

**The Center for Orientation, Transitions and Leadership, in partnership with SAIL, is excited to announce the winners of our monthly Student Leadership Recognition program for September.**

**Lauren Carson** '25 is a junior Political Science and Health Policy and Management double major with a Women's and Gender Studies minor. She is from Waukesha, WI. Lauren is on the Division I Women's Tennis Team, where she serves as a captain. In addition, she is a Resident Assistant, a member of the Liberal Arts Honors Program, serves as a member of Student Congress on the Advocacy Committee, is a Team Representative for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, and is a Student Representative on the Development of Western Civilization committee. Lauren is described by Dr. Illuzzi as a "bridge builder" for her role in bringing together different members of the Providence College community.

A highlight Lauren describes as a captain of the Women's Tennis Team, is an event called "Goodnight Lights". Student-athletes at PC collectively visit Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, RI to wave goodnight to the patients there. She states, "It was such a profound experience being with my teammates, both from my own team and others, doing something positive for our community".

In her leadership roles, Lauren hopes to continue to "make sure that all students feel respected, included, and valued". She mentions her position on the Advocacy Committee on Student Congress specifically, where she is able to collaborate with other members of the community on projects to make progress in creating a more diverse curriculum, as well as revising the Sexual Misconduct policy at Providence College to provide more support for survivors of sexual assault.

**Bags and Bouquets-** Occurred on September 12<sup>th</sup> on Slavin Lawn. This event was created and run by Katie Conway '25, a Marketing and Management double major, and Julianna Tanzi '26, a Marketing major. The event was sponsored by BOP, where Katie and Julianna lead as members of the Tuesday Timeout committee, and Fine Arts committee, respectively. Bags and Bouquets allowed students to make custom bouquets of flowers while enjoying La Creperie crepes. Those who stopped by were also able to paint their own tote bags, as well as receive stickers along with other fun giveaways. Their roles inside the event included the planning, organization, and execution to "create the best way to present [their] event to the Providence College community".

This event was both Katie and Julianna's first time planning their own event at PC. Julianna and Katie describe their highlight of the event as, "Seeing all of our hard work pay off" and "Watching the event come to life" as they watched students painting tote bags and engaging with others, after spending countless hours perfecting details so that the event would run smoothly. Bags and Bouquets allowed students to take time to spend time with their friends and participate in fun and enjoyable activities. They go on to mention that putting on Bags and Bouquets "Made us both happy to see the appreciation and happiness that members of the community showed at our event". In total, the event was attended by over 160 students! Julianna and Katie also mention their committee chairs, Chris Azar and Natalia Alzate, who provided them with tremendous support and guidance while planning their first event.

Going forward, Katie and Julianna hope to be a part of BOP's mission to target larger audiences through their events by making them more inclusive. They hope to continue planning events that are both engaging and enjoyable for all members of the PC community.

**Peer Ministry-** This organization is a student-to-student ministry that emphasizes reflection, prayer, and authentic Christian community at Providence College. In each meeting, participants are encouraged to discuss their unique faith experiences as college students. Peer Ministry is led by four student coordinators, Christopher Azar '24, Anna Carlson '24, Angelina Ranzi '24, and Michael Dion '24. These coordinators help facilitate events on campus, develop the summer training program to provide Peer Ministry Leaders the necessary tools to serve as leaders on campus, as well as continually meeting with Leaders throughout the year. Coordinator

Christopher Azar, an Accountancy major, states that all four coordinators have been in the program since their freshmen year at PC, which has allowed each of them to “grow into this leadership role” where they have been able to see Peer Ministry thrive which Christopher says is a “joy” for all of them. On September 5<sup>th</sup>, Peer Ministry held its annual welcome event, “Come and See” on Slavin Lawn, which included Baja’s tacos, frozen lemonade, live music from a student group on campus, lawn games, and more. This event was one of the largest the group has ever seen, filled with students of all years. This event was described by a faculty member as “amazing” and was a “celebration of fun and inclusion”, where Coordinators and Leaders showcased their leadership in planning and executing the event.

Peer Ministry is eager to keep growing their membership. This organization provides students with the opportunity to meet new friends and provides a community and platform to share any challenges that arise while navigating college and faith life. The Peer Ministry coordinators hope to spread the message about how enjoyable the program is and promote it as a welcoming space for every student at Providence College, regardless of faith backgrounds.

*To learn more about Peer Ministry, visit @peerministry on Instagram.*