous awesome friends and improved my writing skills exponentially. I am extremely grateful for all the editors who have helped me improve my writing and grow my confidence in my writing abilities.

My favorite memory with The Cowl was the end-of-year banquet at Massimo sophomore year. The banquet allowed me to become better friends with the rest of the sports staff and I will remember that night forever. Thank you to Cam, Jack, and Liam for everything you have done for me and the other sports writers at The Cowl. Congratulations to my fellow seniors, and good luck to the underclassmen sports writers.

# Summa Cum Laude, Class of 2021

The students featured on the following pages are graduating with Summa Cum Laude graduation honors, the highest honors awarded at graduation. The honors are awarded to students whose cumulative grade point average is between 3.85-4.0 after their four years of study.



**Faith Allen-Harris**  
**Major:** Marketing  
**Minor:** Writing  
**Post-grad:** Applying for marketing roles in the Greater Boston area.



**Sydney Amaral**  
**Majors:** Psychology, Elementary & Special Education  
**Post-grad:** Studying School Psychology in graduate school at Rhode Island College, where she will be a graduate assistant in the tutorial center.



**Thomas Arbeiter**  
**Majors:** Computer Science, Mathematics  
**Post-grad:** Moving to MA, starting work as a Software Engineer, and preparing to attend graduate school in 2022.



**David Argento**  
**Major:** Finance  
**Minor:** Mathematics  
**Post-grad:** Will be a financial analyst at Dell Technologies out of their Hopkinton, MA office.



**Noelle Atkins**  
**Major:** Finance  
**Post-grad:** Working at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in their Financial Advisor Development Program.



**Elena Bibilos**  
**Major:** Marketing  
**Minor:** Writing  
**Post-grad:** Joining MediaHub Worldwide in their Boston office as an assistant media planner.



**Benjamin Bidell**  
**Majors:** Accounting, Finance  
**Post-grad:** Working in Stamford, CT for Deloitte in the Auditing practice.



**Sean Breuche**  
**Majors:** Accounting, Finance  
**Post-grad:** Working for Deloitte in Princeton, NJ.



**Kyle Burgess**  
**Major:** History  
**Minor:** English  
**Post-grad:** Will be a member of the Class of 2024 at Boston College Law School.



**Lauren Carolan**  
**Major:** Elementary/Special Education  
**Post-grad:** Attending graduate school in New York to receive her master's degree in Literacy Education.



**Lindsey Cartier**  
**Major:** Marketing  
**Minor:** Economics  
**Post-grad:** Joining Schneider Electric's Cross Functional Leadership Development Program, with her first year as a Consulting Services Offer Manager in Nashville, TN.



**Sara Conway**  
**Major:** History  
**Minors:** Art History, Business & Innovation, Asian Studies  
**Post-grad:** Working at her local library, continuing her Korean and Mandarin language studies, and pursuing opportunities in the publishing industry.



**Anne Dankert**  
**Majors:** Biology, Psychology  
**Minors:** Neuroscience, Spanish  
**Post-grad:** Attending the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill to pursue a PhD in Neuroscience.



**Brooke Douglass**  
**Majors:** Sociology, Theology  
**Post-grad:** Completing a year of service with Franciscan Volunteer Ministry.



**Liam Faulkner**  
**Majors:** Finance, Business Management  
**Post-grad:** Joining J.P. Morgan Private Bank in Boston, MA as an analyst in July.



**Jillian Ferrigno**  
**Major:** Accounting  
**Minor:** Math  
**Post-grad:** Working at PwC in Boston.



**Natalie Formica**  
**Major:** Health Policy and Management  
**Minor:** French  
**Post-grad:** Working at Boston Children's Hospital as a Patient Experience Representative.



**Mackenzie Fox**  
**Majors:** Biology, English  
**Post-grad:** Intends to fulfill her long-standing dream of becoming a physician by applying to medical school in June and working as a medical scribe in Winston-Salem, NC until matriculation into medical school in the fall of 2022.



*Patrick Fuller*  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Post-grad:** Working a two-year Post Baccalaureate Clinical Fellowship as a Community Residence Counselor at a new child/adolescent inpatient unit near McLean Southeast.



*Elizabeth Gleason*  
**Majors:** History, Political Science  
**Post-grad:** Attending the Boston University College of Communication this fall for her Master's in Media Science.



*Chloe Gonsalves*  
**Major:** Biology  
**Minor:** Sociology  
**Post-grad:** Deferred her admission to graduate school and will play professional hockey in Europe for a year.



*Savanna Granger*  
**Major:** English/Creative Writing  
**Post-grad:** Working as a marketing associate at Newclous in Newtown, PA, where she will be writing SEO content for their website and planning events.



*Sean Gray*  
**Major:** History  
**Minors:** Spanish, Philosophy  
**Post-grad:** Moving to Washington, D.C. to study law at Georgetown University.



*Sarah Heavren*  
**Majors:** History, Mathematics, American Studies  
**Post-grad:** Attending Northeastern University to study public history.



*Emma Hendricks*  
**Major:** Elementary and Special Education  
**Post-grad:** Returning to CT and pursuing a career in teaching.



*Estarlyn Hiraldo*  
**Major:** Sociology  
**Minors:** Film/Video, Business & Innovation (Entrepreneurship track)  
**Post-grad:** Interning with A&E Networks (Lifetime Channel) this summer with their script/program development team and applying for his MFA in Film Production/Screenwriting.



*Katherine Iwanowicz*  
**Majors:** French, Political Science  
**Post-grad:** Taking a gap year and working at a vineyard on Long Island while studying and preparing to apply to law school.



*Chloe Jensen*  
**Major:** Business Management  
**Minor:** Political Science  
**Post-grad:** Working at Wayfair in downtown Boston in their Talent and Strategy Department.



*Ashley Kaplan*  
**Major:** History  
**Minor:** Ecology  
**Post-grad:** Planning on attending law school after gaining more work experience.



*Kasey Kennedy*  
**Major:** Elementary/Special Education  
**Post-grad:** Attending Endicott College for a Master's Degree in Special Education: Severe Disabilities Program. She will complete a teaching fellowship for a year at Manchester Essex Middle School, working with students with severe disabilities grades 6-8.



*Kaleigh Liebler*  
**Major:** Biology  
**Minor:** Theater  
**Post-grad:** Attending Brandeis University to pursue a Master's in Genetic Counseling.



*Katherine Mandarakas*  
**Majors:** Psychology, Elementary/Special Education  
**Post-grad:** Attending Providence College for her Master's in Literacy through the 4 + 1 program.



*Marisa Marino*  
**Majors:** Elementary/Special Education, Psychology  
**Post-grad:** Attending the University of Pennsylvania for her Master's of Science in Education in Reading/Writing/Literacy with a Reading Specialist Certification.



*Ryan Mastroianni*  
**Major:** Marketing  
**Minor:** Sociology  
**Post-grad:** Working at Dell EMC as an Inside Sales Rep starting in late August.



*Elizabeth McGinn*  
**Majors:** English, French  
**Post-grad:** Teaching English as a second language in Caen, France through the Teaching Assistant Program in France.



*Patrick McNierney*  
**Major:** Finance  
**Post-grad:** Starting his career with Vanguard in their Investment Management Development Program.



*Colleen Murphy*  
**Major:** Finance  
**Post-grad:** After she graduates in December, she plans on travelling and applying to law school.



*Julia Murphy*  
**Major:** Political Science  
**Minor:** Public & Community Service Studies  
**Certificate:** Public Administration  
**Post-grad:** Working in the MA House of Representatives as a Legislative Aide for Rep. Smitty Pignatelli of the Fourth Berkshire District.



*Thomas O'Connor*

**Major:** Accounting  
**Minor:** Finance  
**Post-grad:** Returning to Providence College for his MBA, and will start full-time at Deloitte in Boston for their audit practice.



*Philip Piscopo*

**Majors:** History, Classics  
**Post-grad:** Attending Oxford pursuing an MSt in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies.



*Margaret Powick*

**Majors:** Political Science, English  
**Post-grad:** Planning to explore her interest in the legal profession by working as a paralegal at a law firm.



*Amanda Raffa*

**Major:** Biology  
**Post-grad:** Attending Southern College of Optometry to pursue her Doctorate in Optometry.



*Ryan Reynolds*

**Major:** Finance  
**Minor:** Accounting  
**Post-grad:** Working as a Corporate Banking Analyst at Citigroup.



*Gabriella Ricciardone*

**Major:** Elementary/Special Education  
**Post-grad:** Getting her Master's of Education at Boston College in the Global Perspectives program while working as a graduate assistant in the Field Placement Office.



*Caroline Rivera*

**Major:** Health Policy and Management  
**Minors:** Spanish, Finance  
**Post-grad:** Hoping to work in healthcare administration or clinical research regulation, then pursuing her master's in healthcare administration.



*Marcelo Rocha*

**Major:** Environmental Biology  
**Post-grad:** Attending the Providence College MBA program.



*Shannon Rooney*

**Majors:** Mathematics, Studio Art  
**Post-grad:** Attending Northeastern University to pursue a Master of Architecture degree through the College of Arts, Media, and Design.



*Kayla Rufo*

**Majors:** Accounting, Finance  
**Post-grad:** Working at PwC as an Assurance Associate in their Boston office.



*Cameron Smith*

**Majors:** Economics, History  
**Post-grad:** Moving to Washington, D.C. with Sean Gray.



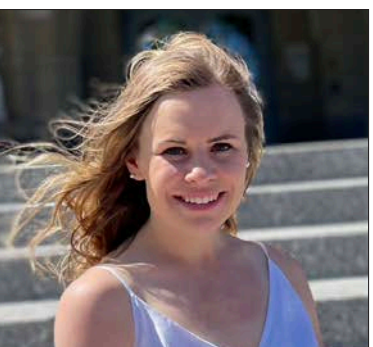
*Ian Steller*

**Majors:** English Literature, Philosophy  
**Post-grad:** Teaching senior citizens, tutoring, attending graduate school.



*Claire Stover*

**Major:** Biology  
**Certificate:** Neuroscience  
**Post-grad:** Working as a medical assistant at Dermatology Associates of Concord while applying to medical school.



*Shannon Sullivan*

**Major:** Political Science  
**Minor:** Sociology  
**Certificate:** Public Administration  
**Post-grad:** Working on a political campaign this summer and serving for AmeriCorps in the fall.



*Alicia Terrero*

**Majors:** Political Science, Global Studies  
**Post-grad:** Gaining experience in the legal sector before applying to law school.



*Siobhan Tierney*

**Major:** Marketing  
**Minor:** Writing  
**Post-grad:** Joining Citizens Bank in their Consumer Banking and Enterprise Experience Leadership Development Program.



*Andrea Traietti*

**Major:** History  
**Post-grad:** Completing a year of service with AmeriCorps Legal Advocates of Massachusetts at South Coastal County Legal Services and applying to law school for the fall of 2022.



*Morgan Weiner*

**Major:** Health Policy and Management  
**Minor:** Spanish  
**Post-grad:** Planning to work as a medical assistant in the Greater Boston area and applying to Physician Assistant school for the fall of 2022.



*Angus White*

**Majors:** Biology, Psychology  
**Certificate:** Neuroscience program  
**Post-grad:** Attending either Providence College for his MSBA or Australian Medical School.



*Claire Woods*

**Major:** Accounting  
**Minor:** Mathematics  
**Post-grad:** Working as an Audit Assistant at Deloitte.