

PROVIDENCE FORUM

UNIVERSITY OF PROVIDENCE MAGAZINE

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ALUMNI

Shaping the Next Generation
of Athletic Leaders

CELEBRATING STAFF
ACHIEVEMENTS
Awarding Excellence

BECOMING
AN ARGO
New Student
Orientation Unveiled

FOR THE LOVE
OF ART
Sister Mary Trinitas



As a campus art professor for nearly 33 years, Sister Mary Trinitas Morin left a rich legacy of art. As a Sister of Providence, she created art for the chapel, campus, friends, and special occasions.

Today, Sister Mary Trinitas is remembered not only for her exquisite artwork but also for her progressive teaching and art techniques, her religious devotion, and a legacy of unselfish dedication to the arts and religion.



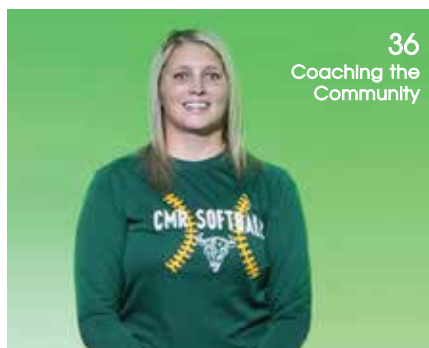


Photo By Eric Visocan

To honor her legacy, the University of Providence established Galerie Trinitas, located in the University Center. Galerie Trinitas is open to the public for viewing. For more information, please contact Nano McCluskey, Director of Advancement Operations, at 406.791.5310 or nano.mccluskey@uprovidence.edu.

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Cover: Eric Visocan

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By Father Oliver J. Doyle

“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” is the first line of John Keats’ poem, To Autumn.

Written over two hundred years ago, it captures the glories, tinged with melancholy, of the season we in America call Fall. Keats reminds us that despite the last flush of blooming summer flowers and the ripened harvests, there is a hint of decay as Fall turns and begins a slow march toward the sleep of winter.

The beginning of a new semester and a new academic year, however, is always counter-seasonal. Instead of fading summer growth, here at UP, we see the first green shoots of seeds planted during the last year.

For example, the number of new students in the School of Liberal Arts and Science, year over year, has increased by eleven percent. Also, for the first time in recent years, ninety-seven percent of available on-campus residential space is occupied. Furthermore, we are close to reaching our baseline for financial sustainability, eighty-six percent, for the new traditional on-campus Vander Werff nursing program.

As we grow enrollment and offer new programs, we have increased the number of faculty by eight percent and staff by fifteen percent since last year. These additions to our community help deliver excellent academic programs and support services.

“Great oaks from little acorns grow” is an old saying reminding us that large and successful things can grow from small beginnings. None of these small acorns would have been possible without the dedication and support of the faculty, staff, and administrators. Encouraged by the Trustees of the University and the leadership of Providence Healthcare, the work of all has helped us glimpse our path forward to more achievements.

University of Providence is not an island. We are an essential part of the Great Falls and Montana community. In fact, the last year we had an economic impact of thirty million dollars for the Great Falls community.

This university’s positive impression on generations of students is recognized across the country and beyond. Alumni are scattered across the globe and close to campus.

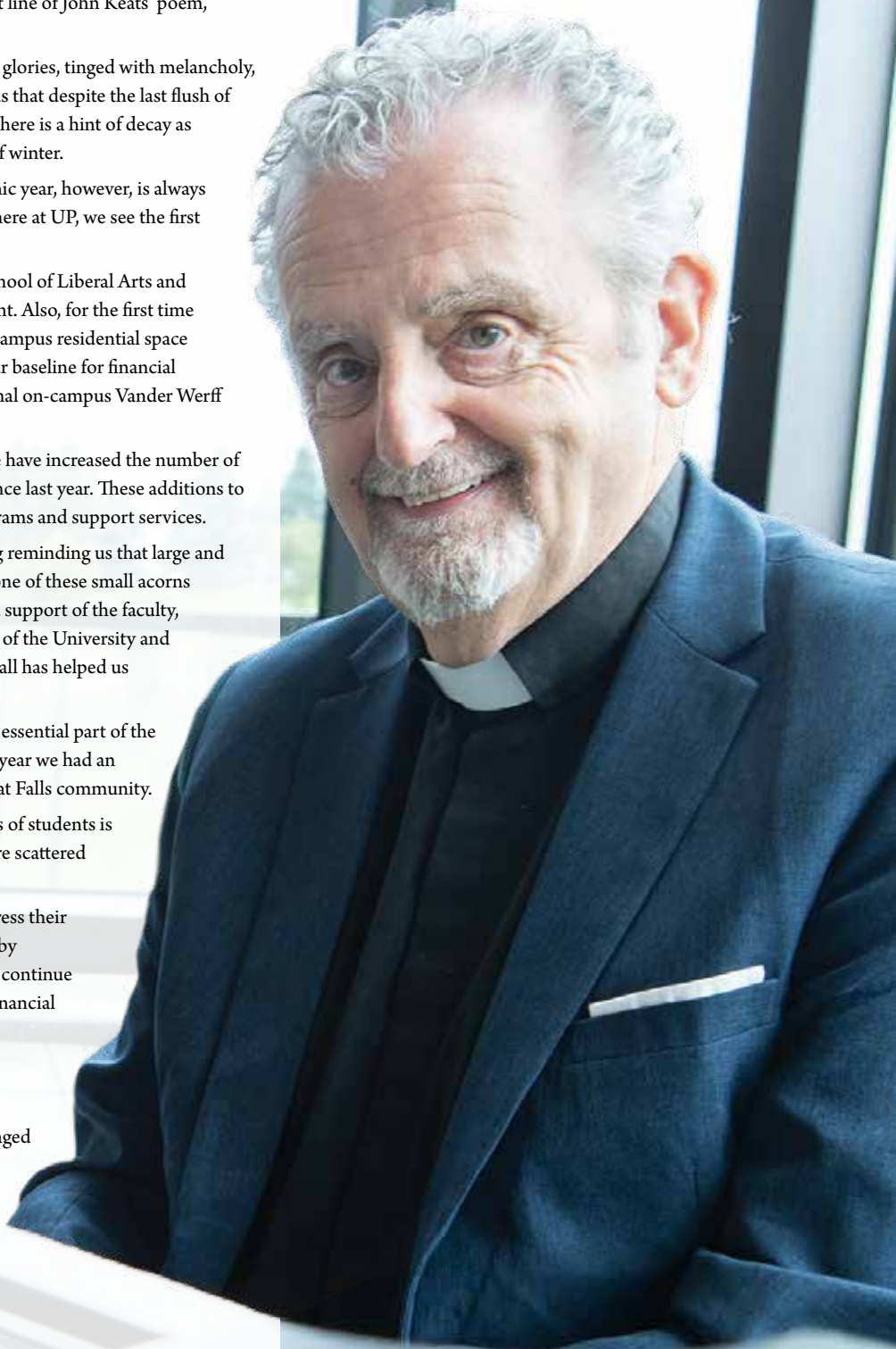
It is encouraging to see how many of our alums express their gratitude for what they received at 20th Street South by contributing to the various University appeals. As we continue to grow (back), please continue to contribute. Your financial support is the nutrient that helps the acorns grow!

Thank you.

May all who are engaged and committed to the endeavors of the University of Providence be encouraged that the trust you give us through your contributions is seen in the success of our university, our students, and our community.

Blessings and personal good wishes,

Fr. Oliver J. Doyle





FOR THE LOVE OF ART

A Sister of Providence's Selfless Legacy

By Holly Matkin | Photos Courtesy of Providence Archives, Seattle

Sister Mary Trinitas working on a metal art piece.

Determination, faith, innovation, and a steadfast dedication to serving others have been driving forces among the Sisters of Providence since long before they founded the original University of Providence more than 90 years ago. In more ways than one, their legacy is woven into the very fabric of Montana's heritage and culture, both past and present.

Consider the steely yet compassionate resolve of Mother Emilie Gamelin, an orphan who lost her husband and three sons by the time she was just 27 years old. Amid crippling grief, she was able to channel her sorrow into works of charity, ultimately resulting in the establishment of the Montreal-based religious community in 1843 that would later become the Sisters of Providence.

Or perhaps take a moment to contemplate the fortitude of the four young sisters who the same congregation sent off to the Montana Territory as missionaries in 1864 with the colossal task of creating the area's first school, or the devotion of 39-year-old Mother Mary Julian and the four other Catholic sisters who traveled to the Great Falls area from their Mother House in Montreal in 1892 to turn a 30-by-60-foot wood-framed structure into the fledgling community's first formal hospital.

For more than 180 years, this inspiring group of religious women has consistently shaped and influenced our state – and far beyond – as they have worked to build community cornerstones, including schools, charities, community programs, churches, and medical institutions.

While many people are familiar with the massive impacts of the Sisters of Providence's contributions in these spheres of society, far fewer are aware of the deep, exquisite imprint one humble member of their congregation made in the world of art and art education.



Sister Mary Trinitas' creations have enriched the university's campus for decades.



Public Domain Photo

Intricately detailed ceramic pottery.

Introducing Sister Mary Morin Trinitas

Rosalba Marie Morin was born on June 18, 1908, in Crookston, Minnesota, but spent nearly all her life in Montana. When she was two, her parents moved her and her seven siblings to Missoula, where her father opened a lumber business.

Although her father wanted her to become an architect, she was drawn to the church and opted at 21 to take her vows as a Sister of Providence. She was thereafter known by her religious name, Sister Mary Trinitas.

Sister Mary Trinitas went on to study art at the University of Washington, St. Catherine College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Chicago Art Institute. She earned her master's degree in art from Catholic University in Washington, DC, in 1952.

In addition to obtaining her higher education, Sister Mary Trinitas was assigned as a teacher at a variety of Sisters of Providence schools in Washington, Idaho, and Montana before she ultimately began teaching art and French at the University of Providence – then known as the College of Great Falls – in 1933. For the nearly 33 years that followed, Sister Mary Trinitas devoted her time to educating and inspiring her students as the university's first art teacher while simultaneously creating her own work as a prolific multi-media artist.

A Trailblazer in Art Education

Sister Mary Trinitas was not a woman who limited her artwork to just one medium. Instead, she honed her skills in as many forms as possible. Her versatile trove of work includes woodcarvings, stained glass, metalwork, calligraphy, graphic art, and paintings created using everything from watercolor to pastel to oil, among other media.

"She had a very unique signature style that was very Modernist in how she addressed figures and narratives," explained Dena Rigby, a Seattle-based art advisor and appraiser, who curated the University of Providence's Galerie Trinitas, where Sister Mary Trinitas' works are now on display.



Sister Mary Trinitas was a woman of the Great Depression who was known to upcycle discarded items into her artwork, including wood scraps, fabric, wire, and pieces of metal.

Sister Mary Trinitas relied on more than brushes and pencils for her pieces.



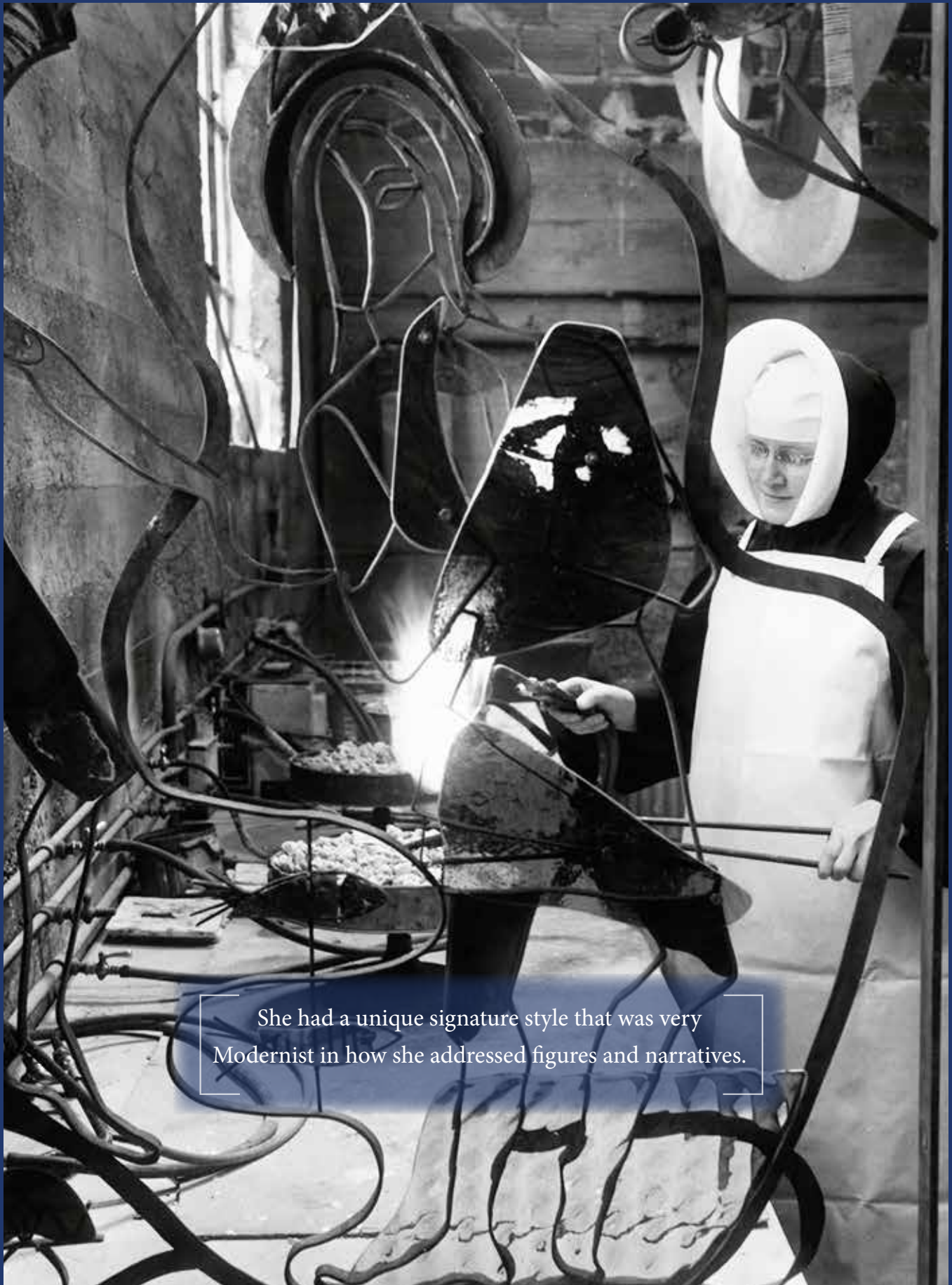
Ceramic artwork on display at the Galerie Trinitas.

“She breaks from the norm and did not use typical stained-glass techniques, but instead uses glass lenses for abstract elements of color,” Dena added. “Her unique figurative approach is also seen in the chalices she made for priests, and in her monumental windows.”

Sister Mary Trinitas was a woman of the Great Depression who was known to upcycle discarded items into her artwork, including wood scraps, fabric, wire, and pieces of metal.

Even the field of pottery was within her lengthy repertoire. Always the innovator, Sister Mary Trinitas was the first university instructor in the state of Montana to build a ceramic kiln on a campus. She later showed Frances Senska, known by many as the “Grandmother of Ceramics in Montana,” how to build her own kiln, Dena noted. Branson Stevenson, one of the founders of the now-world-famous Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, was among her many ceramics students.

“Her ceramic work is squarely in line with what was happening in twentieth-century pottery in the 1940s and the international Mingei Movement,” Dena said.



She had a unique signature style that was very Modernist in how she addressed figures and narratives.

Storytelling with metal and glass.

Sister Mary Trinitas devoted her time to educating and inspiring her students as the university's first art teacher while simultaneously creating her own work as a prolific multi-media artist.



Sister Mary Trinitas displays one of her many creations.



Visitors to the Galerie Trinitas find themselves immersed in a captivating array of multi-media treasures.

For the Love of Art

Although Sister Mary Trinitas created an astronomical number of art pieces in her lifetime and was revered among famous artists who befriended her, her work is far less known on a grand scale due to the fact she did not sell it, according to Dena. Instead, she gave it away.

“There are no records that I’m aware of, of her selling her artwork or being paid for her commissioned monumental work,” she said. “As far as I am aware, she was a true artist in that she created work since she was young and she made art for art’s sake.”

“It isn’t often in the art world that a story is told about an artist that isn’t associated with dollar amounts or scandal,” Dena points out. “It is even less likely that a story is told about a female artist who dedicated her life to service, her faith, and teaching others about her love of creating artwork, in any media she could get her hands on. It is a positive story about a life dedicated to creating beauty and inspiring others.”



Learn about one of Montana’s pioneering artists during a stroll through the Galerie Trinitas.



Sister Mary Trinitas using a hand-built kiln.

The Galerie Trinitas

Sister Mary Trinitas passed away on July 24, 1965, due to complications of blood clotting in her lungs. Volunteers banded together in the decades that followed to collect and display her work at the University of Providence.

In September of 2019, the Galerie Trinitas was unveiled as part of the new University Center, just across the breezeway from the university’s main entrance. A number of the Sisters of Providence flew in from Seattle and other locations for the event.

“My role as the curator was to tell her story and provide context for the role Sister Mary Trinitas played in the growth of the arts in the Sisters of Providence, the university, and more widely, her place in the expansion of the visual and ceramic arts in Montana,” Dena said. “She was a vital influence on her students, the university, and twentieth-century ceramics in the state. I hope that when people visit the gallery, they are inspired by a woman who lived a meaningful and artistic life.” 🌿

Connecting with Students in Distance Learning

By Travis Vermulm | Photo By Megan Peetz

It's not uncommon to hear about the woes and difficulties of distance learning, but when implemented successfully, the format can be an incredible tool for student connection and outreach. Dr. Mary Amick can attest as she successfully utilizes this tool at University of Providence from her remote office in Scotts Mills, Oregon.

Dr. Amick is an associate professor and program lead for the online healthcare administration program. She came to the University of Providence from a long career in various healthcare positions, including long-term care, rehabilitation, and marketing and administration. Now, she is thankful for the relationships she gets to build with students, all from the comfort of her home.

"Honestly, I am personally equipped for this format of teaching," commented Amick. "I have always been a bit of an introvert myself and know a lot of students are as well. I have heard people talk about how they don't feel like they can communicate as much in a distance program, but I have found the opposite to be true. I get to communicate with my students all the time and often on their schedules and availability. I think that is a really beautiful thing to allow that kind of flexibility," she says.

Dr. Amick instructs students in many areas where she has previous expertise. In her classes, students receive a broad range of administrative skills, and Amick ensures they hold steadfast to the mission of the Sisters of Providence.


"This mission of 'living and making a living' has always been our goal in the healthcare departments," Amick stated.

Dr. Amick focuses on character building, leadership, and community outreach, helping students understand how these skills can be applied in healthcare and daily life.

"It is so important to show students that they need to have a good heart, especially for the underserved," Amick says.

Amick sees her classes as an immediate answer to the call of a hurting healthcare system. While recognizing that more leaders and good citizens are needed in the healthcare world, Dr. Amick is glad that University of Providence is standing firm in the tradition of the Sisters to answer that call.

"I really hope the program gets bigger," Amick continued. "We need more of our students to reach the healthcare world, and I hope to continue teaching as long as I can. The connections I get to build with these students are always a highlight. It is a wonderful thing to hear a student say, 'You helped me see something in a different way.' I think I remain transparent for my students, so they know I am with them in the world of healthcare."

This honesty and transparency have made Dr. Amick a favorite in the University of Providence community. From the committees she serves on to the many classes she teaches, she is a shining example of the mission in action. Dr. Amick has embraced the distance format with professionalism and a true faithful spirit. 

Dr. Mary Amick
Associate Professor Healthcare Administration

Finding Joy in a Career of Student Service

Staff Spotlight

By Travis Vermulm | Photo By Eric Visocan

The Mission of the Sisters of Providence has always been to direct resources and care for the marginalized and underserved of the community. Few places on the University of Providence campus live out that mission like the TRIO Student Support Center and not many people find so much joy in their work as does Director of TRIO Student Support Services, Carilyn Voorhies.

“My sole existence on this campus is to serve students, to make sure they can handle their workload and can figure out financial aid and all the other difficulties of the college world,” commented Voorhies. “I often get students who come in and say something like, ‘I’m sorry to bother you,’ or ‘I won’t take too much time.’ My response is always the same: no student is bothering me; I am here for them.”

Carilyn has had a fruitful career in higher education. When she and her husband moved from Great Falls to Louisiana in 2005, she found a job at Centenary College working in their admissions office as event coordinator. She developed a genuine love and passion for working with and forming lasting relationships with students there. When her husband received orders from the Air Force to move back to Great Falls, Carilyn knew she wanted to stay in the field of higher education.

“At Centenary, I learned how much I enjoyed connecting with students, and I really wasn’t ready to leave that aspect of my career behind,” Voorhies stated. “I saw that University of Providence had this position open, and I was absolutely thrilled. Not only could I keep working in higher education, but I could do so at a Catholic school.”

Voorhies was excited that her faith could become a foundational part of her work with students. When she looked into the job before moving back to Montana, she saw a further connection as well; her old parish priest, Father Oliver Doyle, was now the president of the University.

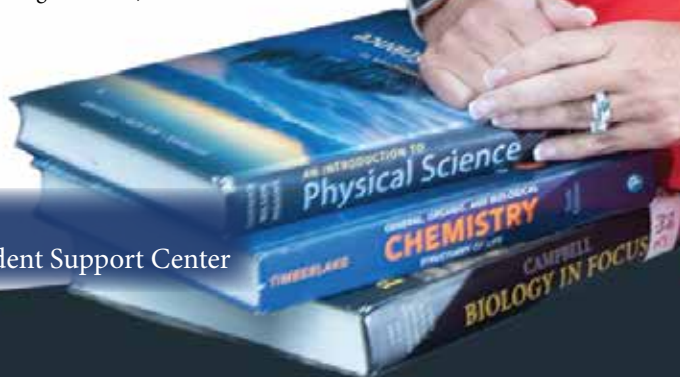
“The foundation that this institution has in its Catholic faith is something I love to talk about with students,” said Voorhies. “I have been in jobs where I wasn’t allowed to talk about faith, and it has been a breath of fresh air to be grounded in that commonality with many of the students.”

“I hope that my relationship with God has grown as much as my relationship with the students,” Voorhies continued. “I really hope I can be that faithful person that students like to be around, who lives out the mission.”

Carilyn’s joy for her work and faithfulness certainly stand out to the many students she serves. Her vibrant energy and humility keep the TRIO Center a welcoming environment.

“I get to be a cheerleader for college students, and that is a really cool job.” 📖

Carilyn Voorhies
Director of TRIO Student Support Center



Forever Their Alma Mater

By Travis Vermulm | Photo By Eric Visocan

When Pat and Harlan walked into their Business Law class at College of Great Falls in the late 1950s, they may not have known a 63-year marriage was about to form, but that is precisely what happened. Pat Orham graduated from the College of Great Falls in 1959, two years after her now husband of 63 years, Harlan. The two met while attending the Business Administration Program when the College was still located on 3rd Avenue North and 16th Street.

"I was originally from Fairfield and was attending on scholarship," commented Pat. "I met this kind man who was working on his degree with the GI bill and serving as a firefighter."

The two have an incredible, long-lasting marriage, and the story is made better by how dedicated they have been to the community. Throughout their lives, they have been faithful stewards of their community, volunteering with many non-profits, including Meals on Wheels, St. Ann's Kitchen, the Great Falls Children's Receiving Home, the Great Falls Symphony Board, and, of course, their Alma Mater, University of Providence.

"Harlan and I have found it wonderful to watch the school grow," Pat continued. "We have seats for all the athletic games and try to make it to every volleyball and basketball game we can; it really is amazing to see the young students supporting each other."

"When we attended the College of Great Falls, it was mostly in part a school for veterans and mothers whose children had left home and were ready to go back to school. Now, it has really grown into a place for young students to learn and develop the skills they need for their lives ahead," Pat adds.

Pat and Harlan have lived in Great Falls most of their lives, watching the school grow and contributing to the community. Harlan worked as a city firefighter for 38 years, while Pat had various jobs, including credit union work at Malmstrom and at Benefis, and as a stay-at-home mom for her children. Throughout all their years together, they never stopped supporting the school that brought them together.

"I have and always try to give to the annual fund; it really is a good thing to do in our eyes," Pat commented.

Members of the alumni community like Pat and Harlan serve as reminders to all students, past and future, that University of Providence can continue to be home long after receiving a diploma.

College of Great Falls was a door to many opportunities for these two former business administration majors, including a lasting marriage.

"I would encourage all alumni to support their university," Pat concluded. "It is a vital part of the community and helps so many young people achieve their goals." 🌱

Pat and Harlan Orham
College of Great Falls Alumni
Pat - Class of 1959 / Harlan - Class of 1957



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SERVING THE MISSION Through CRAFTSMANSHIP

University of Providence Student Builds Wooden Cross
for St. Thomas Child and Family Center

By Travis Vermulm | Photo By Eric Visocan

St. Thomas Child and Family Center has always shared a connection with University of Providence as a fellow ministry of the Sisters of Providence. That connection is further bonded in the intricate carving and crafting of a large wooden cross now hanging in the St. Thomas gymnasium.



Stanislav Struthers and St. Thomas Child and Family Center Director, Carrie Doty, pose in front of the newly hung cross that Struthers crafted during his junior year at University of Providence.



"I am a strong believer that Christ works through everyone in many ways," commented Struthers. "Whenever I am called to be in a ministry position, whether it is altar serving, building something, or even just cleaning up the chapel, I see it as an important part of the unity of the Church."

St. Thomas Child and Family Center has always shared a connection with University of Providence as a fellow ministry of the Sisters of Providence. That connection is further bonded in the intricate carving and crafting of a large wooden cross now hanging in the St. Thomas gymnasium.

In the spring semester of 2023, Stanislav Struthers was approached by Campus Minister Nichola Estrada with a task: to construct a massive-sized cross to hang in the St. Thomas gymnasium. Struthers, a regular participant in campus ministry and an enthusiast for construction projects, graciously accepted the assignment.

Now in his fourth year at UP, this attitude towards a broad range of ministry and the work of Christ has guided Stanislav through much of his college career. He has been a pivotal member of the University Hockey Team, a high-performing student, and a humble participant in multiple roles throughout his time at UP.

While some students see additional projects as burdensome, Struthers approaches every task in a prayerful manner.



St. Thomas Director Carrie Doty and Stanislav Struthers stand back and admire the craftsmanship and beauty of the newly hung cross.



Stanislav's cross is a blessing to St. Thomas, and the children are enamored by the magnitude of its size.

"It was a little tough to start because I had to use my free time," Stanislav noted. "So, between classes or after practice, I was going to the chapel and working on this [wooden cross] project. It worked well for me, though, because it was very relaxing. The cross gave me time to take a break and reflect," said Struthers.

Beyond time constraints, the process of making the cross wasn't an easy task. The structure had to be large enough to cover a significant area of St. Thomas's gymnasium wall but also light enough to easily transport from University of Providence to the childcare center.

"We had to start by figuring out exactly how we wanted the cross to look," commented Struthers. "At first, we were thinking maybe two beams with joints cut into them where they would fit together, but we figured that might be too heavy to transport. We went back to designing and ultimately came up with a solution for both the design and the weight."

Struthers' final design revealed a hollow-backed cross with a wooden frame assembled around it, finished in a dark stain and a lighter color for the trim.

"When I finished, I remember feeling this joy," recalls Struthers. "It always happens to me with these types of projects... I feel this incredible joy seeing the work I was able to do represented in front of me."

St. Thomas Child and Family Center Executive Director Carrie Doty is overjoyed to share the cross with everyone who visits the facility.

"The cross is just so beautiful," commented Doty. "I never pictured having something like this in our gym, and it took us quite a few years to finally get around to putting a cross up, but I see it as a blessing that it worked out as it did. To have Stanislav come across our path when he did and receive this wonderful work of art is more than I could have imagined."



St. Thomas Director Carrie Doty is over the moon and can't praise Stanislav enough for his beautiful gift.

Struthers' faith continues to be a rich source of artistic inspiration that fosters a greater sense of peace and understanding and provides a firm foundation for growing his spiritual connection. Above all, he is grateful for the joy it brings not only to him but to others as well. 🙏

BECOMING AN ARGO

Dr. Joel Bluml Helps New Students Leap UP into Campus Life

By Clay Vermulm | Photos By Eric Visocan

STUDENT CENTER



Vice President for Student Engagement and Athletics, Dr. Joel Bluml visits with students during orientation week.

One year ago, the University of Providence recognized a need in its faculty, students, and growth as an institution of education and faith. The need: more effective practices for orientation and introducing students to campus and the UP culture. The solution: Dr. Joel Bluml, the new University of Providence Vice President for Student Engagement and Athletics.

Bluml has a long history of working in student engagement and athletics. He has worked at University of Iowa, the University of New Orleans, Drake University, and Washburn University.

Photo Courtesy of Blackwall Agency



Faculty and administration don their regalia in preparation for welcoming students during orientation week.

“This is my first opportunity to work at a small, private, religiously affiliated school, and that really attracted me to this position.”

“Having worked at large and mid-sized universities, Bluml expressed great excitement and enthusiasm at the prospect of connecting with his new students on a more personal and spiritual level. “My background is in holistic student development and student well-being.



Photo Courtesy of Blackwall Agency

Students' creativity shines as they add personality and whimsy to a blank dorm room canvas, making it their new home away from home.

There are eight dimensions of wellness (emotional, physical, occupational, social, spiritual, intellectual, environmental, and financial). The spiritual dimension of wellness plays such a huge role in the development of the whole person. It's nice to incorporate that into my student engagement practices,” says Bluml. “The fact that we have campus ministers, a chapel, opportunities for reflection, and formal religious services helps give context to situations in ways that may not be as accessible on other campuses.”

The need for successful orientation practices, which allow students to start on the right foot, is a more crucial practice than ever. University of Providence, being a mission-centered school, is dedicated to fostering



Photo Courtesy of Blackwall Agency

Students enjoy soaring cliffs, the remains of mines, a railroad, and more as they hike through the rich history of Sluice Boxes State Park.



Students get to know each other while taking in the breathtaking views during their float on the Missouri River.



Traditionally, when entering UP, freshmen ring the bell to signal a commitment to live as contributing members of the university community. When they graduate, they ring the bell once more as a signal of accomplishment and success.

the growth and development of its students and preparing them for whatever challenges lie ahead in their lives and careers through faith, community, and education. That mission perfectly resonates with Joel's holistic growth and mental wellness philosophy. Dr. Bluml focuses on giving students the tools they need to foster their own "Whole Person Formation" by embodying the eight dimensions of wellness in their minds, bodies, and spirits.

A key to Bluml's approach is getting students started on the right foot.

"When you think about mental wellness, many are focused on crisis response, and while that is incredibly important and we are always working to improve that, we are also focusing on many of our upstream approaches, which will hopefully help students avoid crisis, in the first place."

Bluml's first orientation, which included move-in day, two optional outdoor activities (a river rafting trip on the Missouri or a hike through the Sluice Box State Park), an all-student and family barbecue complete with sketch artists, axe throwing, a dunk tank, and live entertainment, was a success by all accounts. "I am happy to report that every single student who was assigned housing, arrived on campus and enrolled in classes," says Bluml. "With such a great turnout, we were really able to provide critical information that both students and families needed to know, and then transition into student-critical information and combine that with opportunities for social engagement both on campus and off campus in the great outdoors that Montana has to offer," Bluml says. "It was a really good vibe for people to interact and begin building relationships."

But, the orientation was not all about activity. "From a student well-being standpoint, we made sure to schedule time for the

A key to Bluml's approach is getting students started on the right foot.



The Argo Popup Store was a great addition to New Student Orientation.



Bluml is committed to fostering community and connection between students and faculty.

Dr. Joel Bluml sits in the newly redesigned Mojos Cafe. The makeover of this venue will offer students a great place to hang out and connect with other students.

students to gather their bearings, get their books and supplies, rest, and really get ready for this next chapter,” says Bluml. “Sometimes, if you over-program with activities, students can actually start at a deficit because they are so worn out.”

Moving orientation to the week before classes began allowed Bluml to build in time for well-being and rest, something he says was a fundamental change for this year. “I’d like to believe we struck a good balance between providing students the information and opportunities they needed while also maintaining that holistic approach to wellness,” says Bluml.

Bluml is committed to fostering community and connection between students and faculty. One more key implementation is the reopening of Mojos Cafe on campus.

“If you think back to your own experiences as a student, you may not have actively reached out to classmates, those people you see around campus outside of the class or in the hall in an attempt to build relationships. But, if we create a space for students to congregate and form community, those connections are much more likely to happen naturally,” Bluml says.

Redesigning and repurposing Mojo’s Café with the help of Pioneer College Caterers will create a late-night, on-campus venue for students to study, hang out, and enjoy good food and (non-alcoholic) drinks while connecting with their fellow students and athletes. Students can use their meal plan at the cafe, adding another food option to the on-campus meal program, an invaluable resource for all students. Additionally, Mojos will provide work-study employment opportunities for students and concessions during sporting events.

With Bluml’s years of experience, passion for protecting and preserving mental health, and vision for successful community-building initiatives, University of Providence is in good hands. 🐾



Students give the mechanical bull a ride during the all-student and family barbecue.

Photo Courtesy of Blackwall Agency



Students sit a spell while a local caricature artist sketches their portraits.

Photo Courtesy of Blackwall Agency

Intermountain and UP Partnership

Promoting Mental Health and Student Wellness Through
The Earl and Linda Bates 'Complete Your Dreams' Scholarship

By Clay Vermulm | Photography By Eric Visocan and Kelly Van Dyke



Student wellness, faith, and academic and athletic success are strong declarations that define University of Providence's mission. These are the core values, objectives, and aims through which it walks on the trajectory of success and why students and alumni choose this institution over others. Students and alumni continue to express appreciation for the smaller campus and class sizes as it provides more individualized instruction, which is reflected in their overall academic performance.

It makes sense that University of Providence would team up with Intermountain in Helena as their missions perfectly align.

Established in the Helena Valley in 1909, Intermountain is a nationally recognized provider of highly specialized behavioral healthcare and child welfare services. As one of Montana's oldest child welfare agencies,

Intermountain primarily serves dependent and neglected youth (4-18) suffering from moderate to severe emotional disturbance. Intermountain's inpatient and outpatient services include residential, group home, day treatment, school-based psychiatry, and adoption/family-based services. It is a private non-profit that serves Montana youth in Helena, Kalispell, Bozeman, and Billings.

The partnership between UP and Intermountain solidified over the past few years through the Earl and Linda Bates 'Complete Your Dreams' Scholarship, directed by Melissa Wilson (LCSW), a Helena native who joined Intermountain immediately after completing her master's degree in 2019.

"I love Intermountain," said Wilson. "Their mission really speaks to my heart and soul. I knew I wanted to work here right out of school, and it's been such an honor to be a part of what we do.

While all scholarships help students by providing financial means, Intermountain and University of Providence are taking it a step further. The 'Complete Your Dreams' Scholarship not only provides monetary support to disadvantaged students across Montana and the United States, but it also includes academic and emotional assistance and face-to-face support from Intermountain staff.

"We meet with them regularly, we answer the phone when they call, and we are always around to offer resources or advice that will help them be successful. That's what really matters to us," Melissa states. "There's so much that goes into college, from finding housing, learning to live with roommates, scheduling and attending classes, all the way down to finding work and making money.

Melissa Wilson (LCSW) is the director of the Earl and Linda Bates 'Complete Your Dreams' Scholarship.

Wilson says that many of the students with who Intermountain works with do not have support systems or financial stability, which makes it even more challenging to succeed.

“Finishing college is already hard enough, and we do everything we can to help them see it through,” says Wilson.

University of Providence matches every dollar that is provided by Intermountain and the ‘Complete Your Dreams’ scholarship.

“Our partnership with University of Providence is really great,” Wilson says. “It really allows us to help our recipients out.”

College, for some, is a dream that can be well out of reach. The cost is typically an issue, but adding more insidious obstacles makes pursuing the dream much more challenging. Isabell Surginer is no stranger to overcoming adversity. This intelligent, hard-working, and well-spoken young lady is this year’s recipient of the Earl and Linda Bates Complete Your Dreams scholarship, and, as a long-term softball player, she is joining the University of Providence softball team.

“I heard word about it from my former therapist at Intermountain, who thought it would be super helpful to me, and she had heard great things about

it,” says Isabell. “I worked very hard on the application, and knowing that I was getting more help to go to school and get an education was so relieving.” Isabell is majoring in Biology with plans of furthering her education and becoming a pharmacist. Her positive attitude and track record toward community wellness, her own mental health, her sport, and her education make her an excellent addition to the student body and the UP Argos softball roster as well.

“I have been playing softball for 12 years, and I have always wanted to play at the next level. My hopes for here [University of Providence] are to get a good education and have fun. I love meeting new people and being involved in different events,” says Isabelle.

The partnership forged through UP and Intermountain is a blessing and is making a difference in the lives of many resilient and hopeful students who now know that, with financial assistance and academic and emotional resources at their disposal, it’s okay to dream big and succeed. 🌟



Photo By Eric Visocan

Isabell Surginer, a Biology major, is this year’s recipient of the Earl and Linda Bates Complete Your Dreams Scholarship.

Institutional Support Helps
Set High Goals for

WOMEN'S WRESTLING

By Travis Vermulm | Photography By Eric Visocan

Just as the Spring 2023 Semester wrapped up, the University of Providence Women's Wrestling team returned from Jamestown, North Dakota, with their heads held high. Six athletes returned as All-Americans, and the team placed fifth in the NAIA National tournament.

Coaches Matt Atwood and Walker Fisher were happy with the success, but the program has higher goals for the coming year. "The goal all along has been to win a national title," commented Coach Atwood. "I think for the last few years, our team has been on the outskirts of that title where we could have had it if a few more pieces fell into place. This year, though, I really think with the returners we have and the new class of wrestlers in their first year, we have a real shot at the trophy."



2023 UP graduate and All-American Ashley Gooman works for the pin. Photo Courtesy of UP



Coach Matt Atwood is entering his fourth season as head wrestling coach with the University of Providence Argos.



Coach Atwood discusses technique with (L-R) Freshman Ani Arias, Senior Paige Respicio, Sophomore Erin Hikiji, and Freshman Paige Morales.

Coach Atwood returns for his fourth season as head coach and brings back a phenomenal lineup of athletes. Five of the team's returning wrestlers are All-Americans: Erin Hikiji, Waipuilani Estrella-Beauchamp, Paige Respicio, Sadie Antoque, and Lexi Tupuola. Joining this lineup of All-Americans are several noteworthy freshman wrestlers, including international silver medalist Paige Morales, Pan-Am gold medalist Isabella Bocanegra, and Katelyn Lewis, who will be representing the United States in September in the World Beach Wrestling Tournament in Romania.

So how does the only women's wrestling team in Montana host such a roster of returning and new talent? Coach Atwood credits much of his team's success to the support of University of Providence as an institution.

"I think this is the only school I have been to where wrestling is a sport that is taken very seriously and prioritized highly," Atwood stated. "Other schools often don't have wrestling as a focus. Funding is whatever is left over from football and baseball, but here, there is a lot of support from the school and community. The fact that these athletes have their own facility really shows how important wrestling is to the school."

Atwood was drawn to the University's strong support when he transferred from Midland University in Nebraska in 2020. The location in the plains and surrounded by mountains was also a bonus. When he arrived, he realized there was a great foundation to build upon, and his team is starting to form into the vision he has had since starting.



(L-R) Arias and Respicio work on Single Leg Takedowns.

"I think we are starting to get the mentality developed where the athletes are taking the lead," says Atwood.

Before taking the coaching position, the team had three different coaches in three years. Atwood was now the fourth.

"It is impossible to build a culture without consistency," Atwood says. "Now we have that consistency and have a group of athletes really beginning to take charge."

This consistency and support do not go unnoticed by the athletes. Women's wrestling is a fast-growing sport in the United States. Still, many colleges do not have large programs with focus and funding directed toward them. Athletes like Freshman Paige Morales come from high school programs where they had to build their own success. Being at a place where their effort is built on a solid foundation helps set their goals higher.

"The team is very driven," comments Morales. "I came from a program that was very under-wraps, so everything I wanted to do, my parents and I had to do ourselves."

Morales is enthusiastic about the resources backing the team and the strict goals coach Atwood has implemented. "I think I blend well with that," says Morales.

Atwood focuses his team on the mission of University of Providence, preparing his athletes for living and making a living. Many previous team members followed him, transferring from Midland University to University of Providence. Senior wrestler and returning All-American Paige Respicio is one of those athletes. Respicio saw the same positives behind the school's support and the new facility as did Coach Atwood. That, combined with the strengths of a great coach, helped set a goal for her last year.

"I want to finish strong," Respicio says. "The goal is obviously a national title, but even if that tournament doesn't play out how I want it to, I really want to close this chapter in my life with a good mindset and know that I gave my all to this sport."

Atwood's team consistently shows this level of character and dedication to success on and off the mat. As the University of Providence team enters another season, Atwood is prepared for the challenges and successes of his athletes, and his team is certainly one to watch. 🦁



(L-R) Paige Respicio, Coach Matt Atwood, and Paige Morales pose in the Argo Wrestling Facility as they prepare for another season of successful competition.



Teammates, Erin Hikiji, left, and Ira Navarro, had to wrestle each other for the 101-pound championship title. Navarro won the match at the NAIA Women's Wrestling Championship on March 11, 2023, at Harold Newman Arena.

Photo Courtesy of UP



Gabriella Parini works to finish off a takedown on her Southern Oregon competitor.

Photo Courtesy of UP



Prestigious Recognition

UP Staff Members Receive Awards

By Clay Vermulm | Photo By Eric Visocan

Bryan Slavik Receives Bronze Presidential Service Award

Bryan Slavik, Master Lecturer of Criminal Justices at University of Providence, received the Bronze Presidential Service Award during National Police Week in 2022. This annual service award, bestowed by the president of the United States, recognizes those who dedicate their lives to voluntary service in their communities. Recipients must complete more than 100 hours of voluntary service and are nominated by the communities they serve.

"I was surprised. I didn't even know I'd been nominated," says Slavik.

Bryan served as a police officer for the Great Falls Police Department for twenty-four years. When the department had an opening for a voluntary non-denominational Chaplain two years ago, he did some research. Realizing he met all the criteria, he applied, was accepted, and has since devoted hundreds of service hours to the program.

"I love the people I worked with there, and I love the city and the service I was able to offer the community," Slavik says. "I was very blessed to be accepted for this position."

Aside from providing non-denominational, faith-based support and resources to the Great Falls Police Department, voluntary Chaplains accompany officers on the beat and serve as a calming presence in everything from traffic stops to high-intensity crisis situations.

"I've done death notifications, suicide notifications, I've offered support for officers who have been shot and need counseling," says Slavik. "I also offer resources and counseling around PTSD, divorce situations, funeral arrangements, and whatever other issues might occur."

Slavik says his experience as a police officer with the GFPD serves him well in his position as Chaplain.

"When officers need someone to talk to, they are talking to someone who has been there, done that, and had it happen to them. That goes a long way," says Slavik.

Bryan has been a Master Lecturer for nine years. Before that, he was a Providence adjunct for six years. He was also a student at University of Providence, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in Criminal Justice. Bryan's experience and devotion to his faith, education, betterment of others, and community are evident through his service to the University, the police department, and the community of Great Falls.

"My personal beliefs and my own personal faith align extraordinarily well with the mission of University of Providence. I'm very mission-minded."

Bryan bases his curriculum upon the teachings and example of our Savior, Jesus Christ. He says it is all about helping people in the criminal justice system learn to live and have successful careers.

"It's really important for me to get them started on the right path," Slavik says.

When asked how he actively goes about making his community better, Bryan says that living the mission of the University and of the Sisters of Providence who founded it is clearly and deeply set in his curriculum and service.

"The best part of working at UP is the relationship with the students by far," Bryan says with a smile. "I love that spark that goes through them, that willingness to learn, and that dedication to the future of the criminal justice system."

Bryan says he is grateful for his colleagues, fellow faculty, and wife, Linda, who has solidly stood by and supported him in everything he has done. Above all, he is grateful for "Jesus Christ's love towards me and his atonement that will allow me to return to him one day. I am incredibly blessed, and I recognize and appreciate that," says Bryan. 🌿





Cat Delandro

Recognized as Top Food Services Director in the Nation

University of Providence Director of Food Services, Cat Delandro, was recognized as the top director in the nation by the Pioneer College Caterers Organization. This annual honor is highly sought after and rarely received. The Pioneer College Caterers are the largest food service organization dedicated exclusively to faith-based colleges in the country.

Cat took over the University of Providence food service five years ago and has since significantly impacted the quality of the food and service on campus.

"I started working for the Portland Trailblazers kitchen when I was seventeen," Cat says. After working my way up there for fifteen years, I became the youngest executive chef in the kitchen's history. From there, I started a family, ran my own catering business, and eventually went to work for Multnomah College," Cat adds.

Ever expanding in her craft and professionalism, Cat's drive to continuously improve and grow eventually led her to Montana. "I felt like I'd done everything I could to improve at Multnomah, and I mentioned that to the VP of Pioneer. He flew out, sat down with me, and offered me the role at University of Providence."

Superior, nourishing food is essential to students' productivity in academics and athletics and the community and quality of life on campus. Cat's dedication to these principles of community and exemplary service have aided in the improvement of the university culture.

"I'm seeking people with service in their hearts for my employees. If you are just here to collect a paycheck, then you will not fit in our culture."

Cat says it is easy to tell when someone doesn't have the right mindset for the job.

"Creating a community through investment is the most important thing. We eat lunch together, we take breaks together, and we always have each other's backs. I think it's the only way to do it," Cat claims.

It's not hard to see Cat's passion for the food service craft and an intense devotion to her kitchen. There is also no holding back on sharing the gratitude she has for all who surround her.

Cat shared the following offering of thanks:

"I'd like to thank my coffee shop manager Sylvia, who has been with us for about four years. Kelly is one of our evening cooks who often helps me with office work, and Christian, my right hand out here right now, has been around since the start. Kelly and Christian are the first two I ever hired, and they are still here! Thanks also to my lead lunch cook Don, Linda Meyer, and to all my new workers who are doing awesome. Finally, thanks to my District Manager, Brian Messer, with Pioneer College Caterers. He's mentored me over the years, and his guidance and support have made me a better Director. He truly is the best Boss I've ever had."

Cultivating and retaining a reliable, consistent cooking staff is an ongoing struggle for any kitchen manager. Still, due to Chef Cat's hands-on, community-based approach, she manages to keep her team happy and efficient year after year. The University is extremely grateful to have her at the helm of UP's kitchens. 🍴



Doug Hashley

Awarded Frontier Conference Athletic Director of the Year

University of Providence Athletic Director Doug Hashley was selected the Frontier Conference Athletic Director of the Year by the league's athletic directors.

"It is very flattering that my colleagues would think of me for such an honor," Hashley said. "All of our league's athletic directors do an outstanding job of making their prospective educational institution's athletic programs at the top."

Hashley joined the Providence athletic staff in 2017 and has racked up two Frontier Conference Athletic Director of the Year Awards — one in 2020 and another in June 2023.

Hashley orchestrated and hosted the first single-site Frontier Conference basketball tournament in Great Falls since the 2007-08 tournament. He successfully pulled it off but is quick to shout out praises to everyone who helped pull it all together.

"It was highly successful with the help of our entire University of Providence staff. A big shoutout to Father Oliver for his ongoing support, to the entire athletic staff for all their work on making the tournament successful, and to my Assistant Athletic Director Jim "Sarge" Sargent for all the work he does for us here at the University of Providence."

A Big Sandy, Montana native, and a Montana State University graduate, Hashley is widely known amongst the collegiate community as the Bobcat's second all-time rebounder, ranking seventh all-time in the Big Sky Conference. The 1982 graduate

had an impressive college career, setting several Bobcat records, including rebounding and free throw records, and earning multiple all-conference honors. He played basketball in Scotland for one year, and in 2008, he was inducted into the Bobcat Hall of Fame.

Hashley spent nearly 35 years in public education as a teacher, athletic director, and coach of multiple sports before joining the athletic management team at University of Providence. His experience as a student-athlete, educator, coach, and administrator serves Hashley well in his day-to-day duties as the Providence athletic director.

"I am proud of our coaches and student-athletes for their dedication and devotion in the classroom," says Hashley.

Doug intently communicates that it is 'student first, then athlete' when it comes to athletics at UP and proudly brags that the student-athletes cumulative GPA was 3.24 for the 2022 – 2023 academic year.

"This is the highest student-athlete GPA they have had in years," lauds Hashley.

Doug and his wife, Bekki, have four children who all played at Frontier Conference Schools during their college days.

"University of Providence is a great place to work and awesome people to be around," Hashley said. "We got it going on!" 🦉



Coaching in the Community

By Heather Bode | Photos By Eric Visocan



Many athletes who attended the University of Providence are giving back to their communities through coaching. Utilizing the education and experiences they had at the University of Providence, they are training and investing in the next generation of athletes on and off the court and field. Meet five former UP student-athletes and see how they lead as well as inspire the youth in their specific sports.

The University of Providence is generating a list of coaches in our community. Are you an active coach? If so, please contact Melissa Bluml, Director of Advancement Communications and Engagement, at 406.791.5295 or melissa.bluml@uprovidence.edu.



LUIS CARRANZA

Graduated: 2013

Major: Physical education and secondary education

Sport: Wrestling

Coaching Experience: Entering 12th year at Great Falls High, 5th year as head coach, Little Bison Club (youth wrestling club)

Coaching Mantra: “Have fun.” Carranza says, “It’s easy to get caught up in the moment, especially with wrestling as intense as it is. If kids go out there all tensed up, it usually doesn’t go well for them. I try to loosen them up a bit to take the stress off them. I remember all the times I was tense when I wrestled. It was nerve-racking. I’ve had my share of success, but I do remember a couple of matches where I wish I had been a little more relaxed because I think it would have made a difference. I try to pass that on: We’ve done all we can to prepare. Now we just let it fly and have some fun!”

Takeaways from Coaching: “As a coach, you must listen and have an open mind. We think we know it all sometimes. The reality is we don’t. Wrestling is evolving every year. There’s always something to pick up, adapt, and add to your own toolbox. Continuously learning from our experiences, from other coaches, and even from our own wrestlers is a mindset. It helps you grow as a coach and as an adult. That’s what life is all about!”

On Building Community: “I think we need positive role models for kids in our communities. As coaches, we have a huge responsibility to push kids in the right direction. Kids get so caught up in cell phones and social media because it’s easily accessible to them. I hope people in the community see me as someone who is trustworthy. I try to pass this on to my athletes, too: be a good role model and citizen. Lead by example.”





BRENDON DECOCK

Graduated: 2010

Major: Secondary education health and physical education

Sport: Wrestling

Coaching Experience: Entering his 10th year, 9th year as a head coach. Previously at Ronan High School and currently at Fergus High School.

Coaching Mantra: "Attitude and effort." DeCock says, "Those are two things you can control. I constantly remind my kids of this at practice every day and every time we are on the road or at any competition. How is your attitude and effort?"

Takeaways from Coaching: "I've learned to evolve with the sport. I need to be willing to change and stay up to date with techniques. That's my biggest surprise. I often think, 'If I had only known then what I know now, it would have made a huge difference in my own career as an athlete.' But it's not about me. It's about the kids and giving them the best opportunity to learn." DeCock continues, "Wrestling is a community where everyone tries to help everyone else get better. It's cool to have camps where coaches from opposing towns are just working to make kids better all around."

On Building Community: "My biggest thing is trying to develop respectable young adults. I don't care about the results of a wrestling match versus them turning into decent human beings. I also want them to love what they do. Knowing you don't have to be the best at something, but you can still enjoy the process." In addition, his team invites young wrestlers to watch his team. He adds, "I tell my wrestlers, 'You are role models whether you like it or not. You need to carry yourself and watch your language because little eyes are on you. They mimic what you do.' But at the end of the day, kids are kids. They are going to make mistakes. We're all going to make mistakes. But ... are we learning from those mistakes?"

ADRIENNA DECOCK

Attended UP 2008-2009 and 2009-2010

Major: Secondary Education Broad Field Science

Sport: Volleyball

Coaching Experience: Entering 8th year at Fergus High School, 6th year as head coach

Coaching Mantra: "Whether you're a freshman or a senior leader, we are one unit." DeCock says, "We're only as good as the weakest player on the court. If someone is having a bad day, then how can we help them? We're not always perfect, but how can we overcome the obstacles we face?"

Takeaways from Coaching: With teaching, coaching, and having a young family, Adrienna says, "I can't sell my soul to the sport. My athletes need to be kids, too. They don't need to spend their summers in a gym. I let them dictate what they want to do. As a coach, you must lay some boundaries. I feel that's demonstrating to my players a balance of life and sports. I want to teach my athletes that there has to be a balance for their mental health as well. I want them to love the sport without suffering from burnout. For me, I didn't realize any of that as an athlete."

On Building Community: "I try to support as many of the various fundraisers in town, whether it's for unfunded school projects/athletics or other entities in the community. Living in a small community, people take notice if you support their local businesses. We try to support as many businesses as possible. Not only to keep these businesses going and our town thriving but also to build a relationship with them. As coaches and teachers, we rely on these businesses to help support our school programs and athletics. Many of these business owners are parents of our athletes. For me, it's not only about the years their child participates in my program; it's about building a lifelong community."





KERSTYN PIMPERTON

Graduated: 2021, 2023

Major: Biology

Masters: Organizational leadership

Sport: Basketball

Coaching Experience: Graduate assistant at UP, assistant at Belt High School, head coach at Belt Middle School

Coaching Mantra: “You can’t always control if the ball goes in or not, but you can always control how hard you work.” Pimperton says, “I was never the most talented player on the floor. But not a lot of people worked harder than me. I tell my players, ‘You don’t have to be the best, but you can work the hardest and still provide just as much to the team.’ I think that’s something people don’t always understand.”

Takeaways from Coaching: Pimperton says, “Being from a small school, these kids are three or four sport athletes. They are always being coached or mentored. There’s a lot of pressure on coaches to make these kids better players. I am a role model helping to shape people’s lives. These are influential years. It’s really when you can make a positive impact on someone. The middle schoolers I coached were young elementary kids when I played here. So, to go from them looking up to me as a player to coaching them ... it’s rewarding as a coach to be able to come and give back to this community.”

On Building Community: “As a coach, you become a mentor to these kids. You get to know them on a personal level, not just on the basketball court. With kids that are struggling at home or school, that’s where coaches can be the person that they can talk to about something that might be affecting them. It may have nothing to do with sports. A lot of it is just sitting and listening to them.”

ALEX LOWRY

Graduated: 2016

Major: Health and Physical Education

Sport: Softball

Coaching Experience: 2 years at Centerville, entering her 6th year as head coach at CMR High School

Coaching Mantra: “Let’s go EAT.” Lowry says, “It stands for effort, attitude, and togetherness. Softball, like most sports, is a mental game. So, we try to control what we can, which is our effort, our attitude, and playing together with our teammates.”

Takeaways from Coaching: “I think relationship building has been the most enjoyable thing: getting to know the athletes, the coaches, and other athletes around the state. When you have those relationships, it’s more than just a game. People don’t always understand how much time coaches put in during the off-season. So, knowing how to commit your time but not overcommit is a huge thing. But coaching gives me a value for the community.”

On Building Community: Lowry says, “There’s so much you can teach kids outside of sports to prepare them for life and their future. Mental toughness is big. It’s hard with social media, cell phones, and battling after covid. We build mental fitness training into our schedule. Every kid is going through something, some more than others. We have a ‘next play’ mentality. You’re going to make mistakes in sports and in life. But what’s your next play? How do you overcome that? Kids are hard on themselves, so we teach them to look at failure as room to grow.” Lowry incorporates journaling as self-reflection, goal-setting, and small and large group conversation. “Goal setting gives them something to focus on at practice and keeps them in the right mindset. This helps create a sense of family and belonging. It’s building connections, social skills, and pride for our school and community as well.”



CLASS NOTES



How the University Impacted My Life: The University impacted my life by helping me earn the different opportunities available to me. If I had not graduated with my degree from the University, I'm not entirely sure where I'd be in life right now. It also impacted me by accepting me, not based on my athletic merits, but by my educational merits. I had incredible teachers throughout my four years who encouraged me to be the best I could be. They prepared me for a life outside college, in what most students consider the "real world." It also impacted me by allowing me to make some life-long bonds that I am more than grateful to have. Some of those bonds have turned into something a little more than just friends, almost like family. And some of those bonds have turned into really incredible bonds.

Life Updates I'd Like To Share: Shortly after graduating in 2018, I married my wonderful husband. We've now been together 10.5 years, married for five of those. I also started my first "big kid job" the week after getting married at a local federal credit union. This was an incredible experience for me. I was the assistant to the CEO, so I spent a lot of time with the Board Members and the Senior Management. That first job taught me so much. It was an incredible opportunity I don't think would've been possible without my education. In February 2020, I applied for a position back at the University, which I very thankfully got. I returned to the University of Providence in February 2020 and have been here ever since. I've had two different positions and thoroughly enjoyed them both. I got pregnant with my first daughter in November 2020 and gave birth to her in August 2021. Then, recently, I got pregnant with my second child in March 2023, and I'm expected to give birth on Christmas Day 2023. I'm creating the little family I always dreamed of, and I can't wait to see what the future holds.

Ashley Dunn | Class of 2018

Degree: Bachelor's in Business Administration and a Minor in Computer Science.

As a 1987 graduate of the University of Providence, then College of Great Falls, I look back fondly on my years there and the opportunities and friendships it provided me.

I grew up on a ranch and attended a small high school, so the smaller size of the University appealed to me. The intimate class sizes allowed for greater individual participation of the students, and the personalized attention from the knowledgeable and motivating professors helped us each reach our full potential. Embracing my Catholic faith along with my college journey was especially important to me.

Following my junior year, I had the opportunity to apply for a temporary job with Cascade County through a connection I made at the University. Upon graduation from the University, I was able to transition to a full-time position that I still hold. I enjoy remaining active at the University through participation in the worshipping community.

I am married to Michael Fellows, and we ranch outside of Belt and Choteau. Our daughter Kaitlyn is a junior at Carroll College.

Gayle Fellows | Class of 1987



The University of Providence Alumni and Advancement Team loves receiving your news and updated information. Please submit your news and updates by emailing Melissa Bluml, Director of Advancement Communications and Engagement, at melissa.bluml@uprovidence.edu to be included in future editions of *Providence Forum*.

Campus Beat

New Student Orientation Activities & Events



Katrina Stark takes a turn at the dunk tank!



Welcome to Argo Country.



When they pull that gate, I'll be looking for 8!



Now that's a pitch.



Don't forget the sunscreen.



Wolf Creek Canyon, Here we come!



New friends, new beginnings.



Here we go.

Campus Beat

New Student Orientation Activities & Events



Fresh.



All the feels.



Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream.



Always look for the heart.



Nothing like a breath of fresh air.



Life is better in hiking boots.



Enjoying the journey through Sluice Boxes State Park.



Life's a climb but the view is great.

Campus Beat

New Student Orientation Activities & Events



Amparo Dinagsao, Assistant Professor of Education.



Father Oliver welcomes the Class of 2027.



Teamwork makes the dream work.



The Suite Life.



Many hands make light work thanks to our faculty and staff helping with Move-in Day.



Home Sweet Home.

Campus Beat

New Student Orientation Activities & Events



But first, YOGA!



Inhale the future, exhale the past.



When in doubt, do Yoga!

Student Life



Being a student at UP means lunch with your friends every day.



Being a student at UP means being part of something bigger.



Students bring our campus to life.

Campus Beat

UP Day at the Montana State Fair, Great Falls



Thumbs UP for the Argo's.



Cotton Candy for the Argo's.



Montana State Fair 2023.



Bumper Car Races 2023.



L to R: UP employees Tom Carlson, Doug Hashley, and Matt Redinger welcome alumna and former employee, Twila Croft.

Campus Beat

UP at Montana Air National Guard 2023



UP Staff enjoy a tour of the Montana Air National Guard - Impressive!



Dr. Amparo Dinagsao wraps "UP" summer math courses with the Montana Air National Guard.

UP Voyagers Night



Ray Ames, 2023 Hall of Fame recipient and Jason enjoy a photo before the first pitch at the Voyagers game.



Nano McCluskey, Director of Advancement Operations and Karsten Williams, Assistant Softball Coach, share a laugh at the Voyagers game.



Alumni come out to enjoy our UP Night at the Voyagers.



Gary Ehnes, 2023 Hall of Fame recipient and Joey Egan, Head Softball Coach, enjoy the first pitch at the Voyagers game.



calendar

November 2, 2023 • Registration Begins

November 22 - 24, 2023 • Thanksgiving Observed, Campus Closed

December 11 - 15, 2023 • Fall Semester Final Exams

December 25, 2023 - January 1, 2024 • Campus Closed

January 8, 2024 • Spring 2024 Classes Begin

January 15, 2024 • MLK, Jr Day, Campus Closed

February 19, 2024 • President's Day, Campus Closed

February 22, 2024 • Summer Registration Begins

March 4 - 8, 2024 • Spring Break, No Classes

March 18, 2024 • Fall Registration Begins

March 29 - April 1, 2024 • Easter Observance, Campus Closed

April 22-26, 2024 • Final Exams

April 26, 2024 • Baccalaureate Mass

April 27, 2024 • Commencement Ceremony





A TRADITION OF ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

We are proud to have coaches and student-athletes who care equally about being great students in the classroom and striving for excellence in competition. We had 15 of 17 athletic programs earn the NAIA Scholar Team Award for the 2022-2023 season and are constantly looking for improvement. Argo coaches do an excellent job recruiting the best student-athletes to ensure they have a positive impact in the classroom, athletic events, and the community. Come out and support our student-athletes at one of our home games!

GO ARGOS!

