MARY LATHAM ’09
HITS THE ROAD
for Good
FEATURES

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COVER: Mary Latham ’09, at the top of Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs, Colo., travels the country looking for stories of kindness to turn into a book for hospital waiting rooms.

MUSICAL NOTES In the first concert held in the May School of Arts & Sciences building in November, the Sons of Serendip, featuring lead singer Micah Christian ’06, delivered a spectacular performance, including a hauntingly beautiful “Hallelujah” and a rousing rendition of “Signed, Sealed, Delivered.”
President’s Letter

ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING parts of my job as president is watching how our students challenge themselves—intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. I return to this theme often, especially when speaking to prospective students and their families about how a Stonehill education builds strong minds and stronger hearts.

At Skyhawk Welcome Days this semester, I mentioned Celia Dolan ’19, who wrote in a scholarship thank you letter that Stonehill inspired in her a passion for food justice that she did not know she had when she arrived on campus. Celia is now pursuing this as a career.

Spring on campus is often a reflective time for seniors who are preparing for graduation. In her essay “Finding Happiness with Harry Potter,” Rachel Riani ’19 shares how she discovered a deeper sense of what happiness means to her from taking Professor Scott Cohen’s Harry Potter: Magic and Metaphors course. “Before entering what can seem like the Metaphors course,” Rachel writes, “I did not know I had a passion for Harry Potter. This passion inspired me to give back, and my husband and I set up a scholarship to support women in science. Those of you who can, give to a Stonehill College student in need. It truly makes a difference. —Rachel Riani ’19

Strong Minds, Stronger Hearts

O’Neil ’99 turns a gift into a successful business.

In December, Francis X. Dillon ’70 retired as vice president for advancement after serving the College across five decades. For him, it was more a calling than a job as he sought to create educational opportunities for others. As he looks back, what pleases Fran most is his role in creating 204 new endowed scholarships for students [p. 22].

As we head into 2019, the College continues to move forward with confidence while staying loyal to its liberal arts roots. —Kevin Shea ’70

Making a Difference

I WAS GIVEN A SMALL SCHOLARSHIP and an on-campus job to help with my tuition. This inspired me to give back, and my husband and I set up a scholarship to support women in science. Those of you who can, give to a Stonehill College student in need. It truly makes a difference. —Melanie O’Neil ’99 and Donna May in the latest edition of SAM. Tom lived down the hall from me my freshman year. He actually roomed with a classmate of mine from Malden Catholic that year. Donna was in the women’s version of the Purple Key, and we would help out together. With the May School, the College continues to move forward with confidence while staying loyal to its liberal arts roots.

Future Alumna

CONGRATULATIONS, Mel! It’s been awesome to see your story all over the Stonehill campus. Thank you for the inspiration and opportunities over the years. —Emily Mathhinsky ’79
Breaking the Email Habit

In a recent blog post on thriveglobal.com, Chair and Professor of Philosophy Anna Lannström offered insight into why checking email is a “toony way to start the workday” and outlines how she broke the habit. My favorite quote from last year about how to stay organized and sane is from Ashton Kutcher, which amazes me since I can’t stop thinking of him as Kelso on That ’70s Show:

“Email is everyone else’s to do list for you.”

For years, I started my workdays by checking email. It seemed like an easy morning habit with another. In other words, I followed Ashton Kutcher’s lead: “I spend the first hour of my work not looking at email, and actually writing just what it is that I want to accomplish in a given day.”

Breaking the ‘email first’ habit took a few weeks because it was so deeply engrained in my morning routine. But I managed to do it. Here’s what I did:

- Removed all notifications from my work email on all devices—I even uninstalled the work email app from my phone to make it harder to check email without thinking.
- Stopped turning on my computer first thing in the morning because I needed to disrupt the habit of opening the email right afterwards. Once I turned the computer on, it was simply too hard to keep myself from opening the email next. Instead, I started writing my to-do list on paper.
- Made my new habit of writing the to-do list more pleasant (a comfortable chair, a cup of my favorite tea, a nice pen), letting it become an enjoyable time of calm and reflection.

This change made checking my email a very different experience. Because now I consider other people’s requests in the light of what I already know I wanted to get done. And so I ask: How will doing what they are asking affect my plan for the day? Will it get in the way of me doing other things? What is more important?

I made just one change. I ignore my boss’ requests at my own peril, so they go on the list, and so do time-sensitive and important requests. When I add things, I also postpone other things until another day. And I refuse some requests. Some of the things that people ask me to do really don’t need to get done—at least not by me.

Knowing what my priorities are makes it much easier to sort all of this out. I still feel guilty when I say no to people instead of being helpful. But I say no anyway. And when I turn the computer on, I know why I’m doing it, so I don’t abjectly open my email next. I count all this as progress.

Double, Double Toil and Trouble

SEEKING TO FOSTER WIDE-RANGING conversations for her Shakespeare class this semester, Professor Helga Duncan partnered with a sophomore class at Brockton High School (BHS). Together, students from BHS and Stonehill studied Macbeth as they explored the relevance of Shakespeare to education and life today.

The class culminated in December with Brockton students—mentored by Stonehill students and with props from the College’s Theatre Department—performing lines of the three witches who predict Macbeth’s future. The performances took place in the McCarthy Auditorium of the May building.

“Both sets of students immersed themselves in the play, getting under the skin of the characters and grappling with the issues. It was a wonderful collaboration,” notes Duncan.

Church in Crisis

CLOSE TO 200 students, faculty, staff and alumni attended a forum on November 8 on the Church in Crisis, featuring newspaper columnist and radio co-host Margery Eagan as moderator, commentator and news analyst Thomas Reese, S.J. and Villanova University Professor Massimo Faggioli. Held in the McCarthy Auditorium in the May building, the two-hour event took a critical look at how Catholic bishops have repeatedly failed to address issues of sexual abuse, their loss of credibility among the faithful and the calls for more accountability and transparency if the Church is to rebound from recent crises. The forum, the first in a series, prompted many questions and comments from the floor, especially on the topics of the future role for the laity, young people and women in the church.

While Shakespeare can be intimidating at first, students moved past his language to find that the play’s ideas resonate. “The large questions are there. How does a good man go bad? Why? What happens?” says Duncan. “All of the students looked beyond what was originally keeping them from Shakespeare and realized that these are questions that people have been asking forever.”
The Leo J. Meehan School of Business building is on track to open in August, in time for the 2019-2020 academic year.

When construction is completed, the $30 million building will bolster the College’s already strong business programs with cutting-edge digital technologies that equip our students with the emerging capacities of social networks, data science and scalable innovation.

“At the undergraduate level, the Meehan School will provide the kind of experiences that are more often available in graduate-level business programs,” says Dean of the Meehan School of Business Debra Salvucci.

Home to accounting, finance, international business, management, marketing, economics and healthcare administration, the school is named in honor of Leo Meehan ’73, the president and CEO of W.B. Mason, the fourth largest office products dealer in the world, which employs more than 120 Stonehill alumni. Meehan serves on the College’s Board of Trustees. He and his W. B. Mason partners, Steven Greene and John Greene, along with the company, pledged $10 million towards the construction of the building.

May Dedication

Surrounded by family, friends and members of the Stonehill community, Donna (Jermyn) May ’70, with her husband Thomas May ’69 by her side, formally cut the ribbon to dedicate the Thomas May School of Arts & Sciences.

May Building has proven to be an instant success, especially with its connected huddle spaces, where students gather for group collaboration.

Kate’s Story

In high school, Kate Phalon McCarthy wanted to follow in the footsteps of her, her uncle, Brian Doherty ’94, who is also a trustee, by attending Stonehill. In 2016, however, a tragic car accident took her life. Last fall, a permanent place to honor Kate’s life and memory was established on campus with the Kate Phalon McCarthy Auditorium in the Thomas and Donna May School of Arts & Sciences.

Despite her youth—she was 15 when she died—Kate lived by a mature motto: “Don’t count the days, make the days count.” Always showing a zest for life, she packed a lot into her brief life, excelling in international business, management, marketing, economics and healthcare.

When President John Denning, C.S.C. blessed the new building in October.

“Donna and I are so glad we found Stonehill and that we found each other here. The College is a special place for us.”

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Given her family’s ties to Stonehill and Kate’s joyful, positive spirit, the College felt it would be appropriate to name the new auditorium in her honor. For the inaugural concert in the auditorium, featuring the Sons of Serendip, more than 30 of Kate’s family members and friends occupied three front rows.

According to Doherty, the concert “was a very special event for our family. I expected the Sons of Serendip to be good, but we were all totally blown away. Their music seems more like prayers than songs. Everyone is so happy to know that Kate will forever be surrounded by friends in a beautiful place.”
Heard on the Hill

PETUNIA, THE BITING FISH

Joining the College in 2017, Petunia is an oscar cichlid, or Astronotus ocellatus, a colorful predator species native to South America. Petunia is helping our biology students and faculty with their research into guppy fish, which can potentially lead to discoveries about behavior and genetics.

Funny Running into You Here!

Have you ever bumped into a fellow Stonehill alumnus where you least expected? Maybe on the top of a mountain, at a café in Paris, on the soccer field in your town. If so, we want to hear from you. Share your story with Kim Lawrence at klawrence@stonehill.edu.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

This display outside of the Career Development Center encourages seniors to drop in at “100 Days” to review resumes, polish their LinkedIn profiles, prep for interviews and have “life chats” to alleviate anxieties.

WHAT IS A PHILLANTHROPIST?

According to the “Stonehill dictionary,” a person who seeks to promote the welfare of others by spreading light and hope to all. Leading up to Giving Tuesday in November, 100 PHILLanthropist tees were given away to alumni who had made gifts to the College.

Driven Competitor

“Never let adversity define you.” That mantra drives MacKenzie Greenberg ’19 and has since childhood, when it was coined by her twin and teammate, Morgan ’19. Greenberg has seen her share of adversity and then some, starting in April 2013, when as a sophomore in high school, she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

“I was in shock because I was symptom free. It came out of absolutely nowhere,” says Greenberg. “I just wanted to finish my track season, so I fought with my surgeon and said, ‘You’re waiting until after states. Then you can cut me open.’”

After the state championship, she missed the end of the school year and had surgery in June. She had more than 20 lymph nodes, a tumor on her trachea, and her thyroid removed, followed by a treatment of radioactive iodine.

Over the next two years, Greenberg had two more surgeries and another round of iodine. Through it all, she remained a three-sport varsity athlete, missing only one athletic season, and graduated with honors. She also found time to write a book on her experience, Living with the Ribbon, publishing it two years to the day after her first surgery.

Two weeks prior to her first presaison at Stonehill, she had her fourth surgery while finishing the field hockey season. For the first time, with Ciufo’s encouragement, Greenberg told her teammates about her disease, noting that her treatment would start when the season ended.

Opening up about her condition changed the course of Greenberg’s time at Stonehill. When she returned from treatment in 2016, at the suggestion of her mother, she and Ciufo decided to host a 5k in support of Athletes Crush Cancer. Fourteen of 17 NE10 field hockey teams participated, along with peers from across the NCAA.

The event’s success led to Golden Nights Light the following fall, a gala fundraiser. The two events, now held annually, have raised more than $16,000 for cancer support organizations, and led Greenberg to start the nonprofit Living with the Ribbon Foundation in 2018.

As she prepares to graduate with a double major in health science and psychology and a minor in healthcare administration, Greenberg continues to refuse to let cancer define her. When her doctors prescribed another round of radioactive iodine this past fall, she began

Living with the Ribbon Foundation in 2018. get sick of sacrifcing, so when I can take a little bit of control, I’m going to.”

Greenberg has done that and more. With the support of her parents, coach and teammates, she will continue her philanthropic work through the foundation, and is releasing a second book this May. —Michael Shulansky

Skyhawk Talk

PLAY HARD

Diagnosed with thyroid cancer in high school, field hockey player MacKenzie Greenberg ’19 has refused to let the disease deﬁne her athletic career.

“I sacrificed a lot in high school. I didn’t have as much control at the time,” recalls Greenberg. “By missing out on so much then, and then even freshman year...”

“I fought with my surgeon and said, ‘You’re waiting until after states. Then you can cut me open.’” —MacKenzie Greenberg ’19

At Stonehill being as sick as I was... you get sick of sacrifcing, so when I can take a little bit of control, I’m going to.”

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Mathematically Minded

WHEN GRADING EXAMS, Associate Professor of Mathematics Timothy Woodcock ’93 often takes the time to type up a personal correction sheet for each student, explaining where the student went wrong with a problem and how to solve it correctly. This is just one of the many reasons he was nominated for and received the Hegarty Award for Excellence in Teaching at this year’s Convocation.

Woodcock—the first alumnus ever to receive the award—explains the many reasons he was nominated for and received the Hegarty Award for Excellence in Teaching at this year’s Convocation.

Equation that I find most interesting:

Why I enjoy math: It always surprises me. In each course that I teach, every semester, I will have several moments, where I think to myself, “Hmm, I had never looked at that problem in that way before.” And it is even better when a student supplies the insight, which is not uncommon at all.

Best spot on campus:

Something new that I recently learned:

If I wasn’t teaching, I would be:

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Searching for More Good

T

HIS STORY BEGINS at a Manhattan Starbucks, with a man who had no way of knowing the ripple effect he was about to create when he handed the barista $100 and told her to run it out on the customers behind him.

It was the morning after the Sandy Hook shooting, and at a nearby office, Mary Latham ’09 was in her cubicle, reading about the tragedy on her computer and feeling sickened over the senselessness of it all when a coworker popped in and told her about his free coffee.

A little later, Latham called her mom, Patricia, and told her about the coffee man, before launching into her despair over the school shooting.

“Mary, you have to focus on that other story you just told me—think about that man who just made so many people’s day by buying them coffee,” her mom said. “There will always be horrible and tragic things that happen—but there will always be more good out there. You just have to look for it.”
A Personal Mission

Ten weeks after that conversation, her mother died of cancer. Latham has since hit the road in her mom’s Subaru Outback—she calls it Old Blue—to look for “More Good.” Her personal mission is to travel to all 50 states collecting stories of kindness to compile into a book she’ll donate to hospital waiting rooms.

The Skyhawk has traveled some 30,000 miles through 35 states and stayed at 115 homes—often hosted by strangers who have heard of her journey—collecting tales of hope. The Orient, N.Y., native has done a TED talk about her mission. More Good has been covered by the Today Show, MSNBC and dozens of other newspaper, television and radio outlets across the country.

Help Along the Way

Along the way, “a lot of Stonehill people have reached out and helped me,” says the former graphic design major and full-time wedding photographer. For example, when she was traveling through Missouri, Kathryn (Wheeler) Neckermann ’09 helped connect Latham with a story of a mom and her daughter, who had been shown kindness after the daughter was diagnosed with cancer. Ellen Brown ’09 hosted her in Portland, Ore.

Kimberly Riker ’09 hosted Latham for a week in Phoenix after Latham collected stories there. One Arizona story featured a woman who, after noticing that homeless people tended to congregate outside a laundromat she passed each day, went weekly with McDonald’s Happy Meals, food, clothing and quarters to hand out.

Stonehill alumni have also helped in other ways. “I was collecting a story in Los Angeles, and I got back and found a parking ticket for $93,” Latham recalls. She posted it on Instagram, and within minutes Janine (Connors) Block ’09 sent her $93 via Latham’s GoFundMe page.

“This journey has changed my life,” Latham says. “It’s so important for people to see that these tiny little acts are so huge and that we are all capable of them.”

After tragedies like Sandy Hook, people often feel powerless. While we can’t change everything, Latham admits, “we can do something.” Her collected stories illustrate that “giving a tiny bit of our time can make a massive impact. Some of the smallest acts of kindness…can change a stranger’s life.”

Latham’s favorite story comes from a Rhode Island woman who shared her memory of working as a bank teller about 20 years ago:

It was a crazy, busy day, and I was tired, stressed and grumpy. My customer…and I exchanged pleasantries. She mentioned I looked stressed out. I casually answered it was nothing some M&M’s couldn’t cure. … When I looked up to call the next customer a half hour later, she walked up and handed me some peanut M&Ms. I’m 52 now, and I’ve never forgotten that day.

Stories of Hope

Patricia Latham was diagnosed with breast cancer when Mary—the youngest of her four children—was 11. The cancer came back 11 years later, and she had been sick for three years before Sandy Hook. She died in 2013, at age 61. “She was always my biggest cheerleader and supported whatever I wanted to do,” Latham says of her mom. “She was also the kindest and most generous woman.”
Latham plans to turn the stories that she is collecting into a coffee table book for hospital waiting rooms, “where I spent a lot of time with my mother before she died,” she explains. It’s “a hopeless, depressing place that I thought could use some stories of hope for the people who had to sit there next.”

For her work with More Good, Latham was named the 2018 Person of the Year by her hometown newspaper, the Suffolk Times. In an Instagram post about the honor, Latham wrote to her followers:

“I am so incredibly grateful for this recognition, but the truth is, it’s for all of you, too. You are all people of the year for supporting this mission…There was a moment when I drove into South Dakota a few months ago that has stuck with me. I pulled into the spot and got out of the car to pay the meter. A woman came running down the street waving her arms. ’Don’t pay! Take my spot! ’ She was parked next to me and had just put a bunch of quarters in but ended up not needing to stay…I can’t get it out of my head. She could have just left, but she ran to stop me. Every day, all around us, there are people doing small little acts of kindness for others. Tiny little acts that are changing lives. They might not make the news. We might not talk about them to our friends. But they are happening.”

Capturing What is Real

Latham says Stonehill helped shape her into the person she is today, both as a photographer and with supporting More Good.

“My photography professor, MJ (MaryJean Viano Crowe), turned me into the photographer I am today. She taught me how to capture something raw. Something real,” says Latham, who also studied photography in Florence, Italy, and was the photo editor at The Summit.

Her Stonehill friends, meanwhile, help her emotionally and have supported her More Good journey. “The group of girls I met at Stonehill had one of the largest impacts on me,” she reflects. “They have been such solid rocks.”

“We are all going through something, which is why it is so important to be kind. To smile at a stranger. To hold the door. To be a good person.”

—Mary Latham ’09

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—Mary Latham ’09
BY TRACY PALMER

Thirty Years Later...

Still Unsolved
What sparked your interest in this gruesome story?
I always had an interest in the lives and backstories of the heroin-addicted women on the streets of New Bedford. The women were all very interesting, funny and, in their own ways, committed to their families. The grip heroin had on them was frightening. Remember, this was in the 1980s—before the opioid epidemic of today. If they wanted to get clean, there was no place for them to go. Today, there would be many more resources for them and their families. By the time the murders happened, I’d already done a number of pieces on heroin addiction, prostitution and drug dealing in the region.

This happened a long time ago. Why dredge it up now?
Over the years, I stayed in touch with several of the families and investigators. I always planned to write a book, but I was waiting for a resolution. I was waiting for someone to be caught or at least identified as the killer. That hasn’t happened yet. What I discovered, though, was that people were forgetting about the case and the women who were killed. The women were all very interesting, funny and, in their own ways, committed to their families. The grip heroin had on them was frightening. Remember, this was in the 1980s—before the opioid epidemic of today. If they wanted to get clean, there was no place for them to go. Today, there would be many more resources for them and their families. By the time the murders happened, I’d already done a number of pieces on heroin addiction, prostitution and drug dealing in the region.

What advice do you have for today’s journalism students about covering difficult cases or stories about people who are typically forgotten in the press?
You should always be looking for the stories others don’t see. You need to look in the shadows. Every person has a story. You just have to ask him or her to tell it.

After the book came out and you started getting feedback, was there anything that surprised you?
I was surprised at the number of people this case touched and the number of people who remain haunted by the deaths of these women. At each book event, there is always someone who comes to me to talk about either the process of researching and writing at least two other books—both are crime stories, but, unlike Shallow Graves, both have been solved.

Do you miss being out in the field as a crime reporter?
I don’t miss standing in the cold or rain by yellow police tape, waiting to get preliminary information. I don’t miss checking the soles of my shoes for blood (yes, that happened) at crime scenes after the police have left. Blood, by the way, never really seems to go away. I am in the process of researching and writing at least two other books—both are crime stories, but, unlike Shallow Graves, both have been solved.

Do you think your book has made a difference?
I hope so. At the very least, it has renewed interest in the case and sparked calls to investigators. The families and the community deserve answers. A killer cannot go free.
Francis X. Dillon ’70, Stonehill’s longest-serving vice president, retires after 44 years

ROCHE DINING COMMONS. SHIELDS SCIENCE CENTER. AMES SPORTS COMPLEX. To many at Stonehill, these are merely names on buildings. To Francis X. Dillon ’70, who has spent 34 years as vice president for advancement, these names belong to people he has known. Each comes with a story (or two) of graduates and their families, of love and loss, of gratitude and generosity. Walking around campus with Dillon on a chilly but sunny December day, these stories come to life. And as befits his Irish heritage, they flow seamlessly, often with a good bit of humor.

“All of these names represent the developing history and the great success story that is Stonehill College,” says Dillon, who started his career in Admissions and has subsequently directed the College’s Government Relations, Advancement, Alumni, and Communications and Media Relations programs. “I have been blessed and privileged to know each and every person whose names adorn these spaces. And I know what they have done to advance the mission of the College.”

The longest-serving vice president in Stonehill history, Dillon knows this because Stonehill has raised funds to build or renovate 10 major buildings on his watch. From 1994 to 1999, he led the College’s very first capital campaign, Securing the Vision, which raised $23 million, exceeding its goal by $3 million. From 2004 to 2010, he oversaw the Attaining the Summit comprehensive campaign, which raised $60 million, $5 million more than its $55 million goal—a significant achievement in the face of the 2008 recession.

For the Students

While Dillon is certainly proud of the success of two fundraising campaigns and the number of new buildings, he takes particular pride in the growth in scholarships. “Helping people establish scholarships has been the singular most satisfying part of my career,” he reflects. “When I started in Advancement in 1984, the College had 36 endowed scholarships available to students. Today, there are 240.”

Scholarships mean so much perhaps because Dillon himself benefited from one. “I grew up as one of five kids in the projects in Brighton. My father repaired typewriters for the Remington Rand company, and my mother worked long before most mothers worked. I got a full-tuition scholarship to Stonehill. I wouldn’t have been able to go otherwise,” he explains.

In 2002, the College’s Alumni Council established a scholarship in honor of Dillon and his wife, Linda, a longtime Stonehill administrator. The Linda A. and Francis X. Dillon Scholarship benefits academically qualified students with demonstrated financial need, in recognition of the couple’s combined years of dedicated service to Stonehill. “Linda and I get to meet the recipients every year, which is great,” says Dillon, continuing (of course) with a story. “I was going to an event in Donahue Hall, waiting in line to pick up my name tag. As a student in front of me searched for his name tag on the table, he saw my name and called out, ‘Hey, Francis X. Dillon! I have his scholarship. I didn’t even know he was alive!’”

Roll-Up-Your-Sleeves Kind of Leader

Those who have worked for Dillon praise his enthusiasm and his collegiality. They include Mary Donna (Swan) Corcoran ’82, who served as alumni director from 1983 to 1994. “Every time I think of Fran,” she says, “I think of the adage, ‘If you enjoy what you do, you’ll never work a day in your life.’ That’s what Fran is like, and that spirit is contagious.”
“I AM PROUD ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT I HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO STONEHILL; BUT HUMBLE AND HONEST ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT I HAVE RECEIVED SO MUCH MORE THAN I HAVE GIVEN.”
—Francis X. Dillon ’70

“I treasure the years I worked for Fran,” Corcoran reflects. “He’s a roll-up-your-sleeves kind of leader, willing to be in the trenches alongside everyone else. He’s also a very patient teacher. Fran celebrated the gifts I could bring to the position, and he had a lot of faith in me. He is also one of the most genuine people I’ve ever met. Fran has a gift for being present to whomever he’s with. And he treats everyone with the same respect, whether they are a student or a board member. He has such strong core values: he values people, Stonehill as an institution, his faith and his family. He emulates those values. Fran’s influence helped me be the professional I am today.”

Stonehill Personified

“If Stonehill were a human being, it would be Fran Dillon,” says J. Tracy Denholm ’13, who counts Dillon as a mentor. “He represents the best of what the College is all about. I needed a lot of financial support to attend Stonehill. Fran was instrumental in securing that support—always alerting me to additional scholarships and grants. I owe my degree to him.

“One of my favorite things was that Fran’s door was always open,” Denholm continues. “If I was near his office, I would stop by to check in, and he never failed to make time for me. Fran always asked questions and was truly interested in me as a person.”

This genuine interest is in evidence whether you’ve known Dillon for just minutes or many years, according to Thomas May ’69, who chairs the College’s Board of Trustees and whose wife, Donna (Jermyn) Dillon, graduated with Dillon. “I think of Fran as having a unique ability to form

1 With Red Sox legend James “Lou” Gorman ’53 in 1996.
2 Reciting the baseball poem “Casey at the Bat” in 2013.
3 Admissions days with Brian Murphy ’68 [left] and future wife, Linda Dunn, in 1975.
4 With Linda and their daughter, Elizabeth, and son, Gregory, at Dillon’s retirement gala in November.
5 A photo of Dillon in his Donahue Hall office circa mid-’70s.
6 Serving ice cream to students with President John Denning, C.S.C. and College leaders in 2013.
7 Commencement 2013 with Juan Lopez ’18.
8 As a student [center, in white], protesting subpar food in April 1967.
9 With Linda, and one of their scholarship recipients, Liam Dacko ’16, in 2018.
“IF STONEHILL WERE A HUMAN BEING, IT WOULD BE FRAN DILLON. HE REPRESENTS THE BEST OF WHAT THE COLLEGE IS ALL ABOUT.”—J. Tracy Denholm ’13

strong personal relationships with every constituency of the College community,” says May. “I am so fortunate to have enjoyed a special relationship with Fran for over 50 years. He has kept Donna and me connected to Stonehill and has done this with thousands of us. He has been the bridge between the school and alumni, from the Class of 1952 to the Class of 2018.”

May also notes that Dillon’s institutional memory is legendary. “Fran served five presidents, six chairs of the board, several classes of trustees, and generations of management and faculty. He was our historian, but he was so much more. He didn’t live in the past. With a steadfast focus on the future, Fran always challenged us to create a vision of what Stonehill needed to do to succeed.”

Continuing Journey

Dillon will keep encouraging that future focus as senior advisor to the College, a role he assumed on January 1. He’s working in an office down the hall from his old one in the Merkert-Tracy Building, where he continues to connect with alumni. He notes that he has adopted a slower pace than his previously typical 70-plus-hour work weeks. “Linda and I would like to go on a river cruise,” he muses. “And take long weekends to drive down to New Jersey and visit our grandchildren. On campus, I’d like to go to more games and hear more speakers.” Mostly, Dillon reports, he wants to keep nurturing relationships on behalf of Stonehill.

As a way to honor Dillon’s legacy, in November, the Alumni Council renamed the Alumni Service Award as the Francis X. Dillon Service Award. He was also inducted into Stonehill’s New Jersey Hall of Fame, where he was honored for the vital role he has played for athletics, raising funds for the construction of the W.B. Mason Stadium as well as the Sally Blair Ames Sports Complex and its most recent expansion.

“Not everyone in life gets a chance to work with others to build, create and establish something that lasts beyond our lives for a purpose that is much larger than ourselves,” he reflects. “I have had that chance, and I am so grateful for it. For my part, I am proud enough to believe that I have contributed to Stonehill; but humble and honest enough to know that I have received so much more than I have given.”
Alumni Day

IN FEBRUARY, 300 alumni and their families visited campus for a winter carnival, including a Barn Babies petting zoo, an open science lab hosted by faculty for children of alumni, a SOUPerbowl cook-off and a craft beer tasting, as well as men’s and women’s basketball games. The day also included a Mass, legacy brunch and Pillar Society lunch.

1. Paul Ramirez ’91 and his son, Nicholas ’20, at the legacy brunch.
2. Marc MacGillivray ’99 and his daughter, Calina, have fun in the science lab.
3. Sarah (Varadian) Vartanian ’10 with her husband, Ava, and children, Maya and Jack.
4. SOUPerbowl cook-off contest winners, Kiki Higgins, daughter of Thomas ’00 and Jennifer (Mitchell) ’99 Higgins, (second place), along with Cathy Gayeretta ’82 (first place).
6. Student Alumni Association members Sawyer Lemay ’20 and Katie Farmer ’19 lend a hand at the cook-off.
7. Charlotte Hall, daughter of Brandon Hall ’02, cradles a bunny.
8. John Ryan ’15, Frank Alveri from Shovelton Brewery, Bryan Aries ’01 and Jeremy Oure, husband of Rebecca (Davis) ’06, enjoy the beer tasting.
9. Edward ’64 and Bernadette (Crowley) ’65 Pare shared the day with their daughter-in-law and grandchildren.
10. Alumni and their families cheered on the Skyhawks at the women’s basketball game against Adelphi University.
Alumni Community

Success for Alumnae Summit

MORE THAN 80 alumnae recently devoted a Saturday morning to exploring workplaces that work for women, leadership and networking at the second annual Alumnae Summit. A lively, informative conversation between College trustee and Stonehill parent Sherrin McCoy (above), former CEO of Avon Products, Inc., and educator Allyson Manchester ‘11 got the event underway. A scientist and beauty industry leader, McCoy discussed making career changes, the importance of vision and purpose, building networks and the impact of mentorship, as well as resilience and confidence.

Summit attendees also participated in breakout sessions on investing and retirement planning, wealth management and estate planning, negotiations and difficult conversations, women in politics and public service, being an advocate and ally in the workplace and entrepreneurship. Many attendees had their resumes critiqued to help each other, trading experiences and providing insight on trends or opportunities. We are already looking at the calendar for next year,” notes Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs Lauren O’Halleran ’13.

Travel Report

SCOTLAND

The 2018 Alumni Travel Program took travelers to Scotland (right) on a 10-day educational tour of Edinburgh, of his most significant works occurred. They will also visit the shrine of Lourdes, where the Virgin Mary appeared in the Grotto of Massabielle to the poor shepherd girl Bernadette. Visit stonehill.edu/alumni/programs-events/alumni-travel-program for more information about this $3,749 per person (double occupancy) trip which includes round trip airfare from Boston, hotel accommodations, breakfast daily, five dinners and the full-time services of a tour director. Space is very limited.

NEXT TRIP: FRANCE

The Alumni Travel Program presents France: Exploring the Birthplace of Blessed Basil Moreau. This 11-day educational tour, from October 11-21, will take travelers to Paris, Normandy, Mont St. Michel, Le Mans, Lourdes and other well-known locations. The journey begins in Paris, where alumni will visit landmarks such as the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées and the Eiffel Tower. Alumni will travel through small towns, including Laignt-en-Belin, the birthplace of Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and visit Le Mans, where some of his most significant works occurred. They will also visit the shrine city of Lourdes, where the Virgin Mary appeared in the Grotto of Massabielle to the poor shepherd girl Bernadette.

An after an 40-year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Robert Henderson retired in January as the chief financial officer for the New England district.

1980

Thomas MacDonald has published his fourth book, Murder in the Charlestown Bricks, in the Dermot Sweeney crime novel series.

1981

John Petrin announced his retirement as town administrator of Burlington in 2019 after serving in the position since 2012. Prior to that, he served as town administrator of Ashland beginning in 2005.

1982

Paul Falvey was named the YMCA of Greater Boston’s chief financial officer. He previously worked for PhysicianOne Urgent Care, Royal Health Group, GE Healthcare and Shields Health Group. In 2017, while at PhysicianOne, he was named CFO of the Year by the Hartford Business Journal.

1985

David Murphy was appointed by Big Y Foods as district manager overseeing daily operations for 14 of the independently-owned New England supermarket group’s stores in central and eastern Massachusetts. Living and working in Ireland for the past two decades, Michael Sheehan is the author of Along the Banks. Cycling Ireland’s Royal Canal. The canal trail is on track to become one of Europe’s newest cycling trails.

1987

During Mental Health Awareness Month last May, Joseph Tucker was featured by Ashton Kutcher’s online news organization A Plus as a facilitator speaking about ending the stigma related to mental health challenges.
year of teaching, Gomes strives to teach his students again in AP biology during their senior year. “More than anything, I try and teach them to be problem solvers,” he says about his first-year students. “I thought, ‘I’m doing that next year,’” she says. When she sees people running in the Block Island Triathlon, she thinks, “What if one of them was a Stonehill student? Could they have been found in a biology lab, cutting open a new frog? Or lab and on the court or field. Both sports at the varsity levels. This means coaching are not too different—both allow him to influence student learning, in the classroom and on the court. He has also been coaching at Bishop Ludden since 2000, where he was inducted into the Stonehill Athletic Hall of Fame. Among Stonehill’s biology students, he sees some of those young people the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their economic success. Wheelin is a member of Robinson+Co’s business litigation group.

2007 Dana Delinios was inducted into Stonehill’s Athletic Hall of Fame. As a member of the outdoor track team, she earned All-America honors by placing eighth in the 1,500-meter run at the 2006 NCAA championships. She was a seven-time participant in the NCAA championships in cross country and track and field.

2008 Danielle (Granato) Pollara was inducted into Stonehill’s Athletic Hall of Fame. As a member of the women’s tennis team, she earned first-team All-East Coast 10 honors in singles and doubles as a first-year and sophomore. She compiled a record of 108-36 over four seasons and in 2006 helped lead the team to its first Northeast 10 regular season title in 14 years.

Building Confidence

Theresa (Nuicco) Roden ’91 had never considered herself an athlete. In fact, the year before her first triathlon, she hadn’t even heard of one. “I was on the beach with my family when I saw people running in the Block Island Triathlon. I thought, ‘I’m doing that next year,’” she says. Once she started training, Roden’s attitude about exercise and eating healthy changed. “I felt empowered and was in the best mental and physical state of my life,” she recalls. In 2010, after having completed several triathlons and as she was preparing her daughter, Abby, for middle school (pictured), Roden reflected on how transformative a triathlon experience could have been during her own teenage years. “As a kid, I asked myself, ‘What if we took kids who didn’t consider themselves athletes and gave them the support, equipment and training to reach a goal that seems impossible? Imagine the difference it could make,’” she says. With the support of Abby’s school, Roden started i-tri, a mind-body-spirit empowerment program, with 14 girls on a borrowed bike. She trained the girls—some of whom hated running and were afraid of the pool’s deep end—and, for a triathlon. Now, as its executive director, i-tri has expanded to 10 partner schools and 200 participants. “The i-tri team and school liaisons invite girls who could benefit the most from the program to participate. It’s free and supplies the girls with training and equipment to get them to the finish line,” explains Roden, an education master who spent years teaching. The girls also learn about healthy eating, goal setting and self-affirmations. “The larger goal is for the girls to be able to apply these skills throughout the rest of their lives.”

Carson Shea became an associate at Eckert Seamans Attorneys at Law. He joined the firm’s Boston office to focus on commercial litigation in state and federal courts. He also advises and defends clients in employment and product liability matters.

2013 Jessica Zabriskie, an optometrist, joined Blondin Shea Eye Care in Torrington, Conn.

2014 Adriana Salimine moved back to the U.S. from Germany to become the senior manager for international communications and strategic projects for MilliporeSigma, a supplier to the life science industry.
Matthew Brown, paralyzed as a result of a hockey accident in high school, raised nearly $40,000 through Kickstarter to publish his book, Line Change. The book covers his experience and the lessons he has learned from it.

Kathleen Morris was signed by the Hildesheimer Invaders of the German Football League. He previously played for the Braunschweig New Yorkers, where he was one of the league’s leading wideouts, with 1,138 yards receiving.

Carlos-Andres Bonilla was named executive director of The Highlands, a nursing and rehabilitation facility in Fitchburg. He previously worked as a human resources recruiter for the company.

Ryan Logan was signed by Wedel of the Pro-B basketball league in Germany. He spent last season playing for Hildesheim Invaders of the German Football League. He previously played for the Braunschweig New Yorkers and was named executive director of The Highlands, a nursing and rehabilitation facility in Fitchburg. He previously worked as a human resources recruiter for the company.

Aisha McAdams, former photo editor at The Summit, is a Boston-based professional photographer.

Kinch. She was hooked.

After earning a master’s degree in research at the Eliot School in Jamaica Plain. “My very first project was Trading Spaces,” recalls watching carpenter Amy Wynn Pastor on store shelves. “I enjoyed the theology classes that I took so much that I added a double major in religious studies,” says Kinch, who decided to pursue a career in higher education.

After earning a master’s degree in research at the Eliot School in Jamaica Plain. “My very first project was Trading Spaces,” recalls watching carpenter Amy Wynn Pastor tackle home improvement projects on TLC’s show Trading Spaces and thinking, “That looks like an absolute dream.”

“Always having the nagging itch to learn carpentry,” says Kinch. A few years ago, she enrolled in a basic woodworking class at the Eliot School in Jamaica Plain. “My very first project was building a wood box with a sliding lid,” explains Kinch. She was hooked.

In 2016, she left her job at Boston University to enroll full-time in the carpentry program at the North Bennett Street School in Boston. Kinch completed the one-year program and is currently in the apprenticeship period of her training. Her dream is to own her own home improvement company.

“Home is so important to me,” Kinch says, “and I just love the idea of helping others make improvements to theirs.”

He notes, “The more technologically advanced we become, the more the pendulum swings toward people being interested in detaching from their phones and spending time with friends and family around the table.” His hope is that Quest for the Antidote, already one of Upper Deck’s hottest selling board games, inspires them to do just that.

As for the future, Deschenes says, “I’d like to see this become an animated series, with multiple different Quest for the Antidote games on store shelves.”

The book covers his experience and the lessons he has learned from it.

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WEDDINGS

Jayne Horsman ’02 to Daniel Hoffman, 6/29/18
Andrew Cutter ’09 to Laura Schul ’09, 6/28/18
Kathlyn Kelly ’09 to Jesse Graddick, 6/15/18
Kimberly Cala ’09 to Curtis Sellon, 9/22/18
Meghan Sheets ’09 to Brian Simonds, 10/6/18
Samantha Marcin ’10 to Kevin Secco ’11, 7/27/18
Emily Moscaritolo ’10 to Jonathan Walsh, 6/16/18
Anna Gillis ’11 to Dwight Jackson ’12, 7/28/18
Elizabeth Gordon ’11 to Colin Brooks, 11/14/17
Lora Hanley ’11 to Jamie Lavenies, 8/4/18
Laura Fischer ’11 to Christopher Nemeth, 8/19/17
Lindsay Booth ’11 to Stephen Polito ’12, 9/14/18
Justin Cerra ’12 to Jennifer Rotondi ’13, 9/15/18
Leah Weiss ’12 to Sean Dalton, 10/28/17
Sara Deneen ’12 to Lucas Marks, 8/4/18
Dylan Anderson ’13 to Nolyn Hartley, 4/21/18
Maeghan Bosy ’13 to Peter Steiner ’14, 10/7/18
Brendan Buona ’13 to Kathleen Doherty ’14, 7/29/18
Lindsay Beauregard ’13 to Matthew Ogden, 8/25/18
Jessica Talbot ’13 to Sean Heiter, 8/4/18
Matthew McCormack ’13 to Jenna Lussier ’13, 11/17/18
Candace Hubner ’13 to Tyson St. John, 10/14/18
Brian Stanton ’13 to Stephanie Cooke ’15, 7/28/18
Bryan Rooney ’14 to Lauren Bonaparte ’14, 8/6/18
Amanda Gauthier ’15 to Matthew Nichols ’18, 10/20/17

Wait, There’s More to See!

Want to see more photos of your classmates getting married or of their little bundles of joy? You now can by visiting SAM online at stonehill.edu/alumni-magazine.

Want to submit a wedding or baby photo? Here’s how: Visit stonehill.edu/alumni/keep-in-touch and complete the form and photo upload.

To be considered for publication, upload digital photos in .jpeg format, at least 2 MB in size. The person submitting the photo must be part of the wedded couple or parent of the baby and a Stonehill graduate. Because of space constraints, not all photos submitted will be included in the print version of the magazine, but those meeting the specified requirements will be included in SAM online.
Alumni Community

Babies

Michelle (Brokane) ‘05 and Colin McIvor of Jamaica Plain, son, Duncan, 4/2/18.

Elana (Nader) ‘06 and Kevin ‘06 Griffith of Wakefield, son, Jonathan, 10/5/17.

Meaghan O’Connor ‘07 and Steven Tardanico of Hanson, son, Liam Langford, 10/9/18.

Elise (Mostello) ‘09 and Daniel Conroy of Cambridge, daughter, Eleanor Marie, 6/1/18.

Allison Ross ‘05 and Jared Kravuk of North Andover, daughter, Willa Rose, 10/12/18.


Bridget Connolly ‘10 and Brian ‘10 Moore of Stratford, Conn., daughter, Madison, 11/14/17.

Babies Pictured

1. Paity Harper, 11/26/17; Anna (Pearl) ‘07 and Jacob ‘07 Musumun
2. Jonah Peter, 1/11/18; Kristin Fallon ‘08 and David Coaposuel of Stratford, Conn., daughter, Madison, 11/14/17.
3. Isabelle Gras, 8/20/16; Aramini (Wise) ‘06 and Jeff Hogan.
5. Nolan Cameron, 6/18/18; Nina and Jason ‘02 Timley.

OBITUARIES

William Bergen ‘52 of Hingham died November 4. He is survived by his five children, four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Bernard Chittenden ‘52 of Duxbury died November 21, 2004. He is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Donald Senna ‘53 of Bedford died January 6. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, three children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Paul Kennedy ‘55 of Franklin died December 3. He is survived by four children and five grandchildren.

Armond Colombo ‘55 of Brookline died October 28. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, six children, 13 grandchildren, and nieces and nephews, including Michael Raymond ’70 and Donna (Langway) Thoreson ’84.

Charles Lindberg ‘56 of Hyannis died September 25. He is survived by his wife, Alyssa, four children, including Mary Lindberg ’84, son, and four grandchildren, including Jonathan ’99.

David Henn ‘57 of South Easton died January 21. He is survived by his wife, Mary, three children and four grandchildren.

John Gorman ‘58 of Vero Beach, Fla., died December 28. He is survived by his wife, Mary (Benson) ‘58, his daughter, a brother, two grandchildren and many nieces and nephews, including Ann (MacKenzie) Curtin 79 as well as sisters-in-law Elaine Benson Tenny ’60 and Mary (Barke) Benson ’57 and brother-in-law Thomas Benson ’65.

Robert Hegarty ‘58 of Newton died January 28. He is survived by two children and four grandchildren.

Sandra (McKenzie) Fosley ‘60 of Jensen Beach, Fla., died October 28. She is survived by her husband, Paul, three children, nine siblings, and seven grandchildren.

Daniel Saunders ‘60 of Fall River died October 21. He is survived by his wife, Jean (Guimette) ’58, six children, two sisters and 15 grandchildren.

Christopher Hughes ‘61 of Hyde Park died October 21. He is survived by his two brothers and nieces and nephews, including Mary Hanahan-Tree ’88.

Thomas Mudd ’61 of Owensboro, Ky., died January 6. He is survived by three children and six grandchildren.

Pamela (Cony) Kierman ’62 of Warembee died December 24. She is survived by her two sons, a brother and seven grandchildren.

Francis Driscoll Jr. ’63 of Fitchburg died August 18. He is survived by his wife, Carla, three children, two siblings, including Dennis ’65, sister-in-law Virginia (Conroy) ’60 and eight grandchildren.

Susanne (Egan) McGlynn ’63 of Taunton died December 25. She is survived by her two children, two sisters and two grandchildren.

John Dombrowsky ’64 of Straightline died December 27. He is survived by his wife, D. Louise (McKeough) ’84, four children, seven grandchildren and four siblings.

Sr. Marie Christine Kleponis, CJC ‘66 of Brockton died September 4. She is survived by her three siblings.

Robert Sutchy ’64 of New Fairfield, Conn., died December 28. He is survived by his wife, Judith (Curtin) ’65, his mother, three children, a brother and three grandchildren.

Michael Byon ’65 of East Falmouth died August 9. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, three children, four siblings, including Gregory ’82, and four grandchildren.

Frank Briguglio ’71 of Honolulu, Hawaii, died December 9, 2017. He is survived by his significant other, Pamela Wong, and his brother.

Joseph McDermott ’72 of Philadelphia, Pa., died January 10. He is survived by his two sons, 10 siblings and former wife, Sue Ann (MacLeod) ’72.

Rose Pallone ’72 of North Easton died August 31. She is survived by her brother and many nieces and nephews.

Carol (Villegas) Downer ’73 of Hampton, N.H., died November 13. She is survived by her husband, George, her son, brother and two grandchildren.

Mark Surban ’75 of Lakeland, Fla., died August 4. He is survived by her wife, Sandra, and three siblings.

Robert Gorman ’76 of Turnington, Conn., died November 21. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and son, Matthew ’11.

Francis McCarthy ’77 of Saugus, Mass., died on October 30. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and two sisters.

Paul Farnberg ’76 of Randolph died August 7. He is survived by his fiancé, Patricia Mazules, his mother, daughter, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Philip Galipas ’68 of Alexandria, Va., died May 30, 2000. He is survived by his three children and a brother.


Pauline (Worth) Seaman ’69 of Brookline died December 30, 2013. She is survived by her husband, J. Scott, three children and three siblings.

Constance Wagner ’69 of Concord, Calif., died December 12, 1998.

William Borden ’70 of Sebastian, Fla., died December 18, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Marie (Mendle) ’70.

Lucille (Comasu) Geran ’70 of Denver died May 28. She is survived by her stepdaughter, two siblings and three grandchildren.

Frank Briguglio ’71 of Honolulu, Hawaii, died December 9, 2017. He is survived by his significant other, Pamela Wong, and his brother.

Joseph McDermott ’72 of Philadelphia, Pa., died January 10. He is survived by his two sons, 10 siblings and former wife, Sue Ann (MacLeod) ’72.

Rose Pallone ’72 of North Easton died August 31. She is survived by her brother and many nieces and nephews.

Robert Sutchy ‘64 of New Fairfield, Conn., died December 28. He is survived by his wife, Judith (Curtin) ’65, his mother, three children, a brother and three grandchildren.

Michael Byon ’65 of East Falmouth died August 9. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, three children, four siblings, including Gregory ’82, and four grandchildren.

Mark Surban ’75 of Lakeland, Fla., died August 4. He is survived by her wife, Sandra, and three siblings.

Robert Gorman ’76 of Turnington, Conn., died November 21. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and son, Matthew ’11.

Francis McCarthy ’76 of Pittsford, N.Y., died September 20. He is survived by his wife, Ann, three daughters, 10 siblings, including Burke ’78, and three grandchildren.

Mark Thomas ’76 of Marlborough died October 28. He is survived by his wife, Mary, his mother, three children and five siblings.

Richard Uronis ’79 of South Yarmouth died July 11. He is survived by his wife, Carol, four children, three siblings and four great-grandchildren.

Geoffrey ‘93 of Newburyport died January 22. She is survived by her husband, John, her son, Joseph ’77, her parents and a brother.

Carole (Freeman) Bonin ’87 of Attleboro died November 12, 2017. She is survived by six children, including Thomas Mendes ’84, three siblings, 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Virginia (Moore) Hodder ’87 of Portsmouth, Va., died October 27. She is survived by her three daughters, three stepchildren, 18 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

James Cobi ’90 of Lakeline died August 14. He is survived by his wife, Grace, two children, including James Jr. ’99, and three grandchildren.

Mary (Thomas) McDavitt ’90 of Foxborough died December 30. She is survived by her six children, two grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Michelle (Cacciola) Wentzner ’90 of Mansfield, Conn., died December 16. She is survived by her husband, Douglas ’89, two sons and a brother.

Kathryn O’Brien DelGrosso ’91 of Easton died December 20. She is survived by five siblings, four children, 13 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.
Religious Studies Professor **Peter Beisheim**, who died in September, served Stonehill as a teacher, scholar and advocate for social justice for 50 years. A theologian of the American Catholic church in the post-Vatican II era, he taught Church and Social Justice, Global Catholicism, Justice, Peace and Ecology. He helped to transform the Catholic Theology Department into a Religious Studies one that included Protestant ministers and Jewish rabbis. A pioneer of the hospice movement, he was among the first professors in the nation to teach a Death, Dying and Bereavement course.

The founding director of the Cinema Studies program, Professor Emeritus of English **Robert Goulet** died in December. He was known for his enthusiasm and academic rigor as well his legendary lending library of 3,400 movies, which he shared with students and faculty alike. Over 44 years of teaching, he made many contributions to the English Department and exhibited a wonderful ability to prompt and inspire deep, critical thinking about literature and film. In 2002, he received the Louise F. Hegarty Award for Excellence in Teaching. He retired in 2012.

**Professor Michael Horne**, who died in January, worked with the world’s leading physicists in exploring the mysteries of entanglement. A theoretical quantum physicist, he had a passion for the discipline’s fundamental rules. In dissecting these rules and proposing experiments that apply them in new ways, he worked with only a notebook and a number two pencil. He was a regular fixture in the Pettit Atrium, discussing assignments and reviewing projects with students, always helping them to appreciate the beauty and practicality of physics.

Adjunct Professor **Peter Rapp** died in July. Well-liked by his students and peers, Rapp, whose courses often focused on technology and healthcare, served in the Healthcare Administration Department for 16 years, until his retirement in 2012. Along with teaching at the college level, Rapp also taught elementary and high school students during his career and volunteered as a science teacher at Elizabeth G. Lyons Elementary School in Randolph for 25 years.

Accounting Professor **John Schatzel**, C.P.A., who died in December, always set high standards for his students, which involved heavy workloads as well as intense preparation and commitment. In the classroom and as a mentor, he expected students to go beyond mastering the technical areas of their discipline and stressed critical thinking, teamwork and strong communication. One of his most innovative initiatives is Real Audit™, an interactive multimedia simulation of real-world financial auditing that allows students to learn by doing as they prepare to be skilled auditors.
Finding Happiness with Harry Potter

BY RACHEL RIANI ’19 ✴ When I started at Stonehill four years ago, I never would have pictured myself in a classroom discussing spells like Expelliarmus or debating whether or not Dumbledore had the best intentions for Harry Potter. But there I was, my first semester of my senior year, sitting in Professor Scott Cohen’s Harry Potter: Magic and Metaphors literature course as a first-time reader of the popular series—and never having watched the movies—having exactly those conversations. While our class had heated discussions about Dumbledore’s relationship with Harry and explored the significance of Harry’s happiest memories, I found myself contemplating my own happiness. 

Harry’s journey through Hogwarts, where he receives his magical education, gives him the opportunity to perform spells and fight evil, but it also helps him discover what brings him joy. In the early novels, Harry believes playing the sport Quidditch—winning games as he flies on his broom—is what makes him happy. However, by the final novels, Harry’s view of happiness matures, as he thinks of his friends and relationships with those he loves as what ultimately provides happiness in life. As I thought of Harry’s experience, I couldn’t help but reflect upon how my educational journey has informed my own happiness. Stonehill students are encouraged to engage the heart and the mind, and I can say—as I round out my four years here—I have done just that.

Pursuing on-campus internships, being a peer mentor for incoming first-year students and participating in the H.O.P.E. Service Immersion program are just a few of the opportunities that have ignited the fire to pursue my passions—using writing and nonprofit work to make an impact on other people’s lives—unlike ever before. Through these profound experiences, I have discovered, in part, what contributes to my overall feeling of joy and contentment.

Like Harry, my happiest moments are those rooted in my relationships with other people—experiencing the welcoming arms of the family from my homestay on my H.O.P.E. trip to Florida, laughing with the orientation team, sharing my work with peers in my creative writing classes. These are the memories that protect me from negativity—just as Harry’s relationships protected him from dark magic.

Having been unfamiliar with all things Harry Potter, I couldn’t have imagined that at 21 years old, I would think deeply about the importance of happiness because of a series that is read by so many middle schoolers. Harry unveils what makes him happiest by the age of 17, and I am still reflecting on this feeling as I conclude my college career. Before entering what can seem like the intimidating “real world,” I will use this knowledge to guide me as I navigate a career path that I care about and spend time with those who bring light to my life.

Having an academic setting that opened my eyes to the happiness I have experienced so far in my life is rare, and quite honestly, magical.

Rachel Riani ’19 is an English major and creative writing and philosophy minor.

SHARE YOUR STORY. Submit your 500-word essay about your Stonehill thoughts and memories to klawrence@stonehill.edu.
SPRING BALL  Stonehill’s first baseball field, with Donahue Hall in the background, was located on what is now the main quad. While the field wasn’t in ideal condition, it didn’t stop the 1953 team from winning the conference championship that year.