

PROVIDENCE FORUM

UNIVERSITY OF PROVIDENCE MAGAZINE

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**CELEBRATING
90 YEARS**
Sisters of Providence Legacy

Advanced Simulation in
Nursing Education

Donation Honors
UP Legacy

UP Women's Basketball
Compete in Mexico





STUDENT CENTER

PROVIDENCE OF GOD
I BELIEVE IN THEE
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I HOPE IN THEE
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I TRUST IN THEE WITH ALL MY HEART
PROVIDENCE OF GOD
I THANK THEE FOR ALL



The University of Providence connects people with each other, people with their communities, people with opportunities, people with God, and people with their potential.

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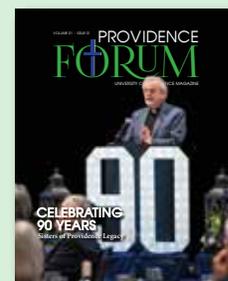
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Cover: Father Oliver addresses the audience during UP's 90th celebration event, last October.

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By Father Oliver J. Doyle

When the Daughters of Charity, Servants of the Poor, who are now known as the Sisters of Providence, first resided in Great Falls over a hundred and twenty years ago they established a hospital. Shortly after this, they launched the first nursing program in Montana.

These tiny seeds took root and flourished.

The hospital became Columbus Hospital, and ninety years ago, the nursing program morphed into the Normal School. This later was named the College of Great Falls and is now the University of Providence.

Throughout our history, this educational ministry has constantly been called to change; to adapt to emerging educational and social needs, and to reflect deeply on the advice found in the Book of Ecclesiastes, “For everything there is a season under heaven, ... a time to plant and a time to harvest.”

Like many institutions, the University of Providence has recently experienced a season of fallowness, protracted by the pandemic. Now, guided by Providence; the loving presence of God, we are emerging from this time of uncertainty and beginning a season of new growth.

Certain of our future and confident of our place within the Great Falls community, we are forming new

partnerships that will increase our campus and online student population. Put simply, UP is taking off! ‘We are UP, UP and away’ to a brighter future!

Our wonderfully rich and long history tells us that whatever our brand name, at heart, UP is a community. This sense of belonging experienced while at UP does not disappear on graduation day –it deepens.

Alumni and community stories of success and struggle during these recent times of uncertainty have inspired and motivated us to renew our commitment to our mission, “to serve the underserved.” Thank you for sharing and helping us stay steadfast in our mission.

This edition of *Providence Forum* seeks to capture stories both as students and now as university alums. We also share some of our achievements and plans for our future.

Finally, as a ministry founded on and maintained by charitable donations, we cannot do the work alone.

We need your generous contributions, large or small, as we continue to walk in the footsteps of those charitable women who first endowed life into this educational ministry.

With blessings and good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Oliver J. Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.



University of Providence:

Celebrating 90 Years of Service in the Vineyard of the Lord

BY ELLEN BAUMLER

Four young Sisters of Providence came from Fort Vancouver by boat up the Columbia River to Walla Walla, then east 400 miles on horseback across the treacherous Rockies. These four “Lady Blackrobes” were the first white women to cross the high Rockies. Arriving at St. Ignatius Mission in October 1864, their mission was to serve wherever there was need.

Emilie Gamelin founded the Sisters of Charity of Providence in 1843 in Montreal. By age twenty-seven, she had lost her husband and three children. Channeling her grief into sheltering poor, elderly widows, Madame Gamelin founded the order, which soon spread across the Northwest. Sisters of Providence founded hospitals, homes, and schools, adjusting their skills to fulfill their mission of service. One of their Montana legacies is the present-day University of Providence at Great Falls. Its ninety-year longevity is a testament to the sisters’ spiritual agility, delving into myriad areas to offer students not only education but life-changing experiences and self-fulfillment.

As Sisters of Providence pioneered schools and hospitals in western Montana, they arrived at Great Falls in 1892 to found Columbus Hospital. In 1908, they added St. Thomas Home, an orphanage and boarding school, to their ministries. In 1929, at the behest of Bishop of Helena George Finnigan, sisters in Missoula contemplated founding a teacher’s college for women.

At about the same time, Sisters of Saint Ursula at Great Falls began planning a junior college for women. Two such Catholic colleges seemed impractical, so Edward Vincent O’Hara, Bishop of Great Falls, collaborated with the two orders to found the Great Falls Junior College for Women in 1932. At the time, it was the only Catholic college for women between St. Paul and Spokane.

Both religious congregations taught classes at the Ursuline Academy. Soon the college added teacher training, nursing, medical technology, and secretarial courses to the liberal arts curriculum. Sisters taught classes at the Ursuline Academy and Columbus Hospital’s Our Lady of Providence Hall. By the late 1930s, the College of Great Falls offered a four-year degree program and became coeducational.

The Ursuline campus closed in 1942, and the congregation withdrew. By 1943, the Sisters of Providence administered classes solely at Providence Hall. World War II delayed plans to build a campus, and the sisters saw a different need. They answered the call, working with Malmstrom Air Force Base, teaching classes in preflight aeronautics, astronomy for navigation, and radio broadcasting. After the war, pre-professional courses for returning servicemen fulfilled a further need, putting plans again on hold.



Sister Mary Trinitas Morin designed much of the art that now graces the campus and the chapel.



Sister Henry Alphonse Lippens, left, oversaw Page and Werner’s campus plan, a design recognized as a rare collection of Modernist style buildings.



Faculty and graduates of the College of Great Falls pose in 1939.

All the while, the sisters dreamed of building a campus. In 1944, they purchased land south of the city on 20th Street. The acquisition, however, was not without its own problems. Effie May Knight, a local character known as the “goat lady,” claimed ownership and refused to move. Knight and her goats were eventually relocated, all expenses paid, but she remained adamant until her death in 1978 that she owned the land.

Finally, in 1957, the College of Great Falls announced plans to build a campus. Funding for the three million dollar project was the result of teamwork between both Catholic and civic communities. The plan, a model of simplicity and utility, included eleven modern buildings designed by Great Falls architects Page and Werner. Campus groundbreaking came when Catholic institutions were being reappraised, making the unusual project more remarkable.

In January 1959, the Very Reverend Father Jacob Donovan, college president, turned the first shovelful at the formal ceremony. Thirteen-year-old Fred Zadick, an 8th grader at St. Thomas School, turned the second shovelful. The youngster had donated his five-dollar prize, won in a music slogan contest, to the building fund. The campus opened in September 1960, scarcely a year later. During these exciting, formative years, many sisters stand out as ambassadors for the College of Great Falls.

Sister Rose Irma Lyons, Superior of the Sisters of Providence at the college in 1958, was also college vice president. She loved her calling, “working in the vineyard of the Lord.” Sister Rose teamed up with Sister Henry Alphonse Lippens, who came from Chicago to serve as financial coordinator and business manager. In preparation, Sister Henry took a year of architectural courses at the University of Washington. Their service is synonymous with the growth of the College of Great Falls as they watched it rise from the ground up.

Sisters had been part of college administration from the beginning but had never served as president. Sister Rita Mudd became the only woman to serve in that office. Born in Marysville, Montana, and a 1941 College of Great Falls graduate, she was named president in 1960, inaugurated



Sister Mary Tinitas Morin created the art in the college chapel including stained glass panels entitled Teach All Nations.



Sister Rita Mudd (center sister) and colleagues welcomed a Cuban refugee family in 1964. The college offered many Cuban refugees English classes and teacher certification in Spanish.



Sister Rita Mudd, in habit right, presides over a board meeting during her tenure as college president.

in 1962, and served until 1968. Energetic and enthusiastic, Sister Rita encouraged her students to exercise and have fun. As an outstanding advocate, she saw the small College of Great Falls transform into a liberal arts university, attracting students from all over Montana. Sister Rita was a sports enthusiast and, in 1965, used that skill to obtain funds from the McLaughlin family to build the physical education center. She also started an intercollegiate basketball program.

Sister Mary Trinitas Morin was a 1940 college alumna and a progressive teacher of French and art for nearly thirty-three years. Despite debilitating arthritis, she planned and created much of the art that shines on the campus and enriches the chapel. In 1960, the

Great Falls Business and Professional Women's Club named her and Sister Henry Lippens women of the year for their indelible influence on the campus.

The University of Providence—as it is now known—retains its distinctive Catholic identity. Father Oliver Doyle, current university president, points out that the Sisters of Providence today see the university as catholic in the universal sense of welcoming all. College administration early on was distinctly ecumenical. Dr. E. Milton Grassell, who followed Sister Rita as president of the college, was not Catholic but an active Methodist layman. Such a choice might not be unusual today, but it was unheard of in the 1960s. It exemplifies the intrinsic ecumenical intent following the tenets of the Sisters of Providence.

Father Doyle explains that “spiritual agility” has been a guiding force. Throughout the college's history, the Sisters of Providence—and the faculty who followed—have utilized their unique talents to match current needs. Sociology professor Sister Providencia Tolan, who saw extreme misery among impoverished Chippewa Cree living on Hill 57 in Great Falls, is a stellar example. Tailoring her skills, she brought national recognition to the plight of First Nations people and spoke to Congress on their behalf. She took her students to the hill not only to volunteer but also to experience poverty firsthand. In this way, she prepared them to be caring, responsible world citizens. That, today, is the school's ultimate mission.

Although no Sisters of Providence physically remain at the college, the modern campus has reminders of those who left indelible footprints. Emilie Hall, Sister Rita Mudd Hall, and Gallerie Trinitas recall a few of those whose spiritual agility serves to inspire today's students. With current enrollment at nearly 1100 undergraduate and 200 graduate students, the University of Providence celebrates its accomplishments while looking ahead to the challenges of tomorrow. 🌱



Sister Providencia Tolan, sociology professor at the college, was a familiar visitor at Hill 57.

Business Professor Incorporates Real-World Applications into Curriculum

By Kate McEwen

University of Providence's coordinator of the organizational leadership program Dr. Katrina Stark has spent nearly 20 years building two things: entrepreneurs and enthusiasts. After graduating from Scripps College in Los Angeles, Stark took advantage of her vast knowledge as a teacher and businesswoman. Working alongside University of Providence Assistant Professor of Business James Lautenschlager, the two can often be found mentoring students and providing invaluable experience that can be taken far beyond the classroom.

Stark grew up on the water in Florida before moving to the Treasure State for work, where she married a fourth-generation Montanan. She was hired as an adjunct professor at the University of Providence (formerly the University of Great Falls) in 2006 before becoming a full-time instructor two years later.

Stark began her business endeavors as a freelance calligrapher, addressing envelopes and designing posters and certificates for clients. She put her pen to paper at her in-home studio and watched an entire business unfold.

Stark learned everything about running a business independently, from designing contracts to sending invoices. Without anyone to guide her through this process, she developed a program that teaches students the skills they need to become competent leaders and business professionals.

Since the start of the organizational leadership program, the University of Providence has seen many students get involved in the local community. Using a project-based approach, Stark extends her knowledge from past experiences to assist students in starting their own businesses. An Argo spirit-wear shop, a food bank, a professional clothing closet, and an annual Kids Night Out event with Whittier Elementary are just a few examples of successful endeavors that have come out of this program, designed with community and ingenuity in mind.

Dr. Stark enjoys the opportunity to advise her own students. From freshman orientation to graduation day, Stark has become a mentor for every student that crosses her path. "It's so gratifying to watch young people realize their dreams," she says. Her ability to connect with her students has led to unyielding relationships that last long after graduation, as students return to tell her about job experiences and opportunities or their families.

Aside from her time in the business program, Stark also enjoys refereeing ice hockey—which she views as another teaching opportunity. "Currently, I think giving back is what I'm doing right now," she says. "I think the university turns out really good humans, and in that respect, we are then able to give back to whatever community they go to."

As the university continues to emphasize connection and education in this program and across campus, students can return home and create their own businesses or work for large organizations, paying it forward and giving back to their communities. Dr. Stark put it this way: "I think I'm the boring one. It's the students who are doing exciting things." 🐾



A Fond Recollection of a Smaller Campus

By Kate McEwen



When Dylan Lemery enrolled at the University of Great Falls in 2012, he didn't know much about the school or where he wanted to take his education. He wasn't even sure he wanted to go to college. It wasn't until he got to school that he realized his passion for strength and conditioning got him to where he is today.

Originally from Spokane, Washington, Lemery thought about taking time off after high school or pursuing community college for a few years. A wrestler in high school, he took advantage of his opportunities and sought a recruiting trip that led him to the presently-named University of Providence.

The ability to join wrestling practice and see the university's atmosphere for himself all but made the decision for him. "It really seemed like a place I'd be able to thrive based on the small class sizes and not being stuck in a large university," Lemery said.

And thrive he did. Being at a small university, Lemery established relationships with many of his professors, some of whom he still talks to today. Dr. Lund is one of these professors whom Lemery expresses immense gratitude for. "She is responsible for the letter of recommendation that got me into physical therapy school... I absolutely love her!" he said.

Aside from the mentoring he received in school, Lemery was also able to connect with many of his peers and get involved on campus. A college athlete, he was able to develop many close friendships in a short period of time. "Being a part of the wrestling team, it's like hanging out with your 35 best friends. You always have someone that wants to do something, and you're always included," he said. Outside of sports, Lemery participated in the work-study program and found time to join a few clubs on campus—the man club and the health and professionals club.

His time at the university provided him with many core memories and defining moments that led to a realization of his passion— working in professional athletics with combat athletes. "I found myself at a small university doing really well in classes, which encouraged me to go on and complete my doctorate in physical therapy. After that, it's been nothing but opportunities, and it all started with taking a leap and going to a four-year university," Lemery said.

After attending A.T. Still University in Arizona and obtaining his doctorate, Lemery went on to work in several different clinics before landing a job opportunity in professional athletics. He now works with several pro-athletes ranging from fighters in the UFC, Bellator MMA, and an Olympic wrestler who recently took bronze at the world championships.

Lemery feels he owes his success to the small, close-knit environment at the University of Providence. He highlights "the importance of attending a university where you feel like family and not just a number --that's my biggest memory of the University of Great Falls, now the University of Providence just knowing every single person on campus." 

Dylan Lemery - Class of 2016



Brittany Budeski - Class of 2004 & 2009

Alumna Serves as UP Chief Operating Officer

By Kate McEwen

Brittany Budeski has worn many hats throughout her time at the University of Providence. From a student to the chief operating officer, Budeski finds her creative inspiration and motivation close to home through the school's mission and the community she has found herself a part of.

For Brittany, there isn't a time she remembers when the university wasn't a part of her life in some capacity. Her involvement with the university began uniquely, starting with a great-aunt who worked for payroll. Growing up in the area with her family farming and ranching in Belt, Budeski was somewhat acquainted with the school already. Budeski points out that "difficult circumstances in life often bring out the most amazing things." Her parents' divorce led her mother to get a job at the school as well, bringing Budeski into the heart of this community at a young age.

After graduating from high school, Brittany considered pursuing outside opportunities, but with an environment that already felt like home, the University of Providence was ultimately the option she came back to. "I'm super grateful for all the experiences I've had here. I've witnessed the mission, and now I get to live the mission," she said.

Having previously spent so much time on campus and in the surrounding community, Budeski feared feeling stuck in the same environment. But to her surprise, attending school felt like an entirely new journey. She was able to take advantage of the same experiences that every college student gets to enjoy. Participating in the work-study program, she found a job at the campus bookstore and met many amazing people with whom she would stay in touch for years to come.

Since her time as a student, Budeski has had the opportunity to pursue various roles on campus. She began in 2004 at the McLaughlin Center before being recruited to work in the registrar's office. Although admittedly, she didn't know much about what the position entailed, she does know it led to a "lengthy and very fulfilling career that has continued to lead to incredible opportunities."

There's a reason she decided to stick around—the environment on campus. "There's something very unique about the university—it's the people, absolutely it's the students. It's not just a job, it's a community, and I think that's what makes it so special," she said.

In her position at the registrar's office, she identified various needs within the university, which led her to take the initiative and serve her community. From rodeo club advisor to COVID response coordinator, Budeski has filled various positions on campus that prepared her to step into the role of chief operating officer in March.

Additionally, working alongside international students as a designated school official, Budeski has her eye on the future. With upcoming events such as concerts, food truck festivals, and a children's ninja warrior course, Budeski is thinking outside the box and hoping to get people back on campus and involved in the community. "I think if there ever were a time to be excited and to get re-involved, now would be that time," she says. "The next ten years are going to be fun, and it's launching us towards the many years after 100." 🦄



Honoring the Legacy of the Sisters of Providence

By Kay Bjork

Ric Oberholz recently paid it forward in a big way when he donated \$1.2 million to the University of Providence in Great Falls to establish an on-campus nursing program at University of Providence. He says his donation is his way of saying thank you to the sisters who inspired him while he attended Saint Thomas School, founded by the sisters in 1908. The Sisters of Providence also helped found the first hospital and nursing school in Montana and early hospitals in Missoula and Fort Benton. He notes, “They were brave women – hard-working, dedicated to their religion, service, healthcare, and education. They helped a lot of people.”

Ric counts himself as one of those people.

He explains that their teaching went beyond the classroom. “They taught by example.”

He remembers fondly the time he spent with the sisters in the 1950s and 1960s, learning about selfless and compassionate service by helping them help others. He was in the third grade when Sister Corolla invited him to help her deliver groceries to needy families. He remembers arriving at a house that was sparse but very clean – and silent. No one was home. He quietly helped Sister Corolla fill the empty refrigerator and pantry, and then they continued with their grocery deliveries. The quietness of the home made room for his feelings and thoughts as he contemplated poverty. It was his first experience in helping those in need. He says, “It stayed with me.”

He grew up in the Great Falls area, attending and boarding at St. Thomas School during the week and at his grandparent’s ranch on weekends and during the summer. They were surrounded by acres of open range, cows, and horses in a place that, to young Ric, felt in the middle of nowhere. It was a happy childhood, and he says, “I was in Utopia. We always had what we needed.”

Seeing the other side, after witnessing poverty and suffering through his time and outings with the sisters, instilled in him a desire to give to others. He continued to help the sisters while he found his own ways to serve. Ric observed that Mr. Smith, a WW I vet living a block from school, had difficulty walking, so he got up early each morning and assisted Mr. Smith in walking to Mass. Ric says, “I felt privileged to be the one to do that.”



Sr. Elizabeth Kathleen and other Sisters of Providence in Great Falls, MT at St. Thomas Home, early 60s.

It was easy to identify the sisters because they all wore habits in the 1950s. Ric says he curiously asked one of them why she wore the distinctive black and white robe and headgear. She told him, “It reminds me of the promise I made. I am reminded daily of what I do and why I do it, and how I treat others.” Ric understood these words and began wearing a devotional medal, symbols created by the Church to help a believer recall his faith or religious duties. This was his version of a habit.

He went on to attend the Great Falls College, which later was renamed the University of Providence (UP.) Next, he attended the University of Montana, earning a degree in business administration and accounting. After graduation, he pursued his career and loved it, asking himself, “They pay me to do this?” Then after a visit to see his mother, who was the Director of Hospice, he was inspired by her work and returned to college to earn a nursing degree.

Nursing posed a new set of challenges and rewards as he often faced life-and-death circumstances. He met the challenges with gratefulness, joy, and a tremendous instinct and desire to help others. He says, “It came from the sisters.” He worked in various medical facilities, including liver, pancreas, and kidney transplants, but ultimately ended up in hospice work. At first, he says, “It scared



Ric Oberholz graduated with accounting and business administration degrees and later returned to college to pursue his nursing degree.



Sisters, Juliette, M. Machtilde, Arthur Francis, Helene of Troyes, Tarcisius, Joseph Arthur, Elizabeth Kathleen.

me to death because it was just me, no doctors.” He worked with the families to meet a patient’s wish to remain at home for their final days while administering comfort care. He says it was the best experience of his career. Once again, he remembered the sisters and their courage and commitment to helping others. “They put themselves out there.”

He has since retired and made changes in his life, such as selling his home in the Bay area of San Francisco and moving to nearby Antioch. Now 72 years old, he knew he also wanted to do something to give back to the brave women who had guided him so powerfully in his childhood that they ultimately affected his perspective and his outlook on life – and led him to a life of service.

At the beginning of 2022, he announced his donation of \$1.2 million to help create the first on-campus nursing program for the university’s School of Health Professions that would allow students to apply to a more traditional four-year nursing program.

Father Oliver Doyle, President of the University of Providence, said, “As UP begins its 90th Anniversary celebrations, Ric Oberholz’s generous gift presents us with the opportunity to reflect on our past, particularly as the first nursing school in Great Falls. I am very excited to add a nursing pathway for students that builds on foundational knowledge from the liberal arts, sciences, and the humanities.”



L to R: Matt Redinger, Ric Oberholz, Ron Dorn, Fr. Oliver Doyle

The nursing school expansion will also include a renovated lecture hall and a new simulation lab that will allow students hands-on experiences. The expansion is expected to start in the Fall of 2023.

Building on to the nursing program is the perfect way to honor and remember the sisters. After all, the sisters not only helped build the first hospital and nursing school in Montana. In Ric’s words, “They built a legacy.” 🙏



Transforming Nursing Education Through Advanced Simulation

By Travis Vermulm, '19

Alaska, Oregon, California, Washington, and Montana, what do all these locations have in common? They all contain a University of Providence Nursing School cohort in some capacity. Soon to be added to that list will be the on-campus location in Great Falls.

Dr. Andrea Houser is the Associate Dean of Nursing for the online programs and has been instrumental in starting the on-campus program at Great Falls. But the new developments were only possible with the success of the remote Lewistown, Montana, location and the success of its simulation lab.

“Lewistown has been a fantastic location for Providence,” stated Dr. Houser. “The clinical instructors set up agreements with hospitals and facilities so our students can do on-site clinicals with preceptors; it’s also where they do simulation.”

There is particular interest in the simulation lab as it is one of the launching points for the on-campus pre-licensure program slated to begin in Great Falls in August of 2023.

“They are planning to establish a six-bed, extremely evidence-based unit,” says Houser. “It is highly likely that a nurse who graduates from the program would have six patients as their first job assignments.”

So, what will this new simulation lab entail? The successful Lewistown program provides the answer.

Sarah Mauws is the head nurse and full-time faculty member at the Lewistown facility. She leads the instruction of 16 students working through an intensive accelerated nursing program with the use of a highly functional simulation lab.

“We basically connect the last two nursing intensive years of a traditional program into one year,” Mauws commented. “Instead of semesters, we have eight weeks of intensive courses.”

During those eight weeks, the students first work in the simulation lab. The building contains several advanced manikins that allow new nursing students to gain experience in hands-on hospital situations without yet placing an actual patient in front of them.



Using the Dynamap is a common piece of technology used by staff in most nursing departments. Simulation is a great way to use similar pieces of equipment to familiarize nursing students with real-world technology.



During simulation, students are required to provide care to the manikin as if it is a live human.



Nursing students perform venipuncture on each other to get a feel for what the patient experiences. Simulation helps nursing students learn compassion.

“We do all the hands-on skills to help develop the students from a lay person into a nurse,” continued Mauws. “We start with basic skills like IVs or catheters, and we use the manikins in the lab for those skillsets. Once the students grow competent in those minor tasks, they can move on to the main setting, which is the real patient care in hospitals around Lewistown.”

The University of Providence’s nursing education involves a practice-oriented curriculum that emphasizes both theoretical knowledge and psychomotor skills. Learning through practice occupies a central role in skill-based education. The Lewistown simulation lab offers a method that reflects real-life conditions and provides the opportunity to work in contexts that are closer and more representative of real settings.



Nursing students are exposed to critical care nursing including life support technologies such as mechanical ventilation.



Performing Intravenous medication administration is an expectation of the BSN nurse. Simulation may provide numerous variations in performing this skill.

“When you are learning how to be a nurse, it is a lot easier to take what’s theoretical and put it into something you can experience,” says Dr. Houser. “The idea is that it’s a safer environment for students to learn these tasks and think through and problem solve.”

Currently, the university has two undergraduate Nursing tracks: the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs in Anchorage, Alaska, and Lewistown, Montana. Both programs are designed to help those who already have a bachelor’s degree in another field complete courses and gain clinical experience to prepare them for becoming a nurse. They also have an RN-to-BSN program for those who have a two-year nursing license, to complete their four-year degree. The expanded nursing program with the new state-of-the-art facility at the Great Falls campus is designed for high school graduates ready to dedicate four years to nursing school.

“The first two years are mainly prerequisite, general college courses,” adds Mauws. “Then spring semester of sophomore year, the students start the professional development and simulation lab work, much like our program here in Lewistown.”

Both programs offer great promise for future nurses in Montana and around the country and both are part of something Dr. Houser and Sarah Mauws recognize as unique to the nursing experience.

“There is really something about this mission,” says Dr. Houser. “Something is electrifying about this particular mission. It feels like an extension of the legacy of the sisters.”

Mauws adds that the mission is a motivating factor for her work in Lewistown.

“I think the mission is the main thing that sets the program aside, and that mission takes into account all the courses our faculty leads as well as how students are admitted into the program.”

The nursing program continues to motivate Dr. Houser and all involved with nursing.

“Between the Sisters of Providence and Florence Nightingale, it’s our duty and obligation to continue a legacy of serving the public and community and taking lay people that come to us and making them something more.” 🌿



Video monitoring used to record nursing student simulation is a teaching methodology to enhance technical competency, clinical judgement & reasoning.



To better facilitate learning, students are expected to perform skills. Technical competency is an expectation of the new graduate nurse. Simulation is one of the ways students practice skills essential and foundational to nursing practice.

Campus Beat

90th Anniversary Fall Jubilee Mass & Celebration



2022–2023 UP New Student Orientation & Academic Year Kickoff





Recruiting for Character

A Winning Culture of Unbreakable Brotherhood

By Travis Vermulm, '19

Upbeat music blares over loudspeakers as several first-year and returning athletes warm up for another day of practice in the University of Providence Wrestling Facility. It is a standard routine for many of these young men, but to a viewer with a knowledge of the school, there is something special about a large group of first-year students joining one of the University of Providence's most recognized sports.

Coach Steve Komac is returning to the Argo Wrestling team for his fourth year as head coach and has much to look forward to with the upcoming season.

"Last year was our first full season with minimal outside impacts," commented Komac. "We were able to hit the recruiting trail pretty hard; we really got after it."



Head Coach Steve Komac, along with assistant coaches Cole Mendenhall and Ty Vison, cheer at a UP Men's Wrestling match.

The coaching staff did indeed "get after it," bringing in sixteen new wrestlers from around the country, boasting various levels of high school accomplishment. But accomplishment was not Komac's only focus for recruiting the new class of athletes.

"We started recruiting for character, which is something I stole from Father Oliver's process of Hiring for Character. I told our staff that we need to recruit student-athletes who know how to be students," says Komac.

These sixteen newcomers are joining a team with five national qualifiers, including one All-American, KC Buday, who finished 7th at the NAIA National Wrestling Tournament in the Spring of 2022. With a promising recruiting class and a successful group of returners, the Argo Men's Wrestling Team has a sense of excitement for the season.

"I think the quality of athletes we brought in definitely has the culture we have been trying to create the last couple of years," commented assistant coach Ty Vison. "The talent is obviously a bonus; we are excited by what we have seen so far, and our returners are responding well to the new guys giving them that push that may have been lacking in the past."

Looking forward has not been the only goal for those on the wrestling team; however, there has been an intentional effort to connect the alumni of the long-lasting program to the new wrestlers. According to last year's All-American KC Buday, this effort hasn't gone unnoticed by the athletes.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the younger guys grow up and develop into the culture that Providence has built. It feels like a brotherhood, and once you get in, you can't really get out. Those connections will last, and wherever you go, those alumni are going to be there for you."

Coach Komac has kept those connections through several social media projects, a consistent newsletter, and a weight-class sponsorship program that has allowed former athletes the opportunity to contribute to the team's success.

"These current athletes are seeing guys who have been here before and been successful, and we are showing them this is what we are after as far as tradition and history."

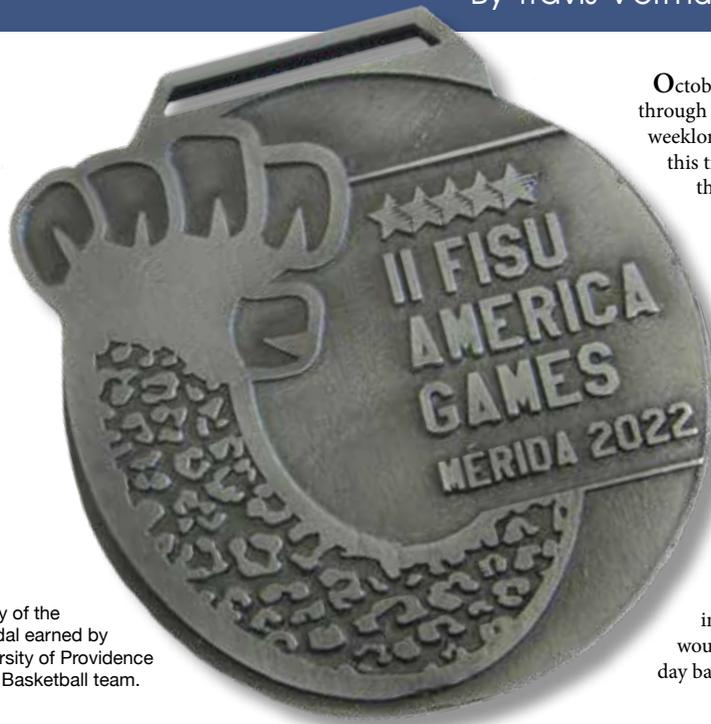
With a rich tradition behind them and exciting prospects ahead, the Argo Wrestlers are ready to make 2022-23 a season to remember. 



Hoops Across the Border

Women's Basketball Team Proudly Represents USA at FISU Games in Mexico

By Travis Vermulm, '19



FISU copy of the silver medal earned by the University of Providence Women's Basketball team.

October 18th, the University of Providence Women's Basketball Team moves through the TSA line at the Great Falls International Airport, bags in hand for a weeklong trip of competition – a familiar experience for many players. However, this trip was different. They were headed to Mexico to represent Team USA in the FISU Games. So, how did a small private Catholic school in Montana land such a prestigious opportunity?

“Most everything comes down to relationships,” says Coach Bill Himmelberg in an interview before their departure. “I was really fortunate to have a relationship with a friend from Vanguard University named Russ Davis. I helped with a fundraiser for Russ when he had cancer a few years ago, and through that fundraiser, I met Nels Hawkinson, the head of Team USA, and he runs all these events.”

The FISU Games were slated to run in the summer, but with complications from the global health pandemic, the games moved to the Fall. What would typically be an invitation for Division I basketball teams now had to find new recipients.

Enter the University of Providence Women's Basketball team, an NAIA school with a reputation for upsetting much larger schools and representing themselves well in the community and the classroom.

“Nels picked up the phone and said, ‘Russ, do you think Bill would be interested in representing the United States for us?’ Russ said, ‘I think he would; I think he’s a good choice.’ So those two talked and gave me a call one day back in February.”

Coach Himmelberg shared the news with his team last March.

“At first, they thought I was kidding; our girls are well aware of that scene and what teams usually get selected, but when I told them it was real, there was definitely a mixture of shock and excitement.”

A fitting reaction, as not only did the UP Women’s Basketball Team compete in another country, but they played five games in five days, a heavy load of competition even in a regular season tournament.



Kenedy and Camryn Cartwright celebrate with their silver medals.

Reed Hazard, a senior team member, commented on the shock of the whole experience.

“I have no comprehension of it. I know so many great players at such high levels, and even with them, not many people can say that they represented the United States of America.”

Many on the team played their first collegiate games in a foreign country, such as Freshman McKenna Reggear, who didn’t let the uniqueness of her first games dissuade her.



Brooklyn Harn drives to the basket to score for the Argos, Middle



University of Providence Women’s Basketball Team celebrates their victory.



Athletic teams representing the USA at the FISU America Games in Merida, Mexico.



Kenedy Cartwright goes up with the layup against opponent.

“I was just trying to live in the moment while we were there. Learning is a huge part of trips like this, so if you stay in the moment, you can embrace everything going on.”

Through all the preparation, the team felt closer and focused on how this experience would improve them as they moved into regular season games. For many, it was an opportunity of a lifetime, and Coach Himmelberg was focused on providing that opportunity for growth.

“I hope to continue to grow myself and find ways to make them get together better as a team and be able to execute together and have the experience they want to have. If I did that, then I think I did a pretty good job.”

The team returned home on October 26th with a well-played 3-0 record and two exhibition losses.

The last game may have been a loss, but with a winning record and a Silver Medal, Coach Himmelberg was incredibly happy with the experience.

“We are never going to have an experience like this again. The chance to represent your country is something special you don’t get to do hardly ever in your lifetime,” Himmelberg stated in an interview with UP Sports Information Director Jason Walker. “That’s the biggest thing we are going to take away. As far as basketball goes, we learned a lot about ourselves; we learned some weaknesses and things we need to improve on. We learned some of our strengths and a lot of opportunities for a lot of different girls to step up.”

One thing is for sure, the Women’s Basketball Team returned to a proud campus and a student body excited to watch them perform throughout the season. 🏀



Calendar

- April 13th, 2023 • 90th Anniversary Social Event
- April 28th, 2023 • Baccalaureate Mass
- April 29th, 2023 • Commencement
- Fall 2023 • Alumni, Family & Friends Weekend
- Fall 2023 • Hall of Fame
- Spring 2024 • Fundraising Banquet

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University of Providence's Admissions Office is here to help navigate your academic journey. Our admissions department is available to assist prospective students all-year-round from campus visits to one-on-one conversations. Our admissions department offers prospective students the opportunity to engage in personalized in-person and virtual campus visits, in which students can meet with faculty in their major of interest and interact with other campus representatives. Our admissions counselors will provide you with an extensive overview of the application process, financial aid tips, and campus activities and resources. Our admissions team is available to answer any questions and provide you with a rich understanding about what the University of Providence has to offer.

