Melanie (Malone) O’Neil ’99 Turns a Gift Into a Business
A WELCOMING PLACE “I’ll be using the high-top tables by Au Bon Pain to do homework. Also, the little study nook above the Admission Office has a great view and is a place I’ll be all year,” said Kateri Collins ’19 at the opening of the new Thomas and Donna May School of Arts & Sciences building. Turn to page 22 to read about the May School and its features.
President’s Letter

School of Arts & Sciences building is home to our Admission Welcome Center, the office of our Dean of Arts & Sciences Peter Ubertaccio, and the departments of history, philosophy and religious studies [p. 22].

It’s no coincidence this building is graced by a statue of Brother André Bessette, the first member of the Congregation of Holy Cross to be named a Catholic saint. A humble porter at College Notre-Dame in Montreal, Br. André spent his life gifting visitors and attending to their needs.

St. André’s life was characterized by the virtue of hospitality, as is the College’s mission. A Stonehill education encourages students to develop a lifelong desire for self-discovery and commitment to service that will lead to truly purposeful and rewarding lives. St. André’s service and genuine concern for others are aspects of a Holy Cross tradition that Stonehill carries forth today and fosters in its students and graduates. Reflective of our founding mission, nearly a quarter of our first-year students are first-generation. It is paramount that we provide the resources and support necessary to assure they succeed and flourish, so that they become impactful leaders in our society, like Tom and Donna May.

This issue of the Stonehill Alumni Magazine also highlights the importance of mentorship in the lives of our students and alumni. In “A Good Sign,” Melanie (Malone) O’Neil ’99 explains how in her senior year, business faculty listened to her changing goals and guided her in achieving them [p. 12].

Elisabeth Scopa ’12 recalls how Dean Ubertaccio helped her devise a unique major to support her goal of becoming a fashion designer [p. 35]. In our “Volunteer Spotlight,” we meet three young alumni who mentor current students as their way of giving back [p. 27].

I hope this issue’s stories provide you with insight into how our educational mission continues to transform our students’ lives and how our alumni lead lives of meaning and purpose. Please come back and visit campus and know that you are always welcome.

Sincerely in Holy Cross,

Rev. John Denning, C.S.C.
President

IN THE MID-1960s, THOMAS MAY ’69 was excelling in his classwork, but financial difficulties had the potential to jeopardize his ability to complete his studies at Stonehill. College leaders, however, stepped in and found the resources necessary to ensure he would be able to earn his degree at the College. Tom went on not just to graduate, but also to become one of Boston’s top business leaders. A first-generation student, he has chaired on not just to graduate, but also to become one of Boston’s top business leaders. A first-generation student, he has chaired

Welcoming

Kente and Rainbow Celebration

AT THE ANNUAL Kente and Rainbow Ceremony, 50 graduating students, supported by their peers, faculty and staff, came together in unity and celebration as they prepared for Commencement and life after college.

The special occasion was marked by a spirit of joy, friendship, solidarity and accomplishment. The Kente and Rainbow Ceremony recognizes graduating seniors from Black, Latinx/a/o, Asian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, Native American and multiracial backgrounds as well as those who identify with LGBTQ+ communities.

Connected but Lacking Connection

“ONE THING that I will never forget about those eight years in Washington was, and you’ve all seen this on cable television, people yelling at each other, but never listening to one another. People talking at one another, but always waiting in those pauses to rebut...Please, make sure that you’re coming from, “continued Simas, who received an honorary doctor of humane letters. Acclaimed poet and playwright Claudia Rankine also received an honorary doctor of literature, and author and scholar John Stank ’72, dean of the Stephen J. Green School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University, received an honorary doctor of humane letters.

High Honors: CEO of the Obama Foundation David Simas ’92, poet and playwright Claudia Rankine and author and scholar John Stank ’72 received honorary degrees at Commencement.

320 Washington Street

SUMMER/FALL 2018 2

FPO
Playbills

STONEHILL HAS ENJOYED a long tradition of theatre, as shown through our playbills. Below, The Miser, from 1995.

You Can’t Take It With You 1953
The Curious Savage 1954
Little Bit of Luck 1961
Bury the Dead 1973
A Delicate Balance 1974

Stonehill Theatre Company and Commissioned Theatre Arts Department present

THE MISER
by Molière
directed by Richard McElvain

You Can’t Take It With You 1953
The Curious Savage 1954

THE LADY’S NOT FOR BURNING
1982

A CLEANSING IN THE WOODS
1988

THE LADY’S NOT FOR BURNING
1982

Tom Paine 1989

EQUUS 1986

THE LADY’S NOT FOR BURNING
1982

Anton Mundi 1995

Bury the Dead 1973

Talk Radio 2018

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1982

Anton Mundi 1995

Bury the Dead 1973

Talk Radio 2018

QuICK CHAT

Matthew Greene
Assistant Professor
and Program Director
of Theatre Arts

Years at Stonehill: One

What is exciting about Stonehill Theatre? We’re entering a new era with an approach to theatre that is active, alive and healthier for the practitioners. Audiences will see original works, an increase in musicals and plays from the great American playwrights. The world-renowned London theatre company, Frantic Assembly, will also train our students in their groundbreaking movement style. Theatre is important because: it’s how we communicate with each other. We tell stories, every day, dramatizing our interactions with the world. Theatre is a truly communal, yet individual event. Our job is to tell riveting stories, and the audience supplies the meaning as it resonates with them. It’s a unique and vital part of the human experience.

Advice that I give to my student-actors: Read plays and follow the action.

A play that I’ve seen many times: My latest favorite play is Once—simple, beautiful story, music that haunts you. I saw it three times last year, including twice in one day. After seeing the matinee with my wife, I gathered some of my seniors, bought them tickets and took them. As a former Blue Man, what were the challenges of that role? The stamina. There’s no of-season so after 1,000 performances, you start to feel it. People often ask, “What is the trick to catching the marshmallows in your mouth?” Practice. I think my record was around 35.
Campus Updates

NOW OPEN AND FULLY INTEGRATED into the life of the College, the Thomas and Donna May School of Arts & Sciences is a hive of activity, bringing new life to the heart of campus. “One Gift Sparks a Lifetime of Giving” [p. 22] features the building’s highlights and the story behind its namesake, Thomas May ’69 and his wife, Donna (Jermyn) May ’70. Hot on the heels of the completed May School is the construction of the Leo J. Meehan School of Business building, which is rapidly taking shape and is on track to be completed in time for the 2019 academic year. In August, the College community gathered for the building’s topping off ceremony.

SUMMER PROJECTS
“We use the summer to make upgrades and improvements to our buildings and facilities so that we remain competitive in terms of the resources we offer to students and faculty and avoid deferred maintenance,” says Associate Vice President for Finance and Operations Craig Binney ’83. In 2018, these projects included:

- Creation of a Center for Innovative Design in the MacPháidín Library.
- Construction of a modern computer science laboratory in the College Center.
- Refinishing the floor of the Merkert Gymnasium, home to men and women’s basketball and women’s volleyball.
- Replacing turf on the Timothy J. Coughlin Memorial Field at the W. B. Mason Stadium and resurfacing the running track.

SPECIAL EDUCATION MASTER’S DEGREE
As of summer 2019, Stonehill’s Department of Education Studies will be offering a master’s degree in special education designed to prepare teachers to assist students with special needs to reach their full potential in public, private and parochial schools.

In exploring the complexity of culture, language and learning differences in contemporary classrooms, program participants will graduate with the skills and knowledge to design learning environments that promote inclusivity and that ensure full, meaningful access and engagement for all students.

Participants will also learn how to develop a curriculum for a diverse group of students.

SUMMER JOBS
It was a busy summer on campus with the construction of the Leo J. Meehan School of Business well underway. The College community gathered in August for the building’s topping off ceremony [left and center]. Among the other campus upgrades are the new computer science lab in the College Center [right, above] as well as the resurfaced running track and replacement turf on the Timothy J. Coughlin Memorial Field [below].

Geared toward teachers seeking to earn an initial license in moderate disabilities Pre-K-8 or wishing to add to their current license, this NEASC-approved degree program can be pursued either on a part-time basis in a 33-42 credit program or through an accelerated 12-month program.

Faculty are credentialed and experienced in a wide range of specialized fields. Teaching in small class environments, they serve as mentors and are deeply invested in the success of each student in this master’s degree program.

“This is a strong master’s degree program tailored to assist special needs educators in better serving students...”

— Professor Margaret Pierce

For more information about the program, visit stonehill.edu/academics/special-ed/program-of-study/.

SUMMER PROJECTS

SPECIAL EDUCATION MASTER’S DEGREE

THIS IS A STRONG MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM TAILORED TO ASSIST SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATORS IN BETTER SERVING STUDENTS...

— Professor Margaret Pierce
Heard on the Hill

COOL BREAK: To give students a break from finals and the heat wave in May, Campus Ministry placed popsicles around campus with an encouraging message.

1973 THROWBACK: Ahead of Reunion in June, the Alumni Office posted this 1973 photo on Facebook to remind class years ending in 3s and 8s of the event—turnout exceeded expectations. See Reunion coverage on page 28.

EYE-OPENER: “The number of Stonehill students who have volunteered at My Brother’s Keeper is now in the thousands. Again and again over the years, our students report that their volunteer experience with My Brother’s Keeper is eye-opening not just to poverty but also to their responsibility in life to help those in need.” —Except from citation honoring My Brother’s Keeper at the annual President’s Dinner in May.

HOW ICE MELTS: As part of the 23rd year of the SURE (Stonehill Undergraduate Research Experience) program this summer, Nicolas Cannavo Berraueta ‘20 and Jasil Chacko ‘20, with Assistant Professor of Mathematics Jane Lee, studied the dynamics of water molecules in the process of water’s state change from ice to liquid water using a computer simulation method called molecular dynamics. They will present their findings at the Northeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America in the fall.

EVERYDAY MINIATURES: These miniature Flyaway roller skates look just like the real thing! Curated by students in the Public History course, an exhibit featuring scrap metal miniatures by Cambridge machinist Abraham Megerdichian is on display in the David Ames Sr. Gallery in Cushing-Martin Hall through December.

“Buff Chick” Penne Pasta

Campus lingo for a favorite meal at the Dining Commons.

Winning Off the Field

THROUGHOUT THEIR TIME on campus, students often hear the words of Blessed Basil Moreau: “The mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart.”

That wisdom, often applied to academics, is echoed each summer through Fr. Matt Fase, C.S.C., Stonehill’s athletic chaplain. During preseason, Fr. Fase shares those words with our new and returning athletes while adding, “If at the end of four years all that you are is a better athlete, that’s not enough. Your work here is about being a better person, a more whole human being.”

For our student-athletes, that notion goes beyond developing a strong work ethic or earning good grades.

Skyhawks recognize that altruism is just as important as individual accolades, which is why every team at Stonehill participates in programs meant to improve the lives of others.

Annual Team IMPACT drafts match a child with a life-threatening or chronic illness to the new members of eight teams on campus, building a bond that strengthens over four years of practices, partnership, and competition.

Athletes are regular participants in Stonehill’s Into the Streets program, taking days to serve in the community. And the new Benchling to Break Barriers weightlifting competition, coaxed by Strength and Conditioning Coach Mark Zabicki, raised nearly $2,000 to build awareness for sexual assault and domestic violence.

For nearly a decade, volleyball’s Aces Girls wellness and mentorship program has been working with young women in the area on the importance of fitness, mental health and inclusivity. Baseball’s annual Blood Bowl donation drive with the Red Cross gets students, faculty and staff to give blood. And field hockey won last year’s Athletic Community Service Award.

Aces Girls mentorship program helps raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Those efforts, along with the first Rock-a-Thon this past spring, which saw six purple rocking chairs stay in motion for a day, raised more than $6,600 for the foundation.

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At every sporting event, Make-A-Wish donation buckets are in the stands. Those efforts, along with the first Rock-a-Thon this past spring, which saw six purple rocking chairs stay in motion for a day, raised more than $6,600 for the foundation.

“Winning Off the Field” —Michael Shulansky

“Buff Chick” Penne Pasta

Campus lingo for a favorite meal at the Dining Commons.
practicing politics but recognize their power for good and for evil.

The course I most enjoy teaching: Citizens of the World. It is wonderful to see students connect to their own experiences as citizens of the world. If I weren’t teaching, I would be: Working for the foreign service or the United Nations. I grew up with dual citizenship (the U.S. and Germany) and traveled often before settling down in Easton, so I used to imagine I would work internationally in some capacity.

How my research relates to today’s world: My research is on the ethical challenges of patriotism. Many are willing to sacrifice their lives for their country in military service but are not willing to sacrifice consumer habits to save the environment. What does that tell us about the role of sacrifice in politics and ethics?

Most influential person in my life has been: My mother, both personally as well as professionally. While doing research for a course, I asked my mom which nonviolent peace activist first came to her mind. Everyone else had said Martin Luther King Jr. or Gandhi. With no hesitation, she said Cesar Chavez. My mom’s recommendation led me down a new path of inquiry into the political theory of Cesar Chavez. I now discuss comparisons between Chavez and King in my class.

An interesting conversation I had: An interesting thing about the student government at Stonehill is that it is composed of representatives from each of our six residence halls. The hall presidents and the S.A. office work together as a team to represent our students to the administration. This experience has taught me the importance of collaboration and the power of collective action.

The New York Times

WHAT’S THE BEST WAY TO BUILD AN NBA TEAM? Is it through tanking and restocking the roster using top draft picks? Or is it more important to open up salary cap space and construct a team through free agency? These are the questions Akira Motomura seeks to answer in his research.

Motomura, the chair of the economics department and co-program director for Sports Economics and Culture, has devoted much of his career to the field of sports economics, with a focus on professional basketball. His recent scholarship has centered around the NBA draft, where he’s investigating topics like the impact of selecting international players.

In fact, his research recently caught the attention of The New York Times, which detailed an article on the draft that received widespread coverage. The piece highlighted Motomura’s work and its implications for the NBA.

For Motomura, who spends his free time playing pickup basketball, there’s no subject he’d rather research.

“With basketball, you’re always trying to improve. It’s a game of continuous learning and growth. That’s what makes it so interesting to me.”

—Andrew Clarke

Top Picks

NBA Draft Research Receives Attention from The New York Times

WHEN FRIENDS showed History Professor James Wadsworth a 325-year-old ledger detailing economic activity in colonial Massachusetts, the historian knew he had a very valuable primary source for research.

As he explains, the daybook ledger proved to be “a unique window into the economic, material and social lives of the people of Weymouth at a crucial time in the development of early American culture and society.”

Covering March 1692 to February 1711, the ledger was written by James Richard, a prosperous colonial farmer who tracked 5,000 economic transactions involving more than 600 individuals stretching from Charlestown to Barnstable. Passed down through the generations of a New England family, it had been stored in a pillar box in a dusty attic before Wadsworth received it in 2005.

Appreciating what he had discovered, Wadsworth turned the ledger into a valuable annotated transcription in his book called The World of Credit in Colonial Massachusetts: James Richard and His Daybook— a project that took him more than a decade to complete and which involved 20 Stonehill students assisting with research and active participation over that period.

“All of these students contributed considerable time and effort to the project and labored over James Richard’s penmanship and obscure phonetic spelling,” he notes.
It started as a love story, really. A young couple—soon to be married—wanted to give their siblings a simple yet meaningful gift at their wedding but couldn’t find what they were looking for in stores. So the couple decided to make personalized signs for them, spelling out their brother’s and sister’s last names with white paint on blocks of old wood. Then, they went on their honeymoon to St. Lucia and Antigua for two weeks and turned off their phones.

Melanie (Malone) O’Neil ’99 and her husband, Brian, are letting an unexpected passion take them on a journey. By Kim Lawrence
When we came back, we had all these messages from our wedding guests wondering if we could make them signs,” recalls Melanie (Malone) O’Neil ’99. At the time, Melanie and her husband, Brian, were installing reclaimed wood floors in their Millis home. “We took the leftover wood and started painting.”

It was a hobby. Along with what was quickly becoming their signature block-letter style, the couple also started painting American flags on wood slats, an idea that grew out of a gift that Melanie had made for her dad. Everything they created was in their favored rustic farmhouse style.

The newlyweds could have just left it at that and continued as planned in their new home, with their satisfying and secure jobs—Melanie, who had worked in global marketing at Reebok for a number of years had recently begun working for various startups while Brian worked in sales for a natural pet food company. But, instead, they decided to do something for their friends and family thought was crazy—take a chance and follow what was quickly becoming an unexpected passion.

**Introducing Rustic Marlin**

The popularity of their signs continued to grow merely by word of mouth. A few months after their 2012 wedding, Melanie and Brian turned their hobby into a business and named it Rustic Marlin—coupling their choice aesthetic with Brian’s love of fishing (and a nod to the marlin he once caught)—and headed off to the Cohasset Farmers Market to test appeal. “If we sold $500 worth of merchandise, we felt successful,” Melanie says of their weekends setting up a stand and selling to the public.

“We took the leftover wood and started painting.”

By 2015, Rustic Marlin had sold over $1 million worth of merchandise from their home, quickly outgrowing what Melanie and Brian’s garage and yard could hold. In August of that year, the company moved into a 50,000-square-foot headquarters in Hanover, with space for a wood shop, design and art, finishing, shipping, research and development, sales and marketing, as well as a showroom.

With the new location came more business. Rustic Marlin now makes custom signs for L.L. Bean, Stonewall Kitchen, Life is Good and Black Dog. Last year, they acquired the official licenses to create premium sports décor for the NFL and the NHL, and this year, they will have the NCAA license. That’s a big deal for the relatively small business, as each of these leagues gives only one official license to a home décor business. Rustic Marlin merchandise is also sold at retail locations throughout the country, such as The Paper Store.

With a total of 60 employees and a catalog of more than 6,000 products, Rustic Marlin now has sales reps who sell to all 50 states. This past spring, the company experienced a record-breaking number of orders, and in August, it was ranked 366 overall among Inc. 5000’s Fastest Growing Companies in America as well as the number one fastest growing consumer products company in Massachusetts.

**Learning to Learn**

“We never said that we were going to be a sign company,” Melanie reflects. And nothing in her life pointed in this direction. Growing up, Melanie didn’t have a natural interest in art or design. Actually, she wanted to be a dentist until her father told her to look in his mouth. “Then I realized that this is not for me,” she says.

At Stonehill, she changed her major often, ultimately settling on Spanish. During her senior year, she decided to tack on a business minor, and with the guidance of Business Administration Professors Robert Carver and William Burke, she even completed an internship. “I believe you go to college to learn how to learn. You learn how to show up, learn how to tackle projects, work as a team, work independently, learn how to live with someone. Then you take that with you,” Melanie says.

The sign company was named one of the fastest-growing companies in America by Inc. 5000, which studied domestic and international companies in all industries as a database to identify the fastest-growing companies. The sign company was founded in 2013 with 30 employees and now has 60 employees.

*FOLLOW THE SIGN*
The Stonehill and Rustic Marlin Connection

MELANIE RECALLS going to Stonehill’s career services department during her senior year—before the days of online job searching—and looking through “those big binders” for interview opportunities. It worked. She was offered jobs right after graduating. She is now giving back to her alma mater.

Revisiting the College’s Career Development Center via Handshake, its online job posting site, and the Rustic Marlin Connection Mentoring Database, Melanie has hired Stonehill interns to work at Rustic Marlin in several departments. Kate Stallings ’17 was one of those interns.

During the summer before her junior year, Stallings worked as a marketing intern, helping to develop Rustic Marlin’s marketing and social media plan. Stallings, who now runs her own Web development and management company, Kate Creative Media LLC, notes, “I always had the idea of starting my own company. Interning at Rustic Marlin gave me a unique perspective on not only the reality of being entrepreneurial, but also on how to be successful at something you love.”

Nearby two years ago, Melanie hired Maureen (Dannemarie) Burns ’94 (pictured above with Melanie) as the director of sales and marketing operations—as Melanie jokingly refers to as the “director of everything.”

While the two didn’t connect initially through Stonehill, they have since further bonded through their shared Stonehill experience. “We have definitely talked about our different courses and professors and the buildings—where she lived on campus versus where I lived on campus. We still bring up our times at Stonehill. Those four years are really formative, so it shapes who you become as a person. It’s a camaraderie,” says Burns.

Rustic Marlin is also listed on the Stonehill Alumni Associate Program’s Purple Door Network so that alumni can connect with the company.

Actually, one of Melanie’s first employees, from when Rustic Marlin was still in her Millis home, was then-16-year-old Emily Maltsinsky, a current Stonehill senior. “Mel always raved about her years at Stonehill and how much she genuinely loved the school. Her love and appreciation for Stonehill inspired me to apply and ultimately attend the College,” recalls Maltsinsky. Mentoring Stonehill students is important to Melanie. “Stonehill provided me with the foundation to take my career down quite an unexpected path,” she says. “I love when I have Stonehill interns to chat with or when our high school interns decide to go to Stonehill. It is such a wonderful way to give back and guide students who experience what I once did with the same awe and excitement.”

This ability to learn how to learn may be one of Melanie’s most valuable attributes in business. She admits that she and Brian don’t necessarily know how to make a wooden home decor business successful—they’ve never done this before.

“I’m always asking questions. We go to trade shows and spend a lot of time talking to people who have lived and breathed what we are doing. Where do they buy their boxes? What bank do they use? We are always learning,” she says.

As for her entrepreneurial spirit, she credits Professors Carver and Burke for believing in her. “They created an internship for me and believed in a student who was changing minors her senior year,” she recalls. “Stonehill allows you to get to know your professors, and they are willing to give advice and lend a hand. It is similar to your family life in that way.”

This type of culture is one that she is working to establish at Rustic Marlin. “I look for employees who are teachable and passionate,” she says. Honest, too. At Stonehill, she felt that she could be honest with her professors, telling them when she was struggling or needed extra help. “That is the atmosphere I hope we are building at Rustic Marlin, where an employee can come to me with an issue and ideas for solving it.”

Gift Giving

Staying true to its roots, all of Rustic Marlin’s signs are still handcrafted at the family’s workshop. With the exception of machinery to help with woodcutting, there is no mass production. “That is what makes us unique. That’s our story,” Melanie says.

While Melanie runs the day-to-day operations now, she still sometimes gets sawdust covered in the wood shop, which is staffed with expert woodworkers. “They don’t really want me in there, let’s be real. But I’ll come in and help out if there is staffed with expert woodworkers. “They don’t really want me in there, let’s be real. But I’ll come in and help out if there is a lot of orders, and we are short staffed.”

Melanie understands the need to stay relevant in an evolving industry. Rustic Marlin started just before the rise of Chip and Joanna Gaines—HGTV’s popular Fixer Upper couple, credited with launching the appeal of modern farmhouse style. “Farmhouse is trending a lot right now,” notes Melanie. “We work to stay on top of it. Things like: Do people want more white than traditional rustic? The company has an entire team that watches for trends and brainstorm new design approaches such as incorporating script fonts, metallic colors or rose gold, which seems to be everywhere these days. They have also branched out beyond signs to bottle openers, drink tags, trays, coasters and shelving units and are leading in the direction of restaurant and office design.

“We are constantly assessing where we see the company going and how we want to grow,” she says. “But it is also important to us to stay true to who we are.” And this means remembering that almost all of their products started out as gifts: the block letters for their siblings, the flag for Melanie’s dad, the growth charts for their nieces and nephews. “That is very meaningful to us. When we hear stories of how our customers are giving Rustic Marlin signs as gifts—for teachers, at weddings and baby showers, in sympathy—that is when Brian and I really see the impact that the company is making.”

Eat, Sleep, Breathe Sawdust

It’s been a while since Melanie has had a day off. “My friends tell me that they’re doing yard work or going to Target on a weekend, and I think, ‘Okay, one day I’ll be able to do that kind of stuff again.’” She admits that she and Brian often turn to each other and ask, “Are we crazy?” They work day and night and have made numerous sacrifices to ensure that the business is sustainable. “It’s not just us in our garage anymore. We have employees, and this is their livelihood. They have families,” says Melanie. “I’m more concerned about them than I am about myself.”

There is a joke at Rustic Marlin: Eat, breathe, sleep sawdust. It is a lot of work to start a business from the ground up. Melanie notes, “You have to put this first if you are going to take a risk of this size.” And you have to keep your eye on the ball—a catchphrase that Melanie’s dad often said to her growing up. As she says, “It is true for softball but also for life.” Fortunately, Melanie made an “Eye on the Ball” sign and gave it to her dad for his birthday.

No matter how many hours she’s at work, Melanie makes her own family and friends a priority. She is particularly close with her young nieces and nephews, who are often featured on the company’s Instagram feed and who like to “play Rustic Marlin” at home. She is also committed to her Stonehill friends. “I can honestly say that if I needed Melanie right now, she wouldn’t hesitate and she would be here immediately,” says Catherine Kearney ’99, who met Melanie her freshman year and then lived together in a townhouse, forming a group of friends they refer to as the Amesbury girls. “She will drive two hours in the middle of the week just to meet up with us,” says Kearney.

And when Melanie and Brian, who celebrated their sixth anniversary in September, do eventually have that day off, what will Melanie do? “Spend time with my mom. And Brian and I will probably go fishing.”
THERE ARE STORIES TO TELL ABOUT STONEHILL. A lot of them. Just ask any of the alumni who return to campus for their 50th Reunions and participate in the oral history activity. You’ll hear all sorts of stories about commuting to campus, wearing a shirt and tie to class, trying to pass math class, drinking bad coffee and professors who changed lives. You’ll hear hilarious stories about pranks, hijinks and skipping class and reflective stories about what campus was like during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the day President John F. Kennedy was shot.

BY KIM LAWRENCE, NICOLE (TOURANGEAU) CASPER 95 AND JONATHAN GREEN 10

Telling Stories

ONE OF MY MOST remembered memories of Stonehill is when I was a member of the basketball team, and we used to practice at the building which is currently called Alumni Hall. Most of the fellas on the basketball team lived in Stoughton in a house that was owned by one of the player’s parents. On this given day, we got out of practice late. It was dark out, we were tired, and we were hungry. We decided that we would take the one-way road [Rhododendron Drive, left]—in the wrong direction—to make a shortcut to get off campus and get over to Stoughton. The road is a very serpentine-type road that goes out to Route 138, probably for a good half-mile. We jumped in the car and started to travel down the road. We kind of knew that Fr. [Francis] Boland, who was the president, used to go into North Easton to pick up the paper at about 5:30 at night, but we said, “We have a couple of minutes before he’s going to be coming back from picking up his paper. If we hurry up and get out of here, we’ll hit that entrance before he does.” We drove down the road [in the wrong direction]. We got to the very, very end, and we said, “Oh we got it made.” However, Fr. Boland had one of these big black cars, and all of a sudden, we saw this big black car turn into the driveway with his headlights on. We’re probably about five feet away from making it out to Route 138. He started to flash his lights on and off, and I said, “Oh God, we’re in trouble.” He tooted his horn and waved and said, “Come here, I want to talk to you.” I got out of the car, walked over, wondering what’s going to happen. The first thing he said was, “Well, well, well, it looks like some of my sheep have strayed from the flock. They’ve strayed away, and they’ve got lost. Just where do you think you’re going?” We began, “Well, we were using this road.” And he says, “What I want you to do is get back in the car, and I want you to back it up [back down the road]—all the way.”

And we backed [the car] up all the way, and while we’re backing it up all the way, he’s, of course, following in with his lights on, making sure that we went back all the way to the parking lot.

Needless to say, from that night on, we never took another chance at going out the wrong way.

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Monroe, below, was the first woman to graduate from Stonehill. She entered the school in September 1951 as a transfer student, during her junior year.

I was at the University of Massachusetts studying French, and I realized that there were many students there that had been to French parochial schools. I did not have that background, and I thought I would never make it as an interpreter at the United Nations. I decided to leave.

My mother said there was a small little article in the Brockton Enterprise that said Stonehill is going coed. I came over in the evening. Fr. John Lucey, C.S.C. (College dean) was in that little room right off to the right in Donahue Hall, which is now the ladies room, and he interviewed me. When my mother dropped me off at the front door, I thought, “I have never been in such a peaceful, beautiful place.” It has remained that all my life. I fell in love with it, and I didn’t want to go anywhere else.

Walking with a Dachshund
Margaret Griffin ’64

When the President [John F. Kennedy] was assassinated, we were notified by one of our classmates. We all went over there [to the cafeteria] and assembled. There was a tiny, little portable radio on one of the tables, and you could hear a pin drop. And the contrast of the way it [was usually] in that Spa—we called it the Spa, the Student Union [above]—was so great that it was something that remained in my memory. Just the contrast of dead silence.

Silence
Robert Gaffney ’67

I think the dorm experience was unique—because we ate together; we socialized together; we studied together. There were many an evening where we would just be together, exchange stories, learn about one another. And we came from many diverse backgrounds. The opportunities for bonding were spectacular. We listened to music together.

When the Beatles first came out with their music, I can remember very vividly, we all got together in a particular room and listened to the Beatles music, and we were all enthralled.

Beatles-Mania
Mark Wong ’67

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The Girl’s Used to
Paula (Belinkewicz) Cannon ’66

The girls used to have to wear skirts. I remember coming to the library on a Saturday wearing slacks. I didn’t own a pair of jeans until 20 years later maybe. The female math teacher, Mrs. [Louise] Hegarty [left], she came to help us that Saturday and wore slacks. It was the first time in my entire education that I had seen a female teacher wearing pants. It was an absolute shock.

Slack-ing

Spool-in
Brian Murphy ’68

They were going to build the townie houses in front of the pond. And they put a huge mound of [construction] dirt in, getting ready to do it, but nobody wanted them to ruin the view as they looked down the hill. So people brought spoons [from the caf] and used them to remove some of the dirt from the construction site. And they changed [plans]; they moved the townie houses over [Summit article, below].

Why Oral Histories?

Archives are full of official records like publications, correspondence and reports, but they do not often tell the personal side of the college experience. Because Stonehill is so young, we have had the unique opportunity to interview students who were a part of the College’s early years and record their stories, which supplements and enhances the written record,” notes Director of Archives Nicole (Tourangeau) Casper ’95. “It’s important to hear these stories from our alumni who were here during Stonehill’s early years. At each oral history session, we hear something new that we didn’t know before.”

While oral histories can be tricky, given the fallibility of memory, Archives has found that engaging in the oral history process energizes alumni. One person may recall a particular event that then triggers another person’s reminiscence that inspires dialogue.

Assistant Archivist Jonathan Green ’10 notes, “This is perhaps the oral history’s most prevailing byproduct—providing a welcoming venue in which the emotive power of memory and dialogue reveals moments that escaped the semi-permanence of ink and paper, light and film. To an extent, these oral histories bring alumni closer through the simple process of reminiscing.”

RECALLING CAMPUS LINGO

“Who remembers what the commuters were called?”
asks Eileen (Collins) Vaccione ’68 during an oral history session.

“Four o’clock flyers!”
responds Thomas Keating ’68.
One Gift Sparks a Lifetime of Giving

Stonehill helped a struggling student. Remembering that act of kindness, an alumni couple gives back.
The $19 million building is home to technology-driven classrooms, collaborative work spaces and a world-class lecture hall. With the Admission Welcome Center located on its west side, the building is now the first stop for greeting potential students and their families before they tour campus.

To appreciate why the school—which brings together both academic excellence and a place of welcoming—bears the name of Thomas ’69 and Donna (Jermyn) ’70 May [right], we can step back 50 years, to when Tom was midway through his studies at Stonehill.

At the top of his class but running out of money, he was on the verge of dropping out. An unexpected intervention, however, saved the day for him, and he went on to successfully complete his business administration degree on schedule.

Timely Compassion

To this day, May, who chairs the College’s Board of Trustees, still recalls the interest that the late Rev. William “Bill” Gartland, C.S.C. and other Holy Cross priests on campus took in his situation and their timely compassion towards him. “With Fr. Bill leading the charge, they found the funds to keep me going. I’ve never forgotten that and will always remain grateful for the support the College gave me at such a critical time in my life,” explains May, whose family struggled financially after the death of his father in 1961, four years before he entered Stonehill.

May worked in the accounting department at nearby Cardinal Cushing Hospital throughout his time at Stonehill. He explains that if it wasn’t for Stonehill helping him out, he wouldn’t have been able to continue his education or be as successful as he has been in his career.

Known today as one of Boston’s most influential business leaders, May began his career working for Coopers & Lybrand. One of his clients, Boston Edison, recruited him to lead its financial management department, and from there, he worked his way up to becoming the CEO. Through a series of mergers, the company became NSTAR and then Eversource Energy in 2012. After 22 years of leading the utility, May stepped down as CEO in 2016 and today, he serves as chairman emeritus of Eversource.

Privilege to Give Back

“Given the foundation for life I got at Stonehill, both professionally and personally, it’s a privilege to be able to give back, help the next generation and provide students with the same kind of opportunity and support that I received,” says May, whose wife, Donna, is equally supportive of the College.

An English major when she met Tom, Donna says, “Stonehill was such a wonderful place to go to college. Everyone was so caring, as is evident in Tom’s experience.”

Over half a century, the Mays have found numerous ways of helping and giving back to their alma mater. Long before Tom became a trustee in 1993, he and Donna were active, engaged alumni, serving as class agents, helping with reunions or volunteering for the alumni auction.

The THOMAS AND DONNA MAY SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES is the newest building on campus, located on the site of the Old Student Union on the main quad. A hit with students, faculty and visitors, it has been buzzing with activity since it opened in August.

BY MARTIN MCGOVERN

Features of the May School

Following in the campus tradition, the architecture of the 35,520 square foot building is Georgian Colonial.

FIRST FLOOR
- Lobby
- Two Classrooms (30 seats)
- Admission Welcome Center
- Presentation Room (60 seats)

SECOND FLOOR
- Two Classrooms (30 seats)
- Three Seminar-Style Classrooms (18–20 seats)
- Office of the Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences
- Auditorium (365 seats)
- Skyhawk Shop
- Au Bon Pain Café
- Mechanical Spaces
- Catering Space
- Faculty Offices for History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies
- Faculty Workroom
- Kitchenette
- Breakout Spaces Throughout

“It’s a privilege to be able to give back, help the next generation and provide students with the same kind of opportunity and support that I received.” Thomas May ’69
“As an alumni couple, Tom holds a business administration degree while Donna has a liberal arts one, which is representative of where the College is today since our recent reorganization into two schools. Over 50 years, they have always put their treasure where their hearts are,” notes President John Denning, C.S.C. “Regular visitors to campus, they are the first alumni to make a $1 million gift to the College and have continuously and generously contributed to scholarships, building projects and academic initiatives.”

Stellar Leadership

In 2007, Tom became chair of the Board of Trustees at Stonehill, and in the intervening 11 years, he has guided the College through the 2008 recession, which hit colleges hard, a fundraising campaign that raised just under $60 million and a major expansion in campus facilities.

“As chairman, Tom provides stellar leadership, all the while challenging us to set ambitious goals but then working diligently with us to reach them. He insists that we think ahead, anticipate change and prepare fully for it. At all times, he is gracious with his advice and counsel,” says Francis X. Dillon ’70, vice president for advancement.

“Finding a way to thank both Tom and Donna for the many ways in which their partnership has helped the College, I thought the Thomas and Donna May School of Arts & Sciences would be an ideal way to pay tribute to them,” says Fr. Denning. The Board of Trustees approved his naming recommendation at its September meeting.

Points of Pride

For Tom and Donna watching the College grow in stature is a point of pride.

“We entered Stonehill when it was less than 20 years old and still under-resourced. The campus we visit today represents such a transformation from those early days, as the College now is more confident and much stronger academically and financially,” says Tom. “It’s wonderful to have the opportunity to help with that transformation has been something Donna and I have wanted to do and have enjoyed doing. We feel incredibly honored and so touched by the College’s purpose. It’s a reminder of how that same combination of different fields, within a welcoming, supportive environment has been something Donna and I have wanted to see in our lives.”

Donna further reflects upon the relationship between their experience as students and the building’s purpose.

“As students, we got an outstanding education, albeit in a different environment. There are no tables, no fraternities, no sororities. As students, we got an outstanding education, albeit in a different environment. There are no tables, no fraternities, no sororities. You view that as an opportunity to help with that transformation. And for me, that means connecting with students and saying, ‘Here is one thing we did as students, and here is something we learned as students. I’d love to share it.’”

Tom and Donna May would like to be known as “people who welcomed all who visited Notre Dame College during a visit, work or study there. In making the gift, they are the first alumni to make a $1 million gift to the College. There are no tables, no fraternities, no sororities. You view that as an opportunity to help with that transformation. And for me, that means connecting with students and saying, ‘Here is one thing we did as students, and here is something we learned as students. I’d love to share it.’”

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Alumni Community

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Three Young Alumni Mentors

TODAY, TRACA RAFFERTY ’10 is settled in Los Angeles, working as the social media and marketing manager of the Oprah Winfrey Network [top].

But the Maine native and former communications major remembers all too well how hard it was when she first landed in L.A. seven years ago to work at the E! Network, “not knowing anyone, really, or the town at all.”

Rafferty now mentors current students “to give back,” she says. “Because Stonehill gave so much to me.

“Coming from the East Coast, I know how hard it can be to break into the entertainment industry,” says Rafferty, who has mentored Stonehill students and alumni during brain-picking coffee dates and dinners, phone calls and office tours. “I make introductions and pass along résumés if I can,” she says.

“I realized I wanted to be the person people could bounce questions off of—I’d love to be that person.” -- Traca Rafferty ’10

A TRIBUTE As students, Thomas ’10 and Donna [above] never imagined that the School of Arts & Sciences would be named in their honor. The Georgian architecture follows Stonehill tradition.

Katelyn Kelly ’09, who serves as chief of staff to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, says she volunteers to help Stonehill students “as often as they ask me” [bottom].

Kelly meets with students and alumni at the State House and connects with them through calls and emails. She helps with résumés and conducts mock job interviews as well.

The political science major has also spoken to students on campus about her career path, careers in public policy and working for the state. Kelly, who is teaching an American Government and Politics course as an adjunct professor at Stonehill this semester, says she’s not only happy to mentor, but she also sees it as her duty.

“I believe in the mission of the College to lead with courage towards a more compassionate world,” Kelly says. “And this often means reaching out to those who may be following in your footsteps.”

OT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT mentoring, visit Stonehill Connect at stonehillalumni.org.
Reunion 2018

IN JUNE, more than 900 alumni made campus their home for the weekend—attending class receptions, exploring new buildings, practicing yoga, enjoying a family barbecue, praying, dining, dancing and remembering deceased classmates. Of course, there was endless catching up and reminiscing.
Alumni Community

Alumni Intentsions

THE DEATH OF A FRIEND from college can be a difficult loss for alumni. In grieving for their former roommate or classmate, alumni often feel the pull of campus, a desire to be back where a great friendship was formed and to remember it.

One way in which Alumni Chaplain Rev. Anthony Szakaly, C.S.C. provides for that spiritual need is with the Monthly Mass for Alumni Intentions in Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel, located in Donahue Hall, at 8 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month.

When the Alumni Office learns about alumni deaths, they contact the family of the deceased and alert their classmates, and at the next Monthly Mass of Alumni Intentions, Fr. Szakaly prays for those who have passed. In August, for example, he remembered eight recently deceased alumni as well as four deceased relatives of alumni. Those who live locally are always welcome to attend the Monthly Masses.

Linked with History

“We have a beautiful chapel in the College’s defining building. As a location for our Monthly Mass for Alumni Intentions, we could not ask for better, as it is linked so closely with our history. For alumni, being there is akin to being home,” notes Fr. Szakaly.

Over the years, Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel has undergone renovations to make it a brighter and more welcoming place for spiritual reflection and for celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Prayer Request

With Thanksgiving approaching, another option available to alumni who want to remember a deceased classmate or loved one, or for those who want to request prayers for themselves or for others dealing with life challenges, is to submit a prayer request to Fr. Szakaly. When he celebrates the annual Alumni Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 18 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Mary, Fr. Szakaly will pray for those intentions at the Mass. If you live locally or will be visiting the area, you are welcome to attend the Mass.

Every year, close to 1,100 alumni send intention cards to be prayed over at the Mass. Intention request cards will be mailed to all alumni but if you have misplaced your card or need another one, email alumni@stonehill.edu.

Every year, close to 1,000 alumni send intention cards to be prayed over at the Alumni Mass of Thanksgiving.

Class Notes

1959

David Pomfret received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who’s Who, the world’s premier publisher of biographical profiles. A related medical interventional cardiologist and medical educator of more than 30 years, Pomfret received a silver medal in medicine and a gold medal in surgery from the University College Dublin School of Medicine in 1964 as well as the Outstanding Alumni Award from Stonehill in 2003.

1970

William Alberti Jr. was a featured guest at a Holmes Public Library event in celebration of National Poetry Month this past April in Halifax. The author of five published chapbooks of poetry, Alberti has had his poems published in various newspapers and journals.

1973

Mary Beth (Barber) Conney is the executive director of Creative Comfort Pet Therapy, whose certification of volunteers and their pets provide comfort and healing to thousands of people in facilities in eight northern New Jersey counties.

1975

Mark Lage, the director of the Canton Public Library, retired in August after guiding every aspect of the library over his 40-year career.

1976

Jean O’Laughlin is serving in the Peace Corps for the second time in her life, teaching secondary school English in Ethiopia. In January 1980, she was named a Peace Corps Volunteer of the Year.

1980

James Fitzgerald was promoted to president of VEIC Enterprises, a family-owned convenience store, car wash and Mobil/Gulf gasoline station located in locations throughout Eastern Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Fitzgerald has been with the company for 22 years and most recently served as the company’s vice president and CEO. He is the first non-family member to serve as its president.

1981

Donna (Cercone) Glynn was elected president of the American Nurses Association Massachusetts. She is an associate dean at Regis College in Weston and also a nurse scientist with the VA Boston Health Care System.

1982

Paul Falvey was named director of healthcare services practice for Danforth Advisors in Somerville, which specializes in accounting, finance support, strategy for life science companies and now healthcare services. Falvey has worked in the healthcare industry for 10 years and will continue to serve as CFO of PhysicianOne Urgent Care for which he was named CFO of the Year by the Hartford Business Journal.

Robert Poucel was promoted to executive vice president and general manager of Broadcast Pier, a live video production integration company. He previously served as its director of support.

1984

Karen (Grady) Buckley is a state/ national sales representative at the National Sales Group, a state-owned mutual reinsurance company. Her focus is with multi-national reinsurance companies and emerging reinsurance companies.

Writing on War

IN A CORNER of the dining room in his Needham home, Thomas Keating ‘68 has a writing nook where he conjures up the horror, the wonder, the sadness and the hopes of his younger self in a memoir about the Vietnam War. “The world changed, and I changed,” says Keating.

Keating joined Holy Cross Seminary and Stonehill in 1963 and left both in 1968. “When I left the seminary, I had no intention of returning,” he recalls.

After graduation, Keating enlisted to fulfill his military duty. When he arrived in Vietnam, the personnel clerk was a Stonehill graduate. He assigned Keating a noncombat job at 1st Logistical Command. “I couldn’t remember his name, but he saved my life. I did guard duty and perimeter sweeps but no combat,” he says.

When Keating came home in 1970, he went to visit Holy Cross. “A lot of the rules we had to follow—silence, strict obedience—had been discarded,” he explains. “I felt sadness seeing that way of life gone from the seminary.”

When he retired from a career in education and corporate communications, Keating found the time to read through his war journals and write. He was accepted into William Joiner Institute’s master writing class at the University of Massachusetts, Boston and has completed 12 chapters of his wartime memoir. One chapter, “The Elephants (Con Voi),” about his harrowing experience in a small village in Vietnam, has already appeared in an anthology, War Stories, published in 2017 by Oregon Humanities.

“The things that you will always remember and things you will always forget,” Keating says.
Valley breeze newspaper in Cumberland, R.I.

Daniel Flannery has joined the Marr Companies, an New England-based construction company, as vice president of administration. He previously worked for eight years as director of finance for the construction firm Bond Brothers.

Edward Gallivan, Jr. was named CFO at FS Credit Real Estate Income Trust, Inc. He had served as the CFO of FS Credit Inc since September 2017; FS Energy Total Return Fund since February 2017 and FS Energy and Power Fund since November 2012.

1985 Rev. Robert Campbell, O. Prem, was appointed as the priest/chaplain for St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe, N.M. He is a Norbertine religious residing at the Abbey of Santa Maria de la Vid in Albuququerque, N.M.

Karen (Dussault) McDonnell was named chief human resources officer at Keene State College in Keene, N.H. She previously served as senior vice president of human resources at FruitHealth.

1986 Robert Rivers received the Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps. Embracing the Legacy Award for his commitment to social justice and his unique visionary leadership. Rivers is the chair and CEO of Eastern Bank and is a member of Stonehill’s Board of Trustees.

Jean (Zymianka) Reese was named marketing specialist for Palm Realty in its Indianapolis office in Florida.

Patricia (O’Neill) Toth was enrollment management at Bristol or heels in her daily life. “At first, I rented gowns, and then I bought my own.” Dangelmaier, who is a member of Stonehill’s Board of Envision Bank.

Richard Welch, Jr. is the president and CEO of Spark Technologies, an IT consulting firm in Rockland.


1995 Christopher Butler was inducted into Fairhaven High School’s hall of fame. Playing center on its basketball team, Butler amassed 1,000 career points over his three-year varsity career, averaging 18 points and 12 rebounds per game as a senior.

2006 Cheryl Bartlett was honored by the Public Health Association with its Lemuel Shattuck Award, which recognizes significant contributions in the field of public health. Bartlett, who now serves as president and CEO of the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, is the former commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

2007 Christine (Bounds) Cavanaugh was appointed distinguished service citations and membership in the American Legion in Plymouth.

2008 Lindsay Briggs celebrated her 10-year “lungaversary” in July, when she was diagnosed with Stage IIIA non-small cell lung cancer. She was surprised with a party in time to kick up her heels. “Dancing is fun and therapeutic, and I found it at the right time,” says Briggs. “Little did I know I was starting a career in FinTech,” says Dangelmaier, with a chuckle.

FinTech Cool

RALPH DANGELMAIER ’88 does things “in a snap.” As CEO of BlueSnap, a leader in e-commerce that provides the software for online purhase of the Year, “FinTech now makes everyday life more cool,” marvels Dangelmaier, who is a member of the President’s Advisory Council at the College. “It took me 30 years to become cool.”

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“FinTech stands for financial technologies. Broadly, it’s a newer industry that uses new technology to improve activities in the delivery of financial services. FinTech companies such as BlueSnap develop innovative technologies that allow businesses to process payments on behalf of their customers. “We bring an Amazon-type experience to the middle-market business. For example, most businesses can’t afford to build their own payment structures to compete with Amazon,” he explains. “We’re dealing with tons of innovative companies that come up with all kinds of cool apps. Whether it’s crowdfunding or new ways to order tickets or retail, we provide tool kits tailored to the goods or services they are selling”

Dangelmaier and BlueSnap are in high demand. He speaks at more than 40 annual events and was a regional finalist for BY Entrepreneur of the Year. “FinTech is now cool,” marvels Dangelmaier, who is a member of the President’s Advisory Council at the College. “It took me 30 years to become cool.”

Church and Dancing

ON THE PULPIT, she leads; on the dance floor, she follows. “You have to really learn to relax and follow your partner. The motion of his hands and the motion of his body, you explain,” retired Episcopal priest the Reverend Billie Mae (Dickinson) Gordon ’91, who took up competitive ballroom dancing five years ago.

Ballroom dancing had long interested Gordon, but it wasn’t until the retirement community where she lived offered an introductory course that she finally found the time to kick up her heels. “Dancing is fun and therapeutic,” says Gordon, who takes weekly lessons and has danced with her instructors in competitions for four years. (She is pictured above with instructor Kamar Bennett.)

And, what about the costumes? “It’s all about glitz and glamour,” says Gordon, who has rarely worn makeup or heels in her daily life. “At first, I rented gowns, and then I bought my own.” She has put on fake eyelashes, eyeliner and mascara, sometimes little sparkly diamonds around your eyes. You have to wear fishnets over pantyhose,” Gordon draws the line at two-inch heels.

One instructor told her that “unless you look like a movie star, you’re not made up enough.”

Though officially retired, Gordon serves as an interim priest for churches in the midst of searches or with clergy on sabbatical. Though she continues to take dance lessons, she is taking a break from competing.

“I’m going to be 77 in December,” says Gordon. “Somebody, I’m slowing down, but right now I’m in good health and enjoy the wonderful people I meet through church and dancing.”

Some Horrific Evening

“Dancing is fun and therapeutic,” says Gordon.

“Dancing is fun and therapeutic,” says Gordon.
Quality Control

ARISTOTLE FAMOUSLY SAID, “Quality is not an act, it is a habit.” Benjamin Isaiah ’00 couldn’t agree more. As director of compliance and quality improvement for The Providence Center Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Services, Isaiah ensures that the organization strives for high quality in all that it does.

“I’ve been working in quality management for almost 16 years, and I’ve stayed in this field because our work touches every single department in an organization,” explains Isaiah, who majored in healthcare administration at Stonehill. “It’s an opportunity to have our eyes, ears and hands in everything.”

Isaiah oversees a team of 12 people who focus on analyzing processes with the goal of streamlining for efficiency. “How do we eliminate waste to be more efficient? We look at each role. Is there an opportunity to do things in a different way? If yes, then we come up with plans for improvement,” he explains.

Much of Isaiah’s work involves assessing metrics and meeting requirements set by regulatory bodies and insurance companies. “We supply a lot of data that is tied to reimbursement dollars from Medicare and Medicaid,” he explains. “We also do things in a different way? If yes, then we come up with plans for improvement,” he explains.

Compliance also comes into play. “We try to mitigate risks, assess all of the things that could go wrong,” he says. “We want to be proactive instead of reactive.”

In his free time, Isaiah likes to play tennis and cards as well as travel and spend time with friends and family, including two nephews and a niece. When he heads to the office, his focus is always on the patient experience. “We survey patients and ask them for comments, analyze the results, improve processes, including wait times, and find ways to improve communication. We take what patients tell us and try to provide the best experience possible.”

Orthodontics in Southeastern Massachusetts.

John Sommers Jr. was a recipient of the 2018 Franklin Luminaire Award, which recognizes exceptional professionals for their positive contribution and service within the media and graphic communications industry. Sommers is currently CEO of Allied Printing Services in Manchester, Conn.

2010

Benjamin Albert is a senior manager for corporate partnerships at Plan International in Washington, D.C., an independent development and humanitarian organization that works in 71 countries across the world to advance children’s rights and equality for girls.

Deirdre Murphy is the first head girl’s rugby coach at Wymouth High School.

Alexander Stangnis was promoted to home care program manager at Old Colony Elder Services in Plymouth. She formerly served as a home care program lead supervisor.

2012

Timothy Connors earned a master’s degree in English composition from Stonehill in 2016 and began teaching English at Assumption College. He went on to write his certificate to teach English as a second language and is now part of the Peace Corps in Thailand. He teaches English to children in Thailand to 16 years old and has been learning the Thai language.

Deirdre Kloet is an appointed director of campus ministry at St. Xavier University in Chicago, Ill.

2013

Dana Borges was named an assistant hockey coach at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He spent last season as an assistant coach at Williams College in Williamstown.

Emily Dolan graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin in June and has started her internal medicine residency at Gunderson Health System in La Crosse, Wis.

Hanna (Patti) Hugol is the associate manager of integrated marketing at Reebok.

2014

Brittany McCauley is an IT program manager at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Christina Mondy is a public relations assistant at Armeo PR in Studio City, Calif.

Annemaria Rosa was named a sales operations manager for Valiant Entertainment in New York City, a character-based entertainment company that owns the largest independent superhero universe in comics.

Alexa Shepherd participated in Miami University’s earth expeditions global field course in Australia, where she studied coral reef ecology and the conservation of marine systems along the Great Barrier Reef.

2015

Alexandra Maloof received a master’s degree in healthcare administration sciences from Regis College in Weston.

Matthew Brown served as the keynote speaker at Dedham High School’s graduation ceremony. He spoke about taking risks and challenges. In high school, Brown injured his spinal cord while playing hockey, becoming paralyzed from the shoulders and chest down.

Jared Chandler is a business development manager for Coca Cola Bottling Company.

Joshua Gallant is a police officer for the Hopkinton Police Department.

Benjamin Zanisick graduated from the U.S. Army’s initial entry rotation course at Fort Rucker, Ala. Trained to fly the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, he is now serving with the 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

Nathanial Proto, who works for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Boston, was recognized by the American Institute of CPAs as a top CPA exam performer.

Scopac was determined to create a major that gave her the experience needed to start a career in fashion design and a life in New York City—all while still graduating on time.

Today, Scopac is an associate technical designer for ready-to-wear knitwear at Alexander Wang, Inc., in New York City. A position she worked hard for and truly enjoys.

“Technical designers are the engineers of the fashion world,” says Scopac. “We see in shapes and creative visions, but we think in terms of numbers.”

She understands what her creative design colleagues are envisioning and communicates that to the factory in order to make it happen.

As a student at Stonehill, Scopac took advantage of the interdisciplinary major. Under the guidance of her advisor, Professor Peter Ubertaccio, Scopac set out to construct a course of study focused on apparel design development.

During her semesters on campus, she focused on graphic design, marketing and international business courses, many of which are relevant to the work she does every day. Scopac spent both semesters of her junior year studying at Lorenzo de’ Medici, the Italian International Center, in Florence, Italy, where she took all of her technical design courses.

As a senior, she spent a semester interning full time at Kenneth Cole in New York City before returning to campus for her final semester, during which she worked tirelessly to design over 50 pieces to be used in her capstone project—an on-campus spring fashion show.

Scopac emphasizes that she cannot thank her former advisor, Professor Ubertaccio, enough for believing in her vision and giving her the room and support to create a major that helped her get started in fashion.

Fashion Forward

WITH TWO SEMESTERS in Italy, one internship in New York City and one on-campus fashion show, Elizabeth Scopac ’12 admits that her college experience was not typical.

REUNION

May 31– June 2, 2019

Visit stonehill.edu/reunion for more information.

ALUMNI DAY 2019

Save Saturday, February 2.

> Open science labs hosted by faculty for children of alumni

> A winter carnival, including a Ham-bubbles petting zoo

> A cook off

> Craft beer tasting

> Basketball games

> AND MORE! Details forthcoming at stonehill.edu
Alumni Community

Weddings

Michelle Pinnetti ’91 to Patrick DeSaneo, 11/19/17
Shannon Rosa ’04 to Paul Thons, 5/12/18
Jacqueline Woodbury ’06 to Samir Kasar, 5/12/17
Elizabeth Jeffries ’07 to Michael Cornemond, 5/11/17
Sarah Karin ’07 to Ben Butterfield, 8/12/17
Sarah Delory ’08 to Andrew Felso, 11/11/17
Amy Royal ’08 to Bill Klotz, 9/16/17
Coral Azarian ’09 to Daniel Kerl ’09, 7/18
Brianna Tuziian ’09 to Peter Payack ’09, 9/13/17
Alana Mihonov ’10 to Thomas Sullivan, 7/14/18
Mark Kudlata ’11 to Caitlin McEvy ’11, 9/10/17
Lindsay Peksham ’11 to Andrew Jacobs ’12, 9/13/17
Mary Previte ’11 to Christopher Davis, 9/30/17
Corinne Sherman ’11 to Jeffrey Stewart, 5/27/17
Alyson Weston-Murphy ’12 to Brian Benson, 10/7/17
Ryan Forde ’12 to Katrine Rubbin ’12, 8/16/17
Kaylee Johnson ’12 to Derek Krevat ’13, 6/2/18
Jessie Busher-Hendrick ’12 to Paul Ostrander ’12, 4/23/18
Kevin Barron ’13 to Allison Gudzikowski, 9/9/17
Vanessa Egan ’13 to Jack Dowel, 9/16/17
Katherine Strout ’13 to James Mroz, 8/19/16
Meghan Kenny ’13 to Eric Schott ’13, 8/12/16

Erin Bozynski ’13 to Scott Worth, 7/16/16
Lenna Dreyer ’13 to Andrew Zidek, 5/12/17
Joseph Scherr Jr. ’14 to Nicole Colantonio ’14, 8/12/17

Weddings Pictured
1. Taylor Campbell ’16 and Thomas Flett ’16, 1/28/18
2. Cora Meléndez-Ríos ’13 and Luis García Altagracia, 6/15/17
3. Kendal Collins ’15 and David Baer ’14, 1/13/18
4. Kalauy Reilly ’13 and Daniel Kincade ’12, 9/10/17
5. Susan Tinkham ’09 and Mark Lamoureaux ’01, 9/15/17
6. Diane Lebeau ’04 and Binyan Basnet, 8/6/17
7. Gabriella Noreña ’13 and Sean Hanlon ’13, 9/16/17
8. Gabriella Kuzickowski and Brian Reynolds ’04, 9/16/17
Alumni Community

Babies

Theresa (Huntenburg) ’02 and Andrew Starnes, Chattanooga, Tenn., daughter, Hannah Gabriella, 4/5/18
Sarah (Orszak) ’03 and Andrew Gomes, Attleboro, daughter, Morgan Hope, 11/3/17
Tara (Connelly) ’05 and Daniel ’05 D’Onofrio, West Hartford, Conn., daughter, Charlotte Grace, 7/4/17
Katherine (Romel) ’07 and Christopher ’07 Husband, West Hartford, Conn., son, Freddie James, 6/14/17
Nicole and John Ferris ’08, Reading, son, Jake Robert, 8/10/17
Amy (Simmons) ’08 and Greg Meagher, Tewksbury, son, Thomas John, 2/22/18
Alex (Linder) ’11 and Brian Flett, Belfair, son, Dallas William, 1/27/18
Kristen (Charlesworth) ’11 and David Myles, Taunton, daughter, Nora Katherine, 7/25/17
Devon and Mario Ranalli ’12, Lakeville, son, Mason Paul, and son, Parker Karl, 3/7/18
Devan and Mario Ranalli ’12, Lakeville, son, Mason Paul, and son, Parker Karl, 3/7/18
Lenna (Dwyer) ’13 and Andrew Zitter, Fayetteville, N.C., son, Philip Ethan, 1/4/18

Babies Pictured
1. Alexandra Siobhan, 3/20/18, Elisabeth (Croteau) ’11 and Adam Walker ’11
2. Aubrey Rose, 4/18/17 Samantha (Lindquist) ’13 and Andrew Carrico
3. Cotter Daniel, 9/19/17, Jenna (Walsh) ’08 and Daniel Roman
4. Sissi Lauren, 10/7/17, Aimee (Rioux) ’03 and Angelo Antidormi
5. Elizabeth Marie, 7/26/17, Meghan [Hartford] ’10 and Mark ’11 White
6. Harper Marie, 6/21/18, Janna (Stanke) ’11 and Brendan Naraine

7. Kaileigh Marie, 12/12/17, Zachary Ennis ’08 and Emily LeDonne ’08
8. Liam Jackson, 7/5/17, Lindsey (Pietrasik) ’11 and Brian Moriarty
9. Maxwell Jacob, 1/22/17, Jennifer (LaFevere) ’07 and Mark ’07 Montemagni
10. Warren Patrick, 3/29/18, Anne (Koetic) ’12 and Zachary Boothe

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.
Robert Beggan ’66 of Alexandria, Va., died May 2. He is survived by his wife, Pamela (Hudson) ’66, four children, 11 grandchildren and two siblings.

William Fanning ’66 of Berlin, Md., died June 18. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, two children and five grandchildren.

William Quirk Jr. ’69 of Upton died February 23. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary, two sons, a granddaughter and his mother.

Katherine (Andrade) Russell ’69 of Middleboro died June 4. She is survived by her four children, a brother, four grandchildren and an uncle, Rev. John Dias, C.S.C. ’59.

Michael Farricy ’71 of Orleans died May 20. He is survived by his brother.

Thomas DeCosta ’75 of Brockton died February 23. He is survived by his extended family.

Kenneth Rodel ’76 of Brockton died February 15. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, two sons and a brother.

Lawrence Ganski ’81 of Lakeville died February 20, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn, three children, a grandchild and three siblings.

Marianne (O’Connor) Morrissey ’81 of Hillsborough, N.J., died February 23. She is survived by her husband, Scott, two children, her mother and five sisters.

Richard Graham ’82 of Simsbury, Conn., died March 27. He is survived by his wife, Karen, his daughter, parents and a sister.

David Hafey ’82 of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., died April 20. He is survived by two sisters.

Steven Mills ’82 of Martha’s Vineyard died April 25. He is survived by his daughter, four siblings, including Joseph Mills ’74, three grandchildren and niece, Julie Mills ’13.

Marilyn (Murphy) Fickert ’86 of Middleboro died March 6. She is survived by three children, six grandchildren and a sister.

Robert Chicoine Jr. ’87 of Bridgewater died July 30. He is survived by his mother, two children, three siblings, and his former wife, Patricia (Silvia) ’89.

Thomas McGrath ’87 of South Yarmouth died June 3. He is survived by his son, parents, a sister and his former spouse, Johanna (Brady) ’90.

Paul Mulvey ’91 of Westport died September 27, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer (Albanese) ’89, parents, two sons, including Nicholas ’21, and a brother.

Keith Kruse ’92 of Mansfield died March 30. He is survived by four children, including Kathy Murray ’82, and nine grandchildren, including Michelle (Brokaw) McDougall ’05. He was the brother of the late Rev. Robert Kruse, C.S.C., ’55, longtime teacher and administrator at Stonehill.

Gregory McTigue ’95 of New York, N.Y., died May 23. He is survived by his mother and a sister.

Anthony Palmer ’02 of Winthrop died March 15. He is survived by his companion, Alexandra Servideo, his son, mother and two brothers.

Jeralyn Boccuzzi ’08 of Rockville, Conn., died June 10. She is survived by her partner, Matt Zenko, her parents, brother and grandmother.

Christopher Golden ’12 of Sandwich died March 6. He is survived by his wife, Jillian (Jones) ’12, parents, three siblings, including Ryan ’09, and grandparents.

Officer Sean Gannon, a well-respected, former member of the Stonehill College Police Department was tragically killed on April 12 while on duty with the Yarmouth Police Department. He was the brother of Timothy Gannon ’09 and the son of Denise Gannon, a former member of Campus Ministry. In honor of Officer Gannon’s service, the Stonehill Police Department officially retired his badge.

Joseph Skaff ’57, a scholar of Islam who taught in both the History and Religious Studies departments with over 41 years of service to the College, died in June. He is survived by Skaff and Carlton family members and his many friends and colleagues.
Rhododendron Drive

Good People
BY EMILY SCHARIO ’18

FOUR YEARS, FOUR MOVE-IN DAYS, 120 credits, eight finals weeks and roughly $220,000 later—all for what? Over the weeks leading up to graduation this past May, I spent a lot of time thinking about why I came to Stonehill, and more importantly, why I stayed.

For me, I remember my mom sifting through a sea of college pamphlets and stumbling upon Stonehill’s iconic purple envelope. After reading the College’s website and watching countless videos of students sharing their Stonehill stories, my mom was convinced that Stonehill was the perfect place for me. I, on the other hand, was not.

Quite frankly, I didn’t really know anything about Stonehill. Solely focused on the name and prestige of a school, my stubborn 17-year-old self could not imagine myself at a small, Catholic, liberal arts campus in the middle of Easton. My heart was set on wearing a college sweatshirt that people would recognize and be impressed by.

However, despite my resistance, I applied, was accepted, and on April 5, 2014, I made the drive from Auburn, Maine, to Stonehill for my first Accepted Students Day. If I learned anything from that day, it’s that your ego is always wrong and your mom is generally always right.

Within a matter of hours, I found myself warming up to the purple sidewalks, the high-fiving mascot and President Denning’s Rhode Island accent preaching that, “Stonehill’s gotta lotta harht.”

However, it wasn’t until I spoke with Professor John Lanci at an Honors Program luncheon that things started to click for me.

“The reality,” he said, “is that you can get a degree in English, biology or business from any college. However, the difference is that Stonehill doesn’t just produce good students, they produce good people.” This comment has stuck with me for the past four years, and it wasn’t until recently that I was finally able to articulate what Professor Lanci’s comment truly meant.

As a first year student I thought, perhaps it’s our politeness, as Stonehill students are notorious for holding doors for long amounts of time, or maybe it’s because everyone happily waves at each other on the way to class. While these two things are true, as a senior, I found that they only begin to define what it means to be a Stonehill student.

Being a Stonehill student is having the courage to question, to challenge and to stand up for what you think is right. Being a Stonehill student means holding each other up in the face of grief and tragedy, and celebrating as one in moments of joy and gratitude.

It means spending your spring break on a H.O.P.E. trip or a Wednesday afternoon at My Brother’s Keeper. Being a Stonehill student means running out of meal plan money but always having a friend, or a stranger, pick up your tab. And it means proudly answering others when they ask, “Oh, you go to Stonehill…What is that?”

As a tour guide, I would tell people that Stonehill has taken me to 10 countries, two continents and 25 cities, quite literally giving me the world. But, perhaps more importantly, Stonehill has connected me to a lifelong supportive community.

To the Class of 2018: Thank you for always making me proud to wear my Stonehill sweatshirt. As we stand on the precipice of the real world, always remember that you are smart, driven and hardworking, but most importantly, you are and always will be a member of a kind, compassionate and loving community. As Professor Lanci said, “You are good people, and you are exactly what this world needs.”

Emily Schario ’18, a mediated communication and English literature major, delivered the student address at Commencement in May. This is an excerpt from her speech, which was edited for space.

SHARE YOUR STORY. Submit your 500-word essay about your Stonehill thoughts and memories to klawrence@stonehill.edu.
IN NUMBER ORDER  At the Reunion cookout, a group of 2008 alumni not only brought their children, but they also had special T-shirts made for them. The front proclaimed Stonehill’s Next Generation and the back number represented birth order. These future Skyhawks are sitting from youngest to oldest [l to r].